

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 5; 8:15pm-9:00pm: Beginners Shmooze. No charge, complimentary refreshments. Please call 212-874-6100 to confirm.

Wednesday, March 7, 7:30pm: UNRWA: Breeding Ground for Terror. UNRWA stands for the United Nations Relief and Work Agency. It operates in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Its official mission is to deliver primary and vocational education. The reality is quite different. Arabic speaking experts, who work for The Center for the Near East Policy and Research, will discuss the Hamas infiltration of UNRWA refugee facilities and how it has affected the books and films shown to children attending UNRWA schools. Free but requires registration. Register at www.lss.org/event/unrwa.

Friday Evening, March 9; 6:45pm-10:30pm: Shabbat Across America. Featuring Lisa Cabrera Scharf, former reporter for NBC, CBS, UPN and Fox News anchor. Cost: \$40.00 p/p \$25.00/child (Price includes dinner) Want to be a host? Questions? Contact Deborah Bendheim at bendheimd@gmail.com. To register visit: <https://goo.gl/hAUkdE>

Motzei Shabbat, March 10, 8:00pm: LSS Book Club Presents "Forest Dark: A Novel" by Nicole Kraus. Location: Home of Gale and Jim Kaufman. Please call the shul for exact address.

Sunday March 11, 10:30am-12:30pm Converts in Conversation. Room 206. (More details to follow)

Monday March 12, 8:00pm: Board Meeting

Monday, March 12, 7:00pm IDF Unit 669; In your distress you called, and I rescued you. IDF Unit 669 is responsible for the rescue and evacuation of IDF personnel. From rescuing stranded ground forces, to naval commandos, and the Air Force, the unit's squads are ready for action to save lives 24/7/365. Additionally, Unit 669 serves Israel's entire civilian population in their darkest hour, no matter wherever they may be, in Israel or abroad. Meet and hear from alumni of this illustrious unit which has saved thousands of lives in its 40 years of existence. Room 206/207

Sunday, March 18, 11:00am: Magen David Adom: Israel's First Responders. Learn the fascinating history of the organization, its latest technological life-saving tools and about its disaster relief operations around the world. Program dedicated in memory of LSS member, Pearl Glassberg a"h. Refreshments will be served. To register, please visit www.lss.org/event/mda

WEEKLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

There are times when, for various reasons, classes may be canceled. If you would like to confirm that any particular class is indeed taking place please call the shul office at 212-874-6100. To see our full Adult Ed. Brochure please visit us at www.lss.org

Sunday

- **Sunday Morning Responsa** with Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld; 9:15am-10:00am - Belfer Beit Midrash.
- **Drisha @ LSS; 10:00-11:30am. Sefer Devarim: Prophet, King, Judge and Priest in the Covenantal Community** Taught by David Silber. 10 sessions: Feb 4-April 29. Cost: LSS members: \$125, Non LSS members: \$250 Enter coupon code "lss" for LSS member rate. Register at www.drisha.org. Rm LL201
- **Sunday Morning Beit Midrash Program; 10:15am– 11:45am.** Come and join our Rabbinic interns as we begin a new season of the Beit Midrash program. Participants will have the choice of two different tracks of learning: Jewish Philosophy and Halacha. Both groups will learn in study groups in the Beit Midrash to create the best learning atmosphere. Breakout discussions and lectures will follow.

Monday:

- **Hebrew Reading Crash Course Levels I and II; 6:30pm– 8:00pm:** The 5 classes last 1 1/2 hours, and are free and open to all. Register at www.lss.org/beginners. Rm 210 and Rm 211
- **The Jewish Living Workshop** Led by Dassa and Bill Greenbaum; 7:30-8:30pm The Jewish Living Workshop, a 10 sessions series, is a "hands-on" experience. We learn by doing. The workshop is free, a few sessions will require a modest fee for materials; register at JLworkshop@yahoo.com. Rm 208
- **Chug Ivrit** given by Hai Piazsky. 7:00pm-8:15pm. In the class, we read articles from the Israeli press, watch videos of news stories, documentaries and comedy clips, listen to (and sing along!) Israeli songs and chat in Ivrit. Room 207
- **"The Philosophy of...Purim: The Holiest of the Year? And Pesach: These Songs of Freedom"** Led by Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld; 8:00pm-9:00pm. Can we approach the upcoming holidays with an expanded consciousness of their significance and meaning? Join Rabbi Rosenfeld to study and reveal the inner dimension of Pesach. Experience Pesach with fresh understanding and insight, courtesy of exciting thinkers like Rav Yitzchak Hutner, Rav Shagar, Rebbe Nachman and others. Remaining Classes: Mondays, March 5, 12, 19. Belfer Beit Midrash.

