

# HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

1 Heshvan 5785

NOACH / ROSH HODESH

November 2, 2024

## Shabbat Shalom! Hodesh Tov!

5:33 pm Candle Lighting  
5:35 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat

8:45 am Mishnayot Class  
9:00 am Shacharit  
9:45 am Latest Shema  
Parasha p. 30; Haftorah p. 1131  
4:45 pm Parasha class — Rabbi Levitt  
4:45 pm Gemara Class - Rabbi Algaze  
5:15 pm Mincha  
6:30 pm Maariv & Havdalah

**Kiddush** & **Seudah Shlisheet** sponsorships available.

## Upcoming Sponsorships

November 16 Todd & Sheryl Hausman  
November 23 Rabbi David & Tamara Algaze  
November 30 Daniel Cohen



Starting November 9th until the end of the winter we are going to have Shabbat lunch with Rabbi Levitt. Please RSVP before Thursday morning.

## THE HOURS OF OUR SERVICES

The starting times for the services should be more carefully observed. In fact, the more pious people used to come to the synagogues much earlier, even an hour before the start of the services to have time to meditate and concentrate on their prayers. When people come late, not only are we missing having a minyan, but it also creates an atmosphere of nonchalant and even blasé attitude that is very detrimental in the long run. We appreciate all who come to pray but coming to the synagogue late, sometimes just before the Kiddush, displays a lack of seriousness that can impact your spiritual life and the spiritual oxygen for the rest of the congregants. Make an effort - it will pay off!

## Kol Nidre Honor Roll

Rabbi David & Tamara Algaze  
Rachelle Alkalay  
Mark Atlas  
Victorino & Rubenia Flores  
Jack & Shulie Goldhaber  
Louis & Rita Gutnicki  
Meye Hernandez  
David & Renee Hirsch  
Bruce & Miriam Jacobs  
Michael & Alice James  
Seymour Kaplan  
Rafi Katz  
Carol Krohn

Herbert Levy  
Caridad Luna & Salvador Tavarez  
Louis & Rachel Ordentlich  
Bezalel Paniagua  
Kiana Paniagua  
Jerry & Jennifer Revich  
Marc & Karen Rose  
Stuart & Judy Rosen  
Arlen Ross  
Marc & Gail Silverman  
David & Debbie Sosnowik  
Jane Stiefel  
Kim & Joseph Trigoboff

*All contributions of \$500 or more will be listed here.*

## Great Italian night in the Sukkah.

Delicious Italian food and wonderful camaraderie, Rabbi Algaze gave a lecture about the history of Jewish Italian Life and its origins by the cities in Italy.

Thanks to Simcha Kulaya, Adriana De Lima, and Nejama Jimenez for cooking such delicious platters and salads.



## ESL Classes on Zoom Start Thursday November 7th with Esther Nelson.

⇒ Level 1 @ 6pm  
⇒ Level 2 @ 7pm  
Meeting ID: 766 7831 5215 Passcode: 8Vsmwb

Rabbi Chaim Isaac Z"l & Dr Elisheva Flink invite the Havurat Yisrael community to the wedding of their son Moshe this Tuesday November 5th.

Reception at 6pm, Chupah at 7:30pm  
Kol Yaakov Synagogue (1703 McDonald Ave, Brooklyn, NY)

*Rabbi Flink came to Havurat as part of the outreach work of the Chafetz Chaim Yeshiva in the early 80's. Rabbi Flink would spend long afternoons and evening sstudying and participating in the discussion of the Kollel members*

## SECURITY MEASURES

The outside door has a code. Please make sure that you bring the black knob back to a **vertical position**. Otherwise, the door is open. Do not share the code with strangers and do not let unknown people in.

SUNDAY November 3 / 2 Heshvan	MONDAY November 4 / 3 Heshvan	TUESDAY November 5 / 4 Heshvan	WEDNESDAY November 6 / 5 Heshvan	THURSDAY November 7 / 6 Heshvan	FRIDAY November 8 / 7 Heshvan
7:00 am Hebrew Class — R. Levitt 7:30 am Gemara class 8:00 am Shacharit- 9:00am Breakfast sponsored by Tamara Algaze 9:00 am Youth Meeting with Rabbi Levitt 9:30 am Torah Class in Spanish —R. Algaze	6:30 am Class with Rabbi Levitt 7:00 am Shacharit	6:30 am Class with Rabbi Levitt 7:00 am Shacharit  7:00 pm Parsha Class — R. Levitt—	6:30 am Class with Rabbi Levitt 7:00 am Shacharit	6:30 am Class with Rabbi Levitt 7:00 am Shacharit  8:00 pm Class —R. Levitt	6:30 am Class with Rabbi Levitt 7:00 am Shacharit  4:25 pm Candle Lighting 4:30 pm Mincha

