

# HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

2 Sivan 5777

Shabbat BaMidbar & Shavuot

May 26 — 27, 2017

## Shabbat Shalom!

7:00 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat

7:59 pm Candle Lighting

Omer: Tonight count 46

Torah reading p. 726/ Haftarah p. 1180

8:45 am Mishnayot Shiur

9:00 am Shacharit

9:10 am Latest Shema

11:00 am Drasha — Rabbi Algaze

6:30 pm Gemara Shiur — Rabbi Algaze

7:10 pm Perek on the Patio — Rabbi Algaze

7:45 pm Mincha

8:57 pm Havdalah, Omer: tonight count 47

**Kiddush** is sponsored by Jerry & Jennifer Revich celebrating the 6th birthday of their daughters Emily & Julia. Mazal Tov! Mazal Tov!

**Seudah Shlisheet** sponsorship available.

## The Following Kiddush Dates are Already Booked!

- ☆ 6/3 Kleiman, Rose, Ross, Weisglass families
- ☆ 6/10 Carol & Danny Yaghoubian
- ☆ 6/17 Sarah & Ronny Aizenfrantz
- ☆ 6/24 Claudia & Mehran Arasheben
- ☆ 7/1 Lou & Rita Gutnicki

## SHAVUOT SCHEDULE

### Tuesday May 30 / 5 Sivan

- 8:02 pm Candle Lighting (Shehecheyanu)
- Midnight—4:15 am Night of Learning

### Wednesday May 31 / 6 Sivan

- 4:15 am Early Shacharit
- 9:00 am 2nd Shacharit Minyan
- 4:00 pm Ice Cream Party for kids sponsored by Michelle & Larry Polonetsky
- 8:00 pm Mincha
- 9:00 pm Maariv & Candle Lighting (pre-existing flame, Shehecheyanu)

### Thursday June 1 / 7 Sivan

- 9:00 am Shacharit
- 11:00 am Yizkor and Megillat Ruth
- Kiddush is sponsored by Mehran & Claudia Arasheben
- 8:10 pm Mincha
- 9:00 pm Maariv & Havdalah

## THE 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY JOURNAL DINNER

**June 21st at 6 pm**  
Gala Dinner at Havurat Yisrael

Guests of Honor:

**CAROL AND DANIEL YAGHOUBIAN**

**RACHEL AND MEHRAN ARASHEBEN**

**RENEE FEIT HIRSCH AND DAVID HIRSCH**

*The 36th Anniversary is twice Hai—the initials of Havurat Yisrael. We need everyone to participate in this campaign to raise funds for our dear Shul. Place your Journal ads and let's start working together to make it a huge success!*

## HELP SUPPORT THE SYNAGOGUE YOU LOVE, JOIN OUR SPECIAL JOURNAL CLUBS

### GIVE and SOLICIT

From relatives, friends, neighbors and any business or professional you patronize. Remember that you are giving them the privilege of participating in a great enterprise and that their contribution will amount to many spiritual and lasting merits.

If you raise or give \$1,000 by June 2 you become a member of our

**DIAMOND CLUB**



receiving a special gift at the Dinner.

## ALL-NIGHT STUDY SESSIONS (TIKUN LEIL SHAVUOT)

Tuesday night May 30, 2017

Midnight-4:10 AM

12 midnight RABBI DAVID ALGAZE How does the Creator Talk to the Humans?

1:15 am DR. DAVID SOSNOWIK Shavuot & Good & Evil

2:30am ELIAHOU KRIHELI The meaning of Kabbalah –Reading from the Zohar

### Break

3:45 am RABBI DAVID ALGAZE Why is Ruth one Model?

4:15 am EARLY SHACHARIT SERVICES

LEARN WITH A CHAVRUTA (Study Partner) OR TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MANY SHIURIM PRESENTED THROUGH THE NIGHT!

COME FOR ALL OR PART OF THIS FREE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

There will be a second Shacharit Minyan at 9:00 am

SUNDAY May 28 / 3 Sivan	MONDAY May 29 / 4 Sivan <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	TUESDAY May 30 / 5 Sivan	WEDNESDAY May 31 / 6 Sivan <b>SHAVUOT</b>	THURSDAY June 1 / 7 Sivan <b>SHAVUOT</b>	FRIDAY June 2 / 8 Sivan
7:30 am Amud Yomi 8:00 am Shacharit 9:00 am Torah Class in Spanish -Rabbi Algaze Rabbi Kraft's class will <u>not</u> meet.. Resumes June 4th. Omer: tonight count 48	7:30 am Amud Yomi 8:00 am Shacharit 8:00 pm No Rabbi Algaze's Shiur at the Ordentlich home-Next shiur Minday June 5th Omer: tonight count 49	6:20 am Amud Yomi 6:50 am Shacharit 8:00 pm Mincha	<b>See Special Holiday Schedule above!</b>		6:10 am Amud Yomi 6:40 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat, Maariv 7:59 pm Candle Lighting

