

## SHABBAT TRUMAH ART SERVICE

Saturday, February 17, at 10:00 a.m.

*The ETERNAL ONE spoke to Moses, saying: "Tell the Israelite people to bring Me gifts; you shall accept gifts for me from every person whose heart is so moved. And these are the gifts that you shall accept from them: gold, silver and copper; blue, purple and crimson yarns, fine linen, goats' hair; tanned ram skins, dolphin skins, and acacia wood; oil for lighting, spices for the anointing oil and for the aromatic incense; lapis lazuli and other stones for the setting, for the ephod and breastpiece. And let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them. -Exodus 25:1-8*

The Torah clearly envisions a place for artistry in divine worship. For many years, I've used Shabbat Trumah, whose Torah portion includes the above passage (or other Shabbatot describing the desert sanctuary) for an "art service." Such a service follows the structure of the regular service, keeping the "*baruh atah* / praised are you" anchors, but replacing the paragraphs leading to them (up to the Amidah) with visual images, often of Israeli artworks downloaded from the internet. This year, I'm doing two new things: I'm giving advance notice in *The Bulletin*, so people interested in this sort of service can know to come. And I'm inviting you to supply the images, either digitally for me to include in a handout, or physically, to hold up at the appropriate point in the service.

The images should reflect (in some way) one of the following themes from the sections of the morning service:

- waking up / our physical selves / our pure souls
- language/poetry/ emotional connection
- morning, the heavenly lights, or nature
- love and preferably also mitzvot or obligations or Torah
- hope or freedom or justice or the exodus from Egypt

If you'd like to contribute an image, please send it (or a photo of it) to me by February 12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks! And, whether you contribute or not, please join in this visually enriched Shabbat service in honor of Shabbat Trumah – the Shabbat of the artistic gifts.

Rabbi Jeremy Schwartz