

HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

11 Tevet 5785

SHABBAT VAYECHI

January 11, 2025

Shabbat Shalom!

3:45 pm Mincha with Torah Reading
 4:20 pm Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv
 4:30 pm Candle Lighting
 5:29 pm Fast ends
 8:45 am Mishnayot class
 9:00 am Shacharit
 9:30 am Latest Shema
 Parasha p. 268 Haftorah p.1145
 3:45 pm Parasha Class — Rabbi Levitt
 3:45 pm — Gemara Class — Rabbi Algaze
 4:20 pm Mincha
 5:29 pm Maariv & Havdalah

Kiddush is sponsored by Renee & David Hirsch commemorating the Yahrzeit of her mother Betty Feit Z"L
Seudah Shlisheet sponsorships available.

Upcoming Sponsorships

January 12 — Sunday Morning Breakfast is sponsored by Debbie & David Sosnowik commemorating of the Yahrzeit of his grandfather Yekutiel ben Yehudah Z"L.
 January 18 — Mark Atlas

The Havurat Yisrael Kiddush

One of the most characteristic features of Havurat Yisrael is the time we spend together. 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.

Asara B'Tevet

This Friday, January 10th is the fast of the 10th of Tevet.

On Asarah B'Tevet, the 10th day of the Jewish month of Tevet, in the year 3336 from Creation (425 BCE), the armies of the Babylonian emperor Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem. Thirty months later— on 9 Tammuz 3338—the city walls were breached, and on 9 Av of that year the Holy Temple was destroyed. The Jewish people were exiled to Babylonia for 70 years.

Asarah B'Tevet (this year, January 10, 2025) is observed as a day of fasting, mourning and repentance. We refrain from food and drink from daybreak to nightfall, and add selichot and other special supplements to our prayers. The fast ends at nightfall (breaking the fast after Kiddush, since the fast is on Friday).

There will be a special schedule on Friday January 10, 2025 due to it being the fast of Asara B'Tevet. Due to the fast of Asarah B'Tevet, we want to finish early so that everyone can get home as soon as possible in order to break the fast.

- ⇒ 3:45 pm Mincha with Torah Reading
- ⇒ 4:20 pm Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv (abridged davening)
 - ⇒ Kabbalat Shabbat will start with Mizmor LeDovid
 - ⇒ Lecha Dodi will be done like the Sefardim, only the verses that spell Shlomo will be said, followed by the last one
 - ⇒ There will be no Kiddush said at the bima in shul because the fast has not ended
 - ⇒ We aim to finish davening by 5 pm
- ⇒ Fast is over at 5:29 pm

HANUKKAH CONCERT & PARTY AT HAVURAT

A very successful event with very lively music by the Shtender Collective and delicious food was held in our shul on Wednesday December 25th. This well-attended event celebrating the first night of Hanukkah was enjoyed by all the guests.



SUNDAY January 12 / 12 Tevet	MONDAY January 13 / 13 Tevet	TUESDAY January 14 / 14 Tevet	WEDNESDAY January 15 / 15 Tevet	THURSDAY January 16 / 16 Tevet	FRIDAY January 17 / 17 Tevet
7:30 am Gemara class 8:00 am Shacharit 9:00 am Breakfast sponsored by Debbie & David Sosnowik 9:30 am Torah Class in Spanish —R. Algaze	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Class with Rabbi Algaze	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Parsha Class — R. Levitt	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit 8:00 pm Class —R. Levitt at the Bukharian Center (2nd floor), next door	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit 4:37 pm Candle Lighting 4:40 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat

HAVURAT YISRAEL

106-20 70TH AVE, FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK 11375 / TEL: 718-261-5500 / FAX: 718-261-7584
 DAVID ALGAZE, RABBI / JACK GOLDBABER, PRESIDENT
 WEB: WWW.HAVURAT.COM / EMAIL: HYOFFICE18@YAHOO.COM / ERUV: 718-544-6898

HOW DO WE SURVIVE IN EXILE?

