

MINYAN INFORMATION

Lincoln Square Synagogue is happy to once again be open for prayer services. As with all our minyanim in these times, ***you must be pre-registered in order to attend*** - only those who have signed up for these minyanim and have received confirmation may participate, as we are limited in the number of people who can attend. Social distancing, wearing of masks, no communal singing and all of the other public health measures that we have been employing since we began weekday services (see the complete Attendance Guidelines in the electronic version of Echod) will be in effect. Please remember to bring your own tallit on Shabbat if you are signed up. Because there will be no Seudah Shlishit on Shabbat at the shul, please remember to eat Seudah Shlishit before you come to Mincha.

To sign yourself up for any of the below minyanim, please go to our website ***lss.org***. (Please note that men's and women's signups for Shabbat morning services have been separated, in order to better control the number of men and women attendees.) If you are not a member of Lincoln Square Synagogue please do not fill out the form and instead email Rabbi Robinson at ***rabbi@lss.org***.

Shacharit:

Sunday, November 8 @ 8:30am

Monday, November 9—Friday, November 13 @ 7:30am

Mincha/Maariv:

Sunday, November 8 @ 4:35pm

Monday, November 9 — Thursday, November 12 @ 4:30pm

HAKARAT HATOV

Judy Sokolow for writing this week's Dvar Torah

MAZAL TOV

Grandparents **Lois and Leslie Katz** on the birth of a girl Ella Ruby (Chaia Reeve), to their children Daniel and Tziona Josephs. Mazal Tov to sister Natalie, grandparents Sarah and Barry Josephs, Uncle and aunts Josef and Shari Katz, Benji and Michele Katz, Ari and Shimona Katz and Shoshana and Yehuda Segal and Dr Josh Josephs.

THANKSGIVING ON THE TERRACE

Thursday, November 26:

Thanksgiving 2020 may look different this year but we want to help you celebrate outdoors with family and friends on our Spira Family Terrace. If you would like to bring your own meals to our terrace please use the sign up link below or on our website. M:\$8 NM: \$10. (ages 6 and under free of charge).

Available Timeslots:
3:00pm-5:00pm
5:00pm-7:00pm
7:00pm-9:00pm

www.lss.org/form/thanksgivingterrace

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Friday Night:

Zoom Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat: 4:10pm (link in electronic Echod)

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 4:28pm

Mincha followed by Kabbalat Shabbat at shul: 4:30pm

Location: Ballroom

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: 9:05am

Latest Shacharit: 9:00am

Mincha followed by Maariv at shul: 4:25pm

Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.

Sunset (daven Mincha by, and begin seudah shlishit by): 4:15pm

Shabbat Ends: 5:27pm

Zoom Havdalah: 6:15pm (link in electronic Echod)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Boris & Anna Borodulin

Sarah Orenshein & Moshe Soloveichik

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 8: The Dead Sea Scrolls:

Treasure of the Jewish People: 10:00am

(Part 1 of 2 Programs)

What do you know about the Dead Sea Scrolls? Who wrote the scrolls? Why are these ancient documents a source of fascination for both Jews and Christians around the world? The Dead Sea Scrolls are the most important archeological discovery of the 20th century. We will review the dramatic discovery of the scrolls in the caves of Qumran, the archeological finds of Khirbet Qumran and the sectarian group associated with the site. We will examine why these texts continue to mesmerize and captivate both scholars and the public at large. The presentation will be led by Adele Wasser, a docent at the Israel Museum. *Meeting ID: 923 8111 7099*

Sunday, November 15: Women's Rosh Chodesh Shiur: 8:00pm

Led by our Community Intern, Mindy Schwartz Zolty and Women's Tefillah Group. Topic: And Chanoch Walked With God: Decoding a Biblical Mystery. *Meeting ID: 929 6888 0715*

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 this week's Parsha, we find Avraham sitting at the entrance of his tent, looking out for travelers to host. Because Avraham was recovering from his Brit Milah, Hashem made the day extra hot so that few travelers would be walking by. But Avraham felt disappointed because he could not find any guests to welcome so Hashem sent three Malachim (angels) dressed as regular men to pass by Avraham's tent. Each angel had a special message and mission for Avraham.

Avraham noticed the three melachim and invited them into his tent. One of the angels came with the mission of healing Avraham quickly, so Avraham immediately felt better. He rushed to tell his wife, Sarah, about the guests and she prepared a meal. The second angel's message was to tell Avraham and Sarah that in one year Sarah would have a baby. When Sarah heard the news, she laughed because she couldn't believe it--Sarah was already 89 years old. The third angel's mission was to destroy a city called Sodom, because the people there were not making good choices. Avraham realized that his nephew Lot lived in Sodom and begged the Melachim to save Lot and his family. The parsha ends with the birth of Avraham and Sarah's son, Yitzchak, which means "he will laugh."

Questions:

1. What does the word Melachim mean?
2. Why did Sarah laugh at the thought of having a baby?
3. Who lived in the city of Sodom?

1. Angels
2. Because she was already 89 years old
3. Avraham's nephew, Lot

Answers:

Upcoming Events:

November 7 @ 10:00 am - 11:30 am:
Groups on the Grass in Riverside Park (76th Street)

November 15 @ 8:00 pm:
Magen Avraham Teen Department and The ADL - Online Extremism: Outsmarting Propaganda and Combating Disinformation

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
- **Jewish Living Workshop** led by Dassa and Bill Greenbaum: 7:30pm-8:30pm. Topic: Zemiroth Workshop. Meeting ID: 938 8328 9103 Password: 832084
- **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: 241 022 510
- **Introduction to Bible** with Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald: 6:30 - 8:00pm. This course provides a general overview of the content and style of the Bible. We will review basic literary and theological approaches to Bible study, traditional and modern, through the analysis of the Biblical text. Registrants will receive the Zoom link prior to the start of the course. 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: 7:00pm-8:00pm. Meeting ID: 811 662 074

Wednesday:

- **Paul Shaviv's Jewish History Course: The Messiah?** Topic: Jacob Frank — The Strangest Meeting ID: 916 6638 3728 Password: 362427

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.

