



CANDLE LIGHTING 5:20 PM | 24 SHEVAT | FEBRUARY 22, 2025 | HAVDALA 6:25 PM

שבת פרשת משפטים SHABBAT PARSHAT MISHPATIM

Haftorah is Jeremiah 34:8-22 and 33:25-26. We bless the month of Adar. No הרחמים אב.

FRIDAY EVENING

MINCHA	5:25 PM
SHKIA	5:39 PM
TZAIT HAKOCHAVIM	6:19 PM

SHABBAT

HASHKAMA	7:45 AM
SHACHARIT - MAIN	9:00 AM
POST-HASHKAMA SHIUR	9:20 AM
LAST KRIAT SHEMA	9:25 AM
FUNDAMENTALS SHIUR	11:30 AM
PRE-MINCHA SHIUR	4:35 PM
MINCHA	5:15 PM
SHKIA	5:40 PM
MAARIV	6:25 PM



Molad for Adar is Thursday, Feb. 27, at 7:02 PM.

ראש חדש אדר יהיה ביום שישי
ויום שבת קודש הבא עלינו ועל
כל ישראל לטובה

SEUDAH SHLISHIT

Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by Amy & Stephen Agress to commemorate the Yahrzeit of Rabbi Hyman Agress ז"ל, Stephen's father, הרב חיים בן הרב יהושע.

MATZAH SALE!

Order handmade Pupa Tzelhem shmura matzah through Ahavat Achim! Prices are: \$41 per lb. regular matzah, \$43 per lb. whole wheat matzah, \$36 per box of spelt matzah (6 matzahs), and \$36 per box of oat matzah - (three matzahs). Order here: [Matzah](#).

MISHLOACH MANOT

Purim is rapidly approaching, which means it is time to participate in the shul's Mishloach Manot! The deadline to order is March 3! You can order online here: [Mishloach Manot](#).

ROUND ROBIN MEGILLAT ESTHER PEREK-BY-PERK SHIUR

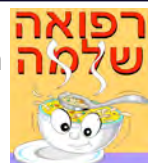
The Megillat Esther "round robin" will be at Seudah Shlishit on March 8. To present on a perek please contact Andrew Wigod or click here to indicate the Perek you want to speak on: [ESTHER](#).

YOUTH ALERT!

The youth newsletter will now be distributed alongside the main bulletin in the weekly email. We hope you enjoy it!

REFUAH SHELAYMA

Refuah shelayma to Ron Dworkis who is home recovering from hip surgery.



	SUNDAY 2/23	MONDAY 2/24	TUESDAY 2/25	WEDNESDAY 2/26	THURSDAY 2/27	FRIDAY 2/28
WEEKDAY MINYANIM AT AHAVAT ACHIM						
SHACHARIT	8:00 AM	6:15 AM	6:25 AM	6:25 AM	6:15 AM	6:00 AM
2ND SHACHARIT MINYON - YISHTABACH AT 7:40 AM		7:25 AM	7:25 AM	7:25 AM	7:25 AM	7:10 AM
MINCHA/MAARIV	5:29 PM	5:30 PM	5:31 PM	5:32 PM	5:34 PM	5:30 PM
ZMANIM						
Earliest Talit	5:45 AM	5:43 AM	5:42 AM	5:40 AM	5:39 AM	5:37 AM
Gedolah	12:38 PM	12:38 PM	12:38 PM	12:37 PM	12:37 PM	12:37 PM
Shkia	5:41 PM	5:42 PM	5:43 PM	5:44 PM	5:46 PM	
Tzait	6:21 PM	6:22 PM	6:23 PM	6:24 PM	6:26 PM	

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 28 - Musical Kabbalat Shabbat.

March 8 - Esther Round Robin. Click here to sign up to discuss a chapter: [Esther](#).

March 13 - Purim Break Fast is sponsored by Lori & David Garfunkel to commemorate the Purim Yahrzeit of Herman Klein^{ה"ע}, David's grandfather, חיים בן אברהם הלוי.

Mar. 29 - Scholar-In-Residence Rabbi Jesse Horn.

March 30 - Musical Hallel.

May 3 - Rabbanit Surale Rosen, via Mizrachi Israel 360.

IN OUR FUTURE

Mar. 1 - Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by the Garfunkels commemorating the Yahrzeit of יהושע פאליק ב"ר משה הכהן, David's father, Shea Garfunkel^{ה"ע}.

Mar. 8 - Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by the Greenes commemorating the Yahrzeit of Elliot's mother, Sylvia Greene^{ה"ע}, Serah bat Ya'acov Tzvi

Mar. 15 - Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by the Garfunkels commemorating the Yahrzeit of משה מרדכי בן אהרן, Lori's father, Marvin Markovitz^{ה"ע}.

