

PESACH SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 29

Daf Yomi: 6:15am

Shacharit: 7:00am and 7:50am

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 7:00pm

Bedikat Chametz after 7:49pm

Friday, March 30 - Erev Pesach (Ta'anit Bechorot)

Daf Yomi: 5:45 am

Shacharit: 6:30am and 7:30 am

The first born are invited to complete a Talmudic tractate either after the first minyan or after the second minyan, so that they may eat on what would be a fast day for them.

Last time to Eat Chametz: 10:54am

Biur Chametz on the LSS terrace: 7:30am-11:57am

Latest time to Burn Chametz: 11:57am

Candle Lighting: 7:01pm

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 7:05 pm

Begin Seder after 7:50pm

Saturday March 31 - Pesach Day I

Shacharit: 8:00am and 9:00am

Mincha: 6:55pm

followed by a Shiur by **Rabbi Robinson**

Light Candles: 8:01pm

Ma'ariv/ Begin Seder after 8:02pm**

Please note: The LSS Youth Department will offer youth groups for ages 2+ and 3-4 on March 31 and April 1, and April 6 and April 7.

Sunday, April 1 - Pesach Day II

Omer Day 1

Shacharit: 8:00 and 9:00am

Mincha: 7:10 pm

Followed by Shiur by **Rabbi Robinson**

Ma'ariv/Yom Tov ends: 8:03pm

**Don't forget to count the Omer after Ma'ariv Sat. Evening

HAKARAT HATOV

Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld for writing this week's Dvar Torah

Annual Dinner: Sunday June 17

Guests of Honor:

Dr. Susan Ungar-Mero and Steven Mero

Keter Torah Award:

Chani and Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld

Le'dor Va'dor Award:

