

HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

29 Adar 5785

SHABBAT PEKUDEI / MEVARCHIM / HACHODESH

March 29, 2025

Shabbat Shalom!

6:58 pm Candle Lighting
 7:00 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv
 8:45 am Mishnayot class — Rabbi Algaze
 9:00 am Shacharit
 9:49 am Latest Shema
 Parasha p. 530; Maftir: p. 348 Haftorah p.1218
 After Kedusha of Mussaf - Class with Rabbi Levitt
 5:45 pm Parasha Class — Rabbi Levitt
 6:00 pm Gemara Class — Rabbi Algaze
 6:40 pm Mincha
 7:57 pm Maariv & Havdalah

Kiddush is sponsored by Alice & Michael James commemorating the Yahrzeit of her mother Brucha bat Avraham Z"l

Seudah Shlisheet sponsorships available.

Upcoming Sponsorships

April 5 — Louis & Rachel Ordentlich
 April 26 — Sunday morning Spanish class
 May 17 — Jack & Shulie Goldhaber
 June 28 — David & Renee Hirsch

Welcome new member Judy Wallach.

Rabbi Levitt's office hours this week: Monday, March 31st and Tuesday April 1st between 11am — 1pm.

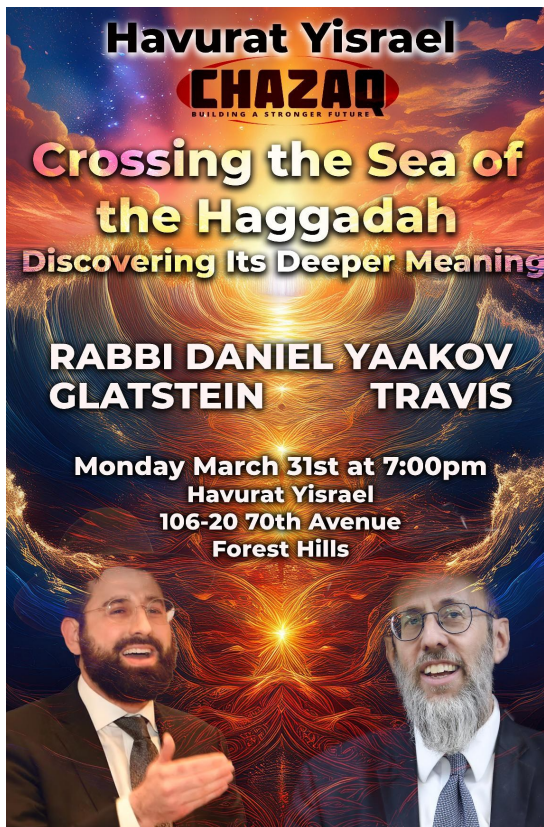
Molad The new moon will occur over Jerusalem, the holy eternal indivisible internationally recognized capital of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, next Shabbat at 7:46 (1 chelek) am. Rosh Hodesh is observed on Sunday.

Pre-Pesach Shabbaton Saturday April 5th

Lunch at 12:30pm
 7:15pm Rabbi Algaze's Shabbat Hagadol Drasha
 \$35 p/person — RSVP Before April 2nd

SIYUM MISHNAYOT

Louis Ordentlich is organizing a special Kiddush on April 5th to celebrate the completion of the Tractate Beitza studied on Shabbat mornings. All participants are invited to join in sponsoring this Kiddush. Please call the office.



Havurat Yisrael
CHAZAQ
 BUILDING A STRONGER FUTURE

Crossing the Sea of the Haggadah
 Discovering Its Deeper Meaning

RABBI DANIEL YAAKOV GLATSTEIN TRAVIS

Monday March 31st at 7:00pm
 Havurat Yisrael
 106-20 70th Avenue
 Forest Hills

We are delighted to welcome **Rabbi Daniel Travis** to our congregation. Rabbi Travis was a member of our Youth Group at Havurat in the '80s and was inspired by our Rabbi and Havurat to pursue his studies in Torah. He has become a renowned author and lecturer, and it is a special pleasure for Rabbi Algaze to have this event at Havurat. Rabbi Glatstein is also a wonderful speaker and author, and both will surely create a marvelous and unforgettable evening of inspiration.

Help us publicize this event.

Pesach Lectures at Havurat Yisrael with Rabbi Algaze and Rabbi Levitt

Wednesday April 2nd at 7 PM

Rabbi Algaze: Laws of the Seder

Rabbi Levitt: Ideas from the Haggadah

Everyone is Welcome

SALE OF HAMETZ — RABBI'S OFFICE HOURS



- ⇒ Sunday 11– 1 pm
- ⇒ Monday 11-2 pm and 6-7 pm
- ⇒ Tuesday 11-2 pm
- ⇒ Wednesday 6-9 pm
- ⇒ Thursday 11-3 pm
- ⇒ Friday 11-1 pm

SUNDAY March 30 / 1 Nissan ROSH HODESH	MONDAY March 31 / 2 Nissan	TUESDAY April 1 / 3 Nissan	WEDNESDAY April 2 / 4 Nissan	THURSDAY April 3 / 5 Nissan	FRIDAY April 4 / 6 Nissan
7:30 am Gemara class 8:00 am Shacharit 9:00 am Breakfast 9:30 am Torah Class in Spanish—R. Algaze	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Lecture: Rabbi Glatstein and Rabbi Travis	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm — No Class with R. Levitt Class	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Pesach Lectures with Rabbi Algaze & Rabbi Levitt Free Event!!!!	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Class — No Class R. Levitt	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit 7:05 pm Candle Lighting 7:00 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat (<i>this will be the time until the end of the summer</i>)

HAVURAT YISRAEL

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MAN BRINGS G-D'S PRESENCE TO THE WORLD

by Rabbi David Algaze

"The cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Hashem filled the Tabernacle." (Shemot 40:34)

The cloud that covered the Tent is the physical effect of G-d's presence and its impact on the physical universe. After Moses and the people of Israel finished building the Tabernacle—in accordance with G-d's precise instructions and measurements---the Presence of G-d was felt in the lower world. In fact, this is the goal of the Creation: that G-d should be experienced in the Universe. The Tabernacle, and eventually the Temple in Jerusalem, accomplished this objective of bringing the Creator's presence to this world.

