



Carnegie Shul Chatter

March 2, 2023



Light candles 5:55 pm

Shabbat Services 9:30am

Shabbat Services

Join us in the sanctuary, providing you have been vaccinated for Covid 19, or attend virtually. Watch your email for a Zoom link or contact Rosalyn Hoffman at rjlynnman@yahoo.com. The complete Torah reading, in Hebrew and English, can be found at https://www.chabad.org/parshah/torahreading_cdo/aid/2492667/jewish/Tetzaveh-Torah-Reading.htm

Miracles All Around

Rabbi Twerski, in this week's article about Purim, says, "The realization that everything in the world is orchestrated by God is a fundamental principle of Judaism. This teaching of Purim should be with us 354 days of every year. As we say in the Amidah, "for Your miracles are with us every day." This belief enables us to entrust our lives to the care of God, and should stimulate us to live our lives according to His commandments."

What a profound comment.

Yes, God's miracles are with us every day. A miracle doesn't have to be something as spectacular as the parting of the Red Sea or any of the plagues against Egypt. Life itself is an incredible miracle. The love of our spouse and our children is a great miracle. The morning sunrise and the evening sunset are great miracles.

All of the wonderful things in our lives, regardless of how large or how infinitesimally small, are gifts from Hashem and are indeed miracles.

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We often take God's miraculous gifts for granted. What a shame.

Those who do not believe in miracles, who do not see Hashem's hand in all of the beautiful things that surround them, can never have the spiritual comfort that comes to those who see and believe. And that is very sad.



Tetzaveh in a Nutshell

Exodus 27:20–30:10

From Chabad.org

The name of the Parshah, "Tetzaveh," means "Command" and it is found in Exodus 27:20.

G-d tells Moses to receive from the children of Israel pure olive oil to feed the "everlasting flame" of the menorah, which Aaron is to kindle each day, "from evening till morning."

The priestly garments, to be worn by the kohanim (priests) while serving in the Sanctuary, are described. All kohanim wore: 1) the ketonet—a full-length linen tunic; 2) michnasayim—linen breeches; 3) mitznefet or migba'at—a linen turban; 4) avnet—a long sash wound above the waist.

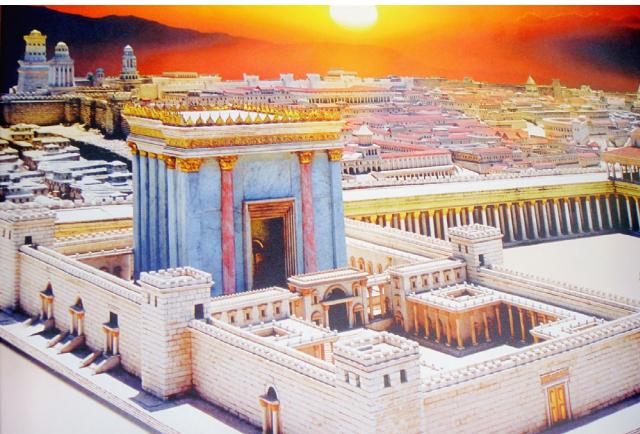
In addition, the kohen gadol (high priest) wore: 5) the efod—an apron-like garment made of blue-, purple- and red-dyed wool, linen and gold thread; 6) the choshen—a breastplate containing twelve precious stones inscribed with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; 7) the me'il—a cloak of blue wool, with gold bells and decorative pomegranates on its hem; 8) the tzitz—a golden plate worn on the forehead, bearing the inscription "Holy to G-d."

Tetzaveh also includes G-d's detailed instructions for the seven-day initiation of Aaron and his four sons—Nadav, Avihu, Elazar and Itamar—into the priesthood, and for the making of the golden altar, on which the ketoret (incense) was burned.



Haftorah in a Nutshell

Ezekiel 43:10-27



In this week's haftorah, the prophet Ezekiel describes a vision of the altar that will be built for the third Holy Temple and its dedication ceremony—paralleling this week's Torah portion which discusses the dedication of the Tabernacle's altar.

Shortly after the destruction of the first Temple, Ezekiel experienced a vision of the third Holy Temple that will be built by the Messiah. G-d tells Ezekiel to recount to the Jewish people this vision, and this hopefully will bring them to be ashamed of the deeds

they did that caused the destruction of the Temple. "And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, let them know the form of the House and its scheme, its exits and its entrances, and all its forms, and all its laws and all its teachings..."

Ezekiel then goes on to describe in detail the third Temple's altar, and also describes its seven-day inauguration ceremony and the offerings which will be brought on each day of that special week.

Purim Commentary

On Monday evening we begin the holiday of Purim, one of the most joyous holidays on the Jewish calendar. It is a holiday on which many Jews come to the reading of the Megillah, the Book of Esther, the main focus of the holiday, dressed in costumes. And, when the Megillah is read, we boo, jeer, and make noise with our graggers every time the name of the evil Haman is recited.

Here is a commentary from aish.com, written by noted Pittsburgh Rabbi, Dr. Avraham Twerski, discussing the importance of Purim.