Shirley Wald and Paris Stulbach

Monday, April 2 - Pesach Day III - Chol Hamed

Omer Day 2

Daf Yomi: 6:15am

Shacharit: 7:00am and 7:40am

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 7:10pm

Tuesday, April 3 - Pesach Day IV - Chol Hamed

Omer Day 3

Daf Yomi: 6:15am

Shacharit: 7:00am and 7:40am

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 7:10 pm

Wednesday, April 4- Pesach Day V - Chol Hamed

Omer Day 4

Daf Yomi: 6:15am

Shacharit: 7:00am, 7:40am

Ma'ariv/Havdalah: 7:10 pm

Thursday, April 5 - Pesach Day VI - Chol Hamed

* reminder to make an *Eruv Tavshilin*

Omer Day 5

Daf Yomi: 6:15am

Shacharit: 7:00am and 7:40am

Candle Lighting: 7:07pm

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 7:15 pm

Friday, April 6 - Pesach Day VII

Omer Day 6

Shacharit: 8:00am and 9:00am

Candle Lighting: 7:08pm

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 7:15pm

Shabbat, April 7 - Pesach Day VIII - Yizkor

Omer Day 7

Shacharit: 8:00am and 9:00am

Mincha at 7:00 pm *followed by Neilat HaChag*

Ma'ariv & Yom Tov ends: 8:10pm



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kim Heyman

Aaron Seligson

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, April 15; 10:00am-6:00pm: The Upper West Side Celebrates Israel @ Symphony Space** (Broadway at 95th Street) Join the celebration of Israel's 70th anniversary! Upper West Side Synagogues, schools and Jewish organizations are coming together for a community-wide celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut. Featuring a concert by renowned Yemen Blues, a Street Fair with lots of family fun, kosher food tastings, talks, and more. Come hear Rabbi Robinson participate in a rabbinical panel discussion on how we relate to Israel. Pre-registration for ticketed events is strongly encouraged. Check out the full lineup and reserve your seats at www.uwslsrael.org.
- Monday, April 16; 8:00pm: 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. This program was originally scheduled for March but was cancelled due to the storm. Free but requires registration. Register at www.lss.org/event/unrwa.
- Wednesday, April 18; 7:15pm: LSS Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration.** We begin with a tekes ma'avah for Yom Ha'zikaron (Israel's Memorial Day for fallen soldiers) and a musical tefillah in the Main Sanctuary followed by a grand celebration of Israel's 70th anniversary of its reestablishment in our ballroom. Join us for delicious Israeli centered food, a bounce house and face painting for children, and fun music that will enhance it all.
- Sunday, April 22; 10:00am-1:00pm: LSS Spring Clothing Drive.** We need your gently-used clothing in clean, whole condition. Please sort by men's, women's and children's (no baby clothes). If you are 8+ and wish to help with the drive, please email Wendy Baker at wbaker@panix.com
- Sunday, April 29; 10:30am-12:00pm: Converts in Conversation Challah Baking Class.** (for convert women only)
- Wednesday May 2; 6:30pm-9:30pm: Lag B'omer Singles Party.** Join us for a dairy buffet and ice cream party followed by comedy show by Talia Reese at 8:30pm. Cost: Early Bird: \$36, \$45 after April 24. Singles Ages 40+. Please register at www.lss.org/event/lagbomersingles.
- Shabbat, May 5; 5:00pm-6:30pm: Tackling The Tuition Crisis.** Join *Ami Eden, Chavie Kahn, and Maury Litwack* as they discuss the tuition crisis. Moderated by Rabbi Shaul Robinson. Location: Lincoln Square Synagogue
- Thursday, May 10: CommUnity Challah Bake.** UJA-Federation's 3rd annual CommUnity Weekend kicks off on Thursday, May 10th with 1,000 people celebrating Shabbat all around New York City. In honor of Israel's 70th birthday, this year's CommUnity Shabbat will focus on Israel. Throughout the week-end, thousands of New Yorkers will celebrate Israel by joining together for Shabbat meals, engaging speakers, and a variety of other unique and meaningful opportunities. LSS is joining this effort with a special community Challah Bake. Let's join as members, neighbors, and friends for what is sure to be a special evening. Each participant will have the opportunity to take two challot home or to donate one challah to a fellow Jew in need (more details to come on donation organization). Cost: \$25 Registration link to follow.
- Sunday May 13; 7:00pm: LSS Film Committee presents *Shababnikim*.** The award-winning series features four less-than-stellar haredi yeshiva students as they navigate religious expectations, the schisms of Israeli society and their own hearts. Satirical about yeshiva life yet deeply knowing about learning and tradition, this funny, cutting-edge and unexpectedly touching series could only have been made right now in Israel. Prepare to become a fan! Cost: \$15 per screening or \$50 for all 4 screenings. Screening dates: May 13, June 3, June 10 and June 24. Register at www.lss.org/event/shababnikim
- Sunday May 13; 4:00pm: LSS Book Club** presents *Internal Life* by Dara Horn. Location: Home of Gale and Steven Spira. Please call the shul for exact address.

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 this week)**
- **Drisha @ LSS; 10:00-11:30am. Sefer Devarim: Prophet, King, Judge and Priest in the Covenantal Community** Taught by David Silber. 10 sessions: Feb 4-April 29. Cost: LSS members: \$125, Non LSS members: \$250 Enter coupon code "lss" for LSS member rate. Register at www.drisha.org. Rm LL201
- **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. **(Canceled this week)**

Monday:

- **The Jewish Living Workshop** Led by Dassa and Bill Greenbaum; 7:30-8:30pm 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 JLworkshop@yahoo.com. Topic: "How to Keep Kosher in non Kosher Places" Rm 208 **(Canceled this week. Next class will be meeting on April 16.)**
- **Hebrew Reading Crash Course Levels I and II; 6:30pm- 8:00pm:** The 5 classes last 1 1/2 hours, and are free and open to all. Register at www.lss.org/beginners. Rm 210 and Rm 211. **(Canceled this week, Resumes April 23)**

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. **(Canceled this week)**
- **The Marilyn & Sam Isler, "Studies in the weekly Parsha"** led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson; 10:30am- 11:30am - RmLL201 **(Canceled this week)**
- **Intro to Bible: The Ten Commandments** with Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald; 6:30pm-8:30pm. 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. 1 session remaining. 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. - Room 206/207. **(Canceled this week, will resume 4/10)**
- **Gemara b'Shana** in Memory of Bruce Ritholtz led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson; 7:30pm- 8:30pm Belfer Beit Midrash **(Canceled this week)**
- **Beit Midrash Night, The Book of Samuel II** led by Ron Platzer; 7:30pm -8:30pm. Rm 211 **(Canceled until after Pesach)**