BOARD MEETINGS

February 25 - 8:30 PM via Zoom.

March 25 - 8:30 PM via Zoom.

April 29 - 9:00 PM via Zoom.

May 27 - 9:00 PM via Zoom.

June 24 - 9:00 PM via Zoom.

ISRAEL ACTION INITIATIVE

Tzedakah Fund of the Month- Zo



Artzeinu, supporting Israeli agriculture and planting "Trees of Life" in memory of those lost; especially our brave fallen

soldiers: [Ahavat Achim Trees in Israel](#).

COMMUNITY NEWS

March 31- Blood Drive

The Brooks family expresses their gratitude to our amazing Ahavat Achim family. The unit of Adam's brother Josh is being called back up for another round of service and Josh asked Adam if he could help raise money for tactical gear that the unit needed. Rabbi Shestack and the Israel Action Committee announced a fundraising effort the next day and the fundraising goal was reached in a mere two hours after it was announced. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped organize the fundraiser. The Brooks family feels truly blessed to live in such an incredible and generous community.


SHIURIM



• RAV SOLOVEITCHIK ON THE PARSHA, Tuesdays at 1:00 PM (<https://zoom.us/j/7291311899>, PW: 112233).

• TORAH FOR YOUR COMMUTE, via a Whatsapp group, with 3-minute daily Halacha insights. To join email Rabbi Shestack at rabbishestack@gmail.com.

• SHABBAT SHIUR, 40 minutes pre-mincha.
• FUNDAMENTALS OF JEWISH THOUGHT, after Kiddush, discussing our community's kashrut standards.

• MESORAH-IN-REVERSE lecture series at Seudah Shlishit. 

• Tzurba M'Rabanan with Zack Doberman, Wednesdays at 8:30 PM. In-person at the shul and via Zoom.

• Mishna Chaburah, led by Jeff Safier, after 7:25 AM Shacharit minyon (≈10 minutes).

KIDDUSH & SEUDAH SHLISHIT



• Enjoy Scotch at Kiddush, please donate a bottle to the shul from time to time.

• To sponsor a Kiddush (prices start at \$318, plus a bottle of scotch) email dmgarfunkel@gmail.com.

• Want to know the menu for Kiddush? If so, please email dmgarfunkel@gmail.com so he can put you in the WhatsApp group.

• To sponsor Seudah Shlishit for \$136 (or in the case of multiple sponsors, \$100 per sponsor), email dmgarfunkel@gmail.com.

GITA COOPERWASSER^{ה"ע} YOUTH EVENTS

March 9 - Hamentaschen baking and mishloach manot packaging, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM. RSVP to youth@ahavatachim.org by 3/5: \$5/child, \$12/family max.

GITA COOPERWASSER^{ה"ע} SHABBAT YOUTH INFO



• **SHABBAT YOUTH LEADERS, 2ND - 5TH GRADE: LETIZIA & EMMANUEL; 4 YRS - 1ST GR.: AVIGAYIL, PERRI, & AMELLA**

• Youth group for in 2nd - 5th Graders starts at 9:00 AM (Drop Off) in the Youth Room on left on entering the social hall.

• Youth group for children 4 years old through 1st Grade starts at 9:15 AM (Drop Off) in the Youth Room on the right upon entering the social hall.

• Parent & Me, 9:00 AM in the Beit Midrash.

• Rabbi Meet & Greet, Friday night, kids can come over to the Rabbi after davening to receive a cup of grape juice and a ticket!

• Children earn tickets for coming to minyan (Friday night and/or Shabbat day), asking the rabbi questions or attending parent-child learning programs! Tickets can be redeemed for prizes.

• Children's corner at Seudah Shlishit, 1st to 5th graders will get 10 Torah questions in 10 minutes from Rabbi Shestack, with special snacks, tickets and more.

SHALOM BRAUSER, ADULT EDUCATOR/TEEN MENTOR

March 8 - Teen Mentor

March 22 - Teen Mentor

April 5 - Teen Mentor

18-25 Saddle River Road
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
201.797.0502
<http://www.ahavatachim.org>



