

Parshat Yitro

Shaul Robinson Senior Rabbi

Josh Rosenfeld

Assistant Rabbi

Sherwood Goffin

Founding Chazzan Cantor

18 Shevat 5778 Yanky Lemmer **Tamar Fix** February 2-3

Executive Director President

Alan Samuels

Shabbat Schedule

4:57pm Shabbat Candle Lighting

Friday Night

5:00pm Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary led by Chazzan Yisroel Lesches. Dvar Torah given by Rabbi Shaul

8:15pm Oneg Shabbat at the home of Sarah and Rabbi Shaul Robinson with Rav Yosef Tzvi Rimon with an "Ask the Posek" session.

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

Parsha Shiur given by Rabbinic Intern, Zachary Rothblatt 8:30am 9:00am

Services in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary led by Chazzan Yisroel Lesches. Following Musaf, Rav Yosef Tzvi Rimon will deliver the Drasha on "Questions Under Fire": Q & A's from IDF Soldiers at Time of

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

9:36am 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

10:00am Teen Minyan followed by Kiddush sponsored by Golda Hudes

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

Shabbat Afternoon

12:30pm Beginners Luncheon in Rom 206/207

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

3:30pm Beginners Mishna Chavura with Moshe Sheinwexler in the Belfer Beit Midrash

4:00pm Samson Raphael Hirsch Bible Class with Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald in Rm

4:00pm Louis & Rhoda Lazar Memorial Shiur given by Rav Yosef Tzvi Rimon on "Lashon Hara for Positive Purposes". Sponsored by Elana and Jamie

> **Nussbaum** in memory of Jamie's father, Asher ben Eliezer z"l, Mr. Allen Nussbaum. May his neshama have an aliya and may he be a mailitz vosher for the entire family and klal Yisroel.

4:45pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit and Guest Speaker Rav Yosef Tzvi Rimon on "Olam Chesed Yibaneh:Principles from the world of Chessed and practical examples.

Women's Tefillah Group Mincha in the Belfer Beit Midrash 4:45pm Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends 5:59pm

HAKARAT HATOV

Fred Ehrman for writing this week's Dvar Torah. Shira Hudes for writing the Youth Department Dvar Torah

MAZAL TOV

Grandparents Harry and Marge Heching on the birth of a daughter, Mikaela, to their son Josh Heching and daughter in law, Lani Heching.

Shanna and Adam Herbst on the birth of a baby boy.

Dr. Robert and Ruth Riemer upon the engagement of their grandson Jordan Levine to Rivelle Zlatopolsky of Montreal, Canada. And to parents Dr. Joseph and Karen Levine and Dr. Bluma Girzon and Mr. Alex Zlatopolsky.

Gale and Steven Spira upon the engagement of their grand daughter Sarah Golda to Lidor Ben-Arbon of Monsey. Mazal Tov to the parents, David and Michele Spira. Mazal Tov to Avi and Shira and to cousins Mia, Jack and Liv.

Robin and Neil Goldberg, who are being honored at NJOP's 30th Anniversary Dinner on Tuesday, February 6th.

THIS SUNDAY

7:00pm: Attention those interested in participating in the Bat Mitzvah Project. Cantor Goffin will be giving a tropp class! Don't miss it! Location: Beit Midrash

HASHAVAT AVEIDAH

Gold bracelet found in the BM on Sunday 1/28. If missing contact the shul office.

THIS SHABBAT

Services officiated by Rabbi Shaul Robinson.

Davening led by Chazzan Yisroel Lesches the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.

Rav Yosef Tzvi Rimon will be speaking at the Friday night Oneg, after Musaf, before Mincha and during Seudah Shlishit. Rav 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). He is also a prolific author on various halachic topics and teaches at the Herzog College and the Beit Midrash for Women in Migdal Oz.

10:00am: Teens Minyan in the pre function room. 12:30pm: Welcome those who are participating in the Beginners

Luncheon. Enjoy!

4:45pm: Women's Tefillah Group Mincha in the Belfer Beit Midrash

THANK YOU TO OUR SHABBAT KIDDUSH SPONSORS

Hashkama Kiddush:

Sponsored by the generous contributions to the Fund.

Main Kiddush:

Friends of Hans Seidemann *z"l* in honor of his *Shloshim*.

Robert Kirschner in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his grandfather Jacob Turkel, Yaakov ben Simcha Meir HaLevi z"l.

Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan Kiddush:

Grandparents Harry and Marge Heching on the birth of daughter, Mikaela, to their son Josh Heching and daughter in law, Lani Heching.

Beginners Kiddush: Hadassah Levinson in honor of Aidel and Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald.

