

HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

27 Adar II, 5784

SHABBAT HACHODESH (SHEMINI)

April 6, 2024

Shabbat Shalom!

7:00 pm Candle Lighting
7:07 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat
8:45 am Mishnayot Shiur
9:00 am Shacharit
9:41 am Latest Shema
Parasha p. 588, maftir p. 348, Haftorah p. 1168
10:30 Kids Group
11:00 am Drasha
After Musaf Kedusha, Class on Prayer — R. Levitt
6:00 pm Shiur on Masechet Sanhedrin — R. Algaze
6:00 pm Shiur on Parashat Hashavua — R. Levitt
7:00 pm Mincha
8:07 pm Maariv & Havdalah

Kiddush & Seudah Shlisheet sponsorships available.

Upcoming Sponsorships

April 13 — Brian Kirschner
April 20 — Sarah R, Simcha K, Caridad L, Maria P, Gloria P, Ruth F and Abigail D.
May 25 — Michelle Polonetsky
June 1 — Kyana Paniagua

Molad The new moon will occur over Jerusalem, the holy eternal indivisible internationally recognized capital of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, on Monday at 10:57 (7 chalakim) pm. Rosh Hodesh is Tuesday.

Condolences to Irving Prus on the passing of his sister.

In Memory of Tom

A breakfast at the shul and on [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 831 1423 0134 / Passcode: 265203) to share memories and tributes to Tom Hamori Z"L will take place on his shloshim, Sunday at 11 am. If you would like to co-sponsor or speak at this event, please call or email the office.

Yasher Koach!

Last Shabbat was a day of learning and celebration at HY with a visit from Rabbi Simon and his inspiring lectures and Drasha. Thanks to Rabbi Levitt for coordinating the event and to all the sponsors of the Shabbaton.

New Class this Sunday "The Frog and the Tree" with Rabbi Levitt Sunday — 10:30 am

Challah Baking — Thursday April 11 at 7:30 pm
Led by Sarah Esses. Mom And Me event, Teens welcome to lead. Contribution \$10 p/person RSVP to HY office.

Rabbi's Hours for Sale of Hametz This Week

Tue. 11-2 pm & 6:30-8 pm, Wed. 11-2, Fri. 11-1, Sun. 10:30-12

Passover Seders

With Rabbi Algaze & Rabbi Levitt

MONDAY, APRIL 22nd & TUESDAY, APRIL 23rd

At 7:45 pm and 8:00 pm

Glatt Kosher Lamehadrin Caterers, Sumptuous meals and a warm family atmosphere • Inspiring explanations by the Rabbis. Members: \$85. Non-Members: \$95
Children under 3 free; ages 3-12 \$30



Don't Cook Before Passover! Spend Time With Your Friends Instead!

PRE-PESACH SHABBATON

Saturday, April 20 Shacharit - 9:00 am / Lunch approx. 12:00

Reserve by noon Wednesday, April 17. Cost \$35 p/person

We are happy to announce this year's Journal Dinner honorees

Mark & Gail Silverman

Todd & Sheryl Hausman

Joseph & Kim Trigoboff

Mazal tov to them!

The dinner will take place Monday June 24. The campaign to get ads and to place messages in their honor begins NOW! Start thinking of the people and stores that may be willing to place an ad and support our synagogue. Ad blanks available this week at the office.

NEW THIS YEAR: RAFFLE! As the Journal Campaign begins, we need everyone to be in it to succeed. We are going to have a big raffle. If you know a store that can donate merchandise, or an establishment that can provide us with coupons, e.g. meal package for Shabbat, gift cards or tickets to special events, or anything that people may wish to win, please try to get them. We hope to be able to raffle two tickets to Israel! Let us know if you have contacts to help. Letters introducing you as a member of Havurat are available at the office. The gifts will be raffled off on the day of the Journal dinner.

Zachary Kleiman is participating in a very important project to create a digital library of Jewish books that will be available free of charge. This will be a source of support to yeshiva students and be a great gift to anyone wanting to access any classical book for free. Please contact Zachary if you want to help.

A NEW SEMINAR (HABURAH)

Ever asked how can you really get close to G-d? How are prayers answered? A special seminar (haburah) is being created to ponder these questions. Using as a text a new book "Principled Uncertainty" Quantum mechanics and theology. The discussions will require a certain familiarity with physics and philosophy. If interested, please contact the Rabbi.

SUNDAY Apr. 7 / 28 Adar II	MONDAY April 8 / 29 Adar II	TUESDAY April 9 / 1 Nissan ROSH HODESH	WEDNESDAY April 10 / 2 Nissan	THURSDAY April 11 / 3 Nissan	FRIDAY April 12 / 4 Nissan
7:30 am Gemara Shiur 8:00 am Shacharit 9:00 am Breakfast 9:30 am Class in Spanish — R. Algaze 10:30 am Shiur — R. Levitt 11:00 am Breakfast— Shloshim of Tom Hamori	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Journey in Jewish Literature — Rabbi Algaze	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 6:45 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Parasha Class - Rabbi Algaze	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit 7:30 pm Challah Baking with Sarah Esses and Rabbi Levitt	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 7:15 pm Candle Lighting

HAVURAT YISRAEL

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A SEPARATE FERVOR

By Rabbi David Algaze

"The sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, each took his fire pan...and they brought before G-d an alien fire that He had not commanded them." (Leviticus 10:1)

What was the grave sin of these holiest of leaders that brought upon them the severe punishment of death? The Rabbis have offered many and varying interpretations of their error and the puzzlement remains. How could the most promising and learned disciples of Moses and Aaron fail in such a serious manner? The fire they brought is described as "alien" or "strange" implying that it was not supposed to be there. The Torah further comments that this was not the fire that G-d commanded. What does this mean?