NAME	HEBREW DATE	CANDLE EVENING OF	DEDICATOR	RELATIONSHIP
Perry Leeb	1	February 28	Jane Kirschenbaum	Mother
רינה בת חנה ואריה	2	March 1	Orit Zezon	Mother
Osias Garfunkel	3	March 2	David Garfunkel	Father
Charles Cooperwasser	10	March 9	Seymour Wigod	Uncle
Pearl Iroff	10	March 9	Renee Freund	Grandmother
Bert Vann	10	March 9	Avi Vann	Father
Elaine Goldstein	13	March 12	Mitchell Goldstein	Mother
Herman Klein	14	March 13	David Garfunkel	Grandfather
Morris N. Matkowsky	15	March 14	Charles Matkowsky	Father
Marvin M. Markovitz	15	March 14	Lori Garfunkel	Father
Helen Garfunkel	16	March 15	David Garfunkel	Grandmother
Pearl Gelb	17	March 16	David Graber	Cousin
Charles Feldman Frankel	17	March 16	Elyce Smedresman	Uncle
Bernard Page	18	March 17	Eita Latkin	Cousin
David Wigod	19	March 18	Seymour Wigod	Uncle
Doris Rotberg	21	March 20	Ellen Chass	Mother
Fred Diamond	22	March 21	Lisa Eis	Father
Morris Levine	22	March 21	Kenny Levine	Grandfather
Edna Kerin Shimoff	22	March 21	Melanie Kwestel	Mother
Avraham Schaeffer	26	March 25	Mimi Weinraub	Father

DAVID SCHWITZER^{ר"ע} SOCIAL HALL

Contact Lori at garfmom@gmail.com to book the David Schwitzer^{ר"ע} Social Hall for an event or occasion. \$250 (members), \$325 (Associates), or \$400 paid in advance for non-members, plus the cost of clean up (and a \$150 refundable security/cleaning deposit). Private caterers must be approved by the Rabbi.

CHESED TEAM

If you or someone you know needs assistance, email us at chesed@ahavatachim.org.

Yahrzeit Plaques

Memorialize a loved one with a plaque, \$300 for members/\$450 for nonmembers. We will strive to send you written notice of upcoming yahrzeit and announce name during public Yizkor. Email Amy at aagress@gmail.com to arrange.

DONATE A SEFER, ETC.

Donate Siddurim & Machzorim (\$40), and Chumashim (\$60). Contact Jeff Safier at jeff.Safier@gmail.com for details.

MISHEBAYRACH

For a Mishebayrach pledge to give Tzedakah on behalf of those for whom you asked Hashem's blessing, contributions to the shul can be made using PayPal's Giving Fund (with 100% of the proceeds going to the Shul), by clicking here: [Ahavat Achim Donations](#). If by check, please indicate on its face "Aliyah Donation."

HONORARIA

The available Honoraria list will be provided upon request by contacting Steven Plotnick at seplotnick@gmail.com.

SINGLES SHIDDUCH GROUP

Reach out to Rabbi Shestack or Sara Levine (saralevine06@gmail.com if interested).

SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorships opportunities for Yahrzeits, Refuahs, and Hodahs (thanks), are available for regular shiurim, youth events and similar activities (but not for established honorariums or sponsorship funded events). Cost of sponsorship (shiur or youth event) is \$100 per sponsor. Multiple sponsors for an event will be accepted. Sponsorships will be listed in the bulletin and announced at the event (and, if possible, a placard with the sponsorship will be prepared and displayed at the event).

Sponsorships do not include any extra amenities (such as food). Please contact Steve Plotnick for questions or clarifications.

MEN'S CLUB

Email MensClub@AhavatAchim.Org to join the Men's Club.

Israel
Action
Committee

ב"ס

"THE IAC OF CONGREGATION AHAVAT ACHIM IS DEDICATED TO FOSTERING A STRONG CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL. WE STRIVE TO SUPPORT ISRAEL'S SECURITY, PROSPERITY, AND PEACE WHILE PROVIDING OUR MEMBERSHIP WITH CHARITABLE, COMMUNAL, AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES, AS WELL AS INFORMATION TO STRENGTHEN OUR BOND WITH THE JEWISH HOMELAND."

Shevat's Tzedakah Highlight

ZO ARTZEINU

Since October 7th, many have sought meaningful ways to make an impact. With the support of people around the world, Zo Artzeinu - Israel Trees has planted 12,000 fruit trees along the Gaza border over the past year, 10 for each of the 1,200 victims symbolizing growth, resilience, and hope. Tragically, during this time, 600 of our bravest and heroic IDF soldiers gave their lives defending Israel's survival. We cannot let their sacrifice be in vain.

We are proud to announce that we are joining the worldwide "United 4 New Trees of Life" Program alongside Shuls, congregations and communities around the globe. Beginning this Tu B'Shvat, we will help plant 18,000 new fruit trees along the Gaza and northern borders, as well as other areas across Israel. They gave their lives for us! Together, we will honor their memory by planting 18,000 new trees, creating new life, and ensuring their legacy endures. These trees and their fruits will yield thousands of new mitzvot, whose merit will be le'ilui nishmat our holy heroes and victims. Together, we will transform tragedy into growth, despair into hope, and loss into LIFE!

