

HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

19 Nissan 5777

Shabbat Hol HaMoed / Last Days of Pesach

April 14—15, 2017

Shabbat Shalom!

7:00 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat (Summer schedule)
7:18 pm Candle Lighting

Torah reading p. 504, Maftir p. 892 Haftorah p.1224

8:45 am Mishnayot Shiur

9:00 am Shacharit

9:34 am Latest Shema

10:45 am Beginners Minyan — Rabbi Kraft

11:00 am Drasha — Rabbi Algaze

11:30 am Reading of Shir Hashirim

6:00 pm Class on Shir Hashirim

6:45 pm Mincha

8:15 pm Havdalah, Omer: tonight count 5

Kiddush is sponsored by Mehran & Rachel Arasheben celebrating the birthdays of their kids Kayla Leah and Aviel Nissim. Mazal Tov!

Seudah Shlisheet sponsorship available.

Schedule for Shvii Shel Pesach

Sunday April 16

- Mincha 7:00 pm
- Candle Lighting 7:19 pm (no shehecheyanu)

Monday April 17

- Shaharit 9:00 am
- Mincha 7:15 pm
- Candle Lighting after 8:21 pm (from pre-existing flame)

Tuesday April 18

- Shaharit 9:00 am
- Yizkor 11:00 am
- Mincha 7:00 pm followed by a Seudah—please bring only unopened Passover salads or desserts.
- Havdalah 8:22 pm
- **Hametz sold through Rabbi Algaze should not be consumed before 9:00 pm.**

The Following Kiddush Dates are Already Booked!

- ☆ 4/22 David & Biana Ryzkin, Rebecca & David Goldstein
- ☆ 4/29 Students of the Sunday Morning Spanish Class
- ☆ 5/6 Rita & Lou Gutnicki
- ☆ 5/27 Jerry & Jennifer Revich
- ☆ 6/3 Kleiman, Rose, Ross, Weisglass families
- ☆ 6/10 Carol & Danny Yaghoubian.
- ☆ 6/24 Claudia & Mehran Arasheben

Reserve your Kiddush date soon!

Hametz after Pesach

Please wait until after 9:00 pm to use any hametz sold through Rabbi Algaze. When purchasing hametz after Pesach, it is vital to purchase hametz only from appropriate stores, specifically:

- ☆ Jewish-owned stores which properly sold their hametz, such as Aron's, Seasons, Wassermans, other VHQ supervised stores.
- ☆ Non-Jewish owned stores which are permitted to own hametz during Pesach, such as Natural and other Asian-owned businesses.
- ☆ National supermarket chains which are corporations and are not considered Jewish-owned such as Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's.

Be careful when purchasing from stores which be Jewish-owned franchises and may not have properly sold their hametz. At such stores, avoid buying perishable hametz such as bread for at least a week, and hametz with a longer shelf life, like pasta, for at least a month.

THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY JOURNAL DINNER

We are proud to announce the honorees for this year's Journal!
The 36th Anniversary is twice Hai—the initials of Havurat Yisrael.

CAROL AND DANIEL YAGHOUBIAN

RACHEL AND MEHRAN ARASHEBEN

RENEE FEIT HIRSCH AND DAVID HIRSCH

The gala Dinner will take place in the third week of June—Details to be announced soon.

Place your Journal ads and let's start working together to make it a huge success!

During the month of Nissan we have a special mitzvah of blessing Hashem for all the beauty He bestowed upon the world especially in the form of fruit trees.

Upon seeing fruit trees in bloom, say:

Baruch Ata A-dn-y Elo-kenu Melech ha'alam, shelo chasar be'olamo davar, ubara bo beriot tovo ve'ilanot tovim lehanot bahem bene Adam.

Weather permitting, we will recite the bracha in our garden on Shabbat after services.

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE KITCHEN

Please note that the Kashrut of our kitchen cannot be guaranteed if there is unauthorized and free access to our kitchen. There have been a couple of unwitting violations of kashrut in the last few weeks due to the congestion in the small space and lack of familiarity with the kitchen order. We therefore ask everyone **to refrain from entering the kitchen** or depositing anything inside without authorization. If you need something from the kitchen, please request it from Blanca or anyone from the staff. We have made arrangements for a hot water urn outside for those who wish to make tea or coffee.



