

Shaul Robinson Senior Rabbi

Parshat Chukat Josh Rosenfeld Assistant Rabbi

Sherwood Goffin z"l Founding Chazzan

Yanky Lemmer Tamar Fix

9 Tammuz 5781 | June 18-19 2021 **Morey Wildes**

Executive Director President

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: rabbi@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.

Shacharit:

Sunday, June 20 @ 8:30am

Monday, June 21 — Friday, June 25 @ 7:30am

Mincha/Maariv:

Sunday, June 20 — Thursday, June 24 @ 8:20pm

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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

Main Hot Kidddush: Special Kiddush in Honor of Mendel and Ariella:

Thank you to our sponsors:

Revital and Ariel Ackerman, Estee and Elli Friedman,

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Robyn, Alan, Sophie, Charlie and Andy Samuels, Joy, Morey, Alexander, Simon and Henry Wildes.

Seudah-Shlishit:

Sponsored by the Balsam Family in commemoration of the yahrtzeit, on the 14th day of Tammuz, of their wife and mother, Rachel Balsam a"h (Rachel bat David v'Chana).

Hashkama Kiddush IS BACK!

Sponsored by the generous contributions to the Fund.

OUR 56TH ANNUAL DINNER

Sunday evening was beautiful, moving and, after collectively experiencing a global pandemic, was a true triumph! Congratulations to Rabbi Josh & Chani Rosenfeld, Alan Axelrod, Adam Herbst and Shanna Kowalsky-Herbst. For those of you who came and supported us, we thank you. For those of you who couldn't attend but still supported us, we thank you too. And for those of you who haven't yet given, please know that every show of support means a tremendous amount to the shul and that the opportunity to give is still open to you. Please click the link on our homepage at www.lss.org to donate to our Dinner Campaign and give as generously as you can. We thank you in advance. Visit www.lss.org to to View the Online Journal and to watch the Livestream of Sunday Evening

Here's to many more joyous experiences together, celebrating in good health and happiness ad 120. Amen **SHABBAT SCHEDULE**

Friday night:

Earliest Candle Lighting: 6:56pm

Mincha followed by Kabbalat Shabbat at shul: 7:10pm Location: Sanctuary

Zoom Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:20pm (link in electronic Echod)

Cantor

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 8:12pm Sunset: daven Mincha by: 8:30pm

Repeat Shema: after 9:01pm

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: 9:09am

Beginners Service: 9:30am Location: Belfer Beit Midrash

(pre-registration required)

Terrace Minyan: 9:40am (Location: Spira Family Terrace)

Latest Shacharit: 10:26am

Shabbat Groups: 10:00am (This week it will take place in the Ballroom)

Beginners Mishna Chavura with Moshe Sheinwexler in the

Belfer Beit Midrash: 6:15pm Louis and Rhoda Lazar Shabbat afternoon shiur: 7:15pm, given by Rabbi

Oren Epstein: "Come from Afar - How one Shiva can end on different days."

(Location: Sanctuary)

Mincha: 8:00pm Location: Sanctuary followed by seudah shlishit Location: Terrace

Sunset, daven Mincha by, 8:30pm Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends: 9:13pm

Zoom Havdalah: 9:23pm (link in electronic Echod)

HAKARAT HATOV

Evan Seghal for writing this week's Dvar Torah.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

David Glickman Arnold and Sandra Sudberg

MAZAL TOV

Parents Gila and Jonathan Ashtor on the birth of a baby girl, Ariel Eva Ashtor. Mazal Tov also to big sister Alexandra.

Chazzan Yisroel and Ruthie Lesches on the birth of a baby girl.

Mazal Tov also to big sister Shira

Wednesday, June 23 from 4pm-10pm.