HAVURAT YISRAEL

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# ALONENESS AND INDEPENDENCE

By Rabbi David Algaze

*"G-d spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the Tent of Meeting..." (Bamidbar 1:1)*

The word of G-d came to Moses in the Tent of the Meeting, why was it necessary to add the words, "in the desert"? This phrase is certainly superfluous and its presence must indicate some special meaning. The desert denotes solitude, the absence of growth, society or multitudes. As a desert traveler wrote about it,

"New spaces unfold on all sides; this tangible sign of their immensity increases our understanding of what wilderness is, but it also intimidates us more. And it is an almost terrifying magnificence . . . And everything is empty, silent, and dead. Here you have the splendor of fixed perspectives, without the ephemeral attraction of forests, greeneries, and grasslands; it is also the splendor of almost eternal stuff, freed of life's instabilities. The geological splendor from before the Creation . . ."

This is the essence of the desert then: its emptiness, its silence and the splendor of aloneness.

In this sense we can understand why the Torah added these words when relating G-d's communication with Man: it is only "in the desert" that we can hear His word. That means that in order that the word of G-d reaches us we need to live in our own "desert," free from the distractions of other people's opinions or prejudices. If we are to hear the Truth, we need to be apart from the lies and falsehoods that prevail in society. Maimonides writes that a person should turn himself into a "desert dweller"—someone who is not bound to the fashions and the fads of his society and influenced by its views, but rather become independent and be able to seek the truth by himself. (Hilchot De'ot, 6)

People who live in society are frequently prisoners to the prevailing views and opinions of the times, without the critical ability to form their own judgment. The media with its persistent and endless discourses and opinion-inducing articles and comments, further alienates us from our independence and condemns us to be like sheep that follow the leader without knowing where they are going. There have been numerous studies of how the media affects children and the correlation between violence on TV and aggressive behavior. In fact, the media often determines our attitudes on body image, sex and work roles, fashion and lifestyle. A grave example of the influence of media on society is the market for weight loss which has turned many women who are not obese to become obsessive about it and, wanting to look like thin models, they engage in eating disorders which lead to severe health issues and even death. We have put our trust in the media to get the current news and facts about what is important and what we should be aware of. They have become an uncontested authority and we have become uncritical consumers, believing anything they tell us as if it were the absolute truth. People accused of any crime, for instance, are immediately regarded as guilty without their having been judged in a court of law. The media can hang people before the trial.

By shaping consent and filtering the facts, the media can actually end up denying people the freedom to think and squashing dissent and criticism. This is the state of all the terrible dystopias (the antonym of utopias) of the future: total submission of the individual to the authority of a central figure and communication center. The Torah with its emphasis on the freedom of the individual teaches us to value the desert, the ability to be alone and think for ourselves.

The lessons of Torah often run counter to the prevailing views and opinions of many societies throughout history. If Judaism has continued to this day is due to the fact that in every generation loyal Jews refused to be swept by the opinions of their societies and have been able to think for themselves, even as they were ridiculed and even persecuted for their independence. To maintain our values, sometimes

it will be necessary to withdraw to "the desert"—to stand alone, to think independently and to form opinions after checking critically the facts. Israel is a nation "that dwells in solitude" and from this solitude emerge all its originality and independence. The Torah cannot reside in the place of fashionable viewpoints and crowd-pleasing customs. That is the reason the Torah was given in the desert. It cannot abide in a society of prejudices, falsehoods or lowly passions. This is the reason that this parasha, Bamidbar, usually is read on the Shabbat before Shavuot, the festival of the Giving of the Torah.

On the personal level too we must maintain this ability to resort to the desert sometimes, to leave behind the prevailing opinion and to have the courage to think by ourselves. Listening to that inner voice that guides each human being is the secret to finding inner peace and harmony.

## SHAVUOT

### Kids Ice Cream Party

at Havurat Yisrael

**Wednesday May 31 24, at 4:00pm**

*sponsored by the Polonetsky family*

**Thanks!** to everyone involved in the very successful Yom Yerushalayim Celebration!

#### **Save the Date!**

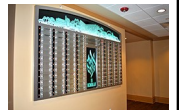
- ☆ Sunday June 4th Celebrate Israel Parade—5th Ave. and Concert at 3
- ☆ Sunday June 11th. 12:00—Dedication of Matzevah for William Merkin —Wellwood Cemetery, LI.

