



**שבת פרשת האזינו**  
**SHABBAT PARSHAT HAAZINU**  
**13 TISHREI/SEPTEMBER 22**

Haftorah is Samuel II: 22:1-51. Do not say either **אב הרחמים** or **צדקתך צדק**. Final time for Kiddush Levanah is Sat. night, Sept. 22, unless necessary, in which case it can be said until the second night of Succot until 2:39 AM.

**FRIDAY NIGHT**  
**CANDLE LIGHTING - 6:38 PM**  
**MINCHA - 6:40 PM**  
**TZAIT - 7:41 PM**

**SATURDAY**  
**YOUTH HASHKAMA - 8:15 AM**  
**SHACHARIT MAIN - 9:00 AM**  
**LAST KRIAT SHEMA - 9:46 AM**  
**GEMARA SHIUR - 5:20 PM**  
**MINCHA - 6:20 PM**  
**SHKIA - 6:54 PM**  
**SHABBAT ENDS - 7:39 PM**

**סוכות**  
**SUKKOT**  
 15 /16 TISHREI, SEPTEMBER 24/25

**SUNDAY NIGHT**  
**CANDLE LIGHTING - 6:34 PM**  
**MINCHA - 6:40 PM**  
**TZAIT - 7:37 PM**

**MONDAY**  
**HASHKAMA - 8:15 AM**  
**SHACHARIT MAIN - 8:45 AM**  
**LAST KRIAT SHEMA - 9:47 AM**  
**MINCHA - 6:30 PM**  
**SHKIA - 6:51 PM**  
**MAARIV - 7:20 PM**  
**CANDLES - NOT BEFORE 7:36 PM**

**TUESDAY**  
**HASHKAMA - 8:15 AM**  
**SHACHARIT MAIN - 8:45 AM**  
**LAST KRIAT SHEMA - 9:47 AM**  
**MINCHA - 6:30 PM**  
**SHKIA - 6:49 PM**  
**MAARIV/HAVDALAH - 7:34 PM**

**נא לא לדבר בשעת התפילה**  
**PLEASE NO CONVERSATION DURING SERVICES**



**WEEKDAY DAVENING INFORMATION**

	Sunday (9/23)	Monday (9/24)	Tuesday (9/25)	Wednesday (9/26)	Thursday (9/27)	Friday (9/28)
<b>Earliest Talit</b>	<b>5:48 AM</b>			<b>5:51 AM</b>	<b>5:52 AM</b>	<b>5:54 AM</b>
<b>Shacharit</b>	<b>8:15 AM</b>			<b>6:00 AM</b>	<b>6:00 AM</b>	<b>6:00 AM</b>
<b>Gedolah</b>	<b>1:19 PM</b>			<b>1:17 PM</b>	<b>1:17 PM</b>	<b>1:17 PM</b>
<b>Mincha - Maariv</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>			<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>Shkia</b>				<b>6:47 PM</b>	<b>6:46 PM</b>	
<b>Tzait</b>				<b>7:32 PM</b>	<b>7:31 PM</b>	



Kiddush this Shabbat is by sponsored by the Goldberg family on the Yahrtzeit of Joan's father, Nathan Weinflash<sup>ר"ע</sup>. May his neshama have an aliya.



Kiddush on the first day of Sukkot is by sponsored by Steve Plotnick, in honor of Nate Schwitzer, and for every other reason he has for sponsoring Kiddush.

Kiddush on the second day of Sukkot is sponsored by the Winchester family in memory of Steve's mother Helen<sup>ר"ע</sup>, Miriam Hendl bat Shimon, on the seventh Yahrzeit. May her neshama have an aliya.



**שמחת תורה** Simchat Torah Kiddush! We can't pull this off without you! To become a Platinum sponsor for \$100 or a general sponsor for \$36, please contact Steve at [seplotnick@gmail.com](mailto:seplotnick@gmail.com). Please assist with setup, and let Gail know she can count on you. Single malt scotch donations are always appreciated. Sponsors to date on page 2.

Mazel tov to the Shirley & Avi Vann on the birth of a great grandson, **דניאל בן ברוך**, to Boruch and Bracha Vann.  
**גדלוהו לתורה ולחופה ולמעשים טובים**  
 May they raise him to Torah, chupah and good deeds.



