

9.8.17 • 17 Elul 5777 • *Parashat Ki Tavo*

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: May I Suggest

May I suggest to you that this is the best part of your life.

There is a hope that's been expressed in you, the hope of seven generations, maybe more.

This is the faith that they invest in you: it's that you'll do one better than was done before.

Inside you know, inside you understand. Inside you know what's yours to finally set right.

And I suggest, yes I suggest to you, yes I suggest

this is the best part of your life. – Susan Warner

KEHILAH/Community

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

learn • לימוד

The Heart Of Torah

THIS Wednesday September 13th, 7:30 pm, **Anshe Emet Synagogue**, 3751 North Broadway

Looking for an intellectual power-up before the holidays? Join Hadar and guest panelists Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann, Rabbi David Wolkenfeld and Rabbi David Russo as they discuss the heady issues raised in Rabbi Shai Held's acclaimed new book, *The Heart of Torah: Essays on the Weekly Torah Portion*.

gather • ביחד

High Holiday Stuffing Night

THIS Thursday September 14th, 7:45pm - 9:00pm, **Mishkan Space**, 4001 N. Ravenswood 108

High Holidays are nearly upon us and we need help organizing and stuffing Boarding Passes (aka tickets) for the 1600+ people who will be joining us at Get Higher. There will be music, pizza and good times for all. Drop in for 30 minutes or an hour, every pair of hands helps us immensely!

Selichot Jam

NEXT Saturday night, September 16th, 7:30pm-9:30pm @ Silverstein Base Hillel, 858 W Wrightwood

The Saturday evening before Rosh Hashanah kicks off Selichot - a period of special songs and prayers on the theme of forgiveness, return, and reconnection. We'll kick off with havdallah and sing songs of the season into the night. Feel free to bring an instrument, and/or share a song. If this is your first Mishkan High Holidays, come meet folks in the community so you'll encounter friendly faces at the Holidays.

MishkanX HighHo Shabbat Dinners: Lakeview | Ravenswood | Pilsen | Evanston

Friday September 22nd, various times and locations

Break bread and bring in Shabbat on Rosh Hashanah day 2 with some friendly Mishkanites from all across the city. Visit onetable.org/Chicago

The Sangha (Mishkan Meditation Minyan)

Monday October 2nd, 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 Mondays to sit in silent meditation and to process what's coming up in our practice. 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.

the high holiday afterglow... • אחרי החגים

The Pop-Up Sukkah Reappears...

40s + Social Sukkot: Thursday October 5th, 6:30pm - 8:30pm, **Private Home**, River North (RSVP for address).

Sukkot Havdallah Music Fest: Saturday October 7th, 6:30pm - 9:00pm, **Silverstein Base Hillel**, 858 W Wrightwood

Family Sukkah Party: Sunday October 8th, 11:30am - 1:00pm, **Lakeview**, Private Home (RSVP for address).

Holy Pandemonium! Simhat Torah

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday October 12th, 6:00pm - 9:30pm, **Heller JCC**, 524 W Melrose

The last of the torrent of Fall holidays, this is the crown, the top, the end, the last gasp, the finale— and is all about celebration. Singing, dancing, hearing what Torah folks in the community will throw down amidst circles of dancing. Celebrating Torah, in all its forms.



Tickets To Get Higher Increase THIS WEEK

What are you waiting for?

Want to give a little more this year? **We're seeking volunteers for High Holidays**— willing hands and spirits to make this year's High Holidays our best year yet— and yours! Want to help out? Email ellie@mishkanchicago.org

Visit: www.mishkanchicago.org to get your tickets.

Torah: Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story

הָעֵנִי וְאֶמְרָתָּ לִפְנֵי יְיָ-הֵלֹךְ אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֶרְמִי אֲבִי וַיֵּרֶד מִצְרַיִם וַיִּגֶר שָׁם בְּמִתִּי מֵעַט וַיְהִי-שֵׁם לִגְדוֹל עָצוֹם וְרַב:

5 And you shall speak and say before the Lord your God, “A wandering Aramean was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous; 6 And the Egyptians dealt ill with us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard slavery; 7 And when we cried to the Lord God of our fathers, the Lord heard our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labor, and our oppression; 8 And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great awesomeness, and with signs, and with wonders; 9 And he has brought us to this place, and has given us this land, a land that flows with milk and honey. 10 And now, behold, I have brought the first fruits of the land, which you, O Lord, have given me.” - Deuteronomy 26

In the traditional Passover Haggadah, however, the Rabbis translate the Hebrew “My father was a wandering Aramean” (“*arami oved av*”) very differently. By changing the vocalization of the Hebrew “*oved*” (“wandering”) to “*ibed*” (“destroyed”), they render the text to mean: “An Aramean sought to destroy my father.” (The Haggadah identifies this would-be murderer as Laban who, by threatening Jacob, “sought to uproot us all.”

I’m struck by the two spiritual models suggested by these respective translations. One highlights our wanderings, identifying our peoplehood with our collective seeking – our desire to journey toward a better and more blessed future. The second model suggests we are essentially a hunted and hated people, forever on the run from those who would seek our destruction. These two readings illuminate a critical question that inform our collective Jewish self-understanding to this very day. Centuries later, the question remains: with which will we identify? The narrative in which we are the perpetual victim or the spiritual seeker? Does our communal Jewish narrative forever pit us against an eternal enemy – or does it ultimately celebrate our sacred purpose and the promise of blessing? - Rabbi Brant Rosen

HESED & HODA'AH/love and gratitude

Very Happy Birthday (this week) to: **Zac Moscovitz, Jody Schneiderman, Buffy Levy & Elaine Ross**

Love Teamers ON tonight: **Sara Beth Hoffman, Benna Kessler, Sarah Nicholson, Amir Weg, Kyle Brumfield**. THANK YOU for your hands, hearts & smiles.

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. If you want to contribute towards the cost of providing a meal for the community, for a special occasion or just because you're feeling generous, contact Natalie at admin@mishkanchicago.org

Here for the first time? Come say hello to **Ellie Spitz, 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/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.

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

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 • Rachel Goldberg, Lead Education at Mench Academy & Mishkan Program Coordinator • The Davening Team • Our Awesome Board • The Love Team • Every Single Builder and Giver • YOU!