Parshat Shoftim
6 Elul 5781

Shabbat Shalom!

Friday, August 13
7:15 am: Shacharit
6:30 pm: Mincha Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv
Earliest candle lighting: 6:27 pm
Candle lighting: 7:35 pm

Shabbat, August 14
9:00 am: Shacharit
Guest Drasha: Jews on Justice
Peter Levavi and Eve Kleinerman
7:30 pm: Mincha/Maariv
Havdalah: 8:36 pm

Sunday August 15
9:00 am: Shacharit
7:40 pm: Mincha/Maariv

Daily Shacharit
Monday & Thursday: 7:00 am
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:15 am

Daily Mincha/Maariv
Monday through Thursday: 7:40 pm

Welcome New Members!
Amy & Eric Wolok & family

Mazel Tov!
To Barb and Jay Robinson and family on the engagement of their son Danny to Richelle Caya.

Yahrzeits
7 Elul/Aug 15 Anita Sufrin z”l (Neal Sufrin)
9 Elul/Aug 17 Gertie Bennett z”l (Robert Bennett)
9 Elul/Aug 17 Irving Bilow z”l (David Bilow)
10 Elul/Aug 18 Miriam Bromberg z”l (Mark, Joseph & Lena Bromberg)

Have some good news? Please email the Skokie Valley office so we can add to our weekly bulletin and email and share with the community!

Our building is under construction! Please remove any personal belongings from the Berger Beit Midrash, the upstairs coat room, and the coat racks downstairs. Items not removed by Monday, August 16 will be donated. Thank you!

Indoor tefillot and synagogue activities at Skokie Valley will now require masking for all participants—vaccinated and non-vaccinated. Contact the office for more information.
This year, we are excited to offer full indoor and outdoor services, along with childcare outdoors and on premises, to try to meet the needs of our diverse community.

Our indoor services will be held in the Social Hall and be led by our many wonderful and talented congregants. This space has a large capacity, upgraded ventilation system, open windows and flexible floor plan. There will be no assigned seating for this service, but you must reserve your seats by clicking the link below.

Our outdoor services will be held in our large Tent, and will also be led by congregants and by Hazzan Lawrence Szenes-Strauss. This service will also offer a Traditional seating option. There will be no assigned seating for these services. We will offer Rosh Hashanah morning, Kol Nidrei, Yom Kippur morning and Neila services outdoors.

You must renew your membership before reserving High Holiday seats.

Click the links below for the appropriate forms. Full details may be found at https://www.svaj.org/hh-5782-resources

High Holiday Seats - Social Hall

High Holiday Seats - Tent - with Traditional Seating Option

Memorial Book Yom Kippur Appeal

Membership Renewal New Membership

Outdoor High Holiday Youth Groups Registration

5782 Memorial Book
With the holidays approaching, it’s time to submit your listing in the Memorial Book now. In order to ensure that your listing appears in the book, it must be received by Monday, August 16. Go to https://www.svaj.org/memorial-book-5782 to submit your listing or contact the office if you need help. You can see last year’s listing at https://www.svaj.org/yizkor-book-5781

Elul Programming
Elul is upon us! We are excited to share the following schedule of classes and events to help our community prepare spiritually for the new year. We will also be sending some exciting information about youth programming for the fall very soon.

Preparing for the Shmita Year
Join Rav Ari for a 3-part series on this ancient and innovative idea in the Torah. Explore how it could transform your life this year!
Sunday nights 8/15, 8/22, 8/27 @ 8:15 pm.
Skokie Valley Tent and on zoom https://zoom.us/j/713951311, password 613
Pre-Rosh Hashanah Learning: Chanah’s Prayer
On Rosh Hashanah, we read the Haftorah that serves as a foundation of Jewish spirituality and prayer--Chana’s tefillah. Join us in the tent and on Zoom to explore this powerful text and prepare for the High Holidays.
Tuesdays 8/17, 8/24, 8/31 @2:00 pm
Skokie Valley Tent and on Zoom [https://zoom.us/j/713951311, password 613]

Teen Tish with Avidan Halivni of Solu and Rav Ari
Friday Night, 8/27 @ 8:30 pm
Rubin backyard: 9124 Kolmar  RSVP avidan@solu.us

Skokie Women’s Tefillah Group Mincha, followed by Seudah Shlishit and Singing
Saturday, 8/28 @ 6:00 pm
Social Hall and Skokie Valley Tent

Musical Selichot
The Skokie Valley band is getting back together and rehearsing for an inspiring Slichot experience. Interested in joining the band/choir? Contact Rav Ari ravari@svaj.org
Saturday Night 8/28 @ 9:30 pm
Social Hall and on Zoom [https://zoom.us/j/713951311 Password 613]

Service Opportunity
Elul Park Clean-Up: Solu in the Field.
Sunday, 8/29: Time and location TBA

We are also excited to co-sponsor two exciting initiatives to help us prepare for the 5782 Shmitta Year:

Shmitta Challenge with Hazon
Skokie Valley is participating in the Brit Hazon Challenge to win $1,000 toward a green project! As a Seal of Sustainability site, we support our community’s dedication to green practices. Each person who signs up brings us one point closer to the $1,000 grand prize. Signing up is easy! Visit [Hazon.org/brit] and select from 1 of 6 guided paths, or lead yourself through the Brit Hazon. Make sure you select Kol Sasson/Skokie Valley Agudath Jacob as your community group.

