

HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

16 Av 5778

SHABBAT NAHAMU / VA'ETCHANAN

July 27-28, 2018

Shabbat Shalom!

7:00 pm Mincha, **EARLY** Kabbalat Shabbat

7:58 pm Candle Lighting

Torah reading p. 958 / Haftorah p. 1196

8:45 am Mishnayot Shiur

9:00 am Shacharit

9:22 am Latest Shema

11:00 am Drasha — Rabbi Kraft

7:15 pm Perek

7:50 pm Mincha

8:56 pm Maariv

Kiddush is sponsored anonymously.

Seudah Shlisheet sponsorship available.

Upcoming Kiddush Sponsorships

☆ August 4 sponsorship available.

☆ August 11 Linda & Serge Merkin

Be a sponsor to celebrate a Simcha, commemorate a Yahrzeit, or for any occasion!

Refuah Shlema! Rabbi Algaze (David ben Bahia) is unable to join us this Shabbat while recovering well from surgery earlier this week.

Support the Businesses & Professionals Who Advertised in our Journal!

American Portfolios

Apple Bank

Ari's Caterers

Austin Medical

B&H Photo & Video

Benjamin Cleaners

Bolivar Luis Health and Fitness

Center Stage Optique

Central Queens Y

Chanukah Big Book

Corsets Lingerie

Determination Physical Therapy

Dry Harbor Service Station

Executive Caterers

Forest View Nursing Home

Gray Ghost Inn

Joseph Tocker Design

King David Restaurant

King Engine Bearings

Law Office of Regina Skyer & Assoc.

M&T Bank

Main Street Radiology

Radiology Main St.

Metro Garden Realty

Mikey Auto

Mikihana Restaurant

Natural Market

Nuverse Advisors

Parkside Memorial Chappel

Queens Pita Bakery

Schwartz Brothers Memorial Chapel

Spencer Pilates

DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR HIGH HOLIDAY SEAT RESERVATIONS!

If you want to keep the same seats as last year, you must purchase your seats by August 17th. After that date, seats will be sold on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Join the Havurat Yisrael Family For A Summer Evening at the Yiddish Theatre

Sunday, August 5th 6:00 pm

Tickets \$60

Call Havurat Yisrael to reserve your ticket: 718-261-5500

Edmond J. Safra Hall

The Museum of Jewish Heritage

36 Battery Pl. New York, NY

Performance in Yiddish with English and Russian translation supertitles.

This production has received rave reviews!

Save the date!

Sunday August 19th (2:00-3:30)

Memorial event for Rabbi Meir Havazelet Z"l.

Please RSVP to rhavazelet@optonline.net.

Tali havazelet happily invites anyone who would like to speak for 1-2 minutes to do so. We simply ask that you let us know beforehand so we can plan.

High Holidays 5779

High Holy Days are very early this year, starting on Sunday, September 9th. Services will be conducted by the Rabbi with the able assistance of Cantor Edward Smith.

As a valuable member of our community, we are offering you the opportunity to reserve the same seats as last year until Friday, **August 17th**. After that date, seats will be assigned on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Please contact the office to make your reservations. Ticket prices are \$150 for fully paid members and \$170 for not-yet-members. Payment is due upon reservation.

Leshana Tova tikatevu! May Hashem fulfill this year all the desires of your heart and bring many blessings to you and your dear ones.

SUNDAY July 29 / 17 Av	MONDAY July 30 / 18 Av	TUESDAY July 31 / 19 Av	WEDNESDAY Aug 1 / 20 Av	THURSDAY Aug 2 / 21 Av	FRIDAY Aug 3 / 22 Av
7:30 am Amud Yomi 8:00 am Shacharit 9:30 am Class in Spanish — Rabbi Algaze via Skype 11:00 am Rabbi Kraft's class WILL NOT MEET	6:20 am Amud Yomi 6:50 am Shacharit 2:00 pm Mincha 8:00 pm Shiur at the Ordentlich home— Rabbi Algaze WILL NOT MEET	6:20 am Amud Yomi 6:50 am Shacharit 2:00 pm Mincha	6:20 am Amud Yomi 6:50 am Shacharit 2:00 pm Mincha	6:20 am Amud Yomi 6:50 am Shacharit 2:00 pm Mincha	6:20 am Amud Yomi 6:50 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 7:5 1pm Candle Lighting

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.HAVURATYISRAEL.ORG / EMAIL: HYOFFICE18@YAHOO.COM / ERUV: 718-544-6898

THE LEAST AND THE GREATEST OF NATIONS

by Rabbi David Algaze

"For the L-rd your G-d has chosen you to be for Him a treasured people above all the peoples that are on the face of the earth. Not because you are more numerous than all the peoples did Hashem desire you and choose you, for you are the least of all the peoples." (Devarim 7:6-7)

The Sefat Emet points to an apparent redundancy in this verse. Of course, if we are the fewest of the nations, it is unnecessary to say that G-d did not choose because we are the most numerous. Furthermore, elsewhere the Torah calls Israel a "great nation." (ib. 4:7).

The Rabbis explain that the term "least of nations" alludes not to the small number of Jews in the world but rather to the Jewish people's capacity for reducing themselves before G-d. This is the meaning of the word, "the least", not the fewest but rather the one who is able to "lessen" himself and become subservient to the will of G-d and does not aggrandize himself before his Creator. This gift of being able to be humble and accept the yoke of Heaven upon itself is the defining characteristic of the people of Israel.

