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70 YEARS
OF OUR BELOVED STATE OF ISRAEL
WITH AN **INSPIRING SHABBAT**
POWERED BY MIZRACHI SOUTH AFRICA

13/14TH APRIL 2018
SHABBAT PARSHAT SHMINI

GUEST RABBI ON SHABBAT DAY
DAYAN RABBI SHLOMO GLICKSBERG

SPECIAL SHIUR LECTURE AFTER MUSAF BEFORE THE KIDDUSH
"ONE STATE, ONE PEOPLE: BUT ARE WE ONE?"
ONLY AT SYDENHAM SHUL

SYDENHAM-HIGHLANDS NORTH HEBREW CONGREGATION

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Live & Laugh

Israel is the only country in the world where patients visiting physicians end up giving the doctor advice.

Israel is the only country in the world where "small talk" consists of loud, angry debate about politics and religion.

What's Nu?!

The Barmy Boy
Nathan Schwulst

Mazal Tov to Morrisa & Andrew and to grandparents Norman & Zilla Aaron.

Calendar

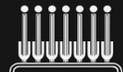
Shabbos Mevorchim Iyar
Molad: Sunday 04:37:05

- ◆ Shacharis: 8:30 am; Shtibl: 8:45 am
- ◆ Brocha in the Seeff Hall sponsored in honour of **Nathan Schwulst's** Bar Mitzvah.
- ◆ Mincha: 5:15 pm
- ◆ Pirkei Avos: Chapter 1
- ◆ Shabbos ends: 6:25 pm
- ◆ **Rosh Chodesh:** Sun 15 & Mon 16 Apr



Good Shabbos SYDENHAM!

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14 Apr 2018 Parshas Shemini 29 Nissan 5778

Just Do It!

by: *Rabbi Yossy Goldman*

How do you develop confidence when you don't have it? How does one overcome fear, nerves and anxieties? Well, without going into major psychological dissertations, let's see if we can find some insight in this week's Parsha.

Everything was set for the inauguration of the sacred service in the Sanctuary. The week-long preparations had been completed. Now it was Aaron's turn to approach the altar and begin the service. But Aaron was reluctant. He still felt a sense of shame for his part in the Golden Calf episode. So Moses calls out to Aaron, "Approach the altar and perform the services." Aaron did so and completed all the required tasks correctly. But what exactly did Moses say to Aaron to assuage his fears? All he said was 'Come and do your thing.' He never actually dealt with his issues. How did he address his concerns or his feelings of inadequacy?

Well, perhaps, Moses was saying 'Come and Do' and you will see that all your fears will be dispelled. You lack confidence? Start performing the services and you will come to realize that it fits you like a glove. You were born to be a High Priest and that's where you belong.

Moses was telling Aaron that if he would begin performing his chosen role, the rest would follow. As they say in Yiddish, *Apetit kommt mit'n essen*. Even if you're not hungry, if you start eating, your appetite will follow. I suppose that's why the first course in a meal is called an Appetizer. (Trust Jews when it

comes to food.)
Dr Moses was dispensing sound psychological advice. The surest way of developing confidence is to begin doing that which you fear. Throwing kids in the deep end to teach them how to swim may not be everybody's cup of tea, but it usually works. Some of the finest public speakers were microphone-shy, even neurotic at first. When we lack self-assurance, confronting our fears and phobias can be the best therapy. We discover that it really wasn't all that bad after all and we actually manage better than we ever imagined. And from there our self-belief grows until we become quite relaxed about the whole thing.

I remember as a young rabbi just starting out in my career. One morning, the dreaded phone call came. A relatively young woman had passed away. I knew I had to go to the family to comfort them but what would I tell them? Did I have answers for people who had just been bereaved of their loving wife and mother? Could I play G-d? I was feeling rather paralyzed for a while and fiddled with all sorts of matters of far less importance. And I knew why. Simple. I was stalling. It was a case of plain procrastination because I couldn't face this most unpleasant task which I felt unqualified to deal with.