- ✓ Support farmers and communities in need: Help save their farms while safeguarding the Holy Land!
- ✓ Stand strong against terror: Show the world that we are here to stay, and will continue to GROW!!
- ✓ Plant 18,000 new fruit trees: In memory of and leilui nishmat the 1,800 K'doshim, creating NEW LIFE!!!
- ✓ Share in mitzvot: Participate in mitzvot unique to the Land of Israel and in its blessing! וְיִיְרֵא וְיִקְרָא - "את-ברכתי לכם" - ויקרא
- ✓ Learning opportunity: Learn about Israel's geography and history with engaging videos from farmers!



AHAVAT ACHIM
קהילת אהבת אחים

MAR 13, 2025
14TH ADAR, 5785

Purim Mishloach Manot

WE INVITE YOU TO
PARTICIPATE IN SENDING
MISHLOACH MANOT TO
OUR MEMBERS.

COST: \$7 PER HOUSE OR
\$185 FOR THE ENTIRE SHUL

SIGN UP ONLINE OR MAIL FORMS TO
BETH WECHSLER, 378 OWEN AVE,
FAIR LAWN, NJ 07410

YOU CAN ALSO PARTNER WITH
US TO SEND MISHLOACH
MANOT TO AN ISRAELI CHAYAL!

AHAVAT ACHIM MEMBERSHIP/ HOSPITALITY

Email Sara at membership@ahavatachim.org for membership details or Shabbat hospitality.

PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Various life cycle events related to members are announced in the bulletin (e.g., births and weddings of children/grandchildren, bar/bat mitzvahs of children, deaths requiring shiva observance, as well as travel to/from Israel to study). Other personal announcements are not appropriate except as part of the bulletin's dedication (\$36 cost - \$54 with photo).

NUMBERS & INFO

ERUV: To subscribe for updates, email fairlawneruv@groups.io. Check status at <https://groups.io/g/fairlawneruv> or call 201-254-9190.

MIKVAH: 201-796-0350. At Shomrei Torah. Go to <http://www.fairlawnmikvah.org/> for online booking.

TWITTER: AhavatAchimFL

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091322384429

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/ahavatachim/

FLICKR: flickr.com/photos/ahavatachim/albums

BULLETIN DEDICATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND SHUL CALENDAR

Email seplotnick@gmail.com for an announcement of a simcha, refuah or life cycle event in the bulletin or to dedicate a bulletin for \$36 (\$54 w/Photo).

COMMUNITY SECURITY



To volunteer and become part of our community security service, email Margo at security@ahavatachim.org.

HOW TO DONATE TO THE SHUL USING PAYPAL

Please do not simply pay the shul using PayPal, as that incurs a 3% service charge that will get charged to the shul. Instead, please use our fee-free dedicated PayPal link <http://paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1444321>. PayPal will email you a receipt for your charitable donation and the shul will receive 100% of your donation. [Make sure you click the "SHARE MY NAME" box so the shul will know who paid so that we can credit your account.]





AHAVAT ACHIM
קהלת אהבת אחים
THE FAMILY SHUL

MAR 13, 2025
14TH ADAR, 5785

**ORDER BY
MAR 3RD!**

Purim Mishloach Manot

WE INVITE YOU TO
PARTICIPATE IN SENDING
MISHLOACH MANOT TO
OUR MEMBERS.

COST: \$7 PER HOUSE OR
\$185 FOR THE ENTIRE SHUL

SIGN UP ONLINE OR MAIL FORMS TO
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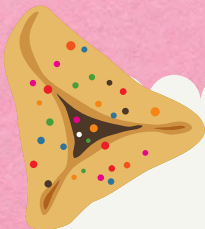
YOU CAN ALSO PARTNER WITH
US TO SEND MISHLOACH
MANOT TO AN ISRAELI CHAYAL!



