

5.26.17 • 1 Sivan 5777 • Parashat Bamidbar • Omer 46 [6 weeks, 4 days]

### 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: Make Yourself Like The Wilderness

Rabbi Bachya asks, "Why does the Torah emphasize that God spoke to Moses in the *Wilderness of Sinai*? This is to teach you that a person does not *attain the Torah until they have made themselves hefker*—empty and abandoned, like the wilderness."

— Commentary on Numbers 1:1

## KEHILAH/Community

Register for all events (unless otherwise posted) @ [www.mishkanchicago.org/events](http://www.mishkanchicago.org/events)

### livin' on a prayer • תפילה

#### Jewish Emergent Network Shabbat Morning

**TOMORROW Saturday May 27th**, 9:30am, **Second Unitarian Church**, 656 W. Barry

Our Jewish Emergent Network Fellows are excited to be hosting their own Shabbat morning service as part of their Mishkan site visit. Join all seven of the fellows for prayer and lunch. Please note: this is not a Mishkan service. Spots for lunch are limited, and registration is encouraged.

#### RISE @ Mishkan

**NEXT Saturday June 3rd**, 9:30am, **Second Unitarian Church**, 656 W. Barry

Our signature Shabbat morning experience—music, prayer, reflection & Torah made with extra joy by not one, but two celebrations. Join us as we celebrate with the Gold/Merrill family as they bring their new daughter into the covenant AND honor Jan Kallish on becoming a bat mitzvah as an adult. Services followed by a delicious kiddush lunch (extra goodies generously sponsored by the awesome honorees). **Kids and families invited for Mini-Mishkan** with Rabbi Anna Levin Rosen and Tal Rosen at 11:15am upstairs.

### learning • לימוד

**Shavu'ote Tikkun in Lakeview - Tuesday May 30th**, 10:00pm - 4:00am, **Anshe Emet Synagogue**, 3751 North Broadway: Celebrate Shavu'ote at the annual all night learning event including a panel discussion with Kehilla Rabbis (Jewish taboos! Intriguing, right?) and dessert reception.

**Shavu'ote Under The Stars- Tuesday May 30th**, 5:00pm - 9:30pm, **Base Hillel**, 858 W. Wrightwood Ave: Join **Silverstein Base Hillel in partnership with Moishe House & Mishkan** for an evening of music, conversation and cheesecake at a Shavu'ote Jam session followed by Shavu'ote seder over a delicious meal.

#### OM: Jewish Mindfulness Collective w/David Gottlieb

**Wednesday June 7th - 28th**, 7:30pm - 9:00pm, **Mishkan Space**, 4001 N. Ravenswood 108

Taught by seasoned meditation teachers from Mishkan and the Center for Jewish Mindfulness at Orot, this series includes Jewish-inspired teachings, meditations and practices. This session will explore notions of fate, drawing on Hassidic texts and techniques to attain self-and world-awareness. \$10 per class. Drop-ins are welcome, pre-registration is encouraged.

### gather • ביחד

#### A Taste of Saffron Caravan Concert & Instrument Drive

**Friday June 9th**, 8:30pm, **Second Unitarian Church**, 656 W. Barry

International music group Saffron Caravan will be performing downstairs *after Mishkan Friday night services* and dinner. Saffron Caravan unites talented musicians from around the world to create art and music together, demonstrating that the arts can be used to build sustainable bridges between cultures. Get your ticket for the concert (\$35) by donating on their site: [gatc.org/saffron-caravan-on-wbeznp/r/](http://gatc.org/saffron-caravan-on-wbeznp/r/)

#### Adulting 101: Writing YOUR Resume

**Thursday June 20th**, 7:00pm - 8:30pm, **Maggie's Place**, 4001 N. Ravenswood 108

REALTALK: Job hunting and keeping your resume current can be grueling. In this first edition of Adulting 101, we're tackling resume writing with the pros at JVS Chicago Career Moves. Learn how to professionally branding yourself with effective formatting, content and ways to customize your resume for specific jobs. Participants will leave with a personalized resume outline. Please bring along a laptop and your current resume.

