



BAT KOL NEWS



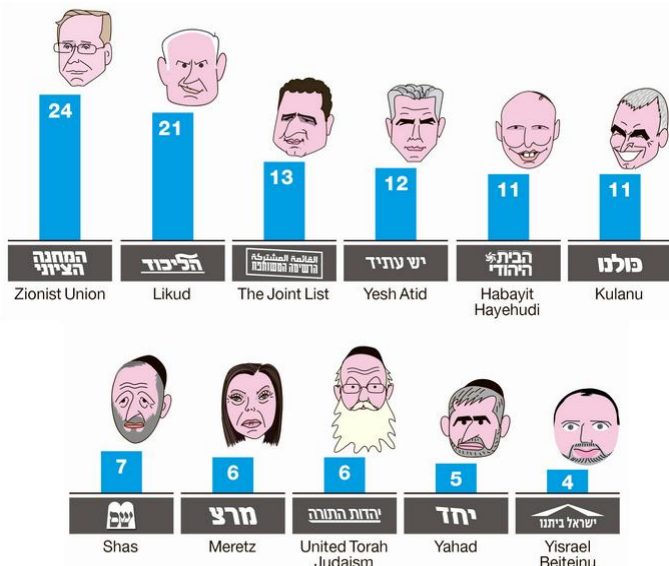
מאי ססמגור? אמר רבי אבא: בת קול.

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF CONGREGATION SHAAR HASHAMAYIM OF OCEANSIDE, NY
SHUL FOUNDER: RABBI ELIHU KASTEN ZTL PRESIDENT: LES GARDONYI
EST. 1964 ADAR 22, 5775 RABBI: AVI KASTEN
MARCH 13, 2015



Poll shows Herzog maintaining lead toward March 17 elections in Israel

Source: JTA-3/10/2015



(JTA) – A survey in advance of Israel’s general elections showed the Zionist Union leading the Likud by four seats. The poll of 1,032 voters, conducted this week by Yedioth Ahronoth and published Friday ahead of the March 17 vote, had the center-left Zionist Union, led by Isaac Herzog and Tzippi Livni, clinching 26 seats in parliament compared to 22 seats for Benjamin Netanyahu’s center-right Likud party. The poll conducted by the Mina Tzemach polling firm has a 2.5 percent margin of error and is consistent with other polls that showed the Zionist Union maintaining similar leads over the Likud. A survey published Thursday by Haaretz had Likud with 21 seats compared to Zionist Union’s 24 seats. That poll, which had a 3-percent margin of error, was conducted by the Dialog polling firm among 714 respondents. In the Yedioth poll, the third-largest party after Likud was the United Arab List with 13 seats, followed by the right-wing Jewish Home with 12 and the secularist Yesh Atid party, which also received 12 seats. This year’s election is the first time that Israel’s three large Arab parties united into one electoral bloc. The Orthodox Sephardic Shas Party and its Ashkenazi counterpart, United Torah Judaism, got six and seven seats respectively in the Yedioth poll. Eight seats went to Moshe Kachlon’s centrist Kulanu party. Avigdor Liberman’s right-wing Yisrael Beiteinu and the left-wing Meretz party both received five seats in the poll.

Report praises Israel’s effort to prevent civilian casualties in Gaza

Source: JTA-3/12/2015



WASHINGTON (JTA) – Israel’s military went far beyond its legal obligation last summer during its Gaza operation to prevent civilian casualties, according to report by a panel of former senior U.S. military officials and legal experts. The Gaza Conflict Task Force report, which was released Wednesday, was commissioned by the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, or JINSA. The task force called the conflict “Hybrid Warfare: where non-state actors equipped with advanced weapons operate in densely populated urban areas, disregarding the safety of civilians and capitalizing on its enemy’s efforts to comply with the law.” The report praised the Israel Defense Forces for its effort to limit civilian casualties, such as alerting residents in a targeted area through phone calls, leaflets and low impact explosives, but also emphasized that the United States and Israel should study the conflict in order to find a balance between mitigating civilian casualties and achieving mission objectives. Michael Makovsky, JINSA’s chief executive officer, said the task force compiled the report after making a fact-finding mission to Israel, where they met with Israeli, United Nations and Palestinians officials, as well as analyzing primary and secondary research. JINSA, a Washington-based nonprofit group, advocates for a strong U.S. military relationship with Israel. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have accused Israel of committing war crimes and violations of the laws of war during its Operation Protective Edge against Hamas in Gaza.

