

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: Come to Me

God speaks to Moses, the prophet within us, and says,
 "Bo! Come on in! I am waiting for you
 inside the heart of Pharaoh. The heart of Pharaoh is inside you.
 It is the place that has grown heavy with the weight of life's experience.
 It is the place that has hardened— its outer shell cynical,
 its inner layers made of fear and unhealed grief. Through this heart of Pharaoh
 you must come if you are to know Me, if you are to find freedom." – Rabbi Shefa Gold

כי אם הִרְשָׁתָּ תִּחְרָשִׁי בְּעַת הַזֹּאת רוּחַ וְהִצְלָה יַעֲמֹד לַיהוּדִים מִמְּקוֹם אַחֵר וְאֵת וּבֵית אֲבִיךָ תֵּאֲבֹדוּ וּמִי יוֹדֵעַ אִם לְעַת כְּזֹאת הִגַּעְתָּ לַמַּלְכוּת
 Who knows? Maybe it was for just such a moment that you attained this privilege. – Esther 4:14

לַיהוּדִים הַיְתֵה אוֹרָה וְשִׂמְחָה וְשֵׁשׁן וְיִקָּר / כֵּן תִּהְיֶה לָנוּ
 LaYehudim hayita orah v'simcha v'sasson v'ikar. / Ken ti'hyeh lanu
 For us may there be light and joy and gladness and uprightness, yes, let it be so.– Megilat 8.16

KEHILAH/Community

livin' on a prayer • תפילה

CROSSING THE SEA: Interfaith Shabbos SongFest

Friday February 10th, 6:15pm - 10:00pm, **Chicago Theological Seminary**, 1407 E. 60th St, 4th Floor Chapel

Join us along with the Chicago Theological Seminary, and other amazing folks from diverse religious traditions to break bread, share conversation and celebrate with songs of liberation. This is "Shabbat Shira," when we remember crossing the sea from slavery to freedom, marking a new chapter in the story. **No YumCards needed this week** because the Center for Jewish, Christian and Islamic Studies at CTS is sponsoring! REGISTER ONLINE ASAP!!

learn, baby learn • לימוד

The CRASH Talk

THIS Tuesday Feb 7th, 7:00pm - 9:30pm, **Mishkan Space**, 4001 N. Ravenswood 108

The CRASH Talk is the indispensable introduction to Talmud learning with Mishkan and SVARA. Learn how the Talmud— and all radical ideas— are born, crash, and are reborn anew. **S&M Bet Midrash Winter Session begins Tuesday Feb 14th**. Visit svara.org to register for both!

come together • ביחד

Tu b'Shevat Recovery Seder

NEXT Sunday February 12th, 1:30pm - 3:30pm, **Anshe Emet Synagogue**, 3751 N. Broadway

Tu b'Shevat is the holiday that symbolizes rebirth and renewal of the earth and of natural life. Join **Mishkan & the Jewish Center for Addiction at JCFS** as we blend these ideas with stories of addiction and recovery through the rituals of the Tu b'Shevat seder including offerings of fruits, nuts and juices associated with the traditional seder ritual. This is an alcohol-free event and all are welcome. Visit mishkanchicago.org to register. We need volunteers for this event. Email ellie@mishkanchicago.org if you're interested.

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 and cohosted with InterfaithFamily/Chicago and the JCC. Cost: \$10. Visit mishkanchicago.org to register.

PURIM: RIGHTEOUS DEBAUCHERY (or, It's the End of the World As We Know It, and I Feel FOOOOIIINE)

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday March 11th, 6:00pm - 10:30pm, **Second Unitarian Church**, 656 W. Barry

The best f'ing Purim experience from soup to nuts, on the planet. The whole megilla, costumes, spiel, and a good faith attempt to laugh in the face of an-all-too-real/surreal impending doom. #BecausePurim

TORAH: Palpable Darkness You Can Barely Feel

וַיְהִי חֹשֶׁךְ אֲפֹלָה וְגוֹמֵר שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים וְגוֹמֵר. חֹשֶׁךְ שֶׁל אוֹפֵל שְׁלֹא רָאוּ אִישׁ אֶת אֲחֵיו שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים. וְעוֹד שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים אַחֲרֵי חֹשֶׁךְ מְכֻפָּל עַל זֶה שֶׁלֹּא קָמוּ אִישׁ מִמְּחֻתּוֹ, יוֹשֵׁב אִין יָכוֹל לַעֲמֹד וְעוֹמֵד אִין יָכוֹל לִישֹׁב. וְלָמָּה הִבִּיא עֲלֵיהֶם חֹשֶׁךְ, שֶׁהֵיוּ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאוֹתוֹ הַדּוֹר רְשָׁעִים וְלֹא הָיוּ רוֹצִים לְצַאת וּמָתוּ בְּשֹׁלֶשֶׁת יָמֵי אֲפֹלָה כְּדִי שֶׁלֹּא יֵרְאוּ מִצְרַיִם בְּמִפְלֹתָם וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִף הֵם לוֹקִים כְּמוֹנוֹ.

RASHI: "And there was a thick darkness in the Land of Egypt..." Thick darkness in which they did not see each other for those three days, and another three days of darkness twice as dark as this, so that no one rose from his place. If he was sitting, he was unable to stand, and if he was standing, he was unable to sit. Now why did God bring darkness upon them? Because there were among the Israelites in that generation—a bad generation who did not want to leave. They died during the three days of darkness, so that the Egyptians would not see their downfall and say, "They too are being smitten like us."

When a person can't see another, or doesn't want to see him, darkness envelops the world. – Eshkol Ma'marim

The greater darkness is when a person can't see his fellow, and can't feel the pain of his fellow. 'They didn't see one another' (10:23). The take-away from the issue is: when one can't feel the pain of his fellow, the feelings become dulled and paralyzed. 'They didn't rise from their place,' means no one could be revived.' – Even ha'Ezel

Happening @ Maggie's Place



(First!) Drop-In Night: Thursday February 16th, 5:00pm - 8:00pm, Maggie's Place, 4001 N. Ravenswood Drop by, meet new people, get support, have a coffee or play a game with a friend. Drop-in nights are your space to be you – in community.

ManKind: The Men of Mishkan: Monday February 20th, 7:00pm - 8:30pm, Maggie's Place, 4001 N. Ravenswood 108 A space for people who identify as men, from all walks of life and backgrounds, to connect over conversation and learning about your experiences. This group is open to all people who identify as men without regard to race, sexual orientation, disability or experience, and will be facilitated by Mishkanites.

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

Sending Cynthia Gelper love as this weekend is the shloshim, 30 day mark, for her mother's passing. We will support you in the year to come.

Mazal Tov to our very own **Ellie Spitz** for passing her exam to be a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Ellie Spitz, MSW, LCSW— we're so proud of you!

Very Happy Belated Birthday to Breezi Plack! Thank you for everything you do for this community.

Thank YOU to our amazing Torah readers today: **Ana Lind, David Frankel & Suzanne Griffel**— you got mad skillz.

Love Teamers ON today are: **Kyle Brumfield, Alexis Graves, Dave Fried & Shannon Cochran.** THANK YOU for your hands, hearts & smiles.

Hungry for Discussion? Join Katie Goldstein for a discussion on **Self Care**, during lunch over bagels. Thanks for getting the convo going, Katie!

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.

Our Justice Team got re-booted a few months ago and has become a space for sharing up-to-date information about opportunities for serving, rallying, marching & advocating. Write to RabbilLauren@mishkanchicago.org to get on the list and get more information.

Here for the first time? Come say hello to **Ellie Spitz, 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 till Dec 31, 2017 to make the match.

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