



THIS WEEK AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

March 20 to March 26 24 Adar to 231 Nisan

Parsha of the Week: VaYakhel-Pekude: Ex. 35:1-40:38; Maftir/Shabbat HaChodesh: Ex. 12:1-20

Parsha Highlights: Moses gathers the Israelites and reiterates the importances of Sabbath observance. He then begins the first Capital Campaign in Jewish history, to gather materials for building the Mishkan, G-d's Sacred Dwelling-Place. So generous are the people in donating what is necessary, that Moses must tell them to cease—that has never again happened in any Jewish community, anywhere! Thereafter follows more description: roof coverings, veil, cherubim, twelve loaves of "showbread," seven-branched menorah, incense, etc.

Jewish Cherubim, and Others

By Rabbi David Mark

When we Jews speak of "cherubim," we certainly cannot mean the little, pink, chubby angels that adorn Valentine's Day cards and peek out at us from the corners of Victorian houses. No, indeed; they represent a specific class (actually, "coming;" a group of angels is called a coming) of angels, meant to convey our prayers to G-d. Here again is an example of myth which crept into our Torah, one which we moderns, so used to praying to an invisible G-d, might have trouble understanding. The ancient cherubim atop the Ark of the Covenant, upon which our ancestors gazed, were more like sphinxes, having human faces, the bodies of lions, and eagles' wings.

In this particular instance, their purpose was to serve as a "divine footstool" so that G-d, presumably, could rest G-d's anthropomorphic feet on them—sort of a celestial ottoman.

"Aha!" you say, "But how does that differ from the Golden Calf? There again, the Israelites were not worshiping the Calf, but rather the invisible G-d who rode it, much in the manner of Baal, the Babylonian god (no stranger to the Israelites, being a northern neighbor). Why, then, was the Calf such an abomination?"

Simple, I reply: G-d commanded the Israelites to build one (the cherubim) and not the other (the Calf). We don't make up the laws of Judaism; G-d does. We just struggle to live by them, and interpret them the best we can, to fit the modern age.

PASSOVER: To date, we do not have many reservations for the 2nd Seder that will be held on April 9th at the Temple. Please send in your reservation forms if you plan on attending.

Friday, March 20

- 9:00 am Preschool
- 6:00 pm Dinner (Shabbat Across America)
- 7:30 pm Lay Led Service (Fran Berman)
- 6:36 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 21

- 9:30 am Shabbat Service (Rabbi Krieger)
- 11:00 am Tot Shabbat w/Rabbi Karol in Chapel
- 6:56 pm Sundown
- 7:38 pm Shabbat Ends

Sunday, March 22

- 9:00 am Hebrew School Music w/Fran
- 9:30 am Discussion Group
- 12:15 pm Madrichim Workshop in Schmoozatorium

Monday, March 23

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

Tuesday, March 24

- 10:30 am Book Club (Betraying Spinoza)
- 6:30 pm Adult Ed Meeting

Wednesday, March 25

- 9:00 am Preschool
- 3:45 pm Hebrew School
- 7:00 pm Religious School Committee

Thursday, March 26

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.

- MARCH 20** Lucille Abelson, Isaac Rottenberg, Peter Dricker, Helen Eskin
- MARCH 21** Ruth Heller, Loretta Levy, David Rosengard, Ida Rubin
- MARCH 22** Louis Schopick, Norman Freedman, Libbye Halperin, William Hirshberg, Carol Schultz, Celia Weinberg
- MARCH 23** Frances Dricker
- MARCH 24** Charles Johnston, Jack Nasparsteck, Alvin Effron, Stephen Bauer
- MARCH 25** Sarah Moldoff, Benjamin Tober, George Freedman, Harvey Ludwig, Stanley Epstein

Information

CHAMETZ FORMS: Available in the main entrance and office.