



# The Mount Sinai Keshar

Tevet Edition - Hanukkah 5770

December 11-12, 2009 • 25 Kislev, 5770 • Parashat Vayeshev • Shabbat Mevarchim • Shabbat Hanukkah

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## Shabbat Schedule

Early Mincha	3:00 p.m.
Hanukkah Candles	before 4:10 p.m.
Candle Lighting	4:10 p.m.
Mincha	4:15 p.m.
Shacharit	7:00, 9:00 a.m.
Kri'at Shema before	9:30 a.m.
Rabbi Schwartz's Gemara shiur	3:00 p.m.
Mincha	3:50 p.m.
<i>Seuda Shlishit following Mincha</i>	
<b>Women's Shiur</b>	<b>4:20 p.m.</b>
<i>Speaker: Dassie Naiman</i>	
<i>Topic: "Why I sometimes have three birthdays, and other interesting calendar facts."</i>	
Shkia	4:27 p.m.
Maariv/Shabbat ends	5:15 p.m.

## Tefillah Schedule Week of December 13th

<i>Shacharit</i>	
Sunday	7:30, 8:30, 9:00 a.m.
Mon., Tues., Wed.	6:45, 7:15, 8:00 a.m.
Thurs., Fri. (ראש הודש)	6:30, 7:10, 8:00 a.m.
<i>Mincha/Maariv</i>	
Sunday - Thursday	4:15 p.m.
<i>Maariv</i>	
Sunday - Thursday	10:00 p.m.
<i>Next Shabbat, Parashat Mikeitz</i>	
Early Mincha	3:00 p.m.
Candles	4:12 p.m.
Mincha	4:17 p.m.

*NOTE: 8:30 Shacharit and 4:15 p.m. Mincha/Maariv on Sunday will be in the Main Shul.*

## Sponsorships

The **ERUV** is sponsored by **Walter and Karla Spier** with thanks to Hashem.

The **KESHER** is not sponsored this week.

**SEUDA SHLISHIT** is co-sponsored by:

- **Eva Cohen** in memory of Rachel Ratze bat Elimelech
- **Edith Linden** in memory of Gershon ben Avraham

The **SHABBAT MEVARCHIM KIDDUSH** is sponsored:

- Anonymously in honor of Mount Sinai's most eligible bachelor: Avi Steinberg

### Additional Contributors:

- In honor of Dr. Dassie Naiman, by her friends
- Anonymous, thanking God for freedom of religion
- The Colemans, in honor of Rabbi and Dr. Schwartz on their first 100 days in office
- Birthday sponsors: Ari Oxman and Avi Narrow-Tilonsky
- Evan "Tex" & Susanne Rosenhouse, in honor of their First Wedding Anniversary. See, proof SawYouAtSinai does work...

*Thank you, Mt. Sinai Community, for your love and support during our difficult time.*

**- Eva Cohen and family**

## Rabbi Schwartz's Office Hours

Monday:	9:00 -10:00 p.m.
Wednesday:	approx. 9:30 -10:30 p.m. (after the 8:45 p.m. shiur)

## Tot Shabbat



Tot Shabbat has been postponed to next week. We look forward to seeing you there!

There will be a **General Membership Meeting** on **December 20th**, at 10am in the Beit Midrash. Members must be in good standing to attend.



**Welcome to all 11 new members who signed up this week at Saturday Night Sundaes!**

*Please send all announcements by 5pm on Wednesday to office@mtsinaishul.com and bulletin@mtsinaishul.com.*



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## *President's Perspective*

Our next general membership meeting is scheduled for one week from this Sunday, on December 20th at 10:00am. As you know, these meetings are one of the best opportunities for us to get together as members of the shul and brainstorm on different ideas of how to continue to improve our beit kneset. At every meeting we've had, new ideas have been raised, and new volunteers have been matched up with opportunities to suit their interests. I hope you will join us next week.

At the first meeting I ran, a year and a half ago, two common themes were raised. One, people wanted more transparency as to what the board is doing. Two, people wanted the shul's constitution to reflect the current reality and values of our members, which are different from what they were twenty years ago in this shul. For the last few months, we have been publishing the decisions of the board after the meeting. The latest one appears in this Keshet. We hope this has helped make the board more transparent. If there is something you'd like the board to address, just let me know.

Also, many of you have already been involved in working with the constitution committee, ably led by Adam Steiner, in drafting a new constitution. This was an ambitious project which has been in the works for over a year. The board voted this week to approve the draft. The board must vote once more, and then it will go to the membership for ratification, where it will need a 2/3 vote to pass. You'll be hearing more from Adam soon, and will have a chance to review and comment on it before the vote. I hope you will support this effort, as I believe it goes a long way towards increasing the participation of the membership in deciding the direction of the shul, as well as enabling the shul and the board to operate more effectively.

Best wishes to everyone for a Chanuka Sameach.

*Ben Sandler can be reached at [president@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:president@mtsinaishul.com)*

## *Rebbetzin's Perspective*

During the years that I was heavily involved in the secular academic world, I always found Chanuka a particularly meaningful holiday, for reasons that go beyond my fondness for caramel sufganiyot. After all, Chanuka celebrates the triumph of a small band of Jews who remained faithful to Torah over a far larger contingent that sought to assimilate and assume the culture and behaviors of the ruling Syrian-Greeks. Yet here I was, thousands of years later, a committed Jew, freely choosing to spend my days immersed in a Western intellectual culture that traces itself directly back to those ancient Greeks. If the famous Yehudit of the Chanuka story spoke like a stereotypical Jewish grandmother, she might have asked, "For this I beheaded Holofernes?!"

