

MINYAN INFORMATION

Lincoln Square Synagogue is happy to welcome you for prayer services.

Because we are still operating with some capacity limits, LSS members must pre-register for Shabbat services using the link in the on our website (non LSS members must first e-mail Rabbi Robinson at: rbbi@lss.org). Please note that there is no sign up for weekday Services. Once in shul, please observe social distancing in all common areas. **Mask-wearing is now optional in all areas of LSS for anyone who is fully vaccinated.** Anyone who is not fully-vaccinated must wear a face mask, covering the wearer's mouth and nose, in all areas indoors, and during services anyone not fully-vaccinated or accompanying a child who is not fully-vaccinated must sit in a designated seating area.

Sunday, June 27, Fast Day: Shiva Asar B'Tammuz: The fast begins at: 4:10am and ends at: 9:03pm. The fast commemorates five tragic events that occurred on this date: 1) Moshe broke the luchot when he saw the Jewish people worshipping the Golden Calf. 2) During the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem, the Jews were forced to cease offering the daily sacrifices due to the lack of sheep. 3) Apostomos burned the Torah. 4) An idol was placed in the Temple. 5) The walls of Jerusalem were breached by the Romans (Three weeks later, after the Jews put up a valiant struggle, the Romans destroyed the second Temple on the 9th of Av). Please remember that the strictures of the 3 weeks begin this Motzei Shabbat.

Shacharit:

Sunday, June 27 @ 8:30am

Monday, June 28 — Friday, July 2 @ 7:30am

Mincha/Maariv:

Sunday, June 27 Early Mincha @ 1:40pm, regular Mincha followed by Maariv @ 8:05pm

Monday, June 28— Thursday, July 1 @ 8:20pm

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Attendees must be pre-registered for minyan to attend kiddush.

Hashkama Kiddush IS BACK!

Sponsored by **Nathan Rosen and Priva Simon** on the yahrtzeits of their beloved mothers, Golda Seva Rosen, Zehava bat Mordechai v' Miriam a"n and Gisela S. Simon, Gisa bat Elhanan Mordechai v' Reizel, a"n.

Sponsored by the **Balsam Family** in commemoration of the yartzheits of Rachel's parents, David and Anna Steinberg a"n (David ben Yerucham Fischel and Chana bat Moshe Leib), both of which occur in Tammuz.

Main Hot Kiddush:

Special Kiddush in Honor of The Rosenfeld Family:

Thank you to our sponsors:

Arlene Bienenfeld
Judy and Martin Braun
Bernard Broome
Fran and Daniel Besdin
Hannah and Paul Freilich
Ron Goldofsky
Lois Gottesman
Rachel Neumark Herlands and Jonathan Herlands
Shirley Stark & Mark Hus
Lois and Leslie Katz

Ilana and Bernie Kabak
Eitan & Becky Kimelman
The Kolinsky Family
Avi and Yael Lavi
Thomas Lowinger
Susan Ungar Mero and Steven Mero
Enid Moskowitz
Len Margulies
Yehudit and Jeffrey Neuman
Chuck Pollack
Ron Platzer
Bina Presser
Sydell Roth
Amir Richulsky
Adena Samowitz
Leah and Ephraim Savitt
Paul A Slater
Janine and David Sherr
Deina Shapiro
Esther and William Schulder
Josh Segal and Rebecca Segal
Ilene Vynerib
Debra and Adam Verstandig
Shirley Wald
Kim Gantz Wexler
Howard and Tova Weiser
Bernard & Naomi Zweig

Seudah-Shlishit: Sponsors welcome.

