

## Shabbat shalom, and welcome to Mishkan.

Mishkan is a spiritual community whose mission is to reimagine and breathe new life into Judaism, leading people toward more purposeful, more connected, and more inspired lives. We do this by creating radically inclusive spaces for Jewish spiritual practice and community that engage, educate, empower and inspire people in Chicago and beyond, across the spectrum of the identities, backgrounds, ages and beliefs. The ancient Mishkan was the traveling prayer tent in the desert that brought together all kinds of Israelites, and people who wanted to share community with them. Similarly, we welcome you, whatever your story is. You'll see people who are young and older, total novices in prayer and Jewish study alongside people with years of experience, LGBTQ Jews, Jews of color, in interfaith relationships, and from all denominational and religious backgrounds. We believe everyone's birthright is to connect to G'd, Torah, and community in this way, and that the intersection of these identities in intentional and non-judgmental Jewish space creates more light, more love, more justice, and more goodness in the world. Sound good to you?

We're so glad you're here, and hope your Shabbos with us brings you higher.

– Rabbi Lizzy Heydemann

rabbi@mishkanchicago.org

## TEFILAH/prayer: Gratefulness Makes the Soul Great

We will not perish for want of information. Rather, for lack of appreciation. Amid the meditation of mountains, the humility of flowers—wiser than all alphabets—we are hating, hunting, hurting...

Only one response can maintain us: gratefulness for witnessing the wonder,

for the gift of our unearned right to serve, to adore, and to fulfill.

It is gratefulness which makes the soul great."

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Prayer, Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity*

## R E V E L A T I O N (S) • Interfaith Story Slam

THIS Wednesday May 16th | 6:30pm | Chicago Theater Works | 1113 W. Belmont

A few nights before Shavu'ot (the holiday celebrating the giving of Torah) we join with our interfaith partners in crime (Gilead Church, Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, SVARA, REBOOT, and Friendship Presbyterian Church) to create a night of heart-opening stories themed around REVELATION(S). Oh, and mac n' cheese and cheesecake (gf + v options available). \$15 for general admission, \$10 for Builders.

Why do a interfaith story-telling event? Come and find out!

## TORAH: The Unbearable Beauty of Being

On the third day, as morning dawned, there was thunder, and lightning, and a dense cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud blast of the horn; and all the people who were in the camp trembled. Moses led the people out of the camp toward God, and they took their places at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke, for the LORD had come down upon it in fire; the smoke rose like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled violently. The blare of the horn grew louder and louder. As Moses spoke, God answered him in thunder...

And Moses went down to the people and spoke to them. God spoke all these words, saying: I the LORD am your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage...

All the people saw the thunder and lightning, the blare of the horn and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they fell back and stood at a distance. "You speak to us," they said to Moses, "and we will obey; but let not God speak to us, lest we die." Moses answered the people, "Be not afraid; for God has come only in order to test you, and in order that the fear of God may be ever with you, so that you do not go astray." So the people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.

- Exodus 19:16-19, 19:25-20:2; 20:15-18

(טו) ויהי ביום השלישי בהיה הבקור ויהי קולת וברקים וענן כבד על ההר וקול שפר תזק מאד ויחדר כל העם אשר במחנה. (יז) ויצא משה את העם לקראת האלהים מן המחנה ויתצבו במחנה ההר: (יח) והר סיני עשן כעשן כעשן הכבשן ויחדר כל ההר מאד: (יט) ויהי קול השפר הולך ותזק מאד משה ידבר והאלהים יענו בקול: (כ) ויחד משה אל העם ויאמר אלהים: (ס) (א) ודבר אלהים את כל הדברים האלה לאמר: (ס) (ב) אנכי יי אלהיך אשר הוצאתיך מארץ מצרים מבית עבדים: (טו) וכל העם ראים את הקולות ואת הלפידים ואת קול השפר ואת הקר עשו וירא העם וינעו ויעמדו מרחק: (טז) ויאמרו אל משה דבר אתה עמנו ונשמעה ואל ידבר עמנו אלהים פו נמות: (יז) ויאמר משה אל העם אל תיראו כי לבעבור נסות אתכם בא האלהים ובעבור תהיה יראתו על פניכם לבלתי תחטאו: (יח) יעמד העם מרחק ומשה נגש אל הערפל אשר שם האלהים:

Thus revelation is certainly not Law-giving. It is only this: Revelation. The primary content of revelation is revelation itself. "God came down" [on Sinai] -- this already concludes the revelation; "God spoke" is the beginning of interpretation, and certainly "I am."

- Franz Rosenzweig, *On Jewish Learning*, p. 118:

Following the liberation from Egypt (Passover), Shavuot is the turning of that freedom to its divine purpose, which is **seeing clearly our call to live a meaningful life, filled with the clarity that is possible once the constrictions of heart and mind are released.**

R' Jordan Bendat-Appell, Institute for Jewish Spirituality

On the way to work, I decided to try an experiment: for that one evening, I would resist assigning any labels to my classmates as they filed through the dinner line. I would try to look at them without preconception, the way I had first looked at the Styrofoam in the grass. Of course, this is nearly impossible, but I did make an effort - for a few minutes. After that, I had to stop, because I was so overcome by the beauty of every person in that dining hall that my eyes kept filling with tears. I think maybe that's one reason we screen out so much loveliness. If we saw people as they really are, the beauty would overwhelm us. - Martha Beck, *Expecting Adam*

## KEHILAH/Community

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

### livin' on a prayer • תפילה

#### Next service: Last Fridays @ AES

**Friday May 25th** | 6:30pm | **Anshe Emet Synagogue** | 3751 N. Broadway

Signature Friday night services - music, prayer, learning, intentionality and inspiration, followed by the best veggie potluck this side of Jerusalem.

