

Shabbat Schedule

4:25pm Shabbat Candle Lighting

Friday Night

4:30pm Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary led by **Chazzan Yisroel Lesches**. Dvar Torah given by **Rabbi Shaul Robinson**.

Shabbat Morning

7:45am Hashkama Minyan in the Belfer Beit Midrash followed by Shiur given by **Dr. Moshe Sokolow**

8:30am Parsha Shiur given by **Rabbinic Intern, Zachary Rothblatt** in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary on *Understanding Sefer Shemot Through the Lense of Sukkot*

9:00am Services in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary led by **Chazzan Yisroel Lesches**. Sermon given by **Rabbi Shaul Robinson** followed by Musaf.

9:15am Beginners Service led by **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in Rm LL201

9:40am Latest Shema

9:45am Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan in the Belfer Beit Midrash led by **Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld**

10:00am Youth Groups for children ages 2-12

11:00am "Baby & Me" (ages 0-24 months, 3rd floor gym)

Shabbat Afternoon

12:30pm Beginners Luncheon

2:55pm Beginners Mishna Chavura with **Moshe Sheinwexler** in the Belfer Beit Midrash (canceled this Shabbat)

3:00pm Herb Weiss Bikur Cholim Society: Meet in the lobby to visit patients at Mount Sinai West

3:25pm Samson Raphael Hirsch Bible Class with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in Rm 211

3:25pm Louis & Rhoda Lazar Memorial Shiur given by **Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld** on *The Hidden Narrative of Moshe Rabbeinu's Hands*. Shiur sponsored by **Dorothea Krieger** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of her uncle Alter ben Yitchak HaKohen, Dr. Philip Bloch z"l.

3:45pm Teen Oneg in Rm 206/207

4:10pm Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit.

5:26pm Ma'ariv/ Shabbat Ends

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jordana and Simon Bernstein

Miriam and Jesse Izak

Yael and Joel Seidemann

Barbara Schwartz Spero

MAZAL TOV

Debora and Jeffrey Puterman on the occasion of their son Ilan's Bar Mitzvah.

Grandparents Leah and Ephraim Savitt on the birth of a granddaughter to their children Simona and Abbaleh Savitt.

HAKARAT HATOV

Pamela Nadler Emmerich for writing this week's Dvar Torah.

THIS SHABBAT

This Shabbat **Rabbi Shaul Robinson** will be officiating and will deliver the Shabbat sermon.

Shabbat davening: **Chazzan Yisroel Leches**

Celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of **Ilan Puterman**

We welcome all those who are participating in the Beginners Luncheon.

THANK YOU TO OUR SHABBAT KIDDUSH SPONSORS

Hashkama Kiddush: Sponsored by the generous contributions to the Fund.

Main Kiddush:

Debora and Jeffrey Puterman in honor of their son Ilan's Bar Mitzvah

Beginners Kiddush:

Beatrice Stoller in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of her beloved brother, Solomon Mazur, Shlomo ben Yitzchak z"l.

Rhonda Weinman in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of her cherished brother Arnie Reich z"l.

Seudah Shlishit:

Joyce and David Friedman and Jonathan and Rachel Neumark Herlands in commemoration of the first yahrtzeits of their mothers Edith Jaskoll a"h and Debby Neumark a"h. Their sponsorship also expresses their gratitude to **Rabbi Robinson** and the LSS Minyanim for providing such a supportive and welcoming environment for women to recite Kaddish. They welcome the sharing of kaddish experiences by other women during the course of Seudah Shlishit.

THIS SUNDAY

• **10:00am– 4:00pm: UWS Blood Drive at The Jewish Center:** Record cold temperatures and snow in the forecast are putting a huge damper on blood donations! LSS & New York Blood Center urge you to donate at this Sunday's blood drive. January is also **Blood Donor Month**, a time to remember that blood is a precious gift that must be on the shelves in anticipation of any tragedy or critical situation. To make an apt. visit <https://tinyurl.com/UpperWestSideBloodDrive>. Address: *The Jewish Center: 131 W 86th Street, 1st Floor Auditorium*

• **10:00am-11:45am: LSS & Koren Siddur Book Launch and a Dialogue on Rav Kook's Legacy.** The Koren Rav Kook Siddur is a new prayer-book that offers a dimension of spirituality sorely lacking in our world today. Abraham Isaac Hakohen Kook (1865-1935), first Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi of Eretz Israel, was renowned for his harmonious blending of both the body and the soul of the Torah. The Koren Rav Kook Siddur retains Rabbi Sacks' English translation, and for the first time also includes a digest of Rav Kook's commentary, never before seen in English. The commentary is written by Rabbi Bezalel Naor, interpreter of Rav Kook's thought. Location: Belfer Beit Midrash.

