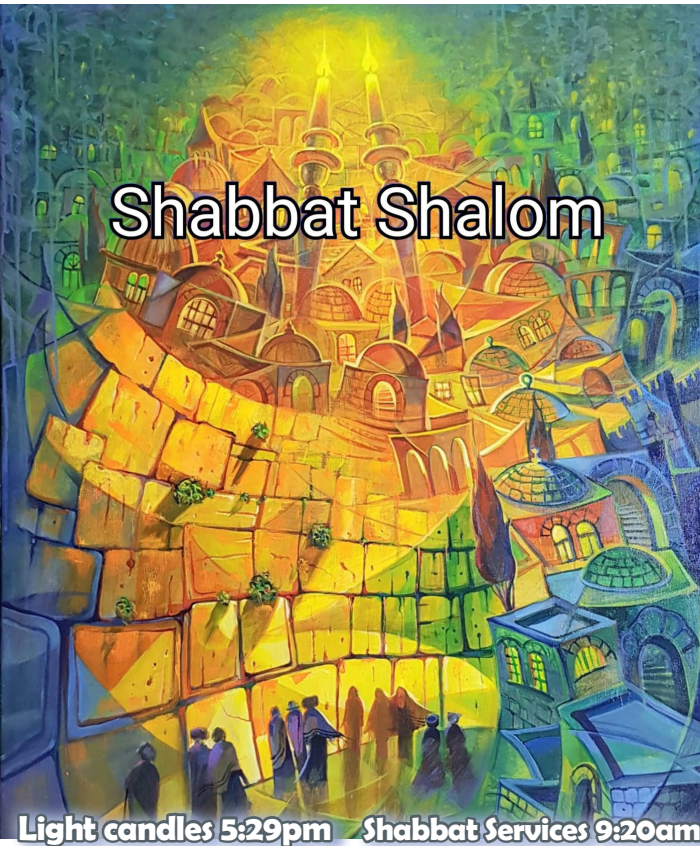




# Carnegie Shul Chatter

February 7, 2024



## Shabbat Services

Carnegie Shul hybrid services begin at 9:20am. Join us in the synagogue, or attend virtually. If you haven't received our Zoom link for services, please contact our secretary, Rosalyn Hoffman at [rjlynman@yahoo.com](mailto:rjlynman@yahoo.com). The complete Torah reading, in Hebrew and English, can be found at [https://www.chabad.org/parshah/torahreading\\_cdo/aid/2492626/jewish/Mishpatim-Torah-Reading.htm](https://www.chabad.org/parshah/torahreading_cdo/aid/2492626/jewish/Mishpatim-Torah-Reading.htm)

## What Can We Do?

When I was reading about this week's parshah, Mishpatim, in [myjewishlearning.com](http://myjewishlearning.com) this week, I found an essay about "overcoming victimhood" that says that, "Those who feel they have been wronged in some deep fashion often believe they have earned the right to act how they see fit."

The essay also says, "Instead of holding on to pain and using it as a weapon against the world, God asks the Jewish people to use it as a source of empathy and moral responsibility. Because the Jewish people were taken advantage of in their vulnerability, they must strive never to do the same to others."

The essay concludes by saying, "We prefer to see ourselves as victims because it absolves us of responsibility for our actions. But the Torah teaches that this is the wrong answer. If we feel wronged, treated unfairly, and hurt, then it is our responsibility to take that pain and let it open our hearts to others."

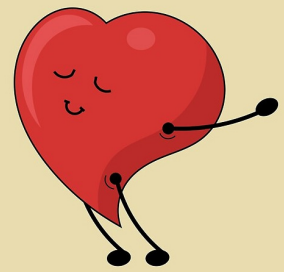
Sage advice indeed from the Torah. What happened at Tree of Life brought so much pain and emotional harm to all of us, and Hamas's evil attack on Israel also has us all in deep

*Continued on next page.*

*Continued from previous page.*

pain. But what can we do? The IDF can fight to defeat Hamas and we can financially support Israel, but what else can we do?

The Torah says we should open our hearts to others. Maybe, we should do good deeds and mitzvot. Maybe by doing so we can restore some light to the world and perhaps that light will diminish the darkness of evil.



