

LSS UPDATE	THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS
<p><i>LSS is closed for all services and programs, including Shabbat services and programs, until further notice.</i></p> <p>This week has been a challenging week for all. We have felt heartache as we have watched COVID-19 spread through our world and at the same time we have been uplifted by kindness, community, and faith. Though this is the second shabbat that we have not been brought together in our shul, our connection to each other and to Hashem remains as strong as ever.</p> <p>As you continue your prayer at home, please see below for important Shabbat times to be aware of. This week we have scheduled a beautiful virtual Kabbalat Shabbat and Havdalah with Rabbi Shaul Robinson and Chazzan Yanky Lemmer (to join see times and link in electronic version of Echod).</p> <p>And This Sunday evening at 7:30pm we invite all to join in a virtual memorial for the Chaz, z"l. This marks the first yahrzeit of our beloved Chazzan Sherwood Goffin, z"l. Click here to join the online service which will include participation of family members, Paul Shaffer, the Synagogue Clergy and will include a musical tribute. May his neshama have an aliyah.</p> <p>The most important thing we can be doing now is checking up on people who are risk - phone them up and chat, help break the monotony - ask them what they need. If you would like to make calls to members of the shul please email chesed@lss.org to be assigned a person.</p> <p>May our faith bring comfort and strength to us all and may we, B"H, resume our daily lives speedily and in good health.</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Hashkama Kiddush: Nancy and Melissa Towbin in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Nancy's husband, Albert Towbin z"l.</p> <p>The Shoshani family and Emanuel Zareh to commemorate the hazkara of Emanuel's beloved grandmother, Farokh Bat Rachel and Yosef H'Levi a"h.</p> <p>Beginners Kiddush: Monica Mayoral in honor of the birth of her twins.</p>
SHABBAT TIMES	MAZAL TOV
<p>Special Pre-Shabbat Session: 6:30pm Shabbat Candle Lighting: 6:51pm</p> <p>Shabbat Morning: Latest Shema: 9:58am Shabbat Ends: 7:53pm Special Havdalah Session: 8:10pm</p> <p>For the Zoom links for the Pre-Shabbat and Havdalah section, please click on the link in the electronic version of Echod.</p>	<p>Dana and Tzvi Simpson on the birth of a baby girl.</p> <p>Rachel Ginsburg and Noam Schaap on the birth of a baby girl.</p> <p>Grandparents Adele and Walter Wasser on the birth of a baby girl, Ariel Zahara, born to their children, Tova and Harel Meshulem.</p> <p>Grandparents Freddy and Rocky Kohn on the birth of a baby girl, born to their children, Avromi and Chloe Kohn.</p>
HAKARAT HATOV	WEEKLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
<p><i>This week's Dvar Torah was written in 2015 by Barry Youngerman z"l, and is republished in his memory.</i></p>	<p>Sunday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday Morning Responsa with Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld; Takes place after the 2nd Minyan. <p>Monday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. <p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Marilyn & Sam Isler, "Studies in the weekly Parsha" led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson: 10:30am– 11:30am. Introduction to Bible: The 10 Commandments with Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald: 6:30pm-8:00pm An in-depth study and analysis of the Decalogue (the Ten Commandments) and other basic biblical texts. The religious significance of the Bible, scriptural exegesis and the relationship of the written and oral law will be discussed and analyzed. 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: 7:30pm-8:30pm. <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Jacob Adler Parsha Class Explorations in the Weekly Parsha. This week led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson: 7:00pm-8:00pm. <p><i>For access to the Zoom links for these classes, please visit www.lss.org/learningopportunity</i></p>
TOWN HALL MEETING	
<p>This past Wednesday evening we had our first ever town hall virtual meeting to share with members how we are very much still an active, vibrant, and diverse community that is adapting to these very changing times. We heard some uplifting words from Rabbi Robinson and got updates from our Leadership. To view transcript and the live recording, please click the links in the electronic version of Echod.</p>	
UPCOMING EVENT	
<p>Monday, March 23: Meeting of the Board of Trustees and Governors: 7:45pm Link for Zoom will be emailed closer to the date of the event.</p>	
PESACH @ LSS	
<p>LSS will again be selling Shatzer Shmurah Matzah for Passover. Cost: \$26 per pound for both regular and whole wheat. Place your orders at www.lss.org/form/matzah2020.</p>	

DVAR TORAH

Parshat Hachodesh/Parshat Vayakhel-Pekudei/Shabbat Mevarchim
March 20-21

By: Barry Youngerman

Today is Shabbat Hachodesh, one of the four special Shabbatot that precedes Pesach, just before the month of Nissan, and serves to focus our attention on the approaching holiday.

The special reading for Shabbat HaChodesh is appropriately from Exodus, 12:1-20. In the preceding verses at the end of Chapter 11, Moses warned Pharaoh of the final, devastating plague—the death of the first-born, and told him that Egypt itself would beg the Israelites to leave. Towards the end of Chapter 12, the plague occurs, and the Israelites do indeed leave Egypt.

What was so important to justify interrupting this dramatic, world-changing narrative? The first verse of the reading seems like an anti-climax. G-d tells Moses and Aaron that the month they were beginning (later called Nissan) should be considered the first month of the year. That's it? We all know there are several "first months" of the year, including Tishrei when we celebrate the New Year.

Our rabbis interpreted the verse as introducing the mitzvah of Rosh Chodesh (the New Moon), the first collective mitzvah addressed to the entire Jewish people. Previous mitzvot concerned all of mankind (the laws of Noach) or were given to individual patriarchs. Subsumed within this mitzvah is the commandment to maintain a sacred calendar of special days and time-related commandments.

G-d will later supply many of the details of the yearly and multi-year calendar via the revelation at Sinai. The stately progression of our sacred calendar and its associated mitzvot is a large part of our everyday identity as Jews, and the precedent apparently had to be established before we left Egyptian slavery on the journey toward

freedom. As a start, in this special reading, G-d details the laws of Passover, such as eating only unleavened bread and performing the Paschal sacrifice (which we recall in our Seders). These must be carried out not just in Egypt as a preparation for departure, but also in every Nissan "for all the generations to come."

In Verse 17, G-d explains a key feature of our sacred calendar—we must use it to remember our history and keep it fresh in our minds. "

וְשָׁמַרְתֶּם אֶת־הַמִּצְוֹת כִּי בִּלְעָדָם הָיִים הָזֶה הוֹצֵאתִי אֶת־עַבְדְּכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם

You must carefully observe the commandment of matzas because on this very day I will bring your hosts out of the Land of Egypt."

As individuals and as a people we stand in direct spiritual relations with our Creator, but we do it in the context of the natural world He also created. Just as the heavenly bodies, which mediate the calendar for us, must always act in accordance with law, so, we are being told, must we. The message is often implicit, but for me, the most stirring and open expression of this idea is in Psalm 148, which we read every single day, in which it is stated that all created things must praise G-d, including the moon and the stars, the mountains and the oceans, animals of all description, and the rich variety of humans. Praise is due for the one who created and sustained all of them and gave them an eternal law to govern and make sense of their existence. The sacred calendar ties together the heavens with mankind, with the animals and with the plants involved in the many calendar-related mitzvot.

And it all starts on Rosh Chodesh Nissan. May we all have a Chodesh Tov and merit a kosher and sweet Passover.

Shabbat Shalom.

We are currently looking for writers for:

Shabbat Shavuot (5/30)
Parshat Beha'alotecha (6/13)
Parshat Shelach (6/20)

Email dvar@lss.org or see Bill Greenbaum in shul.

Shabbat Shalom!

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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