

HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

14 Elul 5782

SHABBAT KI TEITZEI

September 10, 2022

Shabbat Shalom!

6:57 pm Candle Lighting
7:00 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat

8:45 am Mishnayot Class
9:00 am Shacharit
9:37 am Latest Shema
Parasha p.1046 Haftarah p.1201
11:00 am Drasha, Kids Program
6:00 pm Gemara Shiur
6:30 pm Perek
6:50 pm Mincha, Seudah Shlisheet
7:54 pm Maariv, Havdalah

Kiddush is sponsored by Rabbi David and Tamara Algaze commemorating the Yahrzeit of Tamara's grandfather Moshe Ben Chaim Z"L and in memory of the Rabbi's grandfather David Nissim Ben Perla Z"L.

Seudah Shlisheet sponsorships available.

Upcoming Sponsorships

Sep. 17 — Debbie & David Sosnowik
Sep. 24 — Yosef Alvares
October 1 — Anonymous
October 17 — Ephraim Grossbein

Join Us for a Rosh Hashana Dinner

Sunday September 25 - 7:30 pm

Led by Rabbi David Algaze and Cantor Benjamin Weingarten

Also Lunches on Monday the 26th and Tuesday the 27th.
\$45 Members / \$55 Non-Members
RSVP for all by Thursday Sept 22!



THE 41st JOURNAL DINNER IS ON THE WAY

It is with great pleasure that we announce the Honorees of this year:

- Rachel and Louis Ordentlich
- Sara Elisheva Palala
- Tom Hamori

The dinner is scheduled for Sunday December 4th at Congregation Beth Shalom in Lawrence.

If you want to join the Journal committee please call the office. The campaign starts now.

HIGH HOLIDAY TICKETS ON SALE!

The High Holy Days are starting on Sunday, September 25th. Services will be conducted by Rabbi David Algaze with Cantor Binyamin Weingarten.

Please contact the office to make your reservations. Call: 718-261-5500 or email hyoffice18@yahoo.com

Leshana Tova tikatevu!
May Hashem fulfill this year all the desires of your heart and bring many blessings to you and your dear ones.

A Time to Meet

Sunday September 18 — 5pm

Singles Event

At Havurat Yisrael

Ages 35+

BBQ Latin American Style

Enjoy good food, drinks, music and an opportunity to meet new people.

Schadhanit at the event

Cost \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door
RSVP 718-261-5500 or email hyoffice18@yahoo.com



MEMORIAL PLAQUES

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

As we approach the High Holidays, 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.

SUNDAY Sep. 11 / 15 Elul	MONDAY Sep. 12 / 16 Elul	TUESDAY Sep. 13 / 17 Elul	WEDNESDAY Sep. 14 / 18 Elul	THURSDAY Sep. 15 / 19 Elul	FRIDAY Sep. 16 / 20 Elul
7:30 am Gemara Shiur 8:00 am Shacharit 9:00 am Breakfast 9:30 am Parasha Class in Spanish — Rabbi Algaze	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit 6:45 pm Candle Lighting 6:50 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat

HAVURAT YISRAEL

106-20 70TH AVE, FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK 11375 / TEL: 718-261-5500 / FAX: 718-261-7584

DAVID ALGAZE, RABBI / JACK GOLDBABER, PRESIDENT

WEB: WWW.HAVURAT.COM / EMAIL: HYOFFICE18@YAHOO.COM / ERUV: 718-544-6898

MERCY OR DECREE?

By Rabbi David Algaze

"If a bird's nest happens to be before you on the road...young birds or eggs and the mother is roosting on the young birds or the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young. You shall surely send away the mother and take the young for yourself, so that it will be good for you and you will prolong your days." (Devarim 22:6-7)

There are many commandments in the Torah that do not lend themselves to rational explanations but this commandment of having to protect the mother bird and thus preserve future life appears to contain a basic message of compassion for living beings. Indeed, Maimonides explains the reason for this commandment, as well as the prohibition to slaughter an animal and its young on the same day as stemming from a sense of mercy. Just as we are not allowed to inflict pain on animals, we should be careful not to inflict any pain or cause any worry to human beings. (Guide 3, 48).

