

# HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

13 Av, 5784

SHABBAT VA'ETCHANAN / NACHAMU

August 17, 2024

## Shabbat Shalom!

7:00 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat  
7:33 pm Candle Lighting

9:00 am Shacharit  
9:31 am Latest Shema  
Parasha p. 958; Haftorah p. 1196  
10:30 am Pray with Joy—Rabbi Levitt  
11:00 am Officer DeSantis from the 112th Precinct will visit to speak with us.  
10:30 am Kids Group  
6:30 pm Shiur in Parasha—Rabbi Levitt  
7:00 pm Pirkei Avot  
7:25 pm Mincha  
8:30 pm Maariv & Havdalah with music — Rabbi Levitt in honor of Shabbat Nachamu

## Kiddush is sponsored by:

- Rabbi Avrohom & Sharona Levitt in gratitude to the Havurat Yisrael community for his first year with us.
- Pinhas and Rahel Contreras celebrating their 1st year of being part of Am Israel.

**Seudah Shlisheet** sponsorships available.

## Upcoming Sponsorships

August 31—Ephraim Grossbein

## Outstanding Balances

Do not stay in debt in the weeks before the New Year  
Pay your balance before Tishrei .

## Free English Class with Esther Nelson on Zoom

Wednesdays: Beginners level at 6 pm, Level II at 7 pm  
— Meeting ID:75838790255 Password:qKLy8

## IS HAVURAT YISRAEL IN YOUR WILL?

*Ad me'ah ve'esrim* (until 120 years) but we all need to reflect on what will be our legacy after we depart from this world. We hope that you will put Havurat Yisrael among your beneficiaries, so as to continue the work of this synagogue for the next generation. Members who made this commitment are recognized and remembered for good for many years after they are not with us. Mr. Michael Blau, of blessed memory, continues his support for our shul even long after his passing because of his noble and generous act of **adding Havurat Yisrael** in his will. Please consider this act and may all reach old age in health and many blessings.

## High Holidays 5785

### HAZAN SIMCHA HELFGOT AT HAVURAT YISRAEL FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS!!!

We are pleased to announce that we have engaged one of the greatest hazanim of our generation, Cantor Simcha Helfgot, to be with us during the High Holy Days. Cantor Helfgot will lead the services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The reviews on this sensational voice are awe-inspiring and we look forward to very inspiring services. Please reserve your seats soon as we expect to have a full house for this occasion.



High Holy Days are starting on Thursday, October 3rd. Please contact the office to make your reservations. Ticket prices are \$175 for **fully paid members only** and \$195 for everyone else. Payment is due upon reservation.

**Security Update!** We have installed a new lock on the front door. This lock will be in operation on Shabbat and holidays. In order to access the entry code, please call the Havurat Yisrael office.

## Tisha B'Av Program

Thank you to Jane Stiefel for Coordinating the Tisha B'Av Program. The program was very successful and the speakers were all inspiring. Thanks to Seymour Kaplan and Jane Stiefel for sponsoring the Breaking of the Fast refreshments.



## Book Club with Rabbi Levitt

We are reading the book: Rebbetzin Kanievsky. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, August 20th at 12 pm to talk about the highlights of the book and how it relates to our personal lives.

## New FREE Class

Starting Monday, August 26 at 10 am on Zoom. We are going to learn about The Laws of Shabbat. The class will be taught by Rabbi Baruch Simon from Yeshiva University. It will be followed by a discussion in own private Zoom room to review and discuss what we learned. Source Sheets will be available as well. Contact Rabbi Levitt for more details and the Zoom Link.

SUNDAY August 18 / 14 Av	MONDAY August 19 / 15 Av	TUESDAY August 20 / 16 Av	WEDNESDAY August 21 / 17 Av	THURSDAY August 22 / 18 Av	FRIDAY August 23 / 19 Av
7:00 am Hebrew class—R. Levitt 7:30 am Mystery and the Majestic by Rabbi Daniel Glatstein with Rabbi Levitt 8:00 am Shacharit 9:30 am Torah Class in Spanish — R. Algaze 10:30 am Hebrew class—R. Levitt	6:30 am Mystery and the Majestic by Rabbi Daniel Glatstein with Rabbi Levitt 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm No class this week —R. Algaze	6:30 am Mystery and the Majestic by Rabbi Daniel Glatstein with Rabbi Levitt 7:00 am Shacharit 12:00 pm Book Club — R. Levitt 7:00 pm Sefer Shmuel. R. Levitt	6:30 am Mystery and the Majestic by Rabbi Daniel Glatstein with Rabbi Levitt 7:00 am Shacharit	6:30 am Mystery and the Majestic by Rabbi Daniel Glatstein with Rabbi Levitt 7:00 am Shacharit 8:00 pm Class — Rabbi Levitt	6:30 am Mystery and the Majestic by Rabbi Daniel Glatstein with Rabbi Levitt 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 7:23 pm Candle Lighting

## HOW LOVE? By Rabbi David Algaze

*"You shall love Hashem, your G-d, with all your heart, with all your soul and all your resources."* (Devarim 6:5)

What is love? One of the most often used words in our vocabulary has many meanings and is used by people with many diverse connotations. This is due to the fact that the definition of love is both elusive and multifarious. In fact, love may be used even to denote feelings contrary to the plain understanding of the word, as in the case of "I love fish" when in fact one means he enjoys eating them—not a very good demonstration of real love for these little creatures! What is then real love and how do we attain it?

