

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 03 @ 8:30am

Monday, January 04 — Friday, January 08 @ 7:30am

Mincha/Maariv:

Sunday, January 03 — Tuesday, January 05 @ 4:30pm

Wednesday, January 06 — Thursday, January 08 @ 4:35pm

END OF YEAR GIVING

Please Give and Support Lincoln Square Synagogue Now!

Today is the last day for 2020 Giving. We have proudly and gratefully done our very best to show up for you and your family during this challenging year and to show you how much we truly care. Now we ask you to please return the care and concern by closing out your account balances or through the many ways we've highlighted potential giving.

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
Tonight, Thursday, December 31.

MAZAL TOV

Grandparents **Hannah and Paul Freilich** on the birth of a baby boy, to their children Kayla and Jonathan Moerdler. Mazal Tov to big brother Zachary and big sister Molly.

Grandparents **Sharon and Avram Blumenthal** on the birth of a baby boy, to their children Ben and Tamar Blumenthal. Mazal Tov to siblings Jack, Leo and Eleanor, uncle and aunt Chaim and Leora, uncle Judah, cousins Elimelech, Esti, Rivka, Bentzy, Rochie, and Shalom Pinchas. Special Mazal Tov to Savta Raba Miriam Zangerand the entire mishpacha.

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.

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Friday Night:

Zoom Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat: 4:00pm (link in electronic Echod)

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 4:22pm

Mincha followed by Kabbalat Shabbat at shul: 4:25pm

Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.

Sunset (daven Mincha by): 4:39pm

Repeat Shema: after 5:10pm

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: 9:39am

Terrace Minyan: 9:40am (weather permitting, if not it will be held in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary)

Latest Shacharit: 10:26am

Mincha followed by Maariv at shul: 4:20pm

Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.

Sunset (daven Mincha by, and begin seudah shlishit by): 4:40pm

Shabbat Ends: 5:23pm.

Zoom Havdalah: 6:00pm (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 EVENT

Wednesday, January 6:

Big Stories of The Little Screen: Israeli television through the decades:

8:00pm Israeli television has been, through the years, a source of influence on Israeli society and world Jewry. This mini-series of programs, led by Harel Fenigstein (UWS shaliach from the Jewish Agency), will explore the history of Israeli TV over the decades and will include video clips from its shows. For more information about the program, mail Harelf@jafi.org.

Pre-registration required.

To register, visit <https://rebrand.ly/israelity>

HAKARAT HATOV

Judy Sokolow for writing this week's Dvar Torah

MUSIC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8etukBdZ5E&feature=youtu.be>

Check out the link in our electronic Echod to hear our very own, Chazzan Yanky Lemmer, debut his beautiful song, Broken Hearts. Truly inspirational! Congratulations **Chazzan Lemmer!**

CHESED OPPORTUNITY

HARRY NEEDS A KIDNEY DONOR: Harry Stricker, beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend is in need of a kidney. With every passing minute the gift of a kidney for Harry 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 this 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)

YOUTH AND MAGEN AVRAHAM TEEN DEPARTMENT

Dvar Torah:

After Yaakov came to Egypt to see Yosef, he ended up staying there for 17 years. As he was getting older, he had Yosef come to him and promise that he would bury Yaakov in the Machpelah cave that his father, mother, grandfather, and grandmother had been buried in before him. Yaakov blesses Yosef's two sons Ephraim & Menashe, saying that they should continue to be great leaders for the Jewish people. Yaakov continues his brachot for each of his 12 sons, and tells each of them what their special and specific roles will be within Bnei Yisrael. When he finishes giving each of his children a bracha, he dies at the old age of 147. The entire land of Egypt mourns as they all knew how holy and special Yaakov was. Yosef makes sure to bury him in Israel in the Cave of Machpelah.

After the death of Yaakov, the brothers are afraid that now Yosef will decide to take revenge on his brothers for selling him. Yosef reassures his brothers that he is no longer upset about it, and that the past is behind them. They all continue to live a prosperous life in Egypt until Yosef dies at the age of 110. Before he dies, he makes a speech to the people of Bnei Yisrael and tells them that Hashem will eventually help take them out of Egypt to the land of Israel. He asks that when they leave, they bring his body with them to be buried in Israel. This Parsha is the final in the Book of Bereshit; next week we will begin the book of Shemot!

Questions:

1. How long was Yaakov in the land of Egypt?
2. Where is Yaakov buried, after he dies?
3. Why are the brothers concerned after their fathers death?

1. 17 years
2. The Cave of Machpelah
3. They are worried that Yosef will seek revenge on them now that their father is dead, but he assures them that he has forgiven them.