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Friday night:

Earliest Candle Lighting: 6:58pm
Mincha followed by Kabbalat Shabbat at shul: 7:10pm Location: Sanctuary
Zoom Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:20pm (link in electronic Echod)
Shabbat Candle Lighting: 8:14pm
Sunset: daven Mincha by: 8:31pm
Repeat Shema: after 9:02pm

Shabbat:

Hashkama Minyan: 7:45am Location: The Spira Family Terrace (weather/temperature permitting). Followed by Hashkama Kiddush (Location: classroom 206/207) for fully-vaccinated individuals only.
Shabbat Morning Services: 9:00am Location: Sanctuary. Prayer services followed by a hot kiddush on the terrace.
Latest Shema: 9:11am
(Note time change) Terrace Minyan: 9:20am (Location: Spira Family Terrace)
Beginners Service: 9:30am Location: Belfer Beit Midrash (pre-registration required)
Latest Shacharit: 10:27am
Shabbat Groups: 10:00am (This week it will take place in the Ballroom)
Beginners Luncheon: 12:30pm (Location: Ballroom) Welcome to all those joining the Beginners Luncheon
Beginners Mishna Chavura with Moshe Sheinwexler in the Belfer Beit Midrash: 6:15pm
Louis and Rhoda Lazar Shabbat afternoon shiur: 7:15pm (Location: Sanctuary)
Mincha: 8:00pm Location: Sanctuary followed by seudah shlishit
Location: Terrace
Sunset, daven Mincha by, 8:31pm
Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends: 9:14pm
Zoom Havdalah: 9:24pm (link in electronic Echod)

HAKARAT HATOV

Evan Sehgal for writing this week's Dvar Torah.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Adam Poliak and Grace Milstein

MAZAL TOV

Dr. Robert and Ruth Riemer on the forthcoming marriage of their grandson Jason Ian Nordlicht (Itamar Yehudah) to Lauren Karin Baker (Leah) of Chicago.

CHESED OPPORTUNITY

Bone marrow match urgently needed - please help! Steve is a 61-year-old loving husband, father of three, and grandfather of 2 young granddaughters. He has been a leader in the Jewish community, active in the local shul, Yeshiva day school, and Mikveh association. He is loved and respected by so many. Steve was diagnosed last summer with leukemia. The medical experts have concluded that a bone marrow transplant is the only way to cure this disease. Unable to find a full match, the transplant team decided to try with Steve's son who was a 50% match. The donation held for 6 months, but now the leukemia has returned. The doctors believe that Steve's best chance for defeating this disease is to find an unrelated donor match from the Jewish Ashkenazic community. Please get tested to see if you are a possible match that can save Steve's life: <https://www.giftoflife.org/dc/Steve> The link also contains information about a bone marrow drive to be held at Mount Sinai Jewish Center, 133 Bennett Ave. in Washington Heights on Wednesday, June 23 from 4pm-10pm.

YOUTH AND MAGEN AVRAHAM TEEN DEPARTMENT

Dvar Torah:

Parshat Balak is named for the former king of Moab. When Balak heard of *Bnei Yisrael's* power, he felt threatened, and sent for Bilam, a sorcerer, to curse them. Bilam knew the exact time of day *Hashem* was angry and at that precise moment, would use powers to inflict harm. King Balak kept sending many gifts to entice Bilam, and Hashem allowed Bilam to meet King Balak, but would not allow Bilam to curse *Bnei Yisrael*. On the road to meet King Balak, Bilam's donkey saw an angel in the path and swerved to get out of the way. Angry and frustrated, Bilam hit the donkey. The donkey shocks Bilam by speaking, asking "why are you hitting me," and warning Bilam of the angel in front of them. Yet Bilam continues and when he finally meets Balak, Bilam disobeys *Hashem* and attempts to curse *Bnei Yisrael*. Instead of cursing them though, Bilam blesses *Bnei Yisrael* and says *Ma Tov* "How goodly are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, Israel" which is the first prayer that Jews everywhere say each morning.

YOUTH GROUPS

Shabbat Groups: 10:00am (Ballroom) Masks must be worn at all times.

UPCOMING EVENTS

See event registration links in electronic Echod.