PURIM 5785 MISHLOACH MANOT

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| _ Amy & Stephen Agress | _ Risa Goldman & Eli Greenbaum | _ Robyn & Jeffrey Safier |
| _ Rachel & Tomer Alter | _ Dina & Elliot Greene | _ Jewel & Robert Safren |
| _ Talia & Etai Barach | _ Margo Greenstein | _ Marleny & Alex Salazar |
| _ Zehava & Norman Baron | _ Esther & Tzvi Hagler | _ Sara & Natan Santacruz |
| _ Renee & Lior Ben-Biniamin | _ Ruchama & Jerry Halpern | _ Arielle & Jonathan Schachter |
| _ Tami & Mark Berman | _ Joyce Heller | _ Rena & Matt Schaikewitz |
| _ Sara & Larry Bernstein | _ Rebecca Berger & Jay Herman | _ Madeline Schmuckler |
| _ Audrey & Jack Bickel | _ Gail & Elliott Hershkowitz | _ Esther Schwed |
| _ Carly & Eliot Bickoff | _ Liz Jacob | _ Ilana & Nathen Schwitzer |
| _ Natasha & Daniel Borsuk | _ Vicki & Ian Joseph | _ Margo Heda & Brian Shanblatt |
| _ Lisa & Aryeh Brenenson | _ Marc & Elisheva Katz | _ Chana & Rabbi Ely Shestack |
| _ Bobbie & Heshy Brooks | _ Deborah & Mitchell Kempin | _ Miriam & Eli Shteingart |
| _ Sharon & Adam Brooks | _ Georgette Kestler | _ Sabina & Howard Shultz |
| _ Saragail Chessin Carpe | _ Debra Kira | _ Esther Silvestri |
| _ Grace Carrion | _ Janie & Hymie Kirschenbaum | _ Elyce & Steve Smedresman |
| _ Shifra & John Caruso | _ Tova & Ben Kohane | _ Tamar & Joe Smith |
| _ Ellen & Murray Chass | _ Sheree & Hazkiel Kor | _ Ronald Sokoloff |
| _ Laura & Javier Coello | _ Evelyn & Larry Kraut | _ Julie & Dan Sokolsky |
| _ Avi Cohen | _ Al Kustanowitz | _ Betsy & Marty Sonnenblick |
| _ Britty Cohen | _ Melanie Kwestel | _ Randi & Arnie Spier |
| _ Jordana & Isaac Cohen | _ Deborah Lader | _ Rachelle & Adam Stern |
| _ Lisa & Yossi Cohen | _ Debbie & Ben Lang | _ Linda & Michael Stock |
| _ Elianna & Aaron Czinn | _ Eita Latkin | _ Fern & Oded Strich |
| _ Debra & Jacob Diamant | _ Vivian Lerner | _ Nicole & Eitan Suffian |
| _ Michelle & Zvi Dubin | _ Michal & Eliezer Lesser | _ Shira & Elliot Teichman |
| _ Evi & Michael Dworkis | _ Sara & Kenny Levine | _ Shirley & Avi Vann |
| _ Rose & Ron Dworkis | _ Rena & Marc Liebman | _ Beth & Steve Wechsler |
| _ Lisa & Jacob Eis | _ Aliza & Richie Mayer | _ Alex & Chana Weidenfeld |
| _ Elfie & Jamie Eisman | _ Lana & Boris Mihailevsky | _ Mimi & Barry Weinraub |
| _ Barbara & Ziv Farajun | _ Brett Norton | _ Sami & Zach Weixelbaum |
| _ Bonnie & William Farbstein | _ Miriam & Adam Nudelman | _ Kira & Andrew Wigod |
| _ Stacey & Yitz Finkelstein | _ Joanne & Stu Oppenheim | _ Seymour Wigod |
| _ Rachel & Jonathan Frank | _ Laurie Phipps | _ Shelly & Steven Winchester |
| _ Renee Freund | _ Gail & Steven Plotnick | _ Ray & Steven Wolfson |
| _ Lori & David Garfunkel | _ Amanda & Chaim Pollak | _ Sara Yehaskel |
| _ Arkady Geltzer | _ Shelly Racenstein | _ Stacey & Avi Zanjirian |
| _ Chava & Chayim Goldberg | _ Marty Reichardt | _ Susan Zarabi |
| _ Joan & Barry Goldberg | _ Howard Rein | _ Orit & Eli Zeron |
| _ Ronnie & Mitchell Goldstein | _ Andrea & Greg Riskin | _ Esther & Matt Zimmelman |
| _ Tamar & Yoni Gorelick | _ Tani & Josh Rossman | |
| _ Farnaz & David Gorelik | _ Angela & Isaac Rozenfeld | |
| _ Naomi & David Graber | _ Alana & Slava Rubin | |

Your name as shown on Mishloach Manot Scroll: _____



Plus, letter
writing to IDF
soldiers for
kids in first
grade & up!

AHAVAT ACHIM YOUTH

HAMENTASCHEN BAKING & MISHLOACH MANOT PACKING

Come bake hamantaschen and package
mishloach manot to deliver to fellow
community members!

SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH 3-4 PM

DAVID SCHWITZER SOCIAL HALL

RSVP TO YOUTH@AHAVATACHIM.ORG BY 3/5

\$5/CHILD, \$12/FAMILY MAX



AHAVAT ACHIM
קהלת אהבת אחים
THE FAMILY SHUL

"THE IAC OF CONGREGATION AHAVAT ACHIM IS DEDICATED TO FOSTERING A STRONG CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL. WE STRIVE TO SUPPORT ISRAEL'S SECURITY, PROSPERITY, AND PEACE WHILE PROVIDING OUR MEMBERSHIP WITH CHARITABLE, COMMUNAL, AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES, AS WELL AS INFORMATION TO STRENGTHEN OUR BOND WITH THE JEWISH HOMELAND."

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"אֶת-בְּרַכְתִּי לְכֶם" - ויקרא
- ✓ Learning opportunity: Learn about Israel's geography and history with engaging videos from farmers!





