

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, April 18 @ 8:30am

Monday, April 19 — Friday, April 23 @ 7:30am

Mincha/Maariv:

Sunday, April 18 — Thursday, April 22 @ 7:30pm

MAZAL TOV

Shirley Stark and Mark Hus on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Esther Tova Hus in Jerusalem, daughter of Moshe and Shula Hus. Mazal Tov to all the Aunts, Uncles, siblings and cousins.

Gale and Steven Spira upon the occasion of the marriage of their Grandson, Yaakov, to Michal Richland. Mazal Tov to parents David and Michelle Spira, and Mira and Oren Richland and Aliza and Baruch Mendelowitz. Mazal Tov to aunt and uncle Avi and Shira Spira and to cousins Mia, Sara, Jack and Liv.

Great Grandparents **Judy and Joel Schreiber** on the birth of a baby girl to grandchildren Blima and Ben Weintraub.

HAKARAT HATOV

Evan Sehgal for writing this week's Dvar Torah

Thank you to our UWS Shaliach, **Harel Fenigstein**, to **Nathan Vogel**, and to **Chazzan Yanky Lemmer** without whom we could not have had such a beautiful Tekes Maavar on Wednesday evening.

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

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Friday night:

Zoom Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:00pm (link in electronic Echod)
Earliest Candle Lighting: 6:14pm
Mincha followed by Kabbalat Shabbat at shul: 7:00pm
Location: Ballroom
Shabbat Candle Lighting: 7:19pm
Sunset (daven Mincha by): 7:37pm
Repeat Shema: after 8:08pm

Shabbat:

Hashkama Minyan: 7:45am Location: The Spira Family Terrace (weather/temperature permitting).
Shabbat Morning Services at shul: 9:00am
Location: Ballroom
Beginners Service: 9:30am Location: Belfer Beit Midrash (pre-registration required)
Latest Shema: 9:34am
Terrace Minyan: 9:40am (Location: Spira Family Terrace)
Latest Shacharit: 10:41am
Tots on the Terrace: 11:30 (This week it will take place on the Spira Terrace)
Mincha at 7:15pm Location: Sanctuary
Sunset (daven Mincha by, and begin seudah shlishit by): 7:38pm
Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends: 8:20pm
Zoom Havdalah: 8:45pm (link in electronic Echod)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 18: Women's Rosh Chodesh Iyar Shiur: 8:00pm
led by Mindy Shwartz Zolty. Topic: and they died before the Lord: a closer look at the mysterious death of Nadav and Avihu.
Meeting ID: 95807380144 Password: 655410

Sunday, May 2 till Wednesday, May 5: The Global Family Health & Halacha Conference

Nishmat's Miriam Glaubach Center is honored to partner with Mizrahi Canada and The Canadian Yoatzot Initiative (CYI), bringing together 70 shuls and 20 partnering organizations from around the world. We will convene to strengthen relationships and marriages, to address medical and emotional challenges, and to heal individuals, families and communities through Torah's timeless wisdom. And on top of it all, this conference is completely free of cost. *For more information and the link to register, please see online echod.*

Monday, May 3, 8:30-9:45PM (Please note new time), there will be a Beginners Schmooze with Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald

This will take place over Zoom at no charge.

Register at www.lss.org/beginners

If you missed the program on Israel's War of Independence, the link is available in the online echod to view it now.

MEDASSURE PHARMACY

Medassure Pharmacy has been providing in-house covid testing for the Jewish communities of the Five Towns and Long Island and is happy to announce it will now be providing this convenient service for the UWS Jewish community. They accept most insurance plans and there is no copay fee.

E: medassurepharm@gmail.com T: (646) 818-9824

YOUTH AND MAGEN AVRAHAM TEEN DEPARTMENT

Dvar Torah:

This week, we'll read a double Parsha, Tazria and Metzora. Both Parshiot discuss Tzaraat, a term which is often inaccurately described as leprosy. Tazria discusses the signs of Tzaraat and Metzora discusses how to get rid of it. Our sages tell us that Tzaraat was actually a punishment for Lashon Harah, speaking badly of another person. When one did Teshuva, the Tzaraat would go away. There were four different types of Tzaraat and if it was suspected, the person went to the Kohen who would quarantine them for one week and return to check if the Tzaraat was still there. The Torah describes a different type of Tzaraat that would appear on the walls of someone's home. In order to remove it, the person had to remove large stones from within their walls. Rashi says this was actually a blessing in disguise, because frequently when the walls were torn down, people found buried treasure that was left by the Canaanites.

Although we no longer have the disease of Tzaraat, we can learn from this week's double Parshiot how terrible the sin of Lashon Harah is and how careful we must be never to speak badly of another person. Rashi further teaches us that what appears at first to be a terrible experience can turn into a positive outcome.

