



Mount Sinai Jewish Center

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

Not The Keshar לא את הקשר

Special Purim Edition

Mount Sinai Eruv - Up

YU Eruv - Up

For this week only, the actual boundaries of the Eruv will change over the course of Shabbat as we test the new Auto-Eruv system. This will seek out and surround the most populated areas in the community, so as to provide coverage to the most number of people. To ensure you are protected, please make certain to find the popular people and ensure to not go too far from their all-encompassing spheres of influence

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Social Chair

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Madame Moneybags

Ari Rieser
Grand Nagus

OFFICE STAFF:
Sam Barkhordari
Associate Director, Temporary
Executive Director, Assistant to the
Regional Executive Director
everything@mtsinaishul.com

Shabbat Schedule

Pre-Zachor Zachor Reading	6:44 pm
Second Pre-Zachor Zachor Reading	6:49 pm
Hashkama Zachor Reading	8:15 am
Post-Hashkama Zachor Reading	8:45 am
Regular Shacharit Zachor Reading	10:15 am
Post-Regular Shacharit Zachor Reading	11:15 am
Second Post-Regular Shacharit Zachor Reading	11:19 am
Pre-Early Mincha Zachor Reading	2:55 pm
Post-Early Mincha Zachor Reading	3:25 pm
Pre-Regular Mincha Zachor Reading	6:15 pm
Post-Regular Mincha Zachor Reading	6:50 pm
Pre-Maariv Zachor Reading	7:45 pm
Post-Maariv Zachor Reading	8:15 pm
Very Post-Maariv Zachor Reading	11:15 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Taanit Esther	Thursday Purim	Friday Shushan Purim
March 17 10 Adar II	March 18 11 Adar II	March 19 12 Adar II	March 20 13 Adar II	March 21 14 Adar II	March 21 15 Adar II
Shacharit 7:30a 7:45a 8:00a 8:05a 8:15a 8:21a 8:30a 8:32a 8:47a 8:56a 9:00a Mincha/Maariv 6:50p	Shacharit 6:45 — 7:25a 7:15 — 7:19a 8:00 — 9:45a Mincha/Maariv 6:50p	Shacharit 7:00 — 7:30a 7:30 — 7:34a 8:00 — 9:30a Mincha/Maariv 6:50p	Fast Begins 5:48a Shacharit 6:30,7:05,8:00a Mincha 6:40p Shiur 7:15p Maariv/ Megillah 7:40 Fast Ends 7:44	Shacharit 6:30,7:00,8:45a Megillah 7:00,7:30,9:15a Megillah Only 10:30a Mincha 1:35 Mincha/Maariv 7:00p	Shacharit 7:00 — 7:30a 7:30 — 7:34a 8:00 — 9:30a Candle Lighting 6:52p Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:57p Arrival to Shul 7:35p Social Hour 8:00p

Mount Sinai Jewish Center • 135 Bennett Ave. New York, NY 10040 • 212-568-1900

www.mtsinaishul.com • office@mtsinaishul.com

SPONSORSHIP

THE KESHER IS SPONSORED BY:

- Anonymous, reminding everyone that if more people pick up copies of the Kesher, we can probably start skipping announcements after davening

THE ERUV IS SPONSORED BY:

- Key Food, maker of the official plastic grocery bag of Friday night and Shabbat day meal attendees. Stop into Key Food to pick up your licensed, branded plastic grocery bag, free with purchase. Mention Mount Sinai and get a second bag free of charge!

HASHKAMA KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY:

- Attendees of the 9:00 Shacharit Minyan, reminding all the early birds of which minyan is the real "Main Minyan"

JFK KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY:

- Attendees of the Hashkama Minyan, thanking the "snoozers" for providing them with a weekly second helping of breakfast

THIS SHABBAT

Post Hashkama Shiur

The topic of the shiur this week is "Sefer Vayikra and the Psychology of Ritual Slaughter: A Case For Modern Day Human Sacrifice"

Parashat Zachor Readings

The Gabbaim will host a round-the-clock re-reading of Parashat Zachor in the Memorial Lounge from 7:00 AM — 7:00 PM for anyone who is unable to attend any of the approximately 6,000 official readings listed on the first page of the Kesher. They are looking for volunteers to take shifts of both leining and just being there for a minyan, so if you are able to assist, please speak to any member of the Gabbaut Committee.