**SUKKAH HOP** Sukkah hop on the 1st day of Sukkot, Mon., Sept. 24, is as follows: (1) Brenenson sukkah, 24 Rutgers Ter., at 4:30 PM & (2) Greene sukkah, 40-19 Marie Ct., at 5:30 PM. Thank you to our hosts!



## Kiddush Information

- ☆ If you are around when the Rabbi says “על המחיה”, your assistance in clean up would be appreciated.
- ☆ To sponsor a Kiddush (\$1000/\$613/\$318 plus scotch) send an email to [gplotnick@aol.com](mailto:gplotnick@aol.com).

## Adult Education



- ☆ GEMARA SHIUR - One hour before Mincha, through the first Shabbat in November.
- ☆ DAYTIME TORAH VOYAGES - Thursdays at 2:00 PM.
- ☆ FUNDAMENTALS OF JEWISH THOUGHT - After Kiddush.
- ☆ PEREK ON THE LAWN, Pirkei Avot Periodic Shiur.

## Men's Club

- ☆ October 28 (Sunday) - Avraham Groll from JewishGen.Org will discuss "History of Jews in Poland".

*Please dedicate a Rosh Hashana or Yom Kippur Machzor for only \$36 (or one of each for \$72). Your donation in honor of a family member or in memory of a loved one will be acknowledged on the inside cover, and it will ensure that everyone has a Machzor for the Yomim Noraim next year. Email Jeff Safier at [robysafier@gmail.com](mailto:robysafier@gmail.com) to donate.*

## Gita Cooperwasser ע"י

### Youth Program

- ☆ Youth groups are back, starting at 10:00 AM!
- ☆ Oct. 14 - Apple picking, petting zoo and hayride extravaganza, meeting at 10:30 AM at Demarest Farms, Hillsdale, NJ. For more info, email [programmingaa@gmail.com](mailto:programmingaa@gmail.com).



### Tot Shabbat and TOT SUKKOT

- ☆ 10:40 AM, with the Shabbat reading featuring story teller Gail Plotnick, and Sukkot featuring surprise guests.



### Children's Hakafot

20th Annual Children's Hakafot will be held in the Sylvia Latkin י"א Sukkah, 4:30 PM, Shemini Atzeret, Monday, October 1 (inside if raining). Singing, dancing, treats and divrei Torah by a human-sized Leviathan. We conclude with the "Farewell to Sukkah" Yehei Ratzon.



## Ahavat Achim Future Events

- ☆ Sept. 29 - Seudat Shilishit is sponsored by the Brooks family in memory of Michele's father, צבי בן יהודה, Herman Plotnik ע"י.
- ☆ Oct. 12 - Oneg Shabbat series in memory of Jonathan Garfunkel ע"י resumes at the Garfunkel home, 8:30 PM.
- ☆ Oct. 13 - Suedah Shlishit sponsored by David & Lori Garfunkel in memory of Jonathan ע"י, and Betsy & Marty Sonnenblick on Yahrzeit of Betsy's father חיים יהודה בן ירמיהו, Howard Perlmutter ע"י.
- ☆ Oct. 27 - Youth Taking Over, Sharsheret Pink Seudat Shelishit, sponsored by sponsored by Kira & Andrew Wigod.
- ☆ Dec. 15 - Reuvain Brenenson Bar Mitzvah
- ☆ Mar. 9 - Yachad/Yavneh Shabbaton

## Community Events

- ☆ Oct. 20 – **Beer Tasting & Sale**, with a beer spectrum from Pilsners to Stouts. All tasting beers will be available for sale at a discount. \$20 ticket includes \$5 towards beer purchases (in association with B&B Liquors). Sat. night, 8:30 PM, at Darchei Noam. RSVP at [Beer Tasting](#).

### SIMCHAT TORAH KIDDUSH SPONSORS TO DATE

**Platinum:** Garfunkel, Heller, Plotnick, Spier & Winchester  
**Sponsor:** Baron, Borsuk, Dubin, Goldgur, Greenbaum/Goldman, Greene, Katter, Kor, Lang, Lewissohn, Racenstein, Rein, Riskin, Smedresman, Sonnenblick, Strich, Wasserman, Wechsler, K& A Wigod, Wigod family & Zezon.

