



☆ BAT KOL NEWS ☆

מאי ססמגור? אמר רבי אבא: בת קול.

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Boehner snubs White House, invites Netanyahu to address Congress

Source: USA Today-1/22/2015



WASHINGTON – House Speaker John Boehner on Wednesday invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address Congress without consulting the White House, an apparent challenge to President Obama's policy on negotiations with Iran. Netanyahu accepted the offer and will address a joint session on Feb. 11, according to a congressional aide who spoke on background because the Israeli Embassy has not yet made a public announcement. Boehner, R-Ohio, asked Netanyahu to address the threats posed by Iran's nuclear ambitions and the rise of the Islamic State. The invite came a day after the president's State of the Union Address in which Obama warned Congress against enacting new economic sanctions against Iran. "New sanctions passed by this Congress, at this moment in time, will all but guarantee that diplomacy fails, alienating America from its allies, and ensuring that Iran starts up its nuclear program again," Obama said Tuesday. "It doesn't make sense. That is why I will veto any new sanctions bill that threatens to undo this progress." Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the invitation to Netanyahu was a breach of diplomatic protocol, but that the White House was reserving judgment about the invitation until they had a chance to communicate with the Israelis on the prime minister's message. Invitations to foreign leaders to address Congress are often made in consultation with the White House and the State Department, but it is not required. Earnest said typically a country's leader contacts the White House before planning a U.S. visit, but Boehner's announcement was the first the White House had heard of Netanyahu's address. At the weekly House GOP meeting, Boehner told his rank-and-file that Congress will continue to pursue sanctions. "(Obama) expects us to stand idly by and do nothing while he cuts a bad deal with Iran. Two words: 'Hell no!' We're going to do no such thing," he said, according to his office. "Let's send a clear message to the White House, and the world, about our commitment to Israel and our allies." Netanyahu has previously addressed Congress in 2011 and 2006. Republicans supported Boehner's move. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, a potential 2016 contender, tweeted that he "would welcome thoughts from a great ally." At least one top Senate Democrat has also been publicly skeptical of the Obama's approach to negotiations with Iran. "After 18 months of stalling, Iran needs to know that there will be consequences for failure – and that consequence will be additional sanctions," Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said at a Wednesday hearing on the status of the Iran talks. Menendez is a co-sponsor of legislation that would impose new sanctions on Iran if diplomatic negotiations fail to reach an agreement to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. The U.S. and diplomats from Russia, China, Germany, France and the United Kingdom have been engaged in talks for more than a year over Iran's nuclear program. The latest deadline for an agreement is late March, which would allow for implementation by July. Menendez argued that Congress should move forward with sanctions to send a message that the U.S. is prepared to act swiftly if negotiations fail. He offered a harsh assessment of the White House's strategy. "The more I hear from the administration and its quotes, the more it sounds like talking points that come straight out of Tehran," he said.

Bo

Exodus 10:1-13:16

The last three of the Ten Plagues are visited on Egypt: a swarm of locusts devours all the crops and greenery; a thick, palpable darkness envelops the land; and all the firstborn of Egypt are killed at the stroke of midnight of the 15th of the month of Nissan. G-d commands the first mitzvah to be given to the people of Israel: to establish a calendar based on the monthly rebirth of the moon. The Israelites are also instructed to bring a "Passover offering" to G-d: a lamb or kid is to be slaughtered, and its blood sprinkled on the doorposts and lintel of every Israelite home, so that G-d should pass over these homes when He comes to kill the Egyptian firstborn. The roasted meat of the offering is to be eaten that night together with matzah (unleavened bread) and bitter herbs. The death of the firstborn finally breaks Pharaoh's resistance, and he literally drives the children of Israel from his land. So hastily do they depart that there is no time for their dough to rise, and the only provisions they take along are unleavened. Before they go, they ask their Egyptian neighbors for gold, silver and garments—fulfilling the promise made to Abraham that his descendants would leave Egypt with great wealth. The children of Israel are commanded to consecrate all firstborn, and to observe the anniversary of the Exodus each year by removing all leaven from their possession for seven days, eating matzah, and telling the story of their redemption to their children. They are also commanded to wear tefillin on the arm and head as a reminder of the Exodus and their resultant commitment to G-d.



