

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: rabbi@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, January 10 @ 8:30am
Monday, January 11 — Friday, January 15 @ 7:30am

Mincha/Maariv:

Sunday, January 10 @ 4:35pm
Monday, January 11—Friday, January 14 @ 4:40pm

HAKARAT HATOV

Fred Ehrman for writing this week's Dvar Torah

Golda Hudes and family thank LSS leadership and the entire community for the overwhelming support, kindness and generosity during Shiva.

MAZAL TOV

Jordana and Simon Bernstein on the birth of a baby boy.

Grandparents **Esther and Dr. William Green** on the birth of a baby boy, Noah Yehuda, born to their children Blima Malka and Zack Freud. Mazal tov to siblings Emma and Orly, Aunt and Uncle Rachel and Dr. Yonah Green, and cousins JJ, Sammy and Ava.

Great grandparents **Ruth and Dr. Robert Riemer** on the birth of a baby boy born to their grandchildren Abbie and Adam Ossip. Mazal tov to grandparents Alissa and Avi Ossip, Karen and Dr. Joseph Levine, and Michael and Linda Nordlicht.

Gary Miller, son of Esther Miller z"l and Nathan Miller z"l, upon his engagement to Bonnie Barest, daughter of William Barest z"l and Sally Barest.

Jackie and Jonathan Kotler on the birth of a baby girl. Mazal Tov also to big sisters, Lea and Eliana.

KITCHEN 2 KITCHEN

This week, we are launching Kitchen2Kitchen, a collaborative project by the Manhattan synagogues to promote our neighborhoods' kosher restaurants.

Our kosher restaurants are an important part of the unique Manhattan Jewish experience, and these establishments (and their employees) have been significantly impacted by the COVID pandemic and the specific restrictions on dining. To foster restaurant (home delivery) patronage, each week, all participating shuls and schools throughout the city will highlight one restaurant in a coordinated effort to encourage community support, and to demonstrate to the proprietors and their employees that we value them in our community.

For our inaugural restaurant, this week 1/11-1/17) we feature MY MOST FAVORITE FOOD.

MMF opened in 1980, and relocated to the Upper West Side in 2010. Beyond their delicious salads, pastas and fish, MMF is best known for their time-honored desserts, which literally put them on the map. This week, enjoy My Most Favorite Food in your own home: Bakery Orders – order online at www.mymostfavorite.comRestaurant/Food Orders – order at 212.580.5130

SPECIAL OFFER FROM MY MOST FAVORITE FOOD:

free delivery throughout Manhattan for the month of January. Please mention "Kitchen2Kitchen" when ordering to activate this special offer. SHARE THE LOVE - Consider purchasing a My Most Favorite gift certificate for family and friends.

ROSH CHODESH

The molad for Rosh Chodesh Shevat will be on Wednesday evening at 35 minutes and 3 chalakim after 5 PM., Rosh Chodesh Shevat will be on Thursday.

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Friday Night:

Zoom Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat: 4:05pm (link in electronic Echod)
Shabbat Candle Lighting: 4:28pm
Mincha followed by Kabbalat Shabbat at shul: 4:30pm
Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary
Sunset (daven Mincha by): 4:46pm
Repeat Shema: after 5:17pm

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: 9:40am
Terrace Minyan: 9:40am (weather permitting, if not it will be held in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary)
Latest Shacharit: 10:28am
Mincha at 4:25pm followed by a shiur
Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.
Sunset (daven Mincha by, and begin seudah shlishit by): 4:47pm
Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends: 5:29pm
Zoom Havdalah: 6:15pm (link in electronic Echod)

UPCOMING EVENT

Wednesday, January 13: Big Stories of The Little Screen: Israeli television through the decades: 8:00pm

Israeli television has been, throughout the years, a source of influence on Israeli society and world Jewry. This program, led by Harel Fenigstein (UWS shaliach from the Jewish Agency), will explore the history Israeli TV through the decades and will include snippets from its shows. For more information about the program, email Harelf@jafi.org. Pre-registration required. To register, visit <https://rebrand.ly/israelity>

Sunday, January 24: Women's Tefillah Group Presents: Chodesh Shevat Shiur: 8:00pm Dedicated to the memory of Grace Shevel

There will be a short introduction given by Rabbi Shaul Robinson and Howard Grossman. The shiur will be given by our Community Intern, Mindy Schwartz Zolty. Topic: Serach bat Asher: Midrash and Aggadah. Link in the electronic Echod.

