



Welcome to the DAT Minyan!

Shabbat Nachamu (Va'Etchanan)

August 17, 2019 - 16 Av 5779

Joseph Friedman, Rabbi | Mark Raphaely, President



Candle Lighting
(earliest) 6:29p

(latest) 7:37p

Havdalah 8:37p

Shabbat Schedule

(All services take place in the BMH-BJ Fisher Hall,
560 S. Monaco Pkwy)

Please help make our prayer service more meaningful
by refraining from talking during the service.

FRIDAY

6:15 pm: Mincha / Kabbalat Shabbat / Maariv

(Shema should be recited after 8:38 pm)

SHABBAT

Parasha: Page 958 / Haftarah: Page 1196

7:50 am: Hashkama Minyan

8:20 am: Daf Yomi

Tefillah Warm-up with Ellyn Hutt is on break
until August 24th

9:00 am: Shacharit, with Derasha by Rav
Binyamin Hutt following Musaf

(Shema should be recited before 9:38 am)

Kiddush is co-sponsored by Glenn and Corina
Zazulia in honor of the Aufruf of their son,
Aharon, and Lawrence and Lisa Stroll on the Bat
Mitzvah of their daughter, Zahava

HS Boys' Gemara Class with Nathan Rabinovitch
will not meet this Shabbat

7:30 pm: Mincha followed by Seudah Shlisheet
with presentation by Rav Binyamin Hutt

8:37 pm: Maariv / Havdalah

Weekday Schedule

(Weekday services Sunday through Friday morning
take place at DAT School, 6825 E. Alameda Ave.)

**Please note: This will be the final week for early
davening (Plag). We will return to Shekiyah
davening times beginning 8/25.**

SHACHARIT

Sunday: 8:00 am

Monday and Thursday: 6:30 am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 6:35 am

MINCHA/MAARIV

Monday through Friday: 6:10 pm

D'var Torah with Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Near the end of Va'etchanan is a statement with such far-reaching implications that it challenges the impression that has prevailed thus far in the Torah. This remark gives an entirely new complexion to the biblical image of the people Israel: "The Lord did not set His affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you are the fewest of all peoples" (**Deut. 7:7**).

This is not what we have heard thus far. In Genesis, God promised the patriarchs that their descendants would be like the stars of the heaven, the sand on the seashore, the dust of the earth, uncountable. Abraham will be the father, not just of one nation but of many. At the beginning of Exodus we read of how the covenantal family, numbering a mere seventy when they went down to Egypt, were "fertile and prolific, and their population increased. They became so numerous that the land was filled with them" (**Ex. 1:7**). Three times in the book of Deuteronomy, Moses describes the Israelites as being "as many as the stars of the sky" (1:10; 10:22; 28:62). King Solomon speaks of himself as being part of "the people You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number" (**I Kings 3:8**). The prophet Hosea says that "the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted" (**Hos. 2:1**).

In all these texts and others it is the size, the numerical greatness, of the people that is emphasized. What then are we to make of Moses' words that speak of its smallness? Targum Yonatan interprets it not to be about numbers at all but about self-image. He translates it not as "the fewest of all peoples" but as "the most lowly and humble of peoples." Rashi gives a similar reading, citing Abraham's words, "I am but dust and ashes" (**Gen. 18:27**), and Moses and Aaron's, "Who are we?" (**Ex. 16:7**).

Rashbam and Chizkuni give the more straightforward explanation that Moses is contrasting the Israelites with the seven nations they would be fighting in the land of Canaan/Israel. God would lead the Israelites to victory despite the fact that they were outnumbered by the local inhabitants. Rabbeinu Bachya quotes Maimonides, who says that we would have expected God, King of the universe, to have chosen the most numerous nation in the world as His people, since "the glory of the King is in the multitude of people" (**Prov. 14:28**). God did not do so. Thus Israel should count itself extraordinarily blessed that God chose it, despite its smallness, to be His *am segula*, His special treasure.

Rabbeinu Bachya finds himself forced to give a more complex reading to resolve the contradiction of Moses, in Deuteronomy, saying both that Israel is the smallest of peoples and "as many as the stars of the sky" (**Gen. 22:17**). He turns it into a hypothetical subjunctive, meaning: *God would still have chosen you, even if you had been the smallest of the peoples.*

Sforno gives a simple and straightforward reading: God did not choose a nation for the sake of His honour. Had He done so He would undoubtedly have chosen a mighty and numerous people. His choice had nothing to do with honour and everything to do with love. He loved the patriarchs for their willingness to heed His voice; therefore He loves their children.

