

Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation AG Beth Israel Bulletin

עם ישראל חי



January-February 2024 Issue 6

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Rabbi: Yehuda Meyers

Rabbi Emeritus: Joel Lehrfield, PhD

LJCAGBI Bulletin

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Rabbi Meyers' Message

Tu B'shvat heralds the new year for trees, offering a profound testament to the cycle of life and nature's resilience after the prolonged winter. The enchanting rebirth of trees, adorned with delicate blossoms following the frigid months, captures the imagination and stirs the soul. My personal favorite, the cherry blossoms, resembles nature's delicate confetti, showering the world with hues of pink and white. Even the most weathered soul cannot help but be moved by the sheer elegance of these blooms.

However, a paradox is at play. Tu B'shvat, celebrated in mid-January to February, starkly misaligns with the actual blooming of cherry blossoms (and most other trees), which typically occurs much later – in late April or early May, nearly three months post-Tu B'shvat. Gazing outside during this time reveals the ongoing wintry landscape, with trees standing barren, cloaked in snow, devoid of any hint of the vibrant blossoms to come. It begs the question: Why celebrate trees when there doesn't seem much to celebrate?

The answer lies in appreciating Tu B'Shvat's reflection of a profound truth within Judaism.

Rabbi Meyer's Message—continued on page 4

President's Perspective

In the world at large, similar to our Jewish world, a year ends and a year begins. I hope everyone took advantage of the opportunity to get in a final tax-deduction for 2023 by donating to our Shul. Kiddush is always just a little better and nicer with sponsorship, and you might even hear your name (or whatever or whoever you prefer to designate) from the Bimah (don't tell the Rabbi I made that offer...).



Kiddush is just one example - if you have ideas for other programs you would like to sponsor, or plan and execute - please start by contacting the office and we will strive to find a way to bring your vision to life.

I have not commented on the current strife in our Land of Israel, or on the upheavals on some college campuses and in some cities. That is all in my mind most of the time, but I prefer to express gratitude for the family I am privileged to head, and the congregation that trusts me with leadership. As the year 5784 continues - a leap year - let us continue to treat each other with respect and kindness in calendar year 2024, also a leap year.

And now, let us pray for Spring...

LEIL SHABBAT ONEG

JOIN US AFTER YOUR FRIDAY NIGHT SHABBAT
MEAL FOR DIVREI TORAH, ZEMIROT AND MORE

PARSHA VA'ERA, JANUARY 12TH, 8PM @ DAN & KARI GUTSTEIN
ROSH CHODESH ADAR I, FEBRUARY 9TH, 8PM @ AARON GOLDMAN
PURIM KATAN, FEBRUARY 23RD, 8PM @ ALEX AND LEAH GOLDSTEIN



Please note that this bulletin is online at

www.ljcagbi.org

To print calendars, flyers or order forms, go to the bulletin page needed, and print the page(s) you would like. Perfect for refrigerator door decor.

Announcements

Mazal Tov:

To Phyllis Kaplan on the marriage of her son Mark (Mordechai) to Meirav Kadosh

To Regine & Stuart Meisel on their 40th wedding anniversary and on the anniversary of Stuart's Bar Mitzvah

Condolences to the family of:

Ruth Berkowitz

Sallie Blackman

June Fox

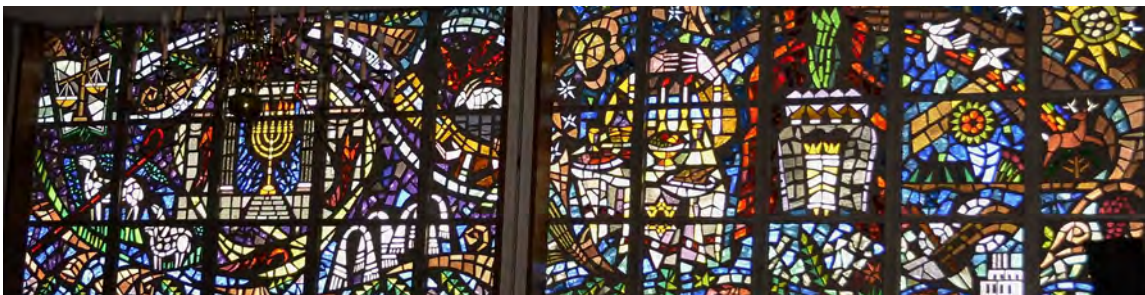
Please get your articles in for the shul bulletin