SUNDAY Apr. 16 / 20 Nissan	MONDAY Apr. 17 / 21 Nissan SHVIL SHEL PESACH	TUESDAY Apr. 18 / 22 Nissan AHARON SHEL PESACH	WEDNESDAY Apr. 19 / 23 Nissan ISRU CHAG	THURSDAY Apr. 20 / 24 Nissan	FRIDAY Apr. 21 / 25 Nissan
7:30 am Amud Yomi 8:00 am Shacharit 9:30 am Torah Class in Spanish-R. Algaze 11:00 am Rabbi Kraft's class Omer: tonight count 6	Please see the holiday schedule above!		6:20 am Amud Yomi 6:50 am Shacharit 2:00 pm Mincha Omer: tonight count 7	6:20 am Amud Yomi 6:50 am Shacharit 2:00 pm Mincha Omer: tonight count 8	6:20 am Amud Yomi 6:50 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat, Maariv 7:21 pm Candle Lighting Omer: tonight count 9

HAVURAT YISRAEL

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WHY DID G-D PART THE SEA FOR US?

By Rabbi David Algaze

"...and the water split. The Children of Israel came within the sea on dry land; and the water was a wall for them, on their right and on their left." (Shemot 14:21-22)

The majestic miracle of the Parting of the Sea has inspired many a writer, painter and mystic for generations. For Israel it is the greatest and clearest display of G-d's control over Nature and His persistent oversight of the Jewish people's tribulations and perambulations. Something paradoxical occurs in this phenomenon: Israel crosses on dry land, but the Egyptians drown in the sea. There is also a contrast of the righteous and the wicked, between those whom G-d protects and those He punishes. The Rabbis were troubled by this disparity of action and did not gloat over the tragic end of Egypt's soldiers. In fact, a Midrash tells us that G-d forbade the Angels to sing at that moment, "The creatures of My Hand are drowning and you wish to sing?" (Midrash) Notably, the children of Israel were allowed to sing nonetheless in gratitude for their salvation from slavery and torture.

A more potent question arises regarding the justification of this divergence of treatment. The Midrash comments that the Evil Prosecutor (Samael) complained to G-d about this, "Master of the Universe, have not Israel worshipped idols in Egypt and You make for them now miracles?" (Yalkut Shimoni 234) Clearly, the miracle was unwarranted by Israel's behavior; only G-d's infinite mercy and His inscrutable Design were behind this miracle. Sometimes, we get what we do not deserve; we get gifts from Our Father that we did not earn.

However, if Israel was not deserving of G-d's special treatment due to their backslidings, why was the complaint raised only now? The same question could have been raised concerning their miraculous sparing of the Ten Plagues that ravaged the Egyptians. Rabbi Meir Simcha Hakohen of Dvinsk (1843-1926) in his book Meshech Chochma, raises that question and he writes that in Egypt the children of Israel were even more debased and rotted and therefore the complaint should have been raised earlier.

The Meshech Chochma answers by explaining the difference between the community (*tzibbur*) and the individual (*yachid*) regarding their observance of the commandments. In the case of sins against G-d, such as idolatry or sexual debauchery, the punishments range from lashes to the death penalty. However, regarding sins against morality, in the realm of sins committed against another individual (*ben adam lechavero*), such as robbery, slander, bad traits, there is no physical punishment, not even lashes. This may be due to the fact that in this realm one may always provide a remedy, either in the form of payment or some form of amends. This is the case regarding the individual; in the case of the community the opposite holds true. When a moral iniquity or a negative character trait prevails in a community, G-d is not forbearing and He exacts severe retribution for that offense. In fact, when they engage in moral turpitude and sins against one another, G-d removes His Presence from them. On the other hand, when a community transgresses any law in the realm of its relationship with G-d, He is forbearing, and remains with them, as the verse puts it, "He dwells among them, [even] in their impure state."