OPEN YOUR HEART



**Please continue reciting the Prayer for the Welfare of the State of Israel daily and pray for the wellbeing of all of our Israeli brothers and sisters.**

## Prayer for the Welfare of the State of Israel

**“Our Father Who art in Heaven,** Protector and Redeemer of Israel, bless Thou the State of Israel which marks the dawn of our deliverance. Shield it beneath the wings of Thy love. Spread over it Thy canopy of peace; send Thy light and Thy truth to its leaders, officers, and counselors, and direct them with Thy good counsel.

**“O God,** strengthen the defenders of our Holy Land; grant them salvation and crown them with victory. Establish peace in the land, and everlasting joy for its inhabitants.

**“Remember our brethren,** the whole house of Israel, in all the lands of their dispersion. Speedily let them walk upright to Zion, the city, to Jerusalem Thy dwelling-place, as it is written in the Torah of Thy servant Moses: ‘Even if you are dispersed in the uttermost parts of the world, from there the Lord your God will gather and fetch you. The Lord your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it.’

**“Unite our heart to love and revere Thy Name,** and to observe all the precepts of Thy Torah. Shine forth in Thy glorious majesty over all the inhabitants of Thy world. Let everything that breathes proclaim: The Lord God of Israel is King; His majesty rules over all.”

**Amen.**

# Mishpatim in a Nutshell

*From Chabad.org*

## Exodus 21:1–24:18

The name of the Parshah, “Mishpatim,” means “Ordinances” and it is found in Exodus 21:1.

Following the revelation at Sinai, G-d legislates a series of laws for the people of Israel. These include the laws of the indentured servant; the penalties for murder, kidnapping, assault and theft; civil laws pertaining to redress of damages, the granting of loans and the responsibilities of the “Four Guardians”; and the rules governing the conduct of justice by courts of law.

Also included are laws warning against mistreatment of foreigners; the observance of the seasonal festivals, and the agricultural gifts that are to be brought to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem; the prohibition against cooking meat with milk; and the mitzvah of prayer. Altogether, the Parshah of Mishpatim contains 53 mitzvot—23 imperative commandments and 30 prohibitions.

G-d promises to bring the people of Israel to the Holy Land, and warns them against assuming the pagan ways of its current inhabitants.

The people of Israel proclaim, “We will do and we will hear all that G-d commands us.” Leaving Aaron and Hur in charge in the Israelite camp, Moses ascends Mount Sinai and remains there for forty days and forty nights to receive the Torah from G-d.



# Haftorah in a Nutshell

## Jeremiah 34:8-22; 33:25-26

In this week’s haftorah, Jeremiah describes the punishment that would befall the Jews because they continued enslaving their Hebrew slaves after six years of service—transgressing the commandment discussed in the beginning of this week’s Torah reading.

King Zedekiah made a pact with the people according to which they would all release their Jewish slaves after six years of service—as commanded in the Torah. Shortly thereafter, the Jews reneged on this pact and forced their freed slaves to re-enter into service. G-d then dispatched Jeremiah with a message of rebuke: “Therefore, so says the Lord: You have not hearkened to Me to proclaim freedom, every one to



his brother and every one to his neighbor; behold I proclaim freedom to you, says the Lord, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine, and I will make you an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth." The haftorah then vividly depicts the destruction and devastation that the Jews would experience.

The haftorah concludes with words of reassurance: "Just as I would not cancel My covenant with the day and night and I would not cancel the laws of heaven and earth, so too I will not cast away the descendents of Jacob . . . for I will return their captivity [to their land] and have mercy on them."

## Yahrtzeits

This week the Carnegie Shul acknowledges the yahrtzeits of:

**Charles Friedberg**  
**Carl Gussin**  
**Mollie Sherman**  
**Rabbi Yitzchok Weiss**  
**Samuel D. Korsen**  
**Sam Moskovitz**

**Morris Oskie**  
**Gertrude Isaacs**  
**Harvey Lederstein**  
**Stanford G. Weiss**  
**Dr. Harry A. Klee**  
**Edward L. Pickholtz**

May their memories be for a blessing.

