

זכור את יום השבת לקדשו.  
ששת ימים עבד ועשית כל מלאכתך,  
יום השביעי שבת לה'

PARASHAT EMOR  
15<sup>TH</sup> IYYAR 5783  
5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023  
VOLUME 33 ISSUE 23



בס"ד

# SHABBAT LASHEM

THE VOICE OF BNEI AKIVA UK



## THE SACRIFICE OF LEADERSHIP

LAWRENCE SHENKIN  
SHEVET HINEINI

A common rebuke in the verbal arsenal of the Jewish mother is "you are being a *chillul Hashem*" – meaning "you are profaning the name of God." This week's *parasha* introduces us to the ban on such an act, we are told: "Do not profane My holy Name" (*Vayikra* 22:32). The *ibn Ezra* sees the command as a localised one, cautioning the *kohanim*, and only them, about their conduct in the *meshkan*. Interpreting this verse in 2015, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks *zt"l* expressed dismay at the plague of reports of immoral behaviour from Jewish and Israeli spiritual and political leaders. As the Rabbi noted, what is at stake is "more than simple morality... when the guilty are leaders, something more is involved: .... *chillul Hashem*" (*'Sanctifying the Name, Covenant and Conversation*). It is interesting to note that though in the colloquial usage, it is an accusation levied against young children primarily, yet amongst our *Rebbeim* and leaders, it is one levied very precisely and specifically towards the elite of Jewish society. In fact, that seems to be the broad message of this week's *parasha*: the higher standard that *kohanim* are held to as a result of their privileged status.

The *Gemara* in *Beitza* 15b recounts an incident involving Rabbi Eliezer and his students. During a lecture on the laws of *Yom Tov*, groups of students began to leave one by one. Rabbi Eliezer commented on the reason for each group's departure, with the first group leaving because of an intense distraction towards physical pleasures, and the subsequent groups being distracted by decreasing levels of physical pleasure. However, when the last group began to leave, Rabbi Eliezer called them "desolate

people" and criticized them more harshly than the others, even though they stayed for most of the lecture.

The *Steipler Rav* explained that Rabbi Eliezer's response to the last group reflects the idea that the more learned a person is, the greater the expectations are for their behaviour and dedication to Torah study. The last group of students, who were likely the most learned and immersed in Torah study, should have been the most sensitive to the value of every word of Torah, and therefore Rabbi Eliezer was particularly disappointed with their behaviour – they are held to a higher standard.

From here, one might see the position of leadership as unenviable, and the leaders of previous generations would agree. Moshe Rabbeinu laments "Why have You dealt ill with Your servant, and why have I not enjoyed Your favor, that You have laid the burden of all this people upon me?" (*Shemot* 11:11). The *Chafetz Chaim* warns that it is precisely the leaders of the Jewish people who are most likely to fall into the trap of the spies, i.e., making a mockery of our *geula* process, due to their position (*Ma'amar Tzipita Liyshua*). Rabbi Elie Munk notes the strong likelihood of a King to go astray (*The Call of the Torah, Vayikra*). Ultimately, Rabbi Sacks put it succinctly: "Leadership is stressful and emotionally demanding." (*Seven Principles of Jewish Leadership*).

Bearing this in mind, it is incumbent upon us to recognise and appreciate the great burden that our leaders carry for us, and to not readily mock or envy them without careful consideration.

## LAWRENCE IS IN SHEVET HINEINI AND WAS A PARTICIPANT ON TORANI 5782

London	In 20:16 Out 21:27	Leeds	In 20:31 Out 21:52	Birmingham	In 20:28 Out 21:45
Manchester	In 20:33 Out 21:52	Nottingham	In 20:27 Out 21:45	Liverpool	In 20:36 Out 21:55
Thaxted	In 20:17 Out 21:33	Brighton	In 20:15 Out 21:28	Bristol	In 20:27 Out 21:42
Cambridge	In 20:21 Out 21:35	Oxford	In 20:23 Out 21:38	Jerusalem	In 18:46 Out 20:02

# YOM HA'ATZMAUT - EXCLUSIVE REPORT

## DEDICATED YOM HA'ATZMAUT CORRESPONDENT DANI DONOFF



Yom Haatzmaut is one of the biggest days in the Bnei Akiva calendar, so it's no surprise that we tried to jam pack it with as many events and activities as possible! As always, it started off at Kinloss in the evening.

The ceremony started by commemorating Yom Hazikaron, with the flag being lowered to half-mast by our very own chaya, Gideon Davis from Shevet Morasha. This was incredibly special for the bogrim to see their friend take part in the ceremony, someone who has really been living the ideologies of Bnei Akiva and playing such an important role in protecting our country! The prayers for the king, the State of Israel, the IDF and missing soldiers, were then read by members on the Hanhalla. After this, Tzipi Hotovely, the Israeli Ambassador, addressed the chaverim, with a message of appreciating the miracle of having Israel today - something our grandparents could barely imagine. To end the Yom Hazikaron section of the ceremony, chanichim and madrichim from each shevet (year group) of the tnu'a lit candles in memory of those who have died in the wars in Israel, and in the terrorist attacks against civilians.

To signify moving into our Yom Ha'atzmaut ceremony, the flag was raised again by Gideon Davis. The Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis then spoke about how important our connection to Israel is, no matter the circumstances. After this was our highly anticipated annual celebratory hallel by Jonny Turgel, there was a crazy energy in the room throughout Hallel and by the end all the bogrim and madrichim were dancing, with the boys circling around the room with the Chief Rabbi, and the girls dancing above. Gidon Schwartz, the Mazkir, then addressed the community and the ceremony ended with Mifkad, the Bnei Akiva anthem (Yad Achim) and the Israeli National anthem, Hatikva.

