

LSS UPDATE

LSS is closed for all services and programs, including Shabbat services and programs, until further notice.

Though it is our third shabbat apart our connection to each other and to Hashem remains as strong as ever. As you continue your prayer at home, please see below for important Shabbat times to be aware of. This week we have scheduled another beautiful virtual Kabbalat Shabbat and Havdalah with Rabbi Shaul Robinson (to join see times and link in the electronic version of Echod).

Many of us have begun to create some semblance of a new normal and have tried to create some structure and routine to our day. Others are still struggling with worry or anxiety and could use support without judgment. And still others are either dealing with being sick or knowing someone who is sick. We want you to know that, wherever you are on this journey, we are here for you and want to help.

The most important thing we can be doing now is checking up on people who are risk - phone them up and chat, help break the monotony - ask them what they need. If you would like to make calls to members of the shul please email chesed@lss.org. Everyone can be checking in on their neighbors and friends-whether it's by phone or by a note slipped under their door, just knowing someone cares can make all the difference in someone's day.

May our faith bring comfort and strength to us all and may we, B"H, resume our daily lives speedily and in good health.

SHABBAT TIMES

Friday Night

Kabbalat Shabbat on Zoom: 6:30pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting: 6:59pm
Sunset: 7:15pm
Repeat Shema after 7:56pm

Shabbat Day

Sunrise: 6:45am
Recite Shema by 9:53am
Recite Shacharit Amidah by 10:55am

Earliest time for Mincha: Midday 1:32pm
Sunset (daven Mincha by, and begin seudah shlishit by): 7:17pm
Shabbat Ends: 8:00pm
Havdalah on Zoom: 8:20pm

To join the Kabbalat Shabbat and Havdalah sessions, please click the link in the electronic version of Echod.

HAKARAT HATOV

Rabbi Charles Savenor for writing this week's Dvar Torah.

Eliana Price for leading our first virtual art class; Under the Sea, for our Youth Department.

MAZAL TOV

Grandparents Audrey and Sargent Aborn on the birth of a baby girl born to their children, Elizabeth and Moshe DiPoce.

UPCOMING EVENT

Wednesday, April 1: Town Hall Meeting: 7:00pm:

With special speaker on "Staying Positive During These Challenging Times" and "Making the Best of a Solo Seder". To join, please click the link in the electronic version of Echod.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Though we will not be joining together for communal kiddushim, we want to take this opportunity to list those sponsors that had every intention of sponsoring. We wish Mazal Tov's to those celebrating and Elyui Neshamot to those who are commemorating the loss of a loved one. May we very soon have the zechut again to share together in smachot and, lo'alenu, if difficult times befall, may we at the very least have the zechut to take comfort in coming together.

Beginners Kiddush: Deborah Croland in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of her beloved father, Stuart Croland (Yisrael Shlomo ben Avraham) z"l and in honor of Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald.

WEEKLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday:

- Sunday Morning Responsa** with Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld; Takes place after the 2nd Minyan.

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. This year, we will have a special focus on Israeli poetry.

- 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, a few sessions will require a modest fee for materials. To register, please email JLworkshop@yahoo.com. Topic: Kosher

Tuesday:

- The Marilyn & Sam Isler, "Studies in the weekly Parsha"** led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson: 10:30am- 11:30am.
- Beit Midrash night, The M'lachim (Kings) Study Group** led by Ron Platzer: 7:30pm-8:30pm.

Thursday:

- The Jacob Adler Parsha Class** Explorations in the Weekly Parsha. This week led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson: 7:00pm-8:00pm.

For access to all the Zoom links for these classes, please visit www.lss.org/learningopportunities.

PESACH @ LSS

LSS will again be selling Shatzer Shmurah Matzah for Passover. Cost: \$26 per pound for both regular and whole wheat. Place your orders at www.lss.org/form/matzah2020.

Sunday, April 5: Matzah Pickup times:
To help us adhere to social distancing please arrive during the time slot which corresponds to the first letter of your last name. If you arrive with others please be sure to stay at least 6 feet apart.
Thank you for your cooperation.

| Letters | Time |
|---------|-------------------|
| A-B | 9:00 - 9:30am |
| C-F | 9:30 - 10:00am |
| G-H | 10:00 - 10:30am |
| I -L | 10:30 - 11:00am |
| M-R | 11:00 - 11:30am |
| S-Z | 11:30am - 12:15pm |

DVAR TORAH

Parshat Vayikra

March 27-28

By: Rabbi Charles Savenor

Connections Across Time and Space

With the Tabernacle's construction complete, the Torah turns its attention to the laws of the sacrifices. The korbanot (whose Hebrew root letters translate as "close") described in Vayikra are vehicles for atonement and thanksgiving, creating a relationship with G-d.

What about the sacrificial system is intended to stimulate a sense of spiritual intimacy with the divine? In the description of the very first sacrifice, one curious detail provides us with a clue. When an Israelite offers a sin offering, the olah, "he shall lay his hand (samakh yado) upon the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him." [Lev. 1:4]

It is intriguing that this gesture serves no practical purpose. Semikhah neither holds the animal's head in place nor massages the animal's neck to bring out the jugular. One can argue that the service's more meaningful touchstone occurs when the person making the offering recites a prayer acknowledging their transgression.

While some commentators assert that the laying of the hands ritually demonstrates transference of his sins to the animal as our stand-in for punishment, others explain that this act represents sincere contrition. Through his posture, the penitent demonstrates humility and feels a sensory connection with his surroundings on multiple levels.

Our understanding of this hand-centered sacrificial ritual is enriched by the Hebrew word semikhah's usages in other biblical contexts. The one most familiar to us is the transfer of authority, such as when Moses appoints Joshua as his successor: "Take Joshua, the son of Nun, a man in whom is spirit, and lay your hand upon him" [Numbers 27:18]. In this iconic and moving

encounter, Moses' hands grant authority to and affirm Israel's next leader, who will lead the Jewish people to their future destiny. Thousands of years later this is still how rabbis receive their charge.

The Hebrew root of semikhah also translates as support. During the Ashrei prayer, based primarily in Psalms 145, we recite, "G-d supports (somech) those who have fallen and straightens all those who are bent." Fervently we pray that G-d will assist us in our most vulnerable moments, as much when we need to atone as when we feel alone.

On Friday night, when parents bless their children at the Sabbath table, words are coupled with action. This simple gesture constitutes a weekly reunion, a re-set, a reaffirmation of love.

The power of Torah is that a single word can simultaneously convey resonant connotations on many levels. Semikhah has a variety of meanings: the placing of hands, the transfer of authority and mutual love and support. The unifying thread among these concepts is connection.

Soon we will celebrate Passover. Mah Nishtanah: On all other years, Seder provides us with an opportunity to open our doors to anyone who is hungry not just for food, but for community. But this year we regretfully need to remain at home.

Despite our distance, we are together. The connection we share transcends time and space. This year Elijah will go from house to house partaking of the celebration as much as linking our seders to one another. With the subtle act of semikhah, the Torah teaches how small gestures can be a conduit of connection to G-d and, equally important, to community. May it be G-d's will that we be reunited soon.

Shabbat Shalom

We are currently looking for writers for:

Shabbat Shavuot (5/30)
Parshat Beha'alotecha (6/13)
Parshat Shelach (6/20)

Email dvar@lss.org or see Bill Greenbaum in shul.

**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.*

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