Vayakhel-Pekudei

Exodus 35:1-40:38 & 12:1-20

Moses assembles the people of Israel and reiterates to them the commandment to observe the Shabbat. He then conveys G-d’s instructions regarding the making of the Mishkan (Tabernacle). The people donate the required materials in abundance, bringing gold, silver and copper; blue-, purple- and red-dyed wool; goat hair, spun linen, animal skins, wood, olive oil, herbs and precious stones. Moses has to tell them to stop giving. A team of wise-hearted artisans make the Mishkan and its furnishings (as detailed in the previous Torah readings of Terumah, Tetzaveh and Ki Tisa): three layers of roof coverings; 48 gold-plated wall panels, and 100 silver foundation sockets; the parochet (veil) that separates between the Sanctuary’s two chambers, and the masach (screen) that fronts it; the Ark and its cover with the Cherubim; the table and its showbread; the seven-branched menorah with its specially prepared oil; the golden altar and the incense burned on it; the anointing oil; the outdoor altar for burnt offerings and all its implements; the hangings, posts and foundation sockets for the courtyard; and the basin and its pedestal, made out of copper mirrors. An accounting is made of the gold, silver and copper donated by the people for the making of the Mishkan. Betzalel, Aholiav and their assistants make the eight priestly garments—the ephod, breastplate, cloak, crown, turban, tunic, sash and breeches—according to the specifications communicated to Moses in the Parshah of Tetzaveh. The Mishkan is completed and all its components are brought to Moses, who erects it and anoints it with the holy anointing oil, and initiates Aaron and his four sons into the priesthood. A cloud appears over the Mishkan, signifying the divine presence that has come to dwell within it.

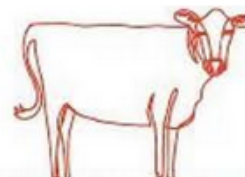
Vayakhel-Pekudei Haftorah

I Kings 7:51-8:21.

This week’s haftorah describes the dedication of Solomon’s Temple, following the theme of this week’s Torah reading: the dedication of the desert Tabernacle. The construction of the Holy Temple was completed. King Solomon assembled the leaders and elders of the tribes to Jerusalem, and amidst great fanfare the Levites transported the Ark from its temporary location in the City of David and installed it in the Holy of Holies chamber in the Holy Temple. Immediately, G-d’s presence appeared in the Temple, in the form of a smoky cloud. King Solomon then blessed G-d. He recalled the history of the sanctuary, how his father, King David, had wanted to build it--but was told by G-d that it would be his son who would accomplish this feat. “And the L-rd has established His word that He spoke, and I have risen up in the place of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the L-rd spoke, and have built a house for the name of the L-rd, the G-d of Israel. And I have set there a place for the ark, wherein (is) the covenant of the Lord, which He made with our fathers, when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.”

Parah

The Torah reading of Parah (Numbers 19) details the laws of the “Red Heifer” and the process by which a person rendered ritually impure by contact with a dead body was purified. We fulfill the Temple-related rituals by studying their laws in the Torah. When the Holy Temple stood in Jerusalem, every Jew had to be in a state of ritual purity in time for the bringing of the Passover offering in the Temple. Today, though we’re unable to fulfill the Temple-related rituals in practice, we fulfill them spiritually by studying their laws in the Torah. Thus, we study and read the section of Parah in preparation for the upcoming festival of Passover. According to some Halachic authorities, there is a Biblical requirement for all men to hear the special Parah reading. The special Parah haftorah (Ezekiel 36:16-36) discusses G-d’s promise to “purify” and cleanse the Jews when He re-gathers them and returns them all to the Land of Israel during the Messianic Era.



Hachodesh

The Hachodesh reading (Exodus 12:1-20) recounts G-d’s historic communication to Moses in Egypt on the first of Nissan, two weeks before the Exodus, regarding the establishment of a Jewish (lunar) calendar, the Paschal Offering, matzah, bitter herbs, and the seder. The special Hachodesh haftorah (Ezekiel 45:18-46:15) is a prophecy regarding the Paschal Offering that will be brought in the Third Holy Temple.

