



YOUNG ISRAEL DENVER

Parashat Ki Tisa

March 11, 2023 ~ 18 Adar 5783

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

440 S. Monaco Pkwy., Denver, CO 80224 ~ www.yidenver.org ~ office@yidenver.org

We look forward to you joining us this Shabbat!

Candle Lighting 5:43 pm

Havdallah 6:43 pm

Friday

Mincha/ Kabbalat Shabbat/ Maariv: 5:45 pm

Shema should be recited after 6:41 pm

Shabbat

Mishna Berura Class 8:25 am

Shacharit: 9:00 am (with childcare)

Latest time for Shema is 9:13 am

Sponsored Kiddush following services

Mincha: 5:40 pm

Sponsored Seudah Shelishit following Mincha

Maariv: 6:43 pm



Spring Forward - Change clocks to one hour ahead this Sunday morning!

D'var Torah by Rabbi Halpern

Legend has one of the early Greek philosophers walking along the beach when he noticed a seagull drop a coconut on the head of a bald fisherman — the bird's aim was tragically perfect, and its poor victim died on the spot.

Within moments, a crowd gathered and debated the cause of death. Some argued that the dead man had angered the gods of the sea by interfering with the oceanic ecosystem — big fish eat small fish, and man should mind his own business. The debate continued, but all agreed that there must be some metaphysical reason for the fisherman's early demise.

As the noise quieted down, the philosopher began to speak. "My friends, there's a straightforward explanation for the tragedy. The deceased was completely bald, and the bird, looking for a convenient place to crack open his coconut, mistook his head for a rock."

Humanity had turned a corner; we no longer would throw our hands towards the heavens in defeat. Knowledge is power, and with greater understanding comes greater control. Since that day on the beach, humankind has come far. We can do organ transplants, put people on the moon, send satellites into orbit, and we've each got a versatile personal assistant in our pockets.

Sadly, the journey from superstition to rationality has not been without its high costs. In a rush to rid ourselves of nonsensical explanations for natural phenomena, we've created for ourselves a G-dless world.

The beach-going philosopher thought he'd seen past the mirage of mysticism to uncover the true meaning of reality, but in so doing, he fell for the greatest mirage of all — the natural world. The Hebrew word for world is olam, which is related to the word he'lam, hidden — G-d, so to speak, hid Himself in the laws of physics.

Continued on next page

Davening Times for the Upcoming Week:

Shacharit

Sun: 8:00 am

Mon Thurs: 6:30 am

Tues, Wed, Fri: 6:35 am

Mincha

Sun - Fri: 6:50 pm

Note later time for Mincha due to DST. Please make an effort to attend.

All times are listed at yidenver.org/calendar

Sefer Torah Campaign Sponsors

Sefer Shemot:

Mark Brooks & Terry Samuel

Parashat Ki Tisa:

Stuart Senkfor & Leslie Stewart



Sponsorships available at yidenver.org/torahdedication

D'var Torah (cont.)

But don't turn off your brain just yet. The Torah doesn't ask that we ignore the laws of physics, close our eyes at the wheel, scream Sh'ma Yisrael, and hope for the best. On the contrary: rationality is a tool that allows us to relate to our inscrutable Creator. We can't see Him, but we can see His actions. Nature and history make up the sentences and paragraphs of the book of Reality, and through careful reading, we can glimpse its Author.

Show, don't tell, goes the old writing maxim. The best writing invites you to see beyond the written word; it gives you a glimpse of the author's world — her thoughts, emotions, and experiences; authentic words provide a window into the author's soul.

"You are my witnesses... says Hashem (Isaiah 43:10)." The Jewish nation was born to testify to the existence of the Creator and His continued involvement in the history of nations and individuals alike. And our mission in this world has never been so threatened as it is when a robot with no soul can create whole books. These days, words, like the fabric of nature, hide nothing — what you see is what you get.

A Torah sage once said that the greatest heresy of our generation isn't the denial of G-d but the denial of man. Man, a physical body that clothes a spiritual soul, was created in the Divine image, and if we'd only see man appropriately, we'd have no issue "seeing" our Creator.

To counter this latter form of heresy, the Torah instructs us to count the Jewish people by using half Shekel coins because to count Jews directly destroys the last reminder that the finite clothes the Infinite.

G-d is the Source of Life, and connecting the world of cause and effect with its Primary Cause is the underlying meaning behind Torah and Mitzvot and the Source of all blessings.

Living a Torah life is very practical; it means walking on solid ground, making rational and calculated decisions, and trying to manage our emotions. But never for a second should we forget that all of that clear-cut and logical living is the shell of the building — the true meaning of it all is when, with our free-willed actions, we build a life that houses the Divine Presence.