Wednesday:

- **Drisha @ LSS; 9:30am-10:45am. Tanakh: A literary approach-** Taught by David Silber, **Isaiah's Messianic Vision and Its Resonances Throughout the Bible-** Taught by Yisca Zimran, **Biblical Religion and Its Near Eastern Context-** Taught by Deena Grant, **Biblical Poetry-** Taught by Michelle Levine. 12 Sessions: Feb 7-May 16. Cost: LSS members: \$150, Non LSS members:\$300 Enter coupon code "lss" for LSS member rate. Register at www.drisha.org. Rm LL201 **(Canceled)**
- **Drisha @ LSS; 11:00am-12:15am. Aggadah: Inside the World of the Rebbe.** Taught by Wendy Amsellem. 6 Sessions: Feb 7- March 21. Cost: LSS members: \$75 Non LSS members: \$150 Enter coupon code "lss" for LSS members rate. Register at www.drisha.org. Rm LL201 **(Canceled this week)**
- **Beit Midrash night: The Subversive Religious Poetry of Yehuda Amichai** given by Sara Brzowsky; 8:00pm-9:00pm - Rm 207 **(Canceled this week)**
- **Heretics & Heresies: Real and the Imagined.** Led by Paul Shaviv; 8:30pm-9:30pm. Belfer Beit Midrash. The next class will meet on April 11. Topic: The Zoo Rabbi

Thursday:

- **The Jacob Adler Parsha Class:** Explorations in the Weekly Parsha with Rabbi Shaul Robinson; 7:30pm-8:30pm- Belfer Beit Midrash **(Canceled this week)**

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



Please note: Over Pesach, the Youth Department will offer groups for ages 2 - 4 on March 31, April 1, April 6 and April 7. Groups will take place in rooms 208-210. Baby & Me is cancelled over Pesach and will resume on Shabbat, April 14.

Shabbat Pesach

This Shabbat is Pesach so we won't read the normal Shabbat Parsha. Instead, we'll read the special Yom Tov Layning for Pesach. Next Shabbat is the eighth day of Pesach and again, we'll read a special Yom Tov Layning. We won't read Shabbat Parshat Shmini for two weeks. There's a famous expression brought down in many seforim: "Shmini, Shemona, Shmayna," literally translated as "eighth, eight, abundance." What it means is that when you read Shmini eight times, it will be a year of abundance. What is meant by eight times? Last Shabbat at Mincha we read Shmini (1); we read Shmini this past Monday and Thursday at Shacharit (2 & 3); this Shabbat the first day of Pesach we'll read it at Mincha (4).

We'll read Shmini on the last day of Pesach, also Shabbat (5), Monday (6th) and Thursday (7th) following Pesach during Shachrit, and then the next Shabbat we'll read Parshat Shmini (8). May this year be a year of abundance for the entire Lincoln Square Synagogue community and all of Klal Yisrael. Have a happy and kosher Pesach.

Congratulations to all the children who won an Amazon gift card for memorizing the Mah Nishtanah: Jack Spira, Rachel Buller, Nadav Ackerman Maya Putterman, Jackie Mero, Rebecka and Sarah Mero.

Baby & Me Recap: This past Shabbat in Baby & Me the babies finished their chapters on preparing for Pesach and learning about the animals. They read two great stories, Shabbos is coming, We're lost in a Zoo and P is for Passover, an Alphabet Book. The babies also practiced for Seder night, singing Mah Nishtana, Dayenu, and Frogs are Jumping Everywhere.

Chag Sameach! Ariella & Mendel Lazarus

TEEN DEPARTMENT

After an amazing Teen Minyan and Kiddush (sponsored by the Spira family in memory of Rachel Schulman z"l), with over 40 teens attending a full service, the Magen Avraham Teen Department is gearing up for an even more exciting start to Spring!

We'll be back in action after Pesach with more programming across Teen Minyans, Chessed, Onegs, and other awesome events!

