

HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

8 Adar 5785

SHABBAT TETZAVEH / ZACHOR

March 8, 2025

Welcome to Shabbat Across America!

5:35 pm Candle Lighting
 5:40 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv
 8:45 am Mishnayot class — Rabbi Algaze
 9:00 am Shacharit
 9:10 am Latest Shema
 Parasha p.464; Maftir p.1066; Haftorah p.1214
 4:30 pm Parasha Class — Rabbi Levitt
 4:45 pm Gemara Class — Rabbi Algaze
 5:25 pm Mincha
 6:35 pm Maariv & Havdalah

Kiddush is sponsored by

- ✧ Rachelle Alkalay commemorating the Yahrzeit of her husband Shaul Shlomo David nen Yossef Z"L
- ✧ Arlene Ross commemorating the Yahrzeit of her mother Esther bat Aaron Z"L
- ✧ Carol Krohn commemorating the Yahrzeit of her mother Tziporah bat Peretz Z"L
- ✧ Michelle Polonetsky commemorating the Yahrzeit of her father Yaakov ben David Nissim Z"L
- ✧ Rita & Lou Gutnicki commemorating the Yahrzeit of her mother Charna bat Avraham Z"L and celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of his grandson Sholomo Yossef ben Chaim Akivah and the upsherin of Rita's grandson Eliyahou ben Yossef Shlomo. Mazal Tov!

Seudah Shlisheet sponsorships available.

Upcoming Sponsorships

March 15 — Roger & Jeanine Mashihi
 March 22 — Sy Kaplan
 March 29 — Michael & Alice James
 April 5 — Louis & Rachel Ordentlich
 April 26 — Sunday morning Spanish class

Mazal Tov to Zahava Harary on her upcoming wedding to Gabriel Carvajal this Sunday in Florida.

Our Aron HaKodesh has new lights! **Thanks** to Yehuda Mendieta, Rahel & Pinhas Conteras. Yosher Koach!

Clocks ahead 1 hr. — Daylight Savings Time: Sun. 2 am!

Save the date, Sunday May 4th, for a special dedication of the Torah. As the Sofer concludes the writing process, there will be opportunities to dedicate letters and names in the new parchment, thus fulfilling the mitzvah of writing a Sefer Torah in our lifetime. Do not miss this rare opportunity to fulfill the mitzvah of writing a Sefer Torah.

THE MITZVAH OF ZACHOR

The mitzvah of hearing the parasha of Zachor read from the Torah is a Biblical obligation (mitzvah de'Orayta) incumbent on both men and women. Therefore, all must come to the synagogue on time and pay attention to the reading and intend to fulfill this mitzvah. Children over the age of 5 must be taught to hear it as well. On Purim day we also observe the mitzvot of mishloach manot and matanot la'evyonim (financial aid to the poor).

TAANIT ESTHER-Thursday

The fast starts at 5:58 am. It is obligatory for all healthy people. Nursing mothers, pregnant women and people who are ill, even if not seriously ill, are exempted from this fast. The fast ends at the coming out of the stars, (7:41 pm this year) but people usually wait until after they hear the megillah.

Purim Celebrations

Thursday March 13

Maariv & Megilah Reading 7:20 PM
 2nd reading 8:45 PM

Breaking the fast buffet sponsored by Debbie & David Sosnowik commemorating the Yahrzeit of her father Chaim Tzvi ben Shmaryahu Z"L

Youth Costumes Parade after breaking the fast with great prizes

Friday March 14

Shacharit 6:30 am
 Megillah reading 7 am
 Second Megilah reading at 9 am
 Breakfast—Se'udah Purim at 10 am Cost \$15 p/person

Mishloach Manot

A letter and order form were mailed last week. Please fill out the order form with the names of people you want to send the mishloach manot and **return it to the office before Tuesday March 11.**

MATANOT LA'EYONIM

One of the mitzvot of Purim is to give money to the poor. The Megillah calls this act "matanot la'Evyonim", the plural, *matanot*, implies that one is obligated to give money to at least two people. The purpose of the gift is to ensure that poor people will have the opportunity to enjoy a Purim banquet as we do. There are several organizations in Israel and here that provide meals and assistance to poor families. To fulfil the mitzvah properly, the gift must be given on Purim day. Our synagogue is collecting donations to forward them to these organizations, some in Jerusalem proper, that will be able to give the money to the families on Purim itself, thus allowing us to fulfil the mitzvah in the right manner. **Please call the office before Thursday March 13.**

