

Shabbat Schedule

4:32pm Shabbat Candle Lighting

Friday Night

4:35pm Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary led by **Chazzan Yanky Lemmer**. 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, Jeremy Perlow** in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary

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

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

9:41am 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

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

3:05pm Beginners Mishna Chavura with **Moshe Sheinwexler** in the Belfer Beit Midrash

3:35pm Samson Raphael Hirsch Bible Class with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in Rm 211

3:35pm Louis & Rhoda Lazar Memorial Shiur given by **Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld** on "The Secret to Success?": Surprising Torah Insights to Facing Failure

3:45pm Teen Oneg in the pre-function room

4:20pm Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit.

5:34pm Ma’ariv/ Shabbat Ends

HAKARAT HATOV

Mark Hus for writing this week’s Dvar Torah.

To **Judith and Lloyd Epstein** for sponsoring desserts for our Motzei Shabbat El Al program.

THIS MOTZEI SHABBAT

7:30pm; Illustrated Presentation: EL AL Airlines - Israel’s Life-line to the World. Fully illustrated presentation by LSS member Marvin Goldman, airline historian and author of "EL AL: Israel's Flying Star". **This event is now sold out.**

SOLD OUT

UPCOMING GUEST SCHOLARS

January 27: **Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Brander** will deliver the **13th Annual Jonathan H. Spanbock Memorial Lecture in Jewish Ethics** on the topic “The *Newest Gifts in Reproductive Medicine through the Prism of Halakha*”

February 3: **Rav Yosef Tzvi Rimon** will be the Scholar in Residence. Rav Yosef Tzvi Rimon serves as the Rabbinic Head of the Jerusalem College of Technology, as a neighborhood Rav in Alon Shevut Darom, and teaches classes in Halacha at Yeshivat Har Etzion (Gush). In addition, he is a prolific author on various halachic topics and teaches at the Herzog College and the Beit Midrash for Women in Migdal Oz.

ROSH CHODESH

The molad for Rosh Chodesh Shevat will be on Wednesday morning at 25 minutes and 2 chalakim after 2 am. Rosh Chodesh Shevat will be on Wednesday.

THIS SHABBAT

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

Shabbat davening: **Chazzan Yanky Lemmer**

Celebrating the Aufruf of **Avromi Robinson**

THANK YOU TO OUR SHABBAT KIDDUSH SPONSORS

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

Main Kiddush:
Sarah and Rabbi Shaul Robinson in honor of their son Avromi’s Aufruf.

Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan Kiddush:
Mordechai Beilis, Elana, Natalie and Michelle Zvulon in commemoration of the 5th and 10th yahrzeits of their parents and grandparents Aviva (Mazala Aviva bat Menachem v’ Esther) a”h and Aron (Aharon Simcha ben Yitzhak v’ Klura) z”l today the 26th day of Tevet.

Beginners Kiddush:
Fei Lu Fang and Roger Wu, celebrating happy occasions with G-d's help.

Seudah Shlishit:
Chaya & Tamar Fix in commemoration of the ninth yahrzeit of their husband and father respectively, Nachman ben Chaim, z”l.

MAZAL TOV

Sarah and Rabbi Shaul Robinson on the upcoming marriage of their son Avromi to Elana Laskin.

Joseph and Shari Stern Sonnenberg on the forthcoming marriage of their grandson Noam Sonnenberg of Baltimore to Shifra Lieberstein of Far Rock-away.

Dr. Marjorie Lehman on her being awarded two National Jewish Book awards as a finalist for each of her books “Mothers in the Jewish Cultural Imagination”, and “Learning to Read Talmud-What it Looks Like and How it Happens.”

Yoni Zolty, our ba'al kriya, on his engagement to Mindy Schwartz, the daughter of Rabbi Allen and Alisa Schwartz of OZ .

Grandparents Sharon and Avram Blumenthal on the birth of a grandson to their children Tamar and Ben Blumenthal.