NEW COMMITTEE

Mount Sinai is currently in the process of conducting searches for a new Rabbi and a new Executive Director. Furthermore, the Nominating Committee will soon begin the process of putting together a slate of Officers and Trustees to recommend to the community to serve on the Board for next year. With this large-scale change in Shul leadership taking place in such a short time, it has raised the issue of continuity. We would therefore like to announce the formation of the **Leadership Transition Authority** Committee. This group of 5 Shul members will be selected by the Board to provide a sense of stability, as once confirmed a member of this committee cannot be removed except for cause and by a unanimous Board vote (an event that happens roughly as often as unicorn sightings during a meteor shower). They will not have any real authority, except to regularly instruct any incoming leaders that a particular proposal is "not the way things have always been done." If you are interested in serving on this committee, please email officers@mtsinaishul.com or speak to any Board member

HAKARAT HATOV

- To everyone who has opened the front door for someone who was having difficulty with the new combination lock. FYI, always remember to press "Enter"
- To everyone who has stood near the front entrance handing out lollipops on Shabbat morning. Anyone can be a warm, welcoming, friendly face, but it takes a special kind of person to give out lollipops from a bucket. Remember, the lollipops don't hand out themselves!

MOUNT SINAI HAPPENINGS

Safety in our Shul

We value our youth and our Shul, so we are therefore asking that, while in the Shul building, **children age 24 and under** are either in our supervised youth groups or directly supervised by an adult Shul member over the age of 32. We hope to continue the positive, warm, wonderful, and safe environment that we experience here at Mount Sinai

Super-Ultimate Frisbee

Interested in playing Ultimate Frisbee but think the current version is not "ultimate" enough? Do you prefer your game to involve Frisbees which are dipped in kerosene and then set on fire?!? Email flamingfrisbee@mtsinaishul.com to sign up and to get location and timing details. Super-Ultimate Frisbee takes place on Sundays within an appropriate walking distance to NY-Presbyterian Hospital

UPCOMING EVENTS

Taanit Esther Fast-A-Thon Marathon

March 20th, 8:00 AM — 6:00 PM

Take the day off this year for Taanit Esther and participate in a 10 hour fast day marathon to benefit Mount Sinai! A group of anonymous donors have pledged to donate money to the Shul based on how many laps participants run in a pre-planned course around the community, with cash prizes going to the top 3 finishers. Go to the Shul website at mtsinaishul.com/fastathon to register for this fun and healthy activity. The race is only open to active fasters, and breaking the fast during the race disqualifies the participant from continuing. Please see the website for a full list of rules and restrictions, as well as other active and definitely **not** extremely dangerous ways to spend your fast day around the community

Singles Event — Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction

Date and Time TBD

Come to this one-of-a-kind event for singles in their 20s and 30s! Want to be auctioned off for a date? Interested in verifying your mother's claim about how valuable you are? Sign up at mtsinaishul.com/singlesauction as an auction subject to have attendees bid on the chance to go on a date with the amazing, wonderful catch you seem to think you are!

Want to bid on a chance to spend money on guaranteeing a date with someone who thinks they're awesome? Just curious to watch what may very well be a complete train wreck with some singles potentially receiving no bids at all? Sign up at mtsinaishul.com/singlesauction as a bidder to make sure you don't miss out on this spectacular opportunity! All proceeds from the auction go to Mount Sinai

*Please note, Mount Sinai cannot vouch for the actual value of bachelors and bachelorettes participating in the auction. As a result, winning bids will be processed automatically through the credit card the bidder used to sign up, and we will be implementing a strict "no-backsies" policy. Good Luck!