## HAVURAT YISRAEL

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## POLITICAL CORRECTNESS?

by Rabbi David Algaze

*“The whole earth was of one language and of common purpose” (Bereshheet 11:1)*

The generation of the Tower of Babel is called in Jewish literature by the name of *dor hapalagah* (the generation of the split) because it was at that time that mankind began its separation into various peoples and different geographical locations. Since there was such unity among all peoples, why did Hashem punish them by causing them to separate? In fact, the Midrash tells us that the generation of the Flood and this generation deserved punishment but that the latter’s punishment was less severe because there was such unity among them. The lesson to be derived from this is how much to appreciate peace!

Why was that generation punished? Rabenu Nissim (the Ran) suggests that despite their unity there was something harmful in their solidarity because they were intrinsically wicked and the unity of the wicked is a curse to the world. In fact, he argues that it is good fortune for the righteous that there are different nations with different interests for otherwise they could compel the whole world to follow their evil ways. Also, if an evil decree is issued in one country, the righteous could flee to the other, which is exactly what happened to the Jewish people throughout our history. Whenever one nation expelled the Jews from their midst, there was always another nation that welcomed them. Had the whole world been united and followed a depraved doctrine, then there would have been no hope for us.

This was in fact the purpose of the builders of the Tower: to deny the existence of a Creator. The Midrash interprets the words *“devarim ahadim”*—united words—as *“devarim hadim*, meaning “sharp words” against a G-d and against the man who taught the philosophy of a Creator and a G-d in the universe: Abraham. (Bereshit Rabba) Their intention was to erase the influence of G-d in the world by destroying the carriers of that philosophy. In future times, many who would attempt to erase G-d from the world would follow in the same steps by desiring to exterminate the carriers of G-d’s name: the Jews. Without Abraham there would be no hope to the success of that doctrine and thus they devised a stratagem to thwart Abraham’s mission.

Therefore, the motivating factor for their unity was not a pristine one. It did not stem from genuine love and friendship; rather, it was the necessary ingredient to achieve a destructive end and to destroy Abraham and his followers. In fact, the Midrash tells us that whenever a brick fell from their hands they would cry, but if a human being fell and died they would pay no attention. They did not desire the welfare of Man, rather they wished to replace a worldview that included a G-d and a Creator with an immoral view of atheism.

The Natziv (Rabbi Berlin) explains that the fault of this generation was its plan of “collectivism.” In today’s terms, that would be the idea of a global society and a global government controlling the whole world. Their goal was encapsulated in the motto *“lest we be dispersed across the whole earth.”* (ib. 11:4). Why did they want to stay together in one place? The Natziv

answers that it was to prevent the development of different opinions and viewpoints. By keeping them in one place they expected to intimidate people so they would not dare hold opinions different from the views of the governing powers. The sentence for anyone daring to challenge the official political and ideological view was death by fire, as they attempted to do to Abraham. They wanted everyone share the same opinion, the same view and the same form of thinking. They were ready to eliminate anyone who dared initiate a new line of thinking or a new view of the world.

This totalitarian tactic belongs only to false philosophies. The way of the Torah does not require people to have one opinion only. Additionally, the philosophy of truth allows questioning and investigation and is not threatened by inquiry and study. On the other hand, all doctrines that are based on falsehoods and half truths need this type of enforcement as in the generation of the Tower. The Tower of Babel should serve as a reminder of the deleterious effect of the unity of the wicked and the disastrous consequences of forcing people to hold one idea alone.

### MEMORIAL PLAQUES

THE AUTOMATED PLAQUES IN OUR SHUL HONOR THE MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES EVEN IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND SERVICES.

**Please place your order now to ensure that the names of your loved ones will be included by the next Yizkor.** Price for each plaque is \$500. *All orders must be pre-paid before they are processed.*

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS HISTORIC GATHERING.

**STAND TOGETHER**  
UNITY · STRENGTH · RESILIENCE



Join us **November 10, 2024** in **Washington, DC**  
Learn more at [StandTogetherNovember10.org](https://StandTogetherNovember10.org)

**Refuah Shlema** Alte Ester Riva bat Devorah Shifra, Chava Naomi bat Doba Chana, Yaakov ben Leah, Tzvi ben Sara, Chavah bat Rivka, Talia Leah bat Sarah, Miriam Bat Rivka, Reuben ben Malka, Baruch Chaim ben Basha, Malka Bat Simcha and Yonatan Yitzhak ben Ateret, Hannah bat Yehudit, Hila Rivka Hodaya bat Rochel and Binyamin Baer ben Chana, Hillel Zvi Yehuda ben Tzina.