

HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

29 Adar 5781

SHABBAT HACHODESH / VAYAK'HEL PEKUDEI

March 13, 2021

Shabbat Shalom from our President Jack Goldhaber!

5:41 pm Candle Lighting
5:45 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat

8:45 am Mishnayot Class
9:00 am Shacharit
9:05 am Latest Shema
Parasha p. 516; Maftir p. 348; Haftarah p. 1218
5:00 pm Gemara Class
5:30 pm Mincha
6:40 pm Maariv and Havdalah

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME RESUMES SUNDAY!

- ⇒ Everyone **must wear a mask at all times** and maintain social distancing.
- ⇒ Rabbi Algaze Zoom: 910 766 9261 / Code: 265203
 - ⇒ Class recordings may be seen on YouTube – Rabbi Algaze channel.
- ⇒ Rabbi Kraft Zoom: 929 478 7383
- ⇒ Zoom Tel. 646 558 8656

Kiddush is sponsored by:

- ☆ Arlene Ross commemorating Yahrzeit of her mother Estelle Ross Z"L.
- ☆ Eliyahou Mendoza joining Am Israel. Mazal Tov!

Seudah Shlisheet sponsored by HY members.

Upcoming Kiddushim

- ☆ Mar. 20 Linda & Serge Merkin

Molad Nissan - The new moon will occur over Jerusalem, the holy eternal indivisible internationally recognized capital of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, today (Shabbat) at 7:03 (5 chalakim) pm. Rosh Hodesh will be observed tomorrow (Sunday).

Wine Sale!

- ⇒ **Enjoy** the best wines and liqueurs
- ⇒ **Save** by buying at a discount for Passover and beyond
- ⇒ **Support** the shul through your purchases
- ⇒ **Watch** for the Wine List and Order Form coming soon!



PASSOVER WORKSHOPS WITH RABBI ALGAZE

TUESDAY MARCH 16 AT 7 PM

THE SEDER: LAWS AND IDEAS

WEDNESDAY MARCH 17 AT 7 PM

PESACH CLASS IN SPANISH

TUESDAY MARCH 23 AT 7 PM

SPECIAL TALK BY THE RABBI ON THE SPECIAL LAWS WHEN EREV PESACH FALLS ON SHABBAT. THE SHABBAT HAGADOL DRASHA WILL BE GIVEN AT THAT TIME AS WELL

ALL OTHER CLASSES SUSPENDED UNTIL AFER PESACH

Join Rabbi Algaze

Elegant Passover Seder at Havurat

Saturday March 27 Fine cuisine caterers under the hashgacha of the Queens Vaad. Warm Atmosphere, Explanations, Stories, Singing!

Please make your reservations early as space is limited.

Reservation deadline Wednesday March 24th

Members \$75 / Non-members \$85



JEWISH HISTORY CLASS

(Zoom and Facebook Live)

A History of Eretz Israel Before the State of Israel

covering from the first Aliyah in the 1880's to the Declaration of Independence

Next class April 7:
"The Birth of Israel"

Wednesday: 7:45 pm (English)

Part III: Resistance, Partition & Independence
April 7, 14, 21

Sale of Hametz forms will be emailed. Please fill out form and email to the office. Add your contribution to the Passover Fund for needy people (Ma'ot Chitim) via DONATE on our website or by calling the office with your credit card.

For those who wish to sell their chametz to the Rabbi in person please see the Rabbi during office hours starting this Monday.



SUNDAY Mar. 14 / 1 Nissan ROSH HODESH	MONDAY Mar. 15 / 2 Nissan	TUESDAY Mar. 16 / 3 Nissan	WEDNESDAY Mar. 17 / 4 Nissan	THURSDAY Mar. 18 / 5 Nissan	FRIDAY Mar. 19 / 6 Nissan
7:30 am Gemara Shiur 8:00 am Shacharit 9:30 am Parasha Class (Spanish) — Rabbi Algaze 11:00 am Rabbi Kraft's class	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit 11 am—3 pm Office open	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Passover Workshop — Rabbi Algaze	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit 11 am—3 pm Office open	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit 10 am—2 pm Office open 6:48 Candle Lighting 6:45 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat

SUNDAY CLASS IN SPANISH & MORNING GEMARA TAKE PLACE IN SHUL & ON ZOOM. ALL OTHER CLASSES ON ZOOM ONLY!



RENEWAL, RENAISSANCE AND REDEMPTION

By Rabbi David Algaze

“This month shall be for you the beginning of the months...” (Shemot 12:2)

The month of Nissan is considered as the month of the Redemption. “In Nissan they were redeemed [from Egypt] and in Nissan they will be redeemed in the future.” On this month, Israel came out from Egypt, emerging onto the stage of history after generations of enslavement and repression. This month is declared to be the first for Israel because on this month we attained our liberation. The Talmud records a famous dispute regarding the date of the Creation. Rabbi Eliezer says that the world was created in Tishre whereas Rabbi Yehoshua declares the world was created in Nissan. (Rosh Hashanah 10b) The commentators suggest that in reality both accounts are correct because the physical world was created in Tishre but the ability to renew the world spiritually was developed in the month of Nissan. That is because on that month Israel was given the opportunity to bring light unto the world and thus preserve and benefit the Creation.