Love is a desire to connect, to unite with the beloved object. Any other use of love, such as "love to paint," "love to travel" or similar expressions are only a derivative or borrowed sense of the word "love." Genuine love is the desire to be one with the other. That is why we find the phenomenon of "love pangs" such as when lovers fail to connect fully or are away from each other. This is what is expressed in the Song of Songs when the bride says, "I am sick with love." She means that her intense yearning for her beloved is actually creating a feeling of anxiety and panic which generates a form of illness in her body. The word for passion derives from the Greek *pathos*, meaning suffering or affliction, as we find in words such as pathology or psychopath. Real passion can at times even torment the soul with its intensity and force.

How is it possible to reproduce this feeling—found in our human experience—in our relationship with G-d? Yet, this is precisely how Maimonides describes the commandment of loving G-d. "The proper love is that one should love G-d with a strong and intense love to the point that his soul be bound up with this love constantly as when he is sick in love with a woman thinking about her all the time and his mind never being free from thinking about her. When he wakes up, when he is sitting, when he eats or drinks—his thoughts are about her, even more so should be the love of G-d as He commanded us "with all your heart and with all your soul." (Laws of Teshuvah)

To comprehend this commandment properly we must investigate what are the sources of love. The love of a parent for a child can shed light on this question. A parent loves a child because he or she feels that the offspring is a part of them. They identify with this child as an extension of themselves. Although the process of maturation will require the severing of this symbiotic bond and the achievement of independence in the child, nonetheless the seeds of love are planted when the parent recognizes himself or herself in this child. A similar phenomenon actually occurs with adoptive children soon after they are reared in our environment and become our own.

In any case, the origin of love may be found in this "similitude" of the lover and the beloved object. In a romantic relationship a similar phenomenon takes place: the lover recognizes himself or herself in the other. Although a mature relationship will nonetheless develop some forms of separation and independence, the basis of love is that unbreakable bond of self-recognition. The philosopher Martin Buber explored this concept in his seminal book "I and Thou." He explains that a love relationship defines each of the participants at the same time. Without a Thou, the I would not be the same.

Now we can comprehend why G-d loves us: we are His children and therefore a part of Himself is in each of His creatures. G-d created us in His image and therefore He can experience the type of feeling described above as love. Just as a father can recognize himself in the child much more easily than the other way around, G-d can experience that feeling of recognition and love towards us

immediately and constantly. For us it is more difficult to see how G-d is like us and therefore it becomes harder to reach that feeling of love for Him. Attached to the earth and the earthly experiences as we are, the view that we are like G-d is harder to achieve. However, when we act like G-d, when we give succor, when we open our hearts and when we engage in acts of hesed such as Hashem does for us, we begin to discern that there is something in us that does not belong to the earth or to the physical experience. At those moments when we attain sublime thoughts and generous acts we may detect in us a spark of the Divine.

This is what G-d asks of us when He asks us to love Him: Feel within yourself that spark of Divinity I placed within your soul and when you do, then you will recognize a bit of yourself in Me and then love will flow. Loving G-d is then the process of abandoning step by step our lowest earthly attachments and yearn to climb the ladder of grace, kindness, altruism that are the hallmarks of Divinity. When we recognize these elements in us, our soul will yearn to identify itself with the Creator and we will attain the level of loving G-d with all our hearts and all our souls.



### The Havurat Yisrael Kiddush

One of the most characteristic features of Havurat Yisrael is the time we spend together at the kiddush. Even after the food is gone and the tables are clean, people still stay to chat and mingle, thus developing the special bonds that unite us. It is sad to see that some Shabbatot go without a sponsor. Please consider sponsoring a kiddush so that all our dates are filled with sponsors' names.

**Let's Go to Citi Field on Sunday September 8.**

Buy your tickets for the game online: [yu.edu/yumetsday](http://yu.edu/yumetsday)

For more information contact Rabbi Levitt.

**Refuah Shlema** Alte Ester Riva bat Devorah Shifra, Chava Naomi bat Doba Chana, Yaakov ben Leah, Tzvi ben Sara, Chava bat Rivka, Talia Leah bat Sarah, Gabriela bat Sarah, Miriam Bat Rivka, Reuben ben Malka, Baruch Chaim ben Basha, Malka Bat Simcha and Yonatan Yitzhak ben Ateret, Hannah bat Yehudit, Rivka Hila bas Rochel Binyamin Baer ben Chana.