

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SHABBOS TIMES

Friday, February 18

Candle Lighting 5:17pm
Evening Service 5:20pm

Saturday, February 19

Morning Service 10:00am
Kiddush Brunch 12:00pm
Evening Service 5:20pm
Shabbos Ends 6:18pm

KIDDUSH SPONSOR:

Kiddush Club Members

SHALOSH SEUDOS SPONSOR

Available

DAILY MINYAN

February 20- 25

MORNING SERVICE

Sunday 8:00am
Monday - Friday 7:00am

EVENING SERVICE

Evening Service 5:30pm

We have the power to lift up the people around us and thereby be uplifted ourselves.

A rising tide lifts all boats, even the simple looking and poor performing, but unlike boats, when people are uplifted they become better, nicer and empowered which in turn lifts up others around them and so on.

Judaism believes very much in the power of the individual who is created in G-d's image and therefore each individual has g-dly infinite potential. It is however our circumstances or challenges that can bring us down and make us think we are simple and incapable.

We can lift ourselves by lifting others, by being nice, helpful, kind and thoughtful of others and engaging in true acts of kindness, we generate positivity which is the tide that lifts all up to a higher place, from which facing life's challenges becomes realistic and possible.

So go ahead and lift those around you!






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A WORD OF TORAH

This week's Parshah tells the story of the Golden Calf, the worst national sin in the history of the Jewish people. Frankly, if I were the editor of the Bible I'd have left that part out. How humiliating to the Jews! Just weeks after the greatest revelation of all time, when they saw and heard G-d up front and personal, they go and bow down to a cow?! How fickle can you get? But the Torah is unflinchingly honest and records this most unflattering moment of ours in all its gory detail.

Why?

Perhaps the very important lessons we need to draw from this embarrassing episode are, firstly, that people do sin, human beings do make mistakes, and even inspired Jews who saw the divine with their own eyes can mess up — badly. And, secondly, that even afterwards there is still hope, no matter what.

In the very same Parshah we read how G-d tells Moses to carve a second set of tablets, to replace the first set he smashed when he came down the mountain and was shocked by what the Jews were up to. (Sort of "You broke them, you fix them" — like the guy who fell asleep during the rabbi's sermon and the rabbi tells the shamash to go and wake the fellow up. The shamash says, "Rabbi, you put him to sleep, you wake him up!") The Torah does not intend to diminish our respect for that generation, but rather to help us understand human frailty, our moral weakness and the reality of relationships, spiritual or otherwise.

G-d gave us a perfect Torah. The tablets were hand-made by G-d, pure and sacred, and then we messed up. So is it all over? Is there really no hope now? Are we beyond redemption? After all, what could possibly be worse than idolatry? We broke the first two commandments and the tablets were shattered into smithereens because we were no longer worthy to have them. It was the ultimate infidelity.

So Torah teaches that all is not lost. As bad as it was — and it was bad — it is possible for man to repair the damage. Moses will make new tablets. They won't be quite the same as G-d's, but there will be Tablets nonetheless. We can pick up the pieces.

I once heard a colleague speak about the significance of breaking the glass under the chupah (wedding canopy). Besides never forgetting Jerusalem and praying for her full restoration, this ceremony teaches a very important lesson about life to a bride and groom who are about to embark on their own new path in life. What happens immediately after the groom breaks the glass? Everyone shouts "Mazel Tov!" The message is clear. Something broke? Nu, it's not the end of the world. We can even laugh about it and still be happy. Nisht gefערlich. Lo nora. This too shall pass. A very practical, peace-keeping tip for the new couple.

There are most definitely second chances in life. It is possible to pick up the pieces in life. Whether it's our relationships with G-d, our marriage partners, our kids or our colleagues, we can make amends and repair the damage.

If the Jews could recover from the Golden Calf, our own challenges are small indeed.

adapted from www.chabad.org

A Bisseleh Humor

Four Catholic mothers and a Jewish woman were having coffee.

The first Catholic woman tells her friends, "My son is a priest. When he walks into a room, everyone calls him Father."

The second Catholic mother chirps, "My son is a Bishop. When he walks into a room people call him Your Grace."

The third Catholic mom says, "My son is a Cardinal. When he enters a room, everyone says Your Eminence."

The fourth Catholic woman declares, "My son is the Pope. When he walks into a room people call him Your Holiness."

They all turn to the Jewish woman, and give her a subtle, "Well?"

She replies, "I have a son. He's argumentative, confrontational, self-centered, narcissistic, impulsive, impossible and irrational. When he walks into a room, people say, Oh My G-d!"

KIDS Parsha Lesson

This week's Parshah discusses three major things: the Mishkan, the Golden Calf and the second tablets.

The Mishkan

We've already discussed G-d's instructions to build the Mishkan for two full Parshahiot (Torah portions), and we hear a little more about it here.

- Every Jew should give half a shekel towards the building of the Mishkan. These coins will also be used to count the Jews.
- A washbasin of copper should be placed at the entrance to the Mishkan, and Aaron and his sons should wash their hands and feet before they perform the services
- A recipe of oil with spices is described which Moses is to make and pour on the Mishkan and all its vessels, anointing them and making them holy for use.
- Next is described the secret recipe for the ketoret, the sacrifice of incense that was brought on the Golden Altar.
- Two master craftsmen, Bezalel and Oholiab, are put in charge of the building of the Mishkan.

