

Thought of the Week

The Torah reading of this week is naturally dominated by the description of the tragedy of the Golden Calf and its consequences. But the story of the Golden Calf in the parsha is preceded by teachings regarding the sanctity of the Shabat. The rabbis attributed the presence of this Shabat subject in the parsha as a further indication that even the construction of the Mishkan cannot take precedence over the sanctity of Shabat.

But there is another insight that is available here as well. The dangers of Golden Calves, false gods, apparently shining and enticing ideals that only lead to eventual disaster, is something that is always present in Jewish society. In our long history as a people there is a long list of Golden Calves that have led us astray and at great cost to us.

Paganism, Hellenism, false messianism, Marxism, secularism, nationalism, humanism and unbridled hedonism, just to identify some of these Golden Calves, have all exacted a terrible toll from us over our history. The Shabat and its holiness and its enforced withdrawal from the mundane and impious world have always stood as the bulwark of defense against these Golden Calves.

The Shabat is our first and strongest line of defense against the sea of falseness and evil that constantly threatens to engulf us. Without Shabat we are doomed and lost. With Shabat we are strong and eternal. There are not many things in history that are that simple to discern but the saving grace of Shabat for Jewish society is one of these really no-brainers.

This is why later in the Chumash in parshat Vayakhel the admonition regarding the laws of Shabat is again repeated in conjunction with a further review of the construction of the Mishkan. The Torah wishes to emphasize that short of human life itself, no cause no matter how seemingly noble takes precedence over the sanctity of the Shabat.

For all human causes, no matter how noble, contain dross with its gold. The Shabat in its eternity and God-given holiness is likened to the World to Come, eternal and everlasting. For many times in our rush to build, we destroy, and in our desire to accomplish great things we trample upon nobility and moral righteousness. The great sage, Baba ben Buta in the Talmud warned King Herod not to destroy the old until the new has already been erected.

The world oftentimes believes that the destruction of the old is somehow a necessary prerequisite to construct the new. The Torah comes to teach us that the old Shabat already observed by the People of Israel even before the granting of the Torah to Israel at Mount Sinai will definitely outlive and outperform the shiny new Golden Calf that is ...

[continued inside...]

בס"ד

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Parshas Ki Sisa

פרשת כי תשא

Stone Chumash page 484; Haftarah, page 1160.

February 18-19, 2011

ט"ו אדר א' תשע"א



Shabbos Schedule



Candle lighting:	5:22pm
Mincha - Friday:	5:22pm
Parsha Chaburah by Drew Dorman:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:32am
Kiddush this Shabbos is community sponsored.	
Mincha:	5:15pm
Chabura given by Rabbi Steinberg on Purim Kotton: Birur divrei ha-gemara ve-shitos ha-rishonim.	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	6:26pm

Questions? Comments! Sponsorships\$ weeklyupdate@yiml.org

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis:	Sunday:	8:00am
	Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Sunday:	5:30pm
Maariv:	Monday through Thursday:	7:45pm
Mincha and Candle Lighting	Friday:	5:30pm

Weekday Shiurim

Daily Mussar Shiur:	15 minutes before Shacharis
Mishna Brura:	Mon and Wed after Maariv
Melachim Aleph Shiur:	Monday at 8pm
Halacha Shiur:	Tuesday at 8:30pm.
Nefesh HaChaim:	Thursday at 10:10pm
Check with Dr Daniel Eisenberg to confirm.	

Chevra Mishnayos

The Chevra Mishnayos is learning Seder Nashim. See shul bulletin board to sign up or email eisenber@pol.net with your name and the masechta (and chapters) you intend to learn.

Women's Learning Experience - Winter Session

Mon at 10:30am: Tehillim for Cholim.
Mon at 11:00am: Rabbi Greenspan - Parsha haShavua.
Tues at 9:30am: Rabbi Shmidman - Sefer Tehillim, at LMS.
Tues at 8:00pm: Stacey Goldman - The Imahot, at the Werrin home, 161 Highland Circle, Bala.
Wed at 9:00am: Rachael Biberfeld - Michtav m'Eliyahu.
Thu at 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg - Gesher HaChaim.
All classes at 8 Concord Circle, unless otherwise noted. For information or free babysitting, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477.

Thought of the Week, continued...

now being worshipped so avidly.

Golden Calves come and go but the eternity of Shabat and Torah remain valid for all times and circumstances. This reflection is buttressed in the Torah by its repetition of the sanctity of Shabat many times in these parshiyot that mark the conclusion of the book of Shemot. Our Mishkan is built only with Shabat and never in contravention of Shabat.

Adapted from <http://www.rabbiwein.com/Weekly-Parsha/2011/02/517.html> by Rabbi Wein.



▪ Rabbi and Mrs Peysi Adlerstein invite the community to a kiddush to celebrate the recent birth of their daughter Hadassah, following davening at the Philadelphia Community Kollel.

Pirchei and Bnos

Bnos will meet from 3:30 to 4:30pm at LMS. For information, contact Meira Friedman at 610-617-9529.

Pirchei will meet from 3:30 to 4:30pm on the lower level of LMS. This week's Pirchei has been sponsored anonymously. Contact Rabbi Ari Silver at silverDollar@verizon.net.

Torah Academy's Annual Scholarship Dinner

Torah Academy's Annual Scholarship Dinner is planned for Sunday February 27th, 2011 at 5pm to be held at the Westin Hotel Philadelphia. This years distinguished honorees are Susan & Sherman Frager together with Excellence in Education recipients, Mrs. Rita Maurio and Coach Kenny Myers. For more information, contact Tanya Libesman at tlibesman@torahacademyonline.org or 610-642-7870 x255.

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