

***Yitro*****Bracha Yael****2013**

**This week's Torah portion, *Yitro*, has the show stopping Cecil B. DeMille scene of God's revelation to the Israelites. In Ex. 19:16 it says, "On the third day, as morning dawned, there was thunder, and lightening, and a dense cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud blast of the shofar; and all the people who were in the camp trembled." The Torah says that even Mt. Sinai trembled. Moses brought the people to the bottom of the mountain and God descended upon it in fire. The mountain was smoking while God revealed the Ten Commandments.**

**Some of the commandments seem obvious, such as commandment six: "You shall not (murder) kill." Of course, you shouldn't kill another person. I don't need a commandment to tell me that. But, I came to realize with a slight tweak it has a lot to say to me. How many times have you heard someone say, "Oh, I'm just killing time..." I've been guilty of that.**

**Judaism though teaches us to treasure time. Psalm 90 says "Teach us to treasure each day so that we may get a heart of wisdom." In**

other words, it reminds us to count our days or better yet to make each day count. Traditionally, upon waking and while still in bed, one says, *I thank You, living and eternal Sovereign, for You have mercifully returned my soul, abundant is Your faithfulness.* The gift of a new day is not taken for granted.

It is said, live each moment as if it was your last because it just might be. Don't wait to tell someone how special they are to you. Or, put off another day to fulfill your dreams. Do take a moment to write a thank you note, watch a sunset, or whatever uplifts you and those around you. The commandment "You shall not kill time" reminds me of the preciousness of life.