Come Learn With Us

- **NEW Beit Midrash Night** for men and women. Join a class or learn with a chavruta. Every Wednesday night from 7:45-8:45 pm at The Jewish Experience (399 S. Monaco Pkwy). See information on page 8.
- **Mishna Berura Shiur** Join Rabbi Halpern Shabbat 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! Contact Michal at ebmichal@gmail.com
- **Torah from the Land of Israel** Led by Ellyn Hutt & The Jewish Experience. Wednesdays, 11am - 12pm MT. Explore 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. Jan. 18-March 31. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86742802886>
- **OU Women's Initiative** Torat Imecha Nach Yomi has started Sefer Tehillim. Sign up at ou.org/women/nach23.
- **Tehillim 150** is the OU Women's Initiative's program for high-school girls to study a perek of Tehillim each day for 150 days with Yael Davidowitz. outorah.org/series/6205
- [Click here](#) to view this week's edition of **Mizrachi's Parshat Hashavua package** mizrachi.org/hamizrachiweekly

YI Denver Announcements

- **Kiddush** is sponsored by Judi and Brad Scher in memory of Judi's father Alfred Oppenheimer's yartzheit.
- **Seudah Shelishit** is sponsored by the Heisler and Katz families in honor of the upcoming Yartzeits of Shaindel Rochel bat Rav Oizer and Ahron Dovid Chaim ben Rav Yisrael Isser.
- **Thank you** to our Megillah readers, Rabbi Halpern and Nathan Rabinovitch.
- **Thank you** to our Purim Seudah committee chairs, Kim Fishman, Sara Halpern, and Mor Shapiro. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped shop, cook, decorate, set up and clean up. It was an amazing and fun event, enjoyed by everyone - and we couldn't have done it without all your help! See pictures on page 5-6.
- **Thank you** to our Purim Seudah sponsors. See page 4 for the full list.
- **Purim Fun!** See more pictures of all the fun we had over Purim at www.yidenver.org
- **Next Week** - We are excited to celebrate Yoshi Polotsky's Bar Mitzvah next week (3/18). Please note that Shabbat morning services will be held in BMH Fisher Hall next Shabbat.
- **Beit Midrash Night** Join a class or learn with a chavruta. See information on page 8.
- **View Rabbi Halpern's weekly one-minute video Dvar Torah** at yidenver.org/video-dvar

Members' Milestones



Rivka Sher, Marla Jacobson



Alfred Oppenheimer (18 Adar)

Walter Brooks *Shmuel Yaakov ben Levi* (22 Adar 2)

Refuah Shlemah

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

Aliza bat Batsheva

Alonit bat Yael

Bella bas Malka

Chaya Sarah Miriam bat Esther

Hannah bat Naomi Miriam

HaRav Benyomin Daniel Ben Chaya

Masha bas Rivka

Michael ben Sara

Mika Ester Bat Adi

Miriam Adina bat Sara

Mordechai ben Chaya Hannah

Mordechai ben Shanaleaha

Naama

Penina Devorah bas Shulamit Itka

Ruchel Malkah bat Leah

Saige bat Hannah

Sarah Rivka bat Rachel Leah

Shalom Shimon ben Rachel

Shmuel Aharon ben Jenny

Shoshanah bat Miriam

Yonatan Zeev ben Netaa

Yosef ben Sarah Imenu

Yosef Yitzchok ben Sima Chasya

Yossef ben Dinah

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

Community Happenings

- ADL's 42nd Annual Governor's Holocaust Remembrance Program featuring Holocaust survivor Paul Galan. Wed 4/19. 5:30 - 7:00 pm at Temple Emanuel (50 Grape St). Livestream available. www.support.adl.org/ghrp2023
- Denver Academy of Torah is now accepting applications for 2023/2024 school year. For more information, contact Director of Admissions Nurit Rotbart at nrotbart@datcampus.org or visit datcampus.org
- 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.
- East Side Eruv. Visit www.denvereruv.org to sign up for weekly status messages, Eruv maps, and to make donations.
- The Mikvah of East Denver (MOED) is open for Women's immersion, Men's immersion and Keilim immersion. Visit www.mikvahofeastdenver.org for membership, registration and to schedule an appointment.

