

זכור את יום השבת וקדשו.
ששת ימים תעבד ועשית כל מלאכתך,
יום השביעי שבת לה'

SHABBAT LASHEM

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PARASHAT VAYEILECH

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ACCESSING ERETZ YISRAEL THROUGH TORAH

HAZEL BARRETT
SHEVET SEENAI

In Parashat Vayeilech, Hashem in a way lives vicariously through us, the Jewish people. Moshe tells the Jewish nation that

ה' אֱלֹקֶיךָ הוּא עֹבֵר לְפָנֶיךָ הוּא יִשְׁמָד אֶת־הַגּוֹיִם
הָאֵלֶּה מִלִּפְנֵיךָ וְיִרְשָׁתָם (דברים לא, ג)
Hashem, your G-d will cross before you; He will destroy these nations from before you, and you shall possess them. (Devarim 31:3)

We are told that Hashem will secure the land for us, but it is we that have to fight for the land ourselves, having faith that Hashem has also done His part.

This parasha is also when Moshe passes on his role as leader to Yehoshua, but they are not the only people who have a job to fulfil. At this point, Moshe has been communicating to us the words of Hashem and the instructions embedded into the Torah. He has written it for all future generations to have and defend. It is now Yehoshua's turn to put Hashem's instructions into action and partake in Avodah (work), which in this case is to

תְּבֹא אֶתְהֵם הַזֶּה אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע ה'
לְאֲבוֹתָם לָתֵת לָהֶם וְאַתָּה תִּנְחַלֵּנָה אוֹתָם
(דברים לא, ז)
go with this people into the land that Hashem swore to their fathers to give them, and it is you who shall cause them to inherit it. (Devarim 31:7)

Yehoshua's job is to use Moshe's Torah and his Avodah to lead the Jewish people to Aliyah. Once we have studied Torah and learned how to incorporate it into our lives, we can put that towards shaping Eretz Yisrael into the ideal state for all Jews to thrive in and for other nations to respect.

We can be sure of our goal as a nation because we are fulfilling a promise that was made to us repeatedly. First, all the way back in Bareishit when Hashem makes His covenant with Avraham, and also five whole books later when Moshe commands Yehoshua to "bring the Children of Israel to that land that I have sworn to them."

The recent parasha, Ki Tavo, contains the Tochacha, a list of curses that will befall Am Yisrael when they stray from Hashem's will. These occur twice in the Torah, which Chazal comment each refers to an exile of the people from the land, a galut. Interestingly, there is no mention of a third list of curses. From this we can have confidence that there will be no third exile.

Today we celebrate our Medina (State) through our Avodah. We must now remember that this is possible because of how Hashem has helped us in the past, and that He continues to help us now. To show gratitude we should not forget that we are conduits for Hashem and use His support for goodness and mitzvot.

HAZEL WAS A TECHNICAL MADRICHAN ON ALEPH AND ALEPH CHALUTZI MACHANOT 5781.

London In 19:11 Out 20:15
Manchester In 19:21 Out 20:28
Cambridge In 19:07 Out 20:15
Shrewsbury In 19:19 Out 20:28

Oxford In 19:12 Out 20:20
Bristol In 19:17 Out 20:25
Birmingham In 19:16 Out 20:24
Merthyr Tydfil In 19:21 Out 20:28

Leeds In 19:16 Out 20:26
Liverpool In 19:21 Out 20:31
Jerusalem In 18:16 Out 19:27
Cannock In 19:16 Out 20:25

YOM KIPPUR 5782: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CLOSENESS

RAV JOEL KENIGSBURG | RAV SHALIACH



It is one of the most dramatic moments of the entire year. As the shofar blast signals the end of Yom Kippur, the tears of Ne'ilah are wiped away and replaced with an

outburst of song and joy.

It is a moment many have been anticipating for 40 days - since the beginning of Elul. In an instant the trepidation of the days of awe dissipates and there is a palpable sense of relief in the air. Finally, the tension is over and we can breathe easy again. Finally, we can relax, return to normal and begin to prepare for the joyous festival of Sukkot.

But perhaps the traditional outlook many of us have of these "days of Awe" is somewhat misconceived. As our lives hang in the balance at the time of judgement, it is only natural to feel fear and apprehension - and these are indeed integral elements of this time of year. But far from being a burden of which we are waiting to be relieved, Chazal taught us that the ten days from Rosh Hashana until Yom Kippur are alluded to in the verse

"דרשו ה' בהמצאו קראוהו בהיותו קרוב"
"Seek out Hashem when He is found, call out to Him when He is close".

Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur provide us with an opportunity for closeness with Hashem, beyond what we can reach any other time of the year.

There is a remarkable expression used by the Rambam in his commentary to the Mishna. In explaining why we refrain from saying Hallel on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, he writes:

**ROSH HASHANA
AND YOM KIPPUR
PROVIDE US WITH
AN OPPORTUNITY
FOR CLOSENESS WITH
HASHEM, BEYOND
WHAT WE CAN REACH
ANY OTHER TIME OF
THE YEAR.**

לפי שהם ימי עבודה והכנעה לה', ויראה מנוס אליו

"For these are days of service and subjugation to Hashem, and fear of Him and fleeing towards Him"

Ordinarily one who finds themselves in a dangerous situation runs away from the source of their fear. Not so on Yom Kippur. As we sense the fear of judgement and wish to run for our lives, we realize that the King who is judging us, is also a loving Father, and it is only in His embrace that we can find true comfort. Thus we flee, not away from but towards Him.