SUNDAY March 9 / 9 Adar	MONDAY March 10 / 10 Adar	TUESDAY March 11 / 11 Adar	WEDNESDAY March 12 / 12 Adar	THURSDAY March 13 / 13 Adar TAANIT ESTHER	FRIDAY March 14 / 14 Adar
8:00 am Shacharit 9:00 am Breakfast 9:30 am Torah Class in Spanish—R. Algaze 12:00 Matza Bakery program	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm R. Algaze Class	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit 7:00 pm — R. Levitt Class	6:30 am Gemara class 7:00 am Shacharit	5:58 am Fast begins 6:30 am Gemara class 6:45 am Shacharit 7:20 pm Maariv & Megilah reading 8:45 pm 2nd Megilah reading	6:30 am Shacharit 7:00 am Megilah reading 9:00 am Second Megilah reading 10:00 am Purim Se'udah (reservations required) 6:43 pm Candle Lighting 6:45 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat

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

The Four Mitzvot of Purim

By Rabbi David Algaze

Facing total extermination, the Jewish people was saved by the grace of Hashem. His promise that He will never abandon us has been fulfilled many times in our history and the Jewish people has survived countless attempts at genocide. Purim represents the paradigm of our survival and that is the reason we celebrate it with so much pomp and luxurious happiness.

The first mitzvah is to hear the reading of the Megillah. This is obligatory for men and women, since all were involved in the miracle. The mitzvah must be performed both at night and during the day since our suffering was day and night.

The second mitzvah is *Mishloach Manot*. This is to send two gifts of ready to eat foods to a friend. This represents that we are all one people and that each share in the meal of the other. This is a good gesture and should be used to strengthen the bonds among all members of the community. This mitzvah should be performed during the day. It is customary to “send” the present through an agent, thus fulfilling the concept of *mishloach*, literally “sending.” Some have suggested that it is a good idea to send these gifts to people with whom we may have had some unpleasant exchanges or disagreements to foment friendship and peace.

The third mitzvah is *matanot laevyonim*: This is a gift to the poor. Notice that the Hebrew plural means that we must give to at least two people. Generally, one should give each poor person the amount of a simple meal so that no one is prevented from celebrating this holiday due to lack of funds. The minimum in our community is \$20 per gift. Although one may also give food and beverages, it is preferable to give money. In cases where the giving of money may embarrass the recipient, one could hide the gift in the form of *mishloach manot* which everyone, not only the poor, receive. These *matanot* should be given anonymously. For that reason, it is a good idea to give these monies to the rabbi or gabbai of a community so that they will distribute it anonymously to poor recipients. In our community, we collect funds also to send to Israel to various charitable organizations that distribute food to the poor during Purim. On Purim, we give *tzedakah* to anyone who asks without checking them.

The fourth mitzvah is the *Se'udah* or *mishteh*. A joyous meal with drinks that must be consumed in the afternoon of the day of Purim. During the *Se'udat Purim* (The Purim banquet) we eat and drink to celebrate the salvation that Hashem wrought for us and that He preserved our bodies intact. The Talmud writes, “One must become drunk (*lebasumey*) on Purim.” The exact meaning of the Aramaic word “*lebasumey*” is unclear. Some translate it as intoxicated although it could be interpreted simply as ecstatic or euphoric. However, the majority have interpreted it as getting drunk and this is the custom today.

Many rabbis railed against excessive consumption of alcohol, especially when this would lead a person to act inappropriately. The Rambam writes that it is enough to drink “until one becomes drowsy with alcohol.” But to become totally drunk would be a *chillul Hashem* (desecration of G-d's Name)

There are many ways to be happy and we should select ways in which our joy does not degenerate into libertine behavior. Alcohol in moderation can induce a feeling of relaxation and happiness but only when it is controlled. We should be especially careful in front of youngsters since this could set a bad example in an age of drug and alcohol abuse.

Note: Remember also to say *Al Hanissim* in every Amida of the day as well as in *Bircat hamazon*. If one starts a meal during Purim and it extends into the night, one should add *Al Hanissim*, too, since the meal acquires the status of the time when it began.

Pesach Lectures at Havurat Yisrael with Rabbi Algaze and Rabbi Levitt

Wednesday March 26 at 7 PM

Rabbi Algaze: Koshering the Kitchen

Rabbi Levitt: Shopping for Pesach

Wednesday April 2nd at 7 PM

Rabbi Algaze: Laws of the Seder

Rabbi Levitt: Ideas from the Haggadah

Everyone is Welcome

**We are happy to announce this year's
Journal Dinner honorees**

Mark Atlas

Irving Prus

Jonathan & Sara Yokheved Rieu

Mazal tov to them!

**The Dinner will take place Thursday June 19
at Colbeh-Great Neck**

New Way to Pay!

Use this QR code to easily make a payment to the shul.



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, and Abraham ben Devorah Shifra, Israel ben Devora Shifra, Sherry Plutsker, Sarah bat Sarah.