CHESED OPPORTUNITY

LARRY NEEDS A KIDNEY DONOR: With every passing minute the gift of a kidney for Larry becomes more urgent. The rewards of this gift is the GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING. It is not a Win/Lose. . . But a Win/Win. If you can save one life, you save the world. Please share the flyer with friends, relatives and coworkers. The more people who hear of the need, the more likely we are to find a donor. (Flyer in the online Echod)

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 offer the capability of transcription/captions for all of our zoom programming. We have also added a Hebrew/English dictionary and will continue to add words as our zoom programming continues. We hope this helps you to enjoy the many wonderful lectures and programs we offer on zoom. *Please note, transcription by rev.com is provided by Artificial Intelligence, and not by a live captioner.*

YOUTH AND MAGEN AVRAHAM TEEN DEPARTMENT

Dvar Torah:

This week we begin the book of Shemot, which starts by stating that Yosef and the older generations died out and a new Egyptian king arose, one who did not know Yosef—meaning the new king did not acknowledge the wonderful things that Yosef had done. Pharaoh enslaved the Jewish people and told the midwives that any Jewish baby boy born must be killed. The midwives, Yocheved and Miriam, did not listen. Yocheved and her husband Amram had a baby boy, Moshe, whom they hid for three months. When they could no longer hide him, Yocheved put baby Moshe in a basket on the Nile River and Moshe's sister Miriam watched him. Pharaoh's daughter went to the Nile and found the baby, but Moshe refused to nurse so Miriam suggested a Jewish woman as nursemaid, and brought Yocheved, Moshe's own mother. Moshe grew up in the palace.

One day, Moshe saw an Egyptian beating a Jew and killed the Egyptian. The next day, he saw two Jewish people fighting, and when he tried to stop them, they told him that they'd seen what he did the day before and had informed against him to Pharaoh. Rashi says these two people were Datan and Aviram. Moshe ran away to Midian where he met the daughters of Yitro, and married Tziporah, the eldest, with whom he had two children.

When Moshe was herding sheep, he came upon a bush on fire that was not being consumed. A holy voice told Moshe to take off his shoes; Hashem revealed Himself and told Moshe to save the Jewish people. Hashem gave Moshe three signs: He turned Moshe's staff into a snake and back again; He afflicted Moshe with tzaraat and healed it; and said that He would turn the waters of the Nile into blood. Moshe protested that he was tongue-tied, but Hashem told Moshe that He provides the power to speak. When Moshe arrived, Pharaoh reacted by telling the people they would now have to work twice as hard, making the same quota of bricks but without any straw. When the Jewish people complained, Moshe turned to Hashem. The Parsha ends with Hashem telling Moshe that Pharaoh will be forced to free the Jews.

Questions:

1. Who did Miriam bring to nurse baby Moshe?
2. How many years older were Miriam and Aaron than Moshe?
3. According to Rashi, who were the two Jews who were fighting?
4. Who was Yitro's oldest daughter and whom did she marry?
5. In which country did Moshe find his wife?
6. How did Hashem reveal himself to Moshe?

Answers:

1. Moshe's mother, Yocheved
2. Miriam was five years older and Aaron was three years older
3. Datan and Aviram
4. Tziporah was Yitro's daughter and she married Moshe
5. Midian
6. Through a burning bush that was not consumed by the fire

THE LEA SEGRE TOMCHEI SHABBOS FUND

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 Segre 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.

<https://www.lss.org/boostyourbusiness>

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:

- **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

Wednesday:

- **Jewish History with Paul Shaviv: Wandering Jews: Triumph and Tragedies: The rise and fall of six centres of Jewish life** 8:00pm. Topic: Ashkenaz—The Great Civilization. Meeting ID: 916 6638 3728 Password: 362427

Thursday:

- **Women's Talk Time:** led by School Psychologist Ruth Moser Riemer: 11:30am-12:30pm. To register, please see electronic Echod.
- **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.