YCT Shmitta Beit Midrash
Kicks off on 8/29. Register and more info here: [https://www.yctorah.org/iyun/]. Since we are a co-sponsor, registration for our members is free.

We hope everyone will find a way to connect, in person or online, and take advantage of the many wonderful opportunities we have for the month of Elul!

This Week at Skokie Valley

Shabbat, August 14
9:30-11:00 am: Outdoor, in person, drop-off groups for children ages 5-12 will be held in the big tent, barring extreme weather. [Register here] if you have not already registered for groups. All children must complete a one-time registration. All children and staff must remain masked for the duration of groups except when eating snacks while socially distanced.

For the safety of all, children must either be in shul or in the tent during services and may not play unsupervised outside the building.
10:30 am: Tot Shabbat in Timber Ridge Park, weather permitting. Bring a blanket and a mask for everyone over 2 who is not vaccinated, and join the growing Tot Shabbat community!

11:30 am to 12:30 pm: Kiddush in the big tent

Sunday, August 14
8:15 pm: Preparing for the Shmitta Year
Details listed in the flyer below. Skokie Valley Tent and on zoom https://zoom.us/j/713951311, password 613

Tuesday, August 16
2:00 pm: Pre-Rosh Hashana Learning with Rav Ari: Chanah’s Prayer
Details listed in the flyer below. Skokie Valley Tent and on zoom https://zoom.us/j/713951311, password 613

Thursday, August 19
11:00 am: Mid-Day Break 2.0 with Bobbie Winter
Are you concerned about re-masking and the Delta Covid variant taking center stage? Please join Skokie Valley’s Thursday 11:00 am mid-day break to connect with others and to relax with breathing exercises and a guided relaxation, enabling you to recharge for the rest of the day. These exercises also help with sleep and with any time you need to recenter yourself, to take a step back and breathe. I look forward to having you join us. Bobbie Winter is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 50 years experience in geriatric and medical social work. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86100712972?pwd=STlpNWVnZG42S0ZFYTB3dmdyUHZRZz09 Passcode 613

8:00 - 8:30 pm: Following Mincha at 7:40, The Skokie Valley Agudath Jacob membership is invited to a walk-through of the renovations in our Sanctuary. There will be a brief presentation and update on the construction status by our architect, design team and general contractor, and an opportunity to see the progress we’ve made to date. Hard hats will not be required, but please expect some dust--the space is unfinished and there is no furniture. Please RSVP office@svaj.org or 847-674-3473 and indicate if you will require a chair.
SHMITTA & YOU
SUNDAY NIGHTS
8/15, 8/22, 8/29
@8:15PM

JOIN RAV ARI FOR A 3 PART SERIES ON THIS ANCIENT YET INNOVATIVE MITZVAH IN THE TORAH. EXPLORE HOW IT COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE THIS YEAR.

IN PERSON IN SKOKIE VALLEY TENT AND ON ZOOM

CHANA'S PRAYER
PRE-ROSH HASHANAH LEARNING
TUESDAYS @2PM
8/17, 8/24, 8/31 @2:00PM

ON ROSH HASHANA, WE READ THE HAFTORAH THAT SERVES AS A FOUNDATION OF JEWISH SPIRITUALITY AND PRAYER - CHANA'S TEFILAH.
JOIN US IN THE TENT AND ON ZOOM TO EXPLORE THIS POWERFUL TEXT AND PREPARE FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS.
Security & Safety Upgrades

Exterior doors to the building will remain locked any time there is no security guard present. Access to the building will be available via keycards, keys, office buzzer during business hours and “Minyan Bell” during weekday tefillot.

The doors will be locked for Friday night services. Keycards may be brought to shul and used to enter for Friday night services before Shabbat begins.

On Shabbat morning, a guard and greeters will be at the main entrance to let people in for Shabbat morning services.

If you would like a key card, please contact the office at 847-674-3473, office@svaj.org

Please contact Matt Marcus at safety@svaj.org to be added to our growing list of volunteer greeters. We need your help! Thanks!

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Know someone who recently moved to Skokie who might be interested in our shul? Make sure to let the membership committee know! Please email Ari Berkowicz ariberk@gmail.com with relevant information and the committee will reach out!

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Click to visit Skokie Valley's YouTube Channel for all videos, including Rav Ari’s video drashot and Adult Ed classes.

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Beyond Skokie Valley

**August 15 @ 12 - 4 pm: Multi-family garage sale, 8552 Springfield Ave, Skokie.** Proceeds will go to Skokie Valley. Anyone who wants to volunteer would be greatly appreciated, even just to sell water. Contact Batya Gilbert-Koplow to volunteer or for more information: batya.gilbert@gmail.com

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**Thursday, August 19 @ 7:30 pm via Zoom: JUF’s PATH TO PARENTHOOD.** You’re invited to an evening of support for all those in our community who are struggling with infertility, pregnancy loss, adoption and other challenges in building your family. Facilitated by: Rabbi D’Ror Chankin-Gould, Anshe Emet Synagogue, and Marsha Raynes, LCSW, JCFS Chicago Adoption, Infertility & Bereavement Support. To register or for more information, please contact Marsha Raynes at MarshaRaynes@jcfs.org.