

CONGREGATION KADIMAH - TORAS MOSHE

WINTER 5767
VOLUME IV
EDITION II



בית הכנסת קדימה - תורת משה

AZRIEL BLUMBERG, RABBI
ABRAHAM I. HALBFINGER, RABBI EMERITUS
ROBERT E. FOX, PRESIDENT

Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

While the story of Chanukah occurred during the era of the Second Temple, it is connected to the beginning of our history. According to our Sages, G-d planned out the events leading up to Chanukah so it would occur in the month of Kislev.

The construction of the Mishkon (Tabernacle) was completed in Kislev. Rather than make a dedication ceremony at that point, G-d waited until Nissan, the month in which our Forefathers were born and we were redeemed from Egypt. As compensation for not being the month of the Mishkon's dedication, the month of Kislev received the Holiday of Chanukah. (Kol Bo)

At first, this is difficult to understand. Why would G-d delay the opening of the Mishkon - and postpone the start of all the holy work done therein - for more than three months? And why would the month of Kislev require "compensation"?

We can view the months of the year not merely as arbitrary blocks of time, but as representing different stages in the cycle of living. Nissan is the time of planting, when new ideas take hold, new fruit begin to blossom and an atmosphere of freshness pervades. What better time to give birth to Patriarchs, begin a nation and dedicate a new Mishkon?

Kislev is during the winter, when the only grain available is that which has been harvested in the summer and the fall. It is a time of stable, steady development of what already exists. The new Mishkon could not be dedicated in this month; it needed to begin with the energy of Nissan in order to receive the full measure of dedication and devotion necessary to be a vital and vibrant House of G-d.

However, the fact remains that the Mishkon was completed during Kislev. How would this great accomplishment be mirrored in Jewish life?

The rededication of the Beit Hamikdash on Chanukah was remarkable in that it was not a new start, but rather a revitalization of that which had already existed. Realizing what had been in jeopardy, the Jews applied themselves to the service of G-d with renewed vigor and vitality.

With this, the message of Kislev was complete. We must never be completely satisfied with our accomplishments, but must always be looking for ways to revitalize and refresh those achievements. This does not mean that we must always begin entirely new projects, establish new goals and strive for new ideals. While there certainly is a need for freshness and creativity, Chanukah shows us that we can use these same forces to revitalize that which we have already accomplished and approach our goals with renewed dedication.

<i>Inside this Issue</i>	
Programming and Upcoming Events	3
Schedule of Services	3
Hesped for Ilana Winnett, ע"ה	4
Membership News	5
Schedule of Classes & Class Highlights	7



We have accomplished much at Kadimah – Toras Moshe. Our membership is growing, our programs are thriving, and our special ruach (spirit) is growing ever stronger. However, let us not merely sit back and enjoy the fruits of our labor. Rather, let us work constantly to renew and reinvigorate, to cultivate and to strengthen that which we have built.

May this Chanukah be a time of spiritual rejuvenation for us all, and may we soon see the rededication of the Beit Hamikdash in a rebuilt Jerusalem.

Happy Chanukah!

Rabbi Azriel and Michal Blumberg

From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

Chanukah is the time when the Children of Israel were able to rededicate the Temple after it was desecrated by the Greeks. One jar of oil was found that was still kosher. With this oil the menorah could be lit-bringing light and hope for the future. At this time we, too, must rededicate ourselves and our synagogue. Let us illuminate our future. Redeem pledges, join committees, strengthen minyanim, and become a vital part of the Kadimah-Toras Moshe family.

Let us follow the example of our ancestors byamim haheim and strengthen Kadimah-Toras Moshe ba'zman Hazeh. Happy Chanukah!

Robert E. Fox

From the Board of Directors

The Kadimah-Toras Moshe Way

There are many traditions that our congregation can be proud of. Our congregation is of a size that we can get to know each other. We have lively discussions and are for the most part respectful of different opinions. We appreciate a good joke and for the most part tolerate the (more common) not so good jokes. We make the synagogue comfortable for our little ones. There are other good traditions but in the Board's opinion, there is one tradition that we need to change: *The Kadimah way of deciding that things have been done poorly or not at all for so long that there is no point in trying to make them different.*

This is a tradition that we are now in the best possible position to change. We have gone through a difficult period where our tradition of respect and acceptance was strained. With the leadership of Rabbi Blumberg and the continued presence and support of Rabbi Halbfinger, we have been able to identify and address areas of chronic weakness and implemented improvements. In particular, I would like to thank Sid Krinsky for his diligent and detailed analysis of the office functioning and his comprehensive plan to put in place systems to allow the people who work in and with the office to be more effective. Of course, change takes longer than we would expect or wish, but we are now able to see the benefits of these changes.

