

Tetzaveh: A Vision of Responsible Leadership

Adas Israel Congregation Sisterhood Shabbat
February 27, 2021 - 15 Adar 5781

The Torah portion for Sisterhood Shabbat is *Tetzaveh* which describes how the Israelites are commanded to give Aaron sacred garments or *bigdei kodesh* for the sake of dignity and adornment as he becomes the High Priest of the *Mishkan*.

Several interpretations of this *parsha* hold enormous relevance to the recent inauguration and more significantly the type of leadership the American people – indeed the world – are anticipating and hoping for from the new administration. One interpretation by Professor Pinchas Hacohen Peli (1930-89) is that the *ephod* and the *choshen* or breastplate worn by Aaron embody the notion of responsible leadership in that these sacred garments represent the 12 Tribes of Israel, meant to be carried on Aaron's shoulders so that he should never forget the burden of the people's needs.[i]

Another interpretation reminds us that leadership should not be confined to one class or role, but be distributed and divided, not unlike our separation of powers, and that no individual may ever hold a monopoly of leadership since "only in heaven is there One commanding voice." [ii]

Many centuries have passed since the time of Aaron and the building of the *Mishkan*, yet the Torah's lessons on responsible leadership, the significance of the separation of powers, and the importance of diversity represented by the 12 Tribes of Israel could not be more timely or relevant to the path forward for our country and its new leadership.



Image: Breastplate on the front of the central Sephardic synagogue in Ramat Gan.
Credit: Avishai Teicher

[i] Torah Today: A Renewed Encounter with Scripture, Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2005, 1987, p. 88.

[ii] The Counterpoint of Leadership, <https://rabbisacks.org/tetzaveh-5774/>, February 3, 2014.

Lila Corwin Berman, Ph.D.
Sisterhood Shabbat Speaker

No Politics Allowed:
The Myth of American Jewish Communal Life



Thanks to the generosity of congregant Donald Saltz, through the Mozelle Saltz (z"l) Fund for Sisterhood Speakers, Sisterhood is proud to present **Dr. Lila Corwin Berman**.

Dr. Berman is Professor of History at Temple University, where she holds the Murray Friedman Chair of American Jewish History and directs the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History. She received her B.A. from Amherst College and her Ph.D. from Yale. Berman is author of *The American Jewish Philanthropic Complex: The History of a Multibillion Dollar Institution* (Princeton, 2020), as well as *Metropolitan Jews: Politics, Race, and Religion in Postwar Detroit* (Chicago, 2015) and *Speaking of Jews: Rabbis, Intellectuals, and the Creation of an American Public Identity* (California, 2009).

Her articles have appeared in several scholarly publications, including the *American Historical Review* and the *Journal of American History*, and she has also written guest columns for the *Washington Post*, the *Forward*, and the *Jewish Week*. She serves as the chair of the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society and is currently a fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

READING

Birkot Hashachar/P'sukei D'zimrah
Mourner's Kaddish
Psalm 150
Shacharit
Ahava Raba & Shema V'ahavta
Torah Service
Honorary Ark Opener 1
Introduction to Torah Reading
Aliyot Blessings
 1 Ex. 28:31-35
 2 Ex. 28:36-38
 3 Ex. 28:39-43
 4 Ex. 29:1-4
 5 Ex. 29:5-9
 6 Ex. 29:10-14
 7 Ex. 29:15-18
Maftir
Honorary Hagba
Honorary Gelila
Haftara Haggai 1:1-12
Prayer for Our Country
Prayer for the State of Israel
Ashrei
Honorary Ark Opener 2
Mizmor L'David
Introduction of Sisterhood Speaker
D'var Torah
Musaf
Sim Shalom
Ein Keloheinu
Aleinu
Mourner's Kaddish
Torah Fund
Sisterhood Welcome
Kiddush
Adon Olam

PG. NO.

103/122
 121
 141
 149
 154-55
 168

 508-13**

 517**

Anfei Hayim
 177
 178
 181
 183

 185
 201
 204
 205
 207

 77
 211

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Mozelle Saltz Scholar Lecture
Introduction of Speaker
Afternoon Lecture and Q&A

12 pm

Note: All pages in Siddur, except those marked ** are in *Etz Chayim*.

*Gratitude to Donald Saltz for sponsoring the Sisterhood Shabbat speaker. Thank you Cantor Arianne Brown, Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith, Rabbis Alexander, Holtzblatt and Krinsky, David Polonsky, Melissa Adler, Marcy Spiro, Brenah Srour, and the entire Adas team. Sisterhood Shabbat Committee: June Kress (Chair), Marilyn Cooper, Marcia Feuerstein, Jill Jacob (President), Ronnie Kweller, Hoonjoo Lee, Ozana Papados, and Joyce Stern. Sisterhood Executive Committee: Jill Jacob (President), Jean Bernard, Marian Fox, Leah Hadad, Debby Joseph, Helen Kramer, June Kress, Ronnie Kweller, Ellen Snyder, Rona Walters, Cheryl Wasserman, and Susan Winberg. Smith Sanctuary Minyan Makers: Miriam Gusevich, Judith Hellerstein, Hoonjoo Lee, Rhoda Ritzenberg, Joyce Stern. Notes: *Marcia Feuerstein's aliyah is in honor of all past Sisterhood Presidents, Susie Sorrells' aliyah is in honor of all new Sisterhood members, and Leah Chanin's aliyah is in honor of all Gift Shop managers and volunteers.*