

SKOKIE VALLEY

Welcomes you!



Rabbi Ari Hart: RavAri@svaj.org 312-315-9178 Carin Netter, Executive Director, office@svaj.org 847-674-3473
Debbie Eisenstein, President, president@svaj.org David Rubin, Past President
Website: www.svaj.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/svajsynagogue

Parshat Yitro 20 Shevat 5780

Shabbat Shalom!

Friday, February 14

Shacharit: 7:15 am

Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat, Maariv: 5:12 pm in Berger

Candle lighting: 5:02 pm

Shabbat February 15

Shacharit: 9:00 am

Drasha: "Being and Becoming"

Mincha/Maariv: 5:00 pm

Havdallah: 6:06 pm

Sunday, February 16

Shacharit: 9:00 am

Mincha/Maariv: 5:15 pm

Daily Shacharit

Monday & Thursday: 7:00 am

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:15 am

Daily Maariv

Monday through Thursday: 8:00 pm

Please help ensure there is a minyan at all weekday Tefillot! We know it's cold and the weather can be bad-- we greatly appreciate your efforts in supporting our community.

We are looking for men to join the "Skokie Valley Minyan" WhatsApp group. Text your full name & "minyanaire" to **Simi Chavel: 732-910-4348** or email sbchavel@gmail.com

Mazal Tov!

To **Nelson and Michele Kanter** on the birth of a grandson, Elijah Wolf, to their children Tali Berkowitz and Jacob Kanter.

Baruch Dayan HaEmet

We send our deep condolences to **Bernice Seidel and family** on the passing of long time member **Fred Seidel z'l**.

Are you new or newish to our shul? Please make sure to take a colored cup at kiddush for your drink so we can give you a warm Skokie Valley welcome!

We are so thrilled that we continue to grow as a community! Thank you for warmly welcoming our new members.

To host a new family for a Shabbat meal please contact Rachel Stein simesstein@gmail.com

In the spirit of inclusion, we are excited to offer brand new page readers for those who need a little help seeing the small print of the siddur.

You can find them on the table with all our different siddurim outside the sanctuary. Thank you to Felice Fischer for making this happen!

Welcome to Guest Chazzan Alexander Rabinowitz. Alexander began his cantorial career at age six, singing duets with Cantor Joseph Malovany at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan on the High Holidays. Alexander's passion for chazzanut has led him to pursue cantorial and vocal studies under the tutelage of Cantor Sol Zim and voice instructor Josephine Mongiardo. Alexander regularly conducts services at numerous congregations, upholding traditional Nusach HaTefillah while encouraging communal participation. Alexander also has performed classical recitals of a broad repertoire, including pieces in Hebrew, Yiddish, Italian and English. While not at the amud, Alexander is a law student at the University of Chicago Law School. Prior to that he obtained a B.A. in history at Columbia University where he was inducted to Phi Beta Kappa.

Misheberach for Cholim: In order to ensure that we are offering a misheberach for members of our community in need of physical, emotional and/or spiritual healing, we will be sending a monthly link to a form where you can enter the names of those for whom you wish a prayer to be said. All names on this list will be personally recited by a gabbai or gabbait every day when Torah is recited, in addition to being included in the prayers of individuals in our community. If you enter a name on the list, we request that you renew it each month the person is in need of healing. The list will be cleared on Shabbat Mevarchim each month--February 22 for Adar. You may find the form at <https://www.svaj.org/misheberach>. You may also call the office with the information at 847-674-3473.

*******Upcoming Events at Skokie Valley*******

Friday night, February 28 @ 8:15 pm: Calling all 13-18 year olds! A Teen Oneg will be held on Friday night, February 28 at 8:15 pm in the Teen Lounge. We'll have great food and an opportunity for a lively "Ask The Rabbi Anything" conversation. Please RSVP by February 21st and you will receive a link to submit questions anonymously to Rav Ari.

Shabbat, February 21-22: Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Dr. Devorah Schoenfeld. Rabbi Schoenfeld is Associate Professor of Judaism at Loyola University Chicago, where she teaches Judaism, Bible, Comparative Religion and Jewish-Christian relations. Rabbi Schoenfeld will be speaking at Friday night dinner, on Shabbat after Musaf and before Mincha @ 4:55 pm. Friday night dinner is a special Chinese menu catered by Tacos Gingi. RSVP for dinner reservations by February 18 at <https://www.svaj.org/dinner-with-devorah-schoenfeld>. **Reservations close on Tuesday, 2/18!**

February 22 @ 8pm: Interested in helping to create and sustain our warm community? Please consider helping out on the membership committee! Join our meeting, e-mail Leah at leahdneiman@gmail.com for details. Your time commitment could be as little or as big as you can manage!

Sunday, February 23 @ 1:30-3:00 pm: Mirele Goldsmith, founder of the Jewish Earth Alliance. Event co-sponsored by Kol Sasson, Orot and Hazon. "Responding to Climate Change with Jewish Wisdom and Community: What We Can Do Together!" How is climate change impacting the Jewish community in Chicago, in Israel and around the world? How can you help? Join us for learning and inspiration as we explore answers to these questions informed by Jewish tradition and the latest research.

Saturday, February 29 @ 8:40 pm: Broomball is back! Put on your padding and prepare for an evening of slipping, sliding and fun! RSVP and details at svaj.org/broomball-2020! Adults only.