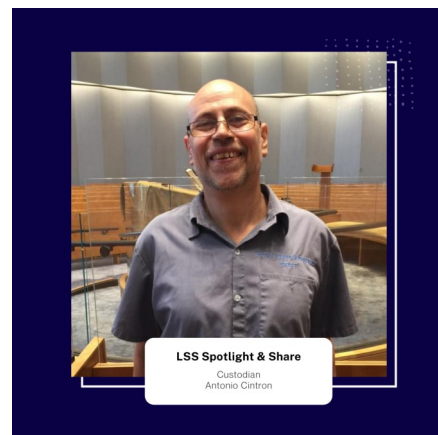
Upcoming Class:

- **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. To register, please email JLworkshop@yahoo.com. The first topic: Shabbat - The Friday Night Experience.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

LSS Spotlight & Share: This week, meet our
Meet our Custodian, Antonio Cintron!!

1. **Where are you from?**
-Puerto Rico
2. **What did you want to be when you grew up?**
-I wanted to be a Handy Man
3. **If you had a superpower, what would it be?**
-To be real strong
4. **Best part of your job?**
-Everything!
5. **Fun fact about yourself?**
-I like to travel



If you are interested in being featured for an upcoming LSS Spotlight and Share post, please contact Julie Rosenthal at julie@lss.org

DVAR TORAH

Parshat Shemot/Shabbat Mevarchim
By: Fred Ehrman

January 9

Understanding the Mystery at the Inn

[In the following exegesis, we discover a direct connection between the Torah, Shemot (Exodus 2), and the book of Shoftim (Judges 17), that helps us explain a most difficult story in the Torah that has confounded many throughout the ages.]

One of the most mysterious and intriguing incidents in the Bible occurs in this week's sidrah. Moshe, after reluctantly accepting the task of leading Bnei Yisrael out of their Egyptian bondage, leaves Midian with his wife and two sons. Hashem instructs him on how to address Pharaoh:

ואמרת אל פרעה, כה אמר ה' בני בכרי ישראל. ואמר אליך שלח את בני ויעבדני ותמאן לשלחו הנה אנכי הרג את בנך בכרך" (ד: כב-כג)

"And you shall say to Pharaoh, so said Hashem, my firstborn son is Israel. So I say to you, send My son that he may serve Me – but you refused to send him out; behold, I shall kill your firstborn son." (4:22-23) (Please note that the first sentence is in second person speaking to third person. The second sentence is in first person addressing second person.)

Immediately after this interchange, we read the following:

"ויהי בדרך במלון ויפגשוהו ויבקש המיתו. ותקח צפרה צר ותכרת את ערלת בנה ותגע לרגליו ותאמר כי חתן דמים אתה לי. וירף ממנו אז אמרה חתן דמים למולת." (ד: כד-כ)

"It was on the way, in the lodging, that Hashem encountered him and sought to kill him. So Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son and touched it to his feet; and she said, 'A bridegroom of blood you are to me.' So He withdrew from him. Then she said, 'A bridegroom of blood in regard to circumcision.'" (4:24-26)

There are several questions that spring out at us:

1. What is the connection, if any, between the incident at the inn and the preceding verses of Hashem's instructions to Moshe?
2. Who does Hashem want to kill?
3. Why does Zipporah perform the circumcision instead of Moshe, since the father has the primary obligation to circumcise his son?
4. In the two sentences recounting Hashem's instructions to Moshe on what to say to Pharaoh, why is there an unusual grammatical shift of the subject, from second person speaking to a third person to first person addressing a second person?

To answer these questions, let us fast-forward some years to the Book of Judges, chapters 17 and 18, to the story of the eponymous Micah's Idol. Micah, who lived in the mountain of Ephraim in the period soon after Joshua's death, had a sanctuary dedicated to idolatry which was centered on a graven image. A young Levite from Bethlehem comes to Micah looking for a place to live. Micah asks him to become the priest for his sanctuary and offers to support him. The anonymous Levite accepts the offer.

"And the Levite vowed to dwell with the man" (17:11).

