

HAVURAT YISRAEL WEEKLY NEWS

9 — 10 Iyar 5770

Shabbat Acharei-Kedoshim

April 23 — 24, 2010

Shabbat Shalom!

6:50 pm Early Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat (H)
7:24 pm Candle Lighting
7:35 pm Late Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat (H)

Parsha: p.636, Haftarah: p.1173
9:00 am Shacharit (D)
9:27 am Latest time for Shema
10:00 am Beginner's Minyan— R. Kraft (D)
10:30 am Youth Groups (D)
11:30 am Kiddush (D)
6:30 pm Perek in the Park — R.Havazelet & R. Algaze (P)
6:50 pm Gemara Shiur — R. Algaze (H)
7:25 pm Mincha, Seuda Shlisheet (H)
8:27 pm Maariv, Havdalah (H)

D = DOV REVEL: 71-02 113th St.
H = HAVURAT HOUSE: 108-11 69th Rd.
P = MACDONALD PARK: Queens Blvd & 70th Ave.

Kiddush and Seudah Shlisheet are sponsored by Havurat Yisrael members.

Mazel Tov

☆ To Yakov Merkin upon his attaining a yellow belt in Krav Maga - The Original Israeli Self Defense System

Perek in the Park

Join one of Havurat's most innovative and talked about programs with Rabbi Algaze and Rabbi Havazelet in MacDonal Park. 6:30 pm. Note: In case of rain we will meet at Havurat.

Next Saturday Night is LAG BA'OMER

Havurat Yisrael will host a special celebration including bonfires, stories about Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai and selected readings from the Zohar.

Delicious Refreshments!

Journal Campaign 2010

With great pleasure we want to offer Mazel Tov to our Esteemed 2010 Journal Honorees:

**Rabbi Mordechai & Monica Kraft
& Edward Finfer**

We are planning an exciting Journal Dinner Celebration, with Great Food, Great Fun and Great Friends!!

Now is the time to place your Journal Ads in honor of our honorees and ask your accountant, lawyer, butcher, baker, challah-maker, for their ads!
The greater your participation the more exciting is our celebration!

**The Sisterhood of Havurat Yisrael
Presents the 2nd installment of a 3 Part Educational Series**

Are You Financially Fit?

Erika Safran, CFP will help you assess your financial health and provide strategies to help you to catch up and stay ahead in the race. This session will continue to provide an overview of financial planning concepts including cash flow and saving, goal setting, estate and retirement planning, with a review of key formulas to assess your financial health. All are welcome. For additional information call: (917) 412-4460.

Location: 68-61 Yellowstone Blvd., #706

Date and Time: Tuesday, April 27 — 7:30 pm

Rally in Solidarity with Israel

Your participation is critical at this important event which will be broadcast in Israel.

There will be several prominent speakers including Rabbi Algaze & Ed Koch

Sunday April 25 — 1:00 pm

Israel Consulate — 2nd Ave between 42nd & 43rd Sts.

SUNDAY Apr. 25 / 11 Iyar OMER DAY 26	MONDAY Apr. 26 / 12 Iyar OMER DAY 27	TUESDAY Apr. 27 / 13 Iyar OMER DAY 28	WEDNESDAY Apr. 28 / 14 Iyar OMER DAY 29 PESACH SHENI	THURSDAY Apr. 29 / 15 Iyar OMER DAY 30	FRIDAY Apr. 30 / 16 Iyar OMER DAY 31
7:30 am Amud Yomi 8:00 am Shacharit	6:15 am Amud Yomi 1 6:30 am Shacharit 7:00 am Amud Yomi 2 7:30 am Shacharit	6:15 am Amud Yomi 1 6:30 am Shacharit 7:00 am Amud Yomi 2 7:30 am Shacharit 8:00 pm Rabbi Algaze's lecture	6:15 am Amud Yomi 1 6:30 am Shacharit 7:00 am Amud Yomi 2 7:20 am Shacharit 8:30 pm Rabbi Kraft's class	6:15 am Amud Yomi 1 6:30 am Shacharit 7:00 am Amud Yomi 2 7:20 am Shacharit	6:00 am Amud Yomi 1 6:30 am Shacharit 7:00 am Amud Yomi 2 7:20 am Shacharit 6:50 pm Early Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat 7:32 pm Candle Lighting 7:40 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat

HAVURAT YISRAEL (C/O AGUDAT ACHIM)

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THE CASE AGAINST TWITTER:

