

Parasha Perspectives

At the end of Parshat Vayechi, the Torah records the blessings Yaacov gave to each of his sons before he died. This allows him to give a final harsh word against Shimon and Levi for their actions surrounding the incident with Shechem and Dinah. Many Mefarshim (Ramban, et al) go to great lengths to show that, for various reasons, the people of Shechem were actually deservant of death. Why, then, is Yaacov so upset at what his sons did? The answer, I believe, lies in a Rashi in this week's parsha. In Breishit 49:7, Yaacov states, "Arur Apam," "Cursed be their anger," to which Rashi comments that he cursed their anger but he did not curse them. A Jew does not act out of anger. A Jew acts out of love. We see the way Avraham pleaded with G-d to save residents of Sodom, despite their obvious wickedness. To mete out punishment is G-d's job, not ours. (Obviously, human courts do need to mete out punishment under certain circumstances, but that must follow the proper legal process, and is far different from an individual punishing someone out of their anger.) Yehuda exemplified this trait when he pleaded before Yosef to have mercy on Binyamin, even though all evidence pointed to his guilt. Shimon and Levi's portion in the land of Israel is ultimately scattered throughout the land (Levi throughout the whole land, and Shimon throughout Shevet Yehuda). Levi is well known to have been a tribe of teachers and Rashi tells us that Shimon was as well. As Rashi told us, Yaacov did not curse them personally. They were possessed of a powerful idealism and a clear sense of right and wrong that was important to convey to all of the other tribes. The leadership, though, was always reserved for Shevet Yehuda, who knew how to use this idealism in the context of love and concern for every human being.

David Fried is a first year rabbinical student at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah.

To contribute a Dvar Torah, please email bulletin@mtsinaishul.com

**Mt. Sinai
Jewish Center**
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Rabbi Emeritus: R' Mordecai Schnaidman
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Office Hours:
Sunday 8:30 - 12:00
Mon, -Thurs 9:30 - 5:00
Friday 8:30 - 12:00
212-568-1900 • office@mtsinaishul.com



The Mount Sinai Keshar

January 1-2, 2010 • 16 Tevet, 5770 • Parashat Vayechi

Shabbat Schedule

Candle Lighting	4:21 p.m.
Mincha	4:26 p.m.
Shacharit	7:00, 9:00 a.m.
Kri'at Shema before	9:40 a.m.
Rabbi Schwartz's Gemara shiur	will NOT meet.
Mincha	4:00 p.m.
<i>Seuda Shlishit following Mincha</i>	
Shkia	4:39 p.m.
Maariv/Havdala	5:27 p.m.

Tefillah Schedule Week of January 3rd

<i>Shacharit</i>	
Sunday	7:30, 8:30, 9:00 a.m.
Mon., Thurs.	6:45, 7:20, 8:00 a.m.
Tues., Wed., Fri.	7:00, 7:30, 8:00 a.m.
<i>Mincha/Maariv</i>	
Sunday -Thursday	4:30 p.m.
<i>Maariv</i>	
Sunday - Thursday	10:00 p.m.
<i>Next Shabbat, Parashat Shemot</i>	
Candles	4:27 p.m.
Mincha	4:32 p.m.

*Please send all announcements to
office@mtsinaishul.com and
bulletin@mtsinaishul.com
by 5 p.m. on Wednesday.
Thank you!*

Sponsorships

The **ERUV** is sponsored saying thank you to all those who volunteered and donated for this year's Chai Lifeline Honey Engel Chanukah Toy Drive! You brought in over 100 toys and thousands of smiles. Tizku limitzvot!

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

SEUDA SHLISHT is sponsored by **Norman Strauss** in memory of his father, Max, and co-sponsored by **Ron Lehmann** in memory of his mother, Ruth Lehman - Rachel Bat Aharon.

The Eruv DOES extend across Broadway, but does not extend into Fort Tryon Park. If you are not sure where you can carry, please contact the rabbi or a member of the eruv committee.

Rabbi Schwartz's Office Hours

Monday: 9 p.m.-10 p.m.
Wednesday: Following 8:45pm Shiur (approx. 9:30-10:30pm)



HATZOLA
(212) 230 - 1000
Volunteer Emergency
Ambulance Service

This Week at Mt. Sinai

Monday:

Women's Aerobics, 7:30 p.m. Contact: Anat Coleman, (212) 740 2740. \$10 to try a class.

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

Tuesday:

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.

Shabbat:

Shabbat Mevarchim Women's Shiur, 4:40 p.m. by Devora Khayyat, entitled "Yetziat Mitzrayim: First Cut."

Motza'ei Shabbat:

Men's Basketball, 6:00 p.m. Contact: Daniel Falik, daniel@danielfalik.com

Next Sunday:

Lecture by Rabbi David Silber, 7:00 p.m. entitled "Moshe's Encounter at the Sneh: Redemption and Revelation in Sefer Shemot."

Education Update

- Rabbi Schwartz's shiur will resume this Wednesday at 8:45 p.m.
- Next week there will be a Shabbat Mevarchim Women's Shiur after Mincha at 4:40 p., given by Devora Khayyat, entitled "Yetziat Mitzrayim: First Cut"
- On Sunday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m. Rabbi David Silber will deliver a lecture entitled 'Moshe's Encounter at the Sneh: Redemption and Revelation in Sefer Shemot.

Refuah Shleima

Rabbi Yehuda Hilewitz

Got magazines?

Magazines (less than 10 weeks old) can be dropped in the box outside the Beit Midrash to benefit hospitalized patients.

Please cut out the address labels.

Contact chessed@mtsinaishul.com for more information.



Mazal Tov!

Josh Gottlieb and Rebecca Winter on their engagement.



Family Life Committee

Meals-for-Moms

If you'd like to volunteer to make meals, or if you're expecting and want to sign up for the program, please contact Sura Rozenberg at familymeals@mtsinaishul.com.



Shabbat Morning Children's Playgroup

Mt. Sinai's MPR is open on Shabbat starting at 10 am. Children under 5 are invited to join an informal playgroup.



Please note: EACH CHILD MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES.

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee is now in full swing again!

Join us for Shabbat.

If you can host guests for shabbos, or if you need a meal, please sign up at www.mtsinaishul.com/hospitality by Thursday at 10AM.

If you have any questions, please be in touch with members of the Hospitality Committee, or e-mail shabbosmeals@gmail.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.

-Yoni Ray, Jeremy Stern, and David Mogilensky

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