

**KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED
BY
THE SHUL**

MINYON SCHEDULE

1/12 Candle Lighting.....4:55 p.m.
 1/12 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat.....4:50 p.m.
 Hashkama Minyon.....7:50 a.m.
 Talmud in Depth.....8:00 a.m.
 Shabbat Morning.....9:00 a.m.
 Shema-Latest Time.....9:25 a.m.
 Daf Yomi.....3:50 p.m.
 Shabbat Mincha.....4:35 p.m.
 Shabbat ends.....5:46 p.m.
 Parent/Child Learning.....6:45 p.m.
 Daf Yomi II.....7:45 p.m.

THIS COMING WEEK

Sunday Shacharit.....8:30 a.m.
 Mon. Wed. & Thu Shacharit.....6:30 a.m.
 Tue. & Fri. Shacharit.....6:45 a.m.
 Sun. - Thu. Mincha/Ma'ariv.....4:50 p.m.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday
 Talmud in Depth.....7:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi.....5:20 p.m.
Monday - Thursday
 Talmud I.....6:00 a.m.
Monday- Friday
 Talmud in Depth.....7:30 a.m.
Monday
 Pirkei Avot.....7:30 p.m.
 Daf Yomi.....8:30 p.m.
Tuesday
 Women's/Mesillat Yescharim11:00 a.m.
 Daf Yomi.....5:20 p.m.
Wednesday
 Women's/Pirkei Avot.....11:00 a.m.
 Prophets/Mishlei.....7:30 p.m.
 Daf Yomi.....8:15 p.m.
Thursday
 Parsha.....7:30 p.m.
 Daf Yomi.....8:15 p.m.

In Memory of Linda Neiman

**THE CONGREGATION ADAT YESHURUN
WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN**

Rabbi Jeffrey Wohlgeleter

Todd Salovey, President

Vol. XXVI No. 14

Va'era

26 Tevet 5778 January 13, 2018



This Week's Torah Reading

**The Torah Reading begins on page 232 in the Hirsch and page 318 in the Stone.
 The Haftorah begins on page 847 in the Hirsch and page 1149 in the Stone.**

THE PARSHA OPENS with Hashem reassuring Moshe that the people would listen to him and he would be successful. But due to their condition, the Jews refused to hear Moshe's message. When he complains to Hashem, G-d commands Moshe and Aharon to return to the people and try again. It is interesting to note that the Parsha begins with the words "and G-d spoke to Moshe, and said to him I am Hashem." The word used for G-d is Elokim, which our sages taught us in the beginning of Genesis is always indicative of the midas ha'din, the attribute of justice. In the second part of the pasuk, where Hashem said, "I am Hashem", the name he uses is the four letter name, Ad-nai, which our sages tell us is representative of the attribute of mercy. The sages in the medrash wrote that because of Moshe's complaining, where he seemingly had a lapse of faith when he saw the Jewish people suffer, he questioned G-d's motives for their suffering. The midas ha'din dictates Moshe should have died, however, the midas ha'rachamim, the attribute of mercy, mitigates that attribute of justice, and it was for this reason Moshe Rabbeinu was kept alive and his complaint was answered. He was thereby strengthened and redirected his efforts toward securing the freedom of the Jewish people.

THE TORAH GOES on to list the genealogy of Moshe and Aharon. One could wonder why this was not written earlier, when we first met them. Perhaps the Torah is telling us that while it is important to understand their roots, this is not why they were chosen as leaders, rather, because of their own personal greatness.

THE TORAH CONTINUES with G-d's command to Moshe and Aharon to go back and speak to Paroh. Hashem tells Moshe what he can expect, namely that although Paroh will be castigated with plagues and pains, he will be very stubborn and will not listen. This is exactly what happened. When the brothers went to Paroh and showed him the miraculous sign of the staff becoming a serpent, Paroh's magicians were able to reproduce the same thing and therefore were not impressed. Hashem tells Moshe to meet Paroh when he goes down to the Nile in the morning, to warn him the waters of the Nile will turn to blood if he does not heed the message. Rashi explains the command to meet him in the morning was because Paroh fashioned himself into a god and gods do not need to relieve themselves. Therefore Paroh would wake up early and go down to the river to take care of his needs in secret. By meeting him there, Moshe sent a clear message to Paroh that he



SPONSOR A KIDDUSH

For a regular kiddush the Primary Sponsorship is \$295 (designated as such in the bulletin). All co-sponsors of kiddush \$175. Email Annette Olson at info@adatyeshurun.org or call her at 858-535-1196 to reserve your date.

