

MINYAN INFORMATION

We are happy to once again be open for prayer services. As with all our minyanim in these times, ***you must be pre-registered in order to attend*** -- only those who have signed up for these minyanim and have received confirmation may participate, as we are limited in the number of people who can attend. Social distancing, wearing of masks, no communal singing and all of the other public health measures that we have been employing since we began weekday services (see the complete Attendance Guidelines in the electronic version of Echod) will be in effect. Please remember to bring your own tallit, siddur and chumush on Shabbat if you are signed up. There will be no Seudah Shlishit at the shul, so please remember to eat Seudah Shlishit before you come to Mincha.

Shacharit:

Sunday, October 18 @ 8:30am

Monday, October 19—Friday October 23 @ 7:30am

Mincha/Maariv:

Sunday, October 18—Monday October 19 @ 6:00pm.

Tuesday, October 20—Thursday, October 22 @ 5:55pm

HAKARAT HATOV

Judy and Moshe Sokolow for writing this week's Dvar Torah

Julie Rosenthal, LSS office employee, who has been with us for over two years and has done a stellar job with our Echod, email communications and member issues. Julie has transitioned from our Administrative Assistant to our Social Media Manager and Committee Event Coordinator. The shul has benefited tremendously for having Julie as part of our team and we are thrilled that we do not have to say goodbye to her as part of our LSS family. Julie's warmth, friendly demeanor, and strong work ethic are staples of who she is and we are lucky to have her at LSS.

WELCOME TO THE LSS STAFF, MELANIE VESELY

Born and raised in Sydney Australia, **Melanie** has a passion for working within the Jewish community. She grew up attending a Jewish Day school and volunteered in Israel for a year prior to starting University. Melanie received a Bachelor of Social Work with Honors from the University of New South Wales in 2019, and wrote a thesis on supporting the bereaved in a trauma environment. Melanie has experience working within the Jewish community, both domestically and internationally. She is excited to start a new chapter working at LSS and helping members have the best possible experience. Her role will be both administrative and will also focus on Membership Experience- have a question or idea you'd like to discuss? or want to send Melanie a warm welcome? feel free to email her at melanie@lss.org and let's show her some LSS love.

MAZAL TOV

Frances and Allen Ganz on the occasion of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Ilana. Mazal Tov to her grandparents Molly and Avner Ganz and Julia and Zvi Zelazny and sister Noa.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Beginners Kiddush: In memory of Rebbetzin Miriam Levinger a"h.

Seudah Shlishit:

Audrey Kallman in commemoration of the 18th yahrtzeit of her beloved son Jonathan Kallman, Yehuda Chaim Ben Dovid z"l.

ROSH CHODESH

The Molad for Rosh Chodesh MarCheshvan will be on Shabbat morning 23 minutes after 3:00am.

Rosh Chodesh MarCheshvan will be on Sunday and Monday.

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Friday Night:

Zoom Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat: 5:30pm (link in electronic Echod)

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 5:55pm

Mincha followed by Kabbalat Shabbat at shul: 6:00pm Location: Ballroom

Sunset (daven Mincha by): 6:13pm

Repeat Shema after 6:44pm.

Shabbat:

Shabbat Morning Minyan at shul: 7:45am Location: Spira Family Terrace (weather permitting; if not it will be in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary).

Shabbat Morning Services at shul: 9:00am Location: Ballroom

Latest Shema: 9:54am

Latest Shacharit: 10:50am

Mincha followed by Maariv at shul: 5:50pm Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.

