

HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

19 Tevet 5778

Shabbat Shemot

January 5—6, 2018

Shabbat Shalom!

Note: the Eruv is DOWN!

4:25 pm Candle Lighting
4:30 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat

Torah reading p. 292 / Haftorah p. 1147
9:00 am Shacharit
9:38 am Latest Shema
11:00 am Drasha — Rabbi Kraft
3:30 pm Gemara Shiur — Rabbi Sebrow
4:20 pm Mincha
5:24 pm Maariv, Havdalah

Kiddush sponsorship available.

Seudah Shlisheet sponsorship available.

Looks Like Fun? It Is!

Join the **31st Annual HY Ski Shabbaton**

Jan. 17—21

at the Gray Ghost Inn
Mount Snow, Vermont!



Space is limited! Make your plans soon!
The trip is almost sold out!

Upcoming Sponsorships!

- ☆ January 27 Abigail Barrios
- ☆ February 3 Hellen Kober
- ☆ February 10 Rabbi David & Tamara Algaze
- ☆ February 24 Louis & Rachel Ordentlich

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

WHERE ARE THE NAMES OF YOUR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY?

MEMORIAL PLAQUES MAY BE ORDERED NOW

The beautiful new **Memorial Board** is here.

Please place your order now to insure that the names of your loved ones will not be missing again. Regular Price for each plaque is \$500.

Extended discount time for members: \$360.

Please note that all orders are pre-paid and must be accompanied by a check or credit card before they are processed.

Shloshim of Elona Lazaroff

On Sunday January 28th at 9 am, we will have a breakfast commemorating the Shloshim of Elona Lazaroff. Family members will join us. We are looking for sponsors of the event, please contact the office.

Scholarship Fund at Havurat —NEW!!

Jewish education is the foundation of Jewish continuity and survival. However, high costs of yeshiva education have driven many Jewish parents away and others struggle mightily to be able to afford it. At Havurat we are creating a special Scholarship Fund in order to assist families with their tuition. All applicants will be reviewed by the Rabbi and a special committee. We are looking for a generous donor who would want to name the Fund after a special person in their lives. Everyone is encouraged to contribute to this Fund and become a partner in the Jewish future. Any amount is important. Please write your checks to Havurat Yisrael and write Scholarship Fund in the memo.



The only thing worse than spilling your coffee is spilling it in shul! Reminder: Coffee is **not permitted** in our holy sanctuary. It causes damage to the furniture and carpeting!

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!



Exciting News About Tuition

The new tax legislation which has been signed by the President, now allows 529 Savings plans to be used for elementary and high school Yeshiva education. Previously it was only to be used for college and graduate school.

SUNDAY Jan. 7 / 20 Tevet	MONDAY Jan. 8 / 21 Tevet	TUESDAY Jan. 9 / 22 Tevet	WEDNESDAY Jan. 10 / 23 Tevet	THURSDAY Jan. 11 / 24 Tevet	FRIDAY Jan. 12 / 25 Tevet
7:30 am Amud Yomi 8:00 am Shacharit 9:30 am Torah Class in Spanish -Rabbi Algaze (Skype) 11:00 am Rabbi Kraft's class	6:20 am Amud Yomi 6:50 am Shacharit 2:00 pm Mincha 8:00 pm Rabbi Algaze's Shiur at the Ordentlich home will not meet. It will resume January 15	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 4:32 pm Candle Lighting 4:40 pm Mincha / Kabbalat Shabbat

HAVURAT YISRAEL

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THE WALLS AROUND US

by Rabbi David Algaze

(G-d) said, "Do not come closer to here, remove your shoes from your feet, for the place upon which you stand is holy ground." (Shemot 3:5)

In every place and in every situation a person can achieve closeness to G-d and a sense of spirituality. We just need to remove our "shoes", that is to get rid of the barriers that prevent us from feeling the presence of G-d and the sanctity that pervades the entire Creation and we will be able to experience that the ground upon which we stand is actually holy. This is what Hashem is telling Moshe: "You need to eliminate the wall that separate us and you will feel My presence." This is what the verse elsewhere says, "In every place where you will call out My Name, I shall be there and bless you." (Shemot 20:21)

In places of exalted sanctity, such as the bet Hamiqdash, it was forbidden to wear shoes. The kohanim went barefoot in order that no barrier existed between their feet and the holy ground of the Temple Mount. Holiness can only be experienced when walls are removed.

One would think that holiness is so dominant that it could penetrate through the armor of our personalities. But it is not so. The nature of holiness is elusive and it may be dissipated with the slightest move. The Baal Shem Tov once remarked that the entire disk of the sun may be covered with the small palm of the hand. In other words, even the most powerful source of energy may be stopped by a small, insignificant force.

In our religious lives, we have often experienced the lack of fervor when praying or the feeling that prayers are too long. We have shied away from performing mitzvot with enthusiasm, we have longed for the opportunity to experience authentic *simcha shel mitzvah*. Why is that? The answer is: the walls around us. The walls we have created are preventing us from feeling emotion and more specifically, the presence of holiness that exist around us.

In our lives, there are powerful emotions such as happiness, satisfaction with our personal accomplishments, family or surroundings that can be totally overlooked by the mere presence of emotional barriers that prevent us from seeing the light. Our hearts can feel only if these barriers are eliminated. The image of the ground is that we are already standing there; it is our shoes that prevent us from feeling it. The image of the shoe is so apt because it is the nature of the shoe to act precisely as a barrier against unwanted elements. We put on our "shoes" in order to ward off unpleasant memories,

threatening obstacles. The trouble is that we sometimes wear our shoes for too long, until we become unable to feel, to connect.

The message of G-d to each of us is, "If you want to feel My presence, all you need to do is to examine what "shoes" have you put on around your heart and eliminate them." When we feel darkness in our lives is because the walls around us ultimately have occluded the light.

Taking away those walls is the first step to connect with G-d, to feel spirituality and to perceive the holiness of the Creation. The inability to pray with fervor, the absence of true holiness in our lives and the coldness of our religious acts may all be due to walls we have allowed to grow around us. These walls may be the prejudice of a long-held belief or the childish fear of the unknown. It could be perhaps the rebelliousness against a controlling parent or the shame of expressing an emotion. Whatever the source of these walls may be, our duty is to discover them, analyze them and ultimately "remove them." The optimistic message of this commandment of G-d is that we can remove the walls, that they are not there forever, that we can eradicate them and feel again.

We're looking for a few good men!

HY is not a spectator sport! We need more men to step up to the Amud and learn to lead the services. Please contact the Rabbi or Gabbaim.

Cemetery Privileges: *Another benefit of membership.*

Burial plots at the Havurat section on 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. 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 in December. **Privilege is extended only to fully paid up members.** Dues must be paid in full every year by the due date (March 31st) or the privilege is revoked.

Refuah Shlema Yeoshua ben Bahya,, Shmuel Zanvil 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.