DATES THAT ARE AVAILABLE:
 January 20th & 27th



**The Congregation
Expresses Condolences**

to

Dov and Bernice Borok on the loss of their son-in-law, and to **Jonny Borok** on the loss of his brother-in-law, **Anthony Sank**, husband to **Zia Borok**

Lee Edelstein on the loss of his wife, **Fay Edelstein**

Pam, Joe and Sam Resnikoff on the loss of **Pam's** mother, **Fay Edelstein**



**MIKVAH APPOINTMENTS
(858) 535-1072**

PARSHA CONTINUES

was not impressed with him nor awed by his stature; his secret was revealed to Moshe.

HASHEM TELLS MOSHE to tell Aharon to lift his staff and extend it over the water so that all the Nile will turn to blood. Moshe himself could not perform this act, since it was the water that afforded protection to Moshe when he was a baby and it would be an act of ingratitude on his part to involve it in a plague. The waters turned to blood but only for the Egyptians, as the Israelites were unaffected by the plagues. Only when the Egyptians would buy water from the Jews did they have anything to drink. However, the effects of this plague were dashed when the Egyptian magicians were able to reproduce it. This plague, like all the others, lasted for one week, and during the three weeks until the next plague followed, Moshe spent his time warning Paroh about what was coming next.

AHARON WAS THEN commanded to point his staff at the river and bring forth the frogs. During the second plague (frogs) the Egyptian magicians were once again able to duplicate the plague. Paroh told Moshe to stop the plague and he would let the people go. However, when the effects of the plague wore off, Paroh once again hardened his heart and changed his mind.

THE TORAH DESCRIBES the third plague, lice. Again, Aharon was the agent for this plague, as the lice were brought forth from the dust of the ground, which aided Moshe when he buried the Egyptian he had killed. This plague could not be reproduced by the magicians. They finally realized it was the finger of G-d which caused all this to happen. However, Paroh continued to harden his heart.

THE EFFECTS OF the fourth through seventh plagues are described. They are wild animals, animal sickness, boils, and hail. The Parsha concludes with an account of Paroh hardening his heart once again.

THIS ISSUE OF hardening Paroh's heart is perhaps one of the most difficult issues in the Torah, as it raises the question that G-d seems to have negated Paroh's free will, and took away his ability to choose between doing right and wrong. It also seems the ability to repent was taken away from Paroh, because when G-d said "I will harden Paroh's heart," it seems to indicate that Paroh no longer had any ability to repent and change himself. If that is the case, how is it possible Paroh could be punished, because punishment is based on the concept of free will? The medrash, as explained by the Rambam, asks this question, and offers the response: Hashem does not play around with regard to sin; He gives a person two or three warnings and then He makes good on his word, closing the door on repentance, to punish the sinner for his deed. From this we understand there was a chance for Paroh to repent before G-d involved Himself in the closing of Paroh's heart, during the first five plagues. If one looks carefully in the Torah, it was Paroh who made himself stubborn, hardened his heart and made himself obstinate. It was only after the first five plagues, when G-d saw in which direction Paroh was headed, that Hashem intervened so Paroh would pursue his evil course and not submit, having no capacity to repent until he received his full punishment. It must be noted however, many commentaries, among them the Abarbanel and the Akeidah, disagree vehemently with the Rambam's theory, claiming that there can be no difference between sinners, and the opportunity to repent is an opportunity given by G-d to every person no matter how serious or numerous their crimes may be. Because of this the Abarbanel offers a very beautiful explanation that while no sin is beyond repentance, there are nevertheless two types of repentance because there are two types of sins. There are sins that one commits against G-d in belief or faith. To repent for those is merely to strengthen one's faith and correct one's belief, having done this, one will be forgiven. The

PARSHA CONCLUDES

second type of crime however, is a crime where harm is brought to another human being. In this case no repentance can be done unless the wrong itself is rectified. For example, if someone steals from their neighbor, until the object is returned, repentance is of no benefit. So too, when a person murders, part of the repentance is to pay with one's life. Perhaps, because Paroh and Mitzrayim had spilled so much Jewish blood, they had to pay for this serious crime with their lives. The hardening of their hearts was not to stop them from repenting, but to lead Paroh and his nation to receive their full punishment, which was the only way they could truly atone.

WE THANK OUR SECURITY VOLUNTEERS

Friday Evening

4:45 p.m. **Paul Shtein**

5:20 p.m. **Stephen Abelkop**

Shabbat Morning

9:00 a.m. **Steve Weitzen**

9:30 a.m. **Yaakov Shore**

10:00 a.m. **Jonny Borok**

10:30 a.m. **Shimon Blumenfeld**

11:00 a.m. **David Feifel**

11:30 a.m. **Moy Freifeld**

Mazel Tov

to

Mark and Shana Lebovits on the birth of their grandson, a son born to **Mark's** son and daughter-in-law, **Matt and Rishona Lebovits**

And to our Chanukah Raffle Winners:

Marc and Shana Lebovits on winning the Grand Prize

Jeremy and Hilda Cohen on winning the First Prize

Jamin and Eva Eiseman on winning the Second Prize

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and helped support our Shul! Looking forward to next year's Raffle with amazing prizes again!

