

HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

12-13 Shevat 5780

SHABBAT BESHALACH/SHIRA

February 7-8, 2020

Shabbat Shalom!

5:02 pm Candle Lighting
5:10 pm Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat

Parsha: p.366; Haftora p.1152
8:45 am Mishnayot Class
9:00 am Shacharit
9:35 am Latest Shema
11:00 am Drasha — Rabbi Algaze
11:15 am Beginners Minyan — Rabbi Kraft
4:00 pm Shiur on Song of the Sea— Rabbi Algaze
4:50 pm Mincha
6:03 pm Maariv & Havdalah

Kiddush is sponsored by Bruce and Miriam Jacobs commemorating the Yahrzeit of his mother Yael bat Meir Z"L

Seudah Slisheet sponsorship available.

Upcoming Kiddushim — Plan to sponsor one!

February 22 Rabbi David & Tamara Algaze
February 29 Barney & Sarah Paikin
March 7 Ephraim Grossbein
March 14 Barney & Sarah Paikin

NEW CLASS IN KOHELET

With Rabbi Tzvi Lorkis of
Yeshiva Chafetz Chaim



A FOUR-SESSION SEMINAR
Wednesdays at 7:30 pm Registration recommended

Please do not remove books from our shul library. If you use a book, please return it to the same spot you took it from.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

WHERE ARE THE NAMES OF YOUR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY?

Please place your order now to insure that the names of your loved ones will not be missing again. Price for each plaque is \$500. All orders must be pre-paid before they are processed.

PAY YOUR DUES, PLEDGES, BALANCES!

It's easy and secure!

Donate

on our [website](#)

Big Singles Party On Tu Bishvat

Sunday February 9th 6 pm

BE PART OF THE MITZVAH OF CREATING JEWISH FAMILIES!

We need your help in publicizing this event. Contact all the single people in your sphere, business, family, neighbors. It's a big mitzvah. We are happy to share with you that at our last Singles event we made a shiduch and the couple just got married! At this event, we have invited Sarah Newcomb, a shadchanit as well as many other people involved with singles in the New York area. But you can make a difference by bringing more [people together]. The greater attendance makes the greater likelihood of people meeting. Be a part of this mitzvah, the reward of which is immense.

This will be a beautiful evening with a Dvar Torah by Rabbi Algaze, Live Music by Sandy Shmueli, great food, sushi and drinks for just \$25.

VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS FOR THE 38TH WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS

Those elected from the United States will join delegates from Israel and around the world at the 38th World Zionist Congress in October 2020, the international "parliament of the Jewish people", to make decisions regarding key institutions which allocate nearly \$1 Billion annually to support Israel and World Jewry (including the World Zionist Organization, Keren Kayemet LeYisrael – Jewish National Fund and the Jewish Agency for Israel).

YOU CAN VOTE ONLINE January 21 – March 11, 2020

Go to : ZionistElection.org

Your vote is important to keep Israel as a Jewish state and faithful to the tradition of our forefathers.

Combat Global Antisemitism and BDS, reinforce Zionist education, promote the rights to live in Judea and Samaria

There are 15 slates, several are Orthodox and all are good to prevent a very aggressive campaign by the Reform to take over education in Israel and even have an influence in the army. We recommend the Orthodox Israel Coalition where **Judy Rosen** is a candidate and the ZOA coalition where and **Rabbi Algaze** is a candidate. The most important thing is to vote. Voting is simple. Go to: ZionistElection.org

REGISTER AND VOTE FOR YOUR VOICE IN ISRAEL



SUNDAY Feb. 9 / 14 Shevat	MONDAY Feb. 10 / 15 Shevat TU B'SHEVAT	TUESDAY Feb. 11 / 16 Shevat	WEDNESDAY Feb. 12 / 17 Shevat	THURSDAY Feb. 13 / 18 Shevat	FRIDAY Feb. 14 / 19 Shevat
7:30 am Amud Yomi 8:00 am Shacharit 8:45am Breakfast 9:30 am Rabbi Algaze's class (in Spanish) 11:15 am Rabbi Kraft's class 6:00 pm Singles Party	6:20 am Amud Yomi 6:50 am Shacharit 2:00 pm Mincha 7:30 pm Class at Ordentlich Home—Rabbi Algaze	6:20 am Amud Yomi 6:50 am Shacharit 2:00 pm Mincha 6:00 pm Hebrew Class—Bruce Jacobs 7:30 pm Parasha Class	6:20 am Amud Yomi 6:50 am Shacharit 2:00 pm Mincha 7:30 pm Class in Kohelet NEW!! — Rabbi Lorkis	6:20 am Amud Yomi 6:50 am Shacharit 2:00 pm Mincha	6:20 am Amud Yomi 6:50 am Shacharit 5:11 pm Candle Lighting 5:20 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat

EVIL'S DEMISE

By Rabbi David Algaze

“G-d spoke to Moses saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel and let them turn back and encamp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, before Baal Tzefon’ ...Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘They are lost in the land...and he will pursue them and I will be glorified.’” (Shemot 14: 1-5)

The Exodus of the Children of Israel from Egypt is narrated with a plethora of geographical detail. What roads are taken, what are to be avoided, where do they encamp and from where do they move—all these details are painstakingly defined and included in the story. The most surprising of these movements is the retreat back to Egypt. After three days of the journeying away from their enslavers and surely feeling relieved at leaving their imprisonment far behind them, an astonishing request comes from G-d to turn back towards Egypt. Fearing as they surely did the possible persecution by Pharaoh, the movement in the direction of their captors appears illogical. One normally moves away from their pursuers, not towards them. Yet, this was the directive from G-d and they obeyed it faithfully, even against any logical strategy. They did not question nor rebel against this strangest of demands. Why such a command?