The Midrash explains that the cloud represents the last stage in the process of restoring G-d's presence to the world as it had existed at the moment of Creation. As Man sinned and subsequent generations persisted in this deviation from G-d's purpose, His presence became more distant and less felt in the world. The Midrash refers to this process as the removal to "the seven firmaments." However, the righteous—specifically the seven leaders of Israel from Abraham to Moses—all brought back the Presence of G-d back to this world. Moses arose and was able to bring the Presence back to the Earth, as it is written, "And the Glory of G-d filled the Tabernacle." (Midrash Hagadol 40,34)

How is Man capable of such a feat? How can a lowly human being bring G-d's presence to the world? Rabbi Hayim Volozhin, in his book, *Nefesh Hahayim* (I, 82) explains this phenomenon by elucidating the meaning of the concept of Man being in "G-d's image" (*tzelem Elo-im*). The term "Elo-im" denotes that G-d is the sum of all the powers in the world and that nothing exists outside of Him. This idea of G-d as controlling everything in the Universe can be understood when we comprehend how He works. When Man builds something, he does not create the raw materials; he simply rearranges the materials according to his plans and design. After the building is completed and Man's presence is removed from his project, the building still exists, long after the builder is gone. This is not the case with the Creation of the world. When G-d creates the world, however, it is His will and His perpetual involvement that actually enable the existence of the Creation. If G-d's will would be removed from the Creation—even for a brief moment—the world would cease to exist. This is what is meant by the daily prayer, "[G-d] Who renews the work of Creation every day..." He attends to His Creation every moment. If He were to stop thinking about His world even for a second, the Universe would not be there any more.

In the same manner, G-d created Man, imbuing him with the power to control the world through his actions. Man is given dominion over the myriad of forces operating in the universe and in his hands lie the processes of the world. Through Man's actions, he controls and gives permanence to the upper spheres which—though spiritual in nature—constitute the foundation of everything in the physical universe. Rabbi Hayim quotes the verse in Isaiah (51:16), "I shall place My worlds in your mouth...to establish the Heavens and the Earth." G-d places in Man the power to govern the world. It is in this vein that the Rabbis say, "Do not read 'your children' (*banayich*) but rather 'your builders' (*bonayich*) (Brachot 64a). Man through his actions and good thoughts is able to bring order to the upper worlds and gives power to the universe to continue its existence. On the other hand, Man can be a destroyer of the world when he ceases to function in accordance with G-d's design. Then, Man diminishes the light in the upper worlds and brings, alas, chaos into the world. G-d creating Man in His image means this: just as the Creator can order everything as He wishes, so He endowed Man with the capacity to control the universe by how he conducts himself.

Rabbi Moshe Chayim Luzzato explains this unusual power by comparing it to the effect of the small wheel in a watch. Just as a small wheel determines the movement of the larger ones, so Man is able to influence the destiny of the entire Universe. When Man acts well, he brings illumination to the world; when he misbehaves, he causes the light of G-d to move back. After Adam and the generations that followed sinned, the Divine Presence became estranged from the universe. However, this all changed with Abraham's appearance in history. Then, slowly and in stages, the world began experiencing G-d again. When Israel finished building the Tabernacle, the process reached its climax and the glory of G-d returned in all Its force to this world.

The Tabernacle is the result of Man's actions and, in the same manner, all human actions have an impact on the state of the world. This is especially so in the case of Israel: when we act correctly, we have the capacity and the power to make G-d's presence clearer in the world and to manifest His glory to all mankind. This is our greatest gift and privilege. The inner Tabernacle inside every Jew is constantly being built and as we build it, we are able to bring G-d's presence ever closer to the world.

SHABBAT HAHODESH

This is the last of the Four special Shabbatot of the month of Adar. Observed on the Shabbat before Rosh Hodesh or, on Rosh Hodesh Nissan itself. 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).

Maot Chitim

As you sell your chametz, don't forget to contribute to the Ma'ot Chitim fund, literally "money to purchase matzah". Many people visit our synagogue before Pesach in search of some help and we send money to others who solicit by mail. Your contributions make it possible for the Rabbi to help these families.

When we break the matzah at the Seder, we can meditate on the broken hearts of families that cannot afford a meal or who live at the edge of poverty. We can feel a lot better if we know that through our participation in the Ma'ot Chitim campaign we have helped some of these families enjoy a happier Pesach. Please give generously to the Ma'ot Chitim fund.

Journal Dinner Thursday June 19 at Colbeh—Great Neck honoring
**Mark Atlas, Irving Prus
Jonathan & Sara Yokheved Rieu**

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.

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, Hannah bat Yehudit, Binyamin Baer ben Chana, Hillel Zvi Yehuda ben Tzina, Joseph David ben Rachel, Abraham ben Devorah Shifra, Israel ben Devora Shifra, Sherry Plutzker.