Volunteers Needed for Our Security Teams

BOTH MEN AND WOMEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO VOLUNTEER

If you would like to assist us in keeping our community safe, please volunteer your service or fulfill the duties assigned to you. Anyone wishing to be added for security duty can email the office or speak with Security Chair Milton Krasner.

Create an eternal bond.
Pick a *sefer* to learn together.
Explore the Torah's teachings.



Celebrate with a *siyum* at the end of the season.

Parent-Child Learning

Every Motzei Shabbos (Saturdays)
Beginning one hour after *Havdala*
at Adat Yeshurun

Melava Malka Served
Prizes Ruffled

Join the Grand Prize Raffle for Full Participation
Starting November 11



OPTIONS

THE WOMEN'S EVENT

THE COLLECTIVE POWER OF JEWISH WOMEN

JANUARY 21 • 11:00AM
MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT

FEATURING



MICHAEL SOLOMONOV

CHEF, RESTAURANTEUR &
JAMES BEARD AWARD WINNER

HONORING



CLAIRE ELLMAN

RECIPIENT OF THE PRESTIGIOUS
ANNE RATNER AWARD

COUVERT: \$50 • DIETARY LAWS OBSERVED

Please speak with Felicia Gipsman at fgipsman@gmail.com
to register and sit at the Adat Yeshurun Table

JEWISHINSANDIEGO.ORG/OPTIONS

JANUARY 14, 2017



Support the
8th grade Trip
to Israel

ALL YOU CAN EAT CHINESE BUFFET

INCLUDING SOUP, SALAD, CHICKEN AND
MEAT ENTREES, SIDES, DRINK AND A
FORTUNE COOKIE.

\$22 PER ADULT AGES 13 AND UP
\$14 PER CHILD AGES 7-12
\$8 PER CHILD 6 AND UNDER

LOCATED AT BETH JACOB CONGREGATION
4855 COLLAGE AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92115

OPEN 4 PM - 7:30 PM



YOU CAN NOW LISTEN TO THE RABBI'S CLASSES ONLINE!!

www.adatyeshurun.org

Weekly lectures are all on the web for you to
listen to anytime you wish.

Would you like to be on the E-Mail list for
Rabbi's Classes? Write to Catharine at
catharine@adatyeshurun.org to opt in!

SCYHIGH's Engaging Communities Initiative

Presents

RABBI YITZCHAK ETSHALOM

who will be presenting the topic of

DID WE LEAVE OR DID HASHEM TAKE US OUT?
A Careful Reading of the Exodus Narrative

Tuesday, January 16 at 7:00p.m.-8:30pm
@SCY HIGH school, 3410 Mt. Acadia Blvd.

Refreshments will be served.



RABBI YITZCHAK ETSHALOM

Rav Yitzchak Etshalom was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. Rav Etshalom has been a dynamic and exciting educator in the Los Angeles community since his return in 1985. He has recently assumed the role of Rosh Beit Midrash at YULA Girls' High School. Rav Etshalom lectures annually at the prestigious "Ymei Iyyun" Tanakh Seminar at Herzog College and teaches Daf Yomi and a popular Navi series at the Young Israel of Century City. Rabbi Etshalom lives in Los Angeles with his wife Stefanie and their 5 children.

This event is generously sponsored by

Yaakov and Devorah Shore

in recognition of the Torah excellence at SCY High



SCYHIGH
SOUTH CALIFORNIA YEMENI HIGH SCHOOL

Boys Club



Meet your new best friends.

They're Jewish...just like you.
They go to Adat...just like you.
They're in junior high...just like you.

And you're gonna love Wednesday nights...just like them!
Shmooze. Eat. Do fun stuff. Repeat.

Every alternate Wednesday
5:00pm-6:45pm
beginning October 18
All 6th-8th graders invited

Upcoming Dates:
1/14/18



See you in the big classroom!
RSVP: thewogies@aol.com

Girls Club



Meet your new best friends.

They're Jewish...just like you.
They go to Adat...just like you.
They're in junior high...just like you.

Upcoming Dates:
1/17/18
1/31/18

And you're gonna love Wednesday nights...just like them!
Shmooze. Eat. Do fun stuff. Repeat.

Every alternate Wednesday 5:00pm-6:45pm beginning October 25
All 6th-8th graders invited



See you in the big classroom!
RSVP: thewogies@aol.com