### TODAH RABAH!

Thank you to Joyce Heller and Robyn Safier for their hard work in preparing this year's yizkor book of remembrance. If you have any comments or corrections, please send an email to [rjsafier@optonline.net](mailto:rjsafier@optonline.net). [Textual corrections need the Rabbi's approval.]



### Points To Ponder

- ☆ 1st. (Shabbat Table Discussion) What are the 4 qualities we ascribe to Hashem in the opening statement we make about God in verse 4?
- ☆ 2nd. What is the overall message and purpose of this aliyah?
- ☆ 5th. In this aliyah - how and in what context is the word "tzur", rock, used?
- ☆ 7th. What does Moshe want the Torah to be for the Jewish people?

### Answers to Points To Ponder

- ☆ 1st. 1. Rock - God's steadiness; 2. Just - in all His actions; 3. Faithful - that God has faith (in whom?); 4. Righteous and Fair (do those things conflict?)
- ☆ 2nd. Recognizing God through His historical connection to the Jewish people
- ☆ 5th. The persecutors will ask how God could be a "tzur", a rock if the Jewish people are being persecuted
- ☆ 7th. Chayechem - their lives and the source of their longevity (32:47)

### SPECIAL MUSICAL HALLEL!

There will be a special musical Hallel on the 1st day of Sukkot!



## Ahavat Achim's Second Annual Fine Food Auction!

We need 20 volunteers to sign up to make a dish (in the future). Got a favorite salad? Homemade challah? Rum cake (hint, hint)? Now's your chance to help make someone else's shabbat meal special and benefit Ahavat Achim! Even if you're away for Yom Tov, you can still donate a dish!

We will auction off the dishes during kiddush on Simchat Torah! All proceeds will go the shul. Buyer and seller will agree on a date for delivery within 3 months of Simchat Torah. If you're planning to be away for Yom Tov, but something tickles your fancy, you can delegate bidding to someone else on your behalf so there's no need to miss out! Bidding starts at \$10/dish!

Questions? Contact Randi Spier ([randi.spier@gmail.com](mailto:randi.spier@gmail.com) or 201-777-0731) or Beth Wechsler ([beth.berman@aya.yale.edu](mailto:beth.berman@aya.yale.edu) or 201-835-4657).



Sisterhood Annual Coat Drive, for Center For Hope and Safety, will be Sunday, November 4 (Mitzvah Day in Bergen County), 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, 36-02 Hale Pl., Fair Lawn. Gently worn, not torn, outer garments for all ages. For more info, contact Audrey at [bickelar@aol.com](mailto:bickelar@aol.com).



The Sisterhood is looking for vibrant dedicated women to take over its leadership reins, shape it in accordance with their vision, and prepare it to serve the next generation of women in the shul. Please step up, speak to Aryeh, and let's keep the momentum going!

## SUPPORT YOUR SHUL

### Donate a Sefer, etc.

The shul has Siddurim & Machzorim (\$36) and Chumashim (\$54) available to be donated. Please contact Jeff Safier at [robysafier@gmail.com](mailto:robysafier@gmail.com) for details.

### Yahrzeit Plaques

Memorialize a loved one with a plaque for \$300 for members and \$450 for non-members. We will also endeavor to send you written notice of an upcoming yahrzeit, mention your loved one's name during the public Yizkor and list the yahrzeit in the Bulletin once a year. For more information, email Larry at [lardavbern@gmail.com](mailto:lardavbern@gmail.com).

### Scrip

Scrip is available from Men's Club. Email David at [dmgarfunkel@gmail.com](mailto:dmgarfunkel@gmail.com). Pay using Paypal ([treasurer@ahavatachim.org](mailto:treasurer@ahavatachim.org)) or use Discover, MasterCard or Visa - email [treasurer@ahavatachim.org](mailto:treasurer@ahavatachim.org) for details.

### Mishebairach

If you've made a Mishebairach you've pledged to give Tzedakah on behalf of those for whom you asked Hashem's blessing. Contributions to the shul are appropriate and can be made via Paypal to [treasurer@ahavatachim.org](mailto:treasurer@ahavatachim.org), or via MasterCard, Visa or Discover by sending info to Steve Winchester (contact him at [treasurer@ahavatachim.org](mailto:treasurer@ahavatachim.org)). If by check indicate on its face "Aliyah Donation."

