

MINYAN INFORMATION

Lincoln Square Synagogue is happy to once again be open 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)

In advance of Thanksgiving and as a small token of our appreciation to all of you who have kept minyan going strong, we have signed up for an ad free version of signup.com! We hope this improves your user experience and we look forward to having you in Shul soon!

Shacharit:

Sunday, November 29 @ 8:30am

Monday, November 30 — Friday, December 4 @ 7:30am

Mincha/Maariv:

Sunday, November 29— Thursday, December 3 @ 4:20pm

HAKARAT HATOV

Amos Alter for writing this week's Dvar Torah

Terrace heaters are now installed and we can't thank our generous sponsors enough for making this possible;

Ruth Bernstein, Joseph B. Blank,

Marcie & Ken Cappell, Ann Crane, Michael E. Doppelt,

Suzan & Fred Ehrman, Hannah Holmes & Paul Freilich,

Joyce & David J. Friedman, Nancy & Stephen Gates,

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Elaine & Scott Liebman, Margot and John Mann, Robin B. Michnick,

Chaim Pizem, Bina Presser, Esther & William Schulder,

Gale & Steven Spira, Stanley Grossman, Linda & Howard Sterling,

Jeff Schwartz & Milayna Subar, Shirley Wald,

Leora and Emmanuel Werthenschlag, and Jay Ziffer.

MAZAL TOV

Grandparents **David and Helene Katz Freedman** on the birth of twin boys, Binyamin Yehoshua and baby-to-be-named-later, to their children Baruch and Linda Freedman. Mazal tov also to the Uncles and Aunts Lavey, Aliza, Yonatan Shai, and Rachel Freedman, and Beny and Yoanna Rofeh.

Lois and Leslie Katz on the marriage of their granddaughter Gila Nicole Katz to David Shai Dadon. Mazal Tov to Gila's parents Benji and Michele Katz and David's parent's Shimon and Adrienne Dadon. Gila's Uncles and Aunts Josef and Shari Katz, Ari and Shimona Katz, Shoshana and Yehudah Segal and Tziona and Daniel Josephs.

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Friday Night:

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

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 4:12pm

Mincha followed by Kabbalat Shabbat at shul: 4:15pm Location: Ballroom

Sunset (daven Mincha by): 4:30pm

Repeat Shema: after 5:01pm

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

Latest Shema: 9:20am

Beginners Service: 9:30am Location: Belfer Beit Midrash (pre-registration required)

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

Latest Shacharit: 10:12am

Mincha followed by Maariv at shul: 4:10pm

Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.

Sunset (daven Mincha by, and begin seudah shlishit by): 4:30pm

Shabbat Ends: 5:13pm

Zoom Havdalah: 5:45pm (link in electronic Echod)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 6: Israel Philharmonic Presents Pre-Hanukkah Global

Celebration Exploring Music, Movies and Miracles: 2:00pm American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (AFIPO) and the Israel Philharmonic Foundation will premiere the "Israel Philharmonic Pre-Hanukkah Global Celebration," a multi-disciplinary program of instrumental performances, behind-the-scenes interviews, and powerful messages of hope. The event will stream internationally, free of charge, to bring music and holiday light from Israel's world-class Philharmonic to audiences around the world. (*Link in electronic echod*)

Monday, December 7: Save the Date Beginners Schmooze over Zoom:

8:15pm—9:30pm There will be a Beginners Schmooze over Zoom at no charge. Register online at lss.org/beginners.

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. Unforgettable in both its particulars and its sweep, *A Pigeon and A Boy* is a tale of lovers then and now. Meir Shalev, the internationally acclaimed Israeli writer, tells a story as universal as war and as intimate as a winged declaration of love. You can purchase the book (translated into English) from Amazon *link in electronic echod*. It also makes a great Hanukkah present! 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.