CHESSED 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

YOUTH AND MAGEN AVRAHAM TEEN DEPARTMENT

Dvar Torah:

Chronologically, Parshat Chukat takes place in the final years Bnei Yisrael wandered the desert. Parshat Chukat has many important concepts, one of which is Parah Adumah or 'Red Heifer.' The ashes of a Red Heifer were used to purify someone after they became Tomeh (impure) from an interaction with the deceased. In the final and 40th year, as Bnei Yisrael traveled back to the city of Kadesh, Moshe's sister Miriam passed away. When Miriam passed, a special well that had been blessed because of Miriam, dried up. Stuck in a desert with no water, Bnei Yisrael began to panic and spoke poorly of Moshe behind his back. When Moshe turned to Hashem, Hashem directed Moshe to speak to a specific rock and that water would follow. Lacking patience Moshe became angry and hit the rock. For this, Moshe nor his brother Aharon were able to enter the land of Israel. Right before Eretz Yisrael, at Har Hahor, Aharon passed away and his son, Elazar was named the next Kohen Gadol.

After Shul, ask your children:

- Why did the well dry up?
- Which city was Bnei Yisrael approaching when Miriam passed away?
- What did Moshe do when there was no water?
- Who was Aharon's successor as Kohen Gadol?

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 19: Special Kiddush in Honor of Mendel & Ariella We feel as if it was just yesterday that we were welcoming Mendel and Ariella into our LSS family and yet here we are, years later, needing to say goodbye. Mendel and Ariella have become an inextricable part of our Youth Department and equally a part of our community. It's been a pleasure watching them grow their family as they have helped to grow ours. Join us in honoring them this Shabbat. It's not too late!

Be a sponsor (\$100 per family) Email: info@lss.org

Board Meeting: Tuesday June 22: 7:00pm.

Membership Meeting: Monday June 28: 7:00pm

Tuesday, June 22: 1:00pm: Israel Politics- New Government, New Era. Did the recent negotiations to form a new government in Israel leave you confused? You're not alone! Join us for a discussion of the latest developments in Israeli politics and learn more about the new government, who's in it, how it works and possible scenarios for the near future. Moderator, Harel Fenigstein, UWS Shaliach, in conversation with Michael Hauser Tov, political correspondent for Ha'aretz. Meeting ID: 830 9153 0311 (no password)

Saturday, June 26: Beginners Luncheon (Ballroom)

Cost: \$25 per person. Register and pay online at www.lss.org/beginners. Please make your reservations and payment by Wednesday, June 23rd. Special meal requests deadline: Tuesday, June 22nd. Only open to those who are fully vaccinated.

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

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
- Rambam's Introduction to Mishnah: The Evolution and Eternity of Torah with Tzvi Benoff: 8:30pm. Topic: Hidden Truths: An Aggadic Test-Case. Meeting ID: 465-268-1403 Password: shiur

Monday:

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.

- **Canceled this week* 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:

- *Canceled this week* 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

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DVAR TORAH

Parshat Chukat June 18-19 Evan Seghal

It just does not seem right. Moshe is precluded from entering Eretz Yisroel because he hit a rock instead of speaking to it?! Moshe dedicated his life to serving Hashem and the Jewish people. Now he is prevented from realizing the culmination of his life's work for what seems like a trivial offense. Rashi tries to answer, "When the Holy One, blessed is He, administers judgment against His holy ones, He is feared and sanctified by mankind" (Bamidbar 20:13). It is an important lesson: G-d's laws are immutable and they apply equally to everyone. But it overlooks the fact that Moshe was a human being. As we say on the Yomim Noraim, who can stand in front of Hashem and claim to be perfect? Aaron is also kept out of Israel; what did he do? The question isn't easier if you claim Moshe and Aaron's error was one of the dozen or so slight deviations cited by other Meforshim. For example, Moshe and Aaron ran to the Ohel Moed to consult with G-d instead of answering the people right away or Moshe spoke sarcastically and his words could be misinterpreted to indicate he and Aaron alone could bring forth water without Hashem. If it was such a Chilul Hashem to have water miraculously flow out of a rock after hitting it. G-d could have forbidden the water to come out!

G-d is just; Moshe and Aaron really deserved their punishment. But their egregious sins didn't occur at Mei Merivah, they occurred years earlier when Moshe facilitated the sin of the spies and Aaron constructed the Golden Calf (Abarbanel).