Eventually, I forced myself to go because I knew I had to. It was my job and they were waiting for me. And guess what happened? Lo and behold! There were no hysterics, no challenges thrown in my face about where was G-d? I was able to deal with the family and their questions. And I discovered then that they didn't really expect me to wave any magic wands, or resurrect the dead, or answer for G-d. They felt very comforted by my presence

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4 Monday Evening sessions Starts 16th April

Join the Academy, Rabbi Ramon Widomonte and Batya Bricker, in partnership with Sydenham Shul & CAJE as we leap into the minds, diaries, writings, hearts, hopes, stories and lives of the 4 longest serving Mapai/Labour Prime Ministers of the State of Israel: David Ben-Gurion, Levi Eshkol, Golda Meir and Yitzhak Rabin.

This series is part of our Israel 70 programming in honour of 70 years of the State of Israel

Yom HaZikaron

Remembering Israel's Fallen Heroes
Tuesday 17 April 6:30 pm
Yeshiva College Campus

Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Wed 18 Apr
Huddle Park
Gates open @ 5 pm
Entertainment, rides for kids, market stalls, international band, fireworks

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and were grateful that I was there for them in their hour of need.

It was for me a very important lesson and a growth point in my rabbinical practice. Experience really is a fantastic teacher.

I would venture to add that it applies to each of us in our Jewish lives. So many people are reluctant to get involved. Too many are intimidated by Shul and because they are not confident enough about synagogue protocol or their Hebrew literacy, they simply opt out – and lose out. I can attest to hundreds of Jews of every age and stage who have been in that very position and then began coming to Shul. It didn't take them long at all to feel part of the Shul family and they've never looked back. But this most spiritually gratifying part of their lives would never have been theirs if they didn't take that first brave step.

'Come and do' said Moses to his humble and hesitant brother. Aaron came and did, and the rest is history.

Parsha Pointers

*Shemini: Artscroll Chumash pg 443;
Living Torah pg 537*

On the eighth day following "seven days of inauguration," Aaron and his sons begin to officiate as Kohanim (priests); a fire issues forth from G-d to consume the offerings on the Altar and the Divine Presence comes to dwell in the Sanctuary.

Aaron's two elder sons, Nadav and Avihu, offer a "strange fire before G-d, which He commanded them not" and die before G-d. Aaron is silent in face of his tragedy. Moses and Aaron subsequently disagree as to a point of law regarding the offerings, but Moses concedes to Aaron that Aaron is in the right.

G-d commands the kosher laws, identifying the animal species permissible and forbidden for consumption. Land animals may be eaten only if they have split hooves and also chew their cud; fish must have fins and scales; a list of non-kosher birds is given, and a list of kosher insects (four types of locusts).

Also in Shemini are some of the laws of ritual purity, including the purifying power of

the mikvah (a pool of water meeting specified qualifications) and the wellspring. Thus the people of Israel are enjoined to "differentiate between the impure and the pure."

The Other Side of the Prayerbook

By Rabbi Yerachmiel Tilles

Simon Wiesenthal, the famous Nazi-hunter, once spoke at a conference of European rabbis in Bratislava, Slovakia. The rabbis presented the 91-year-old Wiesenthal with an award, and he, visibly moved, told them the following story.

It was in Mauthausen, shortly after liberation. The camp was visited by Rabbi Eliezer Silver, head of Agudat Harabbanim (Union of Orthodox Rabbis of North America), on a mission to offer aid and comfort to the survivors. Rabbi Silver also organized a special service, and he invited Wiesenthal to join the other survivors in prayer. Wiesenthal declined, and explained why.

"In the camp," Wiesenthal said to Rabbi Silver, "there was one religious man who somehow managed to smuggle in a *siddur*. At first, I greatly admired the man for his courage—that he'd risked his life in order to bring the *siddur* in. But the next day I realized, to my horror, that this man was 'renting out' this *siddur* to people in exchange for food. People were giving him their last piece of bread for a few minutes with the prayer book. This man, who was very thin and emaciated when the whole thing started, was soon eating so much that he died before everyone else—his system couldn't handle it."