### David Schwitzer<sup>TM</sup> Social Hall

Please contact Ben Lang at [bmmnpl@aol.com](mailto:bmmnpl@aol.com) to book the David Schwitzer<sup>TM</sup> Social Hall for an event or special occasion. \$250 per simcha (members)/\$325 for Associates/\$400 paid in advance for non-members, plus the cost of any additional clean up (plus a \$150 security/cleaning deposit refunded when the social hall is returned in the condition it started in). Private caterers must be approved in advance by the Rabbi.

### Men's Club

Please contact Elliot Greene at [MensClub@AhavatAchim.Org](mailto:MensClub@AhavatAchim.Org) to join the Men's Club.

### Honoraria

Contributions to acquire honoraria in memory or honor of a loved one are welcome. The available Honoraria list will be provided upon request by contacting Steven Plotnick at [seplotnick@gmail.com](mailto:seplotnick@gmail.com).

### Mitzvah Cards

Want mitzvah cards, contact Eita Latkin at 791-8940 or [parentsof3@aol.com](mailto:parentsof3@aol.com). Cost is \$3 per card. Also can be ordered in bulk - ten cards for \$25, which you send out yourself privately.

## SUPPORT YOUR SHUL

## PREPARATION FOR SUKKOT

A man who would be exempt from living in the Succah is not exempt from building a Succah. One should purchase a fine set of the Four Species (Lulav — palm branch, Etrog — citron, Haddassim — myrtle, and Arovot — willow).

Etrog — The Etrog should be free of holes, thin blister-like protrusions or discoloration. Be sure that the Etrog is not the product of grafted branches.

Lulav — The central leaf that emanates from the spine, whose end is the highest point of the Lulav, must be whole (not split or clipped), straight and green. Minimum length of Lulav's spine is four handbreadths (ד' טפחים).

Haddassim — Take three stems of Haddassim, majority of each covered with groups of three leaves from the same rung. Each stem should be at least three handbreadths (ג' טפחים) long. Most leaves should be intact.

Arovot — We take two Arovot, each reddish in color, whose leaves are long and smooth (not jagged) at the edges. Each stem should be at least three handbreadths (ג' טפחים) long. Most of the leaves should be intact.

Bind the Lulav, Haddassim, and Arovot together. Haddassim to the right of the Lulav and Arovot to the left of the Lulav when the back of the spine is facing the person holding the Lulav. Make two (some make three) additional rings out of the leaves of the Lulav and place them on the Lulav higher than the Haddassim and Arovot.

## ערב סוכות - EREV SUKKOT

We bathe (many immerse in a Mikveh), and make preparations in honor of the Yom Tov. Candles are lit in the Succah and the Brachot "להדליק נר של יום טוב" and "שהחיינו" are said.

## סוכות - SUKKOT

We say אושפיזין in the Succah. We may not make Kiddush on the first two nights before the appearance of three small stars. Kiddush for Yom Tov.

On the first two nights one is obligated to eat in the Succah. Even if one suffers distress as a consequence of being in the Succah, or if it rains, one should eat at least an olive's size (כזית) of bread in the Succah (however one should not make the Bracha "לישב בסוכה" if it is raining). On the other nights, and during the days, anyone who suffers distress from rain or from any physical condition or malady is exempt from staying in the Succah.

The entire seven days of Succot, one should eat, drink, and spend his free time in the Succah. Snacks, such as a quantity of bread up to the size of an egg, or fruit of any quantity, need not be eaten in the Succah. One who strives, out of his dedication to the Mitzvah, to do all of his eating and drinking in the Succah will be rewarded, especially if all of his meals with family and friends are eaten in a Succah. In the colder climates, one is exempt from sleeping in the Succah.

When one does not make Kiddush he should make the Bracha "לישב בסוכה" after "המוציא", and he should intend that this Bracha apply to all of his activities in the Succah until the next meal.

The Bracha over the Four Species is: "...וצונו על נטילת לולב..." and on the first day, שהחיינו. The Brachot are made with the Etrog held with the pitum facing down so that the Mitzvah is first performed in its proper manner after the Bracha, when the Etrog is held correctly (pitum facing up). Hold the Etrog in the left hand, and the Lulav with the other species in the right hand, with the back of the Lulav's spine facing the holder. When the Four Species are held properly, they are shaken three times back and forth in front of the person, three times to his right, behind him, to his left, above, and downward.