Chag Sameach! Danielle and Ariel Sterman

NEW KIDDUSH INITIATIVE

Following Pesach, LSS will be starting an initiative during our main kiddush to help anyone that needs assistance getting food or drink. Please note that there will be a designated table set up in the ballroom with a sign marked for those that would like assistance. Teens wearing an ID necklace will approach the table to see how they can help and what they can get you. Our teens are excited to help make a difference! We hope your shabbat experience at LSS will become that much sweeter! Help us fulfill the mitzvah of *adam le'chavero*! We ask those of you who are able bodied and getting your own food & drink to please allow a teen with a badge to go in front of you. If you see a fellow member at this table who is not being attended to please feel free to join in on this important initiative and help as well. Our Teen Directors will be coordinating this effort and will have a rotating roster of teen volunteers.

If you have suggestions please email our Teen Directors at teens@lss.org.

YOM HASHOAH @ OZ

Wednesday April 11; 7:20pm Yom HaShoah Program @ OZ. Please join the West Side Shuls for a community Yom HaShoah event. The program will include a short film called "Acheinu" followed by brief presentations from children and grandchildren of survivors. Each survivor's descendant will relate to growing up close to someone with firsthand experience of the Shoah. The program will conclude with candle lighting, Tehillim, Kel Maleh Rachamim, and HaTikva followed by Maariv at approximately 8:45pm.

NORPAC MISSION TO WASHINGTON, Wednesday April 25

Your participation can change the course of history and *does* make a difference! Join me, Rabbi Robinson, and our LSS contingent as we advocate with over 1000 participants, on the NORPAC one day mission to Washington taking place on Wednesday, April 25th.

Questions? Email Dan Feder at dfeder02@aol.com

WHAT MATTERS PROGRAM

The What Matters Program offers all individuals the opportunity to add the gift of conversation to their advance directive so that the person who has agreed to be their healthcare proxy has much more information directly from them about their values and wishes than the legal health care form formally requires. To be part of a facilitated conversation please sign up with an email to whatmatters@lss.org. We are going to be sending out dates for a group conversation option shortly. Feel free to reach out to us on the above email with any thoughts you might have regarding a what matters conversation.

Wishing all a reflective and rejuvenative Pesach holiday! - The What Matters Committee



Complicating Mitsrayim
Some Thoughts on The Background of the Slavery

Of all stories in the Torah, perhaps none are so clearly designed to elicit the ‘black and white’ educational outcome as the story of the Slavery in Egypt and the Exodus. Pharaoh and the Egyptians are of course, very evil, and indeed, one of the benefits of revisiting the story as an adult is to appreciate just how wicked, murderous, and horrific the enslavement and all of Pharaoh’s machinations actually were, stripped away of cutesy songs and cartoonish representations of the Midrashic and Rabbinic material that enhance and complete the narrative. To be sure, Jewish children are most certainly taught in school how terrible, long, and difficult the slavery in Egypt was, but somehow the graphic realities of infanticide, large-scale psychological warfare and systematic humiliation, and sheer physical brutality are blurred. Upon reflection, the way the Torah and Midrashim describe the onset of the slavery into an all-out program of the destruction of the nascent Jewish people - first beginning with ‘backroom’ political conspiracies, soft and cynical calls for societal change, progressing to taxes and public works projects, then culminating with constant slave labor, systematic murder of infants, all with shocking violence.

However, as this short essay will hopefully demonstrate, close readings of some of our sources also reveal a much more complicated narrative, one that raises some difficult questions - especially important for Pesach, many of whose rituals are expressly designed to elicit questions - yet perhaps may ultimately shed light on the story of the slavery and exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt in a more contemporary and unfortunately, familiar way. This nuanced approach, specifically with regards to the events and the mindset of Pharaoh and Egypt that precipitated the slavery, will hopefully erode some of the useful, but incomplete understandings we have accepted, exposing a rich and challenging sub-narrative that can ultimately enhance our esteem for the timelessness and necessity of constantly studying and re-telling the story of the Exodus.