Yet there is something in this verse that resonates throughout much of Jewish history. Historically Jews were and are a small people – today, less than 0.2 per cent of the population of the world. There were two reasons for this. First is the heavy toll taken through the ages by exile and persecution, directly by Jews killed in massacres and pogroms, indirectly by those who converted – in fourteenth- and fifteenth-century Spain and nineteenth-century Europe – in order to avoid persecution (tragically, even conversion did not work; racial antisemitism persisted in both cases). The Jewish population is a mere fraction of what it might have been had there been no Hadrian, no Crusades, and no antisemitism.

The second reason is that Jews did not seek to convert others. Had they done so they would have been closer in numbers to Christianity (2.4 billion) or Islam (1.6

(Continued on Page 2)

We kindly ask you to pay any outstanding balances owed to the shul from last year. Please call the shul office or pay online after logging into your account at www.datminyan.org. Dues for the first half of our new fiscal year have now been posted to all applicable accounts. Thank you!

DAT Minyan is a dynamic and friendly Modern Orthodox synagogue for all ages and dedicated to meaningful personal spiritual development, community growth, youth involvement, Torah education, and Religious Zionism.

DAT Minyan - 560 S. Monaco Pkwy., Denver, CO 80224 - 720-941-0479 - www.datminyan.org

D'VAR TORAH CONTINUED

Rabbi Sacks (Continued from Page 1)

billion). In fact, Malbim reads something like this into our verse. The previous verses have said that the Israelites were about to enter a land with seven nations, Hittites, Gergashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. Moses warns them against intermarriage with the other nations, not for racial but for religious reasons: "They will turn your children away from following Me to serve other gods" (**Deut. 7:4**). Malbim interprets our verse as Moses saying to the Israelites: Do not justify out-marriage on the grounds that it will increase the number of Jews. God is not interested in numbers.

Notwithstanding all these interpretations and explanations, Tanach itself offers one extraordinary episode that sheds a different light on the whole issue. It occurs in the seventh chapter of the book of Judges. God has told Gideon to assemble an army and do battle with the Midianites. He gathers a force of 32,000 men. God tells him, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against Me, 'My own strength has saved me'" (**Judges 7:2**).

God tells Gideon to say to the men: Whoever is afraid and wishes to go home may do so. Twenty-two thousand men leave. Ten thousand remain. God tells Gideon, "There are still too many men." He proposes a new test. Gideon is to take the men to a river and see how they drink the water. Ninety-seven hundred kneel down to drink, and are dismissed. Gideon is left with a mere three hundred men. "With the three hundred men that lapped [the water] I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands," God tells him (**Judges 7:1-8**). By a brilliant and unexpected strategy, the three hundred put the entire Midianite army to flight.

The Jewish people are small but have achieved great things to testify in themselves to a force beyond themselves. It has achieved things no other nation its size could have achieved. Its history has been living testimony to the force of Divine Providence and the impact of high ideals. That is what Moses meant when he said: Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created human beings on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of? Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived? Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes? (**Deut. 4:32-34**)

Israel defies the laws of history because it serves the Author of history. Attached to greatness, it becomes great. Through the Jewish people, God is telling humankind that you do not need to be numerous to be great. Nations are judged not by their size but by their contribution to human heritage. Of this the most compelling proof is that a nation as small as the Jews could produce an ever-renewed flow of prophets, priests, poets, philosophers, sages, saints, halachists, aggadists, codifiers, commentators, rebbes, and *rashei yeshivot*. It has also yielded some of the world's greatest writers, artists, musicians, filmmakers, academics, intellectuals, doctors, lawyers, businesspeople, and technological innovators. Out of all proportion to their numbers, Jews could and can be found working as lawyers fighting injustice, economists fighting poverty, doctors fighting disease, teachers fighting ignorance, and therapists fighting depression and despair.

You do not need numbers to enlarge the spiritual and moral horizons of humankind. You need other things altogether: a sense of the worth and dignity of the individual, of the power of human possibility to transform the world, of the importance of giving everyone the best education they can have, of making each feel part of a collective responsibility to ameliorate the human condition. Judaism asks of us the willingness to take high ideals and enact them in the real world, unswayed by disappointments and defeats.

This is still evident today, especially among the people of Israel in the State of Israel. Traduced in the media and pilloried by much of the world, Israel continues to produce human miracles in medicine, agriculture, technology, and the arts, as if the word "impossible" did not exist in the Hebrew language. Israel remains a small nation, surrounded, as in biblical times, by "nations larger and stronger than you" (**Deut. 7:1**). Yet the truth remains, as Moses said: "The Lord did not set His affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you are the fewest of all peoples."

