

Shabbat

Friday 6th September 2019

Candle Lighting	5.22pm
Maariv	6.15pm

Shabbat 7th September 2019

Shacharit	9.00am
Mincha	5.05pm
Maariv	6.18pm

A word from the Rabbi

“When you come to a land that Hashem has given you and you inherit it, you will say ‘I will set a king over me like the nations that are around me...’”

This week’s Parsha deals with the appointment of a king. It is understood that this is a command and that, albeit unusual, the Torah understands the need for a monarchy beyond pure Rabbinic and prophetic guidance.

In the book of Samuel, we read of the realization of this command.

“The elders of Israel gathered and came to Samuel....‘Make for us a king to judge us like all other nations.’

But the matter displeased Samuel when they said ‘Make for us a king to judge us’ and he prayed to Hashem. Hashem answered ‘Grant their request for it is not you that they have rejected but Me.’”

The entire episode is rather perplexing; on the one hand we have an explicit command to appoint a king, then on the other hand we see both Samuel and Hashem disappointed at the need for that very king?

The Kli Yakar, Rabbi Slomo Ephraim Luntschitz (1550-1690) Rabbi of Prague, comments that the difference between the two cases is a subtle nuance in language.

The command in our Parsha is ‘I will place a king over me’ whereas the request made to Samuel was to ‘Make a king for us’.

There is a prepositional difference – ‘over’ or ‘for’.

Leadership in a democratic society is nearly impossible to achieve. Our politicians have to constantly look at the polls to determine their agenda. Popularity amongst voters is the key to getting elected. This presents a significant challenge when trying to lead, especially when the electorate doesn’t want to be led, or at least led in the direction that the leader wants to take them.

The Torah commands us to establish a king that would rule over us. His decisions would be final, unquestioned and loyally obeyed, regardless of the individual’s

concerns as to their correctness. The people in the time of Samuel requested a king 'for' themselves, a king that would be directed by the people. The king's popularity would ensure his tenure, not his leadership.

It is this challenge that we encounter regularly - are we prepared to be led? The Torah demands that we hold onto the coat tails of leaders with wisdom, courage and integrity - and then to follow them wholeheartedly, even if their decisions at times seem difficult to digest.

As it is with kings, so is it with the King of kings. Hashem cannot be understood and therefore religion is not a democratic election. Hashem does not need to be popular. That being said, we as individuals need to search for our King in this month of Elul, and when we have found Him, follow his lead.

Shabbat shalom

We wish a hearty Mazal Tov on your Bar/Bat Mitzvah Anniversary to:

Daniel Bukofzer
Evan Fittinghoff
Teagan Israelsohn
Alexa Silber

Robyn Cohen
Gabriel Fittinghoff
Ariella Novis
Peter Zinn

David Evian
Sam Goldin
Daniel Sacharowitz

We wish a hearty Mazal Tov on your Wedding Anniversary to:

Brett and Valerie Bergheim
Stan and Rolene Schneider

Michael and Jacqui Gordon

We wish long life to the following Members who commemorate Yartzeit this week:

Susan Kahan
Minna Johnson
Cherrise Levitan
Harry Bauer
Eleanor Fine
Roslyn Glaser
Mary Blitz
Hilary Gruenewald
Helen Silber
Adrian Goodman
Gerald Johnson
Carni Goldberg
Stanley Pogorelsky
Sherna Teperson
Stanley Rosen
Simone Rutovitz and
Helene Shofer
Wendy Ginsberg
Brian Solomon
Amanda Gordon

for her mother
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Helen Ashberg
Etta Balkind
Norman Barkhan
Irma Bauer
Harry Berghaus
Anne Boner
Solomon Casper
Woolf Emdin
Audrey Ende
Joshua Goodman
Miriam Johnson
Helen Miller
Mildred Pogorelsky
Philip Resnik
Rhea Rosen

Rebecca Sage
Dave Seligman
Malcolm Solomon
Monty Solomon



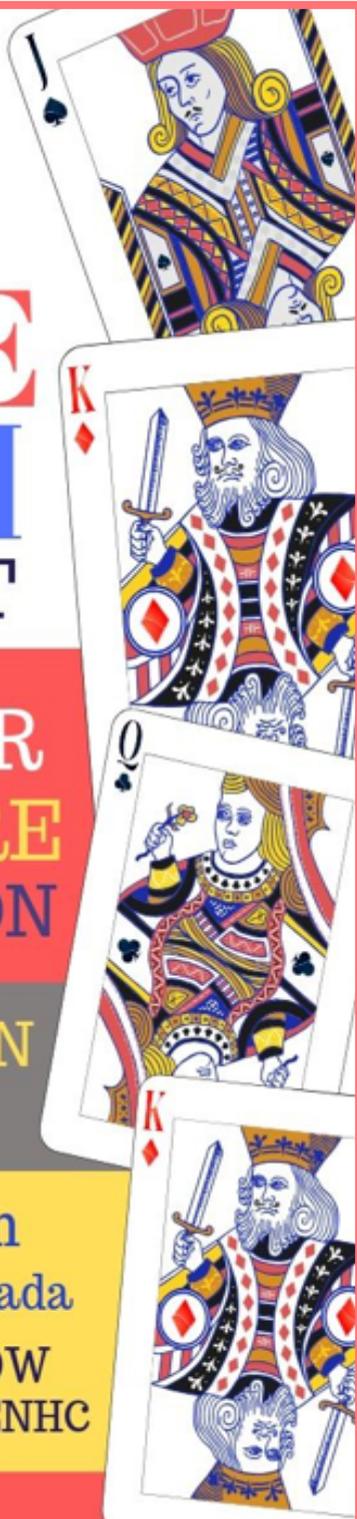
BRIDGE & KALUKI CARD NIGHT

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15th September 5pm
Teperson Hall Kehillat Masada

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Israel Update

**With Yair Miller OAM
UIA Chief Executive Officer**



**Dates for Israel Update:
September 13th & 27th.**