

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)

HAKARAT HATOV

Jerry Greenberg and Marion & Maurice Spanbock for writing this week's Dvar Torah.

Jerry Blitz for organizing and distributing the matzah order for the Shul.

Rabbi Yitzhok White for joining us for and running our first LSS Seder.

To **Ian Silver** and the entire **CSS team** for their dedicated service to the safety and well-being of our community.

To our **Pesach Seder Sponsors; Ann Crane & Rudolph Lowy** who Sponsored *in memory of Ann's mother, Bernice Crane a"n*, and to the rest of our Pesach Seder sponsors; **Lois Gottesman, Samuel & Dammara Markowitz, Adena Samowitz and Rebecca Santhouse.**

BURNING OF CHAMETZ

Burning of Chametz: TOMORROW Friday, March 26, 7:30-10:00am:
Due to COVID, we will not be conducting the burning of Chametz in the usual way on the terrace. Instead, please bring your Chametz to the front of the sidewalk of our building and Chametz will be burned there. Please remember to wear your mask and maintain social distancing

MAOT CHITTIM

The preparation for Pesach must include a demonstration of concern for the needy. You are urged to donate Maot Chittim through the Chesed Fund of the Synagogue in order to provide for the Pesach needs of the many people who depend on us.

To donate, please visit:

<https://www.lss.org/maot-chittim>

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Lucy Fielding

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 18: Women's Rosh Chodesh Iyar Shiur: 8:00pm

Topic: and they died before the Lord: a closer look at the mysterious death of Nadav and Avihu. *Meeting ID: 95807380144*

Password: 655410

SHABBAT AND PESACH SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 25th—Taanit Bechorot:

Fast of the Firstborn

7:00pm: Mincha/Maariv

7:57pm: Bedikatz Chametz

Friday, March 26th:

7:30am: Shacharit

Burn Chametz by 11:59am

Earliest Candle Lighting: 5:57pm

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 6:57pm

Mincha followed by Kabbalat Shabbat at shul: 7:00pm Location: Ballroom

Sunset (daven Mincha by): 7:15pm

Repeat Shema: after 7:46pm

Shabbat, March 27th:

Hashkama Minyan: 7:45am

Location: The Spira Family Terrace (weather/temperature permitting).

Shabbat Morning Services at shul: 8:00am Location: Ballroom. *Note special time*

for this Shabbat, Erev Pesach, only

Beginners Service led by Dr. Leonard Davidman: 8:30am Location: Belfer Beit

Midrash (pre-registration required)

Latest Shema: 9:54am

Latest Shacharit: 10:56m

Latest time to eat Chametz: 10:56am

Latest time to annul Chametz: 11:59am

Mincha at 6:55pm Location: Ballroom

Sunset (daven Mincha by, and begin seudah shlishit by): 7:16pm

Candle Lighting: 7:57pm

Maariv/Begin Seder after this time: 7:58pm

First Night Seder at LSS with Silverleaf Catering;

Seder begins: 8:15pm on the Spira Family Terrace (Registration closed)

Sunday Pesach, March 28th:

Shacharit 8:00am: (Spira Terrace, weather permitting), 9:00am: (Ballroom)

7:05pm: Mincha

7:58pm: Candle Lighting

7:59pm: Maariv/Start seder after this time

Monday Pesach, March 29th:

1st Day Omer

Shacharit 8:00am: (Spira Terrace, weather permitting), 9:00am: (Ballroom)

7:05pm: Mincha

7:58pm: Candle Lighting

8:00pm: Maariv/Havdalah

Tuesday Chol Hamoed Pesach, March 30th:

2nd Day Omer

7:15am: Shacharit

7:10pm: Mincha/Maariv

Wednesday Chol Hamoed Pesach, March 31st:

3rd Day Omer

7:15am: Shacharit

7:10pm: Mincha/Maariv

Thursday Chol Hamoed Pesach, April 1st:

4th Day Omer

7:15am: Shacharit

7:10pm: Mincha/Maariv

Friday Chol Hamoed Pesach, April 2nd:

5th Day Omer

7:15am: Shacharit

6:03pm: Earliest Candle Lighting

7:04pm: Candle Lighting

7:10pm: Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat

Shabbat Pesach, April 3rd:

6th Day Omer

Shacharit 8:00am: (Spira Terrace, weather permitting), 9:00am: (Ballroom)

