

Parasha Perspectives

The Torah in Parashat Yitro identifies the names of Moshe's two sons, and provides the reasons underlying these names (18:3-4). The first son was named Gershom, a derivative of the word "ger," or "foreigner." The Torah explains that Moshe lamented his plight at the time of his older son's birth, crying, "Ger hayiti be-eretz nokhriya" ("I have been a stranger in a foreign land"). The name of his second son, we are told, was Eliezer, a composite of the two words "E-li ezri" ("my God is my helper"). Moshe announced, "The God of my father has helped me, and saved me from the sword of Pharaoh," expressing his gratitude to the Almighty for enabling him to escape execution after killing an Egyptian taskmaster (2:15).

Rav Menachem Bentzion Zaks, in his Menachem Tziyon, observes that these two names reflect the proper attitude with which we should view our turbulent national exile. On the one hand, we must recognize that "I have been a stranger in a foreign land." We must never fully resign ourselves to the abnormal condition of galut, or accept it as a permanent and tolerable situation. It is critical that we continue to lament and bemoan our condition, as Moshe did, to recognize our status as "strangers in a foreign land" rather than accepting this condition as normal and satisfactory. At the same time, however, we cannot allow this condition to cause us despondency. We, like Moshe, must exuberantly proclaim each day of our exile, "The God of my father has helped me, and saved me from the sword of Pharaoh." We cannot focus only on the pain and sorrow that the exile has caused us; we must also acknowledge our miraculous existence and give thanks to the Almighty for rescuing us, time and time again, from our ruthless foes.

Thus, a Jew's outlook on adversity must be a complex one. We are entitled, and in fact urged, to bemoan our troubles and implore the Almighty for salvation. However, this does not undermine our obligation to feel and express gratitude for all that God has done for us, to recognize the fact that, despite the problems and challenges we confront, "the God of our fathers has helped us" and allowed us to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Even as we lament, we must give thanks. Although our condition is far from perfect, and one to which we may not resign ourselves, it behooves us to celebrate our victory of survival despite the centuries of exile and persecution.

By Rabbi David Silverberg, from the Virtual Beit Midrash (www.vbm-torah.org).

To submit a Dvar Torah to the weekly Keshet, please email bulletin@mtsinaishul.com.

Mt. Sinai Jewish Center
135 Bennett Avenue
New York, NY 10040
www.mtsinaishul.com

Rabbi: R' Ezra Schwartz
Rabbi Emeritus: R' Mordecai Schnaidman
President: Ben Sandler
Vice-President: Ilana Mann
Admin. Director: Jerry Berkowitz

Office Hours:
Sunday 8:30 - 12:00
Mon, -Thurs 9:30 - 5:00
Friday 8:30 - 12:00
212-568-1900 • office@mtsinaishul.com



The Mount Sinai Keshet

February 5-6, 2010 • 22 Shevat, 5770 • Parashat Yitro

Shabbat Schedule

Candle Lighting	5:00 p.m.
Mincha	5:05 p.m.
Shacharit	7:00, 9:00 a.m.
Kri'at Shema before	9:36 a.m.
Rabbi Schwartz's Gemara shiur	3:40 p.m.
Mincha	4:40 p.m.
<i>Seuda Shlishit following Mincha</i>	
Shkia	5:19 p.m.
Maariv/Havdala	6:06 p.m.

Sponsorships

The **ERUV** sponsored by **Morah and Jeremy Stern** in honor of the 8th grade girls of Yeshiva Har Torah, and by **friends of Malka and Danny** - Mazel Tov, we are so excited!

The **KESHER** is sponsored by **Elie and Leezy Klein**, wishing a Mazel Tov to David and Oshra Mogilensky on the birth of a daughter, and to Joey Pick on his engagement to Meri Weiss.

SEUDA SHLISHIT is co-sponsored by **Carla Hanauer** for the yahrzeit of her parents, Paya Bat Moshe and Naftali Ben Klominus.

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.

Tefillah Schedule Week of February 7th

<i>Shacharit</i>	
Sunday	7:30, 8:30, 9:00 a.m.
Mon., Thurs.	6:45, 7:20, 8:00 a.m.
Tues., Wed., Fri.	7:00, 7:30, 8:00 a.m.
<i>Mincha/Maariv</i>	
Sunday -Thursday	5:10 p.m.
<i>Maariv</i>	
Monday - Thursday	10:00 p.m.
<i>Next Shabbat, Parashat Teruma</i>	
Candles	5:09 p.m.
Mincha	5:14 p.m.

