

Shabbat Schedule

4:14pm Shabbat Candle Lighting

Friday Night

4:20pm 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, Zachary Rothblatt** in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary on *Going to see Joseph: Was it supposed to be a short visit or a permanent move?*

9:00am Services in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary led by **Chazzan Yanky Lemmer**. Sermon given by **Rabbinic Intern, Jeremy Perlow**

9:15am Beginners Service led by **Dr. Leonard Davidman** in Rm LL201

9:35am 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

2:45pm Beginners Mishna Chavura with **Moshe Sheinwexler** in the Belfer Beit Midrash

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

3:15pm Samson Raphael Hirsch Bible Class with **Bill Greenbaum** in Rm 211

3:15pm Louis & Rhoda Lazar Memorial Shiur given by **Rabbinic Intern, Zachary Rothblatt** on *The Ancient World and the Bible: The Search for the Origins of the "Hebrews"*

4:00pm Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit.

5:15pm Ma'ariv/ Shabbat Ends

6:00pm Youth Movie and Pizza night. Beit Midrash and Rm 206/207

THIS SHABBAT

Davening led by **Chazzan Yanky Lemmer** on Friday evening and Shabbat morning in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.

Please join us at 6:00pm for the Youth Movie and Pizza Night in the Belfer Beit Midrash and Rm 206/207.

THANK YOU TO OUR SHABBAT KIDDUSH SPONSORS

Hashkama Kiddush: **Sandy Gross** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of her beloved grandmother, Esther bat Menachem Mendel *a"h* and in celebration of the birth of her two great nieces, Tsiyon Gross in Yerushalayim and Tamar Gross in New York.

Main Kiddush: **Jerry Kahn** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his wife, Marilyn *a"h*.

Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan Kiddush:
Mati and Ilan Bracha

Judy and Joel Schreiber in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his mother Blanche Schreiber *a"h* whose yahrtzeit is Asarah B'Tevet.

Beginners Kiddush: Sponsored in loving memory of **Farokh a"h** and **Shmuel Shoshani z"l** and in honor of **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald**.

Seudah Shlishit: **Miriam and Alan Axelrod** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of Alan's father, Herman Axelrod, Yisroel ben Moshe Aharon, *z"l*.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Halana and Mr. Alan Greenberg
Mrs. Diane and Dr. Andrew Koenigsberg
Mrs. Cynthia and Dr. Evan Kollander

END OF THE YEAR

December *shul* account balance statements have gone out via snail mail. We hope you will consider supporting Lincoln Square Synagogue in your year-end giving by fulfilling your outstanding pledges and charges before December 31. To ensure that your contributions to the *shul* can be used as tax deductions for the 2017 calendar year, please make your payments as soon as possible. Checks should be received in the office by Thursday, December 28, while online payments can be made until 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, December 31. If you have any questions about your outstanding balance please contact the *shul* office at info@lss.org or call 212-874-6100. If you require consideration in meeting your outstanding obligations, please email tamar@lss.org. To pay your balance online please visit www.lss.org/payment

Thank you for your support of Lincoln Square Synagogue

MAZAL TOV

Grandparents Joan and Les Erber on the birth of a daughter, Esther Zehava (Gigi) to their children Bari and Daniel Erber.

Gidi Grinstein and the entire Tikkun Olam Makers (TOM) team for being selected as one of the "15 Technology Companies to Watch in 2018" by Forbes magazine. TOM has hosted dozens of "makeathons" where their developers and engineers build products designed to solve everyday problems for people with disabilities.

Tuvy Miller, a former LSS Ba'al Kriyah, on the occasion of his upcoming wedding to Channa Spellman this Sunday.

HAKARAT HATOV

Shlomo Offer for writing this week's Dvar Torah.

Audrey Kallman for the community's warm wishes, daily visits, and kind donations in memory of her sister, Edna Cohen *a"h*.

Shira and Avi Spira and Dalia Schwalb for chairing the Chanukah Dinner Committee. Your attention to detail and commitment to the success of the evening made the night magical! LSS greatly appreciates your efforts!

Weekly Prayer Schedule	December 24	Mincha/ Ma'ariv	Sun, Tues, Wed and Fri: 4:25pm	Monday: 4:20pm Thursday: 4:10pm
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday/Wednesday	Thursday (Fast Of Tevet)	Friday
Daf Yomi: 7:45am	Daf Yomi: 7:45am	Daf Yomi: 6:20am	Daf Yomi: 6:00am	Daf Yomi: 6:20am
Shacharit: 7:10am, 8:30am	Shacharit: 7:00, 8:30am	Shacharit: 7:10am, 7:50am	Shacharit: 6:50am, 7:30am	Shacharit: 7:10am, 7:50am