The sin of Nadab and Abihu did not start on this eighth day of the commemoration. Already at Mt. Sinai they had eyed the leadership. "When will these old men [Moses and Aaron] die so that you and I will lead the congregation?" (Midrash) Their sin seemed to derive from a heightened view of their own spiritual prowess, a fault frequently found among the young. Their own elevated spiritual rank misled them into thinking that they were better than their elders and this was the root of their sin. The Rabbis note that part of their mistake was that they did not consult their elders and made legal decisions without concern for the past. This was the result of their youthful vanity.

Similarly, they did not consult one another but rather acted as individuals detached from each other. Rabbi Hirsch notes that the verse says that each took "his" fire pan. The verse does not say that they took "fire pans" but rather that each took an individual, separate pan in order to display their own distinct and subjective concept of the worship. (Vayikra Rabba 20) Each went his own way without consulting with the other. This is the tragic consequence of not respecting the previous generations. When the past is ignored and not venerated, then even the loyalty and respect for one's own peers and brothers is absent as well.

Why is this called an "alien fire"? The proper fire is that which is commanded by G-d, and that fire is not separate individual aspirations but rather the spirit of the nation as a whole. When people interpret for themselves the best way to revere G-d they are actually separating themselves from the community. This is an egregious error even if the intentions are praiseworthy. Our greatest strength as a nation is to act in unison, fully aware of the bonds that tie us to each other. When we strike out on our own, when we compete with one another to show who is better, we bring that disjointedness and separation that G-d abhors. Even Nadab and Abihu, as high as they were, were not allowed to incorporate their own subjective views and ideas in the public worship. This is what "G-d did not command."

Our mission is to worship G-d as a community and to behave as an organism rather than as separate entities. As we direct our eyes heavenward, in a vertical coordinate, we should not lose sight of the horizontal one that is the link that ties us together as a people. This is the reason that certain prayers and actions can only be recited or performed with a quorum, a minyan. Our own personal fervor must be reserved for the personal sphere and should be practiced in a discreet and private manner. This is the meaning of the verse, "Walk humbly with your G-d." (Micah 6:8) We are enjoined from acting in such a manner that makes us separate from the community or to act in an arrogant manner that flaunts our virtues and piety. We are to act as a unit and not to shine individually.

While pursuing a personal relationship with G-d, we must beware that this does not weaken our conception of the people of Israel as one unit. Perhaps the most fatal of our spiritual illnesses is the division that plagues our people when each group goes its own way and demeans the others. We are different and we should not erase the differences between persons but we must be careful that we practice

these special displays of personal fervor in our private lives and that we reserve a measure of tolerance, inclusiveness and togetherness when we interact with others. While it is important to preserve the various traditions of Sephardim and Ashkenazim, for instance, this separation should not become a wall of alienation and divisiveness. In the same vein, people of various levels of observance and piety should not associate only with those who are at their level, often ignoring those who are on a lower level, but rather attempt to develop communities of prayer that can be joined by people at all stages. This is the reason that at one of the most solemn days of the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur, we preface our prayers with the declaration, "We are permitted to pray with the transgressors." A prayer assembly where the "transgressors" are excluded is not a prayer assembly that G-d desires. We are all "transgressors" at some level; when we exclude others, we are excluding ourselves too.

The sin of Nadab and Abihu was that they nurtured a separate fervor that, while noble and praiseworthy, was nonetheless exclusionary and separatist and therefore was "alien", that is separated from the unity of the people that G-d desires to see when we approach Him. We should learn from this the importance of inclusive communities and the grave mistake of thinking that we are above others. A Hasidic rabbi once pointed out that the letter Yud also means a Jew. He said, when one Yid is next to another Yid, that represents the Name of G-d (written with two yudim), but when one Yid thinks of himself above another Yid, that represents the marking for the end of a verse (sof pasuk, marked as two dots that look like two yudim). When we come next to other Jews as equals and we regard them as important, G-d is there. However, when we lord over one another, thinking that we are above them, that is the end of the verse, the end of peoplehood.

SHABBAT HAHODESH

This is the last of the Four special Shabbatot of the month of Adar. Observed on the Shabbat before Rosh Hodesh. The Torah tells us, as the very first commandment given to the Jewish people, "This month (*hahodesh*) shall be unto you the first of the months [of the year]" thus declaring that all successive months shall be numbered starting from this month, the month of Nissan, so that the memory of the Exodus remains on our minds throughout the year. The special month of Nissan, the month of miracles, is the appropriate month for the Jewish calendar, the calendar of the people of miracles. By this mitzvah, G-d gives the Jewish people the ability to determine time and establish all the holidays through the actions of the Jewish court. On this Shabbat, we take two scrolls of the Torah; the first for the weekly parashah, the second for the special section in the book of Shemot that begins with the words, *Hahodesh haze* (This month).

Around the Neighborhood

Please volunteer to assist Queens Jewish Community Council to distribute kosher food to 1,000 people for Passover at The Forest Hills Jewish Center. Dates and Times for Volunteering: Wednesday, April 10 from 3-6 PM, to bring boxes of dry and canned goods inside and prepare bags. Sunday, April 14, from 9 AM - 3 PM, to package perishables and distribute food packages. Contact Mayer Waxman, mwaxman@qjcc.org - 718-544-9033

Dues are Due! Members in good standing pay their membership dues by March 31. Please be one! Also, Please add an additional \$15 for the Eruv fund!

Refuah Shlema Alte Ester Riva bat Devorah Shifra, Zalman, Chava Naomi bat Doba Chana, Yaakov ben Leah, Tzvi ben Sara, Chavah bat Rivka, Gloria bat Sarah, 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.