• **7:30 pm: LSS Book Club presents: "Dinner at the Center of the Earth"** by Nathan Englander. Micah Bloomfield will be leading the discussion. Location: The home of Gale and Jim Kaufman. Please email info@lss.org for exact address.

שבת שלום
Shabbat Shalom

Weekly Prayer Schedule: January 7

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 4:35pm (Sun– Thurs)

Day	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Daf Yomi	7:45am	6:15am	6:20am	6:20am	6:15am	6:20am
Shacharit	7:10am, 8:30am	7:00am, 7:50am	7:10am, 7:50am	7:10am, 7:50am	7:00am, 7:50am	7:10am, 7:50am

DVAR TORAH FOR THE ECHOD

Volunteer to write a Dvar Torah for an Echod this season! Pick the parsha or holiday of your choice. The next available slots are: Bo (1/20), and Ki Tissa (3/3), Vayakhel-Pekudei (3/10) and Vayikra (3/17). See Bill Greenbaum at shul, call the office, or email dvar@lss.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 10, 7:00pm-9:00pm: Setting the bar with Judge Rachel Freier – New York's First Female Hasidic Judge. Co-presented with UJA. Judge Rachel Freier's personal path to the bench is a powerful one. Discover the journey she took to become the first elected Hasidic female judge and hear about the life-changing work she does throughout her community. Judge Freier will be interviewed by Jodi J. Schwartz, current chair of UJA's Caring Department and past chair of the Lawyer Division. Admission is free for LSS members, but you must RSVP at www.lss.org/event/judgefreier. Cost for non members is \$25; please register at <https://www.ujafedny.org/event/view/setting-the-bar-series/>

Saturday, January 13, 7:30 pm: Illustrated Presentation: EL AL Airlines - Israel's Lifeline to the World. Fully illustrated presentation by LSS member Marvin Gold- man, airline historian and author of "EL AL: Israel's Flying Star". The presentation will highlight EL AL's relationship to the State of Israel, including: Aviation in pre-State Israel; Israel's War of Independence; airlifts of Jews to Israel from Yemen, Iraq, Ethiopia and Russia; the 'Weizmann' and 'Herzl' flights; the capture of Eich- mann; war, terrorism and security; tourism to Israel and Judaism in flight. The program is sponsored by Judith Weil and Lloyd Epstein. Dessert reception. The program is free, but please help us plan seating and dessert order by registering in advance. To register, go to <https://www.lss.org/event/el-al.html>

Thursday, January 18, 7:00 pm: LSS Film club presents "The Religious Revolution in Israeli Cinema and TV." How did the world of Israeli cinema and TV change from a secular, Tel Aviv-based perspective, to the culturally diverse landscape captivating audiences around the world? Hedva and Gilad Goldschmit, an observant husband-wife team deeply immersed in Israel's film industry, will guide us through that transformation. In particular, they'll focus on the evolution of religious life and characters as depicted on the Israeli screen, including clips of *Shtisel* and *Srugim*. Register at www.lss.org/films. \$15 in advance/\$20 at the door.

Sunday January 21, 10:30am-12:30pm: Converts in Conversation Tu B'Shvat Brunch. Featuring guest speaker, Psychologist Leonard Davidman. Location: Room 206/207. Please register at www.lss.org/event/convertsinconversation

Monday, January 29, 7:30pm: Our Tefillot - Are They Really Ours?: A Conversation About Prayer. An honest discussion about our relationship to tefillot-the halakhic essentials; do we mean what we pray?; fixed vs spontaneous prayer; particularism vs. universalism; prayers that conflict with our values-and more. Three Monday evenings; Jan 29, Feb 5 and 12. Facilitated by Rabbi Robinson and Ron Platzer in the Belfer Beit Midrash. Register at www.lss.org/event/ourtefillot

Thursday February 8, 7:30pm: Board Meeting in the Belfer Beit Midrash.

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.
- **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. (Canceled this week)

Monday:

- **Besht: The Light From the Forest** given by Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld; 8:00pm-9:00pm –Belfer Beit Midrash - Join us for a new series exploring the life and teachings of Rabbi Israel Ba'al Shem Tov: The Besht, founder of Chassidut. About 300 years ago, a Rabbi & mystic living emerged from the Carpathian mountains. His teachings and personality uplifted and gave strength to a nearly broken Jewish people, radically challenging and changing the way we understand Judaism.