6:55pm: Mincha

8:05pm: Candle Lighting/Maariv

Sunday Pesach/Yizkor, April 4th:

7th Day Omer

Shacharit 8:00am: (Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary), 9:00am: (Ballroom),

9:40am (Spira Terrace)

7:10pm: Mincha

8:06pm: Maariv/Havdalah

YOUTH AND MAGEN AVRAHAM TEEN DEPARTMENT

Dvar Torah:

This Shabbat we read the Parsha of Tzav which continues the discussion of the Korbanot. This Shabbat is also called Shabbat Hagadol, "The Great Shabbat" which is always celebrated on the Shabbat before Pesach. Why is it called Shabbat Hagadol? Because when Hashem unleashed the plagues on the Egyptians, each time before the plague, Moshe gave the Egyptians a warning. Before the first plague of blood, Moshe warned the Egyptians "let the Jewish people go or all the water in Egypt will turn into blood." Before the second plague of frogs, Moshe warned the Egyptians, "let the Jewish people go or millions of frogs will swarm all over the land", and so on. Before the 10th and final plague, Makat Bechorot, the killing of the firstborn, Moshe gave the Egyptians a final warning, "On the midnight following the 14th of Nissan, all Egyptian firstborn males will be killed." The Egyptian firstborn men heard this and realized that Moshe was batting 1000% and they didn't want to die. The firstborn men went to Pharaoh and told him to let the Jewish people go. When Pharaoh stubbornly refused, the first-born Egyptians made their own army, rebelled and attacked Pharaoh. Pharaoh had to send his main army to quell the rebellion. We mention this story every day in Shacharit (morning prayer) in Az Yashir when we say Lmakayh Mitzrayim Bechorayhem, to smite the Egyptians with their firstborn.

This rebellion occurred on the 10th day of Nissan, which was a Shabbat, five days before the Jewish people left Egypt, which is why this Shabbat is called Shabbat Hagadol, "The Great Shabbat". But this begs another question, usually, we commemorate a date by the day of the month, not the day of the week, so why not celebrate every year on the 10th day in the month of Nissan? The answer is because Miriam died on the 10th of Nissan and we don't celebrate on a day when this holy person passed away. Therefore, we celebrate this miracle every year on the Shabbat before Pesach, Shabbat Hagadol.

YOUTH GROUPS

Please note: There will be no groups on Shabbat of March 27 and April 3rd. Wishing you all a Chag Pesach Lasher Ve'Sameach!

LSS SPOTLIGHT & SHARE

LSS Spotlight & Share: Meet our member, Sam Markowitz

1. Where are you from?
Brooklyn

2. Favorite memory from LSS?

We just joined, favorite memory so far is how warmly we've been greeted by the Rabbi and many members!

3. What TV Shows are you interested in?
Shtisel

4. Any hidden talent?
I can walk on my hands

5. Who inspires you?

Healthcare workers and those providing emotional support to people during this pandemic

Follow us on Instagram. If you are interested in being featured or want to nominate someone for spotlight and share for an upcoming post, please contact Julie Rosenthal at julie@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:

- ***Canceled this week* 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
- ***Canceled this week* 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. The workshop is free. To register, please email JLworkshop@yahoo.com. Meeting ID: 918 4115 8366 Password: 865860
- ***Canceled this week* 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:

- ***Canceled this week* 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

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)

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
- ***Canceled this week* The Jacob Adler Parsha Class** Explorations in the Weekly Parsha led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson: 7:00pm-8:00pm. Meeting ID: 912 657 888.
- ***Canceled this week* Parashat HaShavua** led by Rabbi. Moshe Sokolow: 8:15pm. Meeting ID: 846 701 6968.

DVAR TORAH

Parshat HaGadol Tzav / Erev Pesach
March 26-27

By: Jerry Greenberg and Marion & Maurice Spanbock

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT SHABBAT HAGADOL?

Over the course of the Jewish calendar year there are dozens of Shabbatot. Several are deemed special, with specified Torah readings and Haftarah to mark their occasions. Yet only one of them, the Shabbat before Pesach, is designated as "Great."

Interestingly, although *Great is right there in the name, we don't make much of a fuss over it. True, it has its own Haftarah, but no second Torah is taken from the ark, and the Maftir is the regular one for the weekly Parsha. This seeming lack of distinction stands in stark contrast to almost every other major Shabbat and certainly to the four notable Shabbatot (Shekalim, Zachor, Parah, and Hachodesh) which precede it as the harbingers of Pesach.*

So, why the status? Wherefore the cachet? What's so great about Shabbat Hagadol?