This small people has outlived all the world's great empires to deliver to humanity a message of hope: you need not be large to be great. What you need is to be open to a power greater than yourself. It is said that King Louis XIV of France once asked Blaise Pascal, the brilliant mathematician and theologian, to give him proof of the existence of God. Pascal is said to have replied, "Your Majesty, the Jews!"

Jonathan Sacks

This Day in Jewish History - 17 Aug / 16 Av

- ✧ **August 17, 1790** - The Hebrew Congregation External of Newport, Rhode Island, presents a congratulatory address to the recently inaugurated President George Washington on the occasion of his visit to their city. Both the address, written by first generation Jewish-American Moses Seixas, and Washington's response appeared together in several newspapers. The documents summarize Seixas' intent to secure assurances from Washington regarding religious freedom and establish Washington's clearest intention to provide the first presidential affirmation of the free and equal status of Jewish-American citizens.
- ✧ **16 Av 5506 (1946)** - The British government issues an order that all illegal immigrants bound for Palestine be deported to camps on the island of Cyprus. According to the terms of the British White Paper of 1939, immigration to Palestine was limited to 75,000 Jews over a period of 5 years. But at the end of World War II, many Holocaust survivors had nowhere else to go but Palestine, and the numbers of them exceeded what the British would allow. As a result, the camps were set up in Cyprus as an interim solution. Despite British naval blockades of the ports in Palestine, some immigrant ships made it through but most did not. The Exodus is the most famous immigrant ship from this era.
- ✧ **August 17, 1978** - Jewish aviator Larry Newman, together with fellow flyers Ben Abruzzo and Maxie Anderson, complete the world's First Manned Transatlantic Balloon Flight, when they land their Double Eagle II in a barley field near Paris after taking off six days earlier from Presque Isle, Maine. For their accomplishment, the trio was awarded the United States Congressional Gold Medal. Three years later, Newman also participated as one of the crew of the first-ever manned balloon crossing of the Pacific. After launching a successful hang gliding company, and later becoming a commercial airline pilot, Newman succumbed to pancreatic cancer in 2010.

Please help make our prayer service more meaningful by refraining from talking during the service.

DAT MINYAN NEWS, EVENTS AND MILESTONES

- ✧ Mazal Tov to **Aharon Zazulia**, and parents **Glenn and Corina**, on Aharon's Aufruf this morning! Baruch Hashem, the wedding to **Aviva Rosen** will take place on Monday in Passaic, New Jersey. Today's kiddush is co-sponsored by the Zazulias in Aharon's honor.
- ✧ Mazal Tov to **Zahava Stroll**, and parents **Lawrence and Lisa**, on Zahava's Bat Mitzvah this morning! Today's kiddush is also co-sponsored by the Strolls in honor of Zahava.
- ✧ **The Hashkama Minyan** invites the congregation to join them following their Shabbat morning services for a Krispy Kreme doughnut kiddush in the Library.
- ✧ On Thursday evening, Aug 29th, the DAT Minyan will be conducting its initial **Active Shooter Threat and Response Training (ASTRT)**, initially for those members who are concealed weapon carriers, as well as for medical professionals who want to learn the sort of combat emergency care needed following an Active Shooter incident. Later, the training will expand to other groups, as well. Time and location TBA.
- ✧ When **mailing correspondence to the DAT Minyan**, kindly use the 560 S. Monaco address that is shown on our website and in the Newsletter. Since our offices are at the Monaco address, and with the DAT School receiving sporadic mail delivery during the summer break, this will help to assure we receive mailed items from you on a timely basis.
- ✧ Thank-you to all of those who contribute to our Shabbat services by signing up to help with our **weekly leining**. We remain in need of continued help with this and all able-leiners are encouraged to please volunteer! In addition, with a goal of expanding our roster of Haftarah readers, we have now opened up the weekly Haftarah portions for sign-up as well. The sign-up website is www.datminyan.org/leining. Slots are open from now until Rosh Hashanah. Please contact **Steve Hutt** for questions and additional information.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✧ **Rabbi Aver and Chavi Jacobs** invite the community to a Kiddush at Kehilas Bais Yisroel celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Eliyahu**. The Kiddush will take place this week, Shabbos Nachamu after davening. We look forward to sharing each other's שמחות!
- ✧ The Hakamos Matzevah for **Burton Kaplan** will take place on Sunday, August 18th, 10:00 am at Rose Hill Cemetery.
- ✧ The unveiling for **Susan Flaxer Zalkin** will take place on Sunday, August 25th, 11:00 am at Mount Nebo Memorial Park.
- ✧ **Keshet of the Rockies** invites you to their **16th Annual Fundraiser Dinner**, on Sunday, September 8, 2019, at 6 pm, at BMH-BJ Synagogue (560 S. Monaco Pkwy). Honorees: Max and Yael Miller. Keynote Speaker: Justice Richard Bernstein. Students of the Year: Rachel Bulow (Denver Academy of Torah), Drew Kaplan and Lavi Trujillo (Denver Jewish Day School), and Atara Lustig (Hillel Academy). More information and reservations: Lola Zussman at [303.961.4186](tel:303.961.4186) or lolashe@aol.com.
- ✧ **The CELL** invites the community to a national security event, **"Tensions on the Rise,"** Wednesday, September 11th, 7:00 pm at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House at the Denver Performing Arts Complex. The event features **General Stanley McChrystal**, former Commander of the US and International Forces in Afghanistan, **The Honorable Ed Royce**, former US Congressman and Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, **Ambassador Christopher Hill**, former US Ambassador to Iraq and the Republic of Korea, and **Tom Sanderson**, co-founder of the Transnational Threats Project at CSIS. The program also features a special 9/11 tribute hosted by **Governor Jared Polis** and **Mayor Michael B. Hancock**. Reserve tickets at: <https://www.axs.com/events/378977/colorado-remembers-9-11-tickets>.