Thus, while Israel may be small in quantity, it is great in quality. By minimizing themselves before the L-rd, they acquire greatness. Their greatness is derived from their association to greatness. As a field increases in value by its connectedness to a source of water, so does the connection of a Jew to his Maker increase one's abilities, sensitivity and spirituality. In this fashion, while one is acting in a manner that restrains and constricts one's powers, in reality one becomes enlarged and exalted by his association with a Universal Greatness represented by G-d. On a practical level, we can see how Israel occupies such a large role on the world scene despite their meager numbers. Additionally, Jews are represented in the sciences and other activities far more than their numbers would justify.

An instance of this phenomenon occurs in the observance of the Shabbat. The mitzvah appears in the fourth of the Ten Commandments. In the parasha of Yitro in the book of Shemot it says, "Remember (Zakhor) the day of the Shabbat to sanctify it" (Shemot 20:8) referring to the positive commandments associated with the Shabbat. In our parasha it says, "Guard (Shamor) the day of the Shabbat... and you shall remember that you were a servant in the land of Egypt and Hashem your G-d brought you out from there..." (Devarim 5:15). The latter version of the commandment refers to the prohibitions and abstentions that we must observe on the Shabbat. Rav Moshe Feinstein wonders why is it that it is the abstentions and the things we are not allowed to do that are associated with our servitude. Surely, doing a positive act would also connote being subservient to a higher authority.

Rav Feinstein explains that many people may do things for others out of kindness or for proper behavior. Therefore, doing a positive act does not denote subservience. However, abstaining from doing an act just because someone else does not want it done implies obedience and subservience. More than doing certain acts or rituals, the abstaining from certain activities demonstrates a higher degree of the acceptance of a Higher authority.

Moshe Rabbenu entreated Hashem to allow him to enter the Land of Israel by using the argument that he wanted merely to be able to observe G-d's commandments that are associated with the produce of the land of Israel. Yet, Hashem retorted that it was His will that Moshe do not enter the Land. By accepting this painful decision, Moshe Rabbenu elevated his obedience to G-d to an even higher level. In Jewish life, we are often reminded of our servitude to the A-mighty in a myriad of commandments that do not prescribe for us what to do but rather direct us as to what we may not do. Of the

613 commandments in the Torah, the majority of them, 365, are the negative commandments. This is a clear lesson that G-d expects that our greatness be displayed not in what we do but rather in our ability to refrain from doing and curb our initiative out of respect to His will. In this fashion, while we act in a lesser manner, diminishing ourselves in a way, we become related to His grandeur and we become more exalted in the process.

A certain woman came home one Friday afternoon too late to light the candles and she became very depressed. As she confessed her pain to her rabbi, she began to understand that her observing the laws of Shabbat and refraining from lighting the candles, she was actually honoring the Sabbath even more. Many imagine that Judaism involves certain rituals and ceremonies and that by following them they become associated with Jewish traditions. They ignore, however, the numerous laws that prevent them from engaging in certain activities, eating certain foods and so on. Judaism is not a religion of rituals, it is a religion of obedience and submission to the Will of the Creator and this entails much more respecting the prohibitions than acting out ceremonies and rituals.

This is the greatness of Israel: more than any other nation, they obey their Creator and submit their will to His will. As it says in Pirke Avot (chapter 2): "Do His will as if it were your will." In this movement of acceptance and acknowledgement that there is something greater than our wills and desires, recognizing that there is something that transcends even our reason and logic, we become connected to something higher. Our "diminution" becomes the fountain of our greatness.

View photos of the Journal Dinner online at

<https://tinyurl.com/y92e89re>

Reminder! Please do not congregate and talk in the Kiddush area especially during the Drasha. That area must remain quiet. The noise is very distracting!



Membership privileges

Membership dues are due 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 paid up members. We want everyone to be not just a member, but a part of our caring family. Have you sent your dues yet? If not now, when?

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS WORTHWHILE CAUSE!

Dorit Sosnowik participating in Shaare Zedek's College Bowl-A-Thon on September 4th to raise money for a Giraffe Incubator for the NICU at Shaare Zedek Medical Center. The incubator creates a special healing micro-environment for the smallest babies to survive! To Donate: Go directly to www.bowl4israel.com where you can make a donation via credit card. Search for our team name "Rumbowl" or enter her name "Dorit Sosnowik"

Refuah Shlema Shmuel Zanzil ben Tila Mina, Alte Ester Riva bat Devorah Shifra (Eileen Alter), Naomi Malka bat Hoshana Leah, Dvora bat Edith, Rafael David ben Zeld, Shifra bat Yetta, Moshe ben Yehudit, Erella bat Zahava, Uhd ben Techiya, Avraham ben Arlene, Mina Chana bat Sara Feyga, Sheyna bat Henna, Tinok ben Chana Rivka, Allison bat Florence, Tuviah ben Sarah, Dahlia Sara bat Devora, Miriam bas Chanah, Helen Kober, Adina Chai bat Leah, Malka Seta bat Chaya Sara, Zalman Mordechai Yitzchak Halevy ben alta Chana.