

11.24.17 • 6 Kislev 5777 • *Parshat VaYeitzei/And he went out*

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/Reflection: Heaven on Earth

When we can open our hearts and work with what we're given, loving what's before us, life stays possible.

Then, through effort and grace, we do what we can with what we have.

And when exhausted by all that's in the way, we're faced with the chance to accept and love what's left, which is everything. This is how we discover that Heaven is on Earth.

- Mark Nepo

KEHILAH/Community

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

livin' on a prayer • תפילה

RISE @ Mishkan

Saturday December 2nd, 9:30am, Second Unitarian Church, 656 W. Barry

Disconnect to reconnect! Our usual Shabbat morning service, heavy on the intention and light on fluff, made with extra joy as we celebrate the bar Mitzvah of Danny Horowitz. **Kids and families are invited for Mini-Mishkan at 11:15am upstairs. Kiddush lunch for everybody afterward.**

gather • ביחד

Wise Aging

Wednesdays Nov. 29th & Dec. 20th, 6:00pm - 7:00pm, Maggie's Place, 4001 N. Ravenswood 108

Join social worker and life coach extraordinaire Lori Dube for a discussion on the book *Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience, & Spirit* by Rabbi Rachel Cowan and Dr. Linda Thal—a deep dive into the mindful approach to growing older. Feel free to attend all or some. Geared towards folks 55+.

New Builder Reception & Orientation

Mon. December 4th, 7:00pm - 8:00pm, Mishkan Space, 4001 N. Ravenswood 108

If you've been waiting for the right opportunity to jump on board with Buildership, that time is here! Whether you're new to Buildership or have been Builders since the beginning and want a refresher on what it's all about, you're invited. Come by for some nosh, some libations (beer/wine, non-alcoholic delicious drinks) and hang time with Mishkan Rabbis, staff, other new Builders and board members. Discover ways to get more deeply involved and get the most out of being a Builder. Current Builders— email RachelGray@mishkanchicago.org for registration details. Prospective Builders— read more about Buildership on our website and sign up!

Considering Conversion

Mondays Feb. 19th - Mar. 19th, 7:00pm - 9:00pm, Mishkan Space, 4001 N. Ravenswood 108

Mishkan's next conversion cohort will begin to gather in February. Dive in and develop an intellectually honest experience of Jewish learning while building personal relationships with text, with Rabbi Lizzi and with others in the program. Want in? Get on the list by writing to Natalie.admin@...

serve • תיקון

ONGOING: The Sangha (Mishkan Meditation Minyan)

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

Serve Meals at Lincoln Park Community Shelter

Friday November 25th, 6:30pm - 8:00pm, LPCS, 600 W. Fullerton Pkwy

If you're interested in volunteering to serve meals to those in need with other Mishkanites the day after Thanksgiving, please email RabbiLauren@mishkanchicago.org.

Love Team Orientation

Monday, November 27th, 6:30-8pm, Mishkan Space. Suit up! Learn the Mishkan Sutra: the Art of Love... Team.

Thank-A-Thon

Wednesday December 6th, 6:00pm - 9:00pm, Mishkan Space, 4001 N. Ravenswood 108

Want to practice gratitude in action? Swing by our phone thank-a-thon to make some calls to the community to say THANKS. Dinner/drinks provided.

TORAH/learning: The Real Stairway to Heaven

וַיִּירָא וַיֹּאמֶר מִה נִרְאָה הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה אֵין זֶה כִּי אִם בֵּית אֱלֹהִים זֶה שַׁעַר הַשָּׁמַיִם:
Afraid [vayira], he said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and that is the gateway to heaven." Genesis 28:17

וַיִּירָא יַעֲקֹב מְאֹד וַיִּצַר לוֹ וַיַּחֲצֵץ אֶת הָעָם אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ וְאֶת הַצֹּאן וְאֶת הַבָּקָר וְהַגְּמָלִים לְשְׁנֵי מַחֲנֹת:
Jacob was greatly afraid [vayira] (about encountering his brother Esau); in his anxiety, he divided the people with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two camps. Genesis 32:8

וַיִּירָא: לדעתי אין זה דומה למה שאמר: "וַיִּירָא יַעֲקֹב" שהוא יראת עונש ופורעניות. כי מה לו לירא? הלא הובטח מפי הנבואה בכל הטובות הגדולות האלה? אבל לשול "וַיִּירָא" כאן הוא יראת הכבוד והרוממות, שאין הכוונה בו יראת הנזק אבל היראה לבלי פגוע בכבודו ובערכו.

In awe/vayira. In my opinion, this is different from what Jacob said later on, that he was afraid (of encountering Esau), which was the fear of punishment and disaster. For what did Jacob have to fear? Wasn't he being protected by the mouth of prophecy with such great goodness?

Rather, when it says "vayira/in fear/in awe" here, it's more like honor, and getting higher... Not the fear of being harmed, but the fear of not touching the greatness and value of the Divine." HaKtav veHaKabbalah, Genesis 28:17:1

"I was born when all I once feared - I could love."

- Sufi saint Rabia of Basra (she's a she, too :)



Tuesday December 12th, 6:15pm • Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont

Join us for holiday themed food, candle-lighting, and an interfaith Hanukkah story slam with friends from SVARA, Gilead Church, and Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church. A night of true stories told live, latkes, sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts), eggnog, tamales & bar drinks, fair trade Hanukkah gelt AND ugly sweaters. Get registered early & BYO menorah.

HESED & HODA'AH/love and gratitude

Mazal Tov to the **Horowitz family** on Danny Horowitz's upcoming Bar Mitzvah, and to **Emily Achler & Jason Skicewicz** on their recent wedding.

Very Happy Birthday (this week) to: **Rachel Hillman, Scott Beslow, Aaron Hosansky, Joshua Schwartz, Adam Case, Carol Henriques, Andrea Solow, Jed Weiner & Lisa Roth**

Don't forget: We are now composting! What is compostable you ask? **EVERYTHING** from the forks, plates and cups to the napkins (& food of course). The green composting bin is your friend.

Don't be a wilde chaya (that's Yiddish, for wild animal). We love sharing shabbos dinner with you. **Please help us by cleaning up after** yourself. Want to contribute toward the cost of a meal for the community, for a special occasion or just because you're feeling generous? Write Natalie admin@mishkanchicago.org

Here for the first time? Come say hello to **Rachel Gray or any of our staff, or Love Team** on so we can shower you with love! 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 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.

Mishkan is co-created by Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann, Founder • Rachel Cort, Managing Director • Ellie Spitz, Director of Community Engagement & Wellness • Ilana Gleicher-Bloom, Vision Director, Mensch Academy • Rabbi Lauren Henderson: Jewish Emergent Network Rabbinic Fellow • Rachel Gray Alexander, Marketing & Communications Manager • Natalie Dibo, Rabbinic & Admin Assistant • Tracey Morrison, Shabbat Coordinator • Breezi Plack, Shabbat Assistant • The Davening Team • Our Awesome Board The Love Team • Every Single Builder and Giver • YOU!