As soon as the ceremony ended there was a crazy rush down to the party as everyone wanted to be the first one on the dance floor! As we entered the room, we were greeted by a delicious Israeli style buffet with schwarma, falafel, hummus and salads! However, my fellow bogrim and I ran straight past it as we couldn't wait to get to the middle of the room and dance with our chanichim! It was really incredible to see people of all ages - chanichim, madrichim, bogrim and

parents, all dancing together in celebration of the State of Israel!!! With incredible music from Eitan Freilich, everyone had an amazing time, dancing with flags and going up on chairs and shoulders. I particularly enjoyed dancing with my mum and sister, creating memories I will never forget. At the end of all the dancing we had an insane mifkad, with all the members of the tnu'a that were still standing after hours of dancing.

Whilst that may have been the end of Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations for some people, the bogrim never stop! The day started with tefillot and breakfast at the London Bayit, and whilst I did not personally attend, I am told it was a great start to a very busy day! Some fellow bogrim and I went to JFS at lunchtime to go and dance with the students and create some energy! We had an amazing time dancing with chanichim and their friends. We spent their entire lunch break

dancing and celebrating; it made us very proud that those girls who were right in the centre of the circle, encouraging their friends to join in and creating the vibes, were all Bnei Akiva girls! As well as JFS, other bogrim went into Yavneh, Hasmo Girls, King David, Yavneh Boys and Girls and Broughton Jewish. At the end of their lunch hour, we went immediately to Etgar Israel, the interschool quiz

about Israel that takes place on Yom Ha'atzmaut among Year 9 students. We spent the next few hours assisting in any way we could there, danced with the students, gave out quiz papers and encouraged them during the different rounds! Whilst the quiz papers were being marked, we all enjoyed a barbecue and some games. The quiz was won by City Boys, a team that featured quite a few of our own chanichim! Towards the end of the day, we went to a lovely bogrim barbecue at the Goodmans' house, with delicious food and even better banter.

Overall, this year's Yom Haatzmaut celebrations were super fun and will be a tough act to follow next year! I don't know about you, but I've already started my countdown to Yom Haatzmaut 5784! See you there!

**DANI IS IN SHEVET MORASHA AND WAS SCANIT OF H-COURSE 5783**



# YOM HA'ATZMAUT IN PICTURES



Clockwise from top-left: Abi Laderman, Dani Donoff, Benjy Donoff, Gidon Schwartz and Joel Kaufmann at Etgar; Rosh Nivcheret Michal Benjamin presiding over the ceremony; bogrot during tefilla on Yom Ha'atzmaut night; bogrot dancing at the party on Yom Ha'atzmaut night; bogrim during the Chief Rabbi's address; the Chief Rabbi during the Chief Rabbi's address.



# WHAT'S GOING ON?

- **Birmingham SBM** continues this **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May!**

Join us at the usual location.

- **Manchester SBM** continues this **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

at the **Manchester Bayit!**

- Join us for a **Lag Ba'omer Bonfire** at the Goodmans

on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May** at 8pm!

- If you have **exams coming up**, join other chavairim

studying at **Revision B'bayit**, with helpful bogrim on-

hand to assist! Plus some Torah and refreshments.

- **Lishmah** for bogrot and sixth-form women

continues this **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May**. Join this **dynamic**

**mekom Torah** for women!

- Join **Bnei Akiva, Mizrahi** and **Borehamwood**

**and Estree United Synagogue** for an uplifting **Yom Yerushalayim Tefilla Chagigit** on Thursday **18<sup>th</sup> May**.

- **Tikkun Leil** will be happening at Bnei Akiva! Keep

your eyes peeled for the full details coming soon.

- **Summer Machane** applications are open! Visit

**bauk.org/camps** to sign up.

- **Tafkidim** for **Summer Machane** are open! Visit

**bauk.org/tafkid** to sign up.

- To give any **comments** or **suggestions** to Bnei

Akiva, please visit [bauk.org/feedback](http://bauk.org/feedback).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT BEN AT [CHINUCH@BAUK.ORG](mailto:CHINUCH@BAUK.ORG)**

**Yom Yerushalayim with Bnei Akiva, Borehamwood Shul & Mizrahi**

With addresses from

יום ירושלים!

Thursday 18 May 2023/28 Iyar 5783

Mincha 7,30pm

at Borehamwood Shul, Croxdale Road

followed by Tefillah Chagigit

for Yom Yerushalayim

With Mizrahi's Six Days of Miracles

Rav Avichai Goodman  
Bnei Akiva

Rabbi Andrew Shaw  
Mizrachi

BES BNEI AKIVA MIZRACHI Borehamwood & Estree Synagogue

**REVISION B'BAYIT**

Come to the bayit to revise for your exams with expert help from bogrim and short shiurim.

Starting 9th May

BNEI AKIVA

Bnei Akiva invites all Bogrot and sixth-form women to join our Lishmah Beit Midrash Programme!

What? Open Bet Midrash followed by a choice of Chaburot, led by educators and peers

Where? 2 Hallswelle Rd

When? Every Tuesday evening 8-10pm

Come and be part of this dynamic Makom Torah!

Contact [chinuch@bauk.org](mailto:chinuch@bauk.org) for more info!

LISHMAH

**TO SPONSOR AN EDITION OF SHABBAT LASHEM OR FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT BEN AT [CHINUCH@BAUK.ORG](mailto:CHINUCH@BAUK.ORG)**