

Join the VHA and Schara Tzedek family for a

COMMUNITY SHABBATON

February 28-29, 2020

Dinner on Friday evening is by registration only.

Adults: \$30/ person

Children (5-12): \$15/ person

Children (0-5): Free

Mincha/ Candelighting 5:40 pm

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm

Dinner 6:30 pm



Shabbat Lunch: No Charge

With our special guests from Chai Lifeline Canada

Please register through the Schara Tzedek website

<https://www.scharatzedek.com>

For Shabbat accommodations in Vancouver, please contact

Mrs. Lichtman at morahlichtman.vha@gmail.com



Congregation Schara Tzedek Shabbat Bulletin

Rabbi: Rabbi Andrew Rosenblatt

Associate Rabbi: Rabbi Ari Federgrun

Torah Reader: Reverend Joseph Marciano

Revelation and Torah: Two Events or One

Rabbi Ahron Lopiansky (from Torahweb.org)

"Had Hashem brought us to Sinai and not given us the Torah, that would have been sufficient [to be grateful for.]"

This famous line from Dayeinu has been the focus of endless divrei Torah. All of the previously mentioned items are worthy gifts, i.e. freedom from Egypt, being fed in the desert, etc. But how do we understand the "being at Sinai" having any value apart from the giving of the Torah?

The simplest answer is that "Mount Sinai" connotes the revelation of G-d to an extent that leaves no room for doubt. As Rambam (Hilchos Yesodei HaTorah 8:1) famously points out, our faith does not rest on any of the miracles that occurred in Egypt, no matter how grand, for miracles can be explained away. The revelation of Sinai, however, was an event during which all of Klal Yisroel directly experienced the Divine, and as such is the only true cornerstone of our faith. We can thus reasonably assume that the phrase, "had he brought us to Sinai" refers to Divine revelation, which is the cornerstone of our faith regardless of the Torah being given there and then as well.

This begs the question, then, why indeed are these two events combined as one? Just like the events at Mitzrayim, especially the splitting of the sea, are pillars of faith [i.e., "and they believed in Hashem and Moshe His servant"- Shemos 14:31] and are not narrated in conjunction with the giving of the Torah, so too why couldn't this ultimate moment of revelation not have been independent of the giving of the Torah? Would this not have better delineated each separate point - the belief in Hashem and the giving of the Torah?

To address this point we must understand something about the nature of the revelation. It is not a mere "proof of G-d", but rather it reveals to us how we are to grasp Hashem.

February 15, 2020

Shvat 20, 5780

Parshat Yitro

Torah Reading pg. 394

Class for Page-a-Day
Talmud Group 8:30 am

Childminding 9:30 am –
2nd floor

Youth Program 10:00 am-
12:00 pm – Wosk
Auditorium

20/20 with Rabbi Berger
Twenty minutes after
Kiddush

*Rabbi's class will resume
in the Spring*

Mincha 5:05 P.M.
Havdalah 6:21 P.M.

*Mincha Sunday-Thursday
5:25 P.M.*

All of the names of Hashem represent different facets of Hakadosh Baruch Hu. Thus we are grasping Him as the source of kindness through those names associate with kindness; the G-d of power through names associated with that quality, and so on. But to have a correct grasp of Hashem, we must keep our perspective focused on the most central aspect of His revelation, and through it to view the entirety of His revelations.

Let us take an example of a skewed perspective. A rather primitive person views G-d as primarily the "all-powerful" and as having likes and dislikes which are communicated to us through Torah. Such a person would conclude that one should adhere to Torah only due to the expediency of falling in line with the "All Knowing and Powerful", clearly an impoverished perspective. Even if one is somewhat more sophisticated and understands G-d as also being the Source of existence, if that existence is viewed primarily as being very physical and the mitzvos are but a guide to manage our world, the view in question is still a skewed one.

Hakadosh Baruch Hu therefore revealed Himself with His essence, i.e. the name of Havaya, at the moment of the giving of the Torah (see Rashi, Vayikra 24:11, that the primary revelation of Havaya was at Sinai.) Our perception of Hashem's central axis of revelation is the G-d of moral good, the G-d of Torah; all else is ancillary to the implementation and revelation thereof. Thus, the giving of Torah and the clearest revelation of Hashem are one and the same. The miracles of Egypt reveal to us an all-powerful G-d, and by implication the Creator. But only at Sinai is the "G-d of tov (moral good)" revealed to us.

This understanding of the Divine fundamentally differentiates our emunah from all forms of avodah zara (idol worship). Our difference with them is not only, "who is G-d?" but, more importantly, "what is G-d?" Their perception of divinity is power and might, with "desirable actions" simply as a result of that power.

