



# TW@Keshet

16-17 Cheshvan/October 22-23—Parshat Vayera,

Hachnasat Orchim Shabbat

## SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Keshet welcomes Scholar in Residence  
Dr. Aaron Koller

Candle Lighting 5:47pm

Mincha/Maariv 6:05pm

Friday night shiur 8:00pm  
*The History of the Alphabet and Hebrew Language*

Shabbat Morning

Shacharit—  
Hudson Tent 8:45am

Main Sanctuary 9:15am

Babysitting with Geeta 9:30am

Youth Groups 10:15am

Toddler-Parent Group 10:15am

Dessert Kiddush

Shabbat Afternoon

Daf Yomi 4:55pm

Mincha 5:40pm

*Seudat Shelishit sponsored by Enid & Don Anziska in memory of Don's mother, Naomi Anziska, Nechama Miriam bat Yitzchak haCohen, whose yahrzeit is this Shabbat, 17th of Cheshvan*

Shiur 6:00pm  
*Showdown at Rouen: Rashbam and Ibn Ezra and the Clash between the French and Spanish Approaches to Peshat*

Havdalah 6:46pm

## SUN OCT 24

Toiletry Kit Making Chesed 4:00pm

Pottery & Ceramics Class 8:00pm

## WEEKDAY SCHEDULE OCT 22-23

Shacharit  
Sun 8:30am  
Mon– Fri 6:30am

Mincha/Maariv  
Mon-Thu 5:45pm

Next Friday, October 29

Candle Lighting 5:37pm  
Mincha 5:45pm

## WELCOME TO KESHER!

# ברוך הבא!

Welcome to our newest member families!

Jennifer and Jeremy Stein  
Marsha and Michael Strum

## KESHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Rabbinic Intern Micah Hyman at Keshet 10.30

Shabbat Oct. 30 Parshat Chayei Sara

### Keshet and Temple Sinai Blood drive 10.31

Sunday, October 31, 8:30am - 1:30pm

Blood donations are greatly needed at this time.

Appointments are encouraged. Schedule an appointment [here](#). Enter the key word SAVEALIFE.

### Fall Open Store Event 10.31

What's needed:

Clothes (New or gently used. Please do not include camp tee-shirts or team jerseys), Household items, Toys. All donations need to be sorted, folded and labeled(ideally by gender and age kid vs. adult)

Volunteers needed at the event as well on Sunday 10.31 at Depot Square.

Email at [SocialAction@keshernj.com](mailto:SocialAction@keshernj.com)

### Bergen County Toy Drive

The Bergen County Chanukah Toy Drive. We are collecting new and unwrapped toys and gifts for children and young adults going through trying times. Please drop off your donations at Keshet or the Solomon residence until Monday, November 15th.

The Bergen County Toy Drive is a great collaborative effort across many Bergen County Jewish Schools and Synagogues and donates to over 20 different charity organizations. Your donations will help us share the excitement of Chanukah with thousands of children and young adults. This is a great opportunity to involve your children in the mitzvah of tzedakah!

### Kehilat Keshet Annual Dinner Honoring Our Essential Workers

Thursday evening, November 18, 2021 in the Keshet Tent

Visit <https://www.keshernj.com/event/annual-dinner.html>

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Moriah School Open House** will take place on **Wednesday, October 27th** at 8pm. [Pre-registration](#) is required. In addition we are so happy to announce that we are once again able to welcome prospective parents into our school for tours! You can sign up for a tour [here](#). If you have any questions about admissions please email [alazaros@moriahschool.org](mailto:alazaros@moriahschool.org).

Are you a prospective family interested in Early Childhood at Moriah? Join us on Sunday, November 14th at 10:00am - 11:30am for a morning of Chanukah fun! Register [here](#).

\*\*Please note -this event is only for prospective families, not current Moriah students. Thank you!

Vote early at the Rodda Center and join the community-wide **Great Big Vote** event at Votee Park on Sunday, 10/31 from 1-6pm. Enjoy a live DJ, entertainment for all ages, a photo booth and incredible food trucks. It's an event you won't want to miss! [Sign up online today](#) for your food truck coupon! Early voting runs from Oct 23-31 and is open to all Bergen County voters. Contact Teach NJ with your voting questions or to get involved at (201) 613-2447 or [joyandehm@teachcoalition.org](mailto:joyandehm@teachcoalition.org).