Answers:

Upcoming Events:

Tots on the Terrace - January 2nd @ 11:30am -12:30pm
on the Spira Family Terrace

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*

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.*

THE LEA SERGE 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 Serge Tomchei Shabbos Fund** through the shul office. Contributions to the Fund are always welcome.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

We're excited to announce our new Instagram initiative, LSS Spotlight & Share! Every week we will be posting a new person on our Instagram. This week, meet **Chazzan Yanky Lemmer!**

1. Where are you from?
-Boro Park, Brooklyn
2. What did you want to be when you grew up?
-Musician (wait, can one do both? Be a musician AND grow up)?!
3. If you had a superpower, what would it be?
-Download books into my brain
4. Best part of your job?
-Bringing people joy/inspiration
5. Fun fact about yourself?
-English is my second language, yet I enjoy learning (even Chassidus) in it more than Yiddish

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 Vayechi
January 02
By: Judy Sokolow

Our parashah contains at least three phrases or verses that are very well known as they have become embedded in our liturgy or ritual.

As Jeff Schwartz documented in his recent devar Torah on VaYeishev, our patriarch Jacob not only played favorites, creating sibling rivalry amongst his sons, but often neglected to state his mind in a way that might convey proper values. The dynamic of his family was much more complicated than that which most people experience today because he had several simultaneous wives and favored the sons of his most beloved wife Rachel. As he neared death, however, Jacob became more outspoken. Continuing to favor Joseph, he announced: "Ephraim and Menashe [Joseph's sons] shall be mine no less than Reuben and Simeon" and that their inheritance would be equal to that of full sons (48:5-6), effectively treating Joseph as the firstborn entitled to double inheritance. It is in this context that Jacob blessed Ephraim and Menashe, saying in part: "May the angel who rescued me from all harm, bless these boys. May they be called by my name and the names of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac, and may they become teeming multitudes upon the Earth (48:26)." These words are well known to us from the prayer we say at bedtime. They are also often sung at vachnacht or "watch night," events held by many Ashkenazi Jews on the eve of a baby boy's brit in the belief that the newborn needs added spiritual protection and children are invited to visit him to sing and to recite Shema. You might also know this verse as a lullaby which you can access at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYMBwJZHDdI>.

In this same context, we come to the second of the well-known words in this parashah: "So he [Jacob] blessed them saying: 'By you shall Israel invoke blessings, saying: May God make you like Ephraim and Menasheh.'" This, of course, is the blessing that parents give their sons at the Friday night Shabbat meal, a custom that developed during the Middle Ages. It was followed by a parallel one for daughters, based on the blessing given by the community when Boaz took Ruth as his wife (see Ruth 4:11).

Jacob then went on to make statements about his other sons. Some are laudatory but others are quite critical; nevertheless, the Torah

states: "And this is what their father said to them and blessed them, each one according to his blessing" (49:28). Rashi noted the obvious: "But there are those whom he did not bless, rather he rebuked them," and explained that the phrase "he blessed them" is in the plural, indicating that he blessed them all even if some blessings were not explicitly stated. May I suggest an alternative explanation; namely, that constructive criticism rightly given is indeed a blessing.

The third very familiar phrase I note is not really part of the parashah; rather, it is the exclamation that we recite when we conclude reading a book of the Torah: "Chazak chazak venitchazeik." Are you feeling a bit like a nap because you just listened to a lullaby? Well Avraham Fried's boisterous and joyous rendition of these words might even get you up and dancing. https://youtu.be/zzZi9jo_SXM The phrase chazak venitchazak (note the different vocalization of the last syllable) appears in the context of battle in 2 Samuel 10:12. Indeed, a 19th century book by Shlomo Geiger notes that the Kehilah Kedoshah in Frankfurt am Main used this version of the phrase back then and a quick chat with my cousin who prays in The Breuer synagogue in Washington Heights confirmed that that custom has endured in the German community.

But let us take a closer look at our custom. I have seen it translated as "Be strong! Be strong! And may we be strengthened!" or "Be strong and be encouraged" or "Let us be strong and resolute." In pondering the phrase myself, I focused on the fact that the first two words are in the singular while the last word, which is grammatically reflexive and in the first person plural, literally means "let us make ourselves strong." Is this not then a call for individuals to become stronger by joining together? If you listened to Fried's rendition, you know that he adds other words. I had to listen very carefully but I discerned that he is quoting Isaiah 41:6: "Each one helps the other, saying to his fellow, 'Take courage.'" And so "Chazak chazak venitchazeik" is not only a call to redouble our efforts to learn Torah but to emphasize that we are stronger when we work as a community. We know this, we do this, and we are now, in these difficult times, challenged with working even harder. May we continue to do so, as Fried adds: "until the Messiah arrives."

I once again thank my husband Moshe for assistance with my research.

Shabbat Shalom!

Dear Friends,

COVID-19 has impacted all of us. Usually we would be seeing you in shul, touching base, and catching up. For many of you COVID has meant healing from COVID, loss, isolation, temporarily leaving the city, home-schooling young children, not seeing your adult children, etc. While we are proud of the programming we offer over zoom we also understand that some of you are "zoomed-out". In person davening, Groups on the Grass, and Tots on the Terrace remains the way we can continue seeing each other and connecting in person but, for some of you, even that has not been possible or in your comfort zone. We want to be here for you! There is always more we can do. Will you share your ideas, opinions, suggestions with us on how we can be there for you in a meaningful way? If so, please email Executive Director, Tamar Fix, at tamar@lss.org. Know that we are thinking of you and wishing you well.

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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