Seudah Shlishit:

Ron Goldofsky in commemoration of the upcoming yahrtzeit of his father, Irving Goldofsky, Yitzchak Ben Eliyahu z"I

Karen and Susan Ruttner in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of Moishe Weinman z"l, husband of our beloved Greta Weinman a"h.

PURIM @ LSS

Order your Mishloach Manot Today! Order at www.lss.org/purim2018

Cost: \$10 per family (6 family minimum, \$60) \$370 (maximum cost) Deadline: Thursday, February 22.

Sunday, February 25, 1:00pm- 4:00pm Purim Carnival

Join us for Carnival Games, Bounce Houses, Face Painting, Balloon Twisting, Cotton Candy and Fresh Hot Pizza from Café Roma! Early bird

special by Friday, February 23: \$20. \$25 at the door. Please consider sponsoring: If interested please email youth@lss.org

Business advertising available: Queen Esther & Mordechai: \$2,000

Simchat Adar: \$1,000 and Hamantashen Sponsor: \$500

Register at early bird price at www.lss.org/purimcarnival2018

*One free raffle ticket for anyone dressed in costume, adults included.

Wednesday February 28, Purim Dinner after Megillah Reading.

Delicious dinner catered by Sova.

Register www.lss.org/event/purimdinner2018 Looking for sponsors to

help us cover our costs. Please consider sponsoring:

Mordechai (admission for 4 and 35 raffle tickets) \$250

Queen Esther (admission for 2 and 20 raffle tickets) \$180

Shushan (admission for 2 plus 10 raffle tickets) \$118

Wednesday, February 28- The Annual Beginners Bash:

Maariv and Megilah Reading—6:05pm. Purim Bash-7:20pm. Featuring renowned musical artist and performer Psachya Septimus. Cost includes food, music and the Purim Shpiel: \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door.

Register at www.lss.org/beginners.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 8, 7:30pm: Board Meeting

Thursday, February 22, 7:30pm: Membership Meeting

March 4-6, Annual AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington DC The AIPAC Policy Conference attracts more than 18,000 community activists from all 50 states, members of Congress, and countless Israeli and American policymakers. Choose from hundreds of informative sessions. To register,

visit www.aipac.com. Discounts available through Monday January 29, 2018. Questions? Email: anncrane2750@gmail.com

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. 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.

Refreshments will be served. To register, please visit www.lss.org/event/mda Wednesday, April 25: Annual NORPAC Mission to Washington DC NORPAC's Mission to Washington is an annual event which brings 1,000 citizen

activists to Washington, DC, in order to advocate for a stronger U.S.- Israel relationship with Members of Congress. Early Bird registration \$125 (Deadline: Sunday, March 4) \$185 after March 4. Questions? Email Dan Feder at dfeder02@aol.com

CHESED OPPORTUNITIES

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 chesed to one or two seniors by calling them on Erev Shabbat to wish them a Shabbat Shalom. If you're interested in participating in the Shabbat Shalom Call Initiative please email parisstulbach@gmail.com.

Sunday, February 11; 10:00-2:00pm Upper West Side Yad Leah Clothing Drive for Israel. Get a head start on Pesach - clean your closets and donate your clothing to needy families in Israel. Needed: Boys, Girls, Men's and Women's clothing in excellent condition. Also collecting gently used linens, towels, tablecloths, handbags, backpacks, shoes and outerwear. Bring items to Oheb Zedek, 118 W. 95th Street. Questions? Contact Yad Leah at info@yadleah.org, 973-955-0861 or www.yadleah.org

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. Partici-
- pants 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:
- Our Tefillot Are They Really Ours?: A Conversation About Prayer;7:30pm -8:30pm -Rm 208/210
 - 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:**
- 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 RmLL201
- 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

- 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: Moses Mendelssohn? 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: 1/10-3/21

Thursday:

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

Save the Date:

at www.lss.org/beginners.

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.

Monday, February 26, 2018, 6:30pm- 8:00pm: Hebrew Reading Crash Course Levels I and II. The 5 classes last 1 1/2 hours, and are free and open to all. Register

Monday, February 26th, 7:30-8:30pm. 7:30-8:30pm The Jewish Living Workshop led by Dassa and Bill Greenbaum. 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 <u>JLworkshop@yahoo.com</u>. The first topic: Purim - One of the easiest and most fun holidays. What do we need to do?

Youth Department



Parshat Yitro

Youth Schedule:

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10:00am – Dropoff (all rooms)

10:30am – Davening (all rooms)

11:00am – The Voice of Hashem (room 206/207)

11:00am— Baby and Me- (3rd floor Gym)*Please note that food (other than baby bottles) are not allowed inside the gym.

