

### NO MORE COVID ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES!

Welcome to Lincoln Square Synagogue! In accordance with NY City and State regulations, wearing of masks is now optional at all services at LSS for adults and children, regardless of vaccination status, and indoor kiddushes and meals are no longer limited to vaccinated individuals. Of course, we request that attendees be sensitive to the comfort and safety concerns of others at shul by respecting any social distancing or masking desires of others.

### SHABBAT SCHEDULE

**Friday night:**  
**6:24pm** Earliest Candle Lighting  
**7:00pm** Mincha followed by Kabbalat Shabbat; Davening led by Jake Nussbaum  
 Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.  
**7:32pm** Candle Lighting  
**7:50pm** Sunset: Latest time to daven Mincha  
**8:21pm** Repeat Shema

**Shabbat:**  
**7:45am** Hashkama Minyan; Location: Belfer Beit Midrash. Shiur by Rabbi Moshe Sokolow on third floor; Hashkama Kiddush on The Spira Family Terrace.  
**9:00am** Chazzan Sherwood Goffin Memorial Minyan; Davening led by Jake Nussbaum  
 Drasha following Musaf given by Scholar in Residence Rabbi Yonatan Rosensweig  
 Topic: Treading to the Spiritual Needs of Those Dealing with Mental Health  
 Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.  
**9:23am** Latest Shema  
**9:30am** Beginners Service led by Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald; Location: 3rd Floor. Beginners Kiddush to follow.  
**9:45am** Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan; Location: Belfer Beit Midrash  
**10:00am** Shabbat Groups; Location: Second Floor Classrooms  
**10:33am** Latest Shacharit  
 Mini Shiur with Scholar in Residence Rabbi Yonatan Rosensweig following Main Kiddush  
**4:45pm** Q&A with Rav Rosensweig for Mental Health Professionals; Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary  
**5:40pm** Beginners Mishna Chavura with Moshe Sheinwexler; Location: Belfer Beit Midrash  
**6:25pm** Louis & Rhoda Lazar Memorial Shiur by Scholar in Residence Rabbi Yonatan Rosensweig  
 Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.  
**7:25pm** Mincha; Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary. Followed by Seudah Shlishit in the Ballroom. D’var Torah by Scholar in Residence Rabbi Yonatan Rosensweig  
**7:51pm** Sunset: daven Mincha  
**8:34pm** Ma’ariv/Havdalah

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

**Hashkama Kiddush:**  
**Suzan and Fred Ehrman** in commemoration of the 50th yahrtzeit of Fred's father, Samuel Ehrman z"l, Shmuel Pinchas ben Yaacov Tzvi, on 24 Nisan.  
**Robert and Elissa Burnat** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his mother Esther Gittel a"h, on 29 Nisan.

**Main Kiddush:** **Suzan and Fred Ehrman** on the occasion of their forthcoming Aliyah to Israel. וְשׁוּבוּ בָנִים לְגְבוּלָם

**Beginners Kiddush:**  
**Beatrice Stoller** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of her beloved brother, Arnold Marvin Mazur, Avraham Moishe ben Yitzchak Tsvi z"l  
**Richard Shaffer** in honor of Susie Levitt's Birthday and giving her first D'var Torah

**Seudah Shlishit:** Available to be sponsored.

To sponsor a Kiddush please email [info@lss.org](mailto:info@lss.org).

### WEEKDAY MINYAN INFORMATION

**Shacharit:**  
 Sunday, May 1 @ 8:30am  
 Monday, May 2 @ 7:20am  
 Tuesday, May 3 –Friday, May 6 @ 7:30am

**Mincha/Maariv:**  
 Sunday, May 1 & Monday, May 2 @ 7:40pm  
 Tuesday, May 3—Thursday, May 5, Yom Ha’atzmaut @ 7:45pm

### THIS SHABBAT: SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

**Scholar in Residence Rabbi Yonatan Rosensweig on Judaism and Mental Health in partnership with Mizrachi World Movement and Israel360.** See flyer for full SIR schedule. Rabbi Yoni Rosensweig is rabbi of the Netzach Menashe community in Beit Shemesh and is a teacher of Halacha, Gemara and Jewish thought. He previously served as Rosh Kollel of the Mizrachi community in Melbourne, Australia. Rav Yoni is today's leading voice in the field of mental health and halacha. He is the author of Nafshi B'She'eilati and the founder of Maaglei Nefesh, the Israel Institute for Mental Health and Halacha.