Tuesday:

- **The Marilyn & Sam Isler, "Studies in the weekly Parsha"** led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson; 10:30am– 11:30am – LL201
- **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. Room 211

Thursday:

- **Women's Talk Time**: led by School Psychologist Ruth Moser Riemer; 11:30am-12:30pm - Rm LL201.
- **The Jacob Adler Parsha Class**: Explorations in the Weekly Parsha with Rabbi Shaul Robinson; 7:00pm–8:00pm– Belfer Beit Midrash (Zissy Turner will be giving this class this week)

Save the Date: Tuesday, February 13, 6:30pm– 8:00pm: Intro to Bible: The Ten Commandments with Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald. 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. 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.

NEW! Our Tefillot - Are They Really Ours?: A Conversation About Prayer. A three series class. Please see above, under Upcoming Events, for full details.

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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



Youth Schedule:

10:00 am - Drop Off (all rooms)
10:30 am - Davening (all rooms)
11:00 am - The Story of Moshe (Rooms 206, 207, 208, 211)
11:00 am - Put the "straw" in the Pot (Room 210)
11:00 am - Baby and Me (3rd floor Gym)
11:10 am - Snakes and Staffs (Rooms 206, 207, 208, 211)

Parshat Shemot

Parsha Theme: Meet Moshe

This week we begin the book of Shemot, which starts by saying that Yosef and the older generations died out and a new Egyptian king arose, one who did not know Yosef—meaning the new king did not acknowledge the wonderful things that Yosef had done. Pharaoh enslaved the Jewish people and told the midwives that any Jewish baby boy born must be killed. The midwives, Yocheved and Miriam, did not listen. Yocheved and her husband Amram had a baby boy, Moshe, whom they hid for three months. When they could no longer hide him, Yocheved put baby Moshe in a basket on the Nile River and Moshe's sister Miriam watched him. Pharaoh's daughter went to the Nile and found the baby, but Moshe refused to nurse so Miriam suggested a Jewish woman as nursemaid, and brought Yocheved, Moshe's own mother. Moshe grew up in the palace. One day, he saw an Egyptian beating a Jew and killed the Egyptian. The next day, he saw two Jewish people fighting, and when he tried to stop them, they told him that they'd seen what he did the day before and informed against him to Pharaoh. Rashi says these two people were Datan and Aviram. Moshe ran away to Midian where he met the daughters of Yitro, and married Tziporah, the eldest, with whom he had two children. One day, when Moshe was herding sheep, he found a bush on fire that was not being consumed. A holy voice told Moshe to take off his shoes and Hashem revealed himself and told Moshe to save the Jewish people. Hashem gave Moshe three signs: He turned Moshe's staff into a snake and back again; He afflicted Moshe with *tzaraat* and healed it; and told him that he would turn the waters of the Nile into blood. Moshe said that he was tongue-tied, but Hashem told Moshe that He provides the power to speak. When Moshe arrived, Pharaoh reacted by telling the people they would now have to work twice as hard, making the same quota of bricks but without any straw. When the Jewish people complained, Moshe turned to Hashem. The Parsha ends with Hashem telling Moshe that that Pharaoh will be forced to free them.

You can ask your children after shul:

Who did Miriam bring to nurse baby Moshe?

How many years older were Miriam and Aaron than Moshe?

What does Rashi say were the names of the two Jewish men fighting?

Who was Yitro's oldest daughter and who did she marry?

In which country did Moshe find his wife?

How did Hashem reveal himself to Moshe?

Baby & Me

"Baby & Me," a program for parents and their younger children, ages twenty-four months and under. Join us for your baby's first introduction to the youth department with tummy time exercises, musical tefillah, stories, and snacks. "Baby & Me" runs from 11:00am - 11:45am in the gym on the 3rd floor. Please note that while all other Youth Club groups are drop off only, Baby & Me requires that one parent stay with your child for the duration of the program.



Shabbat Shalom! Ariella & Mendel

Teen Department

Due to weather conditions the Teen Oneg this Friday night has been moved to **Shabbat day**. Join your friends **Shabbat Day, January 6** for food, song and a Torah filled Teen Oneg! Starting at 3:45pm in Room 206/207

To Sponsor a future events— please email teens@lss.org

Rsvp with teen directors Danielle and Ariel Sterman at Teens@lss.org.