WINE SEALERS



LSS wine sealers are for sale in the shul office! Use to seal your wine on a daily basis; store bottles easily on their side or on-the-go without fear of leakage. Made of 100% silicone. Silicone is kitchen safe and food grade. Makes for a great Chanukah and Shabbat gift to bring with your bottle of wine. 5 colors options available: Black, Gold, Pink, Purple and Burgundy. To purchase yours today visit www.lss.org/form/winesealers

DVAR TORAH VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer to write a Dvar Torah for an Echod this season! Pick the parsha or holiday of your choice. The next available slots are: Vayechi (Saturday, Dec. 30), Bo (Jan. 20), and Mishpatim (Feb. 10). See Bill Greenbaum at shul, call the office, or email dvar@lss.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, December 25 • 9:30am-11:00am • Yom Iyuv Event Please join Rabbi Yona Goodman, Director of Education for Yeshivot Bnei Akiva in conversation with Rabbi Shaul Robinson on the topic of "Israel and Diaspora Jews in 2018 –Where are we Now, and Where are we Going?" relationship through the lens of Jewish Education" Location: Belfer Beit Midrash. Brunch will be served.

Wednesday, December 27 • 7:30pm • The Annual Westside Mikvah Fundraiser. The Rebbetzins of the Upper West Side cordially invite the women of the community to celebrate & support the Upper West Side Mikvah. Donate, Register & learn more at www.westsidemikvahfundraiser.com or contact uwsrebbetzins@gmail.com. Location: the Home of Shannon Penon, 535 West End Ave, Apt 14 (at the corner of 86th St)

Thursday, December 28 • Shacharit-Mincha • Asara B'Tevet Food Drive. Through Project ORE, we have the opportunity to feed Jewish Homeless New Yorkers.

Saturday, January 6 •Beginners Luncheon. The cost is only \$25 per person. Register and pay online at www.lss.org/beginners or call 212-874-6100. Please make your reservations and payment by Thursday, January 4th.

Sunday January 7

• **10:00am– 4:00pm • Upper West Side Blood Drive @ The Jewish Center**, a partnership between UWS synagogues to provide blood for The New York Blood Drive. To schedule an appointment, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/UpperWestSideBloodDrive>. Address: 131 W 86th Street, 1st Floor Auditorium

• **10:00am-11:45am • LSS & Koren Siddur Book Launch and a Dialogue on Rav Kook's Legacy** Location: Belfer Beit Midrash.

• **11:15am • LSS Museum Tour presents Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art.** The exhibit explores the activism of the Polish Born artist through more than 40 works that underscore Szyk's role as a kind of "one man army" fighting odious policies and protagonists, and advocating civil and human rights. Cost: \$30. Docent Guide: Irvin Ungar, Szyk expert. Meet in the NY Historical Society Main Lobby, 170 CPW, at 11:00am. Register at www.lss.org/event/museumtour

Wednesday, January 10 • 7:00pm-9:00pm • A Conversation 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.

Saturday, January 13 •7:30 pm • Illustrated Presentation: EL AL Airlines - Israel's Lifeline to the World. Fully illustrated presentation by LSS member Marvin G. Goldman, airline historian, author of 'EL AL: Israel's Flying Star,' collector of over 40,000 items of EL AL memorabilia, and retired corporate lawyer. Marvin's presentation will highlight EL AL's relationship to the history of the State of Israel, in a prelude to their 70th anniversary in 2018. Program sponsored by Lloyd Epstein and Judy Weil. Light refreshments will be served. Free admission but please help us plan and register at <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 *Strugim*. Register at www.lss.org/films. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.

Monday, January 29 •7:30pm • Our Tefilot– Are They Really Ours?: A Conversation About Prayer. An honest discussion about our relationship to tefillot-the halakic 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.

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. **(Canceled for this week)**
- **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. Breakoff 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

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

Wednesday:

- **Beit Midrash night: The Subversive Religious Poetry of Yehuda Amichai** given by Sara Brzowsky; 8:00pm-8:45pm - Rm 207

Thursday:

- **Women's Talk Time:** led by School Psychologist Ruth Moser Riemer; 11:30am-12:30pm - Rm LL201. Last weeks Topic: Friendship
- **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



Youth Schedule:

- 10:00 am - Drop off (All Groups)
- 10:30 am - Davening (All Groups)
- 11:00 am - Yosef Reunites - Team Building Games (All Groups)
- 11:00 am - Put the Barley in the Pot (Room 210)
- 11:00 am - Baby & Me (3rd floor gym)