The obvious answer, of course, is that it's great by definition, since it gets its name from the word "hagadol" in the last line of the Haftarah. (It's the same criterion we use for Shabbat Chazon, Shabbat Nachamu, or Shabbat Shuva, for example, all of which derive their names from lines in their respective Haftarah.) Still, it's a pretty flimsy explanation, somewhat like saying grass is green because that's what color it is. Besides, a fuller reading of that last line includes the phrase "hagadol v'hanora," widening the reference from "the Great" to include the "the Great and Awesome" Day [of Judgment].

This expanded perspective educes a surprising new consideration: Wouldn't a far more suitable placement for Shabbat Hagadol be as the Shabbat before Rosh Hashana, just prior to the Yamim Nora'im? So to our first query — What's so great about Shabbat Hagadol? — we also need to add another: What merits its assignment as the Shabbat before Pesach?

Some insight into the answers to both questions can be inferred from the historical record in chapter 12 of Exodus, where the Hebrew slaves were commanded to take a lamb on the 10th day of Nisan to slaughter at sundown on the 14th. Pesach occurred on the 15th, which Chazal tell us was a Thursday. Counting backward, this means the 10th of Nisan fell on Shabbat, the day we now commemorate as Shabbat Hagadol.

Many scholars assert that securing a lamb was B'nai Yisrael's first solid step toward freedom. The fact that, without permission, slaves could commandeer "perfect specimens" of sheep and goats — animals worshipped by their owners — was unheard of, although presumably the Egyptians had been chastened by the plagues, and their compliance would have been more than understandable.

We propose an added element: B'nai Yisrael had been enslaved for centuries. Suddenly they were told that freedom was imminent and that procuring sacrificial lambs was to be their breakthrough initiative. But after so many generations of bondage, could the slaves have even a concept of freedom? Easy to imagine a people bewildered by their circumstances — OK, you're free, now pack up and prepare to leave your whole world behind, all to embrace the unknown and the unknowable. To echo Kris Kristofferson, was freedom "just another word for nothin' left to lose?" More than likely, they felt apprehensive, unsure, and, yes, lost. Taking those lambs would require a profound leap of faith.

That leap of faith is underscored by the special Haftarah, from Malachi, the last of the Prophets, who never identifies himself, preferring instead to use a pseudonym. (Malachi translates as "My Messenger.") The Jewish people he reaches out to have all recently returned from exile. Easy to imagine that they, too, would be feeling apprehensive, lost, and in need of a leap of faith themselves.

Malachi assures them that if they turn back toward the path of righteousness, HaShem will turn back toward them as well. In the final lines, he prophesies the coming of Eliyahu Hanavi, whose return will herald the Final Redemption. Eliyahu is the explicit link that connects this particular Haftarah to this specific Shabbat; and to us, too, since at every seder we invite him to join us and salute him with an extra cup of wine.

We submit that it is the radical, transformative leap of faith — evinced first by slaves who had not even a concept of freedom and later by exiles who felt undeserving of HaShem's favor — that imbues the Shabbat before Pesach, elevating it above all the others throughout the year and inspiring us as well.

Truly, Shabbat Hagadol.

Chag Pesach kasher vesame'ach to the entire LSS community!

DVAR TORAH

The next Shabbatot available to write a Dvar Torah are:

Shmini (4/10), Acharei Mot-Kedoshim (4/24),
Emor (5/1),
and Behar-Bechukotai (5/8)

If interested, please email Bill Greenbaum at dvar@lss.org.

CHESD OPPORTUNITIES

RENEWING BIKUR CHOLIM IN THE TIME OF COVID-19. 10 SESSIONS:
The Jewish Board, along with Kavod v'Nichum, Neshama: the Association of Jewish Chaplains, and several other Bikur Cholim groups around the country, are sponsoring an innovative program on Bikur Cholim—visiting and caring for the sick and vulnerable—Renewing Bikur Cholim. The conference, which runs bi-weekly on Monday nights from January 4 to May 10, addresses many of the emerging challenges of doing Bikur Cholim during the pandemic. The program will provide an educational forum and a venue for exchange of ideas and concerns, assisting providers and volunteers in providing this essential service. To register please visit, <https://www.jewishfunerals.org/2021-bikur-cholim-conference/>.

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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