The sanctification of the month, especially the month of Nisan, is the first mitzvah in the Torah. Many have asked why was this mitzvah selected to be the first in which Israel was commanded and what is its significance? The word *hodesh*, month, derives from the word, *hadash*, meaning new, since at that time the new moon appears. Therefore, the Sfat Emet concludes, the beginning of the month represents the power of renewal which was given to the Jewish people. Through the Torah and the commandments, Israel is able to attain a level of insight and inspiration that brings to the world a spiritual message of transcendental value. This message is that the world has a Creator, that He governs the events of the world, and that there is Justice and a Judge in the Universe. These ideas which are the essence of Judaism act to revivify the Universe. This is the power of renewal of the Jewish people.

The world functions according to regular laws and the spheres of the Universe move to a constant and unchangeable rhythm. The fixed system that gives order to the world also robs it of the freshness and renaissance that are necessary for the achievement of happiness and fulfillment. People get accustomed to the same patterns and become weary. The world becomes an “Old world” to many who chant the refrain, “There is nothing new under the Sun.” (Ecclesiastes 1) When this blasé sentiment prevails, a spirit of depression and melancholy is generated in the heart. “Been there, done that” is their anthem and that is the root of paganism with its ever revolving and repeating patterns. To the pagan mind everything that comes is déjà vu and modern man is also beset by this spirit of gloom and pessimism. This malaise can only be cured when we are able to see things in new light, when we can discover new things and facets in old friends and experience life as new experiences every day. To achieve this spirit we need a sense of purpose and meaning in life which can only be gained from a spiritual perspective.

The power of renewal is even greater than the Creation itself and that is the mission that G-d assigned to Israel: to contribute to the renewal of the world through its teachings and exemplary life. Only the Jewish people, through its numerous and tortuous manifestations of G-d’s presence and His salvation, can bear

witness to the godliness of the Universe. Therefore, the task of renewing the world was apportioned to them. “This shall be unto you...” This mission is only Israel’s. The redemption from Egypt gave the Jewish people the special perspective of being above the physical laws of the Universe. Their miraculous and unprecedented liberation from the House of slavery transformed them into a people above Nature and Time. This position eminently qualified them for the task of renewal.

Jews have also a special sensitivity to the newness in the world. When G-d told Moses “This shall be unto you the first of the months” Moses had difficulty in understanding how to fulfill this mitzvah. G-d then told Moses, “When you see the moon this way, [i.e. as a thin crescent, just born] observe it and sanctify it.” (Midrash) The Sfat Emet explains the meaning of the Midrash as saying that just as you feel the newness of this experience of the new moon, so you should experience the renewal of the Universe and convey this message to humanity. The people of Israel has the special quality of being sensitive to this renaissance that occurs every day and therefore they are especially qualified for this assignment.

Perhaps more than calm and regularity, it is suffering and darkness that opens up our eyes to the sense of newness. The Talmud narrates the sad story of a scholar, R. Eleazar ben Arach, who is called to read the Torah on this verse and misreads it, and instead of reading *hahodesh haze lahem*, he pronounced other consonants which came out as *haheresh haya libam* (their heart was deaf). Most commentators and the plain interpretation of the story view this as a demonstration of this great rabbi’s decline in scholarship due to his residing away from a Torah community. However, the Sfat Emet suggests that there was a hidden message in this rabbi’s misreading. After their heart was deaf, they merited that they could become renewed. When the Jewish people was in Exile, unable to hear the word of G-d, they understood the pain of being deprived of the experience of G-d and through their liberation they became transformed into a people that could experience and appreciate renewal and redemption.

To a world that is always tired, always anesthetized to new experiences, the Jewish people sends the message that G-d renews Creation, that every day is a new day and that we are born to a new day every day. “This month is given to you as a month of renewal, renaissance and redemption.”

The 2020 Journal Brunch which had been postponed due to the dining restrictions will be held with G-d’s help on Sunday April 18. We will also celebrate Yom Ha’Atzmaut Israel Independence Day!

Refuah Shlema Erella bat Zahava, Avraham ben Arlene, Rivka Gitel bas Miriam (sister of Debbie Greenberg), Eliyahu ben Shushan, Alte Ester Riva bat Devorah Shifra (Eileen Alter), Batya bat Rachel (Betty Feit), Leibl Ben Bella (Alicia’s husband), Batsheva Friedle bat Rachel, Tova bas Esther (Toni Weissberg), Yitzhak ben Ziva (Mehran’s father), Basha Leah bat Sema Dena (Cathy Kleiman’s mother), Zeev Zelig ben Sara Tish (Tom Hamori).