## TORAH: An Ethos of Access

וַיְדַבֵּר יְ-הוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְבַּר סִינַי...

“And the Holy One spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai...” Numbers 1:1

וַיְדַבֵּר ה' אֶל מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְבַּר סִינַי, אֲלֵא כֹל מִי שְׁאִינֹו עֹשֶׂה עֲצָמוּ בְּמִדְבַּר, הַפֶּקֶר, אִינוּ יָכוֹל לָקִנּוּת אֶת הַחֲכָמָה וְהַתּוֹרָה, לְכָךְ נֵאָמַר: בְּמִדְבַּר סִינַי

**MIDRASH:** The giving of Torah was accompanied by three things: by fire, by water, and by wilderness. Why was the giving of the Torah marked by these three features? This is to tell you that just as these three things are free to all who come into the world, so also are the words of the Torah free to all who come into the world...

*Davar acher/another explanation of the text, “AND GOD SPOKE TO MOSES IN THE WILDERNESS OF SINAI:” Anyone who does not throw himself open to all like a wilderness cannot acquire wisdom and Torah.” BaMidbar Rabbah 1:7*

“Just as divine revelation and the Torah arise from the physical space of wilderness, of *midbar*—at the burning bush and then at Mount Sinai—a heart infused with divine Torah arises through a person's mindful cultivation of their own interior wilderness. One should seek to attain the level of *hefker*—of feeling unbound by the pride and egoism of ownership, of being unattached to materialism. In *hefker* consciousness, we train our spiritual sight to see the Divine Presence that dwells beneath the surface, beneath the many golden calves of our obsessions, possessions, and wayward priorities. This is a radical reinvention of the concept of *hefker* (a neutral halakhic category of abandonment and ownerlessness).

To receive the revelation of Torah—or perhaps a bit less grandly, to let Torah take root in one's heart—a person must first make themselves into a *midbar*, an inner empty wilderness that is cleared of all the weeds and brush that obstruct true perception and feeling. A wilderness that returns to the first purity of nature. – Prof. Ethan Fishbane, JTS Commentary

## LOCALS IS BACK

Friday night, June 16th

Looking to meet new people, check out new places and connect more deeply with folks at Mishkan? Come to one of our **LOCALS neighborhood dinners—small, intimate Shabbat dinner gatherings all over the city to help you Jew wherever you are.** This month, we've got Locals in Pilsen, Highland Park, Hyde Park, Ravenswood, Lincoln Square, Andersonville & Lakeview. [mishkanchicago.org/locals](http://mishkanchicago.org/locals)

## HESED & HODA'AH/love and gratitude

Welcome to all 7 of the Jewish Emergent Network Rabbinic Fellows from across the country: Seattle, San Francisco, New York, Washington DC, and of course to Rabbi Lauren, who we are lucky enough to hang with all the time. So so glad you're all here. **If you want to hear more about them, check out their tisch tonight and come to their Shabbat morning service tomorrow at 2U.**

**Very Happy Birthday** (this week) to: **Peter Wagreich, Stefani Weiss, Michael Roth, Debra Wasserman & Aliza Becker!** *Ad ma'ah v'esrim* (til 120!)

**THANK YOU for your hands & hearts, Love Teamers ON tonight:** Elaine Ross, James Evans, Charlie Hammerslough, Hillary Gimple & Lilia Rissman.

\*\*\* **We are now composting!** What is compostable you ask? EVERYTHING! The forks, plates, 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.** Thank you to the **anonymous angels** who have contributed to sponsor kiddish in recent weeks. If you want to contribute in this way, for a special occasion or just because you're feeling generous, contact Natalie at [admin@mishkanchicago.org](mailto:admin@mishkanchicago.org)

**Here for the first time?** Come say hello to **Natalie Dibo, 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](http://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](mailto:support@mishkanchicago.org). **Be a Lover!** Contact James Evans at [LoveTeam@mishkanchicago.org](mailto: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 number, 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](http://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!

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

**Thank you and bless you!**

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 • The Davening Team • Our Awesome Board • The Love Team • Every Single Builder and Giver • YOU!