

LSS UPDATE

LSS is closed for all services and programs, including Shabbat services and programs, until further notice.

This shabbat marks two months apart and yet, in many ways, we realize how this challenging time is bringing us all closer through chesed and virtual connection.

Please see below for important Shabbat times.

SHABBAT TIMES

Friday Night:

Today is the 22nd day of the Omer

Earliest Candle Lighting: 6:26pm

Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat: 6:45pm

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 7:35pm

Sunset (daven Mincha by): 7:51pm

Repeat Shema after 8:37pm

Count day 23 of Omer

Shabbat:

Today is the 23rd Day Omer

Latest Shema 9:21am

Latest Shacharit: 10:32am

Earliest Mincha: 1:28pm

Sunset (daven Mincha by, and begin seudah shlishit by): 7:52pm

Shabbat Ends: 8:37pm

Zoom Havdalah: 8:55pm

Count day 24 of the omer

For access to the Zoom links for Kabbalat Shabbat and Havdalah, please click the link in the electronic version of Echod.

MAZAL TOV

Richard Goldstein on the Bar Mitzvah of his son, Ethan Goldstein.

Grandparents **Shirley Stark and Mark Hus** on the birth of a baby boy born this week to their children Elisha & Allison.

Grandparents **Shirley Stark and Mark Hus** on the birth of a baby boy, Dov Shimon Eliezer, born last week to their children Moshe and Shula in Jerusalem. Mazal tov to the entire Stark/Hus family.

MISHNAH LEARNING COORDINATOR

Every year, members of Lincoln Square Synagogue learn, among themselves, the entire mishna before Shavuot. We are looking for volunteers to organize this year's learning.

For more information, please contact rabbi@lss.org.

WEST SIDE JUDAICA

Due to the outbreak of COVID19, West Side Judaica will remain open and in business exclusively for phone orders, storefront pickups and nationwide shipping. They will also be offering free, door to door delivery in Manhattan. All of their sefarim, books and other Judaica items are in stock and they will be making deliveries 6 days a week.

To place an order or ask for more information, please email sales@westsidejudaica.com or call 212-362-7846. They are open on Sunday through Thursday from 11:00am-5:00pm.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Though we will not be joining together for communal kiddushim, we want to take this opportunity to list those sponsors that had every intention of sponsoring. We wish Mazal Tov's to those celebrating and Elyui Neshamot to those who are commemorating the loss of a loved one. May we very soon have the zechut again to share together in smachot and, lo'alenu, if difficult times befall, may we at the very least have the zechut to take comfort in coming together.

Main Kiddush: Richard Goldstein in honor of the bar mitzvah of his son, Ethan Goldstein.

HAKARAT HATOV

Fred Ehrman for writing this week's Dvar Torah.

WEEKLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

For access to all the Zoom links for these classes, please visit www.lss.org/learningopportunities.

Sunday:

- Sunday Morning Responsa** with Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld: 10:15am. *Dial: US (New York): 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 827 823 0785 Password (if necessary): mds1234*

Monday:

- Chug Ivrit led by Harel Fenigstein:** 7:00pm-8:15pm. In this class, we read articles from the Israeli press, watch videos of news stories, documentaries and comedy clips, listen to (and sing along!) to Israeli songs and chat in Ivrit. This year, we will have a special focus on Israeli poetry. *Dial: US (New York): 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 459 533 337*
- Jewish Living Workshop: 7:30pm-8:30pm** led by Dassa and Bill Greenbaum. The Jewish Living Workshop, a 9 session series, is a "hands-on" experience. We learn by doing. The workshop is free, a few sessions will require a modest fee for materials. To register, please email jlworkshop@yahoo.com. *Dial: US (New York): 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 774 751 778*. For access to the password, please email jlworkshop@yahoo.com.

Tuesday:

- The Marilyn & Sam Isler, "Studies in the weekly Parsha"** led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson: 10:30am- 11:30am. *Dial: US (New York): 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 241 022 510*
- Beit Midrash night, The M'lachim (Kings) Study Group** led by Ron Platzer: 7:30pm-8:30pm. *Dial: US (New York): 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 811 662 074*
- *(Please note the date change) Deep Calling Unto Deep:** led by Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld: 7:45pm-8:30pm. *Dial: US (New York): 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 827 823 0785 Password (if necessary): mds1234*

Wednesday:

- Conversions and Covenant: The Halacha, History, and Science of being Jewish** led by Rabbinic Intern, Tzvi Benoff: 12:00pm. *Topic: From Australia to Sweden: Applications of Mitochondrial DNA in Halacha. Dial: US (New York): 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 952 176 470*
- Jewish History Course led by Paul Shaviv: 8:00pm-9:00pm** *Dial: US (New York): 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 989 1372 9583*

Thursday:

- The Jacob Adler Parsha Class** Explorations in the Weekly Parsha led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson: 7:00pm-8:00pm. *Dial: US (New York): 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 912 657 888*

DVAR TORAH

Parshat Acharei-Mot Kedoshim

May 1-2

By: Fred Ehrman

Rabbi Akiva and Operation Achdut

Three of the most important words in the Torah are found in this week's Parasha; "V'Ahavta L'Raiacha Komocha"- "Love your fellow as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). Rabbi Akiva said that this is a fundamental principle of the Torah, the Klal Gadol. Hillel, a century earlier, said that "what is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor; that is the whole Torah, the rest is commentary" (TB Shabbat 31A). The Christian Gospels and the Muslim Quran adopted this principle as their own and indicates its importance in Western Civilization.