### ROSH CHODESH

The molad for Rosh Chodesh Iyyar will be on Sunday May 1, 20 minutes and 1 chelek after 5:00am. Rosh Chodesh Iyyar will be on Sunday, May 1 and Monday, May 2.

### HAKARAT HATOV

**Fred Ehrman** for writing this week’s Dvar Torah.

### MAZAL TOV

**Priscilla Konecky and Mark Tepper** on the engagement of their daughter, Julia Tepper to Matthew Olstein

**Raquel and Ari Selevan** on the birth of a baby boy!  
 Mazal tov to the proud Zaidy, **Joseph Verschleisser!**

**Suzan and Fred Ehrman** on their Aliyah to Israel! LSS wishes you, Suzan and Fred, much success and best wishes for a smooth Aliyah experience. You will be missed!

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**THIS SUNDAY, May 1st: Matan and Lincoln Square Synagogue Yom Iyun: My Heart Is In the East: 10:00am-1:00pm.**  
 Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary. Light brunch included. Please see flyer for a full list of speakers and topics.

**Wednesday May 4th: Community Wide Yom Hazikaron & Yom Ha'atzmaut Tekes Ma'avar: 7:00pm.** Location: West Side Institutional Synagogue. Tekes commemorating Yom Hazikaron followed by Tefilah Chagigit and concert by Eitan Katz. LSS in partnership with Bnei Akiva' BAbayit, WSIS, KRA, UJA Federation of New York, The Jewish Agency for Israel and UWS/Jews. Open to the entire community and free.

**Thursday May 5th: Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration: 6:00pm-9:00pm.**  
 Location: The Spira Family Terrace. Falafel and salads provided by Sova Catering. Israel themed crafts project for kids will be available. Sponsorship opportunities available. Cost: \$20 per person. Deadline to RSVP is Tuesday , May 10th 12:00pm. Register at: [www.lss.org/form/YomHaatzmaut-Celebration](http://www.lss.org/form/YomHaatzmaut-Celebration)  
 Schedule: Daf Yomi @ **6:15am**, Shacharit @ **7:30am** & **7:50am**, Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration @ **6:00pm**, Mincha/Maariv @ **7:45pm**

Thank you to the sponsors of our Yom Ha’atzmaut Celebration:  
**Margot and John Mann**  
**Esther and William Schuder**  
 in honor of Medinat Yisrael’s 74th Birthday!

## YOUTH AND MAGEN AVRAHAM TEEN DEPARTMENT

**Shabbat Youth Groups: 10:00am (Location: 2nd floor classrooms)**

Join us for davening, Torah & play.

Youth Directors: Romy and Avraham Sanger

Assistant Youth Director: Alexander Wildes

**Babies and Me: Shabbat, April 30 11:00am (Location: Room 206)**

## YOUTH DVAR TORAH

By: Avraham Sanger

In this week's Parsha we have the mitzvah of kisuy hadam, the commandment to cover at least part of the blood after a bird or non-domesticated animal is slaughtered.

The Gemara in Chullin (87a) says that just as the bird is slaughtered with one's hand, so too the blood is covered with one's hand. This excludes covering the blood by kicking dirt upon it with one's foot (which might be the most convenient way to accomplish the covering). The reason given is it is disrespectful to perform a mitzvah with one's foot when it can be performed with one's hand. Whenever we do a mitzvah, we should do it in the most respectful manner possible.

To go one step further, if we must cover the blood with dirt using our hands rather than our feet that we should not treat mitzvos in a callous fashion, how much more so do we need to be extremely sensitive when dealing with alive, breathing, and feeling, human beings.

## QUESTIONS

1. What does "achrei" mean?
2. What material was Aaron to wear when entering the Holy of Holies?
3. What was done with the "azazel" goat?
4. What must be done on the 10th day of the 7th month?

