

1.13.17 • 15 Tevet 5777 • Parashat Va'Yechi/ And he lived

Shabbat shalom, and welcome to Mishkan.

Mishkan is a spiritual community on a mission to engage, educate, empower and inspire people in Chicago and beyond through dynamic experiences of Jewish prayer, study, music, social activism and community-building. We believe that Judaism is a vehicle for bringing more light, more goodness, more justice, and more joy into the world, and that inspired prayer and inspired living reinforce one another.

The ancient Mishkan was the traveling prayer tent in the desert that brought together Israelites from across the spectrum of the community, and so do we: young, young-at-heart, total novices in prayer and Jewish study alongside people with years of experience, LGBTQ Jews, Jews in interfaith relationships and from all denominational and religious backgrounds. We believe everyone's birthright is to connect to God, Torah and community in this way. The only thing needed is that your heart be in it. You in?

We're so glad you're here, and hope your shabbos with us brings you higher.

Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann

TEFILAH/prayer: Dream With Me

Love is creative and redemptive. Love builds up and unites, hate tears down and destroys.

The aftermath of the 'fight with fire' method is bitterness and chaos—

the aftermath of the love method is reconciliation and creation of the beloved community.

Physical force can repress, restrain, coerce, destroy, but it cannot create and organize anything permanent; only love can do that. Yes, love – which means understanding, creative, redemptive goodwill, even for one's enemies – is the solution to the race problem.

—Martin Luther King, Jr., 1957

KEHILAH/Community

livin' on a prayer • תפילה

LOCALS: Shabbat Dinners in YOUR Hood

NEXT Friday January 20th, various times & locations around Chicago. Looking to meet new people and connect more deeply with folks at Mishkan? Come to one of our winter LOCALS Shabbat dinners— small, intimate gatherings all over the city to help you Jew wherever you are. This month, we've got Locals in Hyde Park, Lincoln Square, Andersonville & Lakeview. Visit mishkanchicago.org to register.

Last Fridays @ AES

Friday January 27th, 6:30pm, Anshe Emet Synagogue, 3751 N. Broadway.

We'll be wrapping up January with music and spirit, followed by the best darn potluck around. We'll provide a main dish, you bring something healthy and delicious, vegetarian and nut-free.

learn, baby learn • לימוד

The Chicago Social Justice Beit Midrash: What is Jewish Criminal Justice?

4 Tuesdays starting January 10th, 6:30 - 9:00pm, Mishkan Space, 4001 N. Ravenswood 108

Join us in partnership with JCUA and AVODAH for the second series of our all-levels, open-to-everybody Social Justice Beit Midrash (learning space), taught by Aryeh Bernstein. We're looking at **sources on criminal justice**. mishkanchicago.org to register. No worries if you missed the first session!

Alef-Bet Marathon!

January 22nd & 29th, 10:00am - 5:00pm, Beit Yichud, Rogers Park

In just two Sundays, under the watchful eye of SVARA-trained instructors, you'll learn to read and write Hebrew! \$20 per day. sm@svara.org to register.

Conscious Coupling

Mondays Jan 30th, Feb 6th, & Feb 13th, 6:30 - 8:30pm + Shabbat dinner, March 3, Mishkan Space, 4001 N. Ravenswood 108

Build the hard skills necessary for taking your love to the next level and keeping it strong. This three part series, co-taught by Dr. PD Wadler, Rabbi Lizzi and Ellie Spitz, is open to couples at any stage of relationship building and is our very first program happening @ Maggie's Place. We'll explore love languages, the Dr. Gottman method of conscious communication, and Jewish approaches to partnership and commitment. \$72 per couple & half off for Builders (Builders, email rachelGray@mishkanchicago.org for the discount code). Visit mishkanchicago.org to register.

come together • ביחד

Finding Home: Stories & Monologues About Interfaith Love

Sunday February 19th, 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Mishkan Space, 4001 N. Ravenswood 108

Actors, writers and storytellers share their stories about being in interfaith partnerships— the great, the challenging, and the surprising aspects of falling in love with someone from a different faith background and building a home together. Followed by discussion, cohosted with Mishkan by InterfaithFamily/Chicago and the JCC. Cost: \$10. Visit mishkanchicago.org to register.