G-d says Moshe was prohibited entry into Israel because Moshe "did not believe in Me to sanctify Me in the presence of Beni Yisroel" (Bamidbar 20:12). That indeed is what transpired with the Miraglim, the spies (Numbers 14). Moshe didn't trust that Hashem would miraculously allow the Jews to conquer Eretz Yisroel, so he initiated a plan to prepare a natural way to conquer it. To compound the sin, when the spies returned, Moshe and Aaron fell on their faces and were silent; only Joshua and Calev tore their clothes and challenged the people, "the land which we passed through is an exceedingly good land. If G-d desires us, He will give us the land" (Bamidbar 13:25-14:8). Moshe announces G-d's edict that that entire generation would perish in the wilderness except Yehoshua and Calev (presumably the condemned included Moshe and Aaron). Moreover, Moshe himself, in his farewell address, identifies the Chet HaMiraglim (the sin of the spies) as the reason he was prohibited entry into Israel. After reminding the people of the spies' sin and of their punishment, "that no man will see - of these men, this wicked generation – the good land that I swore to your forefathers... Also, at me was Hashem angry because of you, to say 'you (Moshe) too will not arrive there" (Devarim 1:35-37).

The events at Mei Merivah provided a veil for Moshe and Aaron, attributing their punishment to minor sins and not reminding us of their earlier serious ones. The Torah tries to obscure the sins of the righteous (Rashi Devarim 1:1)

But the events at Mei Merivah also proved that the Jewish people needed new leadership. It demonstrated that after forty years, the people had worn Moshe down. The incessant complaining, the brazen behavior of Kosbi and Zimri, and the accusations of Korach had taken a psychological toll. Moshe lost his patience with the Jewish people, interpreting a legitimate request for water as a lack of faith in him and in Hashem. He called the people "Rebels" (Bamidbar 20:10).

G-d tells Moshe to take "the" staff and go before the Jewish people. Instead of taking his own staff, Moshe grabbed Aaron's (Rashbam). After the failed coup d'état of Korach, only Aaron's staff blossomed, confirming the tribe of Levi as Hashem's choice to serve in the Sanctuary. It was a permanent "symbol to the rebellious people, that their complaint will end and they not die" (Bamidbar 17:25).

Admittedly, Moshe was under additional emotional stress; his sister, Miriam had just died (R. Jonathan Sacks). Nevertheless, Moshe became uncharacteristically angry, as noted by Rambam, Hilchot De'ot 2:3, "whenever one becomes angry, if he is a wise man, his wisdom leaves him; if he is a prophet, his prophecy leaves him."

Moshe's anger prevented him from hearing what was really troubling the Israelites. The people were grievously disappointed; they thought this barren wasteland was Israel! Their miscalculation was based on the following logic: they had been carrying Joseph's bones since Egypt because important Jews were only buried in Israel. Miriam was an important person and she had just died. Miriam was buried here, therefore, they were in Israel! And Moshe had led them to an Israel that was nothing like the one promised to them. Hear the words of the people. "And wherefore have you made us come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place. It is no place of seed, or of figs or of vines or of pomegranates, neither is there any water to drink." (Bamidbar 20:2). No one would expect such foods to grow in a desert! But those were the exact foods brought back by the Miraglim (Bamidbar 13:23) to describe Eretz Yisroel. Instead of a land flowing with milk and honey, there wasn't even water (Rav Yitzchok Etshalom).

Moshe was no longer the right leader; he had lost touch with the people. "Therefore, you shall not bring the congregation into the land I have given them" (Bamidbar 20:12). Moreover, he and Aaron failed to sanctify G-d's name in front of the Jewish people both by their actions in the matter of the Miraglim and the Chet HaEgel (sin of the golden calf) and by their omissions at Mei Merivah. But G-d loved them so much, he hid their sins and protected their reputations to the end. Perhaps we might do the same for our teachers, family, and friends who, even though they err, have taught us so much and helped us through our greatest challenges.

Shabbat Shalom

DVAR TORAH

The next Shabbatot available to write a Dvar Torah are:

Netzavim (9/4) and Vayelech (9/11)

If interested, please email Bill Greenbaum at <u>dvar@lss.org</u>.

In case of a bereavement, please call our Clergy at 646-543-7485 (day or night)

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