Sunday, March 8, @ 1-1:45 pm: Skokie Valley/Gidwitz Event at Gidwitz Place. To help the Skokie Valley community build intergenerational relationships, Gidwitz Place, a Jewish assisted living facility in Deerfield, will be hosting Skokie Valley kids to do art projects with the residents. Since this is a new, untried event, Gidwitz has asked that we limit attendance to no more than 10 kids, so this is a first come, first served opportunity. Due to the limited number of children that can participate, **please RSVP by March 1, to Lena Bromberg at lena@bromberg.net.** And, if you are able to carpool and/or attend the event please let email Lena.

Sunday, March 8: Sunday Night Seminar Speaker Series: A Deeper Dive, Beginning on March 8, and featuring scholars in our community. We will start with **Rabbi Marianne Novak** presenting "The Haggadah" as a cornerstone of our home liturgical practice reflecting our key sacred narrative, and one of the first Jewish 'wiki' projects. **On May 24 and 31, Dr. Malka Simkovich** will speak about "Jewish Vocabulary in the Ancient World"; and beginning on July 12, **Dr. Sam Fleischacker** will speak about "What is Idolatry?" Stay tuned for more details!

Tuesday, March 10, 4:40-6:30 pm: Purim Palooza! Fun, Games and Food! Sponsors are needed now to determine how awesome the event will be. Go to <https://www.svaj.org/purim-palooza-2020> to register and sponsor! See flyer for details!

Shabbat, March 13-14: Artist in Residence Jordan Gorfinkel. "Gorf" is a cartoonist, musician, producer and director and the creator of the Passover Haggadah Graphic Novel. He also runs the Jewish Cartoon Workshop for schools, camps and family programs. Stay tuned for details of what promises to be an amazing shabbat!

Shabbat, March 20-21: JOFA Shabbaton at Skokie Valley. Details soon.

This Week's Classes at Skokie Valley

Shabbat @ 12:00 pm: Parashat Hashavuah with Jed Abraham.

Monday @ 7:15 pm before Maariv: Gemara Megillah with Rabbi Steve Mandel, Berger Beit Midrash

Rav Ari's Bereshit and BYOK classes will not meet this week, and will resume on February 25 and 27..

*******Hakarat Hatov – Recognizing the Good*******

Hakarat Hatov to Sarah Gryka for all her help--financial, administrative and more--all done with a smile!

If there is someone whom you would like to recognize, please submit their name and a short paragraph on the positive impact they are having to office@svaj.org Submissions may be anonymous.

*******Youth News*******

Tot Shabbat! We'll meet this week in Berger Beit Midrash from 10:30-11:15 am. Tot Shabbat is for children between the ages of 0-4. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. For children already in groups, please pick up your child and head upstairs **for songs, tefillah, and fun!**

We need parents to help lead Tot Shabbat! [Click here to sign up!](#)

For the safety and security of our kids, children should be in groups or in shul with a caretaker. If children are found wandering the building, they will be brought directly to you. Thank you for your partnership in helping keep our children and community safe. For questions, contact Youth Director Sara Price children@svaj.org

Children's Groups begin at 9:30 am in four separate classrooms, with early babysitting available starting at 9:15 am. To keep our rooms safe and clean, please do not bring lollipops or sticky candy into groups.



We'd love to include YOU in a future member spotlight. If you haven't shared anything about yourself yet (and you're comfortable doing so), please email the office at office@svaj.org!

Get to Know...Michael Schwartz!!

Family Info: Married in 89 and have two children (Shira and Sammy)
Hometown: Detroit, Michigan
Favorite Jewish Food: Jelly-filled donuts
Something that we don't know about you: I came in 2nd place in musical chairs in college
How Long Have You Been at Skokie Valley: 20 years
The Last Book Read or Movie You've Seen: Mickey Lolich autobiography
Latkes or Hamentaschen: Latkes
Favorite City in Israel: Eliat
What foreign country would you like to visit that you haven't been to yet? South Africa



*******Beyond Skokie Valley*******

Sunday, February 23, 2020 @ 9:00am-10:30am, Congregation Or Torah - The Dezimrah Institute Presents: Workshop for Baalei Tefillah Presented by Benny Amar, RSVP to dezimrah@gmail.com.

Sunday, February 23 @ 9:30 am: Song, Dance, and Play! Join the Solomon Schechter Ginsburg ECC and Susan Salidor for a fun family concert. Susan Salidor is an award-winning children's music composer and performer with the heart of a teacher! Questions: (847) 498-2100, RSVP: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScHp7z_BMpMJJ1ZswjCc6uqcHXJQKm4S807LtiIMxz_tSSPUw/viewform

This week, corresponding with Parashat Yitro, join thousands of people in fifty countries in celebrating the first annual Global Week of Hakarat Hatov (Gratitude) to the Druze Defenders of Israel. The Druze are a fiercely loyal non-Jewish minority in Israel, and they trace their lineage back to Yitro (Jethro) -- Moshe's father-in-law, ally, and advisor. Learn more or send #ShukranDruze2020 greetings at druzevets.org/shukran or Israeli-Druze Veterans Association on Facebook. Contact Sari Steinberg at SariScribe@gmail.com or (847) 282-0285 for more information.