Marking the doorposts and lintel of the Israelites

Bo Haftarah

Jeremiah 46:13-28.

In this week's Torah reading, we read of the devastation of the Egyptian nation through the final three of the Ten Plagues. In the haftarah we read of the punishment G-d visited upon Egypt centuries later, through the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. G-d reveals Egypt's fate to Jeremiah: "Proclaim it in Egypt and let it be heard in Migdol, and let it be heard in Noph and in Tahpanhes. Say, 'Stand fast and prepare yourself, for the sword has devoured round about you.'" The prophet then goes on to describe Egypt's helplessness and the destruction that it will incur at the hands of the Babylonians. The haftarah ends with G-d's assurance to the Jewish people not to fear, for though they too will be punished and exiled, ultimately they will be redeemed:

"You fear not, O Jacob My servant, and be not dismayed, O Israel! for behold, I will redeem you from afar, and your children from the land of their captivity, and Jacob shall return and be quiet and at ease, and there shall be none who disturb his rest. You fear not, My servant Jacob, says the L-rd, for I am with you, for I will make a full end of all the nations where I have driven you."

Silver's arrest a 2nd strike for N.Y. Orthodox power brokers

Source: JTA-1/22/2015



Rapfogel and Silver

NEW YORK (JTA) - For New York Jews, the arrest marked the second time in less than 18 months that one of the state's most visible and well-connected Orthodox Jews was taken into custody on corruption charges. In fact, the two figures are deeply connected. The first, William Rapfogel, the longtime CEO of New York's Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, was arrested in September 2013 for involvement in a kickbacks scheme. He pleaded guilty to helping fleece more than \$9 million from the charity, including \$1 million that he pocketed himself, and was sentenced last July to 3 1/2 years in prison and ordered to pay \$3 million in restitution. The criminal complaint filed this week against Silver by the U.S. Attorney's Office alleges that Silver was "on retainer to a mammoth real estate developer" while his office was passing legislation affecting that developer's business, meeting with lobbyists paid for by the developer and "deliberately keeping secret from the public any information about this lucrative side-deal, in violation of the law." This is not the first time Silver has found himself caught up in a scandal. But, as with the Rapfogel scheme, Silver has been more of a peripheral figure to scandal rather than the main act. Twice, Silver came under heavy fire for mishandling of allegations of sexual misbehavior against associates.

King Abdullah dies at 90

Source: JTA-1/23/2015

(JTA) - Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said he was saddened by the death of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, whom he credited with enhancing regional stability. Abdullah in 2002, when he was Saudi crown prince, proposed a peace plan that would grant Israel comprehensive peace in the Middle East in exchange for its withdrawal to 1967 lines, including from eastern Jerusalem. King Abdullah is succeeded by the crown prince, Salman, his brother, who is 79. It's not yet clear what Salman's position is on the peace plan, although in general his views hew close to those of Abdullah. Under Abdullah, Israel also expanded its unofficial intelligence sharing with Saudi Arabia, particularly as Iran - seen as a threat both by Israel and Saudi Arabia - in recent years appeared to be getting closer to obtaining nuclear weapons capability. The White House also announced that Vice President Joe Biden would lead a U.S. delegation to Saudi Arabia in the coming days to pay respects to the king's family.

Argentine president now says Nisman death was not a suicide

Source: JTA-1/22/2015

Buenos Aires, Argentina (JTA) - Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner now says that the death of special prosecutor Alberto Nisman was not a suicide, reversing a statement by the government. In an open letter published Thursday on her Facebook page and blog, Kirchner wrote that Nisman's death was an "operation against the government." Nisman was murdered, she wrote, because he had accused her and Foreign Minister Hector Timerman of covering up Iran's role in the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish center in Buenos Aires that killed 85. Nisman, 51, was found dead in his bathroom in Buenos Aires on Monday, hours before he was to present evidence on an alleged cover-up by Kirchner and Timerman. That day, the Argentine government released a statement calling the death a suicide.

