



Carnegie Shul Chatter

April 13, 2023



Light candles 7:39 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 rjlynman@yahoo.com. The complete Torah reading, in Hebrew and English, can be found at https://www.chabad.org/parshah/torahreading_cdo/aid/2492724/jewish/Shemini-Torah-Reading.htm

Thoughts on the Seder

How was your Seder? Mine (two of them) were excellent.

The first night of Passover there were four of us for Seder -- my cousin Jack who lives near us in Florida, a lady friend of his, my wife Ellen, and me. Our Seder is a bit abbreviated – it doesn't last until 1 or 2 in the morning like some I have attended, but it covered all of the important points.

The second Seder was just Ellen and me, but we covered everything we did the first night and even a little more.

Is it strange to have a Seder for just 2 or 4 people?

When I was single there were some years when I had Seder for just myself. Was it weird? I guess, but a Seder for one was certainly better than no Seder at all.

Some people find Passover to be a difficult holiday because of the dietary restrictions and the long Seder. I know I didn't like it as a child because I couldn't understand all the Hebrew, and it was very long, and my very

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strict Zadie wanted children to be seen and not heard. And I really hated to wear my itchy wool suit and starched white shirt and cufflinks.

But, you know what? Now Passover is one of my very favorite holidays. After all, it is the holiday when I celebrate the fact that I was released from bondage in Egypt, thanks to the miracle performed by Hashem, the Almighty.

What's not to like?



Shemini in a Nutshell

Leviticus 9:1–11:47

From Chabad.org

The name of the Parshah, “Shemini,” means “eighth” and it is found in Leviticus 9:1.

On the eighth day, following the seven days of their inauguration, Aaron and his sons begin to officiate as kohanim (priests); a fire issues forth from G-d to consume the offerings on the altar, and the divine presence comes to dwell in the Sanctuary.

Aaron’s two elder sons, Nadav and Avihu, offer a “strange fire before G-d, which He commanded them not” and die before G-d. Aaron is silent in face of his tragedy. Moses and Aaron subsequently disagree as to a point of law regarding the offerings, but Moses concedes to Aaron that Aaron is in the right.



G-d commands the kosher laws, identifying the animal species permissible and forbidden for consumption. Land animals may be eaten only if they have split hooves and also chew their cud; fish must have fins and scales; a list of non-kosher birds is given, and a list of kosher insects (four types of locusts).

Also in Shemini are some of the laws of ritual purity, including the purifying power of the mikvah (a pool of water meeting specified qualifications) and the wellspring. Thus the people of Israel are enjoined to “differentiate between the impure and the pure.”

Haftorah in a Nutshell

II Samuel 6:1-19



This week's haftorah mentions how Uzzah was struck dead when he disrespectfully touched the Ark of the Covenant; reminiscent of Nadab and Abihu's death described in this week's Torah reading.

The Holy Ark had been in storage in the house of Avinadav for many years, ever since the destruction of the Tabernacle in Shiloh. Recently crowned King David decided to move the Ark to the new capital, Jerusalem. He had the Ark placed on a cart and it was transported amidst singing and dancing. When

the procession reached Goren Nachon, the oxen misstepped and Uzzah, Avinadav's son, took hold of the Ark to steady it—whereupon he was instantly killed. David was devastated, and he temporarily placed the Ark in the home of Oved-edom the Edomite, where it remained for three months.

“And it was told to King David saying: ‘G-d has blessed the house of Oved-edom, and all that belongs to him, because of the Ark of G-d.’ And David went and brought up the ark of G-d from the house of Oved-edom into the City of David with joy.” The Ark was brought up to the city of David with great singing and dancing. David then blessed and distributed presents to all the assembled Israelites.

Haftorah Commentary

By Rabbi Jack Abramowitz

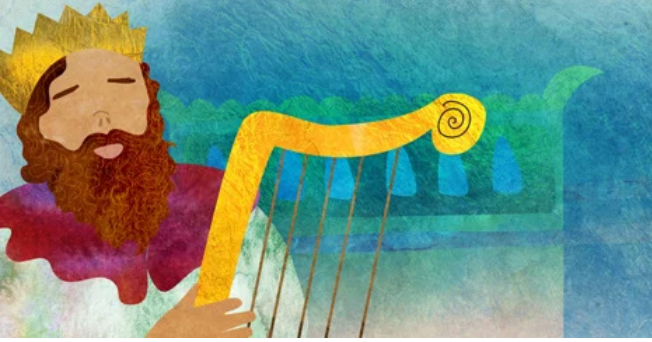
From outorah.org

Excerpted from The OU's Nach Yomi

David gathered 30,000 prominent people from all the Tribes to retrieve the Ark from the house of Avinadav, where it resided since being returned by the Philistines back in I Samuel chapter 7. They put it on a new wagon, which was led by Avinadav's sons, Uzzah and Achyo. David and the rest of the people danced and played instruments in celebration.

Then, tragedy struck. The Ark slipped, so Uzzah reached out and grabbed it. The Navi doesn't call it a sin, he calls it an error, but the result was the same: Uzzah died. David was distraught and had second thoughts about bringing the Ark to Jerusalem. Instead, they left it in the home of a man named Oveid-Edom, where it resided for three months.

David saw that Oveid-Edom's household was blessed because of the Ark's presence, so he decided to try again. This time he had the Ark carried by Levites, and he offered sacrifices every six steps. David danced with unbridled joy. His wife Michal saw him leaping about and thought it was undignified; she criticized him that even the maidservants would look down



on him. David replied he danced in front of Hashem and that if he humbled himself in front of G-d, even those same maidservants would praise him for it. As a punishment for speaking so insolently to David, Michal had no children until the day she died.

Now, that last bit requires some thought, as we know that Michal had a son. Two explanations are given: (1) Her son was already born at this time and Michal had no

further children for the rest of her life; (2) Michal died in childbirth, with the result that she had no children “until the day of her death.”

Chapter 7

So here’s David, living comfortably in his new palace, secure from his enemies on all sides. He turns to the prophet Nathan and says, “Why should I live in a house and G-d’s Ark still be covered by a tent?” Nathan understood that David wanted to build the Temple and he agreed that it was a good idea.

G-d disagreed. He appeared to Nathan that night with a message for David. G-d said that His Presence had been in a tent since the Jews left Egypt and He never asked for a Temple. He said to tell David that he would not be the one to build it, but that his son, yet to be born, would be the one to build it. Furthermore, that son’s dynasty would be eternal. Even when they deserved punishment, the kings descended from David would never lose the throne as Shaul had. (We see from here that Moshiach - the Messiah - must be descended not only from David, but specifically from his son Shlomo - Solomon.)

Yahrtzeits

This week the Carnegie Shul acknowledges the yahrtzeits of:

Kate Broida York

Esther Fisher

Samuel Stern

Esther Kelson Herman

Della Perloff

Herbert E. Hirsh

Abraham Lewis Kelson

William Spivak

Esther Laya Coffee

Eileen Ostfield

Evelyn Wilk Kalson

David Peresman

Harris Tisherman

Nettie Horowitz

May their memories be for a blessing.

Donations

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

Nancy K. Stein

In memory of Evelyn Wilk Kalson

**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).