Questions:

1. What is Lashon Harah?
2. How did our sages define Tzaraat?
3. Who was in charge of diagnosing Tzaraat?

1. Speaking badly of another person
2. A punishment for speaking Lashon Harah
3. The Kohanim

Answers:

YOUTH EVENTS

Youth Groups: 1:30-12:30pm (Location: Spira Terrace) Masks must be worn at all times.

Thursday, April 29: Youth Department Lag B'Omer BBQ: 5:00pm
Join us on the Spira Terrace for hot dogs, hamburgers, music, snow cones and prizes. Masks are required. \$20 per family. To register please visit <https://www.lss.org/event/bbq>

Motzei Shabbat, April 24: Teen Chess Tournament: 8:30pm
To register please visit <https://www.lss.org/event/chess>

Sunday, May 2: The Mighty Ducks' Movie Night: 5:00pm:
\$5 a person, if you are interested in sponsoring, please email youth@lss.org

Sunday, May 16: Tikun Leil Shavout: 10:00pm - 1:00am:
Teen Learning program

Monday, May 17: Shavuot Ice Cream Party: 11:00am:
if you are interested in sponsoring, please email youth@lss.org.

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 Chadashot (News from Israel):** 7:00pm-8:15pm. This class covers news and feature stories from Israel; we discuss recent events, watch video clips and listen to Israeli songs. The class is taught virtually entirely in Hebrew and assumes a fairly advanced knowledge of the language. If you can have a conversation with your Israeli family primarily in Hebrew, this is the class for you. The class is taught by Harel Fenigstein, the Jewish Agency shaliach (emissary) for the UWS. *Meeting ID: 853 8744 3723 Password: 180613*
- **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. Topic: Part 2: Weekday prayers - Shemoneh Esrei. The workshop is free. To register, please email JLworkshop@yahoo.com. *Meeting ID: 918 4115 8366 Password: 865860*
- **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: 974 8108 9782 Password: 389511*
- **The World of Middot** with Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld: 8:00pm-8:45pm A special series for Sefirat HaOmer focusing on character development and refinement, utilizing Jewish wisdom from Tanach to Kabbalah to contemporary sources. *Meeting ID: 827 823 0785 (no password needed)*

Wednesday:

- **Chug Ivrit - Safa Ivrit (Hebrew Language) led by Harel Fenigstein:** 7:00pm-8:15pm The emphasis in this class is on improving the students' knowledge of the Hebrew language. It features explanations of Hebrew words, roots of words (i.e., shorashim), and idiomatic expressions. There are also news items and feature stories. It is taught at a slightly lower level of Hebrew than Monday's class, and includes more English translations, but is not meant for beginners in Ivrit. If you can negotiate your way through Tachana HaMerkazit or through Mahane Yehuda in Hebrew, this is the class for you. The class is taught by Harel Fenigstein, the Jewish Agency shaliach (emissary) for the UWS. *Meeting ID: 853 8744 3723 (Password: 180613)*
- ***New Class* Jewish History Course: Some Great Jewish Families led by Paul Shaviv 8:00pm** Topic: The Rothschilds—From Frankfurt Ghetto to Iconic Name *Meeting ID: 914 1219 4324 Passcode: 790939*

Thursday:

- **Women's Talk Time:** led by School Psychologist Ruth Moser Riemer: 11:30am-12:30pm. *Meeting ID: 972 4054 8238 Password: 142533*
- **The Jacob Adler Parsha Class** Explorations in the Weekly Parsha led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson: 6:30-7:30pm. *Meeting ID: 912 657 888*.
- **Parashat HaShavua** led by Rabbi. Moshe Sokolow: 8:15pm. *Meeting ID: 846 701 6968. Sponsored by Aviva and Marvin Sussman and Judy and Moshe Sokolow in memory of their parents Sol and Roslyn Sussman, z"l, and Charles Bendheim, z"l, whose yahrtzeits are all in the month of Iyar.*

DVAR TORAH

Parashat Tazria-Metzora

April 16-17

By: Evan Sehgal

I would like to retell (with a few personal emendations) an interesting *shiur* about *tzaraas* I heard from Rabbi David Fohrman. *Tzaraas*, צרעת, seems like an ancient disease, but the lessons from this affliction are relevant today. *Tzaraas* is a spiritual death, for which atonement and rebirth are possible. There are allusions to צרעת and its cure in the story of Joseph and the first *Korban Pesach* in Egypt.

