

## THIS SHABBAT & WEEKEND

**Chazzan Yisroel Lesches** will be leading Friday night and Shabbat morning services.

**7:30pm** Friday night Teen Oneg in Room 206/207

Celebrating the Bat Mitzvah of **Tiana Eshaghoff** and the Bar Mitzvah of **Morrison Dolfman**.

We welcome guest speaker, wounded IDF Veteran, **Reuven Mangany**, a member of the "El Ami" Organization, who will be speaking about his experiences at Seudat Shlishit. "El Ami" works to strengthen Jewish identity in Israeli society, especially among students.

**Sunday • 11:00am • New Members Brunch** Welcoming new members to the home of Sarah and Rabbi Robinson for brunch. RSVP to [Rabbi@lss.org](mailto:Rabbi@lss.org)

## NEXT SHABBAT & WEEKEND

**Chazzan Yanky Lemmer** will be leading Friday night and Shabbat morning services.

**Friday Night, Dec 8 • Womens Tefillah Group:** Kabbalat Shabbat

**Motzei Shabbat, Dec 9 • 8:00pm • Film Committee Presents: No. 17.**

In 2002 seventeen people were killed when a bus exploded near Tel Aviv. Sixteen identified but who was Number 17? In Hebrew with English subtitles. \$15 in advance/\$20 at the door. Register at [www.lss.org/film](http://www.lss.org/film)

**Sunday, Dec 10 • 10:00am • Converts in Conversation** Join us as we discuss the challenges around end-of-the-year holidays. Organized by converts and LSS members, Rachel Zekry and Chaviva Warner. This event is for those that have *completed* the conversion process. Free but please register at [www.ruthanddaughters.org](http://www.ruthanddaughters.org). Location: Belfer Beit Midrash

## THANK YOU TO OUR SHABBAT KIDDUSH SPONSORS

**Hashkama Kiddush:** Martin Balsam in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his mother Molly Balsam a"h.

**Main Kiddush:** **The Dolfman Family** on the occasion of their son Morrison's Bar Mitzvah.

**Leba and Richmond Eshaghoff** on the occasion of their daughter Tiana's Bat Mitzvah.

**Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan Kiddush:**

**Jed and Olga Sunden** on the occasion of the birth of a baby boy.

**Lisa and Andrew Sipzner** on the birth of a baby boy.

**Beginners Kiddush:** **Natasha Smith** with gratitude to Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald, "That Face"

**Seudah Shlishit:** **Revital and Ariel Ackerman** in honor of the guest speaker, Reuven Mangany and the "El Ami" organization.

## MAZAL TOV

**The Dolfman and Dubroff families** on the occasion of their son, Morrison's Bar Mitzvah.

**Leba and Richmond Eshaghoff** on the occasion of their daughter Tiana's Bat Mitzvah. Mazal Tov to her entire family and to her grandparents.

**Joshua and Hattie Danziger** on the birth of a baby boy.

**Jed and Olga Sunden** on the birth of a baby boy.

**Shira Konski and Scott Moerdler** who will be honored with the Camp Simcha Appreciation Award at the Chai Lifeline's Annual Gala on Dec. 4.

**Rose and Morty Landowne** on the birth of a new grand daughter. Mazal tov parents, Jill and Aryeh Landowne.

**Lisa and Andrew Sipzner** on the birth of a baby boy.

**Great grandparents Judy and Joel Schreiber** on the birth of a baby boy to their grandchildren Tobi and Ben Weingarten.

**Rabbi and Sarah Robinson** on being the guests of honor at Ohr Torah Stone's annual dinner taking place at LSS on December 5.

### Shabbat Schedule

4:12pm Candle Lighting

### Friday Night

4:15pm Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary led by **Chazzan Yisroel Lesches**. Dvar Torah given by **Rabbi Shaul Robinson**.

7:30pm Teen Oneg in Room 206/207

### 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 Yisroel Lesches**. Sermon given by **Rabbi Shaul Robinson** followed by Mussaf

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

9:22am 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

2:40pm 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

3:10pm Samson Raphael Hirsch Bible Class with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in Rm 211

3:10pm Louis & Rhoda Lazar Memorial Shiur given by **Community Intern, Zissy Turner** on "The Warrior Woman You Thought You Knew" in Room 206/207

3:55pm Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit. Guest speaker, wounded IDF Veteran, **Reuven Mangany**, a member of "El Ami" Organization, will speak on behalf of the El Ami Organization and the 4th Annual Honor Day Delegation recognizing wounded soldiers and victims of terror attacks in Israel.