Sunset (daven Mincha by, and begin seudah shlishit by): 6:12pm

Shabbat Ends: 6:54pm

Zoom Havdalah: 7:30pm (link in electronic Echod)

HUMOR IS ESSENTIAL... SO GO AHEAD AND LAUGH

Humor is essential, even, or especially, in tough times. Laughter gives us strength in adversity and can help us feel a bit more in control when the future seems so uncertain. Most importantly, funny jokes, even funny coronavirus and quarantine joke- bring us together and help us to feel connected. Recent studies have found that a good laugh can boost our dopamine levels and strengthen our immune systems. So, while we all obviously continue to take COVID-19 very seriously, and follow the recommendations from the CDC and the WHO, we also need to laugh and to have a few moments in the day that feel lighter. A few pandemic jokes might just take your mind off the state of the world and serve as a reminder that there's always something, however small, to smile about. Here are some of the funniest quarantine jokes on the internet;

- 1) My mom always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by lying in bed all day. But look at me now, ma! I'm saving the world!
- 2) After years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, this week I discovered that wasn't the reason.
- 3) If I keep stress-eating at this level, the buttons on my shirt will start socially distancing from each other.
- 4) I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch them with a six-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
- 5) The World Health Organization announced that dogs cannot contract COVID-19. Dogs previously held in quarantine can now be released. To be clear, WHO let the dogs out.
- 6) Since we're all in quarantine I guess we'll be making only inside jokes from now on.
- 7) I'm not talking to myself, I'm having a parent-teacher conference.
- 8) This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog- we laughed a lot.
- 9) Nothing like relaxing on the couch after a long day of being tense on the couch.
- 10) I finished Netflix today.
- 11) Pollen still coming out during a global pandemic? Dude. Read the room.
- 12) Day 121 at home and the dog is looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture!"

YOUTH AND MAGEN AVRAHAM TEEN DEPARTMENT

Dvar Torah:

In the beginning, before the world was created, there was nothing except Hashem. There was no world at all: no sun, no moon, no water, no trees, no animals, no people — not even a speck of dust. There was only Hashem. Hashem wanted to make a world so people could fill it with mitzvot, good deeds that make the world a better place. What would Hashem need to create to make the world a happy and peaceful place for people? On the first day, he created light and dark; on the second, the sky and the sea; on the third, dry land; on the fourth, the sun, the moon and the stars; on the fifth, the fish and the birds; and on the sixth, animals, insects — and Adam and Chava. On the seventh day of creation, Hashem rested from making new things in the world. The seventh day is Shabbat where we take a break too, and remember all that Hashem created for us.

Questions:

1. Why did Hashem create the world?
2. What is the order of creation?
3. What happens on the seventh day?

Answers:
 1. For us to do mitzvot
 2. Light and Dark, Sky and Sea, Dry land, Sun, Moon, and Stars, Fish and Birds, Animals, Insects and Adam and Chava.
 3. The seventh day is Shabbat; we all rest just like Hashem did

Upcoming Events:

October 24th & 31st @ 10:00 am - 11:30 am : Groups on the Grass in Riverside Park (76th Street)

November 15th @ 8:00 pm : Magen Avraham Teen Department and The ADL - Online Extremism: Outsmarting Propaganda and Combating Disinformation

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 18: Women's Rosh Chodesh Shiur: 8:00pm

Join our women's shiur in conjunction with the Women's Tefillah Group led by our Community Intern, Mindy Schwartz Zolty. Title: *Kayin: Villain, Vegan, or Everyman*. Meeting ID: 93752248973 Password: 758113

Monday, October 19: Meet the Israeli Artist: 10:30am Live from

Israel! Ethiopian, Israeli artist, Tigist Yoseph Ron will present her exhibition "The White Paper is Black Within" currently at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art. As we view her works her personal story will unfold: The difficult journey through Sudan, the arrival to a new country and the struggles of integrating into Israeli society. Reoccurring themes in her artwork include racism, motherhood and femininity. The program will be moderated by Ronnit Vasserman, founder of the Art Connect Group. Cost: \$20.

Monday, October 19: Beginners Schmooze: 8:15pm

With Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald over Zoom at no charge.

Wednesday, October 21: Moadon Ha'Sefer (Israeli Book Club): 6:30pm

The next book written by an Israeli author that we will read and discuss will be "Trumpet in the Wadi" by Sami Michael. Michael's internationally acclaimed novel illuminates the vast range of interlocking relationships between Jews and Arabs, Muslims and Christians, men and women living in Israel. In order to join the discussion, please contact Harel Fenigstein in advance at harelf@jafi.org and he will send you the Zoom link. The discussion will be in English.