1. After [the death of Aaron's two sons]
2. Linen
3. It was sent out to the desolate desert
4. Afflict ourselves and not work

## ANSWERS



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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@RabbiLincolnSQ

## SAVE THE DATE!

# LSS 2022 Annual Dinner Sunday June 12th

More details to follow

## UPCOMING EVENTS

See front cover for info regarding Israel programming



**Saturday, May 7th: Beginners Luncheon**. The next Beginners Luncheon will be held NEXT Saturday, May 7th. The cost is only \$25 per person. Register and pay online at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners) or call 212-874-6100. Please make your reservations and payment by THIS Wednesday, May 4th.

**Monday, May 9th: LSS and the Manhattan Yoetzet Initiative Present: A Jewish Approach to Sexuality and Intimacy with Shiffy Friedman, Yoetzet Halacha of Manhattan. 7:00pm.** Hosted by Adina Dolfman. Location: The Rushmore party room at 80 Riverside Blvd. Light refreshments provided. Open to married and unmarried women. RSVPs encouraged! To RSVP please email Adina Dolfman at [Adina.Dolfman@gmail.com](mailto:Adina.Dolfman@gmail.com).

Shiffy Friedman serves as Yoetzet Halacha for multiple Manhattan synagogues. In this role, she provides personal consultation and leads communal education in the area of women's health and halacha. For questions related to women's health and halacha, be in touch with Shiffy at [nycyoetzet@gmail.com](mailto:nycyoetzet@gmail.com) or 646-598-1080.

**Monday, May 9th Beginners Schmooze: 8:15-9:30pm:** via Zoom. Register online at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners)

**Tuesday, May 10th: Israeli Book Club: 7:00pm.** We read books written by Israeli authors and then discuss them. The next book we will read and discuss is Petty Business by Yirmi Pinkus. A tragic-comic novel in its essence, Petty Business chronicles a year in one family's life, set against the backdrop of Tel Aviv's rapidly changing global economy in the early 1990s. Pinkus's biting critique of Tel Aviv's provincial character and its residents' shtetl mentality is delivered with a perfect combination of wit, humor, and tender pathos. Register [here](#)

If, due to a disability, you need an accommodation made or you need help registering for an event, please call (212)-874-6100.

CELEBRATING ISRAEL AROUND THE WORLD

**LINCOLN SQUARE SYNAGOGUE**  
PRESENTS A SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE SHABBAT WITH  
**RABBI YONATAN ROSENWEIG**

**SHABBAT PARASHAT**  
**ACHAREI MOT**  
**APRIL 30, 2022**

**SHABBAT SCHEDULE**  
Drasha after Musaf  
Tending to the Spiritual Needs of Those Dealing with Mental Health

Rabbi Yonatan Rosenweig is rabbi of the Hatzich "Menachem" community in Beit Shemesh and is a teacher of Halacha, Gemara and Jewish thought. He previously served as Rosh Kollel of the Menachem community in Melbourne, Australia. Rav Yoni is today's leading voice in the field of mental health and halacha. He is the author of Nafshi B'Sheleil and the founder of Maggid Hatzich, the Israel Institute for Mental Health and Halacha.

Israel360 reflects Israel's international reach and Menachem's mission of spreading Torah Eretz Yisrael across the world. To celebrate Israel during the month of Iyar, Menachem brings inspiring Israel speakers and writers to 360 communities around the globe. [www.menachem.org/Israel360](http://www.menachem.org/Israel360)

4:45 pm  
Q&A with Rav Rosenweig for Mental Health professionals  
moderated by Sondra Gross, LCSW

Pre-Mincha shiur 6:25 pm  
OCD and Halacha - Examples of Challenges, and Their Solutions

Sundat shabbat  
If I had one piece of advice for supporting people with mental health challenges, what would it be?

EMAIL INFO@LSS.ORG IF YOU WANT TO SPONSOR

Matan and Lincoln Square Synagogue Yom Iyun

Sunday • May 1<sup>st</sup> • 10am-1pm

**My heart is in the East**  
**ליבי במזרח**

Opening remarks:  
**Rabbi Saul Robinson • Rabbanit Malka Bina**

**Dr. Yael Ziegler**  
Rivers and Rain: Gan Eden and the Land of Israel

**Rachelle Sprecher Fraenkel**  
"Raise your eyes and look around: they are all assembling and returning to you" (re u'rei)

**Yael Leibowitz**  
"When the Biblical Past and Jewish Present Collide"

Light brunch will be served

[WWW.MATAN.ORG](http://WWW.MATAN.ORG) • [WWW.MATAN.ORG](http://WWW.MATAN.ORG)

INFO@MATAN.ORG • 1-800-441-6446 • 905-880-0300

## WEEKLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### Sunday:

- 9:15am-10:15am: Sh'eilot and Tshuvot:led by Assistant Rabbi Yoni Zolty.** Come and learn some classic and contemporary responsa Sunday mornings after Shacharit. In person and via Zoom. In person location: Belfer Beit Midrash. Meeting ID: 838 3061 9860 Passcode: 354153. Sponsors are welcome.