All participants will share in the many mitzvot associated with these trees and their fruits, including: orlah, teruma, ma'aser, and shmitta. Their merit will also be le'ilui nishmat the victims, elevating their holy souls. The trees will be planted by observant farmers through Zo Artzeinu - Israel Trees, an organization that has already helped plant over half a million fruit trees across Israel. Everyone who participates in planting trees will receive a colorful, personalized certificate, suitable for framing, which can be dedicated in honor or of a loved one. Farmers and communities are already preparing the ground and are counting on us to provide the trees they need to plant.

*They Gave Their Lives For Us! Plant a Tree to Honor them! Together, we will create new life in memory of those who were tragically taken from us. **If we collectively plant an orchard of 100 trees, a personalized sign will be installed at the entrance of our orchard, which anyone can visit when in Israel. Additionally, we will receive a photo of our orchard and its sign to proudly frame and display.***

-  *We will order the fruit trees now.*
-  *Farmers and communities in Israel will prepare the land, and start planting our trees on Tu B'shvat.*
-  *Every participant will receive a beautiful personalized certificate.*
-  *When in Israel, you can visit our orchard and see the trees we helped plant.*
-  *In three years, after the mitzvah of orlah, we can even have a taste of the FRUITS of our labor!*
-  *We will share in ALL the mitzvot associated with the trees and their fruits.*
-  *We will show the world that we are here to STAY while honoring our holy heroes who gave their lives for us all!*

ADDITIONAL TZADAKAH RESOURCES



Worldwide Jewish News

- **On February 6, President Trump signed an executive order sanctioning the International Criminal Court in the Hague accusing their members of unfairly targeting the US and Israel. Trump further claimed that the ICC "has no jurisdiction, no legitimacy and no authority" in the United States.**
- **In other news, the US administration sent 8 billion in arms to Israel this past week. Subsequent to Trump's remarks regarding taking control of Gaza, Israel's Defense Minister instructed the military to prepare a plan to allow the Palestinians to voluntarily leave the Gaza Strip. Minister of Foreign Affairs Israel Katz said those countries such as Spain, Ireland and Norway which formally recognized Palestinian statehood last year, while condemning Israeli actions in Gaza, should be legally obligated to accept Gazan residents into their countries.**
- **Stateside on February 6, in Brentwood California, the Jewish CEO of UTA (United Talent Agency) Jay Sure's home was vandalized by masked Pro Palestinian UCLA students who littered his front yard with flyers and caution tape and covered his garage doors with red hand prints. Sure was targeted for his outspoken support of both Israel and Jewish university students who are being harassed and intimidated on college campuses nationwide. No arrests were made.**
- **February 8th saw the release of three male Israeli hostages, Ohad Ben Ami, Eli Sharabi and Or Levy. Ben Ami and Eli Sharabi were taken captive from Kibbutz Be'eri. Unbeknownst to Sharabi, his wife and two teenage daughters had been murdered on October 7. Or Levy was abducted from the Nova Music Festival where his wife was killed in the attack, leaving behind a three year old son. Upon their release, all three men looked gaunt and malnourished, reminiscent of Nazi concentration camp survivors. They were immediately flown to area hospitals for treatment.**
- **The world was shocked by both the appearance of the hostages as well as the manner in which they were being paraded around by Hamas terrorists prior to their turnover. In response, the United Nations once again exhibited their moral bankruptcy (as previously exposed by President Herzog) by drawing parallels between the condition of the Israeli hostages and the freed Palestinian prisoners.**
- **On February 9th, the US imposed new sanctions to curtail international shipping of Iranian oil to China.**



Worldwide Jewish News Continued

- **This week our President suspended all foreign aid to South Africa because among other justifications, was the nation's stance in the ICC accusing Israel, not Hamas, of Genocide. Also of concern was the country's cozy relationship with Iran; including the strengthening of their commercial, military and nuclear ties.**
- **Trump also cut off funding to USAID which was found to have provided money to Hamas and other Palestinian groups.**
- **Post Super Bowl, Kanye West, a notorious anti-Semite was selling \$20 T shirts imprinted with Swastikas on his ecommerce store. Shopify then shut it down and X also took down his site. In addition, West texted a Jewish staffer 'Hail Hitler'. In response she has sued him.**
- **February 10th, Trump said Palestinians would have no right of return to Gaza. He hinted that he would possibly withhold aid to those Arab countries who would refuse to take in those Palestinians.**
- **Additionally, on February 10th, Hamas announced that they were postponing the release of the hostages due to be freed on Saturday, February 15. Our President responded to this declaration by claiming, "All Hell Will Break Loose," if the Israeli captives are not returned on schedule. He also suggested that Israel cancel the cease fire if Hamas did not honor the agreement.**
- **On February 11th, Netanyahu said he will resume the fighting in Gaza if the hostages were not released on the date originally agreed upon.**

Our brothers and sisters have suffered unimaginable horrors for way too long. The Red Cross and the entire World must demand that they be brought home NOW!