5:12pm Ma'ariv/ Shabbat Ends

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

**Veronica Roth**

## HAKARAT HATOV

**Golda Hudes** for writing this week's Dvar Torah.

**LSS Survey Update: 327 people responded to the survey for a final response rate of 65.4%! We should all be very proud of this result. An update will be shared on the results mid-end December. Congratulations to our Amazon gift card winner, Dr. Zachary Gorden**

## IN GRATITUDE: HONORING THE MEMORY OF ED STARK

**Karen Stark** extends her gratitude to the LSS community for "honoring Ed Stark's devotion to LSS (especially the LSS sukkah) with overwhelming generosity. The caring, the phone calls and texts, the abundant food that was brought to my home, the offering to talk day or night, and the meaningful donations in Ed's memory, stand as a living legacy to him: this is very much a community of kindness."

## TEXT CHANGE IN THE AMIDAH

Beginning with Maariv on this Monday night, December 4th we begin to say "Vtain Tal U'Matar" in the bracha of "Barech Aleynu" in Shmoneh Esrei.

**Note:** Please see back page for the Weekly Prayer Schedule

# CHANUKAH AT LSS

**Friday and Saturday, December 8-9 • Beginners Chanukah Shabbaton** \$50 includes three meals (\$25 for just lunch) Don't miss it. Payment and reservations must be received by December 4th. Register online at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners)

**Wednesday, December 13 • 7:00pm • Youth Department Latka Cook Off!** Visit [www.lss.org](http://www.lss.org) and click on the flyer to register

**Friday, December 15 • 5:45pm • LSS Annual Chanukah Buffet Dinner**— registration is now open!

To register please visit <http://www.lss.org/event/lss-CHANUKAH-dinner-.html>

**Sunday, December 17 •** Stay tuned for Chanukah Teen Events. Details to follow.

**Monday, December 18 • 7:00pm • Beginners Annual Chanukah Bash.** Live music by Rabbi Elly Krinsky.

\$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Register online at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners)

## Chanukah Shopping Suggestions:

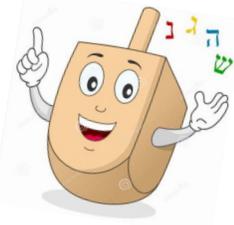
**LSS wine sealers** : LSS wine sealers are **HERE** for sale in the LSS shul office. Use to seal your wine on a daily basis; store bottles easily on their side or on- the-go without fear of leakage. Made of 100% silicone. Silicone is kitchen safe and food grade.

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/winesalers](http://www.lss.org/form/winesalers)

**www.smile.amazon.com**: As you shop for gifts, decorations, and more please remember to shop and choose Lincoln Square Synagogue as your charity of choice. LSS will receive a portion of all sales. It only takes a moment but the support is forever appreciated.

**West Side Judaica**: Please consider purchasing your Chanukah needs and gifts at West Side Judaica and support our local Judaica store in the process.

**MDS Chanukah Boutique** will be taking place this **Motzei Shabbat, Dec 2nd** from 8:00pm-11:00pm. Shop your favorite vendors for apparel, accessories, Judaica, toys, houseware, jewelry and more! Location: 310 West 75 Street.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday, December 15 • Meet the Original Wonder Woman** The year is 1982. Yola Reitman is an EL AL manager. In her spare time, she sails a yacht and scuba dives. Then the Mossad called. Over the next three years, she and her team rescued over 12,000 Ethiopian Jews as part of the Operation Brothers. Yola will share her exploits right after the LSS Chanukah dinner. You will also hear about the soon to be opened Israel Spy Museum. You are welcome to attend the program even if you do not register for the dinner. Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary

**Sunday January 7 • 10:00– 4:00pm • Upper West Side Blood Drive** a partnership between Congregation Shearith Israel, The Jewish Center, LSS, Darkhei Noam, Young Israel of the West Side, West Side Institutional Synagogue and The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue to provide blood for New York Blood Drive. Join us as we make a difference and save lives in the NYC community. Please be sure to bring a picture ID and to eat before donating. All donors must weigh at least 110 lbs. and be feeling well. If you have questions on medical eligibility, please call 1-800-688-0900. Location: The Jewish Center, 131 W 86th Street, 1st Floor Auditorium

**Saturday, January 13 7:30 pm • 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 70<sup>th</sup> anniversaries in 2018. Register at <https://www.lss.org/event/el-al.html>

**Wednesday, January 10 • 7:00pm-9:00pm • A Conversation with Judge Rachel Freier – New York's First Female Hasidic Judge** Co-presented with Lincoln Square Synagogue. More details to follow.

## 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 our website at [www.lss.org](http://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. Breakoff discussions and lectures will follow.