### Monday:

- 11:00am-12:00pm: A Gemara Class Bava Kama: Laws of Personal Injury led by Rabbi Robinson:** Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary. Repeated on Zoom Tuesday at 8:00pm.
- \*Will resume next week\* 7:00pm-8:15pm: Chug Ivrit led by Harel Fenigstein Chadashot (News from Israel):** Available in person or via Zoom. Register at <https://www.jotform.com/212903440529048>
- 7:00pm-8:00pm: Shabbat in the City: How Halacha Responds to Modern Innovations in a Cosmopolitan World led by Assistant Rabbi Yoni Zolty:** In person location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary. Meeting ID: 822 5613 5886 Passcode: 114608
- 7:30-8:30pm Beginners The Jewish Living Workshop led by Dassa and Bill Greenbaum.** This Monday only, hybrid workshop in person and via Zoom. For in person info email [jlworkshop@yahoo.com](mailto:jlworkshop@yahoo.com). Register at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners). Meeting ID: 852 4193 5346 Passcode: 226256

### Tuesday:

- 11:00am-12:00pm: The Marilyn & Sam Isler, "Studies in the Weekly Parsha" led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson: Topic:** Meeting ID: 241022510. Passcode: 983323. Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.
- 1:45pm-2:45pm Journey through Nach: Sefer Yehoshua at LSS led by Rabbinic Intern Daniel Gottesman.** Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary
- 8:00pm Beit Midrash night, The M'lachim (Kings) Study Group led by Ron Platzer:** Meeting ID: 850 0937 1460 Password: 560900
- 8:00pm :A Gemara Class Bava Kama: Laws of Personal Injury led by Rabbi Robinson:** Meeting ID: 858 4080 4793 Passcode: 931015

### Wednesday:

- 12:00pm-1:00pmPersonalities in Rabbinic Literature led by Rabbanit Mindy Schwartz Zolty** Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.
- \*Moved to Monday's Time Slot\* 7:00pm-8:00pm: Chug Ivrit - Safa Ivrit (Hebrew Language) led by Harel Fenigstein:** Available in person or via Zoom. Register at <https://www.jotform.com/212903661753153>

### Thursday:

- 11:30am-12:30pm: Women's Talk Time: led by School Psychologist Ruth Moser Riemer:** Meeting ID: 972 4054 8238 Password: 142533
- 7:45pm: Jacob Adler Parsha Class: Explorations in the Weekly Parsha led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson** Meeting ID: 912 657 888 Passcode: 226974. In person Location: Belfer Beit Midrash.

\*Dial in code for all meetings hosted by LSS is 646-876-9923

## CHESED OPPORTUNITY

The horrific humanitarian crisis in Ukraine continues to unfold. We have all seen the images of the bombing of civilian targets, the columns of refugees desperately seeking to escape, and the fierce resistance to the Russian invaders. There are about 200,000 Jews caught up in this tragedy and who need our help. Please consider making a generous contribution to either the UJA special appeal or to the Joint Distribution Committee to help our brothers and sisters.

Please see our electronic Echod for donation links.

## Shabbat

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SUNDOWN  
PRAYERS  
WINE  
FAMILY  
VOICES RISE  
SHABBAT  
CHALLAH  
EAT AND DRINK  
CANDLESTICKS  
KIDDUSH  
HAMOTZI  
KIPPOT  
FRIDAY NIGHT  
MEZUZAH

## HONORING THE IDF

On our website, under the About Us section and within the Israel tab, is a flyer honoring and listing family members and loved ones of LSS members who have served in the IDF.

To submit names, please email [renee@lss.org](mailto:renee@lss.org).

We thank those individuals for their service to Medinat Yisrael and continue to wish for peace in our beautiful country.

