

# HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

6 Iyar 5782

SHABBAT KEDOSHIM

May 7, 2022

## Shabbat Shalom!

7:00 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat  
7:38 pm Candle Lighting  
Count Omer #21 tonight

8:45 am Mishnayot Class  
9:00 am Shacharit  
9:17 am Latest Shema  
Parasha p. 656 Haftorah p. 1174  
11:00 am Drasha, Kids Program  
6:30 pm Gemara Shiur  
**7:00 pm Perek in the Garden**  
7:30 pm Mincha, Seudah Shlisheet  
8:38 pm Maariv, Havdalah  
Count Omer #22 tonight

**Kiddush is sponsored by** friends commemorating the upcoming Yahrzeit of Marco Scenna.

(Rabbi David & Tamara Algaze, Eileen Alter, Rahel & Mehran Arasheben, Nicolay Burt, Daniel Cohen, Yael & Gary Emmanuel, Jack & Shulie Goldhaber, Miriam & Bruce Jacobs, Carol Krohn, Rabbi Leonard Levy, Serge & Linda Merkin, Shimon & Sarah Mizrahi, Louis & Rachel Ordentlich, Jerry & Jennifer Revich, Judy & Stuart Rosen, Arlene Ross, Jane Stiefel, Alicia & Leon Teitelbaum)

**Seudah Shlisheet** sponsorship available.

## Upcoming Kiddushim

May 14 Available  
May 21 Ephraim Grossbein  
May 28 Looking for sponsors...

## Learning English

Free English as a Second Language (ESL) Class with Marc Rose on Mondays, 7:30 pm.

## Hebrew class for beginners — with Bruce Jacobs

Tuesdays at 8:00 pm on Zoom

For information, call Yael Yepez at 516-460-3202

## Are you still a member of Havurat?

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?

Nothing announces springtime at Havurat Yisrael **more** than the return of

## PEREK IN THE GARDEN

Join in studying Pirke Avot every Shabbat afternoon!

## Thank-you to our Mezuzah Contributors!

Jose Alvares  
Beti Ajam  
Mehran, Rahel, Kayla & Avriel  
Arasheben  
Renee & David Hirsch  
Fernando & Ivelisse Leana  
Roger & Jeanine Mashih  
Shimon & Sarah Mizrahi  
Elisheva Palala  
Donald Gallo  
Shimon Martinez  
Dante Lopez  
Sharam Sharaf

Davood Baradarian  
Benhour Mahgarefteh  
Shahr Okhsedghe  
Yael Yepez  
Miriam and Jeff Benkoe  
Michelle Bernstein  
Darlene Frank  
Neva Goldstein & Simcha Hellman  
Ira & Cathy Kleiman  
Linda & Serge Merkin  
Louis & Rachel Ordentlich  
Arlene Ross

## Yom Yerushalayim

Community-wide celebration of our eternal indivisible capital, on the 55th anniversary of the liberation and re-unification of Jerusalem

at Havurat Yisrael.

**Saturday, May 28 at 9:15 pm**

*Refreshments • Israeli Music •  
Group Singing*

**All are invited to this Festive Event**

## SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY JUNE 12, 2022

Singles Event At Havurat Yisrael

If you want to volunteer to assist with this event  
please contact Alicia at 718-261-5500

SUNDAY May 8 / 7 Iyar	MONDAY May 9 / 8 Iyar	TUESDAY May 10 / 9 Iyar	WEDNESDAY May 11 / 10 Iyar	THURSDAY May 12 / 11 Iyar	FRIDAY May 13 / 12 Iyar
7:30 am Gemara Shiur 8:00 am Shacharit 8:45 am Breakfast 9:30 am Parasha Class in Spanish — Rabbi Algaze	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit 7:30 pm Journey in Jewish Literature — Rabbi Algaze (no class this week)	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Parasha Class — Rabbi Algaze 8:00 pm Mesilat Yescharim — Rabbi Algaze (no classes this week)	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 7:00 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 7:46 pm Candle Lighting
Count Omer #23 tonight	Count Omer #24 tonight	Count Omer #25 tonight	Count Omer #26 tonight	Count Omer #27 tonight	Count Omer #28 tonight

HAVURAT YISRAEL

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DAVID ALGAZE, RABBI / JACK GOLDHABER, PRESIDENT

# IT'S YOUR FAULT, OF COURSE

By Rabbi David Algaze

*"According to what is right shall you judge your fellow" (Vayikra 19:15). "Love your neighbor as yourself, I am Hashem" (ibid.18)*

Love (ahava) in Hebrew contains the letters he (ה) and bet (ב) which together form the word "give" (hav). The essence of love is to give, to open oneself to the other. As noble and poetic as this sentiment sounds, it is against human nature that we can develop this type of relationship with everyone. This bond may only exist on special occasions and with specific individuals and cannot be a universal law. How can we love a neighbor as we love ourselves?

Nachmanides (Ramban) points out that the Hebrew preposition is not the usual et (ע) but rather ל (lamed) which indicates that the love is not towards the person himself but rather to the conditions of his life, his well-being, his possession, to rejoice in his good fortune and to respect him. It is not that we love him or her but rather that we extend love to what surrounds the person as we do towards our conditions of life. It means that we should not harm his property, not to disregard his dignity and whatever belongs to him. Rabbi Hirsch translates this verse as "love your neighbor's wellbeing as if it were your own." It means to be happy when things are good to him and to grieve in over his misfortune as if it were our own.