### Monday

- **Hebrew Reading Crash Course Level I and Level II** ; 6:30pm-8:00pm. The classes last 1 1/2 hours, and are free and open to all. Register at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners). Level I: Room 210 Level II: Room 211 . **This is the final session.**
- **Visionary: The Writings of Rav Kook** with Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld; 8:00pm-9:00pm – Belfer Beit Midrash

### Tuesday:

- **The Marilyn & Sam Isler, "Studies in the weekly Parsha"** led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson; 10:30am– 11:30am – LL201
- **Introduction to Bible** with Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald; 6:30-8:00pm. This course provides a general overview of the content and style of the Bible. We will review basic literary and theological approaches to Bible study, traditional and modern, through the analysis of the Biblical text. To register, please call 212-874-6100 or register online at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners). Cost: \$90, Free to LSS Members. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. This is the 7th session of this 8 session course.
- **(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

### Wednesday:

- **Beit Midrash night: The Subversive Religious Poetry of Yehuda Amichai** given by Sara Brzowsky; 8:00pm-8:45pm - Rm 207
- **Jewish History Seminar: Controversies and Scandals of Jewish History** with Paul Shaviv. 8:00pm-9:00pm– Belfer Beit Midrash. This will be an 8 week series consisting of thought provoking lectures.

### Thursday:

- **Women's Talk Time**: led by School Psychologist Ruth Moser Riemer; 11:30am-12:30pm - Rm LL201. Last weeks Topic: "Harassment"
- **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 208  
**ניצנים** Buds (K-1st) Room 211  
**פרחים** Flowers (2nd-7th) Room 206  
**ענפים** Branches (2nd-7th) Room 207



### Parshat Vayishlach

#### Youth Schedule:

10:00 am - Drop Off (All Groups)  
10:30 am - Shabbat Davening (All Groups)  
10:50 am - Avoiding Violence at all Costs  
(Rooms 206/207)  
11:00 am - "Put the Cholent in the Pot" - Circle Time  
(Room 210 & 3rd Floor Gym)  
11:00 am - Parshat Vayishlach - The Chronological Challenge  
(Rooms 208 & 211)

#### Parsha Vayishlach Theme: Avoiding Violence at all Costs

The Parsha begins when Yakov has to travel through Sayir, Eisav's land, in order to get to Israel. Yakov sends messengers to understand Eisav's intentions. They come back and report that Eisav is out to war, so Yakov tries to appease Eisav by sending gifts of flocks of sheep and cattle and delivering the message that these are peace offerings. Yakov divides his people into two camps. Rashi says Yakov did three things in preparation: 1. Prayed 2. Gave Eisav gifts 3. If all else failed, he was ready to fight. When Yakov arrives, Eisav is waiting with 400 soldiers; however instead of attacking, Eisav hugs Yakov and kisses him. There are dots above the word *Vayeshakahu*, (Eisav "kissed" Yakov), which Rashi explains as showing that the plain meaning of the word is weakened, and should not be taken literally. There are two interpretations of *Vayeshakahu* 1. Eisav didn't kiss Yakov sincerely. 2. According to Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, it was known that Eisav hated Yakov, but at that moment, Eisav noticed how hard Yakov was trying to make peace, and had mercy and kissed him sincerely. Afterward, Eisav wants to travel with Yakov, but Yakov says that his children travel slowly so Eisav should go ahead. This story teaches us that a person should do everything possible to avoid a fight, even if it means humbling oneself.

#### This week our children will ask:

How did Yakov prepare for Eisav?  
What new name is given to Yakov?  
Where does Eisav's angel need to go?  
Which Mitzvah is learned from the fight with the angels?  
Why does Rashi say there are dots above a word or letter in the Torah?  
Who was captured in the second half of the Parsha?



#### December 9th

Musical Havdalah Part #2 - Featuring Yanky Lemmer and the LSS "House Band"

#### December 13th

"Chopped" Family Edition - Who makes the best Latkes when the clock is ticking? Register at [www.lss.org](http://www.lss.org)

#### December 23rd

"Movie and Pizza Night" featuring Muppet Treasure Island. Register at <http://www.lss.org/event/youthmovie>

#### February 25

LSS Purim Carnival

## 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

Join us this Friday Night for a Special Teen Oneg at the Shul! We've got games, snacks, trivia, Torah, and much more starting at 7:30 in room 206/207 - ages 12 and up. Bring your Chanukah spirit - we're starting early this year!

And be on the lookout for details about our upcoming Chanukah Minyan, Brunch and Maccabiah, Sunday December 17th. Details to follow!

For more information on exciting teen events, to join the teen email list, or to sponsor a Kiddush or event, please email Youth Directors, Ariel & Danielle Serman at [teens@lss.org](mailto:teens@lss.org). Please include your child's name, email address, and birth date.

