

HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

28 Nissan 5785

SHABBAT SHEMINI / MEVARCHIM

April 26, 2025

Shabbat Shalom!

7:00 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv

7:31 pm Candle Lighting

Count Omer #13 tonight

8:45 am Mishnayot class — Rabbi Algaze

9:00 am Shacharit

9:24 am Latest Shema

Parasha p. 588; Haftorah p.1168

After Kedusha of Mussaf - Class with Rabbi Levitt

6:15 pm Gemara Class — Rabbi Algaze

6:15 pm Parasha Class — Rabbi Levitt

6:45 pm Perek

7:20 pm Mincha

8:30 pm Maariv & Havdalah

Count Omer #14 tonight

Kiddush is sponsored by the Spanish members of Havurat Yisrael .

Seudah Shlisheet sponsorships available.

Upcoming Sponsorships

May 3 — Ira & Cathy Kleiman, Louis & Rachel Ordentlich and Rabbi Avrohom & Sharona Levitt in honor of finishing the Masechet Makot daf Yomi.

May 17 — Jack & Shulie Goldhaber

June 28 — David & Renee Hirsch

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 Sunday at 8:30 (2 *chalakim*) pm Rosh Hodesh: Monday and Tuesday.

Birkat Ha'llanot — just a few days left!

In the month of Nissan we say a special bracha upon seeing a flowering fruit tree. The bracha may be said on any fruit-bearing tree and should be said only when we see the flowers or buds.

ברוך אתה ה' אלוקינו מלך העולם שלא חיסר בעולמו לולם וברא בו בריות טובות ואילנות טובות ליהנות בהם בני אדם

“Blessed are You Hashem, our G-d, King of the Universe, for nothing is lacking in His universe and created good creatures and beautiful trees to give mankind pleasure in them”

If one sees a flowering tree on any other time of the year, the bracha is not recited.

THE MITZVAH OF WRITING A TORAH COMES TO HAVURAT YISRAEL- SUNDAY MAY 4TH

“And now write this song for yourselves...” (Devarim 31: 19)-

Our Rabbis learned that the Song in this verse is the Torah, and the mitzvah is for every Jew to write a Sefer Torah in their lifetime.

The mitzvah of writing a Sefer Torah is incumbent on all Jews and at all times. The mitzvah is fulfilled even if one writes or orders to write one letter in the Torah.



On Sunday, May 4th, there will be various opportunities to fulfill this mitzvah. Please see the flyer with various opportunities.

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.



L'Chaim Club Each person who raises and submits \$650 or more in Journal Ads by Friday, May 16th will receive a special bottle of wine personally selected by our own wine connoisseur **Rabbi David Algaze**.

SUNDAY April 27 / 29 Nissan	MONDAY April 28 / 30 Nissan ROSH HODESH	TUESDAY April 29 / 1 Iyar ROSH HODESH	WEDNESDAY April 30 / 2 Iyar YOM HA' ATZMAUT	THURSDAY May 1 / 3 Iyar	FRIDAY May 2 / 4 Iyar
7:30 am Gemara class 8:00 am Shacharit 9:00 am Breakfast 9:30 am Torah Class in Spanish—R. Algaze Count Omer #15 tonight	6:30 am Gemara class 6:45 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Class—R. Agaze Count Omer #16 tonight	6:30 am Gemara class 6:45 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Class—R. Algaze Count Omer #17 tonight	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit Count Omer #18 tonight	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Class—R. Levitt Count Omer #19 tonight	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat 7:34 pm Candle Lighting Count Omer #20 tonight

HAVURAT YISRAEL

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PUNISHMENT AS AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL

By Rabbi David Algaze

“The sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, each took his fire pan, they put fire in them and placed incense upon it; and they brought before Hashem an alien fire that He had not commanded them. A fire came forth from before Hashem and consumed them, and they died before Hashem.” (Leviticus 10:1-2)

The two sons of Aaron, the pride of the nation and the crown of the family, at the most exalted time in the history of Israel perish. The stunned Aaron is comforted by Moshe thus, “Of this did Hashem speak, saying, “I will be sanctified through those who are nearest to Me.” (ib. 3) The sons of Aaron are described in very complimentary words. They are “closest to G-d”—holy men.