Therefore, loving your neighbor actually translates as Hillel put it when speaking to a prospective convert, "What is hateful to you, do not do it to your neighbor." (Shabbat 31a) This is entirely possible even to people who are not necessarily to our liking because this love is not a subjective emotion but a requirement of the Creator Himself. That is the reason the verse adds the word "I am Hashem" after this demand to love. It is expected of us because we are all His creations; his success is not a hindrance to ours and his fall is not an opportunity for our ascent. The Rabbis describe a perfectly moral person as one who "loves God and loves His creatures." As R. Hirsch comments, this commandment imposes equality of all human beings as the guiding principles of our actions, "changes selfishness into consideration and love of one's neighbor and teaches us to respect and love every contemporary as being completely equal in birth and rank."

Perhaps the greatest expression of this love is when we judge our neighbor's actions. The Rabbis admonish us "not to judge our neighbor until you are in a similar position." (Avot 2) This is one of the deepest forms of regarding your neighbor as you do yourself. Yet, this is also one of our greatest challenges because when we deal with others, it is hard not to put ourselves and our selfish interests first. When we take a negative view of the other, we enter a quicksand from which it is hard to emerge. In those occasions when we made a negative judgment about a person or a certain event, this causes our eyes to be blinded. Whatever opinion we formed at the start becomes hardened in our mind and it develops into an unmovable wall around our intellect.

The main error is to attribute all our problems to someone else's fault. Once we make this assumption, we can muster every argument, hear and interpret every word or deed to justify this initial assessment. Our ego blinds us from seeing the other person or to be able to perceive reality objectively. We have become prisoners of our own self.

There is a story that illustrates this process vividly. A woman who was taking a trip overseas wakes up that morning late and rushes to the airport without having breakfast. As she enters the airport she quickly purchases a box of cookies and intends to start eating them as soon as she sits down. At that moment, her name is called on the loudspeakers to come to the airline counter. She gets up and goes to the counter and returns to her seat a few minutes later. To her surprise, she sees a religious man sitting on the bench and eating from her box of cookies. Angry and disappointed she sits down next to the man and takes a cookie from the box. No sooner she has done this, the man also takes a cookie as if it were his and now this infuriates her more. Does he not see that it is my box? That's why I am eating the cookies! The man turns from time to time to glance at her and she

thinks, "What chutzpah! He looks at me and is not even embarrassed? And a religious man no less! I have heard that some religious people do not always act properly but this is too much! She does not say anything and for the next few minutes each time she takes a cookie, the man does the same. Finally, the passengers are let into the airplane. The woman gets up with some resentment in her mind and very ashamed that a religious Jew should act this way. As she takes her seat in the plane, she opens her purse and discovers...her box of cookies inside!

The error was committed at the beginning: the moment that she thought the mistake was on the other side. Once she assumed that the perpetrator was the other, she did not have to investigate any of her actions. She did not need to remember that she had put the box in her purse, she did not have to think that she had been very hurried when she approached the airline desk, that the same box of cookies was being sold throughout the airport and that there were many other boxes like hers around; she was sure the error was not hers. Even the glances of the man, who now appears as a very noble person, she interpreted as arrogant and impudent. Nothing led her to stop and think that perhaps she was the one who made the error, that the box may not be hers. Nothing, just accusations hurled to the other side with a sense of assurance and self-righteousness that was unmovable by doubt or uncertainty. All these details only strengthened her first opinion that the man had the gall to steal her cookies and that he was beyond correction!

The first principle for a happy life and a healthy relationship with people in the world is to realize that our problems are not always someone else's fault, that sometimes we have a part in the issue. We cannot start from the premise that it's always someone else's fault and not ours. The demand to love our neighbor requires us to think of others as we think of ourselves; that if people can make a mistake, so can we. When we put ourselves on the same field as the other, the world and its details will be seen through a lens of objectivity and truth and we will not be blinded by prejudices or controlled by false assumptions. When we encounter a problem we will search inside ourselves first, and look at all sides of the problem and not start from the premise, It's your fault, of course!

## MEMORIAL PLAQUES

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

**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.*

## Cemetery Privileges: A key benefit of membership.

Burial plots at the Havurat section at New Montefiore are given to Havurat members at no extra charge. (Interment costs are excluded.) This privilege applies to people of the household and children living at home only (children under 25 years old). However, each person covered must register yearly by a payment of \$15 per year. The registration must be done before the end of each year. It is preferable that this payment accompany the payment of the membership dues.

**Privilege is extended only to fully paid up who register every year with the special \$15 registration fee per each member of the household.**

**Refuah Shlema** Chava Naomi bat Doba Chana, Rivka Gitel bas Miriam (sister of Debbie Greenberg), Ha Rav Eliyahu ben Shushan, Alte Ester Riva bat Devorah Shifra (Eileen Alter), Batya bat Rachel (Betty Feit), Batsheva Friedle bat Rachel, Roiza bat Yita Feiga (Rosalie Tenzer), Yael bat Sheindel Ettel, Eshrat Bat Esther (Arasheben's friend), Obadia ben Leah (Steve Golub), Malka Bat Buca (Yeni Hassin), Devorah bat Sarah, Yaakov ben Leah.