Europe's undercover yarmulke journalists

Source: JTA-3/10/2015

Sending a yarmulke-wearing man out with a hidden video camera to document anti-Semitism on the streets of Europe, particularly in Muslim neighborhoods, is quickly becoming a journalistic trope. First, in January, a reporter wearing a kippah walked around the heavily Muslim neighborhood of Malmo, Sweden, where he was assaulted and cursed at. Next, in February, an Orthodox Jewish journalist walked through the streets of Paris, where he was taunted and intimidated, as shown in a video recording. (A Muslim man's similar experiment in Milan in February, in which he wore a "traditional Muslim outfit" and carried a Koran, also garnered discriminatory comments from passersby.)

Either to respond to or trump these examples, British tabloid the Daily Mail deployed an entire team of kippah-wearing reporters to multiple European countries. The results were mixed. The worst report of anti-Semitism reported by a kippah-wearer in the Daily Mail occurred in England. Jonathan Kalmus, who has written for England's Jewish Chronicle magazine, was spit on and yelled at on the streets of Manchester and Bradford, two midsize cities with sizable Muslim populations. British Prime Minister David Cameron, Labour party leader Ed Miliband, a spokesman for the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and the Labour parliament representative for Manchester central all responded in the Daily Mail to Kalmus' account. Cameron said "There are no excuses for the shocking anti-Semitism revealed in this report" and Miliband said "We need to renew our vigilance and ensure every family of every faith can be secure in our country." England had 37 percent more anti-Semitic attacks (1,168 total) than France in 2014, according to the Jewish Community Security Trust.

Israel imports Gaza produce for first time in nearly eight years

Source: JTA-3/12/2015

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Israel imported fruits and vegetables from the Gaza Strip for the first time in nearly eight years. In an apparent easing of the long-term economic blockade, the first truckloads of tomatoes and eggplants crossed the border on Thursday. Before the Hamas takeover of Gaza eight years ago, Gaza farmers exported produce to Israel on a daily basis. Until Thursday, the only produce that crossed from Gaza to Israel was two truckloads of palm tree shoots used on the Jewish holiday of Sukkot and known as lulavs. Before June 2007, more than 85 percent of all goods shipped from Gaza were sold in Israel and the West Bank, including produce, furniture and textile products, according to the human rights group Gisha. The decision to bring in produce from Gaza reportedly stems in part from a deficit of homegrown produce due to the shmitta, or biblical fallow year. "Top Israeli security officials have said that Gaza's reconstruction and economic recovery are an Israeli interest and may help bring calm and stability to the region," Gisha's executive director, Eitan Diamond, said in a statement. "We hope that the resumption of sales to Israel becomes permanent and is expanded to additional sectors in Gaza, giving its residents a horizon for economic development."

TV Show 'Dig' travels far, but not as deep

Source: JTA-3/9/2015



LOS ANGELES (JTA) – Last summer, in the midst of the Gaza conflict, the threat of rocket fire forced NBC Universal's "Dig" to stop production in Jerusalem and move out of the country. If only the show itself were half that dramatic. Instead, "Dig," which premiered March 5th on the USA Network, is a rather flat amalgam of "Indiana Jones" and "The Da Vinci Code" poured into the mold of a standard television conspiracy-thriller. But despite being partially filmed in Israel, the setting of "Dig" bears only a passing resemblance to the actual country. Not only is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict wholly absent (aside from obligatory news clips), but there are no significant Muslim characters. There is one Palestinian character, but he is an apocalyptic Christian and an international art thief – not exactly representative. Instead, the writers focus on the rites performed in ancient temples and a rather unique coalition of Jewish and Christian fundamentalists intent on reenacting them. Thus we have a group of Orthodox Jews focused on procuring a red heifer, a Christian sect in the New Mexico desert that has been raising a young boy for an as-yet-unspecified role, an international antiquities conspiracy to assemble the breastplate of the high priest, and an archaeological dig underneath the Temple Mount seeking to uncover the original ark of the covenant. There is even an appearance by the Essenes, the ancient religious sect, reborn here as globetrotting, white-clad killer ninjas. Israel is never less than mesmerizing as a backdrop. (The show also was filmed in part in Canada, New Mexico and Croatia.) "Dig," however, seems to approach Jerusalem with all the curiosity of a lazy tourist, making it little more than a venue for some pictures and tired fantasies.