Shabbat Shalom! Danielle & Ariel

Parshat Shemot

Parshat Shemot picks up where Sefer Bereishit left off, with Jacob's descent into Egypt. It quickly turns to the beginnings of the Israelite bondage, continuing with the tale of Moses' birth and rescue, his foray into the country where he confronts the Hebrew suffering, his escape to Midian and his call by God at the burning bush, concluding with Moses' return to Egypt and his initial confrontation with Pharaoh. In essence, the parasha chronicles Moses' life from cradle to calling and his evolution from rescued infant to the leader chosen to rescue the nation. By including various anecdotes of Moses' personal life prior to his calling (which is unusual in and of itself), the biblical narrative emphasizes that his call was not immediate, but was the result of a process. The question raised is why — if Moses was singled out by God at infancy — did God wait so long until summoning him to redeem the Israelites?

A study of Moses' personal journey that is recorded in the parasha reveals that each step of this journey was necessary to prime Moses for his ultimate task. Moses' development is stressed early on in the parasha, when his youthful growth is mentioned twice (Exod. 2:10-11). The second growth is understood by most of the commentators as intended figuratively, not literally. It is this growth that prompts Moses to venture from the palace, thereby exposing him to the brutality of slavery. But the fact that Moses is not called into prophecy at that time suggests that further self-exploration and maturation was necessary. So after he flees to Midian, Moses saves a group of local women from torment, honing his sense of justice and displaying his ability to recognize and rectify injustice wherever he sees it. In addition, as the Midrash tells us (Exodus Rabbah 2:2), while a shepherd in Midian Moses tenderly nurtured his flock, demonstrating that he possessed the skills required to lead the Israelites to freedom. Finally, as an indication of his self-awareness and introspection, we are told that Moses named his son Gershom, reflecting his own sense of personal estrangement and with it his ability to identify with the vulnerable members of society. It was this humble Moses to whom God finally appeared and who needed to be convinced of his ability to lead. And, as Rashi points out in his commentary (Exod. 4:6), it was this Moses who still required assurance that the nation would have faith in him.

Moses' self-professed sense of alienation and self-doubt raise the question of his self-identity. Did Moses think of himself as a Hebrew or an Egyptian, and why does it matter?

There is no indication in the text of the point at which Moses, who was raised in Pharaoh's house, realized he was a Hebrew. Although many commentators, such as Abravanel, suggest that Moses learned of his identity while in Pharaoh's court (see the commentaries on Exod. 2:10 "*Eichav*"), Ibn Ezra offers as an alternative the possibility that Moses thought of the Egyptians with whom he was raised as his brothers. This interpretation is interesting for several reasons. First, it imparts a degree of impartiality to Moses' reaction, affirming the immorality of slavery, even in the eyes of an Egyptian. Moreover, Moses' identification with the Egyptians attests to God's realization that only one who experienced freedom could have the requisite distance from slavery to earn the respect of the Hebrews and lead them to freedom (see Ibn Ezra to Exodus 2:3).

The observation that leadership had to come from without rather than within the community is also borne out in a different context. When Moses initially leaves Pharaoh's court we are told that he 'sees' (*vaya'ar*) three things (2:11- 12): the Hebrew suffering, a taskmaster striking a slave, and — before he kills the taskmaster — that there was 'no man.' Although the common understanding of this final "*vaya'ar*" is that Moses checked for witnesses before killing the Egyptian, an interesting alternative is presented by the 19th century commentator Yaacov Zvi Mecklenberg ("*HaKtav veHakabbalah*"). He proposes that Moses was seeking assistance, not witnesses, and noticed that not only were there no Egyptians willing to come to the slave's aid, but that there were no Hebrews willing or perhaps able to stand up for themselves. Thus Moses noticed a leadership vacuum among the Hebrews: the people were incapable of self-defense. God's wisdom was in realizing that only one raised in freedom could fill this vacuum.

The stories of Moses' early years thus teach us that Moses, whose appearance and breeding was that of an Egyptian, did not necessarily identify as a Hebrew (as is confirmed by Jethro's daughters' description of him (2:19)). His privileged upbringing gave him a sense of authority, to the Egyptians and Hebrews alike, that wasn't available to those raised in slavery. Yet, despite his demonstrated objectivity and sense of justice, years of personal introspection and emotional maturation were required before he could undertake his mission; he had to first learn to shepherd living beings, to cultivate an empathy for his charges by experiencing personal alienation, and to overcome self-doubt.

From Moses' experience we can learn that credentials alone are not always sufficient. Before we assume any role we must believe in the cause and in our ability to achieve our goal. And if it takes us time to reach that point, then that will be time well spent.

Shabbat Shalom!