## חול המועד - CHOL HAMOED

If one forgets to say יעלה ויבא, but remembers before מודים, say it before מודים. If one began מודים and then remembers that he forgot ויבא יעלה, he returns to the beginning of רצה. If one steps backward after Shemonah Esrei [or even if he had only said the second: "יהי לרצון אמרי" "פי" before moving his feet], he repeats Shemonah Esrei. By Birkat HaMazon, if one omitted ויבא יעלה and remembered after concluding the third Bracha ("בונה ירושלים"), but did not begin the fourth Bracha ("האל-אבינו") he should say the compensatory Bracha: "...אשר נתן...". If he began the fourth Bracha, on Yom Tov he must begin again because of the omission of יעלה ויבא, except on Chol HaMoed when one does not have to repeat Birkat HaMazon if he forgot יעלה ויבא.

According to Nusach Sefard & Vilna Gaon, Tefillin is not worn during Chol HaMoed. If you wear Tefillin do so without Brachot (some say the Brachot inaudibly).

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Ahavat Achim Membership/ Hospitality

Contact Arnie at [aspier@verizon.net](mailto:aspier@verizon.net) for membership details. For Shabbat hospitality contact Melanie at [mkwestel@gmail.com](mailto:mkwestel@gmail.com).

### Bikkur Cholim/Chesed Committee

If someone needs a visit/assistance, contact Sara at [saralevine06@gmail.com](mailto:saralevine06@gmail.com) or Mary Lisa at [kenkatter541@gmail.com](mailto:kenkatter541@gmail.com).

### Personal Announcements

Various life cycle events related to members are announced in the bulletin (e.g., births, bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings and deaths, as well as travel to/from Israel to study). We also welcome new members. Other personal announcements are not appropriate except as part of the bulletin's dedication (a \$36 cost - \$54 with photo).

### Numbers & Info

☆ ERUV – To subscribe for updates, email [fairlawneruv@groups.io](mailto:fairlawneruv@groups.io). Check status at <https://groups.io/g/fairlawneruv> or call 201-254-9190.

☆ MIKVAH – 201-796-0350. At Shomrei Torah, 9 PM–10:30 PM, Motzei Shabbat from 1¼ hours after Shabbat ends for 1½ hours. Kaylim Mikvah: Sun. 10 AM–3 PM

☆ TWITTER: [AhavatAchimFL](https://twitter.com/AhavatAchimFL)

☆ FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/groups/ahavat.achim/](https://facebook.com/groups/ahavat.achim/)

☆ INSTAGRAM: [instagram.com/ahavatachimfl/?hl=en](https://instagram.com/ahavatachimfl/?hl=en)

☆ FLICKR: [flickr.com/photos/ahavatachim/albums](https://flickr.com/photos/ahavatachim/albums)

### Shul Calendar

☆ To add events to the shul calendar email Larry at [lardavbern@gmail.com](mailto:lardavbern@gmail.com)

# Tot Shabbat Parents & Me:

For kids 5 and under  
Starting at 10:40 AM

STORY TIME, TEFILLAH, SHABBAT SONGS  
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קהילת  
אהבת אחים  
Congregation  
Ahavat Achim  
Fair Lawn, NJ

Info: [totshabbataa@gmail.com](mailto:totshabbataa@gmail.com)



Join us for a family fun  
Sunday of apple picking, a  
petting zoo and a hayride

Sunday, October 14, 2018  
Meeting at the farm 10:30 AM

Demarest Farms  
244 Wierimus Rd,  
Hillsdale, NJ 07642



Jewish Federation presents

# **FED** Talks: Israel

## **Nitsana Darshan-Leitner**

Named by **Israeli Forbes** magazine as one of the  
"50 most influential Israeli women"

**Monday**

**October 29**

7:30 pm

**Jewish Federation**

**50 Eisenhower Drive, Paramus**

Light Refreshments

**Register Today!**

**[www.jfnnj.org/fedtalks](http://www.jfnnj.org/fedtalks)**

\$10

Nitsana Darshan-Leitner is an Israeli attorney, human rights activist and the founder of Shurat HaDin Israeli Law Center. She has been leading the legal fight against terror financing, the anti-Israel boycott campaigns (BDS) and combating the multitude of lawfare tactics utilized against the Jewish State by its enemies. Ms. Darshan-Leitner assisted in blocking the Gaza Flotilla and terminated efforts to indict IDF soldiers for war crimes.