Weekly Prayer Schedule: January 14					Mincha/Ma’ariv: 4:40pm (Sun– Thurs)	
Day	Sunday	Monday (MLK day)	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Daf Yomi	7:45am	7:45am	6:20am	6:15am	6:15am	6:20am
Shacharit	7:10am, 8:30am	7:00am, 8:30am	7:10am, 7:50am	7:00am, 7:40am	7:00am, 7:50am	7:10am, 7:50am

UPCOMING EVENTS

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. This is only open to women who have already completed the conversion process. 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

Saturday, February 3, 12:30pm: Beginners Luncheon. The cost is only \$25. Register and pay online at www.lss.org/beginners or call 212 874 6100. Please make your reservations and payment by Thursday, February 1.

Thursday, February 8, Board Meeting (if you have a question about your board status please email info@lss.org)

Thursday, February 22, 8:15pm: Membership Meeting

CHESED OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, January 28 @ 10:45am-2:00pm. Please join the LSS team for this month's DOROT meal package delivery and visits to seniors (visits taking place on the West side between 59th & 125th street). Imagine being a frail, homebound senior citizen during these frigid weeks, with unbearable cold, and snow on the way, and how badly you would need practical assistance and some cheerful company. RSVP by emailing Paris Stulbach at parisstulbach@gmail.com. Children age 8 and up are welcome (ages 8-10 must be accompanied by a teen or adult). **Please be sure to bring Photo ID'S** Meeting & orientation location: Brandeis High School, 145 West 84th Street, between Columbus and Amsterdam.

The Shabbat Shalom Initiative is a way to bring seniors in our community some pre-Shabbat ruach. Youth, teens, and adult shul members will have the opportunity to provide chessed to one or two seniors by calling them on Erev Shabbat to wish them a Shabbat Shalom. Once Shabbat is longer we hope to also offer opportunities to visit seniors on Shabbat afternoon so stay tuned. If you're interested in participating in the Shabbat Shalom Call Initiative please email parisstulbach@gmail.com.

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.

Monday:

- **Chug Ivrit** given by Hai Piazesky. 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
- **(Note Day Change this week) Beit Midrash night: The Subversive Religious Poetry of Yehuda Amichai** given by Sara Brzowsky; 8:00pm-8:45pm - Rm 207
 - **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 (**canceled this week**)
- **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 (**canceled, will resume January 23**)

Wednesday:

- **Heretics & Heresies: Real and the Imagined** 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.

Thursday:

- **Women's Talk Time:** led by School Psychologist Ruth Moser Riemer; 11:30am-12:30pm-Rm LL201. Last weeks topic: *How the Holocaust Affects our Lives Today*
- **The Jacob Adler Parsha Class:** Explorations in the Weekly Parsha with Rabbi Shaul Robinson; 7:00pm–8:00pm– Belfer Beit Midrash (**canceled 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.

Our Tefillot - Are They Really Ours?: A Conversation About Prayer. A three series class. Please see above, under Upcoming Events, for full details. Only 9 Spots left!

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 Vaera

Youth Schedule:

10:00am: Drop Off (all rooms)
10:30am: Davening (all rooms)
10:50am: The First Seven Plagues in Egypt (Rooms 206, 207, 208, 211)
11:00am: Put the "frogs" in the Pot (Room 210)
11:00am: Baby & Me (3rd floor gym)
11:10am: Vaera Memory Challenge Game (Room 208, 211)
11:10am: "They Have my Back" an IDF Story with Jake Goldson (Room 206)

Parsha Theme: The Plagues Begin

In this week's Parsha, Vaera, Hashem tells Moshe to go back to Pharaoh and demand that he let the Jewish people go. When Pharaoh asked for a sign, Aharon's staff turned into a snake, but Pharaoh's magicians were able to do the same thing with their staffs. Aharon's staff swallowed the staffs of the magicians, but Pharaoh was not impressed. That's when the real plagues began. First, all the water in Egypt turned to blood. Frogs went all over the place. But Pharaoh was still not impressed because his magicians were able to do the same things. With the third plague, lice, Pharaoh's magicians finally admitted, "This is the finger of God. Rashi says that the magicians realized that their witchcraft would not work on creatures as tiny as lice. Then came the fourth plague, wild animals, and the fifth, where all the cattle got sick. For the sixth, G-d told Moshe to throw a handful of soot from a furnace into the sky and suddenly, the Egyptians were covered with blisters and boils. Finally, it started to hail. Rashi says the hail was a double miracle as each piece was ice with a drop of fire within. Fire and ice never mix so this was totally supernatural.

