



### Pay Attention to the Details

"It's a game of inches." "Missed me by that much." "Close only counts in horseshoes." We have many expressions and cliches that point out the importance of the little things. Success or failure often turns on focus - not just a split second recognition, but an awareness of where to focus.

When musicians rehearse a song they've done a thousand times, a song they can play in their sleep, it becomes clear how important the details are: they'll go over a note or a pause multiple times, until it's at just the right length and pitch. How many of us are expert enough to detect the difference in a performance or a recording?

Teachers run into this problem all the time with students. It's not just that students fade-out or day-dream. It's that students can get sloppy about the little things. Who cares where the comma goes? Well, there's the story of the panda in the restaurant. If it eats, shoots and leaves, call the police; if it eats shoots and leaves, call the grocery store. (Are "shoots and leaves" nouns or verbs?) How often do students get simple directions wrong - name in the upper left hand corner, not the bottom of the page - because they don't pay attention?

Yet when they start out, students are all about details. Watch a group of kindergarten kids doing an art project. Everything has to be just right. Their questions are all about the details. The slightest deviation raises a firestorm. And babies are really into minutiae - just watch one play with a piece of paper she found on the floor.

"It's all in the fine print." Somehow we've come to not just ignore the details, but to distrust them. The contractor puts in a cabinet, and covers up the quarter inch gap with an extra layer of putty. The credit card company puts the details in a hard-to-read font to obscure how unfair the terms are.

I suspect details have gone down the drain in part because of multi-tasking. We think we can do multiple things at once. For some things, we can - the things that don't require much attention, the things that aren't important to relationships.

The multi-tasking theory of life coincides with what used to be called rudeness, and probably now is just lack of awareness - lack of focus. Call-waiting - it seems convenient, but it interferes with interaction - the doctor's attention shifts; the multi-tasking, call-waiting approach to life - glossing over details - deteriorates relationships.

Paying attention to the details is hard. We get metaphorically dirty. Details mess things up, but they're the nitty-gritty. That's why when it counts, we go into detail.

And that's why Judaism has so many details, pays so much attention to the minutiae, the fine points. The details of halacha - Jewish law - are not trivial; they're essential.

For when it comes to a relationship, no detail is too small. In fact, a relationship is all about the little things. So, too, our relationship with G-d depends upon the details. It's how we get close. It's how we get things right. Yes, it matters if we light candles 18 minutes, not 17, before sunset. Yes, it matters if we use the meat spoon or the milk fork. Yes, the particular words of prayer matter.

Details define our relationships - with each other, and with G-d. Where are the details of your life?

*(from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)*

### Haftorah Summary for Parshas Naso

#### Shoftim 13:2

Around the year 2790 – 971 b.c.e., the Bnai Yisroel were subject to the rule of the Philistines. In the year 2810 – 951, Shimshon became the Judge – Shofet of the nation and served his people as both their greatest Tzadik and greatest warrior. This week's Haftorah tells the story of Manoach and his wife, the parents of Shimshon (Shoftim Cap. 13).

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Manoach's wife was barren, and in response to her Tefilos, Hashem sent an Angel, disguised as a man, to tell Manoach's wife of her impending pregnancy. The child would have to be a Nazir from the moment of his conception, and he would grow up to save the Jews from their enemies.

Manoach requested from Hashem that the "man" appear a second time, and the Angel appeared a second time. The same instructions were repeated to both Manoach and his wife, after which Manoach invited the "man" to join them for a meal. The "man" refused the invitation but suggested to Manoach that he offer a Korban to Hashem. Manoach did so, and as the flame rose to consume the offering, the "man" entered the flames and disappeared. Manoach and his wife then realized that the "man" was really an Angel, and understood the divine significance of their, yet to be born, child.

The connection to our Parsha is the fact that Shimshon was to be a Nazir. The commentaries explain that in contrast to the laws of the Sotah – the accused adulteress, it was the merit of Manoach's wife which brought about the birth of Shimshon.

Shimshon is among the most difficult figures in Jewish history to understand. For a comprehensive presentation and explanation see, "Samson's Struggle", by Rabbi Gershon Weiss.

*(by Rabbi Aron Tendler from Project Genesis at [www.torah.org](http://www.torah.org))*

Dedication of plaques on the Shul board which is prominently located in the hall at the entrance to the Shul is an appropriate means of Tzedakah and supports the Shul as well. Below is the list of items available. Please contact Howard Kaplon at [hkaplon@towson.edu](mailto:hkaplon@towson.edu) for more information.

1. Top (large) Plaques \$5,400 2. Medium Plaques \$3,600 3. Small Plaques \$1,000 4. Simcha Leaf \$250  
Yahrzeit Plaques on the Shul's Memorial board are available. Each yahrzeit plaque is \$360.



Flowers for Shavuot were kindly sponsored by  
**Donny Sitko,**  
in memory of his grandfather  
**Chaim Meir ben Baruch.**



#### Yahrzeits This Week:

Marvin Itzkowitz	12 Sivan - Saturday night / Sunay	for mother	Esther Seryl bas Mordechai Markel
Kate Genut	16 Sivan - Wednesday night / Thursday	for mother	Sarah bas Yaakov

#### SHUL DIRECTORY

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#### DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

##### Friday, 6/6 — 10 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

##### Shabbat, 6/7 — 11 Sivan

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.  
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:20 a.m.  
Minchah — 8:05 p.m.  
Shiur — after Minchah  
Shkiah — 8:32 p.m.  
Ma'ariv — 9:20 p.m.

##### Sunday, 6/8 — 12 Sivan

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

##### Monday, 6/9 — 13 Sivan

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

##### Tuesday, 6/10 — 14 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

##### Wednesday, 6/11 — 15 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.  
Tanya Shiur: 2<sup>nd</sup> part of Tanya Shaar HaYichud  
V'Emunah which deals w/the nature of creation  
and the unity of Hashem — 8:55 p.m.

##### Thursday, 6/12 — 16 Sivan

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

##### Friday, 6/13 — 17 Sivan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Shabbat Candles — 8:16 p.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.