What is too often overlooked is that almost the identical three words are repeated only sixteen verses later. When speaking of the ger, the stranger, the proselyte, it says "V'Ahavta Lo Komocha" (19:34), "Love him as yourself." In describing the object of your love, in the first he is described as your fellow, your neighbor, your friend. As to the ger, he is just a "him." Why? It is much easier to love someone who is like yourself, someone who thinks like you and is easily compatible with your own self. The stranger who may be very different could present a challenge. But the Torah equates the two when it comes to how we are commanded to relate to one another.

Today almost exactly seventy-five years after the end of the Holocaust, the ugly specter of anti-Semitism is once again rearing its ugly head. Acts of violence have become more commonplace. I shudder to think of how this virulent disease will manifest itself at the next sharp economic downturn, which may be now or coming soon. How the Jewish community should react to these despicable manifestations has been a subject of much debate within our community.

Internecine strife has been a plague among Jews throughout our history. This year, not only our own people but the entire world has been stricken with another plague, the Coronavirus. We all need the protection from the forces that rain death and disease among us all. But the Pandemic will end; anti-Semitism has been a more long-lasting problem. The Jewish people can take the lead in the effort of bringing us together, even at this time of social distancing.

I would like to present a suggestion on what we can do to combat this plague. Some years ago I read a Midrash which I found to be amazing. I had to read it three times to make sure I was not misinterpreting the words. "Rabbi Elazar Hakapar says: 'Peace is so important, that even if the Jews practice Avodah Zara, (idolatry), but do it in one Chaburah, (one

fellowship), the attribute of strict justice (Middat Hadin) will not harm them'" (Midrash Tanchuma Parshat Tzav 7:1). Idolatry is one of the three cardinal sins which is a capital crime, but to G-d, peace among his people is a priority and a mighty shield to protect them from serious harm.

About three years ago, after reading that amazing Midrash and seeing the developing cancer of Jew hatred, a plan was formulated to deal with this situation. It is called Operation Achdut, (Unity), and has a goal to engender a feeling of oneness among ALL Jews. A dimension that we are introducing is the concept of togetherness despite our differences. We printed a brochure that states on the cover page the following: "Achdut is Civility, not agreement; Diversity, not sameness; Variety, not uniformity; Color, not monochrome; Wants to change attitudes, not minds; Wants to stop the fighting, not stop the disagreement." The new wrinkle here is that whether we admit it or not, relationships among others, especially in recent years, have gotten frayed not just at the edges, but through the whole cloth. Tolerance and respect for another's viewpoint has become a rare commodity. Asking each of us to love the other, the Klal Gadol, has become a difficult task. Our target audiences are the day schools, synagogues, temples and yeshivot. An Advisory Council would be formed, all leaders in their respective sectors, from Secular to Reform, Conservative, Reconstruction, and Orthodox. Their task would be to advise on how to create teaching materials and sermons accompanied by a media campaign, with the view towards bringing back civility and affection among all Jews despite our differences. Maybe that is another lesson to be learned from the Pandemic.

One thing we can do as a start is beginning the day with a pledge introduced by the Arizal, (Isaac Luria Ashkenazi 1534-1572). "I hereby take upon myself the positive commandment of Love your fellow as yourself". "Haraini mekabel alai Mitzvat asai shel V'Ahavta LeRaiacha Kamocha." For those who pray every morning it should be said at the very beginning of the service. There are some prayer books that already contain these words. For those who do not have a fixed prayer schedule, this pledge can begin his/her day.

Frankly, this goal is a high mountain to climb. But I truly believe that if we are able to get Operation Achdut started, the Jewish people world over will have added a strong layer of Divine Protection for our people and an example for everyone else to emulate. It is something we will need in the weeks, months and years ahead. Rabbi Akiva knew whereof he spoke. The rest is commentary.

Shabbat Shalom

DVAR TORAH

We are currently looking for writers for:

Shabbat Shavuot (5/30), Parshat Shelach (6/20), Parshat Korach (6/27)

If interested, please email Bill Greenbaum at dvar@lss.org.

In case of a bereavement, please call
our Clergy at 646-543-7485
(day or night)

If you would like to receive the
Shabbat Echod by e-mail,
sign up at www.lss.org.

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You may contact our officers by emailing Officers@lss.org