PAUL SHAVIV'S JEWISH HISTORY COURSE: WEDNESDAY MINISERIES: THE MESSIAH?

November 11: Jacob Frank—The Strangest
November 18: Menachem Mendel Schneerson-Has to be Discussed!
November 25: No Session
December 2: The Allure and the Cost of Messianism in Judaism

All classes will begin at 8:00pm
Dial in: (646) 876 9923 Meeting ID: 916 6638 3728 Password: 362427

DVAR TORAH

Parshat Vayera Bikur Cholim—Visiting the Sick
November 06-07
By: Judy Sokolow

Our morning prayers include a passage, based on Shabbat 127a, that describes certain commendable behaviors as: "These are the things whose fruits we eat in this world but whose full reward awaits us in the world to come." Our parashah opens with G-d ostensibly performing one of these practices—visiting the sick. The previous parashah concluded with G-d's commanding Abraham to circumcise the males in his household, a practice that was to be passed on to his offspring throughout the generations. Abraham did so and, even though he was 99 years old, included himself. So, according to Rashi, when Rabi Hama bar Hanina later interpreted our opening verse "And the Lord appeared unto him [Abraham] by the terebinths of Mamre..." he deduced that "it was the third day after his circumcision and the Holy One Blessed Be He came and inquired of his welfare" (Bava Metzia 86). (Welcoming strangers/guests, another of the "fruitful" practices, is also at play in this verse, but that is for another dvar Torah.)

Rabi Hama's words helped to define how bikur cholim should be performed. People other than close relatives or friends, should wait several days before visiting an afflicted person. Also, visiting the sick should be performed without concern for social status; the fact that G-d visited a subordinate indicates that we should be egalitarian in our approach to performing this mitzvah.

These and other insights and stipulations about bikur cholim appear in the Shulchan Arukh, Yoreh De'ah:335 and in Rabbi Aaron Rothkoff's essay in the Encyclopedia Judaica. They include the following: Visiting the sick is not limited to providing companionship and good cheer but also includes the requirement to help relieve the patient's anxiety by providing for material needs. The essence of the visit, however, is to pray using the formula, "May G-d have compassion for you amongst Israel's ill" on weekdays and on Shabbat, "Though on Shabbat it is forbidden to cry out, may the healing be quick in coming." If one recites this in the patient's presence, any language is satisfactory, but if it is recited in personal prayer or in the synagogue, Hebrew is required. Furthermore, as invoking G-d's compassion is essential, one should not visit during the first three hours of the day when patients are likely to feel their best as this might cause the visitor to pray less fervently, nor during the last three hours of the day when patients are likely to feel their worst, lest this make visitors question their prayers' efficacy.

Some patients' physical condition might make a face-to-face visit embarrassing. In such cases, the visitor should show concern by showing up in person but remain in an anteroom and communicate verbally or through a family member. (In fact, a visit often helps family members as much if not more than it helps the patient.) As already noted, sick people of higher status should not be privileged when it comes to being visited. Indeed, if it is known that a rich person is receiving many visitors, one should prioritize visiting the poor. Non-Jews should also be visited. (May I offer an anecdote: A relative reported that while he was ill in Maimonides hospital, an "ultra- orthodox" gentleman with several children appeared at his bedside to visit. When the conversation concluded, the children headed for the door. The father stopped them and pointed to the

patient in the next bed who was apparently not Jewish and instructed his children to approach him as well, telling them, in Yiddish, that this patient was also created in G-d's image.)

It is wonderful to see how the Jewish community has stepped up to fulfil this mitzvah. Back in the day there were no "bikur cholim" rooms with kosher food in hospitals, nor organized group visits, nor organizations that deliver hot food. Anyone who has spent time in the hospital with an ill loved-one knows the value of this kindness and the LSS members who spearhead and participate in our bikur cholim activities are truly meritorious. It is also noteworthy that is now quite common for Jewish schools to engage students in bikur cholim programs.

Thus far, we have looked at bikur cholim from the viewpoint of the visitor, but what is the role of the patient? Thank G-d, being in good health, it is easy for me to say that the patient must do everything in his or her power to recover. It is difficult for some people to accept help from others, but when it is our turn to give we should graciously give and when it is our turn to accept we should graciously accept. I offer another anecdote: A terminally ill patient whom I knew asked a rabbi what was required of him in the time he had left. The rabbi answered that his role henceforth was to be as kind as he could to his caretakers and visitors. It is a point to ponder.

Covid has limited traditional bikur cholim. Some of the most poignant stories emerging from our new reality are about people who climb ladders or hire cherry pickers so they can see loved ones in nursing homes and hospitals through upper-floor windows. There are also the healthcare professionals who use their cell phones to connect patients with their family members for their last moments together. Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, deemed by many as the most eminent decisor of Jewish law in the previous generation, was asked if one can observe bikur cholim by telephone. He replied that if actual visits are unmanageable, telephone visits are certainly permissible (Igrot Moshe YD 223).

May we all do as much as we can to stay healthy so that we can perform G-d's mitzvot, not be insufferable patients if, G-d forbid, we become sick, and be creative in honing our bikur cholim skills during these difficult times. *With gratitude to my husband Moshe for being my research assistant

Shabbat Shalom

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:

Parshat Toldot (11/21)
Parshat Vayetzei (11/28)
Parshat Vayishlach (12/5)

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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