

Vaera

Shabbat Mevarchim

January 25th, 2020 (Tevet 28, 5780)



Service Times

Welcome to the participants in our Middle School Shabbaton!

Friday, January 24 (Tevet 27)

4:34pm – Earliest Candle Lighting
5:15pm – Mincha/ Kabbalat Shabbat/ Maariv
5:20pm – Late Candle Lighting

Saturday, January 25 (Tevet 28)

9:00am – Shacharit
9:56am – Latest Preferable Time to Say Shema
10:30am – Shabbat Morning Youth Groups

4:45pm – Mincha
6:19pm – Maariv/Havdalah

Kiddush Sponsorship:

Barbara and Lenny Zucker

In memory of Lenny's mother, Maxine Zucker, at yearzeit time.

2/1 – David and Marcie Rosenberg

In honor of the engagement of their daughter Rachel to Ben Atwood and welcoming the Atwood family to Charleston.

2/8 – Abby Leibowitz

In honor of Thea Pearson's 5th Birthday.

Please consider honoring a special event or person in your life by sponsoring a Kiddush. Contact Lenny Zucker at lenbarbz@alum.mit.edu. Regular Kiddush is \$150.

Weekday Services

Maariv (only), Monday & Wednesday 7pm

Regular Classes

- **Daf Yomi class** with Rabbi Paul & Yoni Alon
Sun. 6:45pm, Mon. 7:20pm, Tues. 8pm, Wed. 7:20pm, Thurs. 7pm
Dor Tikvah House
- **Torah Study: "The Avraham Stories"** with Rabbi Davies
Sunday 7:30pm, Congregation Dor Tikvah
- **"Ketuvim with Kenny"** with Kenny Abitbol
Monday 7:30pm, Gilston Chapel
Available through Facebook Live!
- **"Lunchtime Talmud"** with Rabbi Davies
Thursday 12pm, Gilston Chapel
Available through Facebook Live!
- **"Cholent and Learn"** with Kenny Abitbol
Thursday 8pm, Dor Tikvah House
Available through Facebook Live!

Contributions

➤ Faygel Beren ➤ Katie Bielsky in memory of Dana Rothschild-Levy

Thank you to all who contributed to purchasing the new Shabbos House furniture.

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| ➤ Ruth & Barry Warren | ➤ Sharon & Michael Stricker | ➤ Stan Hoffman |
| ➤ Fran & Colby Grossman | ➤ Janet & Ken Fox | ➤ Jennifer Schager |
| ➤ Jody & Jeffrey Cohen | ➤ Phyllis & Marvin Katzen | ➤ Linda Scheer |
| ➤ Bama & Paul Saltzman | ➤ Ashley & Michael Kirshstein | ➤ Saul Adelman |

Coming Up

Dr. Stewart Weinberg Breakfast Minyan – Jan. 26th, 8:30am
First Breakfast Minyan speaker of 2020, speaking on Climate Crisis.

Women's Book Club – Jan. 28th, 7pm
Discussing *The 5 Love Languages* by Gary Chapman at the home of Susan Chase, 1579 Spinnaker Ln. Details at Dortikvah.org/event/Jan-Rosh-Chodesh.

Teen Stars and Strikes – Feb. 8th
More information to come. Dortikvah.org/event/Stars-and-Strikes20

Not Your Bubbie's Shakshuka! – Feb. 23rd, 5:30pm
Our annual fundraiser, an upscale cooking competition, Ashkenazi vs. Sephardi foods. Details and registration at Dortikvah.org/event/Not-Bubbies-Shakshuka20

Community Events

Liberation of Auschwitz Commemoration – Jan. 28th, 10:30am
A statewide Holocaust remembrance ceremony for the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Register at bit.ly/Ausch75.

Participate in a *brief survey on the political views of American Orthodox Jews* at bit.ly/ortho-political-2020b. Available until 12pm Feb. 3rd.

Refuah Shelema

To add or remove a name, contact charlessteinert@gmail.com.

Robert Levinson	Esther bat Alitza
Simcha ben Etlle	Baruch Leib ben Chaya Freidel
Hodel bat Raozel	(Burt Roslyn)
Miriam bat Mazal	Yisrael ben Chaya
Talia bat Shoshana	Yisrael Haynu
Blooma bat Chaya Sara	ben Shimon Avraham
(Bertha Hoffman)	Chaiiah Leah bat Shier
Refael Aharon ben Devorah	Louis Waring
Reena Firetag	Elijah Myer ben Malkah
Yocheved bat Sarah	Rivka Bat Batya (Robyn Dudley)
Isabella Beaudoin	Jack Spitz
Yoseph Ben Sara	Yisroel Mordechai Ben Fradel
Aharon Ben Yitta	Shoshana bat Chaya