**Shabbat Shalom! Danielle & Ariel**

## Breast Cancer Research Study

UJA-Federation of New York wants to let you know about an important new study being piloted in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and LA and ask for your help in promoting it. [The BFOR study](#) provides direct-to-consumer, no-cost genetic testing for common BRCA mutations for women and men of Ashkenazi (Eastern European) Jewish ancestry, age 25 or older, and genetic counseling to help understand test results and their implications. Please use materials found [here](#) to make your congregants aware of this study and the opportunity to be tested for the BRCA gene mutation. Learn more about this study [here](#), or contact [Nathan Miller](#) or [Meira Feinman](#) from the BFOR study's PR team for more information.



## Parashat Vayishlach: Ode to Bribes

Jacob sends messenger-angels before him to Esau his brother. Thirty-four years after their last encounter, Yakov wants to reconcile with his brother Eisav. The messengers, however, return to report that Eisav is “coming against you, and four hundred men are with him.” It seems that confrontation is inevitable.

How does Yakov prepare for his meeting with Eisav? According to the Ramban, this encounter between Yakov and Eisav serves as the archetype for how Jews are to interact with hostile Gentiles throughout many generations—with three things: a bribe, a prayer and military preparations. I know nothing about military and I am very weak in my prayers, but coming from the former USSR, I know something about bribes. For me, a bribe was a way of living, a tool to survive. It was comforting for me to know that an official could be bribed. I was always scared of someone with who could not be bribed (someone like Hitler). For those of us old enough to remember the movie *Casablanca*, there is a significant difference between the corrupt French Captain Louis and the law-abiding German Major Strasser. The first just wants to make a deal beneficial for him, another one has pure, incorruptible hate. A corrupt official was a comforting figure not only for me but for many generation of Jews. Don't we bemoan every year on Yom Kippur when reading about ten martyrs that the Romans refused to take bribes? Would it not have been better if they did and had let the ten sages go free?

Once I came to US, I understood that glorifying bribery would be considered odd, if not criminal. However, I want to remind you that in today's Torah portion Yakov *Avinu* displayed a brilliant understanding of subtle military tactics, the likes of which would not be codified until many centuries later with the writing of the classic military manual of Sun Tzu “Art of War,” the important book studied by Soviet military & the KGB as well as by the US Naval Academy and every major MBA program in the country. Sun Tzu's famous philosophy, “the supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting” is perfectly recorded in an encounter between Yakov and Eisav.

When Yakov tries to appease Eisav with lavish gifts, Eisav first refuses them: "I have plenty, my brother; let what you have remain yours." Thereupon Jacob said, "Please no! If indeed I have found favor in your eyes, then you shall take my gift from my hand, because I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of an angel, and you have accepted me. Now take my gift, which has been brought to you, for God has favored me [with it], and [because] I have everything." He prevailed upon Eisav, and Eisav took [it]." One may ask, why does the Torah state that Yakov prevailed? Why did Yakov want Eisav to accept the gifts if Eisav did not show anger? Because Yakov knew that as long as money was in Eisav's hands, it would help to keep his hatred at bay. Mishlei states: A gift in secret pacifies anger and a reward in the bosom will appease strong wrath. מִתֵּן בְּסֵתֶר יִכְפֹּה אָף וְשֹׂחַד בְּחֶק חֲמָה עֵדָה.

On the other hand, the Torah strictly prohibits us from taking bribes. The Torah demands that a Judge not be influenced by a monetary or any other reward. Is there a contradiction? It seems to me that we are absolutely prohibited to take bribes but permitted to bribe Eisav. We are not allowed to be influenced but we are allowed to influence others for good.

We should not dismiss wisdom of our forefather Yakov. The Rambam in his commentaries repeatedly references the actions of our forefathers as signposts for their children to follow. Whatever happened with our forefather Yakov before and during his confrontation with Eisav will continue to recur between Eisav's descendants and us. Prior to meeting Eisav, Yakov prayed to be delivered “from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Eisav”: הַצִּילֵנִי מִיַּד אֶחָי מִיַּד עֵשָׂו.

The Beis HaLevi asks why Yakov repeats “from the hand” twice? He explains that Eisav presents two separate dangers: The first is physical, but even when Eisav is appeased and displays brotherly love, he presents a second, spiritual danger to Yakov. Beis HaLevi concludes that two hands of Eisav appear during our long history: first, nations want our physical destruction, but when they are appeased or when they see us succeed, they display brotherly love and offer to “travel together” with us, a ploy to destroy us spiritually and to remove us from Torah. May Hashem save all of us from both hands of Eisav and keep him at bay.

Shabbat Shalom!

WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE FOR:			December 3-8	Mincha/Ma'ariv: 4:20pm (Sun-Thurs)
Sunday	Monday and Thursday	Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday		
Daf Yomi: 7:45am	Daf Yomi: 6:15am	Daf Yomi: 6:20am		
Shacharit: 7:10am, 8:30am	Shacharit: 7:00am, 7:50am	Shacharit: 7:10am, 7:50am		