Shevat 17

Aliyah	Etz Hayim	Book Chapter:Verse	Reader
Kohein(Rishon)	403-404	Exodus 14:15-14:20	David Keet
Levi(Sheni)	404-405	Exodus 14:21-14:25	David Keet
Shlishi	405-412	Exodus 14:26-15:21	David Keet
Revi'i	412-414	Exodus 15:22-15:26	David Keet
Chamishi	414	Exodus 15:27-16:3	David Keet
Shishi	414-415	Exodus 16:4-16:7	David Keet
Shevi'i	415-416	Exodus 16:8-16:10	David Keet
Maftir	415-416	Exodus 16:8-16:10	David Keet
Haftarah	426-431	<u>Judges 5:1 - 5:31</u>	Brenda Belkin

Announcements

Thank everyone who helped with services. Show the Celebrate! Havdalah @ 5:57 pm on January 27.

- Adult Ed class Hybrid on alternate Mondays, 12-1 pm continues February 5
 Understanding Torah through the teachings of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z"I
- Sisterhood Book Club January 31st at 7pm. Please RSVP to the office for address.
- Or Shalom Game Night February 15th from 7-9. Please RSVP to office for the address.
- Please sign up using the SignupGenius links in the weekly email if you plan to attend services.

Prayer for Kidnapped Israelis

By Exploring Judaism

Aḥeinu kol beit yisrael, For all our family of the House of Israel, fellow Jews who face anguish and captivity, whether on sea or on land:

May the Divine have compassion upon them, and bring them from distress to relief, from darkness to light, from subjugation to redemption, now, speedily, soon, and let us say: Amen

Shomer Yisrael, Guardian of Israel,

We call out to You with fervent plea and prayer to bless and protect the civilian men, women, and children brutally kidnapped by Hamas and held captive in Gaza, along with the members of Israel's Defense Forces missing in action or held captive.

May it be Your will, speedily and soon, to bring them out from darkness and the shadow of death. May the Holy One of Blessing break their bonds, deliver them from their distress, and release them swiftly back to the loving embrace of their dear ones.

Do all that must be done so that relief, rescue, and long life may be the lot of every one of the soldiers and the civilians who have been taken hostage.

Act on their behalf, Lord. Take up their cause without delay, so that You fulfill through them Your verse from Isaiah: "Those redeemed by the Lord will return; they will enter Zion with singing, and everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away."

So may it be Your will, and let us say: Amen.

Hamas Hostage Profile: Ziv and Gali Berman, 26



Twins Ziv and Gali Berman were abducted from Kibbutz Kfar Aza on October 7th. Their elder brother, Liran, wasn't on the kibbutz on October 7th because his wife had tested positive for Covid-19, so he didn't join the family for Sukkot. Their parents, Talia, 60, and Doron, 64, were freed after hours of gun battles between Hamas and Israeli security forces. Older brother Idan

was released at 3pm the following day. Then, after 10 days, came news that kindled an unexpected optimism: "Israeli officers came and told us that, with 99.9% guarantee, that they were kidnapped by Hamas. It meant they were still alive.

"We are still living on that hope. It's the only thing we have left." Since then, the family has heard nothing.

The twins did everything together, Liran Berman said. They worked as light technicians together at a sound and light company, traveled the world together, supported the same soccer team, and went to the games together. "They are the light of every room they enter," he added.

Liran has been to the US Congress, European Parliament, and has met with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak "to speak to whoever will listen to me." He added, "I have two little kids, but I'm not a father right now, nor a husband."

"We don't know if they are together, or injured, or if what I'm doing is futile because they've already been killed."

• Hamas Hostage Profile: Shiri Bibas, 32, Ariel Bibas, 4, Kfir Bibas, 1 year

Shiri and Yarden Bibas, and their young sons Ariel and Kfir were kidnapped on October 7th from the Nir Oz kibbutz. Kfir was the youngest hostage taken by Hamas. Shiri's parents were also abducted from the Kibbutz but were later found murdered.

On January 18th, Kfir Bibas had his first birthday while being held captive. In Tel Aviv, hundreds of demonstrators brought orange balloons to a rally for Kfir and the other remaining hostages to celebrate what cousin Yosi Shnaider called "the saddest birthday in the world."

The infant with red hair and a toothless smile has become a symbol across Israel for the helplessness and anger over the 136 hostages still in captivity in Gaza. Since video emerged shortly after the attack showing the brothers swaddled in a blanket around their terrified mother with gunmen surrounding her, orange has come to represent the family across Israel. But to some relatives, it brings pain as well as hope and recognition.

"I wish we were having balloons of every color and not just orange," Shnaider said. "I can't even look at this color orange anymore."

Under a weeklong temporary cease-fire in November, Hamas released 105 hostages — including foreign workers, women, children and teens — but Shiri Bibas and her sons were not among them. Yarden Bibas, who was taken captive separately, appears in photos to have been wounded during the abduction.

Hamas claimed several weeks ago, without presenting evidence, that Shiri Bibas and her sons were killed in an Israeli airstrike. The Israeli military has said it has not verified the claim.

Since the November releases, some freed hostages have been speaking out, hoping to pressure the government into reaching another deal. At their gathering, too, the Bibas family's relatives pleaded with the Israeli government and international leaders to come to an agreement that would allow for the release of more hostages.

"There's two children being held over there against all of the laws of wars, and the world doesn't say anything. Where are all the leaders of the modern world?" Shnaider asked. "We need a deal, we need to free all 136 hostages, without exceptions."

Tomer Keshet, a cousin of Yarden Bibas, said he can't look at his own children without thinking of Kfir and Ariel, scared in a dark tunnel somewhere in Gaza.

"The last time I met Kfir, he had just learned how to crawl," he said. "We were holding him and just keeping him close."