

### Shabbat Schedule

4:19pm Shabbat Candle Lighting

### Friday Night

4:25pm Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.  
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 on *"Is There Life Beyond the Grave Even Before Techiyat Hameitim?"*

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

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

9:38am 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) (Canceled this week)

### Shabbat Afternoon

2:50pm Beginners Mishna Chavura with **Moshe Sheinwexler** in the Belfer Beit Midrash

3:20pm Samson Raphael Hirsch Bible Class with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in Rm 211

3:20pm Louis & Rhoda Lazar Memorial Shiur given by **Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld** on *"From Goshen to Gehennom": Prelude to Slavery*

4:05pm Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit. Speech given by **Jordana Offer** who will be speaking about her experiences making Aliyah and serving in the IDF.

5:20pm Ma'ariv/ Shabbat Ends

### THIS SHABBAT

We welcome **Jordana Offer** who will be speaking at Seudah Shlishit. Jordana Offer, who grew up in the LSS community, spent two years in Israel learning Torah at Migdal Oz, made Aliyah and is currently serving as a *Morah Chayelet* in the IDF. She will be speaking about her experiences in the army.

### THANK YOU TO OUR SHABBAT KIDDUSH SPONSORS

#### Hashkama Kiddush:

**Perry Davis** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his mother Zelda bat Rav Chaim Zalman *a"h*.

**Jeff Neuman** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his mother Malka bat Yitzchok *a"h*.

#### Main Kiddush:

The **Landowne** Family in honor of Morty's 57th Bar Mitzvah anniversary.

#### Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan Kiddush:

**David Menaged** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his father Ezra ben Shemuel *z"l*. David is also sponsoring in memory of LSS member Hans Seidemann *z"l* who passed away last week.

#### Beginners Kiddush:

**Gabrielle Donati**, a former member of the Beginners Services, with great kavod for Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald and his tireless work for Hashem.

#### Seudah Shlishit:

**Hadassah and Bill Greenbaum** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of Bill's mother Theodora Simon Greenbaum *a"h*.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Dr. Gering Rachel Stevens & Mr. Shai Zelering**

### MAZAL TOV

**Grandparents Freddy and Rocky Kohn** on the birth of a daughter, born to their children Evie and Shmuel Hoenig. Mazal tov to siblings Chanala, Yitzchok Moshe, and Bayla.

### HAKARAT HATOV

**Gidi Grinstein** for writing this week's Dvar Torah.

**Ellen Silber expresses Hakarat Hatov** to the LSS community for its tremendous support with many visits, plentiful meals, generous donations, and messages of sympathy in memory of her father, Solomon Silber *z"l*.

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### Weekly Prayer Schedule

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 4:25pm (Sun– Thurs)

Day	Sunday	Monday (New Year's Day)	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Daf Yomi	7:45am	7:45am	6:20am	6:20am	6:15am	6:20am
Shacharit	7:10am, 8:30am	7:00am, 8:30am	7:10am, 7:50am	7:10am, 7:50am	7:00am, 7:50am	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](http://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: Bo (Jan. 20), and Mishpatim (Feb. 10). See Bill Greenbaum at shul, call the office, or email [dvar@lss.org](mailto:dvar@lss.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, January 6: Beginners Luncheon.** The cost is only \$25 per person. Register and pay online at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://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.** Rabbi Bezalel Naor and Professor Marc B Schapiro will dialog on Rav Kook's Legacy. Location: Belfer Beit Midrash.
- **11:15am: LSS Museum Tour presents Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art.** (Canceled)
- **7:30 pm: LSS Book Club presents: "Dinner at the Center of the East of the Earth"** by Nathan Englander. Micah Bloomfield will be leading the discussion. Location: The home of Gale and Jim Kaufman. Please call the Shul office for exact address.

**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](http://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 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> 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 *Srugim*. Register at [www.lss.org/films](http://www.lss.org/films). \$15 in advance/\$20 at the door.

**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](http://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](http://www.lss.org)

### Sunday

- **Sunday Morning Responsa** with Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld; 9:15am-10:00am - Belfer Beit Midrash. (Canceled 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 Piazsky. 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: Are you satisfied with your place in life?
- **The Jacob Adler Parsha Class:** Explorations in the Weekly Parsha with Rabbi Shaul Robinson; 7:00pm–8:00pm– Belfer Beit Midrash

**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](http://www.lss.org/beginners).

Cost: \$90, Free to LSS Members. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

## 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 - The 12 Tribes - History of Yakov's Blessings (Room 206,207,208)  
11:00 am - Put the Chicken in the Pot (Room 210)

### Parshat Vayechi

*Parsha* Theme : Bless Your Children

This week's Parsha, Vayechi concludes the first book of the Torah, Bereishit. Yakov lived 147 years and when he felt that his life was passing, he called Yosef to Goshen and made him swear that when Yakov would pass, Yosef would not bury him in Egypt, but would carry him to *Ma'arat Hamachpaylah* where Adam & Chava, Avraham & Sarah, and Yitzchak & Rivkah were already buried. When Yosef learns Yakov has taken a turn for the worse, he visits with his sons, Menashe and Ephraim. Yakov says Yosef's two sons will be like Reuven and Shimon, generations of tribes will descend from them. When Yakov blesses Ephraim and Menashe, he puts his right hand on Ephraim and his left hand on Menashe. Yosef tries to switch Yakov's hands because Menashe was the *Bchor*, but Yakov responds, Menashe will be great, but Ephraim will be greater. Yakov says that when the Jewish people will bless their children they will bless them to be like Ephraim and Menashe. Yakov then blesses all twelve sons. For a second time, Yakov makes Yosef promise him that he'll be buried in Israel. When Yakov passes, the Jewish people mourn for thirty days. Yosef told Pharaoh that he has to fulfill the promise, so he and his brothers travel to Israel and bury Yakov in the cave of Machpaylah. The brothers fear that with Yakov dead, Yosef would now take revenge. Yosef reaffirms that the reason he was in Egypt was to be able to help take care of his family.

*Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazek!*

### After Shul, You can ask your children:

How old was Yakov when he passed away?  
Who did Yosef ask for permission to leave Egypt?  
Why did Yakov ask Yosef as opposed to his other sons?  
Where did Yakov want to be buried?  
Who else was already buried in *Ma'arat Hamachpaylah*?

## 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.



**\*\*\* Please note this Shabbat there will be no Baby & Me\*\*\***

**Shabbat Shalom! Ariella & Mendel**

## Teen Department

Teens @ LSS are kicking off 2018 with a full slate of programs and events!

Join your friends **Friday Night, January 5 at 7:45pm** in the pre-function room for food, song, and a Torah-filled Teen Oneg (ages 12 and up)! Sponsorships are still available for this and future events— email us for further information at [teens@lss.org](mailto:teens@lss.org)

**Shabbat Shalom! Danielle & Ariel**

## Parshat Vayechi - The Great Paradox of Welcoming Diasporas

In a dramatic moment in this week's *Parshat Vayechi*, Yaakov summons Yosef with his sons Ephraim and Menashe to receive a final blessing before his death (Genesis 48:20): "So he blessed them on that day, saying: "...With you Israel will bless, saying: May God make you like Ephraim and like Manasseh." In later centuries it became customary for fathers to bless their sons using these words on every Shabbat, on Yom Kippur and sometimes on other occasions as well.

Hence, the question is: why are Ephraim and Menashe so special? The answer is that they are the first second-generation Diaspora Jews, born in a place of plenty, Egypt, the greatest and most advanced empire of the ancient world, and clearly accepting in its outlook toward the Hebrews at that time. Furthermore, the two sons were brought up in the circles of the royal palace, when the Hebrews rose to the greatest possible heights of affluence and influence, manifested in the stature of Joseph and Jacob. Nonetheless, Ephraim and Menashe would remain a part of the Jewish People.

Ancient Egypt was only the first of many great Diasporas that thrived within great powers, where Jews were initially welcomed and ultimately enjoyed significant material success and often outsized influence for extended periods. This happened in places such as Persia, Poland, Spain and Germany. Within 'golden periods,' all of these societies offered their Jews the freedom of religion and the ability to incorporate their communities and to prosper.

These freedoms, as long as they lasted, created the big paradox of Jewish life in the Diasporas. On the one hand, there was the ability to assimilate by integrating into society and embracing local culture and religion. Indeed, many Jews would pursue that path, and it is believed that ultimately so did eighty percent of the Jews of Egypt. On the other hand, that very tolerance allowed Jews to preserve and develop their unique ways in thought, prayer and community.

In other words, tolerant and accepting societies have challenged our communities but also offered us tremendous opportunities for progress. In its journey through the Diaspora over millennia, the Jewish People have withstood many periods of physical threats and affliction, but also transcended multiple periods of acceptance and prosperity.

This is evidently the case in the United States of America, which is the home for what is probably the greatest, most affluent and influential Jewish community in history. Here too we are living through a time of unlimited acceptance into American society, which allows for very high levels of assimilation and intermarriage often estimated at seventy percent in some sectors. While this phenomenon is obviously a significant challenge for American Jewry, it is also important to acknowledge that the USA houses a bewildering richness of unique Jewish ways across the entire religious spectrum, from flourishing Haredi communities to a full range of progressive ones. In other words, it is often the case that those who insist on framing the challenge of assimilation and framing it as an existential threat to the future of the community fail to appreciate the flip side of the story, which is the evident cultural and religious prosperity of their own communities that enhance their longevity and seeds the Jewish future.

For those living in Israel, there is even a bigger message in the story of Ephraim and Menashe. Israeli leaders often dismiss the future of Diaspora Jewry, which they view as unsustainable due to assimilation. This outlook, fueled by Zionism's historical negation of Diaspora Jewish life, is in fact inconsistent with Jewish history and ignores the remarkable vitality of world Jewry within and across the Diaspora.

In other words, Jewish society developed internal mechanisms that ensure its 'survival' not only through periods of crisis but also through times of welcoming societies that offer personal and communal freedoms and abundant prosperity, which allow Jewish communities to prosper. These mechanisms emerged in Egypt with Ephraim and Menashe and exist today around the Jewish world, and especially in the USA.

Hence, the blessing of Yaakov to his grandchildren is as relevant today as it was about thirty-five centuries ago, mostly for us living outside of the Land of *Yisrael*. Being like Ephraim and Menashe means knowing how to be full members of a prosperous welcoming society yet to remain special in our ways.