This exact phrase is found in Tanach only one other time, (with a different subject), and we will soon come to it. But it is important to remember that the vow concerned avodah zarah, idolatrous worship. Subsequently, some men from the tribe of Dan come to Micah's house, take the idol, and make an offer to the Levite that he cannot refuse. Instead of being a priest in the house of one man, the Levite would be a priest to the same idol, but he would minister to the whole tribe of Dan. We finally learn the identity of this priest:

ויהונתן בן גרשם בן מנשה הוא ובניו היו כהנים לשבט הדני עד יום גלות הארץ" (יה:ל). "And Jonathan the son of Gershom the son of Menashe, (the nun in Menashe is raised to indicate the real name is Moshe) both he and his sons were the priests to the tribe of Danites until the day of the exile of the land." (18:30)

We see that Moshe's grandson became a priest to idolatry.

Let us return now to today's sidrah. Moshe escapes from Egypt to Midian

after killing an Egyptian. He comes to Yisro's house and asks for permission to marry his daughter. We now have the same phrase we had earlier in the Micha story, the only other time it occurs in Tanach. (Is it coincidental that this phrase only occurs with Moshe and his grandson as the subjects?)

ויתן את צפרה בתו למשה" (ב:כא) ("ויואל משה לשבת את האיש

"And Moshe vowed to dwell with the man, and he gave his daughter Zipporah to Moshe." (2:21)

We know the nature of the vow that the Levite gave to Micah. What vow did Moshe give to Yisro? There is an amazing Mechilta in the sidrah of Yisro for permission to marry his daughter, Yisro agreed but with one condition. Moshe had to vow that his firstborn, his bechor, would be dedicated to idol worship. "And Moshe vowed...." (The Mechilta may have come to this radical conclusion because of the unique phrase.) In the very next verse, Moshe's first child is born and he gives him the name of "Gershom." And it seems that the name appears to explain the vow he made:

"I have been a stranger in a foreign (Gentile) land."

Now we can begin to answer the questions with which we began by reexamining the verses in question.

"And you (Moshe) shall say to Pharaoh, so said Hashem, My firstborn is Israel."

We now reinterpret the next verse.

"So I (Hashem) say to you (Moshe), send out My son that he may serve Me, but you have refused to send him out; behold I shall kill your firstborn (Gershom)."

There immediately follows the story in the inn and Hashem's intending to kill "him" (Gershom) and Zipporah's circumcision of her son. Moshe cannot be the leader to take the Bnei Yisrael out of Egypt from the depths of impurity, while his son is uncircumcised and dedicated to idolatry. These verses logically follow each other and are connected. Zipporah had to perform the circumcision because Moshe was constrained by his vow to Yisro. And the cryptic phrase "And she said, 'a bridegroom of blood you are to me'" can be explained. You, Moshe, became my bridegroom by "Damim" which also means money or payment, the payment of the vow regarding their firstborn, whose blood had almost been shed. But the blood of his circumcision that I now performed saved his life. "Then she said, 'A bridegroom of blood in regard to circumcision.'"

Unfortunately for Moshe, however, the die had been cast, and his grandson Jonathan fulfilled the vow. Perhaps if Moshe had not made that fateful vow, the priesthood, would have gone to his descendants instead of to Aaron and his descendants. But his own children are hardly ever mentioned in the Torah.

Postscript: We have seen the relationship between Micah and Jonathan, Moshe's grandson. But could there have been a connection between Moshe and Micah the idolater directly?

There is a fascinating midrash that tells the following story. When the enslaved Israelites did not fulfill the quota of making bricks, the Egyptians immured the Hebrew babies in place of the missing bricks. When Moshe complained to Hashem, He answered him by saying that the Egyptians were merely ridding the nation of thorns, i.e. of future sinners. Moshe tested G-d's word by removing one of the babies out of the wall. That child grew up to be the idolater Micah who turned Moshe's grandson towards Avodah Zarah. (Rashi, Sanhedrin 101B and Tanchuma Ki Sissa 19).

Shabbat Shalom!

The next Shabbatot available are:

Mishpatim (Rosh Chodesh on Shabbat Shekalim) (2/13), Tetzaveh (Shushan Purim) (2/27), Tzav/Shabbat HaGadol (3/27), Shabbat Pesach (4/3)
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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