Life Cycle

Anniversary

➤ David & Marcie Rosenberg (1/28)

Birthday

➤ Robert Katz (1/24)
➤ Monica Glaubach (1/26)
➤ Susan Sobel (1/29)

Yahrzeit

➤ Seymour Stricker, father of Michael Stricker (1/24)
➤ Boobie Wolper, Great Great Aunt of Nathan Kirshstein (1/24)
➤ Moses Oberman, Uncle of Marvin Katzen (1/26)
➤ Morris Lazarus, Great Uncle of Nathan Kirshstein (1/27)
➤ Ruth Baker Silverman, Grandmother of Debbie Rothschild (1/28)
➤ Maxine Zucker, Mother of Lenny Zucker (1/29)
➤ Sylvia Kirshstein, Mother of Nathan Kirshstein (1/29)

A big WELCOME to our new member, Lisa Manis!



Vaera

(Exodus 6:2-9:35)

Coming to Terms with Exile

By Rabbi Naftali Reich Torah.org



The story is told about a political prisoner in a dark dungeon who always kept his eyes closed. Whenever he needed something, he would grope for it without opening his eyes.

“Why don’t you open your eyes?” a fellow prisoner once asked him. “If you keep them open for a while, they’ll get used to the darkness, and you’ll be able to see a little.”

“That is exactly my reason,” he replied. “I don’t want to get used to this place. I never want to forget that I am living in darkness.”

One of the gravest dangers in any adverse situation is that we may resign ourselves to it. The first step towards redemption, therefore, is the reversal of the mentality of the oppressed, the reawakening of hope and aspiration for freedom. In this week’s portion, when Hashem promises to take the Jewish people out of Egypt, He uses the famed “four expressions of redemption.” The first of these is (6:6), “And I will take you out from under the burdens of Egypt.” Some commentators point out that the Hebrew word for “burdens,” *sivlos*, can alternatively be translated as “forbearance.” The verse would then read, “And I will take you out from bearing Egypt.” The Jewish people had learned to tolerate and “bear” the exile. They had come to terms with a life devoid of spiritual fulfillment and human dignity. They lived for the existence of the moment, unable even to think about the transcendent qualities of their former lives. This was Hashem’s promise. First and foremost, He would take them out of this soporific state and energize them with the spirit of freedom so that they would no longer be able to tolerate the darkness. They would chafe at their bonds and their estrangement from the spiritual heritage of their forefathers. Their spirits would be revived, and they would regain their former high aspirations. They would no longer be slaves, but free people enchained. This had to be the first stage of their redemption, for otherwise they would forever remain slaves without masters. The second stage could now follow. Hashem would break those chains and raise the Jewish people up to undreamed of heights.

In our present exile, we are, thank Heaven, no longer physically enslaved, but to a large extent, we lack the desire to break free. Our spiritual senses have been dulled, and we have become immune to the pain of exile. We are content not to “rock the boat.” As long as we enjoy the comforts offered by contemporary society, we do not feel deprived of a utopian Israel with a rebuilt Temple and all the Jewish people living together in harmony and spiritual bliss. It is a deprivation to which we have been immunized by the long exile, but a tremendous deprivation nonetheless.

A great sage was staying at an inn far from his home. Late at night, he sat down to say the Tikkun Chatzos, the lamentations over the destruction of the Temple that pious people say after midnight. The sage was so moved by the words of the lamentations that he burst into tears.

The innkeeper came running. “Rabbi, rabbi, what happened? Why are you crying?”

“Because our holy Temple was destroyed,” said the rabbi. “Ah, if only the Messiah would come already and take us all out of this exile! Don’t you dream of such a day?”

The innkeeper fidgeted. “Well, what about my inn? What would happen to it? And what about my goats and my chickens? Will I have to leave them behind?”

“Your goats! Your chickens! Forget about them. Think about the wonderful life that awaits us in Israel.”

“Well, to tell you the truth, rabbi. I’m doing fine right here. I’m not sure I want to change things so much.”

“But don’t you ever have trouble from the local riffraff that call you a *zhid* and steal your chickens in the night?” the rabbi asked, trying to find a way to inspire the simple innkeeper to yearn for redemption.

“Yes, you are right,” said the innkeeper, his brow darkening for a moment, but he immediately brightened. “I have an idea, rabbi! Let’s send all the riffraff to Israel, then we can live here in peace. That would be a fine redemption!”

We need to realize that, no matter how comfortable we are, the world we live in is far from perfect. Strife and hatred, ignorance and bigotry still plague our society. We need to look beyond what we have in our own comfortable little niches and see what we are missing. Yes, we all aspire to a utopian world, but we must first appreciate that there can be no utopia without spirituality. Only in the context of this appreciation can we truly yearn for the redemption. And only through genuine yearning can we hope to achieve it.