**Refuah Shlema** Refael Yoel Avraham ben Pesi (Rabbi Joel Hochman), Alte Ester Riva bat Devorah Shifra (Eileen Alter), Shraga Feivel HaLevi ben Martel (Marc Rose's father), Yosef ben Chava (Fred Isaac)., Naomi Malka bat Hoshana Leah, Dvora bat Edith.

**Fred Isaac (Yosef ben Chava)**, our past president, needs our prayers urgently. Please keep his name in your thoughts for Refuah Shlema.

**Proper Care of Seforim!** Please **do not** leave Siddurim and Huma-shim on chairs after services! This is a dishonor to these holy books and damages the bindings!

#### **LOOKING FOR A SPONSOR OF Another Yahrzeit Memorial Board** **One has already been dedicated!**



Happy to announce that one memorial board has been dedicated and it will be installed in the next couple of months. As we were informed, the old memorial plaques were vandalized while in storage and all the names are gone. This is a sad story but we hope it will be replaced by someone who will have in his or her heart to help us rebuild this important part of our synagogue. A memorial plaque is the place where we can memorialize our dear ones and the light will be lit on the day of their yahrzeit. We are looking at very modern and advanced computerized - controlled systems that will turn on the lights on the designated anniversary date, thus never missing a date.  
**LOOKING FOR THE SECOND ONE!**

Follow **Rabbi Algaze** on **J-APP** for the latest shiurim, divrei Torah, more. Available in the app stores.



**New Hebrew Class**  
**Sundays at 11am with Roni Mossiyov**

עברית

**Cost: \$50 for 10 classes.** To reserve, call the office. The class is attracting many students! The class had over 20 participants. Don't miss this opportunity to learn the Holy tongue! (lashon Hakoddesh)!! Join in!

**Membership Dues 2017– Have you sent yours?**

We want to remind you that according to the bylaws of the synagogue, membership dues are to be paid by March 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in order to remain a member in good standing. There are many benefits in membership. First, the knowledge that you are an integral part of Havurat Yisrael and an official member of our family. Moreover, members in good standing receive special discounted prices for events, tickets and, from time to time, also obtain special considerations and gifts. Whenever you see two prices, one for members refers only to members in good standing. If you have not yet sent your membership dues, why not take care of this as soon as possible? Please call or email the office at your earliest convenience to ensure that your status as members in good standing does not lapse.

**HOW LITERATE ARE YOU IN JEWISH LITERATURE?  
COME TO PARTICIPATE IN A  
A JOURNEY THROUGH OUR LITERARY HISTORY**

*Special seminar at the Ordentlich home led by Rabbi Algaze*

**Mondays at 8 pm**

A journey through all the tractates of the Talmud with commentaries and insights from Rabbis from the Geonic Period to the present time. Become familiar with the rich literature of the Jewish people and enrich your knowledge and spirit! This is an opportunity that should not be missed.

**Toddler Time!**

**Getting Ready for Shabbat  
with Frida**



This Early Childhood Educational Program, run by a professional educator, offers great cooperative group play which develops

- ◇ Language skills (English, Hebrew Russian)
- ◇ Social skills
  - Listening skills with emphasis on following 1 -2-3 step directions
- ◇ Abstract thinking such as imagination development through classical music, activities, games, - Nursery rhymes flannel board stories etc.

The program will be held on Fridays @ 11 am.  
Package: 5 sessions for \$115 p/family  
\$25 at the door p/family

**Introduction to Jewish Thought**

**Rabbi Kraft**

**Sundays at 11 am**

**Rabbi Algaze's  
Insights into the Weekly Parasha  
**Wednesdays at 8 pm.****

Join for an exploration of the Biblical text, explaining Hebrew words and insights from our sages.

## THE BUILDING NEEDS SOME IMPORTANT ITEMS

### —AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE AND HONOR

Although our building is almost complete, we are not fully equipped and some items are not in place. These are special opportunities available for sponsorship and they will make our stay more pleasant and easy if we obtain them before or soon after we move in. If you are interested in helping us with the following items, please contact the office or our Rabbi. Every item may be dedicated in memory or in honor of a loved one and will be recognized appropriately.

1. Computer calendar for announcements
2. A second Memorial tablet
3. Tree of Life (Etz Chaim)
4. Ner Tamid for the Sanctuary
5. Books for the Library (Hebrew and English)

### Two great opportunities present themselves now:

We just installed a new Ner Tamid in our Bet Midrash. Now we need a beautiful one for the main Sanctuary.

