

## LSS IS CLOSED

***LSS is closed for all Shabbat services and programs this Shabbat and continuing until further notice.***

Yes, the building is closed and it is sad for us all and sending an abbreviated Echod seems so strange as well but our commitment to Judaism and to our connection to Hashem continues. As you continue your prayer at home, please see below for important Shabbat times to be aware of. In these times of uncertainty we must focus even more on chesed and caring. May our faith bring comfort and strength to us all and may we, B"H, resume our daily lives speedily.

This Sunday, March 15, the building will be open until 5:00pm only for pick up of personal items. After Sunday at 5:00pm you will not be able to access anything left in the building. Please make sure to pick up your tefillin, tallis and any other personal items. If you are away, do not feel well, or are in quarantine, please make sure to arrange for a friend or neighbor to pick up your items. Thank you

*"Every hand that we don't shake must become a phone call that we place. Every embrace that we avoid must become a verbal expression of warmth and concern. Every inch and every foot that we physically place between ourselves and another, must become a thought as to how we might be of help to that other, should the need arise."*

Rav Yosef Kanevsky, L.A.

## SHABBAT TIMES

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 6:44pm

**Shabbat Morning:**  
10:05am: Latest Shema  
Shabbat Ends: 7:45pm

## PESACH @ LSS

LSS will again be selling Shatzter Shmurah Matzah for Passover.  
Cost: \$26 per pound for both regular and whole wheat.  
Place your orders at [www.lss.org/form/matzah2020](http://www.lss.org/form/matzah2020).

### Passover Hospitality:

With Purim fast approaching, can Passover be far behind? As you plan for Sedarim, please remember that many members are unable to be with family over the chagim. If you have one or two places at your table or would like to be hosted for a seder, please email [Hospitality@lss.org](mailto:Hospitality@lss.org), Subject line: PASSOVER

## 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.*

**Hashkama Kiddush:** Ron Platzer in loving memory of his father, Robert Platzer z"l.

**Main Kiddush:** Sandra and Michael Hoffer in celebration of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Michael.

**Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan Kiddush:**  
Karen and Susan Ruttner in commemoration of the 16th yahrtzeit of their beloved father and husband, Norman Ruttner z"l.

**Paris Wald Stulbach and Harry Stulbach** in commemoration of the 24th yahrtzeit of Harry's father, William Stulbach, Moshe Zev ben Zvi Dov z"l, a courageous Holocaust survivor.

**Moshe Sheinwexler** in memory of his late father Yisroel Meir ben Shmuel Dovid z"l.

### Beginners Kiddush:

**Sarah Leah & Lou Vynierib** in loving memory of Sarah Leah's sister Benita Gorenberg, Bina Bas Baruch Kalman/Sima A"H 18 Adar, and Lou's sister Roslyn Halpern, Raizel Bas Moshe Ha Kohen/Malka A"H 19 Adar.

**Ira Weinstock** in memory of Deena-Kristi Hay's grandmother, Helen Fields a"h.

## MAZAL TOV

**Sandra and Howard Hoffer** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Michael. Mazal tov also to Michael's brother, Benjamin.

## HAKARAT HATOV

**Fred Ehrman** for writing this week's Dvar Torah.

**Ron Goldofsky, Carol Gross, Rande Price, Morey Wildes, and Julie Walpert** for their help handing out Mishloach Manot bags during Purim. Packages can be picked up when the building re-opens.

# Shabbat Shalom!

## DVAR TORAH

Parshat Ki Tisa/Parshat Parah

March 13-14

By: Fred Ehrman

### ***The Betrothal, the Betrayal and the Birth of a Nation—A Midrash***

*The following is a compilation of material drawn from the Scriptures, the Talmud and Midrashim, with some thoughts of my own.*

Three million men, women and children were gathered at the base of the mountain, which towered above them. Thick black clouds hovered overhead, like a chupah, a wedding canopy. They had washed their clothes and had gone to the Mikvah, but husbands and wives had been separated for three days. They were as pure as Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It was the sixth day of the month of Sivan.

