

# HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

2 Tammuz 5781

SHABBAT KORACH

June 12, 2021

**Shabbat Shalom** from our President Jack Goldhaber!

7:00 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat  
8:09 pm Candle Lighting

8:45 am Mishnayot Class  
9:00 am Shacharit  
9:07 am Latest Shema  
Parasha p. 820; Haftorah p. 1186  
10:30 am Kids Program  
6:30 pm Gemara Class  
7:00 pm Perek on the Patio  
7:55 pm Mincha  
9:07 pm Maariv and Havdalah

**Kiddush** is sponsored by David & Renee Hirsch and by Betty Feit commemorating the yahrzeit of Renee's father and husband Yaakov Yizchak ben Eliezer ZL

**Seudah Shlisheet** is sponsored by HY members.

**Upcoming Kiddushim**

- ☆ June 19 — Jeanine & Roger Mashihi, Ruth Finkelstein, Lesli Cortes
- ☆ June 19 seudah shlisheet sponsored by Rita & Lou Gutnicki
- ☆ June 26 — George Leifer
- ☆ July 3 Louis & Rachel Ordentlich
- ☆ July 10 Looking for sponsors
- ☆ July 17 In memory of Marco Scenna
- ☆ July 24 Looking for sponsors
- ☆ August 7 — Ephraim Grossbein

**THE GRADUATES KIDDUSH**

It was a beautiful event at Havurat. Mazal tov to all the graduates; we are so proud of you! And congratulations to the parents for all their work and dedication to their children's education especially in Torah and mitzvot.

**Shaimos pick-up** of unneeded books and sefarim will take place on Wednesday June 23. Please bring a box with your books for shaimos with a contribution of \$20 per bag/box. If you drop a box when the office is not open. Please write your name on the box and mail payment or pay via PayPal on the Havurat website.

**Mark Your Calendar!**

**Sunday June 27th is Shiva Asar BeTammuz.** We will have a program of speakers 4—7 pm followed by a brief memorial for Marco Scenna. Mincha at 8 pm with refreshments after the fast are sponsored by the donors to the Marco Scenna fund.



## HAVURAT YISRAEL



We have started to receive ads for the 40th Anniversary Journal. Stay tuned for big announcements about this great historical event when we celebrate Havurat's life and its achievements.

**THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD THIS WEDNESDAY AT 7 PM – JOIN THIS SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

**A New Seminar with Rabbi Mordechai Kraft**

*In Person only at Havurat Yisrael Synagogue—not on Zoom!*

**The Maharal of Prague**



The works of Rabbi Yehuda Loew, the 16th century scholar known as the Maharal of Prague, has had a transformative influence on the Jewish people. In these classes we will explore spiritual and psychological insights in order to understand ourselves more deeply, and to achieve our maximum potential.

**Wednesdays June 16, 23 & 30— 8:00 pm**

**Challah Baking**

Sunday July 25 — 3 pm with Ruth Finkelstein.  
RSVP call 718-261-5500 / Contribution \$18



**REACHING THE RABBI**

- The Rabbi is always accessible but sometimes the volume of calls or the time when calls are received make it difficult to answer immediately. A better way would be to first text or WhatsApp message the Rabbi.
- He will respond as soon as possible. Please only make calls for ur-



**Refuah Shlema** Erella bat Zahava, Rivka Gitel bas Miriam (sister of Debbie Greenberg), Eliyahu ben Shushan, Alte Ester Riva bat Devorah Shifra (Eileen Alter), Batya bat Rachel (Betty Feit), Batsheva Friedle bat Rachel, Tova bas Esther (Toni Weissberg), Yitzhak ben Ziva (Mehran's father), Basha Leah bat Sema Dena (Cathy Kleiman's mother), Zeev Zelig ben Sara Tish (Tom Hamori), Roiza bat Yita Feiga (Rosalie Tenzer), Yael bat Sheindel Ettel, Chasya bat Tziril, Yolima Yael Delgado, Gershon Baruch ben Kayla Yehudis

SUNDAY June 13 / 3 Tammuz	MONDAY June 14 / 4 Tammuz	TUESDAY June 15 / 5 Tammuz	WEDNESDAY June 16 / 6 Tammuz	THURSDAY June 17 / 7 Tammuz	FRIDAY June 18 / 8 Tammuz
7:30 am Gemara Shiur 8:00 am Shacharit 9:30 Rabbi Algaze Class (Spanish) 11:00 am Rabbi Kraft's class	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit 7:30 pm <b>Journey in Jewish Literature</b> — Rabbi Algaze At the Ordentlich home	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit 7:30 pm <b>Parasha Class</b> — Rabbi Algaze	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit 11 am—3 pm Office open 8:00 pm <b>The Maharal of Prague</b> — Rabbi Kraft	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit 12-4 pm Office open	6:30 am Gemara Shiur 7:00 am Shacharit 11 am—3 pm Office open 7:00 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 8:12 pm Candle Lighting
<b>ALL CLASSES ARE TAKING PLACE IN PERSON ONSITE IN OUR SHUL — NOT ON ZOOM!</b>					