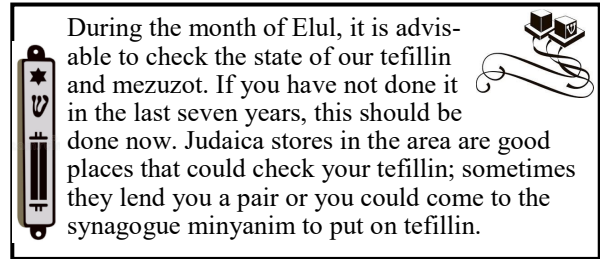
Yet the Rabbis in the Talmud suggest otherwise. "He who (reciting a prayer) says 'O Merciful, whose mercies extend over the bird's nest'...must be stopped." (Brachot 5:3) The explanation is that such a statement defines the attributes of G-d as just merciful. (Brachot 33b) However, G-d, as Rashi points out, gave us these commandments in order that we would demonstrate our commitment to Him and our willingness to fashion our lives in consonance with His will. We have to obey His laws even when our own logic or the spirit of our society would find these laws against our reason or our sensibilities. Rashi does not refute the fact that the source of the law is the attribute of compassion; he merely cautions us not to observe the commandments because they are compassionate, since on some occasions, we may encounter a law that would not meet these standards and then we will find it harder to observe it. By adopting the obedient attitude, without attaching an explanation for each mitzvah, we will be able to observe other commandments that seem to defy our sense of reason or the tastes of our society.

Nachmanides adds that this law is not concerned with kindness to animals, for otherwise we would have forbidden us to slaughter animals altogether. "The purpose of the injunction is to train us in mercifulness and to prevent us from acting with cruelty. Cruelty leaves a scar on the human soul...these commandments are decrees imposed on us to guide and train us in wholesome, moral living." Naturally, the Torah's main purpose is to educate us and to elevate us towards a higher sense of morality. However, the fundamental principle in the observance of the commandments must be a complete trust in the wisdom and goodness of these laws regardless of whether they are comprehensible to us or whether they fit or not with what our society accepts as correct at any given time. The laws of G-d are eternal, they possess absolute value and they do not derive their importance from any value or benefit we may derive by observing them. If, in observing a mitzvah, we find a good result from it, it is fine, but this should not be the reason for our observing them. This discretionary approach to G-d's commandments, namely to pick and choose those commandments we like or we accept or those that bring us a specific benefit, is ultimately a denial of the wisdom of the Torah and of the Supreme Lawgiver.

This is the basic challenge to someone approaching the observance of mitzvot. Granted that many commandments are extremely wise and possess immense benefits to the humankind, but what to do with those commandments that contradict our sense of morality or that run counter to the sensibilities of our age? This is the dilemma that confronts modern man and this is the discussion surrounding this law. The approach to the mitzvot must be total trust and a commitment to submerge our will to the will of the Creator.

This is not to say that we observe either all or nothing. Each commandment has its own value and people who are just at the beginning of their path in Torah may not be able to fulfill all the commandments. It is nonetheless important that we understand this as a temporary step and not a final goal for our spiritual lives. The Torah functions as a perfect clock. Like a perfect organism that needs every

part to function properly, the laws of the Torah operate in a harmonic way, complementing each other and producing together the perfection that G-d desired for Man. When we "select" certain laws over others, when we judge them or assess their relative importance or value, we not only demean the Lawgiver but also rob the system of its effectiveness. As the Rabbis tell us, "Be as careful in the observance of a "light" mitzvah as you are with a "heavy" one, for you do not know the reward of the mitzvot." (Avot)



During the month of Elul, it is advisable to check the state of our tefillin and mezuzot. If you have not done it in the last seven years, this should be done now. Judaica stores in the area are good places that could check your tefillin; sometimes they lend you a pair or you could come to the synagogue minyanim to put on tefillin.

THE SEASON OF TESHUVAH IS HERE....
SEEK HASHEM WHEN HE IS NEAR.....



Selichot Services
Saturday night September 17
at 10 pm

Rabbi Algaze and
Cantor Nesanel Carmen officiating

There will be a social hour with coffee
and refreshments starting at 9 pm.

Selichot services will continue every morning
30 minutes before the regular minyan.

Are you still a member of Havurat?
Start the New Year Right!

Membership dues were due January 1st and payable by **March 31st of each year** and a member retains the status of "good standing" only when dues are up to date. Please pay your membership on time and in full to enjoy special members' prices. All Membership privileges are extended **only** to fully-paid-up members. We want everyone to be not just a member, but a part of our caring family. If not now, when?

Refuah Shlema Rivka Gitel bas Miriam (sister of Debbie Greenberg), Alte Ester Riva bat Devorah Shifra (Eileen Alter), Batya bat Rachel (Betty Feit), Malka Bat Buca (Yeni Hassin), Zeev Zelig ben Sarah Tish (Tom Hamori), Yossef Ben Sarah (Jose Alvares), Zalman Mordechai Yitzchak Halevy ben Alta Chana (Stuart Greenberg), Ruhel Bat Gitel (Rochelle Goren), Chanah Naomi Bat Doba