



YOUNG ISRAEL DENVER

# Parashat Vaera

## January 21, 2023 ~ 28 Tevet 5783

Rabbi Shmuel Halpern, Rabbi ~ Dr. Jonathan Fishman, President

440 S. Monaco Pkwy., Denver, CO 80224 ~ [www.yidenver.org](http://www.yidenver.org) ~ [office@yidenver.org](mailto:office@yidenver.org)

**Candle Lighting** 4:47 pm

**Havdallah** 5:50 pm

Masks are optional at our minyanim. We encourage anyone who wishes or needs to wear a mask to continue to do so. If you have any symptoms or not feeling well, please stay home.

### We look forward to you joining us this Shabbat!

#### Friday

Mincha/ Kabbalat Shabbat/ Maariv: 4:50 pm

*Shema should be recited after 5:48 pm*

**Rosh Chodesh Shevat is  
Monday, 1/23**

#### Shabbat

Mishna Berura Class: 8:25 am

Shacharit: 9:00 am (with childcare)

*Latest time for Shema is 9:43 am*

*Dairy Kiddush following services*

Mincha: 4:45 pm

Maariv: 5:50 pm



### D'var Torah by Rabbi Halpern

“Virtue is the golden mean between vices, the one of excess and the one of deficiency (Aristotle).” The key to successful living is the balance between work and family, others and self, flexibility and discipline.

As Torah Jews, there’s another balancing act vital to our spiritual success — the synthesis of prayer and Torah.

At Sinai, we stood and listened. We received input of the greatest magnitude but added nothing — zero output. But ever since that great day, we’ve been applying our rational, human minds to plumb the depths of Divine wisdom. Recently, the Torah publishing scene has exploded, which doesn’t include the countless novel ideas that don’t make it to the shelf.

But Torah doesn’t end with study; it is meant to be applied. “The greatness of Torah study is that it leads to action (Kiddushin 40b).” The Mitzvot of the Torah are an opportunity to make our mark on the world. The arena of Mitzvah action is vast, and there’s enough space for everyone to excel.

Torah and Mitzvot are about achieving excellence in mind and action. But prayer is about silence; let go and let G-d. Standing with our feet together, we say, “Hashem, I can’t make a move without You. I’m peacefully in Your loving hands and, at the same time, yearning for Your salvation.”

Ramban writes that there’s no biblical obligation to pray each day. Though he agrees that in times of great need, we’re obligated to turn to Hashem in prayer, in normal times, Ramban rules that prayer is a rabbinic obligation.

At the very beginning of time, prayer was so vital that no grass would grow until Adam prayed for rain. But today, we have the Torah. Keep to the Torah and Mitzvot, be the best person you can be, and success will follow. “If you follow my statutes... I will provide rain at the proper time... and the earth will give forth its bounty (Parshat Bechukotai).”

Rambam disagrees and rules that there’s a biblical obligation to pray daily. In Rambam’s view, Torah living

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### Davening Times for the Upcoming Week:

#### Shacharit

Sun: 8:00 am

Mon (Rosh Chodesh) 6:20 am

Tues, Wed, Fri: 6:35 am

Thurs: 6:30 am

#### Mincha

Sun-Fri: 4:55 pm

*All times are listed at  
[yidenver.org/calendar](http://yidenver.org/calendar)*

### Sefer Torah Campaign Sponsors

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## D'var Torah (cont.)

without prayer is in danger of turning to idolatry — namely, the worship of self. Prayer is the antidote to egotism. It allows us to shed all pretenses; before Hashem, there are no masks. We can be real about our vulnerabilities and confident in the loving care of our Father in heaven.

In this week's Parsha Hashem compares Moshe with the patriarchs. The open revelation of Hashem begins with the miracles of the exodus and culminates in the Sinai experience.

Hashem promised Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov a great future for the Jewish people. Though they didn't live to see the fulfillment of those assurances, they had perfect faith in Hashem and His word. The patriarchs were models of faith, and it was they who established the three daily prayers.

Before we became the people of The Book, we were a family that prayed.

Hashem tells Moshe, "before you embark on the journey to Sinai, where the Jews will reach the pinnacle of greatness, remember the importance of balancing human achievements and faith, speech and silence, action and rest — remember to pray."

