



# THIS WEEK AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

January 30 to February 5      6 Shevat to 11 Shevat

Parsha of the Week: Terumah (Ex. 25:1-27:19)

Parsha Highlights: Now follows a “grocery list” of the materials which G-d asks the Israelites to contribute for the building of the portable *Mishkan*, the Sacred Dwelling-Place for G-d in the wilderness, in fulfillment of the verse which has resonated for myriads of congregations through the ages: “They shall make for Me a sanctuary, and I shall dwell among them.” These include gold, silver, copper (all looted from the Egyptians, representing 400 years of “back pay” for slavery); dyed wool; flax, goat hair, animal skins (including, oddly enough, “dolphin skins”—actually, very fine goatskin, sort of like cashmere); wood, olive oil, spices, and gems. Whenever I chant this portion, with its inevitable repetition of Hebrew words, I long to see just one diagram of the Mishkan in the Torah text—it must have looked magnificent, and we’ll never know just how it looked.

## The Lost Mishkan

By Rabbi David Mark

After the Israelites fled Egypt, their slave mentality made them not entirely ready to worship a G-d who was invisible. Egyptian mythology was full of clearly visible gods, represented by elaborate statues, each of whom had a function in the Egyptian view of the universe—both in the here-and-now and the afterlife (which explains why they considered the practice of mummification to be so important). This was very attractive to our forebears, who had lived a virtually godless existence during their 400-year Egyptian enslavement.

To placate our ancestors’ need for visible objects of adoration, G-d supplied them with the Mishkan, a building said to contain the power of G-d here on earth—a magnificent structure built to divine specifications, complete with an elaborate ritual of offerings and sacrifices. And yet, it was not sufficient, because our ancestors went on to construct the Golden Calf, in clear imitation of Egyptian paganism.

What lesson should we moderns learn from this Parsha, with its endless lists of the measurements and materials which went into the building of this divine dwelling-place? It teaches us to construct *mishkenote*—sacred places in which G-d may dwell, whether in our minds, or in the magnificent new temple which is being built even as you read this. For where, truly does G-d dwell? In the words of the Chasidic rebbe, Levi Yitzchak of Berdichev, “G-d dwells wherever we let G-d in.”

## Friday, January 30

- 9:00 am Preschool
- 7:30 pm Service
- 4:34 pm Candle Lighting

## Saturday, January 31

- 9:30 am Shabbat Service
- 4:55 pm Sundown
- 5:58 pm Shabbat

## Sunday, February 1

- 9:00 am Hebrew School Music w/Sue Story time w/Ayelet Gr. K-2
- 9:15 am Sisterhood Meeting (Office)
- 9:30 am Discussion Group
- 10:00 am Coffee & Cake hour
- 11:00 am Sunday Morning Cultural Event
- 12:00 pm Play Tryouts
- 12:15 pm Faculty Meeting
- 4:00 pm Gesher

## Monday, February 2

- 9:00 am Preschool
- 6:30 pm Adult Ed Class

## Tuesday, February 3

## Wednesday, February 4

- 9:00 am Preschool
- 3:45 pm Hebrew School Art Gr. 5
- 6:30 pm Youth Group Committee Meeting
- 7:30 pm Religious School Committee Meeting

## Thursday, February 5

## Weekly Services

Wednesdays at 5:15pm when Hebrew School is in session.

## Yahrzeits

*We recall with affection those who no longer walk this earth, grateful to G-d for the gift of their lives.*

## January 30

Leon Fein, Samuel Vetstein

## January 31

Eli Coles, Elliot Parker

## February 1

## February 2

## February 3

Harry Abelson, Lena Stone, Robert Taylor

## February 4

Benjamin Kisner

## February 5

Ida Zeidman

## INFORMATION

**GET WELL TO:** Gregg Pollack

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** 2/8 Sunday Breakfast with Stem Cell Research presentation 9:30 am.