11:10am – Fill in the Blank, 10 Commandments Trivia (rooms 208,211)

Written by Shira Hudes

זרעים Seedlings (2 years old) Room 210

Flowers (2nd-7th) Room 206

ענפים Branches (2nd-7th) Room 207

ניצנים Buds (K-1st) Room 208

Roots (3-4 years old) Room 211

Parshat Yitro is filled with key events in our Jewish history. The actions that Yitro takes in this week's Torah portion offer a truly important and universal lesson that can be applied to our daily lives.

The Torah states "And Yitro the minister of Midian, the father in-law of Moshe heard everything that God did to Moshe and to Israel, His people - that Hashem had taken out of Egypt (Shemot 18:1)."

Rashi then comments "And Yitro heard: What report did Yitro hear that caused him to join the People? The splitting of the sea and the war with Amalek."

Upon hearing about these miracles, only Yitro was affected to the point that he became part of the Jewish people. If Chazal tell us that the whole world knew of the miracle of the splitting of the sea, then why was Yitro the only one to accept Hashem?

The Midrash states, "There are those who hear and are diminished by it, while there are those who hear and are the beneficiaries of what they heard. Yoash, who was a king, heard and was diminished. The nations heard about the splitting of the sea and rather than glorifying God they were pained and distraught by the destruction of Egypt. In contrast, Yitro heard and benefited. Despite the fact that he was a high priest of idolatry, he abandoned all that he had accomplished in his life and attached himself to Moshe and entered under the wings of the Divine Presence. He merited to contribute to the portion of judges that is in the Torah. As we find, he delineated to Moshe the criteria to choose a qualified judge."

Yitro, as we see from the Midrash, was the only one able to understand what he heard and take action. Most people thought of the destruction of Egypt, yet Yitro saw the greatness of Hashem. Chazal tell us that Yitro had worshiped every deity in existence and ultimately concluded that they were all false and there was only one God. Despite the ridicule of his community, Yitro was not deterred or discouraged. He remained strong and committed to his belief in monotheism. When he had heard of the events of the splitting of the sea and the war against the Amalek, he chose to become part of the Jewish people regardless of the degree of sacrifice. Not only did he become a part of the Jewish people, but Yitro also made a contribution which greatly helped Moshe.

This past winter break I went on the ZOA student leadership mission to Israel, where I had the opportunity to travel the Jewish state and receive advocacy training. This trip has certainly showed me the everyday miracles of Israel, and inspired me to become more involved in Israel advocacy on campus. Being a college student, I am constantly surrounded by anti-Israel sentiment. I could choose to be distraught or indifferent over this environment, yet I prefer to fight for the country that I believe in, and respond just as Yitro did in this week's parsha.

May we all interpret the daily miracles we witness for the good, and take action for the sake of truth.

Baby & Me

Baby and Me Recap: January 27, 2018

Last Shabbat during Baby and Me, the babies practiced preparing Shabbat, read the book 'Shabbos, Shabbos I love You,' and put learning into practice by making chicken soup for Shabbat, lighting candles, and singing 'Bim-Bam.' We welcome all parents and babies next Sunday, Feb 11th, for Babies and Brunch featuring Singing with Sprouts, Tea & Toast, a Parachute Party, and "Oh The Places You'll Go" Story Time!



UPCOMING EVENT:

"Babies and Brunch"- a special musical edition of Baby and Me!

Sunday, Feb 11 from 10:30am- 12:00pm

Shabbat Shalom! Ariella & Mendel Lazaros

Teen Department

As LSS Teens return from Winter Break, we're so excited to kick off February with our first Teen Minyan of 2018!

Join us this Shabbat, Saturday February 3rd at 10:00am for a full Teen Minyan featuring high-energy davening, Dvar Torah from your peers, and an incredible Sushifilled Kiddush! Minyan and Kiddush sponsored by **Golda Hudes** in honor of Shira and Hannah Hudes and in gratitude to LSS clergy and the community

There will also be a Teen Break Fast following Megillah Reading on February 28th in pre-function room sponsored by the Mero Family in honor of their daughter Gaby's Bat Mitzvah (Esther Dina).

Shabbat Shalom! Danielle and Ariel Sternman

Housing for Interns

Please consider hosting one of our interns for housing, a meal or both at least once before the end of the year. This year we have three fantastic interns, **Zachary Rothblatt**, **Jeremy Perlow and Zissy Turner**— and at least one of them is with us every Shabbat. Why wait until last minute? If you know you will be having guests or making a simcha, or if you can offer hosing (or vacant apartment) for a particular weekend— Please email hospitality@lss.org with INTERN in the subject line. While we may not know which of out interns will be on duty for a specific Shabbat, we know at least one will be here.