Maggie's Place Open House

Sunday January 29th, 4pm - 7pm, Maggie's Place @ Mishkan Chicago, 4001 N. Ravenswood Suite 108

Join us as we celebrate the launch of Maggie's Place with good folks, good vibes and delicious food catered by Goddess & Grocer. Maggie's Place is a center at Mishkan Chicago dedicated to building community through a holistic approach to wellness, learning, leadership, social community and access to social services and resources. Join us!

www.mishkanchicago.org/maggiesplace

LEARNING: The Blessing of Letting Go

כח כל־אלה שבטי ישראל שנים עשר וזאת אשר־דבר להם אביהם ויברך אותם איש אשר כברכתו בך אתם: כט ויצו אותם ויאמר אלהם אני נאסף אל־עמי קברו אתי אל־אבותי אשר בשדה עפרון החתי: ל במערה אשר בשדה המכפלה אשר־על־פני ממרא בארץ כנען אשר קנה אברהם את־השדה מאת עפרון החתי לאחזת־קבר: לא שמה קברו את־אברהם ואת שרה אשתו שמה קברו את־יצחק ואת רבקה אשתו ושמה קברתי את־לאה: לב מקנה השדה והמערה אשר־בו מאת בני־חתי: לג ויכל יעקב לצות את־בניו ויאסף רגליו אל־המטה ויגוע ויאסף אל־עמיו

"All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is it what their father spoke to them, and blessed them: every one according to their blessing he blessed them. And he charged them, and said to them, "I am about to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, in the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a burying place. There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah. 32 The purchase of the field and of the cave that is in it was from the Hittites."

And when Jacob finished instructing his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and expired, and was gathered unto his people." Genesis 49:28-33

(ויאסף רגליו. הכניס רגליו: ויגוע ויאסף. ומיתה לא נאמרה בו ואמרו ר"ל. יעקב אבינו לא מת (תענית ה ע"ב

RASHI (R'Shlomo Yitzhaki, kind of a big deal, 11th c.): **He gathered up his feet:** he brought up his feet. **And he expired and was gathered.** But it doesn't say "dead," say our sages! Jacob our father didn't actually die!

HASSIDUS: Didn't die? Jacob didn't die-- the name Ya'akov didn't die. Only the name "Yisrael," given to Jacob because he wrestled with beings divine and human and prevailed (Gen 32:29) was hidden away for a future time. The name Ya'akov, given because he grasped at the heel of his brother Esav, endures. - R'Isaiah Muskat, Prague

kol ha'olam kulo gesher tzar me'od/ v'ha'ikar lo l'fakhd klal • כל העולם כולו גשר צר מאוד והעיקר לא לפחד כלל • all of the world is a very narrow bridge. The main thing to recall is not to fear, not to fear at all. - reb nahman of bratslav

TZEDEK & HESED & HODA'AH/justice, love and gratitude

Help Mishkan welcome our SECOND refugee family to Chicago! It's happening! **Please share with your networks:** razoo.com/story/Mishkan-Refugee

Massive shout out to all the newly ordained rabbis and rabbinical students in the house, many of whom will be hanging with us tonight. Welcome!

Happy Birthday weekend to Katie Goldstein and to **Stephanie Cohen!** May you live in good health 'til you're 120, like good ole' Mo(ses).

So long, farewell, to Emily Rosenblum & Alex Schwartz as they share their last shabbat with us before leaving Chicago. Come visit! We'll miss you!

Love Teamers ON tonight are: **Aimee Halstuk, Abby Seitz, Liz Jones, Alex Schwartz, Reuven Solomon.** THANK YOU for your hands, hearts & smiles.

Hungry for Discussion? Join Christy Cook for some idioms! Thanks, Christy, for getting the conversation going.

Don't be a wilde chaya (that's Yiddish, for wild animal). We love sharing shabbos lunch with you. **Please help us by cleaning up after** yourself.

Here for the first time? Come say hello to Natalie Dibo or any of our staff or Love Team on today so we can shower you with love and affection! Get on the Mishkan email list at www.mishkanchicago.org and get in our FB group and follow us on Instagram too. **Congrats? Condolences? Want to let us know that someone needs a little love?** Contact Hilary Gimpel at support@mishkanchicago.org. **Be a Lover!** Contact James Evans at LoveTeam@mishkanchicago.org to hear about the Love Team.

HOLY MOLY, YA HEARD?? Mishkan just got an amazing opportunity: a generous local foundation will **match any increase in donations this year.** Every little bit counts, and the bigger the numbers the bigger our ability to keep bringing inspired down-to-earth Judaism to Chicago! So consider...

- **Giving!** Make a donation online at mishkanchicago.org/donate Every dollar goes to engaging people in dynamic and deep Jewish spiritual practice regardless of background or denomination. Give for the first time or make a workable increase on last year's donation!
- **Becoming a Builder!** Builders make a monthly gift or annual gift to help sustain Mishkan, not out of guilt, but out of inspired co-creation of this community. (And if that's not convincing enough, you get cool perks, discounts and Mishkan swag.)
- **If you're already a Builder, consider increasing,** even by a few dollars a month. It all counts!

All the ways that you give are eligible for the match-- Buildership, High Holiday pledges, one-time donations and gifts from family trusts and foundations. If you've been holding out for that increase, this year is the year! We have 'til Dec 31, 2017 to make the match.

Contact Rachel Cort, Managing Director, if you want more information about supporting Mishkan: rachel@mishkanchicago.org.

Thank you and bless you for building this community with us!