Please see below for members and loved ones who have and are currently serving in the IDF.

|                             |  |               |   |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------|---|
| Irving Goldofsky z"l        |  | 1947-1949     | War of Independence                               |
| Oscar Hamelsdorf z"l        |  | 1947-1949     | Hagana/IDF  |
| Gideon Markowitz z"l        | (Brother in Law of Ora Hamelsdorf)       | 1957-1961     | Nahal Brigade, Yom Kippur War & First Lebanon War |
| Alan Papier                 |  | 1984-1985     | Givati Brigade                                    |
| Ram Markowitz               | (Nephew of Ora Hamelsdorf)               | 1990-1993     | Givati Brigade                                    |
| Avi Sussman                 |  | 1991-1992     | Armored Corps                                     |
| Alon Markowitz              | (Nephew of Ora Hamelsdorf)               | 1992-1995     | Armored Brigade                                   |
| JJ Sussman                  |  | 1994-1995     | Artillery Corps                                   |
| Idan Ziv z"l                | (Nephew of Esther and Marty Isak)        | 1996-1999     | Cheil Hakesher                                    |
| Dan Markowitz               |  | 1999-2002     | IDF Hawk PIP 3                                    |
| Yosef Sinai (Teleky)        |  | 2002-2003     | Shimshon Battalion                                |
| Rabbi Yonatan Shai Freedman |  | 2003-2004     | Armored Corps                                     |
| Elliot Z                    |  | 2005-2006     | Nahal Division                                    |
| Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld        |  | 2006-2008     | 605 Combat Engineers                              |
| Ezra ben Gabriel            | (Nephew of David Menaged)                | 2006-2009     | Intelligence                                      |
| Aaron ben Gabriel           | (Nephew of David Menaged)                | 2007-2010     | Intelligence                                      |
| Benjamin ben Gabriel        | (Nephew of David Menaged)                | 2011-2014     | Intelligence                                      |
| Hillel Axelrod              |  | 2011-2014     | Kfir Division                                     |
| Abbaiah Savitt              |  | 2012-2013     | Nahal Division                                    |
| Yael Merlin                 |  | 2012-2016     | Intelligence Unit-8200                            |
| Daniel Shibley              |  | 2013-2015     | Nahal Division                                    |
| Eddie (Ezra) ben Yehuda     | (Nephew of David Menaged)                | 2014-2016     | Navy Squad  |
| Channa bat Gabriel          | (Niece of David Menaged)                 | 2014-2016     | COGAT   |
| Mayer Horwitz               |  | 2015-2019     | 7th Armored Brigade                               |
| Noam Teleky                 |  | 2016-2018     | Nahal   |
| Lital Hadad                 |  | 2016-2019     | Intelligence Unit-8200                            |
| Jordana Offer               |  | 2017-2019     | Education Corps                                   |
| Daniel Vogel                |  | 2017-2019     | Nahal Brigade                                     |
| Binyamin Goffin             |  | 2020          | Palgat Hanegev-Combat Medic                       |
| Daniel Ochana               | (Cousin on Esther and Marty Isak)        | 2021          | Chail Hahandasa                                   |
| Maiy Ochana                 | (Cousin on Esther and Marty Isak)        | 2021          | Chail Hayam                                       |
| Amit Paska                  | (Grand-Nephew of Esther and Marty Isak)  | 2021          | Nahal Brigade                                     |
| Yonatan Markowitz           | (Grand-Nephew of Ora Hamelsdorf)         | February 2022 | Unit 9900   |
| Amishav Weinstein           | (Grandson of Marty-Ruth and Perry Davis) | April 2022    | Special Forces                                    |



## DVAR TORAH

Parshat Acharei Mot  
April 29-30, 2022  
Nisan 29, 5782  
By Fred Ehrman

### The Day They Feasted on Yom Kippur

And this shall be to you a law for all time; in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall **afflict** yourselves; and you shall not do any work, neither the citizen nor the stranger who dwells among you. (Vayikra 16:29)

וְהָיְתָה לָכֶם לְחֻקֹּת עוֹלָם בְּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי בְּעֹשׂוֹר לַחֹדֶשׁ תַּעֲנֻ אֶת-נַפְשֵׁיכֶם וְכָל-מְלֹאכָה לֹא תַעֲשׂוּ הָאָזְנִחַ וְהָגֵר הַגֵּר בְּתוֹכְכֶם:

What is the meaning of affliction in this context?