By Rabbi David Algaze

A small, weakened nation, without a land or an army but possessed of a wonderful and important tradition needs to survive in a hostile environment. For more than two thousand years the Jewish nation has tried to maintain its identity despite the vicissitudes of exile, persecution and hatred. The result has been incredible: the survival of the Jewish people with its traditions intact, its spirit unbowed and its vitality constantly revitalized. True, we have lost many to assimilation, intermarriage, ignorance and Holocausts, but the Jewish people lives.

The secret of this wondrous phenomenon has often been discussed and analyzed. In the Bible, we find an interesting discussion regarding the best strategy for retaining Jewish identity and preventing a devastating assimilation. At the end of the book of Beresheet (Genesis), we find a strange story that bears on this issue. Yaakov is deathly ill and Joseph decides to bring his two sons, Menashe and Ephraim, to receive a blessing from their grandfather Yaacov/Yisrael.

“Joseph took the two of them, Ephraim with his right hand, to Israel’s left, and Menashe with his left, to Israel’s right, and he came close to him. But Israel extended his right hand and laid it on Ephraim’s head though he was the younger and the left hand on Menashe’s head, he crossed his hands....” As Joseph notices this strange movement by his father, he tries to dislodge his father’s hand away from Ephraim onto Menashe’s and he says, “Not so, Father, for this is the first born.” But Yaacov refused and says, “I know, my son, I know....yet his younger brother shall become greater than he..” (Genesis 48:13ff)

What is the disagreement between Joseph and his father? What is the essence of their dispute? The Netivot Shalom quotes the Divre Shmuel explaining this discussion as concerning the ways of survival in exile. Ephraim and Menashe are the first Jews born outside the land of Israel and so they represent the future generations of Jews who will be exposed to the influences and difficulties of maintaining a Jewish identity in a foreign soil. The discussion between Joseph and Yaacov is which is the best strategy for survival and preventing assimilation. Menashe—as his name implies—represents a preventive measure, a protective attitude to discourage assimilation. Emphasizing the aspects of fear and awe of G-d, are the best weapons against assimilation. This is Joseph’s argument. Hence he is the one that should be favored.

But Yaacov sees it differently. He argues that the method

of Ephraim—meaning a positive attitude of love of G-d—will also be effective in maintaining our identity and preventing intermarriage and assimilation. We should not only emphasize the fear of G-d but also understand and expand on the beauty of our tradition, on the wisdom of our laws and ultimately on developing a love relationship with Hashem. This will ensure the continuity of our people: their realization of how beautiful is our tradition, how glorious and meaningful the words of our rabbis!

At a time when our children are exposed to a barrage of information from science and technology, aesthetic stimulation from the arts and literature, and other influences that can be tantalizing to them, it is important to show the beauty and depth of our Torah and to develop our love for G-d. When we study our sources and analyze their message, we will fall in love with them and this is the best defense against assimilation and loss of identity. This is Yaacov’s lesson: we need fear and love of G-d in the struggle for survival, but give the priority to the love, the quality of Ephraim. Discovering the beauty of the Torah and our legacy, just as the sight of a beautiful landscape, can be the best armor in our struggle to keep our children and to ensure the future of Am Israel.

Class Note

Starting this Thursday, January 16th at 8pm, Rabbi Levitt’s class will join the class with Rabbi Vaknin of the Bukharian Community Center. The class will be held next door on the 2nd floor of the BJC (106-16 70th Ave). Food will be served.

Start the Year off Right!

Membership dues are due January 1st and payable by
“**March 31st of each year**” and a member retains the sta-
tus 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 every-
one to be not just a member, but a part of our caring
family. If not now, when?

Refuah Shlema Alte Ester Riva bat Devorah Shifra, Chava Naomi bat Doba Chana, Yaakov ben Leah, Tzvi ben Sara, Talia Leah bat Sarah, Miriam Bat Rivka, Reuben ben Malka, Baruch Chaim ben Basha, Malka Bat Simcha and Yonatan Yitzhak ben Ateret, Hannah bat Yehudit, Hila Rivka Hodaya bat Rochel, Binyamin Baer ben Chana, Hillel Zvi Yehuda ben Tzina, Joseph David ben Rachel, and Abraham ben Devorah Shifra.