

MINYAN INFORMATION

Lincoln Square Synagogue is happy to welcome you for prayer services. Here is how to secure a seat in shul, as we have a limited number during the pandemic - and what the rules of conduct are:

In advance:

- [1] LSS members must pre-register using the link in the electronic Echod.
- [2] You will then receive a confirmation email.
- [3] Non LSS members are invited, but cannot use the link; they must email Rabbi Robinson to register: rabbil@lss.org

Once in shul:

- [4] Observe social distancing
- [5] You must wear a face mask, covering your mouth and nose
- [6] No communal singing
- [7] Men must bring their own tallit on Shabbat
- [8] No seudah shlishit in shul; eat at home before Mincha
- [9] Read the complete Attendance Guide (see the complete Attendance Guidelines in the electronic version of Echod)

Shacharit:

Sunday, December 20 & Friday, December 25 @ 8:30am
Monday, December 21 — Thursday, December 24 @ 7:30am

Mincha/Maariv:

Sunday, December 20 — Tuesday, December 22 @ 4:20pm
Wednesday, December 23 @ 4:25pm — Thursday, December 24 @ 4:25pm

DECEMBER 25: FRIDAY FAST OF THE 10th OF TEVET

Fast begins at 6:07 a.m. and ends at 5:06 p.m.

HAKARAT HATOV

Amos Alter for writing this week's Dvar Torah

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Seudah-Shlishit; Alan and Miriam Axelrod in memory of Alan's father Herman Axelrod, Yisroel ben Moshe Aharon, z"l, whose Yahrtzeit will be commemorated on the 5th of Tevet.

LIVE CAPTIONING

Lincoln Square Synagogue is dedicated to providing as inclusive of an experience as possible and making our events accessible to all. To that end, we've added the capability of live captioning for all of our zoom programming. We hope this helps you to enjoy the many wonderful lectures and programs we offer on zoom.

END OF YEAR GIVING

Ways to Give and Support Lincoln Square Synagogue:

Tax-Wise Strategies to Easily Maximize Your End-Year Gifts:

Closing out past membership dues and charges, Gifts of Cash, Gifts of Appreciated Securities, IRA Charitable Rollover, A tax free gift from your IRA, Gifts in Your Will or Revocable Trust, Gifts of Retirement Assets, Gifts of Real Estate, Gifts of Life Insurance, Long term appreciated securities If you have any questions please contact the shul office at info@lss.org or call 212-874-6100. To pay your balance online please visit www.lss.org/payment. Online payments can be made until 11:59pm Thursday, December 31. *Reminder: you must be logged in.*

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Chazzan Yanky will be leading Davening Fri evening and Shabbat morning at the 9:00 am Ballroom Minyan.

Friday Night:

Zoom Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat: 3:45pm (link in electronic Echod)
Shabbat Candle Lighting: 4:13pm
Mincha followed by Kabbalat Shabbat at shul: 4:15pm
Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.
Sunset (daven Mincha by): 4:31pm
Repeat Shema: after 5:02pm

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
Beginners Service: 9:30am Location: Belfer Beit Midrash (pre-registration required)
Latest Shema: 9:33am
Terrace Minyan: 9:40am (weather permitting, if not it will be held in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary)
Latest Shacharit: 10:20am
Mincha followed by Maariv at shul: 4:10pm
Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.
Sunset (daven Mincha by, and begin seudah shlishit by): 4:31pm
Shabbat Ends: 5:14pm.
Zoom Havdalah: 5:45pm (link in electronic Echod)

ERUV ANNOUNCEMENT

The Hudson River boardwalk and pier are outside the Eruv, and carrying west of the West Side Highway is not permitted. For the full eruv map please visit www.lss.org/west-side-eruv.html. *Please note due to construction 9 & 10 Av between 20 & 22 St are not in the eruv until further notice*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 20: Women's Rosh Chodesh Shiur presented by the Women's Tefilah Group. "Hagar: Villain or Victim?" : 8:00pm.

Tuesday, December 22: Moadon HaSefer Israeli Presents: A Pigeon and a Boy יונה ונער 6:30 pm This will be the third in our series of discussions of books written by Israeli authors. This is a mesmerizing novel of two love stories, separated by half a century but connected by one enchanting act of devotion. During the 1948 War of Independence--a time when pigeons are still used to deliver battlefield messages--a gifted young pigeon handler is mortally wounded. Moments before his death, he dispatches one last pigeon carrying a gift to the girl he has loved since adolescence. Intertwined with this story is the contemporary tale of Yair Mendelsohn, a tour guide specializing in bird-watching trips who, in middle age, falls in love again with a childhood girlfriend. You can purchase the book (translated into English) from Amazon *link in electronic echod*. The discussion will be in English and will be led by our shaliach, Harel Fenigstein. To receive the link to join the discussion, email Harel at HarelF@jafi.org.