**Ariella Noveck**

**[AriellaN@jfnnj.org](mailto:AriellaN@jfnnj.org)**

201-820-3946



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**October 31 - November 18, 2018**

**Tickets and Information**

[www.jfnnj.org/filmfestival](http://www.jfnnj.org/filmfestival)

**Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door**

[joyceg@jfnnj.org](mailto:joyceg@jfnnj.org) • **201-820-3907**

**Committee** Suzette Diamond (Chair), Lauri Bader, Susan Benkel, Ariella Drori, Nancy Eichenbaum, Etti Inbal, Nina Kampler, Donna Kissler, Joan Krieger, Lynn Karpo-Lantz, Gail Loewenstein, Jo Resnick Rosen, Marian Salamon, Ava Silverstein, Wendy Zuckerberg



**Jewish Federation**  
OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

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This program is made possible in part by a grant administered by the Bergen County Division of Cultural & Historic Affairs from funds granted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.



**SCAFFOLDING**

פיגומים

**Wednesday, October 31**

Teaneck Cinemas



**BENEATH THE SILENCE**

הלומים

**PLUS SHORT FILM**

**STANDUP**

סטנד-אפ

**Tuesday, November 13**

Teaneck Cinemas



**OUTDOORS**

בית בגליל

**Monday, November 5**

Wayne YMCA



**HEADING HOME**

**PLUS SHORT FILM**

**GETTING SERIOUS**

אוברדוס

**Tuesday, November 6**

Warner Theater, Ridgewood



**SHELTER**

מסתור

**Wednesday, November 14**

Warner Theatre, Ridgewood

**Thursday, November 15**

United Synagogue of Hoboken



**THE TESTAMENT**

העדות

**Thursday, November 8**

Teaneck Cinemas



**THE CAKEMAKER**

האופה מברלין

**Sunday, November 11**

Hamilton House, Jersey City

**Sunday, November 18**

Kaplan JCC on the Palisades, Tenafly

All films begin at **7:30 pm**

Tickets and Information [www.jfnnj.org/filmfestival](http://www.jfnnj.org/filmfestival)

# COVENANT & CONVERSATION

LIFE-CHANGING IDEAS IN THE PARSHA WITH RABBI SACKS



[www.rabbisacks.org](http://www.rabbisacks.org)

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*I am deeply touched that Covenant & Conversation has been generously sponsored by The Maurice Wohl Charitable Foundation in memory of Maurice and Divienne Wohl ז"ל. Maurice was a visionary philanthropist on a vast scale, driven throughout his life by a sense of Jewish responsibility. Divienne was a woman of the deepest humanity and compassion, who had a kind word for everyone. Together, they were a unique partnership of dedication and grace, for whom living was giving. Through their Charitable Foundation, they continue to bring blessings to Jewish communities around the world.*

— RABBI LORD JONATHAN SACKS



## Emotional Intelligence

Ha'azinu 2018 / 5779

In March 2015 I had a public conversation at Yale with the University's President Peter Salovey. The occasion was quite an emotional one. It celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the Marshall Scholarships, created by the British parliament as a way of expressing thanks to the United States for the Marshall Plan, that helped Western Europe rebuild its economies after the Second World War. The scholarships fund outstanding young Americans to study at any university in the United Kingdom. So the gathering that evening was about the links between Britain and the United States, and the role of universities in cultivating that generosity of spirit, epitomised by the Marshall Plan, that understands the need to build peace, not just wage war.

But it had another emotional resonance. Yale is one the world's great universities. Yet there was a time, between the 1920s and 1960s, when it had a reputation for being guarded about, even quietly hostile to, the presence of Jews among its students and staff. Happily that has not been the case since 1960 when its President, A. Whitney Griswold, issued a directive that religion should play no role in the admissions process. Today it is warmly welcoming to people of all faiths and ethnicities. Noting that fact, the President pointed out that not only was Yale that afternoon hosting a rabbi, but he too – Salovey – was Jewish and the descendant of a great rabbinic dynasty. Salovey is an Anglicisation of the name Soloveitchik.