Parshat Vayigash

Parsha Theme Vayigash: *Hashgacha Pratit* - The Glass Half Full

Last week, the *Parsha* ended in suspense, Yosef said that he would arrest Binyamin. This week's *Parsha*, Vayigash, begins with Yehuda begging Yosef to let Binyamin go; Yosef was breaking the deal in which he said that he just wanted to see the younger brother. Yehuda offers himself as Yosef's servant and says that he is a stronger warrior and a better general. Finally, Yehuda says, "Please Yosef, if you arrest Binyamin you will break the heart of our elderly father." At this point, Yosef asks the Egyptians to leave the room and reveals his identity to his brothers. Yosef asks, "Is my father really alive?" It had been twenty-two years. The brothers are in shock but Yosef reassures them, saying that it's *Hashgacha Pratit* that all this had happened: There's a raging famine and Yosef is now in a position to provide food for the family. Pharaoh learns the news that Yosef's brothers have come from Canaan and gives them gifts of wagons and chariots. The brothers go back to Canaan and tell Yakov that Yosef is not only alive, but he is the ruler of Egypt. The Midrash says that Serah, the daughter of Asher was a musician, so the brothers asked her to play a song on the harp with the lyrics, "Yosef is alive." When Yakov asks why she's playing this song, she tells Yakov the news. At first, Yakov doesn't want to believe the news, but then he sees the wagons the brothers had brought back: Rashi says that the wagons were a hint that it was true. The last thing Yakov and Yosef had studied was *Eigel Arufah* (laws of a calf which is injured). The word *Eigel* also means a wagon. The *Parsha* ends with the family going to Egypt, a group of seventy people, and Yosef settles them in the land of Goshen.

After Shul, you can ask your children:

- Who offers himself in place of Binyamin?
- Why does Yosef finally reveal his identity?
- How long had it been since Yosef had seen his father?
- Where does Yakov's family settle at the end of the *Parsha*?
- What does the Midrash say about how Yakov discovered the news?

This Motzei Shabbat, December 23 "Movie and Pizza Night" featuring Muppet Treasure Island.

Register at <http://www.lss.org/event/youthmovie>

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

Our recent Teen Chanukah event had a total of 15 teens and was a great success! The event included davening and hallel followed by brunch and a Maccabea competition which included cake decorating, basketball, donut eating competition, and a trivia game.

If you'd like to sponsor a teen Kiddush or event, or stay apprised about upcoming teen events, email us at teens@lss.org. To join our WhatsApp group, add 201-527-8227.

Shabbat Shalom! Danielle & Ariel

Parshat Vayigash

It was a bleak moment. Their ultimate calamity was at hand. They were but innocent, unsophisticated shepherds caught up against the courtly intrigue of the world power. Negotiating with an opponent who would lie and cheat to reach his ends, the sons of Israel had offered everything. And then the wily opponent unscrupulously wrested their precious Benjamin from them. They were so scared and despondent that they tore their garments. Because even though they had truth and right on their side, they saw their existential survival as dependent on acceptance in a cynical world that treated them with spin and trickery. How could they possibly proceed?

Only Judah, who epitomized Jewish leadership, knew what to do: *vayigash*. Approach. Approach in faith. Approach calmly and confidently, cutting through the cloud of passion and anxiety. Approach and gently request a word in the ear of the intimidating Egyptian official – for all he knew at the time, because Joseph had not yet been unmasked as his brother. Judah, with his instinctive assertiveness empowered by the *emunah* he absorbed growing up in Jacob's home, could approach Joseph, and the power and guile he absorbed growing politically in Pharaoh's court, to make his case for Benjamin's release. How did he approach? Factually, quietly, politely, respectfully, and patiently.

As a result, Joseph was unable to restrain himself any more. Faced with his brother's thoughtful approach, his deception was exposed and he broke down and cried in a loud voice! He acknowledged G-d's hand in the preceding events and brought to light the divine logic behind the senseless suffering that had led to this day. Joseph then embraced his brother Benjamin and they both cried.

Why did these two brothers cry? It initially may appear that this Shabbat's *haftorah* selection, with Ezekiel's description of the return to Zion and the rebuilding of Hashem's sanctuary, is unconnected to the *parsha's* story (except perhaps for its proximity to the upcoming *Asara b'Tevet* fast). Rabbi Elazar (Megillah 16b) explains why, at the height of relief and happiness in the reunion of the two sons of Rachel, they first cried. Tears of joy? No; Joseph cried over the future destruction of the two *Batei Mikdash* which had been built on *Har Moriah* in Benjamin's land, and Benjamin reciprocally cried over the *Mishkan at Shiloh*, destroyed in Joseph's land.

As with Joseph and Benjamin, mutual empathy for our brothers rescues us all, and opens us to our destiny. The diasporas came about because of baseless disrespect and division among Jews. The way to redemption and rebuilding is to follow Joseph's example. It is a formula for regaining what is precious to us. Whenever we think the main fight is with our external enemies, it turns out that in a higher spiritual reality we must look to our interactions with our brothers. And in spite of passionate differences, we must always approach our brother Jews with the consideration of Judah's *vayigash*: Factually, quietly, politely, respectfully, patiently.

Shabbat Shalom!