"What Matters": Let us help you demystify the details around end of life conversations. Need help clarifying the role of a health care proxy, standard will, or living trust? Reach out to us via email at whatmatters@lss.org and we will be happy to help! Keep watch for new programs in March and in the Spring!

Parshat Yitro February 3, 2017 By: Fred Ehrman



The Foundation Stone of the Ten Commandments

It was the greatest sound and light display in the history of man. Nothing like it had been seen before, and nothing since. The people had been preparing for days in advance. Their clothes were laundered, they had immersed in a *Mikvah*, and were physically and spiritually pure. The Talmud tells us that when Eve ate from the Tree of Knowledge, the serpent, the symbol of the primordial Evil Inclination, filled her with spiritual impurity. When the Israelites stood at Sinai, that spiritual impurity was removed (Shabbat 146A).

Mount Sinai was enveloped by heavy clouds, there was thunder and lightning and the blast of the shofar reverberated throughout. There was a huge crowd, numbering six hundred thousand men along with all the members of their households. And what they saw and heard made them tremble. The Ten Commandments were about to be proclaimed by the Almighty.

"I am Hashem, your God...There shall be no other gods in My presence." At this point the people implored Moses to speak to them because they could not survive hearing the voice of God. And Moses proceeded to teach them the next eight commandments.

The Midrash tells us what follows. Myriads of angels descended and tied two crowns to each and every one of the Jewish people: one corresponding to "We will do" and one corresponding to "We will hear." (Shabbat 88A). What each of the participants was able to witness at that moment was not seen in the greatest visions of Isaiah and Ezekiel. (Mechilta).

We can hardly imagine what went through the minds of all who stood at the bottom of that mountain—a feeling of majesty, of being part of a sublime and exalted nature, almost ethereal. After all, no other human being had gone through the experience that each of them had. The two crowns on their heads added to all of this gave them a feeling of superiority and chosenness.

At this point one would have thought that the Torah would dwell on the atmosphere surrounding Mount Sinai and its effect on the approximately three million people who were standing there. But surprisingly, it goes on to give us two new *Mitzvot* of a completely different nature that are associated with the altar in the Tabernacle. However, these particular *Mitzvot* appear to be totally misplaced. Logically they should be found in Parshat Terumah which we will read in just a few weeks, which instructs us on the building of the Tabernacle and all its contents. Why here?

I suggest that these *Mitzvot* appear right after this magnificent event in order to awaken us out of a sense of euphoria and elation, bring everyone back down to earth and teach some fundamental truths regarding our existence. The first *Mitzvah* states, "An altar of earth shall you make for Me..." (Shemot 20:21)—earth, not gold and silver inlaid with precious stones. The Midrash Tanchuma (Tzav 14) explains why it was to be made from earth, "*Adamah*." The first man was called Adam because he came from the *Adamah*. The Jewish people will bring their sacrifices to the altar made from *Adamah* to atone for the sins committed by their mortal bodies, that were originally taken from the earth and would someday return to it. They were reminded of their mortality.

The second *Mitzvah* was directed at the *Kohanim*, the priests. They were instructed to ascend to the altar by means of a ramp and not by steps. Why? "...so that your nakedness will not be uncovered upon it" (Shemot 20:23). Nakedness? Not only was the ordinary *Kohen* covered in a tunic, but he wore breeches, "...to cover the flesh of his nakedness" (Shemot 28:42). So, what is the Torah really trying to teach us? The Midrash Mechilta of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai gives us an answer. This Mitzvah is instructing the priestly class that when they are ascending to the altar, they should be taking small steps, heel to toe, and not giant steps of hubris, signifying naked power and greatness. And if we show such consideration and humility to a stone ramp, how much more so are we to act accordingly to our fellow human being. "... to walk humbly with your God" (Micha 6:8).

So, what do we learn from the end of our Parsha today? The centerpiece of the Torah are the Ten Commandments. Rav Saadia Gaon in the tenth century wrote the *Azharot* or liturgical hymns for Shavuot, in which he takes all the 613 commandments and places them under the headings of the Ten Commandments. But after all of this amazing display with its surrounding pomp and glory, we close with two vital lessons. First, we must always keep in mind the nature of our mortality and how it should affect our conduct. And second, to acquire the most important of all human characteristics, the attribute of humility. One can follow all the commandments but be a "Naval Birshut Hatorah," a degenerate while remaining within the Torah's framework (Ramban Vayikra 19:2). "V'Asita HaYashar V'Hatov B'Einai Hashem," one should constantly strive to do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord (Devarim 6:18). As Rav said, the Commandments were given to Israel solely to refine the human being (Vayikra Rabbah 13:3). Underlying it all is to be a *Mensch*.

Weekly Prayer Schedule: February 4 Mincha/Ma'ariv: 5:05pm (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

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