Also, we have just received a donation for one Yahrzeit tablet. We need a second one!

## THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY—DO NOT MISS IT

*"They shall make a sanctuary that I may dwell among them." (Shemot 25:8) At this time and in this place we have the special privilege to participate in the building of our "small sanctuary" (miqdash me'at)—the new building of Havurat Yisrael.*

Some have opened their hearts already with great generosity to enable us to reach this day and we thank them. Many have wanted to memorialize special people in their lives with a dedication that will last long in our new building. **Below is a list of items and areas that are still open for dedication**, some as low as \$3,000 and higher so that everyone can be a part of the building of the new Havurat. Please note that although the main building is near completion, there are still many things that are needed, such as appliances for the kitchen, furniture for the classrooms and synagogue, ner tamid, bookcases and so on. Please peruse through this list and select something we still need and do not have. The names of all contributors will be inscribed in the walls of the synagogue so that those names that you wish to memorialize will always be there with us. The Rabbis tell us, "When a mitzvah comes your way, do not let it pass by." Don't say the building is done and they don't need my help. We do. The time is now.

### BUILDING COMMITTEE

(donors of \$50,000 or more)

David & Debbie Sosnowik

Louis & Rachel Ordentlich

Rafael Katz

Marc & Karen Rose

Mark & Gail Silverman

Edward Finfer

Jane Stiefel

Stu & Judy Rosen

Fanny Seinuk

Daniel and Carol Yaghoubian

### DESIGN COMMITTEE

(donors of \$20,000 or more)

Arlene Ross

Maddy & Bernardo Drucker

Ken Lewon

Rachelle & David Alkalay

Rabbi Joel & Chana Hochman

Miriam & Bruce Jacobs

Anne Biener

Steve Golub & Shoshi Bacon

### FURNISHINGS COMMITTEE

(donors of \$10,000 or more)

Gabriela Linder & Tamara Algaze

Renee & David Hirsch

Seymour Kaplan

Helen & William Kober

Gary & Yael Emmanuel

Michael Blau

### SUPPLIES COMMITTEE

(donors of \$5,000 or more)

Jay Waitzman

Eileen Alter

## Dedication Opportunities

*Wall of Honor will be designed for the main lobby listing all gifts*

### Main Components

Center for Jewish Life Name Dedication	1,000,000
The Sanctuary	Dedicated by Stuart & Judy Rosen
Social Hall	150,000
Library	100,000
Beit Midrash	150,000

### The Center for Jewish Life Building

Main Entrance Lobby	100,000
Main Mezuzah	36,000
Shoah Memorial	50,000
Tree of Life	50,000
Administrative Office	50,000
Rabbi's Study	50,000
Outdoor Garden/ Sukkah area	Dedicated by Marc & Karen Rose
Inner Mezuzot (each)	3,000
(1) mezuzah	Dedicated by Naomi Rodriguez
(2) mezuzah	Dedicated by Michael and Alice James
(3) mezuzah	3,000
Kitchen	50,000

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### Beit Midrash

Bet Hamidrash	Aron Kodesh	Dedicated by Michael Blau
Ner Tamid		Dedicated anonymously
Learning Tables--each		5,000
Bookshelves--each		18,000
Bookshelves (2)		Dedicated by Rafi Katz
Shulchan (Bet Midrash)		26,000
Computer Center (Bar Ilan Installed)		18,000

### The Sanctuary

Aron Kodesh	Dedicated by the Sosnowik family
Bimah	Dedicated by Rachel & Louis Ordentlich
Women's Section	100,000
Ner Tamid	50,000
Mechitza	75,000
Torah Reading Table	Dedicated by Fanny Seinuk
Parochet	Dedicated by Bentzion Fishoff
Memorial Plaque (1)	dedicated by Michael Blau
Memorial Plaque (2)	36,000
Rabbi's Chair	Reserved
Netilat Yadaim	Dedicated by Rachelle & David Alkalay
Skylight	50,000
Speaker's Podium	Dedicated by Steve Golub & Shoshi Bacon
Main Chandelier	36,000
Pillars (3)	each 18,000
Window 1	Dedicated by Helen Kober
Window 2	Dedicated by Feit family
Window 3	Dedicated by Anne Biener
Window 4,5,6	\$10,000 ea.
Sconces (6 available)	5,000
(1) dedicated by Rachel and Eliahu Krikheli	
Sconces 2-6	\$5,000 ea.

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**Children's area** 100,000