Thursday, December 24: Back to His House: The challenges of Kehilot and Synagogues after Covid-19: 1:30pm. This year has seen the disruption of much of Jewish life around the world: JCC's, schools and synagogues were closed, depriving communities from much of their vital activities. Now that we can glimpse the return of communal life, what challenges lie ahead of us? How to engage with post-pandemic apathy and recreate a vibrant communal life for the engaged Jew? Rabbi David Stav, Chairman of Tzohar and Chief Rabbi of Shoham, is one of the most active voices in the Religious Zionist camp in Israel, a prolific author and a renowned community leader. This lecture will address individual and collective challenges - and how to tackle them.

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

YOUTH AND MAGEN AVRAHAM TEEN DEPARTMENT

Dvar Torah:

In Parshat Miketz, Pharaoh has strange dreams: In the first dream, seven healthy cows come out of the Nile river, followed by seven cows that are sickly. The sickly cows eat the fat cows but don't gain weight. In Pharaoh's second dream, seven healthy ears of grain grow out of a stalk while seven more ears of grain grow thin and shriveled. The thin grains swallow the healthy grains. When none of Pharaoh's men can interpret the dreams, the butler remembers Yosef. After spending 12 years in jail, Yosef tells Pharaoh the meaning of the dreams; there will be seven years of plenty, followed by seven more years of famine. Impressed by the interpretation, Pharaoh appoints Yosef to be second in command in Egypt: "No man will lift his hand or foot without your permission," (Genesis 41:44) and gives Yosef his ring, signifying that Yosef is the ruler.

After the seven years of plenty ends, the seven years of famine begin, a famine so harsh that it stretches across the Middle East. Yakov sends his sons to get food from Egypt and Yosef discovers his brothers entering through 12 gates. Yosef imprisons them for three days, accuses them of spying and commands them to bring their younger brother to him.. Yosef keeps Shimon imprisoned. When the brothers get home, they find their money returned. They tell Yakov of Yosef's request, but Yakov refuses to let Binyamin go. When they run out of food again, Yehuda steps forward and promises to protect Binyamin. The brothers arrive back in Egypt and are invited to Yosef's house for lunch. Yosef tells his servant to put his goblet in Binyamin's saddle bag. Once the brothers leave the city, Yosef sends his men after them and accuses the brothers of stealing. The Parsha ends when the goblet is found in Binyamin's saddle bag. Yehuda steps forward and says we will all stay as your slaves. Yosef says only Binyamin must stay.

Questions:

1. How did Yosef interpret Pharaoh's dreams?
2. Where was Yosef for 12 years?
3. Which brother was accused of stealing?

Answers:

1. There will be seven years of plenty followed by seven more years of famine
2. In jail
3. Binyamin

Saturday, December 19: Tots on the Terrace 11:30am—12:30pm

Join us to celebrate Shabbat together with games, songs, and stories!

- The terrace is open tented
- Electric heaters installed
- Physical distancing activities
- Masks and adult supervision required

FROM CHANUKAH CANDLES TO SHABBAT CANDLES

It shouldn't take a miracle to make Shabbos. In this time of increasing food insecurity, if you, or someone you know, needs Shabbos meals, please reach out to **The Lea Serge Tomchei Shabbos Fund** through the shul office. Contributions to the Fund are always welcome.

BOOST YOUR BUSINESS

Boost Your Business for an entire month by placing an ad with LSS. Your ad will be featured in 3 locations! on our website homepage, weekly emailed newsletter, and outdoor display.

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.

Sunday:

- **Sunday Morning Responsa** with Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld: 9:45am. 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: 85387443723 Password: 180613
- **Talmud Class** with Rabbi Robinson: 8:00pm— 9:00pm. 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. Meeting ID: 916 3915 9514.

Tuesday:

- **The Marilyn & Sam Isler, "Studies in the weekly Parsha"** led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson: 10:30am— 11:30am Meeting ID: 241022510.
- **Beit Midrash night, The M'lachim (Kings) Study Group** led by Ron Platzer: 8:00pm. Meeting ID: 811 662 074
- **The Kohen: The inspired mind of a man of God.** A new series exploring the thought of R. Zadok of Lublin. Led by Rabbi Rosenfeld. 8:00pm. Meeting ID: 827 823 0785

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.
- **Parashat HaShavua** led by Rabbi. Moshe Sokolow: 8:15pm. Meeting ID: 846 701 6968.