For access to the links for these events, please click on the link in the electronic version of the Echod or visit our website at www.lss.org

WEEKLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

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

To dial into a class please call 646-876-9923 and enter the Meeting ID and password (if necessary) associated with the class below.

Sunday:

- ***(Please note the time change) Sunday Morning Responsa** with Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld: 9:30am. 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. Meeting ID: 459 533 337
- ***(Cancelled until further notice) The Book of Jeremiah** with Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld: 8:15pm-9:15pm Meeting ID: 827 823 0785 Password (if necessary): mds1234

Tuesday:

- **The Marilyn & Sam Isler, "Studies in the weekly Parsha"** led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson: 10:30am– 11:30am Meeting ID: 241 022 510
- **Introduction to Bible** with Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald: 6:30 - 8:00pm. This course provides a general overview of the content and style of the Bible. We will review basic literary and theological approaches to Bible study, traditional and modern, through the analysis of the Biblical text. Registrants will receive the Zoom link prior to the start of the course. To register, please call 212-874-6100 or register online at www.lss.org/beginners. Cost: \$90, Free to LSS Members. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.
- **Beit Midrash night, The M'lachim (Kings) Study Group** Led by Ron Platzer: 7:00pm-8:00pm. Meeting ID: 811 662 074

Wednesday:

- **Jewish Living Workshop** led by Dassa and Bill Greenbaum: 7:30pm-9:00pm. Topic: Jewish Life Cycles: Bris, Bar/ Bat Mitzvah, Jewish Funeral, Paying a Shiva Call. Meeting ID: 938 8328 9103 Password: 832084
- **Paul Shaviv's Jewish History Course: The Messiah?** Topic: Jesus: Jewish or Christian? Meeting ID: 916 6638 3728 Password: 362427

Thursday:

- **The Jacob Adler Parsha Class** Explorations in the Weekly Parsha led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson: 7:00pm-8:00pm. Meeting ID: 912 657 888
- ***(Please note the time change) Parashat HaShavua** led by Rabbi. Moshe Sokolow: 8:15pm. Meeting ID: 846 701 6968.

TALMUD CLASS WITH RABBI ROBINSON

Join a new Gemara shiur with Rabbi Robinson - we will be studying the second perek of Sanhedrin, that deals with Justice, Governance, Monarchy and the Legal System. Previous background will be useful but not essential - each shiur will focus on the text and classical commentaries, but will touch on contemporary and modern issues arising from the Gemara. This begins October 26. Every Monday night at 8pm.

PAUL SHAVIV'S JEWISH HISTORY COURSE: MINISERIES: THE MESSIAH?

Wednesday, October 28: Alroy, Reuveni, Molcho—Products of Their Time
 Wednesday, November 4: Shabbetai Zvi—The Most Successful
 Wednesday, November 11: Jacob Frank—The Strangest
 Wednesday, November 18: Menachem Mendel Schneerson—Has to be Discussed!
 Wednesday, November 25: No Session
 Wednesday, December 2: The Allure and the Cost of Messianism in Judaism

All classes will begin at 8:00pm

Dial in: (646) 876 9923 Meeting ID: 916 6638 3728 Password: 362427

DVAR TORAH

Parshat Bereshit/Shabbat Mevarchim

October 16-17

By: Judy and Moshe Sokolow

Common wisdom has it that Adam was created from earth and Eve was then formed from one of his ribs. This narrative makes Adam primary and Eve secondary and, throughout the ages, has served as a justification for treating women differently from men—usually of inferior status. Even Jewish tradition, which is otherwise often enlightened, has generally subscribed to this behavior. We would like to shine a little light on a contrary reading of the text that, considering its origin, is surprisingly often overlooked and underestimated and that argues for a more egalitarian approach.