#### 70 Faces of Revelation: A Smorgasbord of Jewish Learning for Shavu'ote

**Saturday May 19th** | 6:00pm-10:00pm | **Silverstein Base Hillel** | 858 Wrightwood

Join us at Silverstein Base Hillel for an evening of liberatory, preparatory, and revelatory Torah in honor of Shavu'ote, our celebration of Jewish wisdom. \*This event was created by young adult educators and is geared towards undergrads, grad students, and young professionals.\*

### gather (in order of date) • ביחד

#### Rosh Chodesh Circle

**Sunday May 20th** | 5:30pm - 8:00pm | **Maggie's Place** | 4001 N. Ravenswood 101

Our Rosh Chodesh (new moon) circle (for those who identify as female) is a restorative and regenerative space to reflect and connect in sisterhood through ritual prayer, singing, candle lighting as well as light-hearted socializing. Dinner at 5:30pm, circle at 6pm.

#### The Challenge of Change

**Tuesday May 22nd** | 6:30pm - 7:45pm | **Maggie's Place** | 4001 N. Ravenswood 101

Change is a constant in today's world. Join us over dinner and conversation to explore how change can affect one's quality of life and learn healthy living tips that can help you continue finding joy. We're excited to bring you this program in partnership with Journey Care.

#### Listen & Talk: MishkanX Jewish Podcast Club

**Tuesday May 22nd** | 7:00pm - 8:30pm | **First Slice Andersonville** | 5357 N. Ashland Ave.

Listen to *Israel Story Episode 10: Birthstory* and join in discussion. RSVP [rachelambrustein@gmail.com](mailto:rachelambrustein@gmail.com)

#### A Personal Tour Through Gaza

**Sunday May 27th** | 2:00pm - 3:30pm | **Mishkan Space** | 4001 N. Ravenswood 101

Gaza has been in the news a lot recently, but how much do you know about the everyday lives of people living and working there? Mishkanite Alex Soble had the opportunity to travel there, learn about their emerging tech scene, and help build links between Gazan coders and the US tech sector. Join us as Alex shares what he saw through pictures and personal narrative.

#### Djembe: Drumming For The Soul

**Tuesday May 29th** | 7:00pm - 8:30pm | **Maggie's Place** | 4001 N. Ravenswood 101

Join master drummer Michael Taylor from Tam Tam Mandingue Djembe Academy for a West African drumming workshop. Learn to drum as a practice of self care, inspiration and centering. No experience necessary! This workshop is for all regardless of skill level, drums provided.

#### ONGOING: Maggie's Place Drop In Night

**Thursday May 24th** | 5:00pm - 8:00pm | **Maggie's Place** | 4001 N. Ravenswood 101

Drop-in nights are a place to unwind, engage with others and just be you. Come hang out, read a book, play a board game, chat it up, and enjoy FREE dinner! We are thrilled to be partnering with No Shame on U to bring drop-in nights to Maggie's Place.

## HESED & HODA'AH/love and gratitude

**Massive mazal tov** to **Joel Dworkin** on graduating with his BA today! And huge welcome to his parents, **Marlene and Gary Dworkin**, who are here to celebrate. Also, **so long and good luck** to **board member of Daniel Riff** who's off to New York to join a new team at Uber. We miss you already.

**Welcome** to the **Gvanim IAC Leadership Program participants**, cultivating community-based leadership among Israeli & US Jewish communities.

**Very Happy Birthday** (this week) to: **Anita Cohen, Mandy Pekin, James Hirshorn & Alex Schwartz**. Aw, Alex... you're in Pennsylvania...

**Hungry for discussion?** Join **Katie Goldstein** for her conversation table on **From #metoo to #churchtoo & #mosquemetoo.. What about #synagoguetoo?**

**Love Teamers ON** tonight: **Alexis Graves, Marci Koblenz, Aliza Becker, Abby Seitz & Al Rosenberg**. THANK YOU for your hands, hearts & smiles.

**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 **Ellie Spitz** or **Natalie Dibo** or **any of our staff**, or **Love Team** so we can shower you with love! Get on the Mishkan email list at [www.mishkanchicago.org](http://www.mishkanchicago.org), get in our FB group and follow us on Instagram. **Congrats? Condolences? Does someone need 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.

**If you're thinking to yourself, "This community rocks! Someone should make sure this thing stays healthy!" be that someone by:**

- **Giving!** Make a donation online at [mishkanchicago.org/support](http://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 an increase on last year's donation!
- **Becoming a Builder!** Builders make a monthly gift or annual gift on a sliding scale 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!

Contact Rachel Cort, Executive Director, if you want more information about supporting Mishkan: [rachel@mishkanchicago.org](mailto: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, Executive 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 • The Davening Team • Our Awesome Board • The Love Team • Every Single Builder and Giver • YOU!