If you have a program, announcement or event, please get your information to the Shul *Bulletin* so everyone will know about it! Send your electronic submissions to the editor at: bulletin@ljcagbi.org or submit a hard copy to the Shul office before the deadline, **March/April 2024 issue, Wednesday, February 21, 2024**. All material is subject to approval by the editor and may be modified for space or content. Inserts must also be approved by the editor before inclusion in the *Bulletin*. Please email bulletin@ljcagbi.org for further details.



Your presence is greatly needed: please attend

Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation A G Beth Israel, our Shul, has always maintained two daily minyanim for Shacharit and for Mincha/Maariv (or just Maariv during the winter months). It continues to be difficult to guarantee that 10 men will be present for davening. **Your help is urgently needed to ensure that a full minyan is present for everyone, especially those who have Yahrzeit or are in their year of mourning. Please attend whenever you are able.**



Tu B'Shvat is not a celebration of trees in full bloom but an ode to hope. It marks the beginning of the growth of the tiny buds emerging on the tree. Despite the lingering cold and bare trees, Tu B'shvat invites us to relish nascent signs of life, promising impending blossoms.

It celebrates hope and faith, acknowledging an underlying Divine promise of renewal despite winter's dormancy. Tu B'shvat anticipates that, in the midst of the dark and challenging winter, spring is inevitably on the horizon.

We too find ourselves in the midst of a harsh, cold, and unforgiving winter for our people. The ongoing war in Israel and the persistent rise of anti-Semitism worldwide can leave us feeling frigid. But Tu B'shvat reminds us that, even in the darkest moments, we too can find the tiny buds of faith and hope.

Tu B'Shvat beckons us to look closely, beyond the barrenness and snow-covered branches, and discover the nascent signs of a brighter future, to nurture them and find the strength to believe in the promise of a better tomorrow. May we all merit the speedy arrival of the Messiah in our days – a time when the buds of hope will bloom into the full blossoms of redemption.



THURSDAY NIGHT MEN'S MISHMAR

Thursday nights after Maariv
Jan. 4 & 11
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

January/February 2024 Calendar of Events

Monday, January 1	New Years Day
Thursday, January 11	Rosh Chodesh Shevat
Monday, January 15	Martin Luther King Day
Thursday, January 25	Tu B'Shevat
Friday, February 9	Rosh Chodesh Adar I - Day 1
Saturday, February 10	Rosh Chodesh Adar I - Day 2
Monday, February 12	Lincoln's Birthday
Wednesday, February 14	Board meeting
Monday, February 19	President's Day
Friday, February 23	Purim Katan

ALL NEW@ LJCA&BI!

**A TORAH LEARNING OPPORTUNITY
FOR WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN, BY WOMEN**

SHABBAT MORNINGS, MONTHLY AFTER KIDDUSH

**SHABBAT SHIRA, JANUARY 27TH - REGINE MEISEL
PARSHA TETZAVEH, FEBRUARY 24TH- KARI GUTSTEIN**

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WELCOME

Schedule for Daily/Shabbat

JANUARY 2024/TEVET -SHEVAT 5784						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Shabbat
	1 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:15pm	2 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	3 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	4 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	5 S: 7:00am CL: 4:15pm M/M: 4:20pm	6 SHEMOT S: 9:00am Mincha: 12:15pm H: 5:16pm M: 5:40pm
7 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:20pm	8 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	9 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	10 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	11 ROSH CHODESH SHEVAT S: 7:00am M 7:15pm	12 S: 7:00am CL: 4:22pm M/M: 4:25pm	13 VA'EIRA S: 9:00am Mincha: 12:15pm H: 5:24pm M: 5:45pm
14 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:30pm	15 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	16 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	17 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	18 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	19 S: 7:00am CL: 4:30pm M/M: 4:35pm	20 BO S: 9:00am Mincha: 12:15pm H: 5:32pm M: 5:55pm
21 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:35pm	22 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	23 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	24 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	25 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	26 S: 7:00am CL: 4:39pm M/M: 4:40pm	27 BESHALACH S: 9:00am Mincha: 12:15pm H: 5:41pm M: 6:05pm
28 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:45pm	29 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	30 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	31 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm			KEY: S - Shacharit M - Maariv M/M - Mincha/Maariv CL - Candle Lighting H - Havdalah



