

The Torah in Parashat Vayigash tells the story of Yosef's revealing his identity to his brothers, after which he instructs them to return to Canaan and bring their father, Yaakov, and their families, to live in Egypt. Oddly enough, just before the brothers leave Egypt to bring their father, Yosef warns them, "Al tirgezu ba-darekh" (45:24), which is generally translated to mean either "Do not be angry along the way" or "Do not be frantic along the way."

The Gemara in Masekhet Ta'anit (10b) cites from the *Tanna'im* different explanations for this verse, including, "Do not take long strides, and enter the city along with the [setting of the] sun." According to this view, Yosef gave his brothers the simple advice of, "Don't rush." *Chazal* elsewhere note the dangers of "pesi'a gasa" ("large strides"), walking in a hurried, reckless manner, and of traveling at night. Yosef here alerted his brothers to these dangers, imploring them to walk at a moderate pace, and to ensure to find proper lodging at night. He understandably feared that in their haste to bring Yaakov the news that his son is alive, thereby alleviating the emotional pain that had plagued him for over twenty years, and to bring their families to Egypt to escape the drought in Canaan, they may travel too hurriedly. Yosef therefore warned them that despite their excitement and eager anticipation, they should travel at a safe, reasonable pace and not under hazardous conditions, such as at nighttime.

Yosef's final instruction to his brothers before they left Egypt perhaps serves as a vivid example of the dangers of neglecting basic needs and responsibilities while involved in matters of major significance and import. It is obvious why the brothers would be tempted to travel too hastily back to Canaan, in their eager desire to bring the dramatic news to their father, and to expedite the process of relocating in Egypt, where their families would be comfortably supported by Yosef. Interestingly enough, the Torah found it necessary to record Yosef's warning to travel carefully. It perhaps sought to alert us to the dangers posed by situations of great excitement and intense urgency. Such conditions often lead people to frantic, reckless and careless behavior, as they impatiently seek to achieve the goal which they pursue as quickly as they can. Quite possibly, the Torah made a point of recording Yosef's warning, "Al tirgezu ba-darekh" to teach this simple lesson of acting with patience and prudence when pursuing lofty goals or engaging in matters of critical import. Rather than allowing the excitement and fervor to lead to thoughtless, reckless activity, we, like Yosef's brothers, must always ensure to take "small strides," proceeding carefully and responsibly, one small step at a time.

By Rabbi David Silverberg, from the Virtual Beit Midrash ([www.vbm-torah.org](http://www.vbm-torah.org)).

To submit a Dvar Torah to the weekly Keshet, please email [bulletin@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:bulletin@mtsinaishul.com).

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# The Mount Sinai Keshet

December 25-26, 2009 • 9 Tevet, 5770 • Parashat Vayigash

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## Shabbat Schedule

Candle Lighting	4:16 p.m.
Mincha	4:21 p.m.
Shacharit	7:00, 9:00 a.m.
Kri'at Shema before	9:38 a.m.
Rabbi Schwartz's Gemara shiur	3:00 p.m.
Mincha	3:55 p.m.
<i>Seuda Shlishit following Mincha</i>	
Shkia	4:34 p.m.
Maariv/Havdala	5:21 p.m.

## Tefillah Schedule Week of December 27th

<i>Shacharit</i>	
Sun., Fri.	7:30, 8:30, 9:00 a.m.
Mon., Thurs.	6:45, 7:20, 8:00 a.m.
Tues., Wed.	7:00, 7:30, 8:00 a.m.
<i>Mincha/Maariv</i>	
Sunday	<b>4:10 p.m.</b>
Monday -Thursday	4:25 p.m.
<i>Maariv</i>	
Monday - Thursday	10:00 p.m.
<i>Next Shabbat, Parashat Vayechi</i>	
Candles	4:21 p.m.
Mincha	4:26 p.m.

## Asara Be-Tevet, This Sunday

Fast Begins:	6:07 a.m.
Fast Ends:	5:11 p.m.

Please note: There will **not** be a 10 p.m. maariv.

## Sponsorships

The **ERUV** sponsored **anonymously** this week thanking the Black & White Panoply Chairs, as well as the entire Panoply Committee, for all of their hard work putting together an extremely fun and successful event.