We see this pattern in the pages of our history. The Talmud explains why there were some casualties during the wars waged by King David, while in the time of King Ahab, they were always successful. "The generation of King David were all righteous [religiously], but because there were some informers and traitors among them, when they went to war they would be defeated. But the generation of Ahab, although they were idolaters, because there were no informers [and were all united], would go to war and be victorious." (Jerusalem Talmud, Pe'ah 1:5). In the same vein, the First Temple, where idolatry and sexual licentiousness abounded

was rebuilt within seventy years. Yet, the Second Temple, where Torah study and meticulous observance of the commandments were the norm, because they were engaged in constant strife, *machloket*, and slander against one another, (*sin'at chinam*) it has not been rebuilt for almost two thousand years. Such is the gravity of the sin that needs to be washed away through our long Exile!

Disunity, fighting, dissension and rivalry are veritable cancers in a community. As long as Israel was united in Egypt, G-d could overlook their sins and act towards them with kindness. When Israel is united into a community, G-d treats them by the standards of communal behavior and is forgiving. However, at the Sea, there arose contention and division. The Midrash tells us that they were divided into four groups, each with a different agenda and objective. At this time they ceased to be a community and they were transformed into a mere aggregate of individuals. Therefore, the sin of idolatry became a blemish that the Prosecutor could bring up against them and raise an objection to G-d's favoritism—something he could not have done in Egypt proper when they were all together. Although in the end G-d rejected Samael's argument, nonetheless his objection had legal standing and could be introduced.

The lesson is that the improvement of Israel does not depend only on a more rigorous observance of religious commandments, but also on a betterment of the character traits and the manner we comport with each other. When we avoid slander, run away from *lashon hara*, empathize with the suffering of a neighbor, when we speak with kindness and perform acts of love with one another—then G-d will forgive our sins and overlook our imperfections in other areas. However, when we strive against each other, G-d does not wish to be in our company but when we strive for unity and behave towards each other with sensitivity and love, G-d will be there for us and display magnificent and resplendent acts. If G-d could do such wonders when we are undeserving, imagine what we can expect when we act according to His will!

We're looking for a few good men!

HY is not a spectator sport! We need more men to step up to the Amud and learn to lead the services.
Please contact the Rabbi or Gabbaim.

KIDDUSH & SEUDAH SLISHEET ARE FOR ALL OF US

BE A SPONSOR!!!

Looking for Recipes

The HY Sisterhood is preparing a
Kosher Cookbook .
Please email your favorites recipes!



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

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



**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 –resumes after Pesach

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.

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.

Introduction to Jewish Thought

Rabbi Kraft

Sundays at 11 am

Toddler Time! (after Pesach)

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

Bikur Cholim

- ☆ Fred Isaac has returned home.
- ☆ Stuart Greenberg has returned home.
- ☆ Rabbi Meir Havazelet, Atria Kew Gardens, 117-01 84th Ave., 929-354-1696

Please note: We are renewing the Refuah Shlema list. Please submit names of the critically ill or those undergoing dangerous medical procedures to the office for inclusion on the updated list.

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. Bookcases for the Library | 5. Memorial tablets |
| 2. Shelves for siddurim and chumashim for the sanctuary (Women's side and Men's side) | 6. Tree of Life (Etz Chaim) |
| 3. Racks for tallitot | 7. Ner Tamid |
| 4. Computer calendar for announcements | 8. Books for the Library (Hebrew and English) |

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
Raphael 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

Beit Midrash

Bet Hamidrash Aron Kodesh	Dedicated by Michael Blau
Ner Tamid	18,000
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
Ner Tamid Bet Midrash	Dedicated
Mechitza	75,000
Torah Reading Table	Dedicated by Fanny Seinuk
Parochet	50,000
Memorial Plaque (2)	each 36,000
Rabbi's Chair	Reserved
Netilat Yadaim	Dedicated by Rachelle & David Alkalay
Skylight	36,000
Speaker's Podium	Dedicated by Steve Golub & Shoshi Bacon
Main Chandelier	25,000
Pillars (3)	each 18,000
Window 1	Dedicated by Helen Kober
Window 2	Dedicated by Feit family
Window 3	Dedicated by Anne Biener
Sconces (6 available)	5,000
(1) dedicated by Rachel and Eliahu Krikheli	

Children's area 100,000