Tuesday:

- **Talmud Class for Women Studying Mesechet Ketubot** led by Rachel Rosenthal, PhD candidate in Rabbinic Literature at JTS; 8:00am– Rm LL202. The course focuses on both content and skill building. Students are expected to participate in reading and some translation of the text. As this is an ongoing class, attendance every week is expected.
- **The Marilyn & Sam Isler, "Studies in the weekly Parsha"** led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson; 10:30am– 11:30am – Rm LL201
- **Intro to Bible: The Ten Commandments** with Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald; 6:30pm-8:30pm. An in-depth study and analysis of the Decalogue (the Ten Commandments) and other basic biblical texts. The religious significance of the Bible, scriptural exegesis and the relationship of the written and oral law will be discussed and analyzed. 6 sessions remaining. To register, please call 212-874-6100 or register online at www.lss.org/beginners. Cost: \$90, Free to LSS Members. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. - Room 206/207.
- **Gemara b'Shana** in Memory of Bruce Ritholtz led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson; 7:15pm– 8:15pm Belfer Beit Midrash
- **Beit Midrash Night, The Book of Samuel II** led by Ron Platzer; 7:30pm -8:30pm. Rm 211

Wednesday:

- **Drisha @ LSS; 9:30am-10:45am. Tanakh: A literary approach–** Taught by David Silber, **Isaiah's Messianic Vision and Its Resonances Throughout the Bible–** Taught by Yisca Zimran, **Biblical Religion and Its Near Eastern Context–** Taught by Deena Grant, **Biblical Poetry–** Taught by Michelle Levine. 12 Sessions: Feb 7– May 16. Cost: LSS members: \$150, Non LSS members: \$300 Enter coupon code "lss" for LSS member rate. Register at www.drisha.org. Rm LL201
- **Drisha @ LSS; 11:00am-12:15am. Aggadah: Inside the World of the Rebbe.** Taught by Wendy Amsellem. 6 Sessions: Feb 7– March 21. Cost: LSS members: \$75 Non LSS members: \$150 Enter coupon code "lss" for LSS members rate. Register at www.drisha.org. Rm LL201
- **Beit Midrash night: The Subversive Religious Poetry of Yehuda Amichai** given by Sara Brzowsky; 8:00pm-8:45pm - Rm 207
- **Heretics & Heresies: Real and the Imagined.** This week: *Mordecai Kaplan* Led by Paul Shaviv; 8:00pm-9:00pm. Belfer Beit Midrash. A new series taking a proactive and an entertaining look at faith controversies throughout Jewish history. 10 lectures series: January 10-March 21

Thursday:

- **The Jacob Adler Parsha Class:** Explorations in the Weekly Parsha with Rabbi Shaul Robinson; 7:00pm–8:00pm– Belfer Beit Midrash

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

זרעים Seedlings (2 years old) Room 210
שורשים Roots (3-4 years old) Room 211
ניצנים Buds (K-1st) Room 208
פרחים Flowers (2nd-7th) Room 206
ענפים Branches (2nd-7th) Room 207



Parshat Ki Tissa

Dvar Torah

By: Ariella Lazaros

Many people think Moshe broke the tablets because he saw the *Egel HaZahav* and was angry. Really, at that moment, Moshe realized that the Jewish people couldn't receive the *luchot* because they weren't ready. Moshe had just given Bnei Yisrael the ten commandments. The first commandment was that there is only one G-d, Hashem and here they were, already breaking rule number one. Moshe broke the tablets because he understood that Bnei Yisrael wasn't ready and first had to learn to do *teshuvah* before they could receive the Torah.

After Shul ask your children:

- How many different spices were burned all day in the *Mishkan*?
- Who was chosen to supervise construction of the *Mishkan*?
- Why was there a wash basin in the *Mishkan*?
- What did Moshe do when he came down from *Har Sinai* and saw Bnei Yisrael with the *Egel HaZahav*?

Upcoming Event: Matzah Baking on Sunday, March 11th at 10:00am. Please join the Youth Club for the Matzah Bakery at Lincoln Square Synagogue. Every child will have the opportunity to make, bake, and take home their very own Matzah. Cost: \$10 Per Person.

Baby & Me Recap: This past Shabbat in *Baby & Me*, the babies prepared all things Purim. We started by reading, "It's Party Time: A Purim Story," sang Meesheh Nichnas Adar Marbim Besimcha and every parent participated in original song version of 'Down by the Bay.' We went around the circle and came up with original rhymes, llamas wearing pajamas, a bear combing its hair, a mouse living in a house, and a dog sitting on a log.



Please note that Baby & Me is cancelled this Shabbat and will resume next week, March 10.

Shabbat Shalom! Ariella & Mendel Lazarus

TEEN DEPARTMENT

We had an incredible state of Purim festivities this week to celebrate the happiest day of the year! Starting with an amazing Chesed program on Sunday, February 25 our teens packed mishloach manot, brought them over to the Senior Living Center, and brought Purim song & joy to the seniors living there. A special Hakarat Hatov goes to **Yael and Avi Lavi** for sponsoring this event in honor of Noa's Bat Mitzvah (Mazal Tov Noa!).

Following megillah reading on Wednesday, February 28, 15 teens got together for an amazing teen break-fast that was sponsored by **Susan and Steven Mero** in honor of Gaby's Bat Mitzvah taking place this Shabbat (Mazal Tov Gaby!). Hakarat Hatov to the Mero family!

Our Purim festivities didn't end there! We were proud to announce and hold a Teen Minyan and Megillah Reading on Purim day! Thank you to all those that participated and a special thank you to our megillah reader **Tuvy Miller**.

Upcoming events will be announced soon.

We want to hear from you! What kind of events would you love to see?

Are you interested in sponsoring an event in honor or in memory of someone? Email us at teens@lss.org.

Shabbat Shalom! Danielle & Ariel Serman

NORPAC MISSION TO WASHINGTON

This week, we celebrated the holiday of Purim. Mordechai and Esther were able to thwart the planned destruction of the Jewish People because they had access to the levers of power. Fortunately for the Jewish people - so do you. One doesn't have to look very far to find the enemies of the Jewish People seeking to attack the State of Israel. Be the hero of your generation. Your participation can change the course of History and *does* make a difference! Join me, Rabbi Robinson, and our LSS contingent as we advocate with over 1000 participants, on the Norpac one day mission to Washington taking place on Wednesday, April 25th.

Early bird discount expires this Monday, March 5. Register at www.norpac.net

Parshat Ki Tissa
 March 3, 2018
 By: Adam Herbst

Moshe is on Mt. Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments. Hashem tells Moshe all that has happened—how the Jews created and then worshipped the Golden—and concludes with this final verse why He wants to annihilate the Jewish people: “... *I have seen this people and they are **am keshei oref** -- a stiff-necked people.*” In this context, one can reasonably assume that *keshei oref* is not a compliment, but a phrase connoting inflexibility.

Remarkably, Moshe uses the very same term, *keshei oref*, in defending the Jewish people as the essential foundation for our salvation. Could being a stiff-necked people be the secret to our eternity?

Certainly, being flexible is important in admitting a mistake and in improving oneself. There are times, however, when we need to be inflexible. We should be firm when upholding values and maintaining our sense of honesty, ethics and integrity. Viewing ourselves as stiff-necked can be positive when we uphold the Torah, our Code of Conduct, in a steadfast and resolute manner. Like any other trait, stubbornness can be used for good or for the opposite. Therefore, for the sake of our survival, a stinging rebuke was needed, as it were, to remind us of the proper standards of conduct.

Jewish, stiff-necked, inflexible determination is what enables us to stand up to assimilation and anti-Semitism; it is the resolve that has given us the strength to never give up on our existence as a people, or our commitment to Torah or Jewish tradition. We must show inflexibility in the face of adversity and challenge. We should all be a little more stiff-necked in our lives: stiff-necked for kindness and stiff-necked for justice.

Parshat Ki Tissa
 March 3, 2018
 By: Mendel Lazarus

Last Shabbos was Parshas Zachor, we remembered what Amalek did to us. We always read Parshat Zachor before Purim because Haman, the evil protagonist of the Purim story, was a descendant of Amalak. In the Haftarah, we read how Hashem commanded King Shaul, the first Jewish king, to wipe out Amalak entirely, men, women, children, even the sheep and cattle. Shaul complied but with two exceptions: he looked at the beautiful sheep and cattle and said it would be better to offer them as *korbanot*, *sacrifices*, rather than slaughter them. Secondly, the king of Amalak, Agag, begged Shaul for his life, and instead of killing him, Shaul put Agag into prison.

The Midrash tells us that on that night, Agag bribed the jailer to smuggle a woman into the prison. He had relations with her, she became pregnant and as a result, the lineage of Amalak continued. Many years later, Haman, a great-grandson of Agag, almost succeeded in destroying the Jewish people.

The next day, the prophet Samuel came to King Shaul and told him that because he had not listened to Hashem, he was no longer worthy of being king. Hashem would pick another king instead. The prophet Samuel killed Agag, but it was too late. The damage had been done. We see from this that he who is merciful to the cruel will end up being cruel to the merciful. As a result of Shaul's mercy to the evil king Agag, the Jewish people were almost destroyed.

A similar thing happened in the story of the Megillah itself. After King Achashverosh commanded Haman to dress Mordechai in the royal robes, place him on the king's royal horse and lead him through the streets of Shushan shouting "this shall be done to the man whom the king wishes to honor," Haman returned home very upset. His wife Zeresh, who was evil but clever, said to him: "If Mordechai is descended from the Jews, once you begin to fall before him, you will continue to fall before him." In these words, she was predicting Haman's downfall. A deeper interpretation is that Mordechai was a descendant of King Shaul and Zeresh was advising Haman, "Fall before him and beg for mercy. Mordechai, being tender-hearted like his ancestor King Shaul will forgive you, and Hashem will be angry with Mordechai like Hashem was angry with King Shaul." It was a brilliant and diabolical plan and would have succeeded, except that while they were talking, the king's servants came and carried Haman off to the party of Esther where Haman met his downfall.

After World War II, there were British Jewish soldiers who went after escaped Nazis. These Jewish soldiers called themselves the Avengers and tracked down over 100 escaped Nazis. There were some Jews who criticized them, but these Avengers said "No. Those who killed our people have to be punished."

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