THIS SHABBAT, June 26: Farewell Kiddush to the Rosenfeld Family. Join us for their last shabbat at LSS as we gather on the Spira Terrace for a farewell kiddush. Sponsors requested: \$100 per family

Membership Meeting: Monday June 28: 7:00pm

Late July (exact date & time TBD): Moadon Ha'Sefer (Israel Book Club):

The next book by an Israeli author that we will read and discuss (in English) is "The Coincidence Makers" by Yoav Blum. What if the drink you just spilled, the train you just missed, or the lottery ticket you just found was not just a random occurrence? What if it's all part of a bigger plan? What if there's no such thing as a chance encounter? What if there are people we don't know determining our destiny? In this genre-bending novel, there is no such thing as chance and every action is carefully executed by highly trained agents. You'll never look at coincidences the same way again. The author, Yoav Blum is an international bestselling author and software developer. His first three books became instant Israeli bestsellers. The discussion will be led by Harel Fenigstein; to receive the link to join the discussion and for more information, email HarelF@jafi.org. You can purchase the book on Amazon using the link in the online version of the Echod.

Shabbat
Shalom

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
- ***Canceled this week* Rambam's Introduction to Mishnah: The Evolution and Eternity of Torah** with Tzvi Benoff: 8:30pm Meeting ID: 465-268-1403 Password: shiur

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.
You now have two ways to participate in the class, one is by Zoom Meeting ID: 853 8744 3723 Password: 180613, or - if you are fully vaccinated - you can attend in person in classroom 206.
- **Talmud Class** with Rabbi Robinson: 7:00- 8:00pm 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. 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.
You now have two ways to participate in the class: one is by Zoom: Meeting ID: 854 6157 2450 (Password: chug2), or - if you are fully vaccinated - you can attend in person in classroom 206.

Thursday:

- **Women's Talk Time:** led by School Psychologist Ruth Moser Riemer: 11:30am-12:30pm. Meeting ID: 972 4054 8238 Password: 142533
- **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.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@Lincolnsquaresynagogue



@lincolnsquaresynagogue



@RabbiLincolnSQ

DVAR TORAH

Parshat Balak
June 25-26
Evan Sehgal

What is uniquely evil about Bilam? Lots of people hate the Jews. Of all the flagitious people in the Torah — including Lavan who tried to extinguish Judaism at its inception and Pharaoh who tried to annihilate the Jewish people by murdering their babies — only Bilam is called a “*Rasha*,” the wicked one. Chazal find him so objectionable they say that Bilam has no share in the World to Come and anything that you know about him is a window into a wicked mind. “Whatever you find written about him, interpret it to his discredit” (Sanhedrin 106b).

This is especially surprising because Bilam was given an extraordinary gift; he could speak directly to G-d (Bava Basra 15b). In that respect he was the equal of Moshe Rabbenu (Sifrei, Devarim 33:10). Moshe was able to speak to G-d “face to face, in a vision and not in riddles” (Bamidbar 12:8). In some ways Bilam’s ability to vaticinate was even greater, he was able to see to the end of days (Bamidbar 24:14) where “a star shall go forth from Jacob” (Bamidbar 14:17). And like Moshe Rabbenu, Bilam could request a meeting with G-d whenever he required. Bilam tells the messengers from Balak to stay the night during which time he will consult with Hashem (Bamidbar 22:8, 22:19) and at the very moment Bilam wants to curse the Jews, he requests that Hashem provide him with the exact words (Bamidbar 23:3, 23:16).

Of course, there is no equating Bilam and Moshe. Moshe, like all Jewish prophets, is humble. Bilam coveted honor and wealth. Bilam casually estimated that the value of one of his curses was a “house full of silver and gold.” The amount seemed reasonable since Bilam accurately predicted the ascendancy of Balak and it was Bilam’s curse that allowed Sihon to defeat Moab (Rashi). Certainly, Balak was convinced that whomever Bilam blesses is blessed and whomever Bilam curses is cursed (Bamidbar 22:6). Jewish prophets try to deflect the responsibility of relating G-d’s words, as Moshe did at the burning bush or as Yonah did when asked to chastise Nineveh. Bilam builds altars, offers sacrifices and performs rituals in an attempt to “force” G-d’s communication. Jewish prophets publicly ascribe their words to Hashem, not to themselves. Bilam took full credit for his prophesy without even an allusion to the One Who provided his words. “This is the declaration of Bilam, the son of Be’or” (Bamidbar 24:3).