(Based in part on the teachings of Rabbi Moshe Shapiro ob'm)



## Come Learn With Us

- **Torah from the Land of Israel** Led by Ellyn Hutt & The Jewish Experience. Wednesdays, 11am - 12pm MT. There's something special about the Torah we learn in and share from the Land of Israel. Together we'll be discovering what that means for each of us, personally. Join me in exploring the weekly parsha with a focus on both the spiritual insights of our Torah text as well as the spiritual insights that reveal themselves in the day-to-day life in our holy homeland. This session will run from January 18th-March 31. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86742802886>
- Rabbi Aharon Wilen from the Denver Kollel will be speaking
- **Save the Date: Feb 10-11** S-I-R Rabbi Chaim Eisen will be speaking at Young Israel of Denver.
- **Mishna Berura Shiur** Led by Rabbi Halpern, Shabbat mornings at 8:25 am. "*From Bees to the Runaway Dog: Trapping on Shabbos.*"
- **Masechet Megillah Chabura** Mondays at 7:30 pm at the home of Michal Elias-Bachrach and Yoni Eckmann, 375 S Krameria St. For men and women, all comfort levels welcome, join any time! For info contact Michal at [ebmichal@gmail.com](mailto:ebmichal@gmail.com) or 610-348-8508.
- [Click here](#) to view this week's edition of **Mizrachi's Parshat Hashavua package**, or pick one up in the shul's lobby. [mizrachi.org/hamizrachiweekly](http://mizrachi.org/hamizrachiweekly)
- **OU Women's Initiative 5783 Parsha Series** Join Torat Imecha each week for a stimulating and inspirational 10-12 minute shiur to share with family and friends. Sign up for emails at [ou.org/women/parsha](http://ou.org/women/parsha), or download the Torat Imecha app!

## DAT Minyan Announcements

- **Kiddush** following services will be dairy.
- **Scholar in Residence Rabbi Ahron Wilen** Shabbat 1/28. More info to follow.
- **View Rabbi Halpern's weekly one-minute video Dvar Torah** at [yidenver.org/video-dvar](http://yidenver.org/video-dvar)
- **Joint Learning Program** with hot food and many learning options. Beginning in February. More info to follow.
- **Save the Date: Feb 10-11** S-I-R Rabbi Chaim Eisen will be speaking at Young Israel of Denver.
- **Winter Clothes Drive** Ongoing throughout the winter - we are collecting warm outerwear and clothes for kids and adults - all sizes. Drop off at 375 S. Krameria Street.

## Members' Milestones



Renee Lazar, Ryan Kramer, Sarah Raphaely, Lisa Perlmutter

## Refuah Shlemah

Please include the following names in your tefilla. May each be granted a Refuah Shlemah.

Aliza bat Batsheva	Miriam Adina bat Sara	Shalom Shimon ben Rachel
Alonit bat Yael	Mordechai ben Chaya Hannah	Shmuel Aharon ben Jenny
Bella bas Malka	Naama	Shoshanah bat Miriam
Chaya Sarah Miriam bat Esther	Nechama bat Chana	Yaakov ben Golda Simma
Hannah bat Naomi Miriam	Penina Devorah bas Shulamit Itka	Yonatan Zeev ben Netaa
HaRav Benyomin Daniel Ben Chaya	Ruchel Malkah bat Leah	Yosef ben Sarah Imenu
Masha bas Rivka	Ruchel Michele bas Sara	Yosef Yitzchok ben Sima Chasya
Michael ben Sara	Saige bat Hannah	Yossef ben Dinah
Mika Ester Bat Adi	Sarah Rivka bat Rachel Leah	Ze'ev Shmuel ben Helena

Names are kept on the list until Shabbat Mevarchim. Help us keep the list accurate by updating the [Cholim Document](#) or by emailing [office@yidenver.org](mailto:office@yidenver.org)

## This Week in Jewish history

### 27 Tevet

Rabbi Shimshon Raphael Hirsch (1808-1888), Talmudist, scholar, philosopher, prolific author and Rabbi of Frankfurt am Main, passed away.

### 28 Tevet

In 1866, Jews of Switzerland were granted civic equality, upon pressure exerted by the United States which had interceded on behalf of American Jewish citizens.

### 1 Shevat

In 2488, Moshe Rabeinu begins his farewell address to the people and review of the Torah, final year of wandering.

### 3 Shevat

- Hitler was appointed chancellor of Germany, 1933.
- Founding of the Society of Youth Aliya, which brought to Israel over 115,000 children 12-16, 1933

### 5 Shevat

- Jews of Sicily and Naples were invited to return (having been expelled previously) by Charles the Bourbon, 1740.

