

CONGREGATION AHAVATH ACHIM

January 2021 Newsletter

17 Tevet- 18 Shevat 5781

Torah & Haftorah Readings and Page Numbers					
	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
Torah Reading	Vayechi	Shemot	Va'era	Bo	Beshalach
	Genesis 47:28 - 50:26	Exodus 1:1 - 6:1	Exodus 6:2 - 9:35	Exodus 10:1 - 13:16	Exodus 13:17 - 17:16
Pages	180-191	206-224	232-244	248-262	265-281
Haftorah	I Kings 2:1 - 2:12	Isaiah 27:6 - 28:13, 29:22 - 29:23	Ezekiel 28:25 - 29:21	Jeremiah 46:13 - 46:28	Judges 4:4 - 5:31
Pages	191-192	225-228	244-247	263-264	281-287

Minyan Times are in the monthly calendar and on the Ahavath Achim web site, www.ahavathachim.org

Dear Friends,

This month, we will begin reading Sefer Shemot, the Book of Exodus. On the Shabbat of January 9th, we will read Parashat Shemot in shul, and on subsequent January Shabbatot we will read Parashiyot Vaera, Bo and Besahalach.

The Ramban refers to Sefer Shemot as "Sefer HaGeulah", the Book of Redemption.

Indeed, if we were to pick out one underlying theme in the book, it would be just that: Redemption.

Sefer Shemot opens with the Israelite bondage in Egypt. Under the most trying of circumstances, the Jewish people persist, and they are ultimately redeemed by the outstretched hand of the Almighty. Hashem visits the ten plagues upon their Egyptian foes, and God's people are emancipated.

But the redemption that occurs in the Book of Exodus is not just a physical redemption. It is a spiritual redemption as well.

By the time the book ends, the Jewish people have truly become God's people. In Parashat Yitro, they receive the law at Sinai, and in the concluding parashiyot of the book they receive the instructions for, and construct, the Mishkan, the Tabernacle. Through these media of Torah and Tabernacle, the Shekhina, God's imminent presence in this world, would dwell with them, both in their travels, as well as in their eventual settlement in the Land of Israel.

No physical redemption can be complete without a spiritual, mental, and psychological redemption as well. This is the message of Sefer Shemot.

As the pandemic continues, we continue to try to find ways to bring spirituality, Yiddishkeit, and Torah into our lives, despite these changed circumstances. We are continuing to hold services, both on Shabbat as well as during the week, at the JSS courtyard tent. Masks are worn at all times, and strict social distancing protocols are adhered to. We are meeting every Tuesday evening at 8 pm on Zoom, when we learn about the mitzvah of lighting Shabbat candles, and study together the Ramban's commentary on the Torah. The Zoom ID for this weekly session is 366 165 4053, password 6GRKs1. We are also studying Sefer Melachim, the Book of Kings, via email. Please be in touch with me if you would like to receive these emails.

Let us continue to pray to the Almighty for a speedy resolution of this health crisis.
Wishing you a month full of joy, health, and happiness,

Rabbi Peretz Robinson

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Refuah Shelemah to David Gordon, Arlene Moidel, and Diane Sheinbaum. May G-d grant each a speedy and complete recovery.

Golden Book- If you would like to send a card to the family or friend. for a happy time or a sad time. Please contact Sara Klein at 203-374-9365 or you can e-mail Sara at sakl31@aol.com.

Yahrzeits for January 2021

<p>Thursday, December 31- Lorraine Kaufman (Mother to Debra Lozanov) Thursday, December 31-Ethyle Krentzman (Mother to Myrna Kosowsky) Sunday, January 3- Martin Fischer (Husband to Julia Fischer and son to Samuel and David Fischer) Thursday, January 5- Allen D. Handler (Father to Arnell Wilson) Thursday, January 5- Max Arbitman (Grandfather to Dr. Joel Allen)</p>	<p>Friday, January 8- Evelyn Greenwald (Mother to Arlene Jutkowitz) Saturday, January 16- Arlene Freedman London (Mother to Michael London) Saturday, January 16-Julius Selinger (Father to Arlene Dentz) Monday, January 18- Aaron Milrod (Father to Debbie Allen) Tuesday, January 19-Naomi Krentzman (Cousin to Myrna Kosowsky) Tuesday, January 19-Sonya Risch (Mother to Harvey Risch) Sunday, January 24- Fanny Lax (Mother to Erica Cohen)</p>
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