

Parasha Perspectives

We read in Parashat Vayishlach of Yaakov's encounter with a mysterious man who wrestled with him throughout the night during his trip back to Canaan. The assailant turned out to be an angel, prompting Yaakov to exclaim after his triumph over his attacker, "I have seen God face-to-face, and my life was saved!" (32:30). Yaakov thus named the site "Peniel," or "Face of God."

Yaakov's response to this incident seems to suggest is that he was amazed or startled by his "face-to-face" encounter with an angel of God, that this was something extraordinary. Yet, as we know, this was not Yaakov's first encounter with angels. Besides the prophecies of angels which he beheld in Bet El when he left Canaan, and later in Lavan's home, the Torah writes that Yaakov encountered angels in Machanayim, after his truce with Lavan (32:1). Why did he now marvel over the fact that he has "seen God face-to-face," if this was not the first such encounter?

The Or Ha-chayim explains that Yaakov marveled not over having seen an angel, but rather over having been compelled to fight against an angel. The phrase, "I have seen God face-to-face," according to the Or Ha-chayim, refers specifically to confrontation. The Or Ha-chayim cites in this context a verse from Sefer Melakhim II (14:8) which relates that the Judean king Amatzya challenged the Israelite king Yehoash to a battle, and said, "Lekha nitra'eh panim" (literally, "Let us see each other's faces"). The expression "see a face" in this verse clearly refers to warfare, and thus here in Parashat Vayishlach, too, Yaakov speaks of a confrontation with an angel, rather than simply seeing an angel.

In Yaakov's previous encounters with angels, the angels were sent to assist and protect Yaakov (see, for example, Rashi to 28:12). Now, for the first time, an angel was sent to struggle and fight against Yaakov, and this was the new, unusual phenomenon that Yaakov experienced for the first time at Peniel. Yaakov already experienced the special divine protection that his unique relationship with God afforded him. Now, he saw that his special bond with the Almighty also entailed formidable challenges that he and his descendants would have to confront. People who are granted the ability to "see angels," who live with a sense of spiritual mission and responsibility, will inevitably come upon both kinds of "angels." Am Yisrael's relationship to God brings them unique protection, but also unique challenges. If we want to enjoy the ongoing accompaniment and assistance of protective angels, then we must also be prepared to confront the hostile angels, the many obstacles that often stand in the way of the fulfillment of our mission and threaten to stop us from achieving our goals.

By Rabbi David Silverberg, from the Virtual Beit Midrash (www.vbm-torah.org).

To submit a Dvar Torah to the weekly Keshet, please email bulletin@mtsinaishul.com.

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The Mount Sinai Keshet

December 4-5, 2009 • 18 Kislev, 5770 • Parashat Vayishlach

Shabbat Schedule

Candle Lighting	4:10 p.m.
Mincha	4:15 p.m.
Shacharit	7:00, 9:00 a.m.
Kri'at Shema before	9:24 a.m.
Rabbi Schwartz's Gemara shiur	3:00 p.m.
Mincha	3:50 p.m.
<i>Seuda Shlishit following Mincha</i>	
Shkia	4:27 p.m.
Maariv/Havdala	5:15 p.m.
Saturday Night Sundaes	7:30 p.m.

Tefillah Schedule Week of December 6th

<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	4:15 p.m.
<i>Maariv</i>	
Sunday - Thursday	10:00 p.m.
<i>Next Shabbat, Parashat Vayeshev</i>	
Early Mincha	3:00 p.m.
Candles	4:10 p.m.
Mincha	4:15 p.m.

Gabbat Notice

This coming Friday, Erev Chanuka, and next Friday, there will be an early Mincha in the shul at 3 p.m.

Sponsorships

The **ERUV** is sponsored **Anonymously**.

The **KESHER** is sponsored by **Rabbi Yehuda and Chani Hilewitz** in honor of the birth of their grandson, Zvi.

SEUDA SHLISHIT is not sponsored this week.

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

This Motzei Shabbat we start saying ותן טל ומטר at Maariv.

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



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

Tuesday:

Meet the Shadchan Night for Women, 8:00 p.m. See opposite page for details.
Shiur with Rabbi Forman will NOT be meeting this week.
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 Geneivat Da`at.

Next Shabbat:

Women's Shiur, 4:20 p.m. by Dasi Naiman. Seuda Shlishit will be available.

Motzai Shabbat:

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

Mazal Tov!

Rabbi Moshe Goldfeder and Sigalit Glaser on their marriage.



Welcome New Member

Yigal Gross

Thank You

Alice Maltz

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.



The shul is selling **Chanukah supplies**, both oil and candles.

Candles: \$2/box for small candles
 \$5/box for large candles
Oil: \$30/box for a set of small "candles"
 \$32 a set for large "candles"

The supplies will be sold during office hours, as well as:

Sunday: from after Mincha until 6:30 PM
Tuesday: 8 - 8:45 PM
Wednesday: 8 - 8:45

They will also be sold during **Saturday Night Sundaes**.

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



Chanukah Black and White Trivia Panoply Extravaganza

REGISTER NOW!

Saturday Night, December 19th
 Get more info and register with your team (up to ten people) by December 10th for the early bird price.

This event is a fundraiser for the JCC Food Pantry.



Email Aliza Abrams and Rebecca Saidlower at events@mtsinaishul.com for more details.

Meet the Matchmaker at Mt. Sinai

Mt. Sinai Jewish Center, in collaboration with YUConnects, is hosting "Meet the Matchmaker at Mt. Sinai – A Networking Night to Connect with Matchmakers from the NY/NJ Area". This is an excellent opportunity to meet several matchmakers one-on-one.

For Women: Tues, Dec. 8, 8 – 10:30 PM

The event will be held in the social hall.

For questions about the event, please contact Aliza Abrams (alizaabrams@gmail.com) or Rachel Neuman-Fryman (rmfryman@gmail.com)

Saturday Night Sundaes

THIS MOTZEI SHABBAT, December 5th at 7:30pm in the Social Hall.

Featuring:
 Make Your Own Sundae
 Hot Chocolate
 Board Games
 Raffle with Great Prizes



Event is FREE for all members and \$10 for non-members.

You can sign up for membership at the event.

Chanukah Toy Drive

Mt Sinai is getting involved again with **Chai Lifeline's Honey Engel Toy Drive**. November 23 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 Le-mitzvot!

Family Chanukah Party

Parents and children under 5 are invited to a **Family Chanukah Party** on the Sunday of Chanukah, **December 13th**.

Stay tuned for more details, coming soon!

Membership Meeting

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