

HBHG TEAM NEWSLETTER



3000 YEARS OLD, 73 YEARS YOUNG



On Thursday, it was the State of Israel's 73rd Birthday. 73 years since we, the Jewish people, returned home after 2000 years in diaspora. The State of Israel over its lifetime has saved countless Jews from persecution from all around the globe; a second home for any Jew, whoever they may be.

Yom Ha'atzmaut is thus an incredibly joyous day, not only for the citizens of Israel but for every Jew from all around the world. However, the celebrations of Yom Ha'atzmaut follow a day of mourning, Yom Ha'zikaron. We all remembered the soldiers and victims of terror who were killed, may their memories be blessed.



COUNTING THE OMER

Today is the 19th day of the Omer with this week's theme being Tiferet.

The word Tiferet is derived from the Hebrew word pe'er, meaning "beauty". The attribute of Tiferet blends Chesed and Gevura, so that a proper mixture of the two can produce a bearable revelation of Chesed to finite created beings. In other words, Tiferet is the attribute which merges the benevolent flow of Chesed and the restrictive severity of Gevura so that each creature will receive its proper measure of Divine Light and life-force. This is why Tiferet is also called "compassion" or "mercy", for it enables Chesed and Gevura to balance each other so that G-d's benevolence can be absorbed by the limited world without it ceasing to exist.

COMMENT PIECE BY DANIEL DUTCH

DEFI

This week, the Sixth Form Economics Society was provided the wonderful opportunity to attend a talk by Fabian Miller regarding decentralised currencies. This exceptionally insightful presentation educated the students on the alternative world of DEFI, and its potential to replace, and reform, the currently used financial systems.

Mr Miller explained that the inefficiencies of centralised transactions, alongside the poor management from those in control, were motives for society to give way to a more liberating, unrestricted method of payments and transactions. After guiding us through his PowerPoint, the keen attendees of the talk asked him various questions surrounding the overall topic, as well as enquiries surrounding his career and forecasts for the future. It was evident that the students found the topic especially fascinating, due to it not being a part of their conventional economics specification.

A huge thank you to Chloe Miller, Mia Wilson, Izzie Solomon and Arielle Collis for arranging the talk, and to Fabian Miller for taking the time to make and present it.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

GIFT: Giving is a great way to help others and to feel good! Find out the many ways to help, here.

5 WAYS WE CAN PRACTICE TIFERET:

- 1) Memoir writing.
- 2) Hebrew calligraphy.
- 3) Creating patchwork kaleidoscope challah covers.
- 4) Delving into ancient Jewish texts relevant to contemporary mind/body approaches to mental health.
- 5) Ethical/moral decision making about our food choices.

Counting the Omer

Week 3, *Tiferet*
Beauty, compassion



DVAR TORAH BY RABBI CHALK

Parashat Tazria – Metzora

In this week's Parasha, we are told in great detail about Tzaraat, a spiritual affliction that affects a person's house, clothes or body. When a person gets Tzaraat on their bodies, they are deemed as spiritually impure and condemned to sit by themselves outside the city walls. Not only that, but if anyone starts approaching them, they have to shout out that they have Tzaraat and are ritually impure.

This seems quite harsh. Why do we treat someone with Tzaraat like this? Is it not enough that they have the affliction? Why do they need to sit outside the city and tell everyone that they have Tzaraat?

To answer this, we need to know why a person may get Tzaraat. The Rabbis tell us that a reason for getting Tzaraat is because we spoke badly of someone else. We have to realise that our words have consequences. A reaction to what we say can very well be the other person being ostracised by their family, friends and peers. Lashon Hara may seem harmless, but it can have far reaching repercussions.

Through the affliction of Tzaraat the Torah is letting the afflicted feel first-hand what could happen because of what they did. The state of being alone and no-one wanting to be near you. Becoming the social pariah that you tried to do to the other person. The Torah is teaching us to be mindful of other people's feelings.

Last week we heard the news of the tragic loss of HRH Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh. Prince Phillip was a man dedicated to duty to his country and a great friend of the Jewish community. He was also known for his light spirited comments and 'gaffes' when meeting people. But these comments were no mistake. He was extremely mindful that meeting a person of his stature could be uncomfortable for most, so he took it upon himself to break the tension and put everyone at ease.

Let us all take the lesson of Tzaraat and from the Duke of Edinburgh to be mindful of other people's feelings the same way we would want them to be mindful of ours.

Shabbat Shalom

Shabbat starts at 19:44 on the 16th of April and 20:51 on the 17th of April.

FINAL WORDS OF THE WEEK

This week, we commemorated two days, both integral to the Hebrew calendar. On Wednesday Yom Ha'zikaron, Israel's memorial day was recognised. A siren sound inspired awe and sanctity amongst the entire school, alongside the poignant Tekes compiled by the Israeli embassy in collaboration with JFS.

As active representatives within the community, we see much importance in remembering and cherishing the lives of those who have heroically sacrificed themselves for Medinat Yisrael and ensure our tributes are paid accordingly.

The sacrifice of Yom Ha'zikaron was followed by the glory of Yom Ha'atzmaut, fostering a proud and celebratory atmosphere. The blasting Israeli music, activities, dancing (socially distanced) and food felt like the ideal way to remind us of our inherent Zionist ethos and why we are all so proud to be Jews today.

**Stay safe and Shabbat Shalom,
from your HBHG Team**

Chloe Fouladbaksh

Jake Gilbert

Eden Field

Daniel Grossman

Chloe Miller

Saadiah Klein