This is our election year. We will be seating a nominating committee this winter to present a slate of officers and board members for the coming two years. Please give thought to the kinds of jobs we need our leaders to do and the people who might serve us best in those roles. We will be actively seeking the opinions of all of our congregants to help the nominating committee do its job.

Please examine your own personal stockpiles of discouragement and frustration. Perhaps you will find some that



no longer fit. Think of all the room we would have in our closets if we could get rid of some of the assumptions that sap the strength of our involvement with our friends and our congregation.

Dean Solomon
Chairman, Board of Directors

Synagogue Services

<i>Weekly Schedule</i>		<i>Children's Shabbat Services followed by children's kiddush</i>	
Shabbat Mornings	8:45 AM	Ages 0-4 with adult	10:30 AM
Weekday Mornings	7:00 AM	Ages 5-8	10:30 AM
Sunday Mornings	8:30 AM	<i>Junior Congregation</i>	
Weekday Evenings		Pre-bar mitzvah boys	10:00 AM
Mincha/Maariv	15 minutes before sunset	Pre-bat mitzvah girls	10:00AM

Programming by Jen Gordon

Now that the chagim are over we've begun to work on programming for this year. Upcoming events include a Chanukah party, teen programming, seniors "Lunch 'n' Learn," and a winter Shabbat dinner and Oneg. Please contact Programming Chair Jen Gordon with ideas or to volunteer to chair or co-chair an event. Watch your (e & snail) mail for dates and details.

Upcoming Events

- Shul Chanukah Party December 17 5:30 PM
\$3/Seniors/\$5 person/\$15 family maximum.
RSVP to hotline (hotline@kadimahtoramoshe.org) or call 617-925-4086
- Sisterhood Board Meeting and Chanukah Party December 18 at 7:00 PM
- Lunch 'n' Learn with Rabbi Blumberg January 16.
- Purim Seudah Sunday March 4
- Pre-Pesach Seminar March 12. Questions, answers and helpful hints from the Rabbi and Rebitzen
- Mother's Day Kiddush, sponsored by Sisterhood May 12.
- Memorial Day Breakfast

Details on all events will become available

Communicating with the Synagogue

There are many ways to communicate with the synagogue, the Rabbis, or office personnel.

Personal visit: Office hours are 9:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The office is closed Friday, Shabbat, Chagim, and may be closed on legal holidays.

Mail: Congregation Kadimah-Toras Moshe, 113 Washington Street, Brighton MA 02135

E-mail: Office@KadimahTorasMoshe.org Fax: 617-254-1373.

Telephone: 617-254-1333/4. Secretary will answer during office hours.

Leave message on voice mail at other times.

Many thanks to Steve Silva and Emmanuel Washington for their hard work preparing the Shul and Sukkah for the Chagim.



Excerpts from Steve Winnett's eulogy at the funeral of his wife, Ilana, ע"ה

I remember how you much impressed me at our first meeting. You introduced me to movies, books, painters, and foods – all kinds of dazzling cultural adventures. Then finally you introduced me to the beautiful world of Judaism, for your Jewish identity was always at the core of your being. My life has been enriched in so many, many ways from being with you all these years. We connected from the start, and it never ended.

Your last years were so hard. You had all that metal in your legs from when you fell down those horrible broken stairs in Brighton back in 1997, and you were in even more pain after you were hit by a car crossing the street in Brookline in your electric wheelchair in 2000. You lived daily with pain, but you did not let it stop you. Overcoming adversity was always the hallmark of your life.

You were left an orphan at the tender age of 13 and still managed to excel at the Bronx High School of Science, then on to Sarah Lawrence, Columbia, and Fordham, often while working days at demanding full-time accounting jobs, ending up with a dazzling array of letters after your name: MBA, JD, CPA. You were such a hard worker, always determined to overcome whatever obstacles life threw in your path.

You joined the IRS in New York, first as a Revenue Agent, then as an Estate and Gift Tax Attorney. I can still see you lugging home that big square brown attaché case which you dragged up and down subway stairs day in and day out. Then after coming home you'd start preparing for the next day's battles. You never waved the white flag of surrender. You were totally awesome.

