

10.13.17 • 23 Tishrei 5777 • Parshat Bereishit

Shabbat shalom, and welcome to Mishkan.

Mishkan is a spiritual community on a mission to reimagine and breathe new life into Judaism— to engage, educate, empower and inspire people 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/Reflection: Write A New Page

"Today resolve to get rid of all the negativity that has been eating you away, dump those thoughts which create self doubt, do away with views that create self pity and make a new beginning. Life hasn't ended, your page is still being written and you have a long way to go. Remember, every day is a new day. You can decide to start life anew whenever you want to. So go ahead write a new page, a new chapter of your life today and make it as colorful as you want. After all, you have only one life to live- make the most of it."
— Latika Teotia

KEHILAH/Community

Register for all events (unless otherwise posted) @ www.mishkanchicago.org/events

livin' on a prayer • תפילה

Last Fridays @ AES

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

We'll be wrapping up October with music and spirit, followed by the best darn vegetarian pot-luck anywhere... but only because YOU bring it. Help us continue to step up our potluck game this week!! If your last name begins with A-L bring something veggie- or fruit-based. If your last name begins with M-Z bring a grain or nut-free side We've got the main!

learn • לימוד

S&M (SVARA + Mishkan) Bet Midrash

Tuesdays Oct 24th - Dec 5th, 7:00pm - 9:30pm, **Mishkan Space**, 4001 N Ravenswood & **Wednesdays** concurrently at Beit Yichud in Rogers Park
Learn how to learn Talmud, with the help of a dictionary, a hevruta (study partner) and the award-winning guidance of R' Benay Lappe of SVARA: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva and R' Mónica Gomery, SVARA's new Associate Director. First be sure to attend the CRASH talk (a pre-requisite for the class). We'll be learning a classic text that explores how the rabbis basically invented your favorite Jewish holiday out of thin air. Or did they?

gather • ביחד

Strange Contagion

Tuesday October 17th, 7:00pm - 9:00pm, **Silverstein Base Hillel**, 858 W Wrightwood Ave

Did you know that thoughts, emotions and behaviors are highly contagious? Join Lee Daniel Kravetz, author of the riveting book Strange Contagion, for an interview-style discussion with Rabbi Lizzi on his findings and a group discussion on how we can use them to build healthier communities of our own. Strange Contagion explores the science and lived experience of social contagion. You don't need to have read the book to attend. The first 10 people to RSVP will get a signed copy! Thanks to Silverstein Base Hillel and Maggie's Place for co-sponsoring this event.

The Sangha (Mishkan Meditation Minyan)

Wednesdays, continuing October 18th, 7:00pm - 8:00pm, **Maggie's Place**, 4001 N. Ravenswood 108

A sangha is a group of people devoted to doing spiritual practice in community. The Mishkan Meditation Minyan will gather on Monday evenings to sit in silent meditation together and to process what's coming up in our practice— challenges, new insights & questions. You don't have to commit to being there every single week, but regular attendance will be the most beneficial for your own practice and for others. The group is free, and drop-ins are welcome. **Beginning October 18th this group will meet on Wednesdays.**

Jews & Money

Mon. October 30th, 7:00pm - 8:30pm, **Maggie's Place**, 4001 N. Ravenswood suite 108

Learn to understand your own habits and relationship with money with Rabbi Lauren, then talk personal financial planning with wealth advisor (and Mishkanite), Erica Tarantur, who will discuss small tweaks you can implement to improve your current and long term financial well being. From learning to construct a budget, finding small avenues to save even when living on modest means, and growing and investing your hard-earned savings, gain the tools & skills you need to feel confident about and in control of your financial future.

LIMMUD/Learning: Spiritual Endurance

וַיֵּרָא ה' כִּי רַבָּה רָעַת הָאָדָם בְּאָרֶץ וְכָל-יֶצֶר מַחְשַׁבֹת לִבּוֹ רָק רַע כָּל-הַיּוֹם: וַיִּנְחָם ה' כִּי-עָשָׂה אֶת-הָאָדָם בְּאָרֶץ וַיִּתְעַצֵּב אֶל-לִבּוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֲמַחֶה אֶת-הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר-בְּרָאתִי מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה מֵאָדָם עַד-בְּהֵמָה עַד-רֶמֶשׂ וְעַד-עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם כִּי נַחַמְתִּי כִּי עָשִׂיתָם:

TORAH: God saw how great was humanity's wickedness on earth, and how every plan devised by their mind was nothing but evil all the time. And God regretted (*vayinachem*) that God had made humans on earth, and God's heart was saddened (*vayitatzev el-libo*). God said, "I will erase from the earth the humans whom I created— humans together with beasts, creeping things, and birds of the sky— for I regret that I made them." - Genesis 6:5-7

TALMUD: Rav Yehuda said in the name of Rav: When God wanted to create human beings, God first created a group of angels, and said to them: "If you agree, let us make a person in our image." The angels responded: "Master of the Universe, what will be the actions of such a person?" And God told them what human beings would do. The angels responded "What is man that You are mindful of him? [Psalm 8:5]" (Such a creature like this isn't worth creating.) So God stretched out God's finger and zapped them with fire.

This happened a second time, with a second group of angels, and finally the third group said, "The first two groups spoke their mind before you, and that accomplished nothing – the world is yours. Do what you wish." So God created the first human being.

And when the generation of the flood came about, which was so corrupt, the angels said to God, "Master of the Universe, weren't the first set of angels correct [that humans shouldn't have been created?]" God responded to them with a verse: "Even to your old age, and even to gray hairs I will tolerate you" (Isaiah 46:4) – having created people, I will even suffer their flaws."

- Bavli Sanhedrin 38b

HESED & HODA'AH/love and gratitude

Mazal Tov to Leora Baumgarten and Chuck Smith for their company NewHire being selected to participate in CivicX accelerator along with 9 other social entrepreneurs. This is an exciting PointsOfLight program designed to help jump-start companies. Go Leora and Chuck!

Welcome to all the students joining us from Carroll University as part of an intro to Judaism program! We're so excited you're here.

Very Happy Birthday (this week) to: **Stephanie Klein, Jordan Earnst & Adam Rowe**

Love Teamers ON tonight: **James Evans, Hillary Gimpel, Reuven Solomon and Charlie Hammerslough.** THANK YOU for your hands, hearts & smiles.

There's no dinner tonight @ Mishkan!! Usually we have a catered dinner ever 2nd Friday night of the month, and a pot-luck the last Friday night of the month. We'll see you at Anshe Emet Synagogue for that pot-luck in 2 weeks! Tonight, we hope you take it easy and enjoy shabbos!

Here for the first time? Come say hello to **Rachel Cort, or any of our staff, or Love Team** on 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 Hillary 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 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/support 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 till 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!