Our G-d, lehavdil, is the G-d of tov, whose Torah is the expression of that tov in our world. All other attributes of G-d are simply branches and auxiliaries to this core essence.

Schara Tzedek Announcements

Mazal Tov

To our dear Mrs. Papo, on her special birthday this past week.

Todah Rabah

To Ilona, Andrea, Avi, Aron and Harry Mermelstein for sponsoring Premier scotch in memory of Alex Mermelstein z'l.

To Irwin Vinegar for sponsoring Premier scotch in honour of Glenn Bullard's Birthday.

To all our amazing volunteers who give their time throughout the year to our Shul and the Jewish community at large. On behalf of Schara Tzedek we hope you enjoy the Kiddush in your honour!

Weekly Schedule

Sunday and Monday:
No classes due to the Family Day long weekend

Tuesday:
4:15 - 5:45 pm - T-Jex Afternoon Hebrew School

Wednesday:
10:00 am - Women's Weekly Torah Study with Ayala Wilchfort

Thursday:
9:00 am - Women's "Pray Tell" with Rabbi Federgrun at the Blicher Residence
6:00 pm- Parsha Class with Rabbi Estrin

Women's Megillah Reading

PURIM 5780 is around the corner, and along with it the wonderful opportunity to participate in the **Women's Megillat Esther reading**, on **Tuesday, March 10, 8:30am.**

No experience necessary. We will give you the tools to participate. For more information, please contact: rachael@scharatzedeck.com.

Purim Carnival - Volunteers Needed

Our annual Purim carnival is getting a new twist! We're asking **current and alumni Bar/Bat Mitzvah students and their families** to host a table at our Purim carnival on Monday March 9th at 8:30 pm (following Megillah reading).

If you fit into this category and would like to run a carnival booth, please email Chaya at youth@scharatzedeck.com. Thank you!



SCHARA TZEDECK AND BETH HAMIDRASH PRESENT

PURIM 2020

PURIM SEUDAH

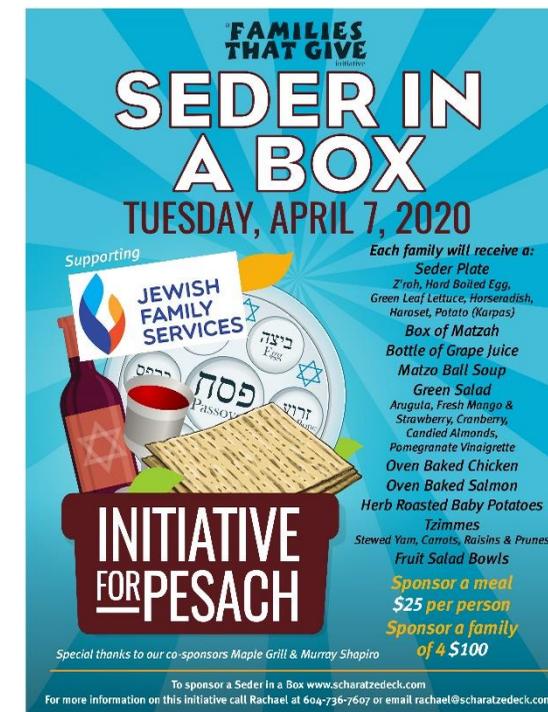
ADULT \$30
AGE 6-12 \$15
AGE 3-5 \$5
AGE 0-2 FREE

MARCH 10, 2020
5:00 PM
3476 OAK ST.

Congregation Schara Tzedek

בית המדרש
SEPHARIC CONGREGATION
BETH HAMIDRASH

REGISTER AT SCHARATZEDECK.COM



FAMILIES THAT GIVE

SEDER IN A BOX

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020

Supporting JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Each family will receive a:

- Seder Plate
- Z'rah, Hard Boiled Egg,
- Green Leaf Lettuce, Horsesradish,
- Haroset, Potato (Karpas)
- Box of Matzah
- Bottle of Grape Juice
- Matzo Ball Soup
- Green Salad
- Arugula, Fresh Mango & Strawberry, Cranberry,
- Candied Almonds,
- Pomegranate Vinaigrette
- Oven Baked Chicken
- Oven Baked Salmon
- Herb Roasted Baby Potatoes
- Tzimmes
- Stewed Yam, Carrots, Raisins & Prunes
- Fruit Salad Bowls

Sponsor a meal \$25 per person
Sponsor a family of 4 \$100

Special thanks to our co-sponsors Maple Grill & Murray Shapiro

To sponsor a Seder in a Box www.scharatzedeck.com
For more information on this initiative call Rachael at 604-736-7607 or email rachael@scharatzedeck.com