Maybe this is also the depth of Rabbi Akiva's statement in the Mishna:

אשריכם ישראל לפני נוי אתם מטהרים... אביכם שבשמיים
"How fortunate are you Israel! Before whom are you purified? Before your Father in Heaven"

The very knowledge of the bond we have with Hashem is something that can and should lift our spirits on Yom Kippur like no other. While there is no Hallel and these may not be days of excessive happiness, they do provide us with an opportunity to come home and renew a remarkable relationship to which we are privy. Rather than being a weight on our shoulders, the renewed connection that these days bring is in itself a cause for relief and celebration.

Rather than waiting for the days to end, let us cherish the opportunity we have just once a year, to forge a relationship of true closeness with Avinu Malkeinu, one that will remain with us throughout the entire year that follows.

Gmar Chatima Tova!

FOLLOW RAV JOEL ON FACEBOOK (RAV SHALIACH PAGE) AND ON TWITTER (@JOEL KENIGSBURG).

MEET THE MAZKIRUT

ARIELLA HERMAN | CAMPS AND SOCIAL ACTION



Hi, I'm Ariella, the new Camps and Social Action Worker. I was born and bred in Hendon and went to hasmo.

I grew up going to sviva from the age of 6 and was a Madricha there for two years. I also went on to be Sganit and Rosh of Hendon sviva. I went on every Machane as a chanicha bar one and have been on a total of 19 machanot. I have been a Madricha 4 times, TO twice, Medic, Sganit and Rosh (so I know a little bit about Machane). After finishing high school, I spent a year in Israel at Midreshet Amit and did Torani. In my

free time you will find me hanging out with my 17 friends and swapping machane stories or in the cinema watching superhero movies.

One of my aims for this year is to continue to improve on the eco-friendly nature of Bnei Akiva. I'm also looking forward to organising some exciting chesed projects as well as two lots of (hopefully) successful Machanot!

MY SVIVA EXPERIENCE

Our Shabbat Lashem correspondant caught up with Jonathan Levene, Co-Rosh of Stanmore BA, to hear his thoughts on his time being involved with Sviva.

What is the best thing about being a Rosh?

Being old and young at the same time. To your madrichim and chanichim, you are the dugma, (example). You set the tone.

When with bogrim and bogrot, you see that this is just the start. Being with so many role models who you want to emulate makes you feel humble and excited.

Just as they have inspired you, now you get to be that role model for your own chanichim and madrichim.

As Rabbi Sacks z"l famously writes: "Good leaders create followers. Great leaders create leaders."

What challenges have you faced as Rosh?

Dips in motivation. It's Friday afternoon, a madrich/a can't come, the tochnit isn't finished, and (on top of everything else) you find yourself cutting out strips of paper saying "Yerushalayim" for half an hour. The chanichim then say they hate paper because it reminds them of school. 5 minutes later, your unseen planning seems unappreciated, and those strips of paper are flying around the Shul car park, blown away into history.

It's a true story!



Those moments test you. Do you give up when it goes wrong? Or do you carry on twice as hard, reminding yourself of why you chose this? You realise it's all worth it. You are playing an active part in inspiring the next generation of young Jews, and if things go wrong; gam zu letova - you'll learn from that, too.

How has being involved in Sviva impacted your life?

I have gained so much from Sviva: many new skills, friendships, fun and the opening of my BA journey. But most importantly, Sviva has given me a chance to give. Sviva shifts your mindset from, "What can you do for me?" to, "What can I do for you?"

What would you say to anyone considering signing up to be a Madrich/a in Sviva?

It's not always easy. But anything worth achieving in life is never easy. 'Easy' means doing nothing all day. Meaningful and rewarding things take effort. Having a tafkid in Sviva is an exercise in giving. But by giving of yourself, you end up truly giving to yourself. Don't go into it just for personal gain. Go into it mesmerised by what you can do for someone else. You will also happen to gain a ton along the way.

For any queries about Sviva, please contact Adi at svivot@bauk.org

WHAT'S GOING ON?

- Join us for **Selichot at the London Bayit** every night until Erev Yom Kippur! Sign up at [tinyurl.com/BAselichot!](https://tinyurl.com/BAselichot)

- We will be hosting **Yom Kippur davening** at the **London Bayit**. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/BA-YK-5782>

- Sign up for **Yamim Noraim davening at the Manchester Bayit** at [https://tinyurl.com/BA-YN-5782!](https://tinyurl.com/BA-YN-5782)

- The **Lilmod Ul'lamed Elul Zman learning program** has just finished it's third successful week! To find out more about the Lilmod Ul'lamed Women's Educator Program, email chinuch@bauk.org

-**Mazal tov** to **Hannah Reuben** (Mazkira 5779, Shevet Lehava) and **David Reuben** (Mazkir 5776, Shevet Shvut) on the birth of a baby girl!

- Keep an eye out for **exciting Bnei Akiva updates** for all ages!

- Be sure to like our **Facebook page (Bnei Akiva UK)** and follow our **Instagram (bneiakivauk)** to get regular updates with what is going on in the Tnuva.

- Visit bauk.org/feedback for contact details for all Mazkirut members and to leave any general feedback!

SHABBAT SHALOM!!!



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