

**Shaul Robinson** Senior Rabbi

Parshat Korach Josh Rosenfeld

Sherwood Goffin z"l

2 Tammuz 5781 Yanky Lemmer Tamar Fix

June 11-12 2021 **Morey Wildes** 

Assistant Rabbi Founding Chazzan

Cantor

Executive Director President

### 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
- [4] Beginning June 1, all are invited to attend weekday services, but non-members must sign in at the door

Once in shul:

- [5] Observe social distancing in the hallways and the
- distancing requirements specific to each minyan
- [6] You must wear a face mask, covering your mouth and nose
- [7] Communal singing is permitted outdoors on terrace, and low voice singing is permitted indoors
- [8] Read the complete Attendance Guidelines (see the complete

Attendance Guidelines in the electronic version of Echod)

# Shacharit:

Sunday, June 13 @ 8:30am

Monday, June 14 — Friday, June 18 @ 7:30am

# Mincha/Maariv:

Sunday, June 13 — Thursday, June 17 @ 8:20pm

# ANNUAL DINNER: THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 13 @5:30PM

Mazal Tov to this year's honorees!

Rabbi Josh & Chani Rosenfeld, Guests of Honor

Alan Axelrod, Keter Torah Award

Adam Herbst and Shanna Kowalsky-Herbst, Young Leadership Award

#### There's good news, and there's more good news!

The good news is that activity at L.S.S. is surging to pre-pandemic levels. That's why in-person attendance at our Annual Dinner on Sunday is sold out! (You can still watch the presentations to our honorees via Zoom.) The more good news is that while our Dinner Journal can no longer accept ads, there's still time to join in the shul's resurgence by contributing to the Dinner Campaign! Success in the Dinner Campaign is essential because it carries us through the summer months, historically a slow period for shul revenues (expenses, on the other hand know no season). And it signals to our clergy, officers, and staff planning a wide-ranging and creative program of service to our members in the coming year that a revved-up congregation is behind them.

Please use this moment to contribute toward a successful Dinner Campaign by clicking the link in the Online Echod.

## PROGRAM:

5:30-6:15pm Light cocktail hour in lobby

6:30-7:30pm Presentations on the terrace (presenters, honorees, and their families will be in the Beit Midrash for this portion of the evening while dinner attendees will watch the presentations from screens located on the terrace). For those not attending in person, this portion of the evening will be available to zoom into (the link will be sent Sunday morning),

7:30pm: Dinner on the terrace

Thank you for your support and we look forward to celebrating together!

# **SHABBAT SCHEDULE**

# Friday night:

Earliest Candle Lighting: 6:54pm

Zoom Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:00pm (link in electronic Echod)

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

Location: Sanctuary

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 8:10pm Sunset: daven Mincha by: 8:27pm Repeat Shema: after 8:58pm

Hashkama Minyan: 7:45am Location: The Spira Family Terrace

(weather/temperature permitting).

Shabbat Morning Services: 9:00am Location: Sanctuary. Prayer services

followed by a hot kiddush on the terrace.

Latest Shema: 9:08am

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

(pre-registration required)

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

Latest Shacharit: 10:25am

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

Beginners Mishna Chavura with Moshe Sheinwexler in the

Belfer Beit Midrash: 6:10pm Louis and Rhoda Lazar Shabbat afternoon shiur: 7:10pm

Location: Sanctuary

Mincha: 7:55pm Location: Sanctuary followed by seudah shlishit

Location: Terrace

Sunset, daven Mincha by, 8:28pm Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends: 9:11pm

Zoom Havdalah: 9:22pm (link in electronic Echod)

# HAKARAT HATOV

Fred Ehrman for writing this week's Dvar Torah.

Annual Dinner Committee for their hard work and dedication:

Martine Schenker (Committee Chair), Hannah Freilich, and Joyce Friedman.

Thank you to Ellen Silber and Bernie Kabak for their additional help.

Journal Dinner Committee for their incredible fundraising efforts:

Rabbi Shaul Robinson, Yitzy Rubin, Michael Laufer, Manny Zareh, Gary Stein, and Assaf Alster.

# **MAZAL TOV**

Grandparents Rabbi Shaul and Sarah Robinson on the birth of a baby girl, Bracha, born to their children Avromi and Elana Robinson.

Rabbi Shaul and Sarah Robinson on the engagement of their daughter Ariella to Moshe Schwalb, son of Rabbi Efrem and Dr Tamar Schwalb of West Hempstead.

Grandparents Tineke and Steven Kevelson on the birth of a baby girl, Maya Rebecca (Maya Amam) born to their children Davina Kevelson Sasson and Elan Sasson. Mazal Tov to Maya's brother, Leor and to Grandparents Sharon and Uri Sasson.