The visible manifestation of צרעת is a pure white discoloration of skin. The *metzora*, the one afflicted with *tzaraas*, is exiled from the community and lives alone until cured. The ritual remedy involves two birds, one of which is set free, the other of which is slaughtered. The blood from the latter bird is collected in a basin over running water. Cedar wood, scarlet thread and a hyssop branch are placed in the bowl. The *metzora*'s entire body is shaven and then sprinkled with the blood-tinged water. Seven days after he is cured, he may rejoin the community (Vayikra 14).

The Talmud lists seven reasons one might be afflicted with the disease: Gossip (*lashon harah*), murder, perjury, forbidden sexual relationships, arrogance, theft, and envy (Arakhin 16a). The subject of gossip feels embarrassment and ostracism, both of which are likened to murder (Bava Metzia 58a).

Miriam was punished with צרעת. She spoke *lashon harah* about her brother Moshe (Bamidbar 12:1). Aaron describes her skin turning as "white as snow," מוצרעת כשלג (12:10). When Miriam is cured, the Torah uses an unusual expression for her rejoining the community: "gathered back into her people." ... "let her be shut up without the camp seven days, and after that she shall be gathered back in again" (Bamidbar 12:14). This is the same expression of reuniting used when Moshe dies and joins community of the righteous in Gan Eden. "and die in the mount where you go up, and be gathered unto your people" (Devarim 32: 50).

The primary effect of *lashon harah* is to cause social isolation, as much for the talebearer as for the subject of the gossip. Joseph's brothers shunned him after he "brought evil reports of them unto their father" (Bereshit 37:2). Jacob tried to reunite his family and sent Joseph to "find and rejoin" his brothers (37:13). In the course of searching, Joseph encountered the angel Gabriel in the form of a man. "And the man asked him, saying: 'What are you seeking? And he said: 'I seek my brethren. Tell me, I pray thee, where are they. And the man said: 'They are departed hence'; (Bereshit 37:15-17). If Joseph's real question was where his brothers were physically, the man should have answered, "they departed from here" – "נסעו מכאן".

However, the angel was answering Joseph's real question, you seek brotherhood, but your brothers have departed from this brotherly feeling. Joseph's *lashon hara* had put him outside his family (Rashi).

The consequence for Yosef of speaking *lashon harah* was a second, even more precarious near-death experience. "When Joseph had come to his brethren, they stripped Joseph of his coat.... and cast him into the pit" (Bereshit 37: 23-24). In a Jewish burial, the deceased is placed naked into a grave. When Reuven returned and found the pit empty, he tore his clothes (37:29), as a mourner would perform קריעה. Then the brothers dipped Joseph's coat in blood, trying to create the impression that Joseph had been killed by wild animals (Bereshit 37:31). When the brothers extracted Yosef from the pit to sell him to the Ishmaelites, ויעלו את יוסף מן מבור (Bereshit 3:28), the Torah uses the word **משכו** which is only used one other time in the Torah, to describe the process of extracting a sheep from the flock to be used as the *Korban Pesach* in Egypt. Moses commanded the elders of Israel, "Draw out, and take you lambs according to your families" ויקרא משה (Shemot 12:21). **משכו** וקחו לכם תאן למפחתיכם

Each of the items involved in the purification process for a *metzora* has a deeper meaning, in *Pesach* and the redemption from Egypt. The scarlet thread identifies the firstborn; G-d calls "Israel My son, My firstborn. (Shemot 4:22). (A scarlet thread as was placed by the midwife on the hand of Yaakov to mark the first limb to emerge when Rivka gave birth to Yaakov and Esav, Bereshit 38: 28.) The bird set free into the desert represents the firstborns of Israel who were spared on the night of *Pesach*; the slaughtered bird represents the firstborns of Egypt who were killed in the final plague. The blood of the bird turns the bowl of water red just as G-d turned the waters of the Nile into blood with the first plague. Hyssop was the paint brush Bnei Yisroel used to spread blood of the *Korban Pesach* around their (cedar) door frames.

The purification process is a symbolic rebirth. The *Korban Pesach* is a lamb with his head tucked into its knees – the fetal position. ראשו על (Shemot 12:9). The morning after *Pesach*, Jews emerged from their houses through the blood-surrounded front door, symbolically born, as if through a birth canal, into the new Jewish community. The *Metzora* is reborn with the same symbols. His body is shaven and his naked body is covered with bloody water; he looks like a newborn child.

Tzaraas may no longer exist but *lashon harah* certainly does, as do the social consequences. The Chafetz Chaim lists thirty-one mitzvot which may be violated when a person speaks or listens to *lashon harah*. "Who is the man that desires life, who loves days to see good? Guard your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile..." תהילים (34:13).

DVAR TORAH

The next Shabbatot available to write a Dvar Torah are:
Acharei Mot-Kedoshim (4/24), Emor (5/1), and Behar-Bechukotai (5/8)
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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