'Magic Kippa' designed for attack-wary observant Jews

Source: JTA-1/23/2014



Fitting a "Magic Kippa"

The Associated Press reported today that, in response to the increasing numbers of anti-Semitic attacks in Europe, an Israeli barber has designed yarmulkes that blend in with the wearer's hair. Called the "Magic Kippa," the head coverings, made of synthetic hair, are washable, brushable and dyeable. Inventor Shalom Koresh told the AP he invented them so that observant Jewish men "could feel comfortable going to places where they are afraid to go, or places where they can't wear it and feel secure." He noted that the yarmulkes, which sell online for \$56 and up, are particularly popular with French and Belgian buyers. Koresh may also want to consider marketing in Malmo, Switzerland. In a sort-of riff on the viral "Walking Around New York City While Female" video, a Swedish reporter recently walked around the heavily Muslim city while wearing a kippah and secretly recorded the reactions he received. In footage that aired on Swedish television this week, he was hit once and cursed at by numerous passersby.

Influence of the Lamedvavniks

From: JEWISH STORIES by L. Grunfeld

Prologue:

36 Lamedvavniks figured in kabbalistic folk legend of the 16th-17th centuries and in hasidic lore from the end of the 18th century. At times of great peril, a lamedvovnik makes a dramatic appearance. Using hidden powers to effect the fate of the world, after which the Lamedvovnik returns mysteriously to obscurity.

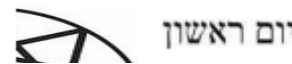
CHAPTER #2- The Rabbi

After the last Kaddish was said, Rabbi Kindberg invited everyone to his usual Sunday evening class for those who were interested in so called "hidden knowledge". He knew his congregation very well. Knew who was interested in the practical matters of life, as well as those who were pursuing the esoteric side of all things material. His Shabbat afternoon sessions were directed toward those who wanted to pursue Talmudic studies -the understanding of rabbinic interpretations relating to the down-to-earth approach of daily life's experiences. But the Sunday evening class was dedicated to his *Mevakshe HaRuah* students. Those curiously restless congregants, whose thirst for deeper insight toward the meaning of existence in this life needed guidance. They would approach him in private to air their frustrations about the senselessness of the present-day world's treacherous course. Their insistence and rising anxiety would have to be satiated in order to avert their inevitable course of secular pursuits. The rabbi wrestled with opening the doors to the abstruse topic of Kabbalah to his questionably-prepared congregants. Ultimately he reasoned that a form of *pikuah nefesh* had to be initiated if his curious congregants were to remain with the shul. After all, he would know what to reveal clearly and what needed to be left vaguely subtle in order to protect their sanity.

Yakov Arie, the curious young man with the mysterious pendant was in attendance. The class assembled in silence and after the ablutionary customs and preparatory prayers, they began their exploratory studies. The rabbi continued to read the text from last week's class:

"Observe that Nefesh, Ruah and Neshumah are an ascending series of grades... the three, in fact, form a unity."

"What kind of a unity... is it the unity of *Tikun Olam*?" interrupted Avram Yoel, the math professor. (To be continued...)



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Contact: Rabbi Avi Kasten



שבת שלום

BAT KOL NEWS

Editor / Graphic Arts: Les Gardonyi
Contributing articles & opinions welcomed.
Contact info: TEL: 516-978-9453

Email: batkolnews@yahoo.com
Web: batkolnews.yolasite.com

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICES*

Candle lighting	4:53 PM
FRIDAY Minha / Maariv	4:50 PM
SATURDAY morning	9:30 AM
SATURDAY Minha / Maariv	4:50 PM
Shabbat ends	6:00 PM
SUNDAY	8:10 AM
TU B'SHVAT	FEB 4

*Subject to change per Rabbi's announcements.