Thinking back to that occasion, I wondered whether there was a more than merely family connection between the university president and his great distant relative, Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, the man known to generations of his students at Yeshiva University as simply, "The Rav." Was there an intellectual and spiritual link also, however oblique?

There is, and it is significant. Peter Salovey's great contribution to the thought of our time is the concept he formulated together with John Mayer in a landmark 1989 article, namely *emotional intelligence* – popularised in 1995 by Daniel Goleman's best-selling book of the same title.

For many decades, IQ, or intelligence quotient, focused attention on a set of cognitive and reasoning tests as the primary measure of intelligence, itself considered as the best indicator of ability as, for example, a military officer. It took another brilliant Jewish psychologist of our time, Howard Gardner (of Harvard), to break this paradigm and argue for the idea of multiple intelligences. Solving puzzles is not the only skill that matters.

What Salovey and Mayer did was to show that our ability to understand and respond to not only our own emotions but also those of others is an essential element of success in many fields, indeed of human interaction in general. There are fundamental elements of our humanity that have to do with the way we feel, not just the way we think. Even more importantly, we need to understand how *other people* feel – the gift of empathy – if we are to form a meaningful bond with them. That is what the Torah is referring to when it says, “Do not oppress a stranger because *you know what it feels like* to be a stranger” (Ex. 23:9).

Emotions matter. They guide our choices. They move us to action. Intellect alone cannot do this. It has been a failing of intellectuals throughout history to believe that all we need to do is to think straight and we will act well. It isn't so. Without a capacity for sympathy and empathy, we become more like a computer than a human being, and that is fraught with danger.

**“Emotions matter. They guide our choices. They move us to action. Intellect alone cannot do this.”**

It was precisely this point – the need for emotional intelligence – about which Rabbi Soloveitchik spoke in one of his most moving addresses, ‘A Tribute to the Rebbetzin of Talne.’ People, he said, are mistaken when they think there is only one Mesorah, one Jewish tradition handed on through the generations. In fact, he said, there are two: one handed down by fathers, the other by mothers. He quoted the famous verse from Proverbs 1:8, “Listen, my son, to the instruction of your father (*mussar avikha*), and do not forsake the teaching of your mother (*torat imekha*).” These are two distinct but interwoven strands of the religious personality.

From a father, he said, we learn how to read a text, comprehend, analyse, conceptualise, classify, infer and apply. We also learn how to act: what to do and what not to do. The father-tradition is “an intellectual-moral one.” Turning to “the teaching of your mother,” Soloveitchik became personal, speaking of what he learned from his own mother. From her, he said:

I learned that Judaism expresses itself not only in formal compliance with the law but also in a living experience. She taught me that there is a flavour, a scent and warmth to *mitzvot*. I learned from her the most important thing in life – to feel the presence of the Almighty and the gentle pressure of His hand resting upon my frail shoulders. Without her teachings, which quite often were transmitted to me in silence, I would have grown up a soulless being, dry and insensitive.

To put it in other words: *Torat imekha* is about *emotional intelligence*. I have long felt that alongside Rabbi Soloveitchik's great essay, *Halakhic Man*, there was another one he might have written called *Aggadic*

*Woman*. Halakhah is an intellectual-moral enterprise. But aggadah, the non-halakhic dimension of rabbinic Judaism, is directed to the broader aspects of what it is to be a Jew. It is written in narrative rather than law. It invites us to enter the minds and hearts of our spiritual forebears, their experiences and dilemmas, their achievements and their pain. It is the emotional dimension of the life of faith.

Speaking personally, I am disinclined to think of this in terms of a male-female dichotomy. We are all called on to develop both sensibilities. But they are radically different. Halakhah is part of *Torat Cohanim*, Judaism's priestly voice. In the Torah, its key verbs are *le-havdil*, to distinguish/analyse/categorise, and *le-horot*, to instruct/guide/issue a ruling. But in Judaism there is also a prophetic voice. The key words for the prophet are *tzedek u-mishpat*, righteousness and justice, and *hesed ve-rahamim*, kindness and compassion. These are about I-Thou relationships, between humans, and between us and God.