Then you won your greatest victory over adversity. After years of struggling, you took the initiative to visit an adoption agency so we could have a family. Our gift from God arrived in a box at JFK airport on July 13, 1988. Our daughter Sarah is the product of your efforts, not mine. You put in all those hours and days with her, forsaking professional glory so you could serve a higher calling: motherhood. You were the strong and motivating parent. Thanks to you that Sarah spent all those wonderful years at the Maimonides School, the school you loved. When times got tough and I lost my job, it was you – not me – who figured out a way to keep her in the school. Thank you so much for doing that. Thank you so much for listening to yourself and not to me.

In your last years you endured so much pain in your legs, that in the end you could barely walk a few steps even with your walker. You still worried about Sarah, and about me. You never worried about yourself. I'm adrift now. I've lost the anchor of my life. You have always been there for me, no matter what. How can I ever thank you for all the ways you enriched my life?

I am so grateful now that you were able to see Sarah graduate from Maimonides this year. Getting Sarah through that incredibly demanding – and incredibly caring – school was all your doing. You did a fantastic job with her. I feel so lost right now without you. But how much more lost I would have been had you never crossed that room and walked up to me all those years ago. Thank you so much for taking the initiative, walking over to me and saying with a smile (when we first met), "Hello, my name is Allyn, what's yours?" Thank God you did that.

Excerpts from Sarah Winnett's eulogy at the funeral of her mother, ע"ה

For most of my life I have heard my mother greet me in the morning. Many days, she would sing the Good Morning song from *Singin' in the Rain*. She always tried to make the people close to her happy. It became harder for her as the years went by and her accident kept her in the house, but she always kept her determination and passion to the point of stubbornness. She never gave up on anything that she truly believed was right, whether it was her faith in Judaism or a driver was blocking the crosswalk. This made her a loyal friend, my greatest confidant, and a trustworthy mother. She was unflagging and unyielding, but always had people's best interests at heart.

She wanted to make sure that we enjoyed our lives, even though she was in so much pain from her injuries later in life. At times the pain made her life so unbearable that she did lash out at us. When she apologized later we knew that she felt worse about it than we did and that she never meant it. We always knew that she cared more about my dad and me than she did herself. She put as much time and energy into looking after us as she could.



Membership / Publicity News by Jonathan Kamens

Greetings from the Membership & Publicity Committee! It's been a while since our last update, and there's a lot of good news to share, so let's dive right in....

Please give a warm KTM welcome to our newest members, **Aviv and Adina Ben Ari, Shimshon and Lea Berkovits, Michael and Nomi Burstein, Zev London, Chuck and Barbara Morse, Matt Sigelman, Hillel and Maria Sims and Gerald Small!** It's great to see both newcomers to our community and people who have been around for a while supporting the shul through membership. Kol HaKavod!

The Membership Committee is always on the lookout for new people, but we can't do it alone — *we need your help!* If you know anyone who might be searching for a shul, please invite them to KTM. I love speaking with people about our shul, so feel free to put them in touch with me by giving them my contact information or giving me theirs.

Speaking of supporting the shul, **almost half of our members still haven't paid their dues for 2006-7.** If you're one of them, you will soon be receiving a reminder in the mail. Please return it promptly with your payment. Our shul can't survive without the financial support of our members!

Our "Open Sukkah" at the shul on Wednesday, October 11 was quite a success, despite the rain, which turned it into an "Open Social Hall". A good crowd of new, prospective, and established members had a lovely dairy dinner, shmoozed and heard words of Torah from Rabbi Blumberg. Many thanks to all the volunteers who assisted in various ways, including **Ann Geller, Andrea Kamens, Rebecca Snyder, Dean Solomon and Lillian Stern** (my apologies to those whom I've forgotten!).

Please be sure to visit our new Web site at www.KadimahTorasMoshe.org. Seth and Jen Gordon did yeoman's work getting the site up and running. Since its debut last spring, we've added and enhanced many features, including:

- current service times and zmanim;
- an up-to-date events calendar;
- Rabbi Blumberg's current and past parsha questions of the week;
- an on-line version of the current bulletin; and
- on-line versions of the source sheets for Rabbi Blumberg's "Foundations of Halacha" classes;