# **KIDDUSH: ON THE TERRACE**

Main Hot Kidddush: Sponsored by Sydell Roth and by

**Dr Susan Ungar Mero and Steven Mero** in honor of Jaclyn's Bat Mitzvah. Mazal Tov to siblings Ariella, Danielle, Gaby, Sarah, and Rebecca. Mazal Tov to Barbara Mero, grandmother of Jaclyn.

**Seudah-Shlishit:** Sponsors welcome.

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

### YOUTH AND MAGEN AVRAHAM TEEN DEPARTMENT

#### **Dvar Torah:**

In this week's Parsha, we meet Bnei Yisrael in the desert. A few people decided that they were unhappy with Moshe's leadership, and decided to try and overpower him. Korach was one of the leaders of this revolt. He was from the tribe of Levi, and thus one of the people who helped carry the holy Mishkan from place to place. Korach was jealous of the Kohanim, and wanted to have more responsibilities, so he decided to band together with 250 men and revolt against Moshe and Aharon. He and his men went to Moshe and Aharon and told them that they shouldn't be, respectively, the leader and the Kohen Gadol anymore. Korach decided to bring a "ketoret" offering to the Mishkan; at the same time, Aharon also prepared an offering to bring to the Mishkan. Both groups stood outside the Mishkan holding their offerings to Hashem. In a split second, Hashem made the ground open up and swallow Korach and the men who had followed him. The rest of Bnei Yisrael saw all of this happen, and it was clear to them that Moshe and Aharon were the true leaders of Bnei Yisrael.

#### **YOUTH GROUPS**

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

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

See event registration links in electronic Echod.

Wednesday, June 16, 8:00pm: Women's Tefilah Group Presents: Chodesh Tamuz Shiur. Join Community Intern, Mindy Schwartz-Zolty for this fascinating shiur. Women and Men welcome. Topic: Bilam: A Great Prophet of God and Also A Great Villain? Sponsored by Esther Green in memory of her sister a"h.

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 on Shabbat, June 19 and sign up as a sponsor (\$100 per family) Email: <a href="mailto:info@lss.org">info@lss.org</a> to be a sponsor. <a href="mailto:Thank you to our current sponsors:">Thank you to our current sponsors:</a> Betty and Gideon Grinstein, Shirley Stark and Mark Hus, Rebecca and Eitan Kimelman, Susan Ungar Mero and Steven Mero, Sydell Roth, Allison and Yitzy Rubin, Robyn and Alan Samuels. Additional sponsorships needed and encouraged.

Board Meeting: Tuesday June 22: 7:00pm

Membership Meeting: Monday June 28: 7:00pm

# **Currently Streaming: "Upheaval" the Documentary:**

He was Menachem Begin, Israel's sixth prime minister and the subject of the documentary "Upheaval," which is streaming on Facebook. She was Aliza (Arnold) Begin, who The New York Times described as "strong willed but publicity shy" in the first line of her obituary. "Upheaval" is not primarily a love story but throughout it, you might be struck by the primacy of Aliza and Begin's relationship in producer-director Jonathan Gruber's portrayal of Begin's life. The film is fascinating for Gruber's choice to situate Begin's story within the context of rising antisemitism in the United States and Europe today, and for its extensive use of archival interviews with Begin himself. Link in online echod.

#### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

Last week an urgent message was sent out regarding Hatzalah's number not working and providing an alternate number. The issue has been resolved and Hatzalah's number is now working.

# **WEEKLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

For access to all the Zoom links for these classes, please visit <a href="https://www.lss.org/learningopportunities">www.lss.org/learningopportunities</a>. 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. Topic: Hidden Truths: An Aggadic Test-Case. 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. 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
- Talmud Class with Rabbi Robinson: 8:30pm—9:30pm 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: 854 6157 2450 (Password: chug2)

#### **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.

### **BEGINNERS EVENT**

Save the date! Great news, the Beginners Luncheon is back. The first and last Beginners Luncheon of 5781 will be held on Saturday, June 26th. The cost is only \$25 per person. Register and pay online at <a href="https://www.lss.org/beginners.or">www.lss.org/beginners.or</a> call 212-874-6100. Please make your reservations and payment by Wednesday, June 23rd. Special meal requests must be submitted no later than Tuesday, June 22nd. The Beginners luncheon is only open to those who are fully vaccinated.

# **DVAR TORAH**

Parshat Korach June 11-12 Fred Ehrman

We're all familiar with the story that takes place in next week's parsha that ultimately resulted in Moshe and Aharon being denied entry into the Promised Land.