Services & Candlelighting Times

FEBRUARY 2024/SHEVAT 5784 -ADAR I 5784						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Shabbat
Key: S – Shacharit M- Maariv M/M- Mincha/Maariv CL – Candle Lighting H- Havdalah				1	2 S: 7:00am CL: 4:48pm M/M: 4:50pm	3 YITRO 9:00am Mincha: 12:15pm H: 5:50pm M: 6:15pm
4 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:55pm	5 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	6 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	7 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm:	8 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	9 ROSH CHODESH ADAR 1 DAY 1 S: 7:00am CL: 4:57pm M/M: 5:00pm	10 ROSH CHODESH- DAY 2 MISHPATIM S: 9:00am Mincha: 12:15 pm H: 6:00pm M: 6:25pm
11 S: 8:30am M/M: 5:05pm	12 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	13 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	14 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	15 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	16 S: 7:00am CL: 5:06pm M/M: 5:10pm	17 TERUMAH S: 9:00am Mincha 12:15pm H: 6:10pm M: 6:35pm
18 S: 8:30am M/M: 5:15pm	19 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	20 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	21 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	22 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	23 S: 7:00am CL: 5:15pm M/M: 5:20pm	24 TETZAVEH S: 9:00am Mincha 12:15 pm H: 6:20pm M: 6:45pm
25 S: 8:30am M/M: 5:20pm	26 S: 8:30am M/M: 7:15pm	27 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	28 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm	29 S: 7:00am M: 7:15pm		

Minyan times are subject to change. To confirm minyan time please check the shul website under the worship services tab or call/text Paul Kramer at 312.343.2200.



Off the Subject

Leah phones her husband at work, "Issy, do you have time for a chat?"

"Sorry, darling, this is not a good time - I'm about to go into a board meeting."

"But this won't take long," Leah says, "I just want to tell you some good news and some bad news."

"I really haven't the time," says Issy, "so just quickly tell me the good news."

"Oh all right then, the good news is that the airbag on your new Lexus works very well."

From the Catering Department

Well, here we are again in a time of remembrances. In other words, my article for this month. I always write about something from my past. It seems to stir up memories of many others who are probably in my age category.

As everyone knows by now, I grew up in Albany Park. I lived in a big red brick building on the corner of Ainslie and Ridgeway. In fact, after I got married an apartment in the same building became available. The only thing that changed was the address, because I lived in the section of the building that was next door to where I grew up. I was quite familiar with the apartment; all the apartments were the same...one bedroom, kitchen, dinette, living room. It really met all my needs. When I compare then and now...WOW. How times change.

I don't want to say I've gotten spoiled, but I have. I don't know if it's the times that changed or the people, maybe both, because everything changed for everyone. We all want a little more. That's not such a bad thing. I don't want more of anything at the expense of someone else. I believe this is what is called the American Dream. To want to succeed.

To change the subject now. We're still having winter, so far not much snow but it's still cold. I don't understand why we didn't move away to some warmer climate. Oh, well, it's too late now. And to those who wonder why we never moved away, my husband had a job here. Some how, in spite of the cold weather, we would take a vacation in a warm place and that made it easier to tolerate Chicago cold winters. Maybe if we lived in a warmer climate we wouldn't appreciate the warmth as much. Whatever, nothing we can do about it now.

Since I brought it up, Acapulco is where we used to go. It might be boring to some people but for us it was paradise. Hot weather every day; sunshine never gets boring.

And, we met the same people every year so we were like old friends getting together. I miss it now but it wouldn't be the same without my hubby. You don't realize how much you miss someone until they are no longer available. But I make do by keeping myself very busy. And I still play Rummy Q with my dear friends. We're all in the same boat.