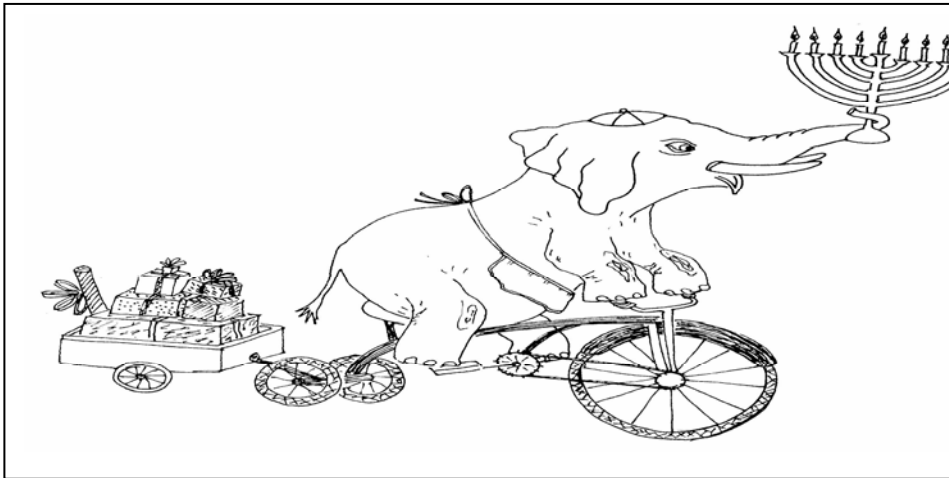
You can also visit our Web site to subscribe to the shul's email lists. In addition to the "Announce", "Chat" and "Youth" lists, **we've recently added a new "Minyan-Times" list**, whose subscribers receive a weekly email message containing upcoming service times and zmanim. *Kol Tuv!*

Sisterhood News by Cheryl Sisel

The Sisterhood had a very successful board meeting this summer. Thank you to all who attended. Thanks are also in order for: the Sisterhood for purchasing, bagging and distributing the Simchat Torah refreshments; Ann Geller and Cheryl Sisel; Lillian Stern for keeping us all up-to-date with the latest Shul news. Please contact Lillian to send cards for any occasion. The sale of these cards benefits the Sisterhood and the Shul. If you would like to join Sisterhood or become a life member, please send your check to Sue Miller.

Sisterhood KTM will again be selling mishloach manot bags and Purim cards. Details available soon!





Please join us for Sisterhood's annual Chanukah Party, Monday, December 18, 2006. Board meeting at 7 P.M., party at 7:30 P.M.

In addition to the White Elephant Sale we will be honoring this year's Bat Mitzvah girls.

Children's and Family Programs by Cheryl Sisel

As always, many thanks are in order to our members and friends for making our events so successful.

Thank you to: Judith Markson for stepping up and helping the children's' group; the Gordons for making new Siddurim; our wonderful leaders: Michael Stern-Cohen, Bayla Lawless, Nathan Gilson, Nathan Weinberger, Lauren Simkovitz, Devorah Toren, and the children's group for helping to decorate our beautiful sukkah. A special thank you to the Kamens family for organizing this great event. Everyone (especially the children!) enjoyed the special treats sponsored by Judy Katz and Dean Solomon for the Yom Tovim. Many thanks!

Please tell your neighbors and friends about our Shabbat/Yom Tov Children's Group. If you have any questions or suggestions please call Cheryl or Andrea.

Classes Offered by K.T.M

Talmud-Mas. Beitzah	Sunday	7:30 AM	Rabbi Azriel Blumberg
Talmud-Mas. Avodah Zara	Monday	7:30 PM	Rabbi Finkelman at his home
Intermediate Hebrew/Hashkafah	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Ann Geller
Foundations of Halacha	Wednesday	8:30 PM	Rabbi Azriel Blumberg
Parshat Hashavua	Shabbat	3:00 PM or one hour before Mincha, whichever is later	Rabbi Azriel Blumberg

Highlights from our Classes

The **Sunday Morning Talmud Class** (7:30 AM) is currently discussing the issue of the Second Day of Yom Tov instituted in the Diaspora. We have addressed questions such as:

- Q. Why did the Jews need to rely on witnesses to declare the New Month instead of relying on a calendar?
- A. The Jews were very well versed in the calendar cycle upon which we rely today. However, the *Sanhedrin* (High Court) would wait for witnesses to see the New Moon before declaring Rosh Chodesh. Hence, it was necessary for all Jews to hear which day the *Sanhedrin* had declared Rosh Chodesh, as it might differ from, and supersede, the calendar date.