The priest thinks in terms of universal rules that are eternally valid. The prophet is attuned to the particularities of a given situation and the relationships between those involved. *The prophet has emotional intelligence*. He or she (there were, of course, women prophets: Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Abigail, Huldah and Esther) reads the mood of the moment and how it relates to longstanding relationships. The prophet hears the silent cry of the oppressed, and the incipient anger of Heaven. Without the law of the priest, Judaism would have no structure or continuity. But without the emotional intelligence of the prophet, it would become, as Rav Soloveitchik said, soulless, dry and insensitive.

Which brings us to our parsha. In Ha'azinu, Moses does the unexpected but necessary thing. *He teaches the Israelites a song*. He moves from prose to poetry, from speech to music, from law to literature, from plain speech to vivid metaphor:

Listen, heavens, and I will speak;  
and let the earth hear the words of my mouth.  
May my teaching fall like rain,  
my speech flow down like dew;  
like gentle rain on tender plants,  
like showers on the grass. (Deut. 32:1-2)

Why? Because at the very end of his life, *the greatest of all the prophets turned to emotional intelligence*, knowing that unless he did so, his teachings might enter the minds of the Israelites but not their hearts, their passions, their emotive DNA. It is feelings that move us to act, give us the energy to aspire, and fuel our ability to hand on our commitments to those who come after us.

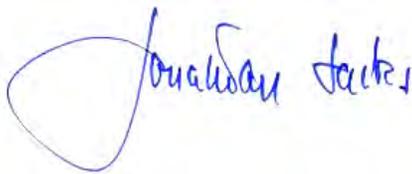
**“At the very end of his life,  
the greatest of all the  
prophets turned to  
emotional intelligence...”**

Without the prophetic passion of an Amos, a Hosea, an Isaiah, a Jeremiah, without the music of the Psalms and the songs of the Levites in the Temple, Judaism would have been a plant without water or sunlight; it would have withered and died. Intellect alone does not inspire in us the passion to change the world. To do that you have to take thought and turn it into song. That is *Ha'azinu*, Moses' great hymn to God's love for His people and

his role in ensuring, as Martin Luther King put it, that “the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice.” In Ha’azinu, the man of intellect and moral courage becomes the figure of emotional intelligence, allowing himself to be, in Judah Halevi’s lovely image, the harp for God’s song.

This is a life-changing idea: *If you want to change lives, speak to people’s feelings, not just to their minds.* Enter their fears and calm them. Understand their anxieties and allay them. Kindle their hopes and instruct them. Raise their sights and enlarge them. Humans are more than algorithms. We are emotion-driven beings. Speak from the heart to the heart, and mind and deed will follow.

Shabbat Shalom



### LIFE-CHANGING IDEA #48

*If you want to change lives, speak to people’s feelings, not just to their minds.*

## LIFE-CHANGING IDEAS IN SEFER DEVARIM

- **DEVARIM:** If you seek to change someone, make sure that you are willing to help them when they need your help, defend them when they need your defence, and see the good in them, not just the bad.
- **VA’ETCHANAN:** To make love undying, build around it a structure of rituals.
- **EIKEV:** Listening is the greatest gift we can give to another human being.
- **RE’EH:** Never define yourself as a victim. There is always a choice, and by exercising the strength to choose, we can rise above fate.
- **SHOFTIM:** To lead is to serve. The greater your success, the harder you have to work to remember that you are there to serve others; they are not there to serve you.
- **KI TEITSE:** Never be in too much of a rush to stop and come to the aid of someone in need of help.
- **KI TAVO:** Make sure the story you tell is one that speaks to your highest aspirations, and tell it regularly.
- **NITZAVIM:** Don’t wait for the world to get better. Take the initiative yourself. The world is waiting for you.
- **VAYELECH:** Whatever your achievements, there is always a second mountain to climb, and it may turn out to be your greatest legacy to the future.
- **HA’AZINU:** If you want to change lives, speak to people’s feelings, not just to their minds.



Jonathan Sacks  
The Office of Rabbi Sacks

For more material from Rabbi Sacks, or to join his mailing list, please visit [www.rabbisacks.org](http://www.rabbisacks.org)

The Office of Rabbi Sacks, PO Box 72007, London, NW6 6RW  
+44 (0)20 7286 6391 • [info@rabbisacks.org](mailto:info@rabbisacks.org) • [www.rabbisacks.org](http://www.rabbisacks.org)

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