But the defeat of the Greeks, and of Greek culture, on Chanuka is not the defeat of obliteration or eradication. Chazal repeatedly express their respect for learning and wisdom outside of Torah, and for the learning of the Greeks in particular. As a general rule we are told, "chochma ba'goyim, ta'amin." The Gemara tells us that the only language other than Hebrew in which a Sefer Torah can be written is Greek. The battle of ideas that took place in parallel with the physical battles of Chanuka was not a battle to get rid of secular knowledge and culture. Instead, it was a battle to return them to their proper place. Greek learning didn't need to be wiped out, but neither could it be allowed to drive out belief in Hashem and observance of mitzvot. Within a framework defined by Torah perspectives and practices, Greek learning—the intellectual achievement of the world outside of Torah—not only has a place, it has great value.

Chazal express both of these sides, recognizing the value of Greek culture while ensuring that it remains subordinate to Torah, in their explanation of the pasuk "Yaft Elokim l'Yefet v'yishkon b'ahalei Shem," Noach's bracha to Shem and Yefet at the end of Parshat Noach. One midrashic interpretation has it that God will bless Yefet—Greece—with beauty, but that that beauty will find its proper place and its fullest expression when it dwells in the tents of Shem—the Jewish people and their Torah.

Chanuka, then, is a time to think again about the relationship between the two worlds we inhabit, the world of Torah Judaism and the world of secular Western learning that carries the legacy of Greece. And as we recognize and appreciate the beauty of Yefet, we must do firmly planted in the tents of Shem.

*Dr. Schwartz can be reached at [rebeccapschwartz@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccapschwartz@gmail.com)*

## **Board Update**

- We are happy to welcome Tracy Zhu, who has joined the office staff as a part-time bookkeeper. Tracy will be in the office Mondays and Wednesdays. Please stop by and introduce yourself.
- The Board is also pleased to announce that it has completed the first reading of the draft of the new shul constitution. You will be hearing more about this in the coming days.

## ***This Week at Mt. Sinai***

### **Sunday:**

Family Chanukah Party, 10:30 a.m. Contact: familylife@mtsinaishul.com.

### **Monday:**

Women's Aerobics current session has ended. We will return on January 4th.

Women's Basketball, 9:00 p.m. Contact: Susanne Goldstone, susqhb@gmail.com.

### **Tuesday:**

Shiur by Rabbi Forman is POSTPONED until December 22.

Women's Basketball, 9:00 p.m. Contact: Elie Appleson, elie.appleson@gmail.com.

### **Wednesday:**

Men's Basketball, 8:00 p.m. Contact: Daniel Falik, daniel@danielfalik.com

Class with Rabbi Schwartz, 8:45 p.m. on the Laws of Chanukah.

### **Motza'ei Shabbat:**

Men's Basketball, 5:45 p.m. Contact: Daniel Falik, daniel@danielfalik.com

Chanukah Black and White Trivia Panoply Extravaganza, 8:00 p.m.,. See below for details.

### **Next Sunday:**

Membership Meeting 10:00 a.m. in the Beit Midrash.

Shiur with Rabbi Angel, 7:00 p.m. on Ezra and Nechemia.

### **Black and White Trivia Panoply**

**Next Saturday Night, December 19th!**

**Tickets include team trivia game, dinner, wine, and raffles for great prizes including a Netbook Computer!**

Get more info and register with your team (up to ten people) on the shul website. This event is a fundraiser for the JCC Food Pantry.

Email Aliza Abrams and Rebecca Saidlower at [events@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:events@mtsinaishul.com).

### **Chanukah Supply Sales**

The shul is selling oil and candles for Chanukah.

Candles are \$2/box for small candles.

Oil is \$30/box for a small, and \$32 for a large.

They will be sold during regular office hours.

In addition they will be sold in the office on Sunday from after Mincha until 5 PM

*If you would like to buy candles and cannot do so at these times, please contact the office.*

### **Toy Drive**

Mt Sinai is participating again with Chai Lifeline's Honey Engel Toy Drive through **December 18th**.

Please drop off new and unused toys for children (infant -teens) in the shul or your local building rep.



*If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please contact Yehudis Isenberg and Ariella Furst rellee71@aol.com*

Tizku Lemitzvot!

### **Family Chanukah Party**

This Sunday, December 13th  
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Downstairs in the Multipurpose Room

Parents and children under 5 are invited to join us for...

*Amazing feats of dreidel spinning!*

*The great grab bag of gifts!*

*Renditions of all your favorite Chanukah classics!*

*Yummy food and chocolate coins galore!*

\$15 per family for members, \$18 for non-members

*For more info, email familylife@mtsinaishul.com*

### **Message from the Gabbaim**

Our responsibilities as gabbaim include giving out kibbudim such as davening and aliyot. Thank G-d there are many, many people in the shul. While we do try to give out kibbudim as equitably as possible, even between the three of us, we don't know everyone in shul.

So, if you are a new member, or even a not-so-new member, and would like to daven from the amud, or if you have not received an aliyah in some time, please tell one of us. We are always looking for people who want to be involved in the davening and we want your help.

Also, if you have a question/suggestions/concerns or comments about how the davening is run, please tell us. We're happy to hear what you think, and what you have to say. Please find one of us in shul or contact us at [gabbaim@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:gabbaim@mtsinaishul.com).

*-Yoni Ray, Jeremy Stern, and David Mogilensky*

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**Rabbi:** R' Ezra Schwartz  
**Rabbi Emeritus:** R' Mordecai Schnaidman  
**President:** Ben Sandler  
**Admin. Director:** Jerry Berkowitz

### Office Hours:

Sunday 8:30 - 12:00  
Monday-Thursday 9:30 - 5:00  
Friday 8:30 - 12:00

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