Jay Leno returning as host of Genesis Prize ceremony

Source: JTA-3/12/2015



(JTA) – For the second time, former "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno will emcee the Genesis Prize award ceremony in Israel. The Genesis Prize Foundation made the announcement in a news release on Monday. Actor Michael Douglas will receive what is billed as "the Jewish Nobel Prize" on June 18. Leno, who is not Jewish, hosted the inaugural ceremony last year, when former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg received the \$1 million prize. The comic told The Associated Press on Monday that he was pleased to be invited back and described himself as a big supporter of Israel. "It seems like they [Israel] have the worst PR in the world," Leno said. "I don't understand how Israel is the bad guy here. It doesn't make any sense to me."

Influence of the Lamedvavniks

From: JEWISH STORIES by L. Grunfeld

Prologue:

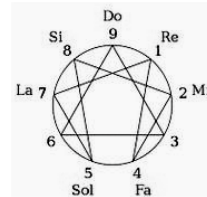
36 Lamedvavniks figured in kabbalistic folk legend of the 16th-17th centuries and in hasidic lore from the end of the 18th century. At times of great peril, a lamedvavnik makes a dramatic appearance. Using hidden powers to affect the fate of the world, after which the Lamedvavnik returns mysteriously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

CHAPTER #8- Musical interruptions

"Now Binyamin Yitzhak, tell us about those 'inconsistencies of vibrations' that you mentioned."

Binyamin stood up and walked over to the board. The manner, in which the rabbi had placed the notes, indicated that the rabbi already knew its significance. Binyamin decided to use a different terminology than the one that the rabbi would expect.

"A change!" expounded Binyamin, "That is what happens when something unexpected occurs. And in the case of musical notes, there is an anomaly in their corresponding vibrations, in fact a couple of anomalies."



Let me explain. In some cases the corresponding frequencies of the notes will progress evenly - but not at certain points on that diagram. There are differences in the pitch or frequencies of the notes. Sometimes they increase and sometimes they decrease. They don't progress evenly - yet they sound pleasant." A moment or two of reflection passed by as Binyamin Yitzhak fell silent and slowly returned to his seat.

Shlomo Tzvi spoke up. "In my kitchen, we follow a plan that I oversee. I can see parallelisms in this diagram. At point 1 we ready the kitchen, at point 2 instructions are given on the work to be done, at point 3 we bring in the raw food, at point 4 we prepare the food and at point 5 we cook the food. This is an important point from which there is 'no return'. Point 6 is when the guests arrive and point 7 is when we serve them; which leads to point 8 where the food is eaten. This brings us to point 9, the desired result of all the previous points: life. I am especially active at points 3 and 6 in order to get things done! What do you think rabbi, does it make sense?" "This is true," said the rabbi. "As a separate example, I like to think of golf players who need to keep hitting the ball toward the intended hole, in order to achieve their aim. If they do not, then the ball will never get there, it will go off on a wrong course, or worse - it may be lost. There are two principles in this diagram. One shows us that change is part of everyday life, and second, we can perform acts that will either enhance, decrease or, and this is very important, neutralize a process that we are involved with. Now how does this apply to Judaism?"

(To be continued...)

NOTE: Previous chapters available on website: <http://batkolnews.yolasite.com/bat-kol-copies.php>

BAT KOL NEWS

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NEXT WEEK'S SERVICES*

SUNDAY (Clock +1 hr ahead)	MARCH 8
Candle lighting	6:50 PM
FRIDAY Minha / Maariv	6:55 PM
SATURDAY morning	9:30 AM
SATURDAY Minha / Maariv	6:55 PM
Shabbat ends	7:54 PM

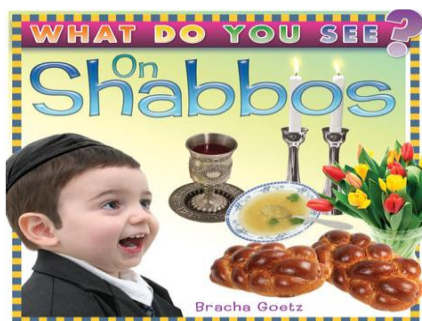
*Subject to change per Rabbi's announcements.

AMIT needs your help! צדקה



Founded in 1925, AMIT educates and cares for Israel's youth, including the most vulnerable children in Israel. The AMIT schools promote religious tolerance, service to the state and the recognition that every child is blessed with unique talents and abilities.

Contact: Rabbi Avi Kasten



שבת שלום