וְאִם נִפְשֶׁךָ לומר, הֲרִי הוּא אומר: “וְהָאֲבֻדִּית אֶת הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַזֶּה”, עָנִי שֶׁהוּא אֲבִידֵת הַנֶּפֶשׁ, וְאִי זֶה זֶה? זֶה אֲכִילָה וְשִׁתִּי:

“And if it is your wish to say” something to challenge this reasoning, the Gemara brings an additional proof: “Surely, the verse states” with regard to one who violates Yom Kippur: “I will destroy that soul from among his people” (Leviticus 23:30). Therefore, “affliction is something that destroys a soul. And what is that? That is” refraining from “eating and drinking,” since someone who does not eat and drink at all will die. The Torah is referring only to afflictions that lead to death (Yoma 74:B).

Eating and drinking on Yom Kippur is a major sin punishable with *Karet*, spiritual excision. But there is a story in the Book of Kings that has always confounded me.

King Solomon has completed the building of the *Beit Hamikdash* and gives us one of the most emotional and beautiful prayers and supplications recorded in the Scriptures. (Please read 1 Kings 8:22-61 to get the full flavor.) He then makes a great feast for all the people that lasts 14 days and ends on Shemini Atzeret.

וַיַּעַשׂ שְׁלֹמֹה בַּעֲדֵי-הָהִיא אֶת-הַחֹךְ וְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ הָקָל גָּדוֹל מִלְּבֹא חֲמַת עַד-גִּחַל מִצָּרִים לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ שִׁבְעֵת יָמִים וְשִׁבְעֵת יָמִים אַרְבַּעַה עָשָׂר יוֹם

“So, Solomon and all Israel with him—a great assemblage, [coming] from Lebo-hamath to the Wadi of Egypt observed the feast at that time before the LORD our G-d, seven days and again seven days, fourteen days in all” (1 Kings 8:65).

וַיִּזְבַּח הַמֶּלֶךְ שְׁלֹמֹה אֶת-זִבְחֵי הַבֶּקָר עֶשְׂרִים וּשְׁלֹשׁ אֶלֶף וְצֹאן מִאֵה וָעֶשְׂרִים אֶלֶף וַיִּחַנְכוּ אֶת-בֵּית אֱלֹהִים הַמֶּלֶךְ וְכָל-הָעָם:

“King Solomon offered as sacrifices 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep; thus, the king and all the people dedicated the House of G-d” (II Chronicles 7:5).

וּבָיִוִם עֶשְׂרִים וּשְׁלֹשָׁה לַחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי שִׁלַּח אֶת-הָעָם לְאֶהֱלֵיהֶם שְׂמֵחִים וְטוֹבֵי לֵב עַל-הַטּוֹבָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה יְהוָה לְדָוִד וּלְשְׁלֹמֹה וּלְיִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ:

“On the twenty-third day of the seventh month, he dismissed the people to their homes, rejoicing and in good spirits over the goodness that the LORD had shown to David and Solomon and His people Israel” (II Chronicles 7:9-10).

The people went home on the 23rd day of Tishrei and that meant the festivities began on the 8th of Tishrei. **What happened on Yom Kippur!** Did they disregard or forget the solemnity and the prohibitions of that day?

Radak comments on this by citing the following Gemara:

כי חנכת המזבח עשו שבעת ימים.  
אמר רבי פרנך אמר רבי יוחנן:  
ן: אותה שנה לא עשו ישראל את יום הכפרים. והיו דואגים ואומרים  
שמה נחתנו בידי שונאיהן של ישראל בלילה, יצתה בת קול ואמרה להם  
כולכם מזומנים לחיי העולם הבא.

Apropos the discussion of the celebration at Solomon’s dedication of the Temple, the Gemara relates that “Rabbi Parnakh said that Rabbi Yohanan said: That year, the Jewish people did not observe Yom Kippur” as the seven-day celebration of the dedication of the Temple coincided with Yom Kippur and all seven days were celebrated with feasting. “And the people were worried and said: Perhaps the enemies of the Jewish people,” [a euphemism for the Jewish people themselves], “have become liable to be destroyed” for the transgression of eating on Yom Kippur, which is punishable by *Karet*. “A Divine Voice issued forth and said to them: All of you are designated for life in the World-to-Come” (Moed Katan 9A).