The **Monday Night Talmud Group** (at R. Finkelman's house, 7:30 PM) studies tractate Avodah Zarah, where we find reference to "the statutes of the nations." The Torah prohibits us from acting according to the statutes of the nation of Canaan (Vayikra 20:23; see also 18:3), without specifying which statutes fall under this category. In context, the words seem to refer to forbidden sexual acts. Our rabbis understand these verses to have wider application, forbidding certain cultural activities of all other nations (see Sefer HaHinnukh 262), for instance, attendance at their Theaters, Circuses and Stadiums (Sifra 13:9), or wearing their distinctive hairstyles.

We wondered: Which activities does this prohibition include, and which not? It cannot include everything that the other nations do, such as eating and sleeping. We found, in the early sources, discussions that focus on

- Activities bordering on idol worshipping (but real idol worship has its own prohibitions)
- Activities that have no rational explanation, superstitions (How can we tell a superstition from a rational practice?)
- Activities that identify one as member of that nation (what does that require in places where Jews do not dress differently from non-Jews?).
- Expressions of national culture (do modern Theaters, Circuses and Stadiums have as objectionable a nature as the ancient ones?)
- Wearing their national clothing, such as a military helmets (but surely we may wear helmets when we need them for safety).

As usual, our inquiry led to more questions than answers.

"**When Health is an Issue**" was this year's first topic in the **Foundations of Halacha** series (Wednesday Evenings 8:30 PM). We discussed situations in which health concerns come in to conflict with the laws of Shabbat, Kashrut, and Yom Kippur and other fast days. One common question which arose was:

Q. Can someone with a headache take aspirin on Shabbat?

A. According to the Shulchan Aruch, only one who is so ill that he/she is compelled to lie down or feels ill throughout his body may take medicine on Shabbat. One who has a mild headache should not take medicine on Shabbat.

Foundations of Halacha began a new series on Wednesday 11/29/06. The series is entitled "Old Seforim Never Die: Proper Disposal of Shaimot." Hebrew/English source sheets for current and past Foundations of Halacha classes may be viewed and downloaded from www.kadimahtoramoshe.org.

If you have energy for a good discussion, the **Shabbat Afternoon Parsha Shiur** (one hour before Mincha – not earlier than 3:00 PM) analyzes a section of the weekly Torah portion, gleaned insights from Rashi, Ramban, Ohr Hachaim and other commentators. Our Parshat Bereshit class dealt with this question:

Q. If G-d did not want Adam to partake of the *Etz Hachaim* (Tree of Life), why did He only instruct him not to eat from the *Etz Hada'at* (Tree of Knowledge)?

A. The ultimate destiny of every person is to become connected as one with the *Shechinah* (presence of G-d), that is to become a completely spiritual entity. Adam could have lived a life completely devoted to spirituality. If that were to do so, he could certainly partake of the *Etz Hachaim*, for remaining in his state of physicality would not be in conflict with his ultimate destiny of complete spirituality. However, by partaking of the *Etz Hada'at*, Adam chose a life of conflict between the physical and the spiritual. In order to achieve his ultimate destiny of pure spirituality, he needed to shed his physicality, and could not be immortal. (*Ohr Hachaim*)

The Wednesday evening **Hebrew/Hashkafah** class (7:00PM) began with Jonah, and we have only just finished it. We found it to be a fascinating and complex book which can be understood in many ways. We've seen Jonah as a quintessential prophet, willing to defy G-d for the honor of his people while also standing up for G-d's honor in the world, and needing to understand G-d's ways. We've also found that all questions have complex answers.



Q. What does Hashem teach Jonah through the growth and destruction of the shade plant?
 A. When, in Chapter 4, Jonah firsts asks to die, he is aggrieved for theological reasons. The second time he asks to die, after the death of the plant, his small physical being hurts. The contrast is powerful. His perspective changes. But this gives him grounding to begin to see how he, as a finite being, can understand G-d's world. This is not really an answer, but it is a tantalizing beginning of one.

Classes hosted by KJM

Rabbi Gedalia Fleer

The Five Senses- A Chassidic and Kabbalistic Perspective Sunday Dec. 3 7:30-9:00 PM
Healing and Kaballah Monday Nov. 27 7:30-9:00 PM
The Healing Power of Forgiveness Wednesdays Nov. 22, 29; 10:00-11:30 AM

For more information on Rabbi Fleer's classes go to
<http://www.gedaliahfleer.org>

Maayan

Readings in Hasidic Literature Wednesdays November 22, 29; December 6, 13
 Leah Orent 8:00-9:15 PM

Our Members and Friends

Mazel tov to: Daniel and Meredith Miller on the birth of their daughter; Chuck and Sue Miller on becoming grandparents; Rabbi Azriel and Michal Blumberg and family on the birth of their son; Herb and Annette Klaver on the birth of a grandson; Mal and Charlotte Rosen on the birth of a grandson; Sid and Dorothy Krinsky on the birth of a grandson.