DAT Minyan acknowledges the following milestones* of our members this Shabbat and in the coming week:



Robert Allen, Carmielle Bean, Devra Caplan, Talya Feldman, Rabbi Joseph Friedman, Rabbi Marc Gitler, Chana Katz, Ellie Perlmutter



Rabbi Joseph and Melissa Friedman - 34 years
Joseph and Naomi Miriam Miller - 8 years
Steven and Lorie Weiser - 17 years

Larry and Erica Gray - 35 years
Daniel and Rebecca Mogyoros - 15 years
Glenn and Corina Zazulia - 22 years



Laurie Lightstone, Sun., 8/17/19 (16 Av)

Dora Lustig, Fri., 8/23/19 (22 Av)

**These details were obtained from the DAT Minyan database, which contains information provided by the members when they joined. We apologize for any omissions or errors. For changes, please log on to your account and update the information as needed, or contact the synagogue office at 720-941-0479.*

THANK YOU FOR INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH YOUR GENEROSITY

We would like to thank our Legacy Society donors for investing in our future by naming the DAT Minyan with a gift in their will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy. Our Legacy Society includes:

Rob Allen
Graeme and Irit Bean
Myndie Brown
Steve and Ellyn Hutt
Nathan and Rachel Rabinovitch
Mark and Sarah Raphaely
Harley and Sara Rotbart
Michael Stutzer
Steve and Lori Weiser



LIVE ON
BUILD YOUR JEWISH LEGACY
An initiative of
ROSE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Please help make our prayer service more meaningful by refraining from talking during the service.

EDUCATIONAL AND YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Learning Opportunities @ the DAT Minyan

- **Kitzur Shulchan Aruch:** Daily, after Shacharit
- **Daf Yomi Shiur (30 min):** after Shacharit on Sun through Fri , and 8:20 am on Shabbat
- **Mishnayot:** Daily, between Mincha and Maariv
- **“Short & Sweet Talmud Class” (30 min-never longer):** Wed, 9:20 am, DAT Minyan offices at BMH-BJ (men only)



Our Junior Congregation program is on summer break, but will return in the fall. ALL youth groups meet at 9:00 am.

Our “Morning Motivation” Program for teens is on break for the next few months, but will return at the end of the summer.



If you or someone you know (college age and above) is interested in working in the Youth Groups Program, please contact Mor at youth@datminyan.org.

Important Security Reminder

For the safety and security of everyone attending the DAT Minyan, we ask that all children either be in **attendance at one of our childrens’ programs or with a parent AT ALL TIMES** when in the building. Children may not be left unescorted to roam hallways or attend BMH-BJ Shabbat programs and events unless accompanied by an adult.

Refuah Shelayma

Please include the following names in your prayers. May each be granted a Refuah Shelayma. Names are kept on the list until the next Rosh Chodesh. Help us keep the list accurate by verifying the necessary details each month on the Cholim Document at <https://goo.gl/aeYJG2>.

Bella bat Malka

Chaim Zev ben Sarah

Eliyahu Chaim ha Cohen ben Sara Rifka

Eliyahu Dovid ben Ita Sheiva

Leibel ben Harriet

Levick Yitzchak ben Bracha

Leya bat Sara

Mascha bat Rus

Mayer Benya ben Nechama

Mendel Ila ben Frida Miriam

Michel ben Leah

Michoel Zisel ben Barbara

Mordechai ben Chaya Chana

Raphael Lior ben Miriam

Roshka bat Bryna

Shoshanah bat Miriam