What could King Shlomo have been thinking in organizing this major celebration and feast on the holiest day of the year? We learn about the 39 *Avot Melacha* from the the building of the Mishkan. The Torah teaches us that this holy task of the Mishkan’s construction does not override the Shabbat. And here Shlomo pushes aside Yom Kippur to hold a big party to celebrate the inauguration of the Temple? Could he not have paused for one day during this two-week celebration? And why would a *Bas Kol*, the Divine Voice, affirm this

action?

I would like to offer the following suggested explanation. And for that we have to go back to the origins of the holiday of Yom Kippur.

Moshe ascended Har Sinai for 40 days after the Torah was given. The people expected his return on the 16th of Tammuz. When he did not show up, the people panicked and produced the Golden Calf, the *Eigel Hazahav*, an idol which would substitute for their missing leader. When Moshe came down on the next day, the 17th of Tammuz, he witnessed the horrible scene of an orgy replete with eating and drinking in the worship of the Golden Calf. After breaking the *Luchot* (tablets), and chastising all the participants, he again ascended Sinai for another 80 days and prayed that the people be forgiven with a new set of Luchot. He finally came down again on the 10th of Tishrei, which from that day forward has been called Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

With that as background, we can begin to understand Shlomo’s thinking. Remembering the grievous sin of the Eigel Hazahav, he felt that the Temple and its predecessor Mishkan, which some say was necessitated because of the sin of the Eigel, should make up for that action. **There the people gave their gold to build an idol. Here the people contributed their gold to build a place for the *Shechina*. There the people ate and drank in celebrating the idol. Here they ate and drank in dedication of the Temple. There the people were involved in lascivious activities and *Arayot*, forbidden relationships. Here they were celebrating marital purity.**

Here is how the Gemara in Moed Katan describes and contrasts this:

יצתה בת קול ואמרה להם: כולכם מזומנים לחיי העולם הבא. ומנלן דאחיל להו? דתני תחילפא: ביום השמיני שלח את העם ויברכו את המלך וילכו לאהליהם שמחים וטובי לב על כל הטובה אשר עשה ה' לדוד עבדו ולישראל עמו

“A Divine Voice issued forth and said to them: All of you are designated for life in the World-to-Come.” The Gemara asks: “And from where do we derive that God pardoned them” for this sin? The Gemara answers: The Sage “Tahlifa taught” in a *Baraita* that the verse states: “On the eighth day he sent the people away, and they blessed the king, and went to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the Lord had done for David His servant and for Israel His people” (I Kings 8:66).

“לאהליהם” — שהלכו ומצאו נשים בטהרה, “שמחים” — שנהנו מזיו השכינה, “וטובי לב” — שכל אחד ואחד נתעברה אשתו בבו זכר, “על כל הטובה” — שיצתה בת קול ואמרה להם: כולכם מזומנים לחיי העולם הבא.

This verse may be expounded as follows: The words “To their tents” indicate “that they went and found their wives in” a state of “purity,” as the terms tent and house often denote one’s wife. The term “joyful” is referring to the fact “they had enjoyed the splendor of the Divine Presence,” as there was a revelation of the Divine Presence when the offerings were sacrificed in the Temple. The phrase “and glad of heart” refers to the fact that “each of their wives conceived a male child.” The words “for all the goodness” indicate “that a Divine Voice issued forth and said to them: All of you are designated for life in the World-to-Come,” which is the ultimate good (Moed Katan 9A). It is as if the Bas Kol now said: “You have consoled Me, My children, You have consoled Me, My children.”

נחמתני בני נחמתני בני

In other words, this 14-day celebration was a *Tikkun* (repair) for the one day of calamity which introduced idolatry just weeks after the historic event of Matan Torah. The Mishkan/Temple which was necessitated because of the sin of the Eigel, and Yom Kippur which had its roots in that sin, all come together in this great feast.

May we all be witness again to the building of the Third Beit Hamikdash, which if inaugurated on Yom Kippur, will lead us to feasting and not fasting on that day. May that day come soon and in our time.

\* *Baraita* – Teachings in the oral law not incorporated in the Mishnah

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