Cards

Mazel Tov		
to	Dan and Meredith Miller on the birth of their daughter	Andrew Fischer & Linda Jason
	Chuck and Sue Miller on the birth of their first granddaughter	Andrew Fischer & Linda Jason Judy & Bernie Goldstein Herbert & Annette Klaver Annette & Chaim Horwath Shirley Penchuck, Fran & Harvey Linda
Siddurim donated	In memory of Sylvia K. Nason	Shirley Penchuck
	In honor of bat mitzvah of Jessica Forman, granddaughter of Marvin & Hawley Levenson;	Shirley Penchuck
	In memory of Esther & Henry Mazer	Shirley Penchuck
	In memory of June S. Marmer	Mr. & Mrs. Eli Shaw & family
Condolences to	Mal & Charlotte Rosen & family on loss of sister Estelle Berger	Wendy, Barry & Stacey Salkin
	Michaelson & Wolfson families on loss of mother & grandmother Estelle Berger	Paul & Laura Wallins
	Winnett family on the loss of their wife & mother, Ilana	



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Memorial plaques can be purchased from the shul. Please contact the office for details.

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The following donations were inadvertently omitted from the Yizkor Book:

In memory of Adel Zolotarevsky, mother of Gennady Maystrovsky

In memory of Monya Brook, father of Lina Maystrovsky

*We thank all who have donated to Kadimah-Toras Moshe in honor of various occasions.
Your generous support allows KTM to continue to function
as a vital institution in our community.*



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- Communicate with other KTM youth using youth@KadimahTorasMoshe.org.
- **NEW!!** Receive weekly e-mails listing minyan times and other zmanim. Send an e-mail to Minyan-Times-Subscribe@KadimahTorasMoshe.org.

To sign up visit lists.KadimahTorasMoshe.org or select "e-mail lists" on our main website.

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Please e-mail submissions to office@KadimahTorasMoshe.com or call 617-254-1333. Deadline for the next bulletin is Feb. 15, 2007.



CONGREGATION KADIMAH-TORAS MOSHE
 113 WASHINGTON STREET
 BRIGHTON MA 02135

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT NO. 9062
 BOSTON MA 02135

Week of	Weekday Mincha	Parsha	Candle Lighting	Erev Shabbat Mincha	Shabbat Mincha	Maariv Motzaei Shabbat	Havdalah
December 10-16	3:55 PM	Vayeshev	3:54 PM	3:55 PM	3:45 PM	4:55 PM	5:03PM
December 17-23	3:55 PM	Mikeitz	3:57 PM	4:00 PM	3:50 PM	5:00 PM	5:06 PM
December 24-30	4:00 PM	Vayigash	4:02 PM	4:05 PM	3:55 PM	5:05 PM	5:10 PM
<i>December 31 Asarah B'Tevet</i>	<i>Fast starts 5:43 AM</i>	<i>Mincha 3:50 PM</i>	<i>Maariv 5:00 PM</i>	<i>Fast ends 5:07 PM</i>			
January 1-6	4:05 PM	Vayechi	4:08 PM	4:10 PM	4:00 PM	5:10 PM	5:17 PM
January 7-13	4:10 PM	Shemot	4:15 PM	4:15 PM	4:10 PM	5:20 PM	5:24 PM
January 14-20	4:20 PM	Vaera	4:23 PM	4:25 PM	4:15 PM	5:25 PM	5:33 PM
January 21-27	4:30 PM	Bo	4:32 PM	4:35 PM	4:25 PM	5:35 PM	5:41 PM
January 28-February 3	4:35 PM	Beshalach	4:41 PM	4:45 PM	4:35 PM	5:45 PM	5:51 PM
February 4-10	4:45 PM	Yitro	4:50 PM	4:55 PM	4:45 PM	5:55 PM	6:00 PM
February 11-17	4:55 PM	Mishpatim	4:59 PM	5:00 PM	4:55 PM	6:05 PM	6:09 PM
February 18-24	5:05 PM	Terumah	5:08 PM	5:10 PM	5:00 PM	6:10 PM	6:18 PM

