



# Mount Sinai Jewish Center

ב"ס ד

OF CONGREGATION MT. SINAI ANSHE EMETH & EMES WOZEDEK OF WASHINGTON HEIGHTS, INC. AND CONGREGATION BETH HILLEL AND BETH ISRAEL

## Kesher קשר

Shabbat Zachor • Parshat Vayikra • March 15th-16th, 2019 • 9 Adar II 5779  
Artscroll Stone Chumash: Parsha (pg. 544) / Maftir (pg. 1066) / Haftorah (pg. 1214)

Mount Sinai Eruv - Up      YU Eruv - Up

*Please note that the Eruv does not extend to Fort Tryon Park or Gorman Park.*

The Eruv has been expanded to include the buildings on the East side of Broadway North of 187th Street until 190th Street. The Eruv does not continue north of 190th Street on the East side of Broadway.

**Rabbi Ezra Schwartz**  
Senior Rabbi  
rabbi@mtsinaishul.com

**R' Dr. Mordecai Schnaidman**  
Rabbi Emeritus

**R' Jonathon Steinfeld**  
Rabbinic Intern

**Dena Block**  
Yoetzet Halacha  
yoetzet@mtsinaishul.com  
201.921.8992

**OFFICERS:**  
**Yehuda Krupka**  
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**Rivka Holzer**  
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**Naama Levin**  
Financial Secretary

**Ari Rieser**  
Treasurer

**OFFICE STAFF:**  
**Sam Barkhordari**  
Associate Director  
office@mtsinaishul.com  
212.568.1900

**Office Visiting Hours**  
Wednesday: 1:30PM-7:00PM  
Thursday: 12:30PM-8:00PM  
Friday: 9:30AM-1:00PM  
Office staff may be available by phone or email during non-visiting hours. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

### Shabbat Schedule

Candle Lighting	6:44 pm
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:49 pm
Hashkama	7:00 am
Post-Hashkama Shiur	8:50 am
Shacharit	9:00 am
Recent Grad Shacharit	9:05 am
Zman Kri'at Shema	10:06 am
Youth Groups-Free Play	9:45 am
Minyan Katan	10:15 am
Tot Shabbat	10:20 am
Early Mincha	3:00 pm
Mincha/Seudah Shlishit	6:25 pm
Shkiah	7:03 pm
Maariv/Havdalah	7:50 pm

### Zachor Reading Schedule Inside ➔

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Taanit Esther	Thursday Purim	Friday Shushan Purim
<b>March 17</b> 10 Adar II	<b>March 18</b> 11 Adar II	<b>March 19</b> 12 Adar II	<b>March 20</b> 13 Adar II	<b>March 21</b> 14 Adar II	<b>March 22</b> 15 Adar II
Shacharit 7:30,8:00,8:30,9:00a	Shacharit 6:45,7:20,8:00a	Shacharit 7:00,7:30,8:00a	Fast Begins 5:48a Shacharit 6:30,7:05,8:00a	Shacharit 6:30,7:00,8:45a	Shacharit 7:00,7:30,8:00a
Mincha/Maariv 6:50p	Mincha/Maariv 6:50p  Monday Night Learning 8:00p	Mincha/Maariv 6:50p	Mincha 6:40p Maariv/Megilla 7:40,10:00p  Fast Ends 7:44p Chagigah 9:00p	Megillah approx. 7:00,7:30,9:15a  Megillah only 10:30a  Mincha 1:35p  Mincha/Maariv 7:00p	Candle Lighting 6:52p  Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:57p

For additional minyanim times in the community, please visit [www.godaven.com](http://www.godaven.com)

Mount Sinai Jewish Center • 135 Bennett Ave. New York, NY 10040 • 212-568-1900  
[www.mtsinaishul.com](http://www.mtsinaishul.com) • [office@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:office@mtsinaishul.com)

## SPONSORSHIP

### THE ERUV IS SPONSORED BY:

- Washington Heights Congregation/The Bridge Shul as part of its ongoing support of the community Eruv

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- ST Schwartz
- Dovid Simpser

### WELCOME BACK, YOETZET HALACHA DENA BLOCK:

- Yoetzet Halacha Dena Block has returned from her maternity leave.