Now I have some questions: How come men who can't stay awake at the movies manage to stay wide awake for any sport event on T.V.? And why don't they know how to read a T.V.listing but insist on quick remoting between channels? I grew up with radio and I still keep a radio on all day. Can you imagine if we had a remote for radio? We'd never know who that Masked Rider was on The Shadow.

It seems to me that people don't know how to ask a question any more. When a clerk in a fine store asked me if I knew my phone number, I answered, certainly don't you know yours?

And why do some people use the word "axe" instead of ask? And where do waitresses or waiters learn the art of turning away just when you want to get their attention, or of offering you a refill on coffee when you're ready to leave? And doesn't it annoy you when you're deep in conversation and a wait person interrupts you to ask if everything is all right. And why would you ask a wait person if a particular item is good, do you really think they'd say, "no it's awful." It bothers me that tipping is based on your check. If two people are together and one persons meal costs \$5.00 and the other persons meal costs \$10.00, why should the \$10.00 meal deserve a larger tip? You're already spending more for your meal. When someone says "They say" don't you want to ask who is "they"?

Oh well, I think it's time to end this. Let's see what you remember: Betty Furness?, What's My Line?, Satin Quilts,? Does anyone remember silk sheets? How about hanging clothes outside on a clothes line? That's a lot of remembering.

Till we meet again,

Your friend,

Shirley Derdiger



TUESDAY Tuesdays @ 7:30pm

NIGHT

TORAH

ZOOM ID: 909 669 6088
PASSCODE: 408259

^{1/2}
RebbetziN Wall

^{1/9}
Rabbi Yehuda Averbach (Z)

^{1/16}
YUTMK @ Mimi RoseNbush

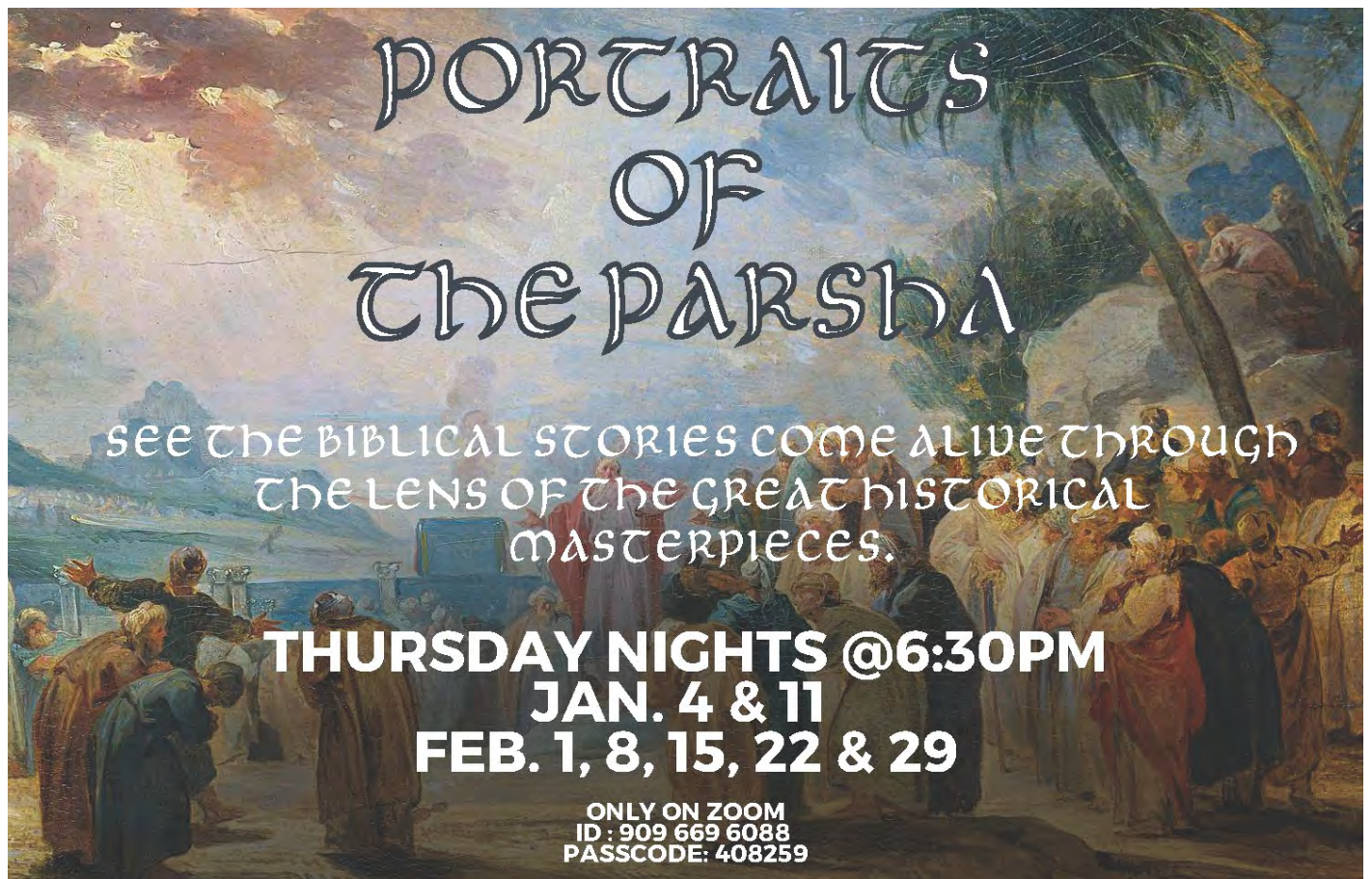
^{1/30}
RebbetziN Wall (Z)