The Torah explains the reason for this order in the next verse: “And Pharaoh said about the children of Israel, ‘They are lost in the land, the desert has closed in on them.’” Indeed, they were “caught in the land” and could not get out. With the sea on one side, which they could not cross, and the desolate and blight desert on the other, they were locked in. This was intended to lure Pharaoh into the pursuit of his erstwhile slaves, sensing that their position offered him a new opportunity to stop their motion.

The station at which they stopped was especially significant. They encamped before Baal Tzefon, one of the deities of Egypt and the only one that remained upright after all the other idols had been vanquished and shown to be impotent. It alone remained of all the other gods in order that the Egyptians would think, “The G-d of Israel is powerful but not as powerful as Baal Tzefon and that is why it is still standing and blocking the way to the children of Israel.” This reaction was exactly what G-d had intended for them. As Rashi puts it, “so that they will say that their god was strong” and, putting their trust in that deity, they will be able to overcome Israel. Although it is forbidden to mention the name of any idol, the Torah lists this deity’s name because its purpose was to mislead the Egyptians and cause their great and definitive defeat.

In reference to this directive, Rashi quotes the verse in Job 37:23, “[G-d] increases the nations’ success and [thus] defeats them.” The success of the wicked makes them arrogant and, feeling themselves invincible and formidable, they act in ways that leads them to their own destruction. G-d allows the enemies of Israel to become strong and mighty only to bring about their downfall later on. During the 1967 war, Israel pleaded with the Arab nations not to attack and pursued every diplomatic avenue to avoid conflict. However, her enemies, feeling a sense of invincibility and potency, attacked Israel with the hope of a final victory. Yet we know how Israel defeated them in a stunning victory that transformed the weakling nation into a formidable power in the world. This is also the meaning of the verse in Psalm 92, “When the wicked flourish like the grass, and all evildoers blossom, it is only to destroy them forever.” Yes, the wicked will flourish, prosper and succeed for a brief period of time, but their latter end will always be loss, rout and downfall.

G-d announces, “And I shall be honored through Pharaoh and all his might and Egypt will know that I am the L-rd.” Rashi explains that when G-d takes revenge against the wicked, His great Name is exalted, as it says, ‘And I will judge him’ and then it says, “And I will become exalted and sanctified...” (Ezekiel 38:22-23) The frustration of the immoral is a sign of G-d’s justice in the world and proof that there is rightful governance in the universe.

Yet, the rejoicing over evil seems distasteful and mean; thus, some feel embarrassed or uncomfortable with rejoicing over other people’s fall. It would better to hope that evil change its ways and evildoers reform. While this is indeed preferable and the way of return is never closed, even to the cruelest creatures, nevertheless when the evil and depraved fall it is a cause of celebration amongst the righteous because now they can pursue unencumbered and without distraction the task of bringing holiness and goodness to the world. Some defend the position that we are not allowed to rejoice over the downfall of our enemies by quoting a Midrash in which G-d prevents the Ministering Angels from joining Israel in the Song of the Sea saying, “My creatures are drowning and you wish to sing?” Yet this is a wrong reading of the text. The Midrash says that G-d admonishes the Angels, not Israel. Human beings are certainly allowed to express joy at their salvation, at their being saved from death and devastation. The expression, “Do not rejoice at the downfall of your enemy” refers to an enemy who is part of the Jewish people, not a stranger who wants to eliminate Israel and thwart their Divine mission in the world. (Megillah 16a)

Angels do not endure persecution, they do not have their homes destroyed and their offspring taken away; human beings do. Therefore it is not improper to express joy when our enemies vanish or are vanquished. The Song of the Sea is a clear manifestation of the sense of relief experienced by people after a catastrophe or a personal calamity and that is perfectly acceptable. To demand anything else would be inhuman.

G-d ensnared Pharaoh in order to display His power in the world and His Name becomes thereby glorified. Israel follows suit whenever we overcome our enemies and overwhelm our foes with G-d’s help. G-d does not entrap good people; He entraps only the corrupt and the wicked by making them successful at first and allowing them to feel superior and invulnerable. A clear sign of G-d’s influence on this is the fact that the wicked usually fall in the very trap they prepared for their enemies. The tree that Haman planned to use when hanging his rival Mordechai is the same tree from where he himself is eventually hung. The psalmist puts it this way, “And G-d will turn their own plans against them and in their own evil plans He will destroy them...” (94:23). This is an instance of the Divine concept of “middah keneged middah” (measure for measure) meaning that G-d punishes the wicked with their own evil designs to show that there is an intelligent and righteous governance in the universe and so the good people will take heed and learn how to conduct their lives with justice and rectitude. We should always pray for the downfall of evil and the reformation of humanity towards a life of morality and goodness. The collapse of Evil is not merely a blessing for Israel but for all good people and the entire world.

Are you still a member of Havurat?

If your dues are not paid, what are you?

Membership dues are due 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. Have you sent your dues yet? If not now, when?

Refuah Shlema Alte Ester Riva bat Devorah Shifra (Eileen Alter), Rafael David ben Zelda, Erella bat Zahava, Avraham ben Arlene, Allison bat Florence, Miriam bas Chanah, Dov Ben Avraham, Chaim Itzchak Ben Rivkah, Dalia Sara bat Devorah, Linda Gelber (Leah bat Sheina Feiga), Tzipora bat Malka, David Lieberman, Gail Weinberg (Golda bat Bina Yehudit), Yizchak Ben Ziba, Bryna bat Anita (Bambi Levine), Esther Necha Bat Yindah, Esther Necha bat Hendel, Esther Leah bat Ruth, Yisroel ben Devorah Shifra, Edina Chai bat Leah (Erica Schwartz).

This list is updated weekly by calling the office.