

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Va'eira  
January 20, 2023 / 27 Teves 5783  
Volume 28, Issue 14  
Candlelighting: 5:09 pm

Waxman Torah Center · 2195 S. Green Road · University Heights, OH 44121 · (216) 691-3837 · www.clevelandjlc.com

## Friday, January 20

5:09pm Candlelighting  
5:10pm Mincha / Maariv  
*Shiur @ R. Nisenbaum's*

## Shabbat, January 21

8:45am Shacharis  
*Kiddush is available*  
5:00pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos /  
Maariv

## Sunday, January 22

9:15am *Parsha Class*  
(R. Nisenbaum)  
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"  
(R. Stoll)

## Monday, January 23

8:00pm "The Rest of the Story" –  
"Joseph & his Brothers"

## Tuesday, January 24

8:00pm Pirkei d'Rebbi Elazar  
(R. Stoll)

## Wednesday, January 25

8:00pm Nach Still Speaks –  
Tehillim (R. Stoll)

## Thursday, January 26

10:15pm Parsha Class  
(R. Nisenbaum)

### CPR / First Aid

Sunday narcan class cancelled

### Weekday Minyanim

7:00am Shacharis (M-F)  
8:00am Shacharis (Sun)  
10:00pm Maariv (Sun-Th)

### Class Connection

#### R. Nisenbaum:

425-436-6200 #352171

"The Torah Podcast" weekly  
at all podcast locations

#### R. Stoll:

Zoom: 876-619-3551  
Audio: 669-900-9128

## Parsha: Va'eira

G-d sent Moshe and Ahron to Pharaoh to order him to free the Jews. The mission appeared to be a failure. Pharaoh first mocked the Al-mighty, and then made the Jewish people work even harder, accusing them of laziness. The Jewish people, too, were angry with Moshe for having made things worse for them. Moshe complained to G-d that he would not accomplish anything by returning to Pharaoh. G-d, however, assured Moshe that the people would be redeemed amidst great wonders and miracles.

Ten plagues were brought upon the Egyptians. These accomplished two goals. First, they served as a punishment for the Egyptians' mistreatment of the nation. But they also served as a lesson for both the Egyptians and the Jews, showing that G-d was in total control over the world and over nature.

Moshe warned Pharaoh that if he would not let the people go, all the water throughout Egypt would be turned to blood. The Nile River was considered to be a god in Egypt, serving as the sole source for water in the region. By first afflicting the Egyptian god, it proved G-d's superiority over their idols. This was also the significance of the fifth plague, pestilence, which killed the Egyptian cattle, another god of the Egyptians.

Following the first plague, G-d brought a plague of frogs throughout Egypt. The swarming frogs wreaked

havoc, inundating the whole country with their croaking noise. This was followed by a plague of lice, and then by a plague of wild animals that roamed the country. A plague of pestilence killed most of the livestock, followed by a plague of boils that afflicted the Egyptians themselves. The last plague mentioned in this portion was that of a miraculous hail-and-fire mixture, that destroyed almost all the Egyptian vegetation.

Each of the plagues lasted for a week, and then Pharaoh was given three weeks to reconsider letting the people go. Pharaoh refused to be impressed by the miracles that Moshe and Ahron performed. Even when he saw that his own magicians could not duplicate the miracles, he hardened his heart and would not let the people go. After the first few plagues the suffering became so great, that Pharaoh did consider allowing some segments of the

people to leave temporarily. This, however, was not acceptable to Moshe.

After five plagues of suffering throughout Egypt, and despite the pleas of his own nation, Pharaoh still refused to recognize the hand of G-d. By that time, since he had been given so many opportunities, G-d hardened Pharaoh's heart and did not allow him to let the nation go. This would pave the way for him to receive the next five plagues and eventually the punishment he, and the Egyptian people, deserved.

### Mazel Tov

The Firestone family on the engagement of Adina

Vort of Meir Heigh and Sharon Rosner Sunday 2-4pm at Heights Jewish Center

### Condolences

to Stanley Friedlander upon the loss of his wife

## Insights: Va'eira

**...Moshe and Ahron...that is Ahron and Moshe ... (Exodus 6:26-27)**

The Rabbis explain that sometimes Moshe's name is mentioned before Ahron, and sometimes Ahron is mentioned first, to show they were both equal. This is puzzling, for the Torah tells us that was nobody as great as Moshe. Rav Moshe Gershon Goldzweig explained that it is possible to discuss the value of both silver and gold are more valuable since they are both precious metals. However, a discussion of the qualities of gold vs. apples is ridiculous since there is no commonality. Similarly, Moshe may have been greater than Ahron, but they were at least both "precious metals." The same could not be said of others, who shared no commonality. In another vein, Rav Yitzchok Hutner was asked about a student in his yeshiva. Rav Hutner excitedly said that the student was the best he had. When asked about a different student, the Rosh Yeshiva said that *that* student was his best. The puzzled man asked how both students could be the best. Rav Hutner explained, "I have several hundred students, and each one is the best. One is the best in understanding Talmud; one is best in sensitivity; one is the best in praying with devotion, and so on." Ahron may not have been as great a prophet as Moshe, but he was best in other ways.

## Did You Know?

Although Rosh Chodesh (New Moon) is only a minor holiday and it is permitted to work, it is proper to serve a festive meal, or at least some special food on Rosh Chodesh. Some have the custom not to take a haircut or cut their nails on Rosh Chodesh. It is also customary for women not to engage in certain activities on Rosh Chodesh, such as laundry, sewing, and ironing. Other activities such as cooking are permitted. This was meant as a reward for the women who did not take part in the sin of the Golden Calf. If a woman works as a seamstress and there is a concern she might lose her job, she may sew on Rosh Chodesh.

**Thought for the Week: Instantaneous relief generally lasts as long as it takes.**  
(A Candle By Day)