^{2/6}
Rabbi Meyers (Z)

^{2/13}
RebbetziN Wall (Z)

^{2/20}
YUTMK @ Mimi RoseNbush(Z)

^{2/27}
RebbetziN Wall (Z)



**PORTRAITS
OF
THE PARSHA**

SEE THE BIBLICAL STORIES COME ALIVE THROUGH
THE LENS OF THE GREAT HISTORICAL
MASTERPIECES.

THURSDAY NIGHTS @6:30PM
JAN. 4 & 11
FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

ONLY ON ZOOM
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Off the Subject

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So they picked one scientist to go and tell Him that they were done with Him.

The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don't you just go on and get lost.

God listened very patiently and kindly to the man. After the scientist was done talking, God said, "Very well, let's say we have a man-making contest." To which the scientist replied, "Okay, great!"

But God added, "Now, we're going to do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam."

The scientist said, "Sure, no problem" and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt.

God looked at him and said, "No, no, no. You go get your own dirt!"

An American tourist in Tel Aviv was about to enter the impressive Mann Auditorium to take in a concert by the Israel Philharmonic. He was admiring the unique architecture, the sweeping lines of the entrance, and the modern decor throughout the building. Finally, he turned to his friend and asked if the building was named for Thomas Mann, the world-famous author.

"No," his friend said, "it's named for Fredrick Mann, from Philadelphia."

"Really? I've never heard of him. What did he write?"

"A check."

Adult Education Announcements

Join us for ongoing and special adult education programs coming up in the next few months
(flyers in this bulletin)

Tuesday Night Torah: Weekly zoom on Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

Portraits of the Parsha, Weekly zoom on Thursdays @ 7:30 pm

Men's Mishmar, Weekly on Thursday nights following Maariv

NEW Women's Discussion Group, Monthly, 4th Shabbat, after Kiddush

Scholars-in-Residence:

Shabbat morning, January 13, *Olivia Friedman*

Shabbat morning, February 10, *Rabbi Yona Reiss*

Please send programming suggestions to adulted@ljcagbi.org.

Adult Education Committee:
Marc Feder, Marilyn Goldman & Marilyn Thall
Arlene Michaels Miller, Chair

LJCAGBI Presents:

**A Parsha Mishpatim
Scholar
in
residence**

**SHABBAT MORNING
February 10th**

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE



*Rabbi Yona Reiss
Av Bet Din
Chicago Rabbinical Council*



LJCAGBI Proudly Presents

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

**Olivia
Friedman**

**JANUARY 13TH, PARSHA VA'ERA
SHABBAT MORNING KIDDUSH**

Olivia Friedman teaches Tanakh, Oral Law & Jewish Thought at Ida Crown Jewish Academy. She has a Masters in Teacher Leadership & Gifted Education from Northwestern and lives in the Chicago area with her husband and two children.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE