

September-October 2023 – *Elul* 5783 | *Tishrei* 5784



HIGH HOLY DAYS AT MISHKAN SHALOM



**Quick guide to High
Holiday services &
Sukkot-to-Simchat
Torah celebrations!
Pages 4 & 5**

LIFELONG LEARNING is
rich with offerings year.
See Pages 8, 9 & 10

**Our first-ever graphic
teaching from Rabbinic
Intern Noah Lind, Page 3**



**Our NEW
One Book Mishkan is by
Michael Chabon. Join us!
Page 11**

DEPARTMENTS

Letter from Rabbi Shawn	1
Letter from the President	6
Congregational School	7
Library	11
<i>Tikkun Olam</i>	12
Acts of Caring.....	13

Rabbi's Letter

by Rabbi Shawn Zevit

Sovereign Self - Sacred Community

Returning to, Revisiting and Renewing
Our Individual and Communal Values and Principles

Shalom and welcome back from summer to a New Jewish Year, and a new year at our spiritual home, Mishkan Shalom. As we regather after the summer for a very robust calendar of services, programs and learning for all ages, we re-enter our ancient and contemporary celebrations and self-assessments that this time of year invites. Each of us has had discoveries and losses, breakthroughs and disappointments, moments of isolation and meaningful connections.



The Yamim Noraim – The Days of Awe – and the Festival of Sukkot that immediately follows ask us to face the truth of our circumstance, strengthen communal bonds to live in solidarity with all beings, and clarify and commit to the people and community we aspire to be. As we continue to re-examine our community's Statement of Principles (see updates, page 14), so too our tradition asks us to audit our own souls, reflecting on and taking responsibility for our physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual lives.

In exploring evolving modern understandings of “kingship” (or queenship) and “Sovereignty” in his 1937 classic “The Meaning of God in Modern Jewish Religion,” Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan wrote:

“To speak of God as King is to employ a metaphor that would not readily suggest itself to any modern person. When we are using it in our ritual, we are speaking, as it were, in the thought-idiom of an earlier age...What is needed in modern life is a conception of God's sovereignty that can function as an aid to the regeneration of society by direct human agency without the reliance on an illusory hope of miraculous intervention...the establishment of a social order that combines the maximum of individual self-realization with the maximum of social cooperation.”

Kaplan was writing about our ideas of God's sovereignty. But what about self-sovereignty—the idea that each person has supreme power or authority over their body, life and mind? We might think of this as a moral or natural right of a person to have bodily integrity and be the exclusive controller of one's own choices and actions. Self-sovereignty is related

(continued on the next page)

to spiritual self-awareness, personal accountability, purpose, and inner peace. It involves holding a non-judgmental space for oneself and working through the shadows in each transformation.

In one of his essays, "Selfishness, Self-Love and Self-Interest," psychologist Erich Fromm, who was of influence in Kaplan's thinking, speaks directly to this idea while raising the issue of balancing self-reflection and self-absorption. Fromm and Kaplan make the distinction between attempts to understand ourselves, to fulfill ourselves, and a narcissistic preoccupation with self, which is selfishness. Kaplan goes on to describe his understanding of God's Sovereignty as a call to the individual and society to *bring [our] ideals themselves before the bar of judgment, and to examine them as to their adequacy in light of whatever truth experience has revealed to [us].*"

At Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we are called to link our self-sovereignty to the wholeness of the community; challenge our selfishness and review the pages we have written in our own Book of Life in the past year. How do our attitudes and behaviors—the choices within our control—affect others? How do they affect the planet? As a community founded on and part of the ongoing Reconstructing of Jewish Life, we are seeking a communitarian/globally attuned balance. In this regard, committing to and being held

accountable for our personal values and actions in this season of return and renewal is a key part of this balance of sovereign self, sacred community and earth-based consciousness.

This year, in consultation with our Spiritual Life Council and leadership, I am advocating for us to work parallel with our ongoing re-engagement in our founding Statement of Principles, to work on our own personal "statement of principles," our core values and action accountability for who we are and are becoming.

Along with our High Holy Day team led by Director of Synagogue Operations/High Holiday Coordinator Rebecca Phillips, Honors Coordinator Anndee Hochman, staff, lay leadership, many volunteer speakers, and returning rabbinic intern Noah Dor Lind, I am counting the days until we regather to journey further along the path long and not-yet traveled in the months of Tishrei and Heshvan, the seasons of reflection, ingathering and gratitude for the sustenance our planet offers us. [See all the information on the fall holidays here.](#)

Hazak, Hazak, V'Nithazek - let us stay strong, deeply connected to and supporting each other as we celebrate and lean into the journey of the holidays ahead! Shanah Tovah U'Mitukah!



Don't Forget to Click Here!

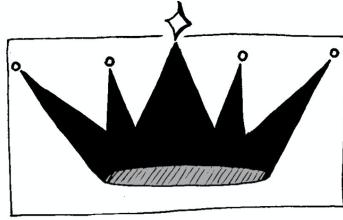
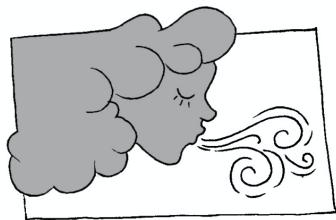
[5784 High Holiday Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

A Message from Our Rabbinic Intern by Noah Lind

A reflection on
Divine Metaphor
and
the Sovereign self



written and illustrated
by Noah Dor Lind



MANY RECONSTRUCTIONIST SHULS
INCLUDING MISHKAN SHALOM
OFTEN REPLACE *פָּנָן melech* WITH
רוּחַ ruach, A GENDERFLUID WORD
MEANING SPIRIT/BREATH/WIND.

MORDECHAI KAPLAN CHALLENGED
THE USE OF THE TERM "KING"
TO REFER TO G-D, AS IT IMPLIES
A HIERARCHICAL & MONARCHICAL
UNDERSTANDING OF THE DIVINE.
(The New Haggadah, 1941)

BEFORE REJECTING A METAPHOR,
RABBI TOBA SPITZER INVITES US
TO STAY CURIOUS...

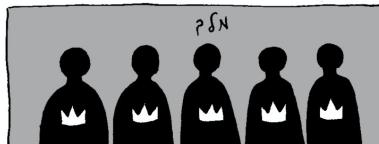
INSTEAD OF ASKING "DO I BELIEVE
THIS?" WE CAN ASK OF A PRAYER
"WHERE IS THIS TRYING TO TAKE ME?"

(God in Metaphor, 2016)

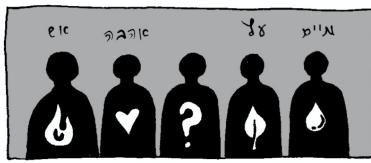


THE METAPHOR OF KING/QUEEN/RULER
TAKES ME TO THE BOW IN THE GRAND
Aleinu. I THINK OF PAST GENERATIONS
OF JEWS, WHO CALLED G-D "RULER OF
THE WORLD" TO RECLAIM THEIR
POWER FROM OPPRESSIVE MONARCHIES.

AS I RISE WHILE SAYING THE WORDS,
"BEFORE THE RULER, RULER OF ALL RULERS,"
I EMBRACE A SENSE OF SMALLNESS,
STANDING BEFORE THE INFINITE, ALONGSIDE
A SENSE OF MY OWN SOVEREIGNTY.
I AM *b'tselem elohim*, AN IMAGE OF G-D.



KAPLAN'S CONCEPT OF THE
"SOVEREIGNTY OF THE SELF"
EMPOWERS INDIVIDUALS TO
FIND PERSONAL CONNECTIONS
WITH DIVINITY AND FOSTER
THE AGENCY TO SHAPE
THEIR OWN SPIRITUAL PATHS.
(Judaism as a Civilization, 1934)



THE SOVEREIGN SELF ALSO
ENCOURAGES A DYNAMIC AND
INCLUSIVE RELIGIOUS PRACTICE,
FOR EACH PERSON MUST RESPECT
THE DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES
PRESENT IN THEIR JEWISH
COMMUNITY. SO I ASK, WHICH
METAPHORS FOR THE DIVINE
ARE YOU CONNECTING WITH
AS WE MOVE INTO 5784?



Start a Sweet Year

HIGH HOLIDAYS AT MISHKAN SHALOM

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

Selichot Saturday, September 9, 7:30-8:30 pm. Workshop 8:30-10:00 pm “Returning Home to Your Soul”

Rosh Hashanah Evening Service Friday, September 15, 7-8:30 pm

Rosh Hashanah Day 1, Saturday, September 16, 9:00-1:00 pm

- 9:00-11:00 am - Shacharit (morning)
- 11:00 am-1:00 pm - Torah service and Musaf

Rosh Hashanah Day 2, Sunday, September 17th, 9:00-1:00 pm

- 9:00-11:00 am Shacharit (morning)
- 11:00 am-1:00 pm Torah service, Shofar blowing and Musaf
- 3:30 pm Tashlich (in person only) Gathering at Wissahickon Park, meeting at Valley Green Inn (2nd day due to Shabbat)

Shabbat Shuvah, Saturday, September 23

- 9:00 am - Torah Study
- 10:00 am-noon - Shabbat services

Kol Nidre, Sunday, September 24, 6:00 pm Prepare, 6:30 Candle Lighting and Service

Yom Kippur Day, Monday, September 25

- 9:00-11:15 am - Chant, liturgical prayer and reflection OR 9:00-11:15 am - Mindfulness Service
- 11:15 am-1:45 pm - Torah service and Musaf
- 2:00-3:00 pm - Avodah: Service of Offerings
- 3:15-4:15 pm - Afternoon workshops
- 4:30-5:15 pm - Yizkor/Memorial Service
- 5:15-6:30 pm - Mincha Service and Discussion
- 6:30-7:30 pm - Neilah



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Rosh Hashanah Day 1, Saturday, September 16, 2023

- 9:30-10:15 am - Young Children's Service (birth to age 5 and their grownups)
- 10:30-11:30 am - Family Service (Children ages 6-12 years, grownups, younger siblings are welcome)

Yom Kippur Monday, September 25, 2023

- 9:30-10:15 am - Young Children's Service (birth to age 5 and their grownups)
- 10:30-11:30 am - Family service (age 6-12, grownups, and younger siblings welcome)

[**CLICK HERE for 5784 High Holiday Information**](#) * [**Volunteer Sign-Up Here**](#)

[**CLICK HERE to Register Your Family for Services**](#)

Mishkan Shalom Celebrates Sukkot ~ Shemini Atzeret ~ Simchat Torah

Please check for details about all upcoming events in your weekly Ma Hadash.



Tuesday, Sept. 26, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Prepare for Sukkot, Decorate Our

Sukkah. Veggie potluck in the open outdoor sukkah at the home of Nancy Post and Chris Jacobs, 616 West Upsal St., Mt. Airy. Ritual, song, and sustenance to celebrate the Festival of Booths! Look for RSVP and further information in Ma Hadash.

Friday, Sept. 29, 6:00 p.m.- Village Sukkot Shabbat Dinner

Candle Lighting and dwelling in the sukkah for Shabbat. Check Ma Hadash to sign up for host homes.

Saturday, Sept. 30, Sukkot Day 1-Shabbat Morning Outdoors at our sukkah, weather permitting.

- 9:00-10:00 a.m. Torah study: R. Eugene Sotirescu (In person/online)
- 10:00 a.m. Sukkot Service including Hallel with Rabbi Shawn and Rabbinic Intern Noah Dor Lind. RSVP for in-person to Rabbishawn@mishkan.org
- 1:00 p.m. In Memory of Mindy and Sid's son Sam Ozer. Guest teacher [Dr. Christoph Schulte](#) discusses the history of the kabbalistic idea of Zimzum (the withdrawal of God in order to create the world) among Jews and Christians from the 16th to the 20th centuries.
- 1:00 p.m. Walk the Talk: Join Steve Jones for a guided 1.5 hour outdoor experience in the Wissahickon forest. Observe the elements of the natural world, learn about ecological relationships, and study short Jewish texts. [Register and pay in advance via the website](#).

FRIDAY, Oct. 6, Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

- 5:45 p.m. Potluck and family program. Outdoors at our sukkah, weather permitting.
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah with Rabbi Shawn and Rabbinic Intern Noah Lind. Celebrating the end of the fall holiday cycle and the completion of the year-long cycle of reading the Torah. RSVP for in-person to Rabbishawn@mishkan.org

SATURDAY, Oct. 7, Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

- 9:00-10:00 a.m. Torah study: R. Eugene Fleischman Sotirescu (In person/online)
- 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Shabbat Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah with Rabbi Shawn and Noah Lind. RSVP Rabbishawn@mishkan.org, for in-person.



New this year! SUKKAT SHALOM: Harvest Huts "Fun"-raiser

Saturday, October 7, 6:00 p.m.

"Gather" your dinner as you visit each hut in the social hall, sampling harvest food from around the world. Stay for music, friends old & new. Don't miss this fall "fun"-raiser!

[More info and tickets on sale through Shulcloud.](#)

Letter from the President

by Jean Brody

As we enter the month of Elul and approach the New Year, we enter a time of self-reflection and self-assessment. This is our annual opportunity to reflect on the year that is closing and identify ways we wish to do better in the coming year.

Growing up attending synagogue, I remember a succession of presidents standing before us to make the annual Kol Nidre plea. It seemed at the time like an empty ritual, an obligation to be endured and scoffed at by my then-teenage self.

Never would I have imagined my future self making the same plea to all of you - not just to give financially, but to give of yourselves by stepping up to volunteer in ways large and small. During this season of Elul, I ask each of you to consider: What does it mean to sustain a community?

What has Mishkan meant in your life, in our lives together? Has Mishkan been the place where you've felt moved spiritually and emotionally? Have you formed new bonds with others in our community? Is Mishkan your home base for Acts of Caring, both giving and receiving, or for connecting to Tikkun Olam and social justice actions that are deeply meaningful to you? Have your children, and perhaps grandchildren, formed their Jewish identities here, and have you increased your Jewish learning through Torah study, services, meditations, Rosh Hodesh, and many more Mishkan programs?

Mishkan is the foundation for so much of what we all seek, providing sustenance to all of us. In return, we must provide sustenance to ensure that all of this good work continues. For Mishkan to thrive, that sustenance needs to be both financial and personal.

Many thanks to those of you who've already made your pledge to re-commit to Mishkan in the form of dues for 5784. Many of us have discovered that ShulCloud can be challenging - for all ages! Please be sure to recommit this year. We still accept checks, if you want to go the paper route, and we still answer the phone.

Let's also each make a High Holy Day donation in addition to our dues. Your voluntary dues and donations ensure that Mishkan connects us in the many ways we choose to engage. We all need a spiritual home, but we also need a physical home that aligns with our values and our collective needs. We need a place where prayer and learning are a constant. We need a place where we are welcomed and

surrounded by community. Your gift, in any form, helps to keep this community alive and vibrant.

As part of our individual and collective t'shuvah, I'm asking each of you to also consider how you will fulfill your Brit HaMishkan, our covenant with each other to support Mishkan in a more personal way, by giving of your time, energy, creativity, and knowledge. Many of you are already doing this through volunteering to support services, by serving on committees and on the board. I'm so grateful to Mishkan members who've recently stepped into new volunteer roles:

- **Marc Jacobs** has joined the board with the Spiritual Life portfolio.
- **Ellen Steiker and Rachel Baltuch** are sharing leadership of the Membership Committee.
- **Keely Newman** will chair the Fundraising Committee.
- **Mindy Maslin** stepped up last spring to become the convener of the Site Stewards.
- **Kiera Faber** has taken leadership of the Adult Ed Committee.
- Many thanks to former treasurers **Ellen Steiker** and **Doron Henkin**, and to **Lee Tabas** and **Meryl Crean** for forming a new Finance Committee.
- **Janet Garretson** will join the board later this fall, becoming our new Treasurer.

Even with all of this new energy, we still have open positions on the board and in other leadership roles, and many committees could use your energy and ideas. How will you help to make Mishkan possible this year?

I ask you to re-commit to Mishkan in many ways:

- Re-commit to our community by renewing your dues.
- Re-commit to our personal and shared principles, as outlined in Rabbi Shawn's letter.
- Re-commit to our Brit HaMishkan. How will you fulfill your Brit in 5784? [Click here to read the covenant.](#)
- Re-assess whether you're ready for something new - a new committee, a new leadership role, a new class, a new intention to learn to leyn, a new intention to attend services more often. What's meaningful to you, and what do you have to offer that can help to sustain our shared community?

Wishing each of you Shana Tovah Umetukah! A Sweet and Good New Year!

What Our Mishkan Congregational School Students Will Be Learning in 5784

The **Gan/Alef/Bet (K-2)** class will go on a learning journey of Jewish objects, rituals and activities that connect to both life in the synagogue and the home. The objects and their associated rituals will evoke significant landscapes and places from Jewish history and/or imagination. This journey will invite students into the context for and inspiration behind Jewish rituals that take place through the Jewish year cycle. Each monthly unit will include a book, objects, and expressive art activities to anchor and encourage active learning. Students will create a ritual object or participate in creating a group landscape mural inspired by their learning. Rituals will be experienced within the classroom so that students can embody their learning.

The **Gimel/Dalet (3/4)** class will focus on selected stories in the books of Bereshit (Genesis) and Sh'mot (Exodus). They will also focus on selections from the Prophets and Writings using selected chapters from "The Explorer's Bible" that encourages students to ponder, personalize and even wrestle with these texts. Each student will also have their own journal to create illustrations and stories in response to the Torah, the stories read, and discussion in class.

The **Hay/Vav (5/6)** class will be going on a journey through Jewish American History. This curriculum will explore the history and culture of Jewish life in the US from Colonial times through the Civil Rights Movement, touching on issues of contemporary battles for religious liberty. Students will also explore Jewish musicians, artists, writers and performers through project-based learning.



The **Zayin (7)** class will learn about the foundation of Mishkan Shalom and the ideas that define Reconstructionism. They will have an opportunity to learn from a number of Mishkan Shalom members about the many different ways that our congregants engage in Jewish life, rituals, and community. Zayin students will also dive deeper into the history, traditions and meaning of the b'nai mitzvah ritual. Each student will have the opportunity to share with the class before their b'nai mitzvah and to reflect after becoming b'nai mitzvah about the highlights of the experience for them. In this way, the class will connect as an ongoing community of support throughout the process.



WELCOME BACK SHABBAT! Potluck & Family Service September 8, 5:45 pm

Rabbi Shawn Zevit and Rabbinic Intern Noah Dor Lind will lead a special Shabbat preceded by a potluck welcoming all generations. Join us as we end the summer together and welcome Fall.



Lifelong Learning at Mishkan Shalom

Growing Souls, Building Connections and Community

5784 – October, 2023 – May, 2024

At Mishkan Shalom, we believe in learning for life. Below you'll find a varied, robust range of classes, workshops and experiences to help you – no matter your age or prior experience with Judaism – grow, learn and connect with others.

Register and pay online for any class listed, using the Lifelong Learning page on Mishkan's website, www.mishkan.org, or mail your registration and a check. [Visit our website](#) for detailed information about our classes, location, teachers and more.

If you have a suggestion for a class you'd like to take – or teach – contact Kiera Faber, Lifelong Learning Committee chair, at mail@kierafaber.com and Rabbi Shawn Zevit rabbishawn@mishkan.org

SOULFUL SUNDAYS AND SACRED SATURDAY EVE, with Rabbi Shawn and Guests

Join Rabbi Shawn Zevit and guests for a nosh and interactive learning on a range of topics from a Jewish lens over the course of the year. These are issues that Rabbi Shawn has been exploring for many years and more recently in the journey to awaken more fully as a human being and in a Jewish activist spiritual context.

- **Sunday Oct. 22, 10:00-11:30 am: Finding our Sacred Center with GPS systems: God, Process, and Soul.** Exploring and experiencing Jewish approaches to spiritual guidance and questions of purpose/meaning.
- **Sunday Nov. 12, 10-11:30 am: The meaning and deep structure of Jewish Prayer.**
- **Saturday Dec 9, 4:00 – 6:00 pm (Havdalah and Candle Lighting) The Spiritual Art of Havdalah: Making Distinctions and Connections:** The deep meaning and structure of Havdalah in study, song and ritual. With Rabbi Shawn and Rabbinic Intern Noah Dor Lind.

\$10.00/session (members); \$15.00/session (non-members). We will not collect money on Shabbat. [Please register and pay in advance via the website](#). Click on 'Adult Ed' in the "type" drop down box and insert the total sum for your classes.

MUSSAR APPROACH TO ANTI-RACISM WORK

- **Thursday Sep 21st - 7:00 pm: Open House Zoom session (free)**
- **Sunday, Oct 15th, 2:00-6:00 pm, half day plus five additional Thursday evenings, 7:00 pm sessions Oct, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9, 16.** All required in person at Mishkan.

Join us for a new antiracism course, [Dismantling Racism from the Inside Out](#). Work alongside community members with daily concrete Jewish spiritual tools to confront, subvert, and heal implicit and internalized racism within ourselves and others. Efforts to dismantle racism - education, advocacy, and systemic change - are often inadequate. We must also do the inner work necessary to change our habits of mind, body, and spirit to wholly dismantle racism. We have ancestral wisdom available to support this change. Mussar is the Jewish spiritual discipline designed to integrate what the head understands with what the heart feels through daily practice. Working together we will emerge from this program with renewed ability and resilience to disrupt racism, a spiritual practice, and a set of concrete tools to support our efforts. This is not an intro course in anti-racism work; you need to have familiarity with the basics.

Rabbi Mordechai Liebling and Rabbi Meryl Crean are long-time leaders in anti-racism work and have been trained in the use of IOWA's "Dismantling Racism" Mussar and [Anti-Racism curriculum](#). Mishkan Shalom is financially invested in this curriculum as part of our ongoing work to confront racism and look at our own internal and communal work alongside our racial justice efforts in the broader society.

\$120 members/\$150 Non-Members. [Please register and pay in advance via the website](#). Click on 'Adult Ed' in the "type" drop down box and insert the total sum of your classes.

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LEARN TO CHANT TORAH With Cantor David Acker

David is a long-time Mishkan member, teacher, and Cantor's Assembly member. By the end of six classes, participants will be able to chant at least one complete aliyah, approximately 3 verses in length. Students will have the option to participate as a Torah reader in an upcoming service. An elementary facility with decoding Hebrew letters and vowels is a prerequisite. Here are Seven Great Reasons to Learn to Chant Torah:

1. You like puzzles and challenges.
2. You like to exercise your mind.
3. To build community.
4. To link-up to 2000+ old traditions.
5. To share in the “joys and oys” of what your B-Mitzvah kid is doing.
6. It's a MITZVAH!
7. It's FUN!

Six Sessions: Saturdays, 12:30-1:30 pm (after Shabbat Services in person), Oct 14-Nov 18. Meeting at Mishkan Shalom, Third Floor Library.

\$108/members - \$150 for non-members. [Please register and pay in advance via the website.](#) Click on 'Adult Ed' in the "type" drop down box and insert the total sum for your classes.

CHOOSE LIFE! CONVERSATIONS ABOUT JEWISH DEATH and MOURNING PRACTICES

With Rabbi Tsurah August and Patricia Quigley

Gevalt! We are all going to die someday! (Baruch HaShem, that day is a long way off!) But fortunately, before it comes, we have the wisdom and practices of Jewish tradition from ancient days to today, to make our final days meaningful and comforting for ourselves, our parents, children, partners, and other beloveds. This four-session course will offer valuable information on end-of-life and mourning that can also serve as a tool for helping parents and adult children initiate “the discussion” so that all parties know each other’s wishes, beliefs, plans – well in advance of their final days.

TOPICS INCLUDE: Ethical wills, living wills, bedside practices and rituals, prayers; hospice; palliative care; bikkor cholim; death doulas; assisted death, autopsy, organ donation, funeral homes, cemeteries, burial, cremation, green burial, Shemirah, taharah.

Mishkan members Rabbi Tsurah August, a hospice rabbi for over 20 years, and Patricia Quigley, Funeral Director for West Mount Laurel Cemetery, are the course facilitators.

Four Sessions: Sunday Mornings, 11:00 am-12:30 pm (Zoom access).

- November 5th in person, Mishkan Shalom social hall
- December 3rd, 2024 (Zoom)
- February 4th, 2024 (Zoom)
- March (March 31st) or April 7th (at West Laurel Cemetery)

\$18 for members/ \$25 per session for non-members for individual sessions; \$72/\$100 for the series. Sessions can be taken as a series or individually. [Please register and pay in advance via the website](#)- click on 'Adult Ed' in the "type" drop down and also insert the total sum of the classes(s).

SOUL COLLAGE: Awakening to Earth's Call, with Susan Windle and Wendy Galson,

Wendy and Susan first offered this course in 2019, following SoulCollage® with a Jewish Spin, originated by Susan Richards who gifted her SoulCollage® materials to Mishkan Shalom. “SoulCollage® is a process for accessing your intuition and creating a deck of cards with deep personal meaning that will help you with life’s questions and transitions.

- Our session includes written journaling as well as the visual journaling of Soul Collage: we experience and talk about our card creation process as dream work, following a dream interpretation process developed by the Kohenet Institute.
- Bring a journal and pen. Mishkan Shalom has an extensive image library for you to choose from. If you wish, bring a few wordless images trimmed from magazines on our theme or any others that inspire you. Questions? Contact: Wendy Galson wendy.galson@gmail.com

Sunday, November 12th, 2:00-4:00 pm, in person.

\$40 for one session, all materials included; no previous experience is required. Covid standards set by Mishkan Shalom will apply. [Please register and pay in advance via the website.](#) Click on 'Adult Ed' in the "type" drop down box and insert the total sum for your classes.

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WALK THE TALK- NATURE THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

Led by Steve Jones, "Walk the Talk" is a series of guided outdoor experiences in which participants learn about "reading" the natural landscape as a text. Participants walk for about an hour and a half in the nearby Wissahickon forest, observe the elements of the natural world, learn about ecological relationships, and study short Jewish texts.

- **Sukkot - Sat. Sep 30, 2023, 1:00-3:00 pm**
- **Tu B'Shevat, Sunday Jan 20, 2024, 1:00-3:00 pm.** Tu B'Shevat is a time in the calendar when we note that the sap is rising in the seemingly sleeping forest, and we can sense the forest coming back to life through the cold.
- **Our spring walk (tba)** will focus on the bird migration from Central and South America to our woods, along with the flowering of many of the plants native to our valley.

All ages are welcome to meet at Mishkan Shalom after services at 12:30, or meet directly at a designated starting point for the walk in the nearby woods. Participants should wear sturdy shoes and sensible clothes for the outdoors.

\$5/session (members & non-members). We will not collect money on Shabbat. [Please register and pay in advance via the website.](#) Click on 'Adult Ed' in the "type" drop down box and insert the total sum for your classes.

ONE BOOK MISHKAN - LIBRARY COMMITTEE OFFERINGS

This year's new *One-Book-Mishkan* selection is *The Yiddish Policemen's Union: A Novel*, by Michael Chabon. Each year the committee explores its selection through facilitated book discussions, Saturday Nite at the Movies, Panel Discussion, and Art and Music programs. Programming is free to all. Watch Kol Shalom, Ma Hadash and <https://mishkanshalom.shulcloud.com/library> for details. Questions? Suggestions? Write library@mishkan.org.

Coming 2024/5784 – Winter-Spring

- i. Soul Collage (Sundays, January 21, 2024-April 14, 2024)
- ii. Soulful Sunday and Sacred Saturday Eve w. Rabbi Shawn (cont'd)
- iii. Learning Hebrew with Rabbi Meryl
- iv. Art and Spirit with Rabbinic Intern Noah Lind Dor (sessions in spring)

Ongoing Weekly Spiritual Life and Community Offerings

(Members: check your weekly Ma Hadash for Zoom info. Non-members can e-mail Rabbishawn@mishkan.org)

- **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION** with Meredith Barber (zoom), [Mondays, 8:00-9:00 am](#)
- **RESTORATIVE MEDITATION** with Abby Ruder (zoom), [Tuesdays 4:00 pm](#)
- **AWAKENING TO THE DAY** with Rabbi Shawn Zevit, (zoom), [Wed. 8:00-8:45 am](#)
- **SPIRIT OF SHABBAT** with Susan Windle & Wendy Galson (zoom), [Fridays, 8:00 am](#)
- **WEEKLY TORAH STUDY**, Rabbi Eugene Sotirescu and guests, [Sat. 9:00-10:00 am \(on zoom; monthly in the Mishkan Shalom library\)](#)
- **MAH JONGG OPEN PLAY** [Mondays-7:00 - 9:00 pm](#). For information, contact Susan Schewel, susanschewel@gmail.com
- **MEN OF MISHKAN** [Mondays \(Bi-Weekly\) 7:00 - 9:00 pm](#) is a men's group open to all adult members of Mishkan who identify as men. The group meets every two weeks to share life's joys and difficulties and provide support to each other. For more information or to consider joining please contact either Marc Jacobs, Marc@MarcJacobsLifeCoach.com, or Mark Heller, CuisineVoila@aol.com.
- **MAKHELAT MICHA'EL: MISHKAN CHOIR** <https://mishkanshalom.shulcloud.com/community-choir>, Tuesday evenings. For more information please contact choir director: miriamdvdsn@gmail.com

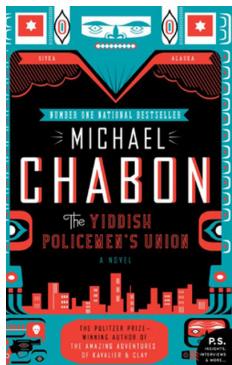
Join Us in Reading Our 19th Annual One Book Mishkan: *The Yiddish Policemen's Union: A Novel, by Michael Chabon*

...imaginative, audacious, thought-provoking, and humane...the prose is enchanting."

— Readers' Reviews

"Chabon's 'Alyeska' is an act of fearless imagination.... peerless storytelling."

— Jess Walter,
National Book Award finalist



This year, our One Book Mishkan series goes vintage, taking on a new genre in the process. New York magazine called Chabon's 2007 work "...an excellent, hyperliterate, genre-pantsing detective novel that deserves every inch of its...blockbuster superfame."

In *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Chabon ("Shea as in Shea Stadium, Bon as in Bon Jovi.") imagines the 1948 collapse of the new State of Israel, with the subsequent globe-spanning search for a Jewish homeland ending in a 'temporary' safe haven in Sitka, Alaska.

Fast-forward 60 years of vibrant Jewish life in Sitka, we meet the flawed (but likable) homicide detective, Meyer Landsman, as the District prepares for the upcoming 'Reversion' to Alaskan control. Chabon's whodunit/love story/alternative history explores faith, obsession, good and evil, exile, and redemption in this compelling read.

Widely available in all formats, the HarperAudio version, read by Peter Riegert, whose versatile voice and pacing make Chabon's invented society even more tangible, as Yiddish phrases and names melodically roll off his tongue, is recommended. In a bonus interview, Chabon relates his desire to write about a place where Yiddish was an official language.

Chabon unabashedly celebrates all the characters – human and supernatural (superheroes, gumshoes, werewolves and goblins) – and all the stories, comics,

and pulp fiction of fantasy, scifi, westerns, romance, horror, and more. Chabon is devoted to mixing aspects of genre and literary fiction and ending the bias against genre fiction, routinely dismissed from literary discussion. He says: "I read for entertainment, and I write to entertain. Period."



A novelist, screenwriter, columnist and short story writer, Chabon has written children's books, comics, newspaper serials and more. Notable for his use of complex language and metaphor, his writing often explores themes of nostalgia, abandonment, fatherhood and Jewish identity.

Together with his wife, Israeli-born writer Ayelet Waldman, and the Israeli NGO Breaking the Silence – a group of former soldiers who served in the West Bank and Gaza – he edited *Kingdom of Olives and Ash: Writers Confront the Occupation* (2017). Again, with Waldman, and in collaboration with the ACLU, he edited *Fight of the Century: Writers Reflect on 100 Years of Landmark ACLU Cases* (2021).

New Members & Program Suggestions Welcome!

Planning for our 5784 One Book Mishkan program series has just begun, so if you've got a great idea for a program, speaker or film for Movie Nite, we'd love to hear it!

If you're a reader, booklover, or lover of libraries, and/or would like to deepen your knowledge of Jewish subject matter, the [Library Committee](#) could be a good fit for you! We welcome new members, as well as volunteers for discrete tasks to help us maintain the collection.

Curious? Be in touch! Contact Andrea Nuñez, Library Committee Chair, at library@mishkan.org.

See you on Zoom and, hopefully, in the Library!

Immigrant and Refugee Rights Working Group

Update On the Afghan Men

The Mishkan Shalom/St. Vincent's Catholic Church team continues to assist the Afghan men who arrived in Philadelphia more than a year ago.

Abdullah and Khalid recently moved to a new apartment in the Point Breeze section of Philadelphia. They are both still working for Ferko Plumbing, and Khalid is also working for DoorDash. He hopes to become an Uber or Lyft driver in September to help supplement his income, because he continues to send money home to his wife and two children. Abdullah also sends money back to his family in Pakistan, where some in his family have relocated. Mukhtar, the third man, has moved to Carlisle, PA.



Afghan Adjustment Act

It's been nearly two years since tens of thousands of Afghans were evacuated to the United States following the U.S. military's withdrawal from Afghanistan. But most of them are still here on "humanitarian parole" and living in fear under an uncertain immigration status. **This is unacceptable.**

Tell your members of Congress to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act — a bipartisan legislation that allows Afghan evacuees to apply for permanent legal status in the U.S. — so that Afghan people can rebuild their lives without fear. Please use this link to contact your Congressperson to urge them to pass the act: <https://act.hias.org>

Drivers' Licenses for All

The struggle to pass a Drivers Licenses for All act has been ongoing for more than ten years! This year, House Bill 769 remains stuck in the House Transportation Committee despite concerted efforts by the Driving PA Forward Coalition to move the bill forward and the support of many members in the legislature. A renewed effort to pass HB 769 will continue in the fall. Ways to help will be shared via Ma Hadash.

Kol Shalom is published bi-monthly, September through June.

Co-editors: Mindy Dorfman and Anndee Hochman

Layout: Maralin Blistein, **Distribution:** Maria Paranzino

Contributors include:

Gail Bober, Jean Brody, Holli Goldenberg, Anndee Hochman, Mindy Dorfman, Maria Paranzino, Sharon Rhode, Susan Schewel, and Rabbi Shawn Zevit.

Next deadline for articles is Oct. 16, for the Nov-Dec Issue

Send to **Anndee Hochman**, aehoch@aol.com

Questions for the Jan.-Feb., 2024? Send to

Mindy Dorfman, harry_smoms@yahoo.com

G'milut Hasadim/Acts of Caring

by Susan Schewel, Steve Perkiss, and
Mindy Fernandez-Sheinbaum

Acts of Caring notifies the Mishkan Shalom community about significant events in the lives of our members so that we can offer support to one another in times of grief, illness, and joy. **Please reach out to us at actsofcaring@mishkan.org with your good news or difficult news so that we can let the community know.** Also, expressions of support to congregants listed below are always welcome!

Mazel Tov

We send a hearty mazel tov to Luz Fernandez-Sheinbaum, Elliot Selvin, Ari Block, Rachel Mbuchi, Tina Ramberg, and their families as they celebrated their b'nai mitzvah ceremonies during this season.

Condolences

We send condolences to the loved ones of Mishkan members John Palmer, Ray Kaplan, Harold Gorrine and Robin Leidner.

We also send condolences to the loved ones of Carleton Schwager, stepmother of Michael Schwager; Diana MacNeil, mother of Rod MacNeil; John Weaver, brother of Jackie Jonas; Edgar Galson, father of Wendy Galson; Ross August, brother of Tsurah August; Bernard Goodman, father of David Goodman; Anne Lee Dorfman, mother of Mindy Dorfman and mother-in-law of Lisa Moss; Bernie Goodman, father of Rabbi David Goodman and father-in-law of Pearl Raz; Jerry Lidovitch, uncle of D'vorah Horn-Greenberg; Charlie Palmer, brother of John Palmer; Betty Joyce Kullman (Kullie) Mellor, mother of Kris Soffa and mother-in-law of Mark Soffa; David Schneider, father of Rabbi Simcha Zevit and father-in-law of Rabbi Shawn Zevit; Bernard (Nardie) Stein, father of Jessie Stein Diamond; and Jack Tarash, father of Ariel Tarash. May all of their memories be for a blessing and may their loved ones be comforted among all who mourn.

Prayers for healing

We send our ongoing love, support, and prayers for healing to Mishkan members David Calloway, Orly Zeewy, Linda Ruthen, Denise Kulp, Ben Field, Andrea Madden, Karen Singer, Mark McCullen, Stacey Meadows, Bob Prischak, Rivkah Jarosh, Fred Kaplan-



A reminder: Snail mail cards are always welcomed by all those who are healing and mourning. If you think of it, do it!

Mayer, Yosaf August, Steve Newman, Wendy Erslev, Madeline Boskowitz, Cindy Perkiss, Lilith Rose, Deenah Loeb, Robin Berenholz, Natalie Gorrine, and to all those Mishkan members in need of healing but who seek to remain private.

We are keeping these individuals in our prayers as well: Diana Galson Kooy (sister of Wendy Galson), Marc Weaver (son of Ellen Weaver), T (sister of Leigh Robert), Gene Schultz (child of Shoshanna Brickin and Bert Schultz), Betty Morduchowicz (mother of Graciela Slesaransky-Poe), Carol Soffa Baldridge (sister of Mark Soffa), Brian Ruder (brother of Abby Ruder), Hans Jack Apfelbaum (father of Claudia Apfelbaum), Michael Boe (brother-in-law of Mindy Dorfman), Alvin Saltzman (father of Alyse Saltzman Flowers), Debra Singer (sister of Karen Singer), Patrick Windle (brother of Susan Windle), Sal Berenholz (father of Robin Berenholz), Jackie Berman-Gorrine (daughter-in-law of Natalie Gorrine), Don Levinson (brother of Eilen Levinson), Evelyn Haas (mother of Mark Haas), and Julie Post (sister of Nancy Post). May they all experience a *refuah sheleimah*, full healing.

Are you receiving Acts of Caring

via email? All members receive Acts of Caring emails. If you are not, please check your spam folder, or if you have gmail, your solicitations folder (Acts of Caring is distributed by Constant Contact). If you unsubscribe from Ma Hadash, you will also be unsubscribed from Acts of Caring. Please contact the office for clarification.

HINENI--HERE I AM

Hineni offers concrete support to members in need of short-term help, including meals, visits, transportation, etc. If you could use a little help because of illness or joy (new baby!) or you know of a Mishkan member who is reluctant to ask, please email actsofcaring@mishkan.org and we will reach out. If you would like some help, but do not wish a public solicitation, please contact the rabbis or actsofcaring@mishkan.org; we will speak with you privately and seek to arrange help. Our Hineni coordinators are Lisa Mervis and Chris Taranta.

MISHKAN SHALOM'S STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES REFLECTION 2023-24 UPDATE

After a flurry of activity in the spring, our work has continued in various sectors, with the Israel-Palestine and Tikkun working groups moving forward, incorporating input from our community meetings:

- The Israel-Palestine leadership team- Marcy Boroff, Lior Feldman and Lance Laver (formerly inc. Alana Krivo-Kaufman) continues to work on their revisions
- The Tikkun working group was supported by the Tikkun Council (David Love, Rabbi Shawn and former intern. Alana Krivo-Kaufman), completed their revision work and will bring it back to the Tikkun Council in October (Noah will join this endeavor as rabbinic intern).
- The Avodah working group, supported by the Spiritual Life Council, continues its work (Rabbi Shawn Zevit, Noah Dor Lind, Abby Ruder and David Bradley).
- The City of Philadelphia and Community Process groups have not come together- so no review has happened there at this point. However, Irv Ackelsberg indicated interest here, so if you would like to join him in creating a working group on this area, please contact Irv directly
- There is shared interest from the subgroup team leaders to pull the working team leads together to see how the revisions interplay with the sections being worked on and keep a holistic perspective as we move forward- scheduling this in the future
- The proposed timeline to move towards future community meetings and an eventual vote on the proposed changes includes:
- Conversations/drafting continue in the fall; drafts presented to appropriate committees and subgroups by October,
- In November, the board, and then draft revisions to be presented to the community no later than Dec. 1 in advance of the December 6th community meeting.
- January/February revisions; someone turns it into a complete document that's consistent in style and content.
- March/April – complete draft goes out to the community; discussed at the Wednesday, April 10 community meeting.
- June meeting – vote on approval of revised complete SOP.

Please let us know if you have additional thoughts after which we will inform the community at large. Blessings and shalom, Rabbi Shawn Zevit and Jean Brody, President

Recordings of spring conversations:

<https://youtu.be/OQzL7QyDC0s> **Statement Of Principles Conversation March 2 2023**

https://youtu.be/UvEb_-7Jxw **Statement Of Principles Conversation March 12 2023**

<https://youtu.be/5WX3rBpSF0g> **Statement of Principles: Israel Palestine Mar 26 2023**

— Rabbi Shawn Zevit