Jewish Community Events and Israel

Israel Film Series, sponsored by the Jewish Federation, presents the documentary "TORN" on Thursday, February 13th at 7:00 pm. The screening delves into the controversy that developed surrounding the 'KIDNAPPED' poster campaign, a grassroots effort to raise awareness about the 240 hostages taken by Hamas on October 7, 2023. These posters became polarizing symbols, sparking intense clashes between pro-Israel and pro-Palestine activists. The film explores the motivations behind the activists and unravels the complexities of this 'paper arm' proxy war. It is followed by a panel discussion with the film creator and others.



[Click here for more information.](#)



On March 23, The Israel Elite Hockey League (IEHL) will be playing a showcase game between two of its franchise teams, Hockey Club Tel Aviv and the Jerusalem Capitals, at the UBS Arena (the New York Islanders' home turf) in the USA Challenge Cup in New York. This will be the league's first time playing in North America. Half of the 18,000 arena seats have already been sold.

For tickets [click here.](#)

TEHILLIM FOR THOSE REMAINING IN CAPTIVITY WEEKLY PROFILE



Evyatar David (Evyatar ben Yasmin Gila)

Twenty-three, went missing from the Nova music festival on October 7, 2023. Shortly thereafter, his sister Yaela received a message with an image in which her brother can be seen in captivity with Guy Gilboa-Dalal, confirming that they were taken hostage.

A native of Kfar Saba, Evyatar loves music and is a talented guitarist. His parents Galia and Avishai, brother Ilay, and sister Yaela have traveled to the United States and publicized Evyatar's plight in Israeli and foreign media. Said Avishai, "Evyatar brightens our lives and those of everyone around him."



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Covenant & Conversation

Jonathan Sacks
THE RABBI SACKS LEGACY

MISHPATIM • משפטים

FROM THE TEACHINGS AND WRITINGS OF RABBI LORD JONATHAN SACKS ז"ל

With thanks to the Schimmel Family for their generous sponsorship of Covenant & Conversation, dedicated in loving memory of Harry (Chaim) Schimmel. "I have loved the Torah of R' Chaim Schimmel ever since I first encountered it. It strives to be not just about truth on the surface but also its connection to a deeper truth beneath. Together with Anna, his remarkable wife of 60 years, they built a life dedicated to love of family, community, and Torah. An extraordinary couple who have moved me beyond measure by the example of their lives." — Rabbi Sacks

This year's series of essays were originally written and recorded by Rabbi Sacks ז"ל in 5772 (2011–2012). These timeless messages are accompanied by a new [Family Edition](#) created to inspire intergenerational learning on the Parsha and Haftara.

The Slow End of Slavery

In Parshat Mishpatim we witness one of the great stylistic features of the Torah, namely its transition from narrative to law. Until now the book of Exodus has been primarily narrative: the story of the enslavement of the Israelites and their journey to freedom. Now comes detailed legislation, the "constitution of liberty."

This is not accidental but essential. In Judaism, law grows out of the historical experience of the people. Egypt was the Jewish people's school of the soul; memory was its ongoing seminar in the art and craft of freedom. It taught them what it felt like to be on the wrong side of power. "You know what it feels like to be a stranger," says a resonant phrase in this week's Parsha (Ex. 23:9). Jews were the people commanded never to forget the bitter taste of slavery so that they would never take freedom for granted. Those who do so, eventually lose it.

Nowhere is this clearer than in the opening of today's Parsha. We have been reading about the Israelites' historic experience of slavery. So the social legislation of Mishpatim begins with slavery.

What is fascinating is not only what it says but what it doesn't say.

It doesn't say: abolish slavery. Surely it should have done. Is that not the whole point of the story thus far? Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery. He, as the Egyptian viceroy Tzofenat Paneach, threatens them with slavery. Generations later, when a pharaoh arises who "knew not Joseph," the entire Israelite people become Egypt's slaves. Slavery, like vengeance, is a vicious circle that has no natural end. Why not, then, give it a supernatural end? Why did God not say: "There shall be no more slavery"?

The Torah has already given us an implicit answer. Change is possible in human nature, but it takes time: time on a vast scale, centuries, even millennia. There is little doubt that in terms of the Torah's value system the exercise of power by one person over another, without their consent, is a fundamental assault against human dignity. This is not just true of the relationship between master and slave. It is true, according to many classic

Jewish commentators, of the relationship between king and subjects, rulers and ruled. According to the Sages it is even true of the relationship between God and human beings. The Talmud says that if God really did coerce the Jewish people to accept the Torah by “suspending the mountain over their heads” (Shabbat 88a) that would constitute an objection to the very terms of the covenant itself. We are God’s *avadim*, servants, only because our ancestors freely chose to be (see Joshua 24, where Joshua offers the people freedom, if they so choose, to walk away from the covenant then and there).