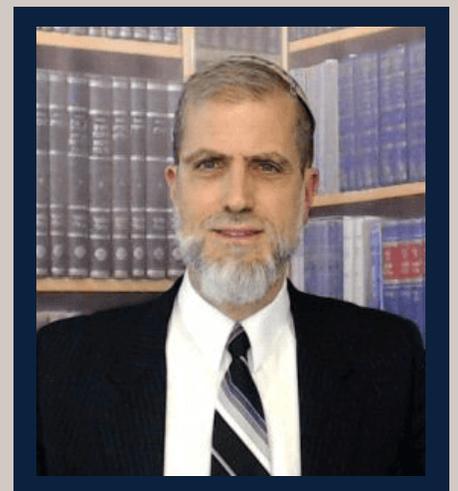
## Community Happenings

- This Shabbat, there will be a kiddush-lunch at The Denver Kehillah at BMH sponsored by Jay and Melanie Shoenberger in honor of their parents: Janice and Larry Fagen's 40th wedding anniversary and Allan and Julie Schoenberger's 50th wedding anniversary.
- EDOS presents historian Ronnie Halibard: Friday night 1/20, 7:45 pm- Oneg Shabbat at the home of the Teitelbaums, 5735 E. Cedar Ave: *Turning Sticks into Snakes: Does Magic Exist?* Shabbat morning before Mussaf: *It's YOURstory not HISTORY!* Motzoei Shabbat, 7:30 pm at EDOS, 198 S. Holly St. Enjoy a Braided Loaf dessert spread, a hot chocolate bar, and have a chance to win one of several door prizes. Also, *A Multimedia Presentation: The Events of Jewish History...Learn it all in 75 minutes!*
- Bais Menachem Mega Kids Challah Bake with Rabbi B! Sunday, January 22, 10:00 am at the BMH-BJ Social Hall. All kids ages 3-12! (Kids must be accompanied by an adult.) Sign up at [www.chabadcolorado.com/challahbake](http://www.chabadcolorado.com/challahbake).
- Merkaz presents A Day On The Slopes! Sun, 1/29 Ages 10 – Adult! Price includes skis, lift ticket, and transportation. Info and RSVP by 1/23 at [www.merkaztorah.org/events](http://www.merkaztorah.org/events). [info@merkaztorah.org](mailto:info@merkaztorah.org).
- Denver NCSY is happy to be hosting the Southwest NCSY Intercity Winter Summit 2/3-2/5. Join teens from Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio for an incredible weekend of fun, friends and inspiration. For teens in 9-12 grade. Cost is \$175. Scholarships are available. Limited spots so please register asap! Register at [www.southwest.ncsy.org/events/452622/intercity-winter-summit-shabbaton](http://www.southwest.ncsy.org/events/452622/intercity-winter-summit-shabbaton). Contact Rabbi Fry at [miretzkye@ncsy.org](mailto:miretzkye@ncsy.org) or 847-868-4096 with any questions.
- The EDOS Annual Event 2/4-2/5. The event, titled A Musical Experience, marks EDOS' 61st year. It features renowned singer Ohad Moskowitz, and a tribute to Jack Greenwald, a"h, with the Hakarat Hatov award. For more info and to RSVP go to [www.edosdenver.org/Events/2023-AnnualEvent](http://www.edosdenver.org/Events/2023-AnnualEvent)
- East Side Eruv. Visit [www.denvereruv.org](http://www.denvereruv.org) to sign up for weekly status messages, Eruv maps, and to make donations.
- The Mikvah of East Denver (MOED) is now open for Women's immersion, Men's immersion and Keilim immersion. Visit [www.mikvahofeastdenver.org](http://www.mikvahofeastdenver.org) for membership registration and to make an appointment.



## *Scholar-in-Residence* **Rabbi Chaim Eisen**

**February 10-11, 2023**



Rabbi Chaim Eisen is the founder and dean of Yeshivath Sharashim – Zion Bible Studies. For nearly all his career, he has been involved in adult education, principally as a senior rabbinical lecturer at the Orthodox Union Jerusalem World Center, where he taught for over 36 years. He has been stimulating audiences throughout Israel, North America, and Europe for nearly four decades. Over the past two decades, he has become increasingly engaged in “building bridges” with Christian believers, through lectures and informal meetings in Israel, abroad, and via the Internet.