Chesed Opportunity: The UWS Gemach is looking for children's and babies' WARM WINTER coats, jackets, snowsuits and gloves. Please email uwsgemach@jewishcenter.org

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:

This week's Parsha, Vayeitzei, begins with Yakov's famous dream. Yakov watches as angels climb a ladder towards the heavens. He hears the words of Hashem, promising the land of Israel to him and his descendants. When he wakes up, Yakov creates a memorial from rocks to symbolize this holy place where the dream occurred. Yakov then travels to Charan where he begins to work for his uncle Lavan. Yakov meets Lavan's daughter, Rachel, and decides he wants to marry her. Lavan agrees to let Yakov marry his daughter, but only after he works for seven years. Finally, after seven long years, Lavan tricks Yakov into marrying his older daughter Leah instead of Rachel. Lavan agrees that Yakov can marry Rachel if he promises to work another seven years. Leah gives birth to six sons and one daughter, while Rachel is barren and unable to have children. Rachel offers Yakov her handmaid, Bilah, who then has two sons. Leah also offers Yakov her handmaid, Zilpah, who has two more sons. Finally, Rachel has one son, Joseph. After so many years in the home of Lavan, Yakov decides to leave Charan secretly at night.

Questions:

1. Where did Yakov eventually settle?
2. Who was Yakov married to?
3. How many children did Leah have and what were their names?
4. What is the name of Rachel's first born son?

4. Joseph

3. Six boys and one girl: Reuven, Shimon, Levi, Yehudah, Issachar,

2. Rachel, Leah, Bilah, and Zilpah

1. Charan

Answers:

We hope you enjoyed receiving our surprise gift; the **Thanksgiving cookie kits!** Most have been delivered today and some will be delivered tomorrow, Thursday morning. Deliveries have been left with your doorman or brought to your doors. Enjoy and Happy Thanksgiving! **Please note:** there will not be Groups on the Grass this Shabbat.

Thanksgiving Word Scramble



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|---------------|-------|
| 1. rcon | _____ |
| 2. ukppmin | _____ |
| 3. krueyt | _____ |
| 4. omfaylwer | _____ |
| 5. niwsebo | _____ |
| 6. ciarrbesne | _____ |
| 7. spmiligr | _____ |
| 8. ricdukmts | _____ |
| 9. dnenir | _____ |
| 10. syam | _____ |
| 11. solrl | _____ |
| 12. eremnbov | _____ |
| 13. gobabl | _____ |
| 14. dessret | _____ |
| 15. ngstufif | _____ |
| 16. uyhtarsd | _____ |
| 17. efats | _____ |
| 18. rgavy | _____ |
| 19. nnasidi | _____ |
| 20. rbeda | _____ |

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: 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: 8:00pm. Meeting ID: 811 662 074
- ***New Class* 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:

- **Paul Shaviv's Jewish History Course:** Topic: The Allure and the Cost of Messianism in Judaism: 8:00pm. 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.

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1. rcon

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Thanksgiving Word Scramble

DVAR TORAH

Parshat Vayetzi
November 27-28
By: Amos Alter

Ya'akov's Dream of the Sulam: What Color Were Ya'akov's Pajamas?

This week's Sedra tells us about Ya'akov (Gen. 28:11), ויקח מאבני המקום, וישם מראשיתו, "He [Ya'akov] took from among the stones of the place to insert under his head." In the following verse, we learn that he dreamed, "and behold, a ladder was standing on the ground."

We wish to ask four questions about these verses. Ya'akov took מאבני המקום, from the stones of the place. What did he take, a stone or stones? Rashi, following the Midrash (found at Hullin 91b), insists that there is no ambiguity, that Ya'akov took stones (in the plural). This of course creates an apparent contradiction with a later verse, which the Midrash, and Rashi, resolve in a manner known to us.

Our first question is:

(i) Why does Rashi find it necessary to read the earlier verse in the forced manner that he does, to create a contradiction which he then must resolve?