So slavery is to be abolished, but it is a fundamental principle of God’s relationship with us that he does not force us to change faster than is possible of our own freewill. So Mishpatim does not abolish slavery, but it sets in motion a series of fundamental laws that will lead people, albeit at their own pace, to abolish it of their own accord. Here are the laws:

“If you buy a Hebrew servant, he is to serve you for six years. But in the seventh year, he shall go free, without paying anything . . . But if the servant declares, ‘I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,’ then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life.

Ex. 21:2-6

What is being done in these laws? First, a fundamental change is taking place in the nature of slavery. No longer is it a permanent status; it is a temporary condition. A Hebrew slave goes free after seven years. He or she knows this. Liberty

awaits the slave not at the whim of the master but by Divine command. When you know that within a fixed time you are going to be free, you may be a slave in body but in your own mind you are a free human being who has temporarily lost their liberty. That in itself is revolutionary.

This alone, though, was not enough. Six years is a long time. Hence the institution of Shabbat, ordained so that one day in seven a slave could breathe free air: no one could command him to work:

Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you . . . nor your male or female servant . . . so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. That is why the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

Deut. 5:12-14

But the Torah is acutely aware that not every slave wants liberty. This too emerges out of Israelite history. More than once in the wilderness the Israelites wanted to go back to Egypt. They said, “We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost, also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic” (Num. 11:5).

As Rashi points out, the phrase “at no cost” [*chinam*] cannot be understood literally. They paid for it with their labour and their lives. “At no cost” means “free of mitzvot,” of commands, obligations,

duties. Freedom carries a highest price, namely, moral responsibility. Many people have shown what Erich Fromm called “fear of freedom.” Rousseau spoke of “forcing people to be free” – a view that led in time to the reign of terror following the French Revolution.

The Torah does not force people to be free, but it does insist on a ritual of stigmatization. If a slave refuses to go free, his master “shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl.” Rashi explains:

Why was the ear chosen to be pierced rather than all the other limbs of the body? Said Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai: ...The ear that heard on Mount Sinai: "For to Me are the children of Israel servants" and he, nevertheless, went ahead and acquired a master for himself, should [have his ear] pierced! Rabbi Shimon expounded this verse in a beautiful manner: Why are the door and the doorpost different from other objects of the house? God, in effect, said: “The door and doorpost were witnesses in Egypt when I passed over the lintel and the two doorposts, and I said: ‘For to Me are the children of Israel servants’, they are My servants, not servants of servants, and this person went ahead and acquired a master for himself, he shall [have his ear] pierced in their presence.”

A slave may stay a slave but not without being reminded that this is not what God wants for His people. The result of these laws was to create a dynamic that would in the end lead to an abolition of slavery, at a time of free human choosing.

And so it happened. The Quakers, Methodists and Evangelicals, most famous among them William Wilberforce, who led the campaign in Britain to abolish the slave trade were driven by religious conviction, inspired not least by the biblical narrative of the Exodus, and by the challenge of Isaiah “to proclaim freedom for captives and for prisoners, release from darkness” (Is. 61:1).

Slavery was abolished in the United States only after a civil war, and there were those who cited the Bible in defence of slavery. As Abraham Lincoln put it in his second Inauguration:

“Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged.”

Yet slavery was abolished in the United States, not least because of the affirmation in the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal,” and are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights, among them “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Jefferson, who wrote those words, was himself a slave-owner. Yet such is the latent power of ideals that eventually people see that by insisting on their right to freedom and dignity while denying it to others, they are living a contradiction. That is when change takes place, and it takes time.

If history tells us anything it is that God has patience, though it is often sorely tried. He wanted slavery abolished but He wanted it to be done by free human beings coming to see of their own accord the evil it is and the evil it does. The God of

history, who taught us to study history, had faith that eventually we would learn the lesson of history: that freedom is indivisible. We must grant freedom to others if we truly seek it for ourselves.



Around the Shabbat Table

1. How do you think our family stories and memories help us make better choices today?
2. Why do some people fear freedom and prefer constraints, even when given the choice to be free?
3. Why do you think God chose patience over immediate intervention when confronting human moral failings? Have there been other times in the Tanach where this has come up?

- These questions come from this week's **Family Edition** to Rabbi Sacks' Covenant & Conversation. For an interactive, multi-generational study, check out the full edition at <https://rabbisacks.org/covenant-conversation-family-edition/mishpatim/the-slow-end-of-slavery/>