# DIVISION AND DISUNITY

By Rabbi David Algaze

*“Korach the son of Izhar, the son of Kehat son of Levi separated himself, with Datan and Abiram, sons of Eliab and On son of Pelet of the tribe of Reuben.”* (Bamidbar 16:1)

The tragic story of the rebellion against Moses is a portent for the future and sadly frequent controversies and enmities that plague the Jewish people till today. Korach is emblematic of all the stormy polemics that inundate our synagogues, our yeshivot and organizations for millennia. As the Rabbis expound, “Any controversy (*machloket*) that is for the sake of Heaven will endure, but the one that is not will not endure in the end. Which is a *machloket* for the sake of Heaven?—that is the dispute between Hillel and Shammai; and the one that is not for the sake of Heaven is the *machloket* of Korach and his entire group.” (Avot 5:17)

What is the meaning of the phrase “will endure” and “not endure?” When people argue over an important matter in order to arrive at the truth or to benefit their society by achieving a consensus or clarification of an intellectual or spiritual question their respective arguments persist through the ages. However, when a debate is not genuine but it is utilized simply to satisfy a personal vendetta, jealousy or narrow personal aspirations then the significance of the controversy quickly fades away and no one remembers what the disagreement was all about. The content of the *machloket* is forgotten; all that remains is the pain and the anxiety caused by these sowers of divisions. The reason the content of the argument is forgotten is that the controversy was not about that or another point; the controversy stems from base emotions, anger, resentment and other personal feelings that remain hidden from the eye.

The commentators on this Mishnah point out that it does not say “the controversy of Korach and Moses but rather “the controversy of Korach and his entire group.” This suggests that there were disparate intentions in the group of the rebels. Each subgroup had its own agenda and were not united even among themselves. This shows another characteristic of the *machloket*: the disunity they sow in the society makes them disunited themselves. Once a person engages in divisive discourse and activity he will be its first victim. The dividers are not only not united with each other; they become disunited from themselves. Division is like a cancer: it affects all cells without any reason or logic. The spirit of division becomes an irrational tumor that ultimately takes its own master as its slave.

This is the reason that the Torah expatiates on this story—that we should grasp the severity of this type of attitude and the great calamities that ensue from this type of behavior. The envy, the feeling of hurt that is unchecked, the subjective experience of feeling humiliated the lowly desire for honor—these are among the lowliest of human traits and when they are allowed to dictate our conduct they are the most destructive to others and to ourselves.

The sowers of division are often unaware of their own actions--sometimes they even think they are harmless or just being jovial. At its most dangerous extreme, they even think they are unselfish and just wanting the best for their society. However, in whatever form the division rears its head it is still a division and it is lethal in its impact.

Living in society presents us with a challenge: how to reconcile our own personal views with those of others. Furthermore, we

need to learn how to present our own views in a language that invites dialogue rather than discord. Finally, we need to bow to the views of the majority, a teacher or a boss. Submission to them requires us to be humble and patient and to set aside arrogance and haughtiness. These are qualities that we must acquire early on in our lives in order to live happily and in peace with others. Those who fail to master these skills will inevitably fall prey to their lowly ambitions and petty resentments and engage in ugly discussions, self-righteous comments and a persistent attitude of self-importance and condescension towards others. Those who seek controversy are often victims of a deep low self-esteem which they attempt to hide in grandiose pronouncements, couched as if in the interest of the people but ultimately stemming from the lowest parts of their emotional fountain.

On the other hand, those who pursue peace are people who love themselves and this leads to love others; they live in peace with themselves and thus want to live in peace with others; they are happy and want to see others happy as well. Differences of opinions will always exist; we just have to learn to express them adequately, accept that others may be right and finally appreciate that peace and harmony are greater values than being right all the time.

The lesson of Korach and his group is that the controversy always leads to destruction. We need to master the art of peace, the ability to see others' point of view and the humility to accept their decisions. Above all, we ought to examine our deepest motives when entering an argument: are we honestly trying to find the truth or are we giving in to some egotistical and self-serving emotion? Korach wished mainly to divide and that was his tragic error. To avoid his sin we need to carefully scrutinize our motives. The road to harmony is paved with humility, honest self-analysis and the desire to achieve unity.

*We thank the contributors to the Marco Scenna Fund who helped with funeral expenses, placing of a memorial plaque and the refreshments after the fast on June 27.*

*(additional contributions are still being received)*

Rosa Acosta	Felicia Kulaya
Rabbi David & Tamara Algaze	Rabbi Leonard Levy
Eileen Alter	Caridad Luna
Mehran & Rahel Arasheben	Yehuda Mendieta
Nikolay Burt	Serge & Linda Merkin
Ruth Finkelstein	Shimon & Sarah Mizrahi
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Jack & Shulie Goldhaber	Stuart & Judy Rosen
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