# 2 Friends, 42 Years of Daily Talmud Study

The sign displayed here celebrates one of the most astonishing achievements imaginable.

"Welcome to the sixth completion of the Shas by Moshav residents David Biale and

Asher Goren," the sign proclaims and then, in smaller print, "May you merit good health and pleasure from your progeny as you continue to make the Torah great and glorious." (Note: Shas, written with a shin and a samech, is an acronym for shisha sedarim or "six orders" or categories of the Mishnah, along with their

Gemara commentary, which are known collectively as Talmud. There are a total of 2,711 two-sided pages of the Talmud.)

This celebration was held in honor of two residents of Kfar Maimon, a religious moshav in southern Israel. Asher is an 84 year old Holocaust survivor from Hungary. He lived through two death marches in the snow, immigrated to Israel at the age of 8, and was among the founders of Kfar Maimon.

David is 91, born into the sixth generation of a family that had dwelled in the Land of

Israel for more than a century. He was born in Jerusalem, fought in the religious unit of the Lehi underground prior to the founding of the State, studied in the Merkaz HaRav Yeshiva, and worked for many years doing research associated with mineral extraction at the Dead Sea Works company.

The two friends have been studying together

every day for 42 years and are completing the Talmud for the sixth time.

In this week's Torah portion, we learn how each individual can connect their personal story to that of the nation by bringing their first fruits to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem Look at the faces of these two friends and you can read in them the amazing story



of us all: the triumph of both body and soul during a lifetime of perseverance, humility, continuous building and lasting friendship. And, to cap it all off -- 42 years of a daily meeting with the sages of the Talmud.

Sivan Rahav-Meir is a media personality and lecturer. Married to Yedidya, the mother of five. Lives in Jerusalem, and formerly served as the World Mizrachi Shlicha to North America. Sivan lectures in Israel and overseas about the media, Judaism, Zionism and new media. She was voted by Globes newspaper as most popular female media personality in Israel and by the Jerusalem Post as one of the 50 most influential Jews in the world.



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