### HAKARAT HATOV:

- Josh D, Hannah G, Naama L, and Chava W for helping with last week's JFK Kiddush
- Aharon Plumer for putting together a very serious Purim keshet
- Hart Levine for checking the eruv before Shabbat

### THANK YOU MESSAGE:

- Thank you to Ari Rieser and all of the men who came for Minyan for our mother, Monica Spier. -Jennifer Chervin, Audrey Hochroth, and families

## THIS SHABBAT

### Post Hashkama Shiur

Rabbi Steinfeld will speak on the topic of "My Theme for This Year's Mishloach Manot."

### Recent Grad Minyan

We're proud to announce the creation of a weekly MSJC recent graduate Shabbat morning minyan. This minyan, which will be targeting recent graduates in their low to mid twenties, will take place downstairs in the gym.

### Additional Zachor Readings

- After each Shacharit minyan, immediately after davening
- Right after 3:00PM early Mincha
- 6:15PM, before second Mincha

## RABBINIC SEARCH UPDATES

We are excited to announce that, in consultation with the Board, we extended invitations to Rabbi Yaakov Taubes and Rabbi Ben Keil to visit the community in the upcoming weeks. Rabbi Taubes will be coming for Shabbat Parshat Shemini, March 30th. Rabbi Keil will be here for Shabbat Parshat Tazriah, April 6th. Mark your calendars - more details to follow!

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Board of Trustees has named the following people to the 2019 Nominating Committee: Yoni Teitz, Rivky Stern, Jessica Listhaus, Naftali Polachek, and Riva Preil. They can be reached at [nomcom@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:nomcom@mtsinaishul.com) with any questions or concerns. More details coming soon!

## MOUNT SINAI HAPPENINGS

### Safety in our Shul

We love our children and our shul, therefore we are asking while in the shul building, **children 6 and under are either in our supervised youth groups with a parent in the building, or are directly supervised by a parent.** We hope to continue the positive, warm, wonderful and safe environment that we experience here at Mt. Sinai.

### Children's Open Play

A great place for your kids to run around and have fun with great toys and lots of friends. The cost is \$3 per child for members and \$4 for not-yet-members. To volunteer or for more information, please email Chana Shefa at [chana.shefa@gmail.com](mailto:chana.shefa@gmail.com).

## IN OUR COMMUNITY

### Women's Megillah Reading

**Wednesday, March 20th, 9:00 PM**

The Washington Heights Community Women's Megillah Reading invites all women and girls to a Megillah reading on Purim Night at 9:00 PM. 135 Bennett Avenue, downstairs (entrance is on 187th Street). Email [davida.kollmar@gmail.com](mailto:davida.kollmar@gmail.com) for more information!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 93QUEEN SCREENING

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH, 8:00 PM**

Set in the Hasidic enclave of Borough Park, Brooklyn, 93QUEEN follows a group of tenacious Hasidic women who are smashing the patriarchy in their community by creating the first all-female volunteer ambulance corps in New York City. With unprecedented — and insider — access, 93QUEEN offers up a unique portrayal of empowered women who are taking matters into their own hands to change their own community from within.

Free admission. Please RSVP at [www.mtsinaishul.com/event/93queen](http://www.mtsinaishul.com/event/93queen)

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH, 7:30 PM**

Open to all current members in good standing.

### TRIVIA NIGHT

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST, 6:00 PM**

If you're a fan of The Office, Parks and Recreation, How I Met Your Mother, or just one of those shows, join us for an evening of good food and fun. The night will be filled with trivia, pizza, and beer. This event is for Modern Orthodox single individuals in their 20's and 30's. Space is limited. \$10 Early Bird (before March 24th) and \$15 until March 28th.