Why does Moshe describe the sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, as “holy men”? Had they not transgressed the will of the Almighty introducing “an alien fire”? Whatever interpretation one chooses of the meaning of this phrase, they certainly committed an undesirable act, which had to be condemned.

Furthermore, the Torah paints their death with the same words as when the fire consumed a holy sacrifice. In the verse immediately following their death, the Torah describes the acceptance of the sacrifices with the words, “A fire went forth from before Hashem and consumed upon the Altar the elevation-offering...” (Vayikra 9:24). The same words, “A fire went forth from before Hashem and consumed them” are used to depict the death of Nadab and Abihu. Their death is almost tantamount to a sacrifice. That is another indication that this death is not a common death or punishment for a common sin. On the contrary, their act appears to have originated in a pristine motivation.

The impression is that these men remained in the category of “holy men” even after they sinned. The Midrash expresses their genuine intentions thus, “They too in their exultation at seeing a new fire, rose to add (their own) love to the (Divine) love.” Why then are they punished?

Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch suggests that their sin was in introducing an element of individuality and “creativity” in the ritual at the time that the entire nation was basking in the proximity to G-d. This act of individual expression was a blemish in the feelings of a community. Instead of being subsumed to the entire nation, they wished to make their own personal impression. This is the sin of those who see themselves as being above the nation and detach themselves from the community. As a way of preventing these developments in the Jewish people, G-d chose to make an example out of them.

Their death became necessary in order to teach a lesson to the people that they should not act in this manner throughout their history. Although their sin may not have been so egregious, the consequences of this type of attitude would have disturbed the notion of community and “klal Israel” which G-d wanted to instill in the nation of Israel.

In addition, their death instructed the people with the notion that there are consequences to our actions. He who imagines that G-d does not care and that He would forgive all the time, is risking his own life. Through this severe punishment, G-d demonstrates that He cares and that every act is measured and judged. This is a lesson for all of us to be careful with our words and deeds and not to disregard the importance of our actions. We ignore the consequences of our actions at our own peril.

HAMETZ AFTER PESACH

When purchasing hametz after Pesach, it is vital to purchase hametz only from appropriate stores, specifically:

- ☆ Jewish-owned stores which properly sold their hametz, such as Aron's, Seasons, Wassermans, other VHQ supervised stores.
- ☆ Non-Jewish owned stores which are permitted to own hametz during Pesach, such as Natural and other Asian-owned businesses.
- ☆ National supermarket chains which are corporations and are not considered Jewish-owned such as Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's.

Be careful when purchasing from stores which may be Jewish-owned franchises and may not have properly sold their hametz. At such stores, avoid buying perishable hametz such as bread for at least a week, and hametz with a longer shelf life, like pasta, for at least a month.

The Community

**Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haatzmaut event
will take place at the Queens Jewish Center on
Wednesday evening April 30th.**

Mincha: 7:15 pm, Program: 7:30 pm: Festive Maariv @ 8:30 pm.

Admission is free. Israeli refreshments will be served.

Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter, Prof. of Jewish Thought & Jewish History and Senior Scholar at RIETS, Yeshiva University will speak about "Fully Celebrating the State of Israel in Challenging Times".

We are excited to roll out a new and exciting program in order to make Torah learning fun, relatable and interactive.

There are 11 Shabbatot until the Shul Dinner.

1. Join the ***HY Shabbos Drasha Program*** WhatsApp group Here is the link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/F543uLbDmF54xHoecCfJ1i>

2. Post about a point you liked from the Shabbat Drasha. What you liked, how you related to it, what it makes you think of etc., etc.

3. Do this once a week for the next 11 weeks and get a ***bottle of Champagne*** at the shul dinner. The program runs from Shabbat April 5th through and including June 14th.

4. If for whatever reason you were not able to come to shul one week, you can use the dvar Torah in the newsletter. But this can only be used a maximum of 2 times.

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.