WHEN WE TALK WE CANNOT LISTEN

By Rabbi David Algaze

“Because the afflictions come as punishment for the sin of lashon hara that is an act of chattering, for this reason birds were used to purify him. Birds are always chirping and tweeting away.” (Rashi ad Leviticus 14:4)

The ethical imperatives in the Torah allude to man’s imperfect nature and our tendency to fall. Our Rabbis had the great insight to notice that many of our moral failings are connected to our speech. A coarse tongue produces a coarse sensitivity towards other people and their feelings. All our personality defects may be traced to our unbecoming and tactless use of language. The book of Proverbs, describing a kind woman says, “A lesson of kindness is on her tongue.” (Chapter 31) When the tongue has kindness, then a measure of kindness will blossom in the heart. The Hafetz Hayim, in his magisterial work by that name, analyzes the contemporary situation in the light of our improper use of language and traces many of our social disorders and character flaws to the poor use of our tongue. “Who desires life...guard your tongue from evil...” (Psalms 34)

Someone said, “Sometimes joy produces a smile and sometimes a smile produces joy” and we could paraphrase it in relationship to our theme, “Gentleness may produce a gentle speech and sometimes gentle speech can produce gentleness.” Modulating our tone, slowing down the speed of our speech can do wonders for the transformation of our manner of speaking and the emotions that accompany it.

However, the most important method for the transformation of our speech patterns is merely to develop the capacity to listen. In cellphone technology, it was impossible to hear the other person when we are talking. That is a perfect paradigm for our communication with others: when we talk we cannot listen. When we are busy thinking of what we are going to say, it is impossible to focus on what the other person is saying. Some people, in their failure to listen, merely use your words as an excuse for them to tell you what they are thinking. Conversations sometimes become not a “two-way street” but two parallel lanes that never meet. Instead of responding to what you say, the other person will simply start telling a story or making a point that is only remotely associated with what you said. He is not listening; he is only waiting his turn.

The Torah associates the appearance of lesions in the skin—the metzora—with the sin of slander and gossip. The ritual for his purification involved birds because, as Rashi explains, since his affliction came as punishment for his constant and

unchecked chatter, it was fitting that his atonement came with the slaughtering or freeing of birds that are constantly chirping and twittering. It is remarkable that Rashi uses the verb “to tweet” to describe the unfettered chattering by the person who gossips. In reality, gossiping results from talking all the time and acting as birds do, namely chirping and tweeting away. In our times, the phenomenon of always having something to say has been harnessed by internet sites, one of which is remarkably enough called “twitter.” The choice of this name is ironically predicted a thousand years ago by Rashi. Birds chirp and tweet, but people should use language more carefully.

The beginning of speech should be silence. The Rabbis tell us, “If a word is worth one coin, silence is worth two.” (Megillah 18) The famous French expression, “Si la parole est d’argent, le silence est d’or” (If the word is silver, silence is golden) is quoted in our sources. (Kad Hakemach) Unfortunately, our generation is obsessed with speaking but not skilled in the art of silence. The first makes us twitters; the second makes us listeners. We have lost the art of listening because of the multitude of words we speak.

In fact, words can be used to mask rather than to reveal, to obfuscate rather than clarify. People who would cover up the truth will often resort to excessive speaking with the aim of overwhelming the senses of the listener and thwart their inquiries and questioning. At times, the compulsive speaker says words in order that he not be heard. Suffusing the ears of others with many words is a technique to stop them from actually hearing us.

When we comment on every event, when we react with words to every occurrence, when we tweet—we act like birds, not men. To speak we first need to think. Language should be the result of careful thought, filtered by conscience, morality and sensitivity. Most of all, the words we speak should be worth more than the silence which they break. We should always ask ourselves, “Is what I am going to say necessary?” “Will the world be better off if I speak or if I remain silent?” Only when we answer positively, we should open our mouths. Speaking is sometimes necessary, but speaking is not a necessity. Music is the result of a perfect balance between sound and silence. Our speech should be no less a harmonious balance between silence and words.

Havurat Yisrael Forest Hills Jewish Connections Spring BBQ

Wednesday , June 2 — 7 pm

for Jewish Singles 35+

Enjoy delicious food, music, socializing, networking
in an informal and relaxing atmosphere.

RSVP \$20 - payment by May 31, after: \$25

Call HY’s office 718-261-5500 or
email hyoffice@nyc.rr.com