Register at [www.mtsinaishul.com/event/trivia](http://www.mtsinaishul.com/event/trivia)

### MAN SEDER

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH, 6:00PM**

Four courses, four beers, four Divrei Torah. Catered by Graze Smokehouse. Hear from Rabbi Ezra Schwartz (Mount Sinai Jewish Center), Rabbi Eli Kohl (Young Israel of Stamford), Rabbi David Pardo (Sephardic Congregation of Paramus), and Rabbi Simcha Willig (Congregation Keter Torah).

Register by Friday, March 29th: \$90 Members / \$105 Not-Yet-Members. \*Open to men only.

Register at [www.mtsinaishul.com/event/manseder2019](http://www.mtsinaishul.com/event/manseder2019)

## PURIM 2019: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

### Mishloach Manot— Register by March 19th

Mishloach Manot is an important fundraiser for our Shul. Through this project, you may participate in sending a beautiful gift basket to your Mount Sinai friends available for pickup on Purim Day. You have the option of sending a basket to all current members for \$180 or selecting individual names for a donation of \$3.60 per recipient (min of \$18). Registration closes Tuesday, March 19th at 11:59PM. For more information, visit [www.mtsinaishul.com](http://www.mtsinaishul.com).

### Purim Chagigah— March 20th, approx. 9:00 PM

Please join us for a comedy filled break-fast event featuring digital short videos by your peers and comedian Eli Leibowitz, immediately following Megillah reading on Purim night March 20th!

RSVP by March 10th: FREE for members; \$5 for not-yet-members. After March 10th: \$5 for members; \$7 for not-yet-members. Please register at [www.mtsinaishul.com/event/purim2019](http://www.mtsinaishul.com/event/purim2019)

### Gift of Life Drive at the Purim Chagigah

Good news, we made a match! A bone marrow donor match was found at the drive at Mount Sinai's Purim chagigah last year for a 63-year-old man battling Acute Myelogenous Leukemia. If you'd like to become a potential donor, you can find out more at <https://www.giftoflife.org>

### Children's Chagigah- March 21st, 9:45 AM - 11:30 AM

All children (and their parents) are invited to a Purim Extravaganza with a magical juggling show, art activities, balloons, and more. Suggested donation of \$5 per child or \$10 per family. Sponsors welcome! We're looking for volunteers: email [youth@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:youth@mtsinaishul.com) for more information.

### Matanot L'Evyonim

It is customary to provide monetary support for poor people on Purim through Matanot L'Evyonim. MSJC will again support the the Jewish Community Council (JCC) of Washington Heights and its distribution campaign on Purim day to hundreds of people in our neighborhood who need our support. Visit the shul website to make a donation.

Volunteers will meet at the JCC (121 Bennett Ave, ground floor, to the right) between 10:00 – 10:30am on Purim to distribute matanot l'evyonim. The volunteers can sign up by emailing Anat Coleman, to deliver matanot l'evyonim or visit a senior at [acoleman@jccwhi.com](mailto:acoleman@jccwhi.com)

### Machatzit HaShekel Donations

In remembrance of the half-shekel that was donated annually to the Temple treasury in the month of Adar, your Machatzit haShekel donations will help support the Shul's operating budget. Please help support the Shul by making a donation. Visit the shul website to make a donation.

## NEW OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open for visitors during the following hours: Wednesdays, 1:30-7:00; Thursdays, 12:30-8:00; and Fridays, 9:30-1:00. When the office is not open, staff may be available by phone (212-568-1900) or email ([office@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:office@mtsinaishul.com)). If you do not reach someone immediately, please leave a voicemail/email and someone will respond to you within 1 business day.

## WEEKLY SHIURIM

Education@mtsinaishul.com

### Daily

Daf Yomi Chaburah. For times/locations, please contact Davida at [davida.kollmar@gmail.com](mailto:davida.kollmar@gmail.com)

### Monday

Monday Night Learning at 8:00 PM

### Tuesday

Dr. Schwartz's Fireside Chats takes place monthly at 9:00 PM. Next date: TBA

### Wednesday

Rabbi Schwartz's Shiur at 9:00 PM

### Thursday

Rabbi Schwartz's Shiur will resume soon

## WEEKLY SPORTS

### Men's Basketball

Mondays and Wednesdays  
8:00 PM—10:00 PM

### Women's Basketball

Tuesdays  
9:00 PM—10:00 PM  
[mountsinaibasketball@gmail.com](mailto:mountsinaibasketball@gmail.com)

### Ultimate Frisbee

Interested in playing Ultimate Frisbee? Message [frisbee@mtsinaishul.com](mailto:frisbee@mtsinaishul.com) to sign up and to get location and timing details. Frisbee takes place on Sundays.