Purim Will Never Cease

by Rabbi Dr. Avraham Twerski

Tetzaveh (Exodus 27:20-30:10)

Commenting on the verse, "And these days of Purim should never cease among the Jews" (Esther 9:28), the Midrash states that even when all the other festivals are discontinued, Purim will always remain. The commentaries give various interpretations on what this Midrash may mean but it is evident from this Midrash that Purim has extraordinary significance, and surpasses in importance even the Scriptural festivals of Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot. What is it that gives Purim such great significance?



R' Levi Yitzchok of Berditchev explains that supernatural miracles, great as they may be, are of only a temporary duration. The salvation of the Israelites by the dividing of the waters of the Reed Sea was indeed an exceptional occurrence, but it was witnessed only by that generation, and for us it is a historical incident. We do not expect miracles of that type to occur.

The salvation of Purim, however, did not consist of any supernatural miracle. Every event could be seen as a perfectly natural happening. A king becomes intoxicated and in his drunken rage has the queen executed. He chooses a Jewess as his new queen, and she conceals her origin. Her uncle, who is in the royal court, discovers a palace intrigue to assassinate the king, and the queen reports this to the king, thereby saving his life. The anti-Semitic prime minister extracts a decree from the king to exterminate the Jews in his kingdom. The king is reminded that it was a Jew who saved his life. The queen turns the king's wrath against the prime minister, who is executed. The queen reveals her Jewish origin, her uncle is appointed as prime minister and the Jews are saved.

It is only when the entire sequence of events is put together that one sees the guiding Hand of God saving His people. In all likelihood, during the Purim episode, someone in shul related, "Did you hear what happened yesterday? The king was drunk and flew into a rage and had the queen executed!" A listener probably said, "I couldn't care less about what the king does. Politics is not my thing." At no point did anyone realize that a miracle was in the making.

Miracles such as these are with us today. No laws of nature are suspended, but the guiding Hand of God causes "natural" events to occur in such a way that results in our salvation.

The realization that everything in the world is orchestrated by God is a fundamental principle of Judaism. This teaching of Purim should be with us 354 days of every year. As we say in the Amidah, "for Your miracles are with us every day." This belief enables us to entrust our lives to the care of God, and should stimulate us to live our lives according to His commandments.

Yahrtzeits

This week the Carnegie Shul acknowledges the yahrtzeits of:

**Samuel D. Korsen
Sam Moskovitz
Morris Oskie
Gertrude Isaacs
Harvey Lederstein
Stanford G. Weiss**

**Dr. Harry A. Klee
Edward L. Pickholtz
Rose F. Grossman
Milton Kalla
Jay C. Miller
Rebecca Ash**

**Katie Klee
Sarah G. Landau
Markus Sherman
Joseph York
Zelda Levine Hoffman**

May their memories be for a blessing.

Donation

**Paul Lederstein
In Memory of Harvey Lederstein**

WESTERN PA SMALL CONGREGATION 2022-2023 PROGRAMMING

with assistance from the Jewish Community Legacy Project

To Attend:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kdu6vrjgvEtertWXb2tlqwJK-pJbdylyX>

Save the Date!

B'NAI B'RITH IN WESTERN PA

Presented by: Eric Lidji, Director

Rauh Jewish History Programs & Archives

Thursday, March 16, 2023

at 7:00 pm

The International Order of B'nai B'rith was one of the most important Jewish organizations in the world for much of the 19th and 20th centuries, but it was especially important for small towns in Western Pennsylvania. B'nai B'rith promoted unity within small towns Jewish communities. It also helped these isolated Jewish communities connect to the larger Jewish world. B'nai B'rith started at least 92 lodges throughout Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, plus dozens of B'nai B'rith Women chapters and BBYO chapters. We'll look at the history of B'nai B'rith in Western Pennsylvania using photographs and documents from numerous small towns throughout the region.



Eric Lidji is the director of the Rauh Jewish Archives at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. He curates its website "The Jewish Encyclopedia of Western Pennsylvania" and hosts its local history podcast "The Cornerstone." He is the author of many books and articles on the Jewish history of Western Pennsylvania.

LET ALL VICTIMS GAIN A MEASURE OF JUSTICE AS WE CONTINUE TO HONOR THEIR MEMORIES

Presented by: Dr. Richard H. Weisberg
Beth Samuel Congregation, Ambridge, PA

Thursday, April 27, 2023

at 7:00 pm

Richard Weisberg discusses the place of post WWII trials, beginning with Nuremberg, in the difficult endeavor to add a measure of justice to other ways of honoring victims of the Shoah. His focus will be on civil litigation in US federal courts, in which he has frequently participated as a lawyer for the victims or their heirs, litigation which continues to this day.

Richard Weisberg has been an attorney on behalf of survivors and their heirs before US federal judges in six cases, some successful, over many years in which defendants are Holocaust-era wrongdoers. In part relating to these efforts, he was appointed by Pres. Obama to the US Commission on the Preservation of American Heritage Abroad (2011-16) and he was awarded the French Legion of Honor by Pres Sarkozy (2008).