וַיִדַבֵּר ה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵּאמְר:קַח אֶת־הַמַּשֶּׁה וְהַקְּהֵל אֶת־הָעַדָה אַתָּה וְאַהְרָּן אָחִיףּ וְדַבַּרְתֶּם אֶל־הַסֶּלַע לְעִינִיהָם וְנָתַן מֵימֵיו וְהוֹצֵאתָ לָהֶם מִּים מִים מְרַהַּפֶּׁלַע וְהִשְּׁקִיתָ אֶת־הַעָדָה וְאֵת־בָּעִירֵם: אֵת־הַעָדָה וְאֵת־בָּעִירֵם:

"Hashem spoke to Moshe saying: 'Take the <u>staff</u> and gather together the assembly, you and Aharon your brother, and <u>speak</u> to the rock before their eyes that it shall give its waters...' (Numbers 20:7-8)."

Moshe then proceeds to strike the rock instead of following Hashem's instructions to speak to it. He incurs Hashem's wrath, who immediately tells Moshe and Aharon that they will no longer lead the people into the land of Israel.

The reason for this severe punishment is not what I want to focus on today. What I would like to understand is the following: almost 40 years earlier, Hashem told Moshe to take his staff and to strike the rock (Exodus 17:6). Now in this Parsha, He instructs Moshe to take the staff and only to speak to the rock.

There are two questions that have always bothered me about this incident:

- 1. If Hashem wanted Moshe only to speak to the rock, what was the point of telling him to take the staff, especially with the previous history of a similar incident? This might be a case of putting a stumbling block before the blind.
- 2. Why was Aharon equally punished with his brother? He seems to be an innocent bystander.

I would like to suggest a possible solution to both these questions. In Parshat Korach, today's Torah reading, Aharon's right to the priesthood is contested by the tribes. In order to decide who should be appointed, the leader of each tribe provided his own staff with his name inscribed on it; Aharon's name was inscribed on the staff of the tribe of Levi. It was agreed that whoever's staff would blossom was the one that Hashem had chosen for the priesthood. The staffs were placed in the Tent of Testimony and, of course, Aharon's staff was the one that blossomed; at that point, all the tribes accepted Aharon's being appointed to the priesthood.

But importantly the Torah then says as follows: "Hashem said to Moses: Bring back the staff of Aharon before the Testimony as safekeeping, as a sign for rebellious ones; let their complaints cease

from Me that they not die (Numbers 17:25)."

We now see that this staff of Aharon was to become a sign for the future in order to prevent the death of those who contemplated rebelling against G-d's word.

So, in Parsha Chukas, when the people began to complain to Moshe about the lack of water and bemoaned being taken out of Egypt, Hashem instructs Moshe to take the staff. Which staff? I would suggest it was the staff of Aharon, that had been placed in front of the Holy Ark as a sign for future rebellions. Hashem wanted to prevent further deaths, and the staff was to remind the people to heed G-d's word through his prophet Moshe. But instead of just displaying the staff to the people and speaking to the rock, Moshe hit the rock with it. The effect that the staff should have had as a sign was lost. Aharon, whose staff it was, stood by and said nothing. Since he was complicit in this act which did not result in sanctifying Hashem in the eyes of the Children of Israel, he too was punished.

This explanation may answer the two questions with which I began. There is a Midrash that makes the connection between these two parshiot (Devarim Rabah 2:8). Moshe is attempting to convince Hashem to allow him to enter the land.

"Hashem, you started this. He said before Him, Master of the Universe, why am I not entering the Land, because I said, "Listen now, you rebels (Numbers 20:10)?" "It was You who first said...as a sign for rebellious ones (Numbers 17:25)."

Here we see this connection between the incident of Aharon's staff and the striking of the rock.

Finally, according to the Midrash, because the staff of Aharon, a staff of life, was to serve as a sign to prevent the deaths of rebels, it had a fascinating history. The staff of blossoms and fruit was created at twilight between the sixth day and the Sabbath of creation (Pesachim 54a). Jacob crossed the Jordan with it, and Judah gave this staff to Tamar. Then it became the instrument which validated Aharon's claim to the priesthood, and it never afterward lost its blossoms and fruit. It was subsequently used by the Kings of Judah until the destruction of the first Temple, at which time it was hidden (Yoma 52b). And the Midrash Rabah concludes that at the end of days, Elijah the Prophet will reveal it and hand it over to the Messiah, בימנו, page 18:23).

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 <a href="mailto:dvar@lss.org">dvar@lss.org</a>.

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 <u>www.lss.org</u> or

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# ANNUAL DINNER 06/13/21

Honoring:

Rabbi Josh & Chani Rosenfeld

**Alan Axelrod** 

Adam Herbst & Shanna Kowalsky-Herbst