This Week in Jewish History

18 Adar 5713 (March 5, 1953)

On this day, Joseph Stalin, the Soviet dictator responsible for the deaths of millions of people, including many Jews, passed away. Stalin's reign was marked by anti-Semitic campaigns, purges of Jewish intellectuals, and suppression of Jewish culture and religious practice. Stalin died from a stroke that had struck him on March 1st, which happened to be Purim. Leading up to his death, Joseph Stalin accused a group of nine doctors, six of whom were Jews, of plotting to poison and kill Soviet leaders. The innocent doctors were arrested and subjected to torture in order to extract false confessions in what became known as the "Doctors' Plot." Stalin's death on March 5, just days before their trial was set to begin, is widely believed to have prevented a major disaster for Soviet Jews. (1)

27 Adar I 5708 (March 8th, 1948)

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks was born on this day in 1948. He was appointed Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth in 1988, where he served until 2013. During his time as Chief Rabbi, he was a leading voice on interfaith dialogue and worked to promote social cohesion. After stepping down, he continued to write and speak extensively on religion, ethics, and politics. He was awarded numerous honors, including a knighthood in 2005 and a life peerage in 2009. Rabbi Sacks passed away in November 2020, leaving behind a profound intellectual and spiritual legacy. (2)

12 Adar 5693 (March 10, 1933)

The Nazis established their first concentration camp in the town of Dachau, 10 miles away from Munich. (3)

1. <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/purim-miracle-of-1953-483994>
2. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jonathan-Sacks>.
3. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/history-and-overview-of-dachau>.

Thank you to Avi Polotsky for compiling this section

Thank You to our Seudah Sponsors



Marc & Melanie Avner
Marc & Claudia Braunstein
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PURIM 5783/2023





MARCH 2023

9TH-12TH GRADE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 	2 FRAP N CHAT	3	4 MORNING MOTIVATION
5	6	7 HAPPY PURIM 	8 	9 FRAP N CHAT	10	11
12 STORIES FROM A SURVIVOR 	13 3D	14 Beit Midrash Night 	15 	16 FRAP N CHAT	17	18
19 SKI TRIP 	20 3D	21	22 ROSH CHODESH DINNER 	23	24 SHABBAT SHABANG 	25 SHABBAT SHABANG 
26 SHABBAT SHABANG 	27 3D	28 Beit Midrash Night 	29 	30 FRAP N CHAT	31	

Recurring Events

This Month

Latte & Learning-410 S Colorado Blvd. 6pm-7pm on Wednesdays

Frap n' Chat-9347 East Chenango Ave., Greenwood Village

March 2 and 16: 11am-11:45am March 9 and 30: 1pm-1:45pm

3D-4762 S Wabash St. 6pm-7pm on Mondays

Beit Midrash Night- 198 S Holly St. 6:30pm-7:30pm alternating Tues

3/4- Morning Motivation at YI Denver at 10:30am

3/12-Stories from a Survivor at Aish of the Rockies(9550 E Belleview Ave, Greenwood Village) at 2pm. For teens and parents. Register [here](#)

3/19 - Ski Trip Register: <https://southwest.ncsy.org/events/455654/Ski-Trip>

3/22-Rosh Chodesh Dinner at 507 S Pontiac Way 7pm-8pm

3/24-3/26-Shabbat Shabang. Details forthcoming

MARCH 2023

6TH-8TH GRADE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 MORNING MOTIVATION
5	6	7 HAPPY PURIM 	8 SOUTHEAST	9	10	11
12 STORIES FROM A SURVIVOR 	13	14	15	16 EAST	17	18
19	20	21	22 SOUTHEAST	23	24	25 MORNING MOTIVATION
26	27	28	29	30 EAST	31	



Yagdil Torah יגדיל תורה

Bais Medrash Night

Choose from a variety of classes below or learn with a *chavrusa* and *shteig* with the *bais medrash* vibe!

- Rabbi Akiva Stern, "Torah Foundations from the weekly Parsha" (for men and women)
- Rabbi Avraham Dovid Karnowsky, "Talmud Chagiga" (for men)
- Rabbi Raphael Leban, "The Shine of Shabbos" (for men and women)
- Rabbi Shmuel Halpern, "Two Thousand Years of Learning: From Talmudic Texts to Modern Day Applications" (for men and women)
- Aliza Chernitzky, "Serenity and Strength Through Psalms" (for women)
- Or speak to Rabbi Chaim Sher, the Chavrusa Coordinator, to learn one on one.

Followed by catered refreshments and libations.
 No charge to attend. Please consider sponsoring a Bais Medrash Night.
 Contact Rabbi A.D. Karnowsky for more information, (917) 588-5786

Wednesdays, starting Mar 1
 At The Jewish Experience

7:45PM to 8:45PM
 399 S. Monaco Parkway



by Lawrence Michael Fagen

Young Israel Congregants: I have some recent pieces to share with you. I offer a 15% discount to fellow congregants. I have a lot of work in my Denver home, because I am stocking up for a July month long Exhibit in Bliss Hall at Steamboat Creates. Feel free to call me at 281-798-5143 if you'd like to see my work in Denver or email me for a current brochure at artworks260@gmail.com; I'd like to hear from you.



Fiesta 48 x 36 Silver Floating Frame \$475



SB-14A 30 x 40 Bourbon Orange Frame \$490



D-50 30 x 40 x 1/2 \$435