The Jews again receive the commandment to keep the Sabbath.

The Golden Calf

After the Jews heard the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai, Moses went up the mountain to receive the Two Tablets from G-d. The Jews know he is supposed to come down after forty days, but they miscalculate, and when he doesn't come down when they expect him to, they get confused as to what has happened to him. They build a golden calf and make it into an idol, serving, worshipping and bringing to it sacrifices.

When G-d sees this, he is very angry, and wants to destroy the whole Jewish nation, telling Moses that he will start a new nation from him. Moses prays for the Jews, begging G-d to save them. Moses then takes the Tablets down the mountain. When he nears the camp of the Jews and sees the Golden Calf, he throws down the Tablets, shattering them, and destroys the Golden Calf. Moses then gathers all the Levites and they kill all those who were involved in the building of the Golden Calf.

Then Moses goes back to G-d and prays for the Jews. He even tells G-d that if He doesn't forgive their sin, G-d should take his name out of the entire Torah. G-d forgives, but the Jews are punished with a plague, and the affects of the sin are felt for a long time.

G-d tells Moses that He will now send an angel to accompany them, but Moses says that they refuse to go unless G-d Himself comes along. And so G-d agrees that He Himself will accompany the Jews to the Holy Land. Moses prepares a new set of tablets and goes up again to the mountain so G-d can inscribe the Ten Commandments in them. On the mountain, Moses sees a vision of G-d's glory, and when he comes down, his face shines so brightly that he must wear a veil. He takes off the veil only to speak to G-d and to teach the Jews the Torah.

RECIPE

Half Shekel Cookies

Ingredients:

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup cocoa
- 2 cups flour
- ½ cup oil
- 4 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- Directions:
 1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees fahrenheit.
 2. In a medium-sized bowl, mix all of the ingredients together.
 3. Once the dough is formed, scoop out cookie dough and form them into balls. Place them onto a lined cookie sheet, and press them down slightly.
 4. Using the paintbrush, gently brush on some silver luster dust.
 5. Bake the cookies for 12-15 minutes.
 6. Remove the cookies from the oven and allow them to cool for a few minutes.
 7. Once the cookies have cooled slightly, but are still warm, open the chocolate coins and place them onto the center of each cookie, pushing them down lightly.
 8. Once the cookies are cooled, reapply additional silver luster dust.
- There you have it! Delicious "half-shekel cookies" for you to enjoy and remember the donations given for the construction of the Tabernacle!

Daily Dose Of Wisdom

When people want to free themselves from their humdrum workaday life, they go on vacation. They rent a cabin with half the rooms they have at home, and sacrifice many of the conveniences they generally rely upon. They rough it. And then they feel free. As it turns out, everybody agrees: When you let go of those material things to which you have become attached, only then can you start to be free.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Jteen Shabbat Dinner
Friday, February 25 at 6:30pm
 Join Teens from our community for a fun and meaningful Shabbat Dinner at the Home of Rabbi Mendel and Elke Zaltzman and family.
 Open to teens in grades 9-12



Moms and Kids Hamantashen Baking
Sunday, March 13 at 5pm
 Join family and friends for a fun evening making hamantashen together in honor of Purim!



Family Purim in Outer Space
Thursday, March 17 at 5pm
 Celebrate Purim with a Family Purim Party, Hot Buffet Dinner, Kids Masquerade, Megillah Reading, Music and Entertainment and Mishloach Manot!



Purim gala in Dubai
Wednesday, March 16 at 8pm
 Megillah Reading, Arabian Masquerade, Live Music and Dancing, Full Dinner and Open Bar!

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

Hebrew school

We are really progressing in our Hebrew reading, and getting far in our skills of letter recognition and vowel practice. Purim preparation is in full swing with all classes leering about Purim in fun and creative ways.



Bat Mitzvah Club

Bat Mitzvah age girls joined for an exclusive Challah bake, baking their own beautiful Challahs and choosing from a variety of delicious toppings. They learned all about this special Mitzvah and why its specifically for the women.



MVP Program

Middle school kids got together and baked delicious cakes to be given to seniors in out community.



Bris Avrohom of Fair Lawn

We are your center for everything Jewish, whatever your need may be, do not hesitate to contact us. Our ever popular holiday celebrations will enable you and your family to celebrate the Jewish holidays in style, with fun and educational ideas helping to make Judaism relevant to our youth. Our Torah classes will give you a second opinion on any subject or matter you may be dealing with and our Holiday programs will allow you to celebrate your Jewish pride with your family and friends. Our fun Hebrew School and Day Camp will fill your children with an educated sense of what it means to be Jewish and our synagogue services will give you the opportunity to pray, be inspired and experience spirituality. From pregnancy and baby celebrations to weddings and after life services including Kaddish and unveiling, we will be there for you and help create a meaningful and memorable experience. We are here to help you and serve you and look forward to seeing you soon!

Rabbi Berel & Leah Zaltzman | Rabbi Mendel & Elke Zaltzman | Rabbi Avrohom & Leah Engel

Bris Avrohom of Fair Lawn

30-02 Fair Lawn Avenue. Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410

201-791-7200 | Office@JewishFairLawn.org

www.JewishFairLawn.org | www.Facebook.com/BrisAvrohomFairLawn