



Carnegie Shul Chatter

March 2, 2022



In Our Hearts and Souls

What a frightening time this is. Russia has invaded Ukraine and threatened to use nuclear weapons. The illusion of Russia as a friend and partner that existed after the fall of the former Soviet Union is no more, and Cold War and Hot War are very present dangers.

The end of the Book of Exodus tells us that the Divine Presence was to dwell among us in the Mishkan. Oh how we could use a Mishkan today!

So we don't have a physical Mishkan today, but we still have our hearts and our souls, and God may not dwell in a physical structure in our midst today, but He does dwell in the hearts and souls of each of us who allows Him entry. He is right here for us if we allow Him to be.

Doctor Block usually ends his weekly D'Var Torah by saying, "May this hasten the coming of Moshiach." We should all make that very plea as we pray for order and peace to be restored in our world.

Zoom in for Services

Shabbat services are held by Zoom, beginning at 10am and lasting 60-90 minutes. A link is sent to all Shul members; if you don't receive it, contact Wendy Panizzi at panizziw@gmail.com.

Pekudei in a Nutshell

Exodus 38:21–40:38

From Chabad.org

An accounting is made of the gold, silver and copper donated by the people for the making of the Mishkan. Betzalel, Aholiav and their assistants make the eight priestly garments—the apron, breastplate, cloak, crown, hat, tunic, sash and breeches—according to the specifications communicated to Moses in the Parshah of Tetzaveh.

The Mishkan is completed and all its components are brought

to Moses, who erects it and anoints it with the holy anointing oil, and initiates Aaron and his four sons into the priesthood. A cloud appears over the Mishkan, signifying the Divine Presence that has come to dwell within it.

Hashem Lived With Us

During the last month there have been several parshahs discussing the blueprints for the Mishkan, its construction, and its ultimate completion.

Why so much about the Mishkan? Because the Mishkan was to be a dwelling place for God among the Children of Israel. A place for the Divine Presence among the people. What an incredible concept! God not just dwelling somewhere in heaven, but right among his Chosen People! Wow!

Here is an excerpt from an article in aish.com by Rabbi Zvi Belovski. I hope you find it enjoyable and enlightening.

The Purpose Of The Mishkan

The Mishkan was intended to be a location where the Divine Presence rested and was more palpable than in any other place in the world. The very name Mishkan means "dwelling place," and, indeed, in introducing the concept of the Mishkan, the Torah proclaims:

Make a sanctuary for Me, and I shall dwell within them. (Shemos 25:8)

This means that every aspect of the Mishkan contributed to this aim - the building itself and each vessel within it needed to be designed to receive and transmit the Divine Presence. This is not dissimilar to the relationship between the body and soul within each person. The body is a vehicle for the soul's existence in this world; so, too, were the details of the Mishkan the means by which God's Presence could be perceived on earth.

The right of klal Yisrael to benefit from this wonderful Mishkan was a great gift from God. For after the sin of the Golden Calf, they were in a spiritually bereft state and hardly suited to such a tremendous manifestation of the Divine. However, God granted them the Mishkan, enabling them to perceive Him even while they were in a spiritually inferior situation. At this stage they had been spiritually animated enough to realize that they were dissatisfied with the mere hope that God would rest among them. Instead, they knew



that their task in life was to be, like the vessels in the Mishkan, vehicles for the Divine.

This was symbolized by the order of construction that we have mentioned. For the lower coverings were spread before the beams were put underneath to support them. This represents the people who, after the sin of the *eigel*, were given a Mishkan before they were really able to support the spiritual level it represented. Only after the curtains had been spread could the beams be put underneath. So, too, after the spiritual lift provided by the construction of the Mishkan the people could support the level they had been granted by God.

Something Similar

A similar idea applies to the situation in which klal Yisrael found themselves in Egypt. It is well known that they had reached the lowest level of spiritual pollution in Egypt; just a short time longer in slavery may have meant that they would have been so immersed in Egyptian culture that they would have been irredeemable. As we know, God redeemed them then even though they were not really worthy of His attentions. But they were worth redeeming for what they could achieve: the acceptance of the Torah seven weeks later at Mount Sinai. So God took them above the level that they were on, granting them a great Exodus from Egypt, confident that they would "catch up," as it were, through their own efforts, in the seven intervening weeks.

Excerpted from Shem MiShmuel by the Sochatchover Rebbe, rendered into English by Rabbi Zvi Belovski, published by Targum Press.



Yahrtzeits

This week the Carnegie Shul acknowledges the yahrtzeits of:

Isadore L Horowitz

Sarah Dickstein Weiss

Marcella Zemon Glantz

Max Roth

Libbie Hirsh

Harry A. Klee

Leo Herskovitz

May their memories be for a blessing.

Donations

The Carnegie Shul is most grateful for the following recent donations:

Lois Ash Metlika

In memory of Ruth Ash Katzner

Lois Ash Metlika

In memory of Rebecca Ash



**Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall
300 Beechwood Avenue
Carnegie, PA 15106**

Join us for a visit from Marcel Walker and Wayne Wise, creators of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh's comic book series *Chutz-Pow! Superheroes of the Holocaust*.

Chutz-Pow! seeks to place stories of courage, resilience, and sacrifice at the forefront of Holocaust awareness. Learn the stories of heroic resistance and share in conversation about the dangers of fascism and bigotry.

Masks are required for this free in-person event.