DVAR TORAH

Parshat Miketz
December 18-19
By: Amos Alter

The Law of Conservation of Biblical Personalities

There is a fascinating individual who makes a few cameo appearances in this week's Sedra – the Overseer of Yosef's house. He first appears at Gen. 43:16, when Yosef sees Binyamin with the other returning brothers, and tells the one over his household, to bring the brothers to his house for lunch. The brothers then have a conversation on Yosef's doorstep with him, after which he ushers them into Yosef's presence (id. 19-24). In that conversation, this shows the reader that he is fully privy to Yosef's manipulations of his brothers.

He appears again when, after the meal, Yosef commands him to return the brothers' purchase money, and also how to chase and accuse them (id. 45:4-5), which he does (id. 6-11). He searches their possessions in the order of their age, which we thus see is known to him (id. 12). From his dialogue with the brothers, it is clear that he understands full well Yosef's scheme to keep Binyamin as a slave. The brothers then return to Yosef's house, and this disappears from the stage.

Who is this person, whom Yosef has so clearly taken into his confidence with his deepest of secrets? To ask that question is to recognize that he well may be someone mentioned elsewhere in the text, in addition to being this bit player making cameo appearances here. That is the application of the Law of Conservation of Biblical Personalities. It posits that we can sometimes conflate two characters into one, certainly if we have textual support, and perhaps even if it just makes sense, and the text does not preclude it.

To see who else this may be, we must first examine the evolution of Yosef.

While there are earlier mentions of Yosef, his story really commences at age seventeen, as a – he still has many lessons to learn. is the story of Yosef's education. He begins as a tattler, who complains of his brothers to his father (id.) – but when Potifar's wife starts up with him, he says nothing to Potifar. He does not speak up for himself in Potifar's house – but he does once he has spent time in jail (id. 30:14-15).

But the final and greatest lesson he learns is how to manipulate people, as he shows with Pharaoh, and later with his brothers – a talent he sorely lacked when still in his father's household. Who was Yosef's role model in this respect? It must have been – Potifar, Officer of Pharaoh, the Sar HaTabachim.

First, let's understand who Potifar was. Rashi (Gen. 37:36) explains – the Lord High Butcher. Onkelos, however (id.), renders the phrase as – the Lord High Executioner. Ramban, Hizkuni, and Ibn Ezra all indicate their preference for Onkelos's translation.

When Potifar's wife comes to him with Yosef's garment and her story, Potifar is in a pickle. On the one hand, he clearly doesn't believe his

wife – if he did, Yosef, a slave who had allegedly sought to rape his master's wife, would be a dead man. On the other hand, his wife is stirring up trouble among the help about the incident (Gen. 39:13-15), and Potifar cannot simply ignore her. What does he do? He is indeed angry at Yosef (id. 19), not because of what Yosef allegedly did – he doesn't believe it – but because Yosef was stupid enough to put himself and Potifar in this situation. So, he throws Yosef into jail (id. 20), thereby saving face before the household. But it's not just any jail – it's the place where the Kings' prisoners were jailed. Where is this jail? The text doesn't tell us here, but it does when the are jailed there (id. 40:3) – it's in Potifar's home; it makes sense that the jail should be in the home of the Lord High Executioner. And it's a place where Potifar can keep his eye on his protégé Yosef. It's no surprise that the Chief Jailer treats Yosef with kid gloves (id. 39:21-23) – Potifar is his boss! Furthermore, when important servants of Pharaoh are jailed there, it is Potifar who makes sure that Yosef is set up to bond with them: – the Sar HaTabachim who appoints Yosef to take care of them (Gen. 40:4).

Potifar thus manipulates the situation in order to save his own face and still take care of his man Yosef. Small wonder that when Yosef needs a Chief of Staff, whom should he turn to but his mentor (and, according to some Interpretations, his father-in-law), Potifar!

That Potifar is further demonstrated by the following: Potifar is described (Gen. 39:1) as – What's the point of telling us that? That he's – important? We have just been told (id.) that he's – That's he's Egyptian? We would not have thought otherwise. It must be so that we can associate him with another – to be mentioned later, namely – The Law of Conservation of Biblical Personalities strikes again!



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:

Vaera (Rosh Chodesh Shevat on Thursday) (1/14)
Mishpatim (Rosh Chodesh on Shabbat Shekalim) (2/13)
Tetzaveh (Shushan Purim) (2/27)
Vayikra (3/20)

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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