Having been given a long list of instructions on a way of life, they had responded, “We will do and we will learn,” “Naaseh V’Nishma”, the Covenant of Sinai. Thunder and flames shot out of the sky, while the blast of a Shofar reverberated around them. The excitement was palpable. A group of formerly disparate individuals, now becoming “like one person with one heart.” Only seven weeks before they were slaves; now they were about to become the Chosen People, a new nation.

“I am the Lord your G-d... You shall not have any other god besides Me....You shall not covet.” Every person was given two crowns on his head, one for the pledge of “Naaseh” and one for “Nishma.” The betrothal was concluded, and now they belonged exclusively to the G-d who had freed them from the Egyptian bondage.

The intermediary between the people and the Deity, and the one who had conducted this ceremony, the “Mesader Kiddushin,” was Moses, the man who had been raised in the Pharaoh’s palace. They did not know much about him and doubted his claim that he was appointed by G-d to lead them out of their miserable state. But he performed miracle after miracle and split the sea as Pharaoh and his army were bearing down on them. As they crossed the sea on dry land, they witnessed the mighty Egyptians drowning behind them. All of these events bolstered their confidence in their new leader but at the same time they were totally reliant on his physical presence. The feeling of insecurity after two hundred and ten years “in a land not their own,” as had been foretold to their forefather Abraham, still gripped them.

Moses had gone back up Mount Sinai to receive the Tablets that were inscribed with the words heard at the betrothal ceremony. He promised to return soon. But when he did not reappear at a time they had anticipated, the people became alarmed. The insecurities of a

slave people who had been used to constantly taking orders from their master overwhelmed them. They approached Moses’ brother Aaron and demanded that he make for them a god they could see and touch, not the invisible Deity that had spoken to them with a thunderous voice shortly before. The gold they had taken from their Egyptian neighbors was collected and thrown into a fire. A Golden Calf emerged which they now endowed with divine powers. The newly betrothed people abandoned their Beloved and threw off all the constraints that He imposed on them. They acted in a wanton manner, acts of depravity that they had witnessed throughout their period of slavery. The crowns on their heads were removed together with their state of purity because of their act of betrayal.

At this time Moses returned carrying the Two Tablets, hewn and engraved by G-d. He saw the people feasting and dancing around the Golden Calf. In an act of fury, he threw the Tablets to the ground and shattered them. He took the idol and melted it in the fire and then ground it down into fine dust which he sprinkled into some water. He then forced some of the people to drink from the water, as an act that would later become the ordeal of the Sotah, the wife who was suspected of infidelity. Three thousand people, those most responsible for the idolatry were killed. The people were chastened.

G-d at this time was prepared to annihilate them all, but Moses, their leader and father figure, prayed for them and asked for mercy, which was granted. This all took place on the seventeenth and eighteenth days of Tammuz.

Moses went up again on the mountain on the new month of Elul. There he received the second set of Tablets. He remained there for another forty days, a total of one hundred and twenty days that he was on Sinai. He came back down for the final time carrying the Tablets on the tenth of Tishrei. So much had happened in that four-month period—a betrothal, a betrayal, and a reconciliation and marriage. The Nation of Israel came into being, a nation that would forever leave its imprint on all of humanity. These momentous months would henceforth be commemorated with the holiday of Shavuot in Sivan, the fast of Tammuz, the beginning of the period of introspection of Elul, and finally the glorious Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, when Israel as a Nation embraced their G-d and sealed the eternal covenant with Him.

Now 3,400 years later, the Nation of Israel is back in its own land, and the Covenant of Sinai still exists and is forever thriving. May it so continue until the end of days.

*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](mailto:dvar@lss.org) or see Bill Greenbaum in shul.

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](http://www.lss.org).

#### **LINCOLN SQUARE SYNAGOGUE OFFICERS**

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You may contact our officers by emailing [Officers@lss.org](mailto:Officers@lss.org)