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS — IN OUR COMMUNITY

New Local Construction Projects

- With the recent shutdown of the 168th Street 1 train station and the planned shutdown of other local stations in the coming years, the MTA has shown its intentions of improving the experience of subway riders in the local community. Next up is a plan to decrease the amount of time spent in the 191st Street tunnel that stretches from Broadway into what feels to many like the depths of eternity. Beginning in Fall of 2021, construction will begin on a high-speed moving walkway within the tunnel. The walkway will average a top speed of 7 MPH during the day, with plans to increase that to 18 MPH during peak usage times. Though the tunnel is expected to remain open during construction, pedestrians are advised to avoid using it during testing hours. Those who must enter the tunnel when testing is taking place are asked to maintain caution and remain vigilant in the event of projectile crash-test-dummy parts
- Though Winter will be ending shortly, those living to the East of Broadway in Washington Heights are aware of how slippery the hill on 187th Street between Broadway and Wadsworth can get during icy and snowy conditions. Therefore, a website has been set up which is now accepting donations for the installation of a chair-based cable system, planned to open in December 2019, to assist residents in making their way up the hill during periods of inclement weather. Since for logistical reason the system will be unavailable for residents to ride down the hill, there will be sets of skis available for rent in a kiosk at the top of the hill. During days when the skis are made available, a large net will be set up at the bottom of the hill, so as to prevent participants from careening through traffic when they reach Broadway. Donations to this long overdue important community project can be made at wahiskilift.com

MOUNT SINAI APP

Want to get in touch with the Officers without having to draft an email or call? Do it the easy way by downloading the Mount Sinai app to your phone and checking out the new “Pager” section! Choose from a dropdown of issues that concern you, such as “**minyanim**,” “**programming**,” or “**the Rabbi**,” and then choose which Officer you’d like to receive notice of your issue. The app will send a high-decibel alarm to the personal phone of that Officer every 15 minutes until they reach out to you to address your concern. For major issues, choose the “Select All” option to ensure that each Officer has the opportunity to satisfactorily address your concern

TORAH TIDBITS

This week we read Parashat Zachor (many, many times), which instructs us about the obligation to destroy Amalek. In the days of Tanach, this mitzvah was fairly straightforward, with stories about battles against our mortal enemies found in Sefer Shemot, as well as I Shmuel and Megillat Esther. But how do we practice this command in today’s day and age? We don’t have a prophet telling us which people are descendants of Amalek (if you come across anyone who tells you they are such a prophet, it’s probably best to not take their word for it). And even if we did, there’s not a whole lot we can do about it with the whole “legal system” we have in place. So what should our approach be towards this mitzvah?

Let’s set aside the question of what we can actually do and first see if we can figure out who are potential members of this enemy, the spiritual descendants of Amalek, as it were. Devarim 25: 17 - 19 (Parashat Zachor, which you should know by heart at this point) provides some instructions on the background for this command. It tells us that “he struck those of you who were hindmost, all the weaklings at your rear, when you were faint and exhausted, and he did not fear G-d.” This is really the only guidance we have in the Torah as to what they did to deserve the distinction of being our ultimate nemeses, so we have to look into this for guidance in how to spot a member of Amalek. Attacking the weak and exhausted, those who were falling behind. Someone who did not fear G-d. So think back. Have you had any co-workers or supervisors who piled on while you were having a bad day? Someone about whom you thought “this person really needs the fear of G-d put in them.” These would seem to be the people who embody the spirit of Amalek and would potentially be the subjects of our attempt to fulfill the mitzvah.

So what do we do with these people? Well, part of the command is to wipe out their memory, so that might be a good place to start. Each instance would be different, but think about what you can do to make sure nobody even remembers them. Perhaps work it out so that the co-worker or supervisor isn’t needed by your employer anymore and in a couple of years nobody even remembers they worked there. Of course, the other part of the command is to never forget, so you could also go in the other direction and trick them into doing something so bad and memorable that they become a cautionary tale. There’s no one right answer, the important thing is that you are doing your duty in making sure that these people are taken care of. Maybe that’s the lesson of this week, to find the “Amalek” in your life and make sure they get what’s coming to them. All within the confines of the law, of course.

Written by an Anonymous employee of a large corporation

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - NEW DISCOUNTED RATE

Mount Sinai’s Membership Drive is still ongoing and we encourage all of our attendees to either renew your membership or become new members. All membership rates are listed on the Shul website. However, for a limited time, we are offering a special discount to all new members on our new “Shmura Matza Membership” plan. Sign up between now and Rosh Chodesh Nisan and instead of the regular applicable membership rate, just pay the equivalent of the cost of 5 standard boxes of hand-made Shmura Matza from a Kosher supermarket on Erev Pesach at 2:30 PM. We’ll even let you choose the store, just provide us with proof of their price at that time and that’s what you’ll have to pay for membership. On the off-chance that this actually provides you with a discount from any of our listed membership prices, congratulations to you! If you have any questions about this new program, please reach out to the office or speak with any of the Shul officers