Eruv Hotline

Find out the latest updates with the Washington Heights eruv by calling:
646-450-ERUV (3788)

To sponsor next week's **Shabbat Mevarchim Kiddush** please email
KiddushCommittee@gmail.com.
\$25 minimum sponsorship.

Rabbi Schwartz's Office Hours

Monday: 9 p.m.-10 p.m.
Wednesday: Following 8:45pm Shiur (approx. 9:30-10:30pm)



HATZOLA
(212) 230 - 1000

This Week at Mt. Sinai

Monday:

Women's Aerobics, 7:30 p.m. Contact: Anat Coleman, (212) 740 2740. \$10 to try a class.

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

Tuesday:

Shiur with Rabbi Etan Berman, 8:00 p.m. See opposite page for details.

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

Wednesday:

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

Class with Rabbi Schwartz, 8:45 p.m. Bishul Akum Part 2.

Motzai Shabbat:

Men's Basketball, 6:35 p.m. Contact: Daniel Falik, daniel@danielfalik.com

Condolences

To Chaya Cohen and Tehilla Rieser on the loss of their father, Yehuda Paltiel.

Career Networking Initiative Email List

The Chessed Committee's Career Networking initiative will be establishing an email list to circulate information about available jobs to those who are looking. If you are interested in being added to the email list, please email Zev Safran, at zsafran@gmail.com.

Please include basic details about your background and what you are looking for.

Gabbaut Notice

The Shabbat Hashkama minyan is looking for volunteers to lain in the upcoming weeks. If anyone is able to volunteer to lain please contact Yoni Ray or Ya'akov Kanner.

Mazal Tov!

- Herta Camnitzer on her 95th birthday
- Joey Pick on his engagement to Meri Weiss
- Yaki Rydzinsky and Adina Levine on the birth of a boy
- Malka Adatto and Danny Popper on their engagement
- Aliza Sturm on her engagement to Josh Rosman



Haiti Relief Effort

The JCC of Washington Heights is accepting donations at the office or through PayPal at jccwhi.org.

Donations may also be made to such organizations as the Red Cross www.redcross.org and UNICEF www.unicef.org.

Education Update



- This Tuesday at 8pm, **Rabbi Etan Berman** will begin a 2-part series on **Judaism and The Matrix**. No prior knowledge of Judaism is necessary and beginners are welcome.
- **Rabbi Schwartz** will continue his series, "Jews in a Non Jewish World" on Wednesday at 8:45 p.m. The topic is Bishul Akum Part II.
- Next Shabbat, there will be a women's shiur at 5:20 given by **Chavie Kadosh**, on the subject of Purim.
- Our annual **Scholar-in-Residence** will take place the weekend of February 19-20. We are privileged to be having **Rabbi Yitzchak Etshalom** from Los Angeles. Sign up at mtsinaishul.com to join us for **Friday night dinner!** The cost is \$25 for members and \$32 for non-members if you sign up by Tuesday, February 16.
- Rabbi Schwartz is beginning a **Parasha series for Seniors**. The first shiur is Wednesday, February 17th at 4pm.

Check out the Torah Tab at mtsinaishul.com, and follow us on Twitter @[mtsinaiedu](https://twitter.com/mtsinaiedu). Contact education@mtsinaishul.com



Welcome New Members

David Ginsberg
Rena Cole

Refuah Shleima

Rabbi Yehuda Hilewitz
Edith Glikman
Charlotte Wahl



Beit Midrash

Have you noticed the disrepair of the chairs in the Beit Midrash? We are looking for sponsors to help us replace the old worn chairs and add kavod to the Beit Midrash. The cost of each chair is \$36. We hope that you will consider donating at least one. You can do so online at www.mtsinaishul.com or at the office.

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We're stocking our Mount Sinai Beit Midrash and YOU can HELP! If you'd like to donate money towards the purchase of new sefarim OR if you have sefarim that you would like to donate, please let us know at education@mtsinaishul.com or speak to the office. Help make our Beit Midrash a great place to learn!

Purim at Mt Sinai! Saturday Night, February 27th

- Purim Schpiel, The 2nd Annual Digital Shorts Contest and a Costume Contest! For more information contact Sefi and Rebecca at events@mtsinaishul.com.
- **Purim Megillah Reading:** If you are able to read Megillah to people who are not able to come to shul or in the hospital, or if you cannot make it to shul and need someone to read Megillah for you, please contact cheded@mtsinaishul.com as soon as possible.
- **Mt. Sinai Purim cards** are on sale now! Send Purim greetings to your friends and family, and help support your shul. Cards are only \$2 each, and if you buy 10 you get 1 free! Contact the office for details.