(ii) Our second question concerns the Sulam. Of what material was it made? Ladders could be made of rope or vines, if they were hanging ladders – but we are told that this Sulam was מוצב ארצה, standing ladder. Since we must, to avoid anachronisms, rule out aluminum, it would seem the answer is that the Sulam was made of wood. But we shall see.

(iii) Our third question is, what color were Ya'akov's pajamas? We shall see.

(iv) Our fourth question is, we have been translating Sulam as "ladder." But can we show that this is right? If we look at context, we see that it is a device that allows angels, and presumably (in normal use) people, to go up and down. While this certainly describes a ladder, it also describes a stairway or a ramp. Of these three possible meanings, "ladder" seems the least likely. Angels (in the plural) going up and down suggest a multi-user device, such as a ramp or stairway — a ladder is normally a single-user device.

If we look at the usage of Sulam elsewhere, we find nothing to help us. The word Sulam does not appear anywhere else in Tanach. Onkelos here translates it as סולמא which tells us nothing new.

The root of Sulam is apparently סלל, meaning "to trample." Moshe Rabbeinu says to Pharaoh (Ex. 9:17), עוֹדֵךְ מִסְתּוֹלָל בְּעַמִּי, whose meaning Rashi refers to Is.11:16, "והיתה מסילה, And it shall be a highway" (i.e., a tamped-down road). See also the beginning of the Haftarah of Yom Kippur (Is. 57:14), פֶּנּוּ דֶרֶךְ סִלּוֹ סִלּוֹ, "Pave, pave, clear the way." The word סולל, in the singular and plural, appears no fewer than eleven times in Nach, meaning a siege ramp.

Mention should also be made of the well-known geographic feature of the Middle East, referred to in modern Hebrew as סולמ צור, rendered in English as the "Ladder of Tyre." It is, in fact, a siege ramp, built by Alexander the Great. This landmark is referred to repeatedly in the

Gemara and other early sources as סולמא דצור, using the same term, that Onkelos used to translate סולמ in our verse.

We may now answer our fourth question, whether Sulam means "ladder," in the negative – Sulam in our verse probably means "ramp." With that understanding, we can revisit the second question, as to the material from which the Sulam was made. While a ramp, like a ladder, could be made of wood, it is more likely to be made of earth, or stone. And if we assume here the ramp of Ya'akov's Sulam was stone, we will see how everything falls into place.

Immediately before going to sleep, the verse tells us, Ya'akov placed a stone (or stones) למראשותיו. It is not unusual for people to dream about that with which they were concerned immediately before falling asleep. Indeed, that is how Yosef interpreted the dreams of the two servants of Pharaoh. They were fully aware, before falling asleep, of the significance of the date only three days in the future -- it was (Gen. 40:20) היום הולדת את פרעה, day of judgment. The two servants were in effect predicting their own fates three days from then. Yosef recognized the significance of the "three" element in their dreams, and interpreted their own respective predictions for them.

So, too, Ya'akov dreamed about the אבן אשר שם מראשיתו, the stone he placed under his head. It became the stone ramp, the Sulam, of his dream. It is because the stone was so meaningful to him that he made such a fuss about it when he awoke.

To answer our first question above, what is bothering Rashi, it is why tell us now about the stone (or stones), when we will be told about it/them later? Rashi therefore insists there is something new about the reference in our verse, namely that it must be talking about stones, in the plural, to set up a contradiction. We, however, have given another reason for the phrase – if one understands Sulam as a stone ramp, it helps to explain Ya'akov's dream, and that is why we are told about it.

This also answers the question as to the color of Ya'akov's pajamas – who cares? If it were significant, the Torah would have told us. If it does not tell us, then, like any other incidental aspect of the story, there is no need for us to know. The Torah added the seemingly unnecessary phrase, וישם מראשיתו. It must have significance, which is why Rashi seeks to determine its meaning. He offers one explanation; we have offered a different one.

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 Vayishlach (12/5)

Vayechi (1/2)

Yitro (2/6)

Mishpatim (Rosh Chodesh on Shabbat Shekalim) (2/13)

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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