The **KESHER** is not sponsored this week.

**SEUDA SHLISHT** is sponsored by **Norman Strauss** in memory of his mother, Clara.

**TOT SHABBAT** last week was sponsored **anonymously**.

*The Eruv DOES extend across Broadway, but does not extend into Fort Tryon Park. If you are not sure where you can carry, please contact the rabbi or a member of the eruv committee.*

## Rabbi Schwartz's Office Hours

Rabbi Schwartz will be out of town this week and will not have office hours.



**HATZOLA**  
**(212) 230 - 1000**  
Volunteer Emergency  
Ambulance Service

### ***This Week at Mt. Sinai***

#### **Monday:**

Women's Basketball, 9:00 p.m. Contact: Susanne Goldstone, susqhb@gmail.com.

#### **Tuesday:**

Women's Basketball, 9:00 p.m. Contact: Elie Appleson, elie.appleson@gmail.com.

#### **Wednesday:**

Town Hall Meeting, 8:00 p.m. to discuss the new proposed shul constitution.

Men's Basketball, 8:00 p.m. Contact: Daniel Falik, daniel@danielfalik.com

Class with Rabbi Schwartz will NOT be meeting this week.

#### **Motzai Shabbat:**

Men's Basketball, 6:00 p.m. Contact: Daniel Falik, daniel@danielfalik.com

### **Maternity Gmach**

The Jewish Community Council has opened a new gemach. This lending program includes maternity clothes and pregnancy/parenting related books, as well as baby items such as swings and strollers.

The gemach is located at 666 W. 188th Street, and is open for both borrowing and donating items on Sunday and Wednesday evenings by appointment.

*Please contact Anat or Dina at 212 568 5450. For further details please see the 'services' tab on the JCC website at [www.jccwhi.org](http://www.jccwhi.org)*

A tremendous Hakarat Ha-tov to the **Panoply Committee**, co-chaired by **Aliza Abrams and Rebecca Saidlower**, for a fantastic event and fundraiser!

Thank you to all who attended!

### **Welcome New Members**



Uri Westrich  
Naomi Sharon

#### **Got magazines?**

Magazines (less than 10 weeks old) can be dropped in the box outside the Beit Midrash to benefit hospitalized patients. Please cut out the address labels.



Contact [chessed@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:chessed@mtsinaishul.com) for more information.

There will be a **Townhall Meeting** to discuss the new proposed **Constitution** on **Wednesday at 8pm.** Please see Adam Steiner for more details.

### **Family Life Committee**

#### **Meals-for-Moms**

If you'd like to volunteer to make meals, or if you're expecting and want to sign up for the program, please contact Sura Rozenberg at [familymeals@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:familymeals@mtsinaishul.com).



#### **Shabbat Morning Children's Playgroup**

Mt. Sinai's MPR is open on Shabbat starting at 10 am. Children under 5 are invited to join an informal playgroup.



Please note: EACH CHILD MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES.

### **Hospitality Committee**

The Hospitality Committee is now in full swing again!

Join us for Shabbat.



If you can host guests for shabbos, or if you need a meal, please sign up at [www.mtsinaishul.com/hospitality](http://www.mtsinaishul.com/hospitality) by Thursday at 10AM.

*If you have any questions, the please be in touch with members of the Hospitality Committee, or e-mail [shabbosmeals@gmail.com](mailto:shabbosmeals@gmail.com).*

### **Message from the Gabbaim**

Our responsibilities as gabbaim include giving out kibbudim such as davening and aliyot. Thank G-d there are many, many people in the shul. While we do try to give out kibbudim as equitably as possible, even between the three of us, we don't know everyone in shul.

So, if you are a new member, or even a not-so-new member, and would like to daven from the amud, or if you have not received an aliyah in some time, please tell one of us. We are always looking for people who want to be involved in the davening and we want your help.

Also, if you have a question/suggestions/concerns or comments about how the davening is run, please tell us. We're happy to hear what you think, and what you have to say. Please find one of us in shul or contact us at [gabbaim@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:gabbaim@mtsinaishul.com).

*-Yoni Ray, Jeremy Stern,  
and David Mogilensky*

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