You can ask your children:

What were the seven plagues in Parshat Vaera?

Whose staff swallowed the staffs of Pharaoh's magicians?

Which two plagues were the magicians also capable of doing?

When did the magicians confirm that the plagues were the hand of G-d?

Why was the plague of hail a double miracle and supernatural?

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

After an awesome Oneg last week, Teens @ LSS (Ages 12+) are at it again this Shabbat with an afternoon of Torah, games, snacks, song and more! Join us this **Shabbat, January 13th** at 3:45pm in the pre-function room until the end of Shabbat, culminating with a musical havdalah!

Sponsorship is still available for this week's Oneg and future events as well!

And we're excited to announce our next Teen Minyan, Shabbat February 3rd, Parshat Yitro. Join us for a Dvar Torah from your peers, and a Sushi-filled Kiddush! Details to follow.

RSVP with Teen Directors Danielle and Ariel Serman at teens@lss.org.

Shabbat Shalom! Danielle & Ariel

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.

Parshat Vaera

This week's Parsha shows a filial relationship that stands in stark contrast to the ones we saw in Sefer Bereishit: two brothers who actually love each other and work well together!

Bereishit starts out with Cain killing Abel. Isaac and Ishmael don't reconcile until late in their lives. Yaakov and Esav don't relate well until many years and even more miles have separated them. And the twelve sons of Yaakov have multiple issues. All the brothers hate Yosef. Yet, because the children of Leah look down on their brothers who are the sons of Zilpah and Bilhah, Yosef does "hang out" with those brothers (Bereishit, 37:2) -- but they certainly are not heard from when Yosef is sold into slavery. (They had not protested when their siblings were threatening to take Yosef's life either, so that is no surprise.)

But everything turns around in Shemot. When Moshe protests that he is not an orator, but is actually quite the opposite, G-d responds that Aharon, the Levite, (invoking another familial relationship) is coming to greet his brother Moshe and that when he sees him, Aharon will "rejoice in his heart." In other words, he will be truly happy and excited to see his brother.

In the second aliyah of this week's parsha, Moshe protests to the Almighty that inasmuch as the Children of Israel did not listen to him, how can G-d expect that the mighty Pharaoh would heed his words. The response from the Lord is to speak to Moshe and Aharon and command them both to go before Pharaoh, (Shemot, 6:13). The next time they are referred to, it is Aharon who is mentioned first, perhaps because he was older, but since the Almighty was talking to Moshe most of the time, the fact that Aharon gets top billing, shows us the strength of their relationship and that they were, in effect, two men acting in complete unison. Astonishingly, they are a team and act in tandem to lead the Jewish people out of Egypt and out of the bonds of slavery. They will work together with only one rift -- about Moshe's wife at the end of Parshat Beha'alotcha.

The personal rewards they get from acting in a positive and supportive way with one another are overwhelming. Moshe leads the people and becomes the person who talks to the Children of Israel in G-d's name -- despite his earlier assertions that he could not speak well. Aharon becomes the High Priest, who is beloved by all the Jewish people.

On the other hand, when they are separated and do not have each other to lean on, things do not go so well for them. When Moshe spends forty days and nights on Mount Sinai, Aharon ends up creating the golden calf and Moshe shatters the Ten Commandments!

Our takeaway from the story of these two extraordinary brothers is just how important it is for brothers (and sisters) to get along and support one another. The sky is the limit when they do so. May all of our Jewish brothers and sisters (and for that matter, all of mankind) act in harmony with one another. The world would be a far better place.

Shabbat Shalom!

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