**Yeshivat He'Atid** invites all prospective parents to our Open House, **Wednesday, November 3rd at 7:30 pm**. We would like to share what makes our school a warm and inviting place. Please join us to hear about our innovative academic programming in both Secular and Judaic studies. To pre-register visit [www.yeshivatheatid.org/open-house](http://www.yeshivatheatid.org/open-house) or contact [admissions@yeshivatheatid.org](mailto:admissions@yeshivatheatid.org)

**Torah Academy of Bergen County** invites prospective students and parents to experience TABC at its annual Open House on **Sunday, November 7th, 2021** at 9:30 a.m. Register at [tabc.org/openhouse](http://tabc.org/openhouse).

Please Join us! **The Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County** Open House will take place virtually on **Tuesday, November 10** at 8pm. To RSVP, please visit <https://www.sdsbergen.org/open-house-2020-confirmation/>

## BEREAVEMENT

We regret to inform you of the passing of **Dr. Michael Leon Lifschitz**, father of our community member Mr. Simeon Lifschitz.

*May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem*

We regret to inform you of the passing of our former member **Mr. Jonathan Fox**, z"l husband of our former member Iris Fox.

*May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.*

## DVAR TORAH FROM RABBI BLOCK

### The Dust of the Earth\*\*

There is a famous chasidic teaching, made even more famous in a 2016 Presidential Town Hall in New Hampshire (see 1:22:20 of this clip), of R' Simcha Bunim of Peshischa. He taught that every person should walk around with two small notes, one in each pocket, and read each one as needed. One pocket should hold the Rabbinic saying from the mishnah in Sanhedrin (4:5), "The world was created just for me." And in the other pocket a person should have a note with the Biblical verse, saying: "I am but dust and ashes." (Bereishit 18:27)

The simple meaning of this teaching is that we are meant to seek a balance between self-esteem and humility. When we are feeling a little too full of ourselves, we should take out the note that reminds us that we are but dust and ashes. And when we are feeling defeated and depressed we should cheer ourselves up by taking out the note that teaches that we are each of infinite value - indeed, valuable enough to warrant the creation of an entire world.

But if we examine the context of the Biblical verse that R' Simcha chose, we may come to understand a different message altogether. The verse comes from our parsha. It is stated by Avraham in one of the most astounding encounters between a human being and God ever recorded - he says this about himself just as he confronts God, challenging Him to spare the lives of the wicked citizens of Sodom. He keeps pushing God to back down more and more from His original plan to destroy the evil city, and it is just as he begins pushing that Avraham explains himself to God by saying these words: "I am but dust and ashes." If these words are meant to be an expression of lack of self-worth, they hardly seem the appropriate description of a man who stands up to challenge God!

Instead, we must understand the image of the human being as dust in another way. The image should remind us of the story of God's creation of the human. God collected dust from the earth, and from it formed a human being. Then God breathed the Divine Breath into that pile of dust and made it into a living soul. (Gen. 2:7) Thus, when Avraham draws near to God and argues with Him to save the inhabitants of Sodom, what he is doing is recalling to God that primordial moment. "I am nothing but dust and ashes, just like them! Ultimately, all of us, from the Avrahams to the wicked people of Sodom, come from the same thing and from the same place!"

Avraham's seemingly humble statement is actually an expression of great audacity, springing from a deep sense of responsibility to others. The two notes we should carry in our pockets do not represent a paradox. Rather, they connect together to become an ongoing call. The world may have been created for me, but so was it created for other human beings, all of whom emanate from the same origins as I. In our quest to fashion a better world, we dare not forsake either of these two notes...

Shabbat shalom.

\*\*My thanks to Rabbi David Greenstein for this beautiful insight.

## DIVREI TORAH / ISRAEL REPORT

**Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks**  
[The Binding of Isaac](#)

**Rav Alex Israel**  
[Chesed- Seeing God in the Face of the Other](#)

**Maharat Ruth Friedman:** [Life Imitates Torah](#)  
[Israel Report](#)

## SIGN UP TO LAIN AT KESHER

Volunteer to lain your bar mitzvah parsha or any Upcoming parsha.  
Sign up [here](#).