Bilam realizes that G-d controls the world and, therefore, he would “not be able to transgress the word of Hashem my G-d” (Bamidbar 22:18). But Bilam thought he could follow the literal word of Hashem while circumventing G-d’s intent. (R. Elchanan Wasserman). Bilam thinks G-d, kings and nations are a means for his own aggrandizement. G-d played into this hubris. First, G-d gave Bilam the impression He was not all-knowing (Adin Steinsaltz). When the messengers from Balak arrived, G-d asked Bilam, “Who are these men with

you?” (Bamidbar 22:9) As if He didn’t know! Then G-d let Bilam believe He could be badgered or tricked into acquiescing to Bilam’s plans. Bilam asked twice to curse the Jews. The first time G-d answers no, “you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed” (Bamidbar 22:12). The second time Bilam asks, he is given permission to go to Moav, thinking G-d has changed His mind. But if you look carefully at the words, that is not the case (Ramban). When G-d denies the first request, His words are “”תלך עמהם” you shall not go with them,” (Bamidbar 22:12) which implies G-d is forbidding Bilam from joining together in a joint mission with the messengers to curse the Jews. On the second night, Bilam asks again, and G-d says “קום לך”) “get up and go with them”) but the implication this time is that Bilam is permitted to take the same caravan back to Moab but his agenda is completely different from the other passengers. G-d’s plan for Bilam is to bless the Jews.

The real tragedy is that Bilam squandered a once-in-history opportunity. Compare Bilam’s accomplishments after speaking with G-d to Avraham’s. Avraham introduces monotheism to the world; Bilam left the world at least as bad as he found it. Bilam is tested and is unchanged; in fact, being tested makes him more intransigent. Avraham is tested ten times and is transformed. Bilam tries to circumvent G-d’s will and Avraham obeys and trusts G-d even when he is hopelessly confounded. Avraham brings Yitzchok to the Akedah without hesitation even though Avraham is promised, through Yitzchok, descendants as numerous as the sand of sea and stars of the heavens.

Bilam is a *rasha*, because, despite knowing what G-d wants, he gives himself permission *reshus*, to disobey (R. Zev Reichman). Moreover, Bilam refused to try to become a better person despite being given the ultimate opportunity: direct access to the source of all goodness, G-d Himself. Adin Steinsaltz, quoting the Kotzker Rebbe, asks how is it possible for Bilam to be unaffected by his personal encounters with G-d? They answer, for some, morality and holiness can be purely intellectual with absolutely no effect on personal behavior. Bilam’s knowledge merely served to magnify his ego. For a Jew, learning – trying to understand what G-d expects of us – is the means to more righteous behavior. “Whoever says that he has only Torah (but not mitzvot) has neither” (Yevamot 109b). As Moshe says, “Hear O Israel, the decrees and the ordinances that I speak in your ears today; you shall learn them and you shall be careful to perform them” (Devarim 5:1).

The point of life for a Jew is to learn G-d’s ways in order to become a better person and improve the world. G-d gave us the Torah for that very purpose. Seize the opportunity.

Shabbat Shalom

DVAR TORAH

The next Shabbatot available to write a Dvar Torah are:
Ha’azinu 9/18, Sukkot 9/25, Noach 10/9 & Lech Lecha 10/16
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

LINCOLN SQUARE SYNAGOGUE OFFICERS

Morey Wildes, *President* (president@lss.org)

Jamie Nussbaum, Ian Silver, Paris Wald Stulbach, *Vice Presidents*

Michael Roxland, *Treasurer* Rande Price, *Secretary*

Michael Doppelt, Tanya Gershon, Adam Herbst, Yitzy Rubin, Julie Walpert, Jay Ziffer

Farewell
to the
Rosenfeld Family



Shabbat,
June 26
Main Kiddush
on the
Spira Terrace

Sponsorship Request:
\$100 per family
in honor of the Rosenfelds
E: info@lss.org