The creation of the first human is described in both Chapters 1 and 2 of Sefer Bereishit. At first, we are told: “And G-d created “the” Adam (Ha-Adam) in His image, in a godly image He created him, male and female He created them” (1:27). Rashi, in commenting on “male and female He created them,” cited the midrash Genesis Rabbah 8:1: “He created him at first with two faces, and afterwards He divided him.” Ibn Ezra concurs with Rashi’s approach.

So, Ha-Adam was not the first man; rather, G-d first fashioned an androgynous human corpus that had two faces or sides and split it into a male and a female and it was thus that Ha-Adam became Adam and Eve. This would make their creation simultaneous and presumably of equal stature. Indeed, in the following verses (1: 28-30), where we read that G-d blessed and empowered them, He spoke to both of them with no differentiation between them. And, as with His other creations on day six, He saw this as “tov me’od—very good.”

On a romantic note, Yehudah Avrabanel (son of Don Yitzhak) saw this narrative as the origin of love. “Everyone is half a person and not complete; therefore, each yearns to reunite with his/her other half... (Sihot al HaAhavah p. 406).

But what about the supposed rib? The Torah tells us (2: 21-22): “And the Lord G-d caused to fall a deep sleep upon Ha-Adam and he slept; and He took one of his tzala’ot and closed [the space with] flesh instead. And the Lord G-d built the tzeila, which He had taken from Ha-Adam into a woman...).” The more common English translation (shared, inter alia, by King James, both Jewish Publication Society editions, and Robert Alter) is “rib” but a striking variant is provided by the New English Translation (NET, a Christian translation published in 2006) and the Stone Chumash that translated it as “side.” (Note that Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan translated it as “rib” but noted “side” as an alternative.) This is a distinction that makes a difference.

The fact is that identifying tzeila as a rib flies in the face of Rashi, who noted: “The word means ‘of his sides,’ similar to (Exodus 26:2) ‘ule-tzeila hamishkan’—and for the second side of the tabernacle,” and repeated here in Chapter 2 the midrash he noted in Chapter 1 (see above): “This has a bearing upon what they [the Sages] say,

‘They were created with two faces [sides].’”

Rashi, as described by Avraham Grossman, the leading historian of Jews in the Middle Ages, was the most supportive sage concerning women’s rights and abilities (see his book in Hebrew, “VeHu YimShol Bach?,” Jerusalem, 2011).

Much of human travail is seen as punishment for eating from the tree of knowledge in defiance of G-d’s prohibition. Both Adam and Eve were culpable and penalized, yet theologians and tradition seem to hold her more responsible. Arguably, she was easy to blame as her supposed manner of creation had already deemed her inferior. Had the prevailing view been in accordance with Rashi’s interpretation, perhaps men and women would have been perceived more as potential partners than as one subjugating the other.

But, you might ask, what about G-d’s statement to Eve (3:16) that part of her plight would be “Unto your husband shall be your desire and he shall rule over you”? Does that not render them unequal? Rashi did not see this as a general statement empowering men; rather, it was to be limited to the context of marital relations during which women should not be outspoken and immodest.

End Note: While on the subject of creation, it behooves any reader of parashat Bereishit to focus on G-d’s edict that man’s role on earth is “le-avdah ule-shamrah—to work it and to watch over it” (2:15). In our age of global warming, this cannot be viewed as a casual statement. In fact, back in the 1850s, it was a woman, Eunice Newton Foote, who was the first person to connect carbon dioxide in the atmosphere with rising temperatures. She was a female climate scientist ahead of her times whose work “faded into obscurity” (see John Schwartz’s article in the New York Times, 4/21/20). It was a long time in coming and we are not totally there yet, but we are blessed that we live in an age when women’s intellectual abilities are no longer sidelined the way they once were. Yes, men and women delightfully have their differences but they are two sides of the same coin and should be equally engaged in making the world a better place.

DVAR TORAH

We invite all members to write a Dvar Torah for the Shabbat Echod from September through June. Enrich our Shabbat with your Torah thoughts. The next Shabbat available are:

Parshat Noach (10/24)
Parshat Lech Lecha (10/31)
Parshat Chayei Sara (11/14)

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 or email info@lss.org

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