## TORAH TIDBITS

In Parshat Zachor we read the commandment to remember what Amalek did to the Jewish people. We are told (Devarim 25:18) “[Amalek] happened upon you on the road, and struck at all of you who were straggling behind, and you were famished and weary, and did not fear G-d (v'lo yarei Elokim).” Chizkuni, based on the Mechilta, interprets the phrase “and did not fear G-d” as referring to B'nei Yisrael—they had not yet received the Torah and Mitzvot, and were therefore vulnerable to sin and to being attacked. However, most other commentators, including Rashi and Ibn Ezra, say that the pasuk means that Amalek did not fear G-d.

Why should Amalek have feared Hashem? One answer is that all nations had heard about Hashem's miracles taking the B'nei Yisrael out of Egypt, and were afraid of Divine retribution for attacking the Jews. However, Rabbi Menachem Leibtag suggests a second reason. The phrase “yirat Elokim” (“fear of G-d”) is often used in Chumash to mean morality and ethical behavior. Avraham scolds Avimelech (Breishit 20:11) because his nation does not have yirat Elokim and would have killed Avraham to take Sarah; Yosef tells his brothers (who still believe that he is Egyptian) that because he fears G-d (“et ha-Elokim ani yarei”), he will give them a chance to prove that they are not spies (Breishit 42:18). In both cases, yirat Elokim is not a trait related to religious belief—it is about the ethics (or lack thereof) of the people involved.

With this perspective of yirat Elokim, we can understand why our pasuk about Amalek highlights this trait. Amalek did not attack the main camp of the Jewish people—they attacked the tired and hungry who had fallen behind. This immoral behavior of preying on the weak and vulnerable epitomized Amalek's lack of yirat Elokim. And we are commanded to remember the events of Amalek's attack and to wipe out their memory because they stand counter to the goal of the Jewish people to serve as a model nation exemplifying justice and righteousness. When we read Parshat Zachor, we are not only commemorating an event in our history. We are reaffirming our roles as exemplars of ethical behavior in the world, and promising to stand against all who lack yirat Elokim.

*Written by Levi Teitz. If you would like to submit a thought for Torah Tidbits, please reach out to Jason at [jasonbotvin@gmail.com](mailto:jasonbotvin@gmail.com).*

## REFUAH SHELEIMA

Avraham Mordechai ben Alta Leah, Mindel Fayga bat Perel Bebbel, Noah Rafael ben Sara, Chava Shalva Gabriella bat Shani Aliza, Ahron Meir ben Kayla, Alumah Minna bat Tadmor Rachel, Sarah bat Rachel, Ariel Moshe ben Avital, Bunna Reva bat Menucha, Hershel ben Esther, Etel Malka bat Chaya Guta, Shoshana Malka bat Chaya Zelda, Aviva bat Esther, Avraham ben Malka, Michael Yitzchak ben Feiga, Kaleb bat Sara, Esther bat Elsa, Sarah bat Eliya, Leora Chana bat Shulamit Nechama

## WOMEN'S ZUMBA

**Sunday Night Zumba** 8:00-9:00pm >

\$7.00 or 5 class-pass for \$30

**Sunday Night Core Class** 9:15pm-9:45pm >

Free

**Tuesday Night Zumba** 8:00-9:00pm >

\$7.00 or 5 class-pass for \$30

**Contact Talia Molotsky** with any questions  
[talmolot@gmail.com](mailto:talmolot@gmail.com)

## BRIDGE SHUL SHABBAT TIMES

Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:50 pm
Shacharit	8:40 am
Mincha	6:45 pm
Maariv	7:44 pm