He continued: "If this is how religious Jews behave, I'm not going to have anything to do with a prayer book."

As Wiesenthal turned to walk away, Rabbi Silver touched him on the shoulder and gently said in Yiddish, "*Du dummer* (you silly man). Why do you look at the Jew who used his *siddur* to take food out of starving people's mouths? Why don't

you look at the many Jews who gave up their last piece of bread in order to be able to use a *siddur*? That's faith. That's the true power of the *siddur*." Rabbi Silver then embraced him.

"I went to the services the next day," said Wiesenthal.

Israel Q & A

Why is Israel maintaining its illegal blockade of Gaza and imposing collective punishment on Gaza's civilians?

Hamas, the racist terrorist organization controlling Gaza, is violating international law and inflicting collective punishment on both Palestinian and Israeli civilians. The hard fact is that Hamas (whose charter calls for the murder of Jews and "obliteration" of Israel) is engaged in a genocidal war against Israel and has fired over 17,000 rockets and mortars at Israeli civilians since 2005, when **Israel completely withdrew from the area**. The UN Palmer Report confirmed that Israel's blockade to prevent weapons transfers is legal and appropriate under international law. In past years the Red Cross and who reported that there was no humanitarian crisis in Gaza, in part because Israel facilitates the weekly shipment of thousands of tons of aid. The blockade merely requires Israeli inspection of shipments to ensure that terrorist groups are not importing weaponry. Gaza experienced significant economic growth in previous years even with the blockade, but Palestinians will not be able to fully prosper until Hamas ends its war against Israel.

How can Israel claim it no longer occupies Gaza when it controls Gaza's airspace, waters, and borders?

Israel has had no presence in Gaza since 2005. Gaza is ruled exclusively by Palestinians and also shares borders with Egypt, where Israel has no control. Hamas, which controls Gaza, is in an ongoing state of war with Israel, constantly targeting innocent Israelis with rocket fire. Israel controls its own borders with Gaza, along with Gaza's airspace and coastline, to protect civilians and stop Hamas and its affiliates from importing weapons for terrorism. When the government of Gaza is no longer at war with Israel, these measures will become unnecessary, and the Gaza Strip, which is located on the same beautiful

Mediterranean coast as Tel Aviv, will be able to flourish.

Does Israel use disproportionate force during its military operations?

The legal term "disproportionate force" does not refer to equivalence in casualties or weaponry but to military actions that cause more civilian harm than is warranted by the military gains. Knowing that civilians always suffer from wars, Israel has practiced restraint despite Hamas' relentless attacks against Israeli citizens, though most countries would not tolerate even one rocket attack. Israel has been widely praised for attempting to minimize harm to Palestinian civilians during military operations by warning of impending attacks, aborting operations if civilians are in target zones, and ensuring delivery of humanitarian goods. Israel's policies prompted British military expert Col. (ret.) Richard Kemp to testify that Israel does more "to safeguard the rights of civilians in a combat zone than any other army in the history of warfare." Conversely, Israel's terrorist enemies use Palestinians as human shields, fight from civilian centres, and target Israeli civilians, tragically increasing civilian casualties.

Does Israel practice apartheid?

Israel is the opposite of an apartheid state. It is a multicultural democracy and the only free country in the Middle East according to the human rights watchdog Freedom House. Labelling Israel an "apartheid state" justifiably offends Israelis and victims of real apartheid regimes. Israeli law enshrines equal rights for all citizens, and minorities participate fully in public life. While Israel, like other multi-ethnic democracies, struggles with disadvantages its minorities face, its laws try to eradicate inequality. Nor does Israel practice apartheid in the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians are not citizens of the Jewish state, and the vast majority do not want to be. They are governed by their own leaders—Hamas and the Palestinian Authority—and wish to have self-determination in their own state. Israeli measures like checkpoints and the security barrier do not exist to separate people based on religion or ethnicity but rather to protect Israeli civilians of all backgrounds from racist terrorist groups. When Palestinian leaders say yes to peace, these measures will become unnecessary.

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