In making the following point, it would be most useful to have a Humash, turned to Genesis, ch. 47:12-26. There, we see the foretold famine striking Egypt. Little by little, the desperate Egyptians give over all their worldly possessions to Joseph in order that they might secure whatever bread is left to eat. Prof. Yair Zakovitch [1] points out a number of disturbing and striking parallels between the events described in ch. 47 of Genesis and the subsequent enslavement of B’nei Yisrael in the opening chapters of Exodus. Zakovitch writes that these verses can be construed as “putting Joseph to blame for maltreating the Egyptians.” In verse 19, we see that the Egyptians, having exhausted all other resources, offer themselves up as collateral to Pharaoh, with the Torah explicitly using the words “avadim l’Pharaoh”, which is entirely shocking when one realizes the people referred to here are the Egyptians themselves! Presumably, they are not just slaves to Pharaoh alone, but to Pharaoh’s Israelite no. 2 - Joseph - as well. In verse 23, Zakovitch points out that Joseph is astute to change the root A-V-D (=slave) to the ‘softer’ M-Kh-R (=acquired unto) when responding positively to his subjects’ offer. Moreover, verse 21, in which our Torah reports: “ve-et ha-am he’evir otam le-arim”, that Joseph relocated the people to the cities, is rendered in a much more disturbing manner in the Septuagint: “ve-et ha-am he’evir otam le-**avadi**m”, “and the people, he enslaved them as slaves”. Although there is much more to this, our space here is limited, so let us suffice with but one more interesting parallel. Note that not all of the Egyptians were acquired in bondage to Pharaoh. In verses 22 and 26, the text is explicit that the Priests of Egypt and their families were not subject to all of the above measures. Significantly, although not mentioned outright in the Torah, there is a strong Rabbinic tradition that the tribe of Levi was not subject to the slavery as well. [2]

As Zakovitch posits, the covert implication is that prior to the enslavement of B’nei Yisrael in Exodus, the Egyptians already had quite a troubled history and relationship with the foreigners who dwelt in Goshen, especially with their kinsman and mutual leader, Joseph. While of course there is no comparison nor justification to be drawn from the drastic measures implemented by Joseph in a time of emergency (thus saving the entire population of Egypt in a time of severe famine), there is perhaps an important lesson to be drawn from here regarding the sophistication and real-life complexity that close and mature readings of the Torah yield. A sensitive reading of merely 14 verses at the end of Genesis sheds a tremendous amount of light on the very human and comprehensible background to the enormity of the enslavement of B’nei Yisrael later on in Exodus. In a moment of pretension, I would hope that the extremely short study above would spur us all to even more talmud Torah, reading ‘between the lines’ of the text, revealing the profundity and complicated beauty that lies beneath.

[1] Y. Zakovitch, “And You Shall Tell Your Son...”: The Concept of Exodus in the Bible (Magnes, Jerusalem: 1991), pp. 39-43
[2] See Mekhilta, Va’era no. 6; Shemot Rabbah 5:20 as quoted by Nahmanides, Commentary on Pentateuch, Gen. 49:7; See also R. Meir Simcha of Dvinsk (1843-1926), Meshekh Hokhmah, Ex. 6:13 quoting from pRosh ha-Shana 3:5. Lest this notion of the Egyptians having themselves been enslaved or suffered to an extent at brutal excesses of Pharaoh strike one as too radical a concept, the reader is encouraged to explore the traditional sources that support such a notion. See for example, R. Menahem Kasher, Torah Sheleimah vol. 9(8), pp. 48-49, fn. *212 and the plethora of sources quoted, and see bSotah 12a as well.

Weekly Prayer Schedule: April 1				Mincha/Ma'ariv: 7:10pm (Sun– Wed), 7:15pm (Thursday and Friday)		
Day	Sunday Pesach	Monday Chol Hamoed	Tuesday Chol Hamoed	Wednesday Chol Hamoed	Thursday Chol Hamoed	Friday Pesach
Daf Yomi		6:15am	6:15am	6:15am	6:15am	
Shacharit	8:00am, 9:00am	7:00am, 7:40am	7:00am, 7:40am	7:00am, 7:40am	7:00am, 7:40am	8:00am, 9:00am

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