

Parshat Vayakhel/Shabbat Shekalim/Shabbat Mevarchim

Shaul Robinson Senior Rabbi

Josh Rosenfeld Assistant Rabbi **Sherwood Goffin** Yanky Lemmer

Foundina Chazzan

25 Adar I 5779 | March 1-2, 2019 **Alan Samuels**

Executive Director President

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

5:29pm Shabbat Candle Lighting

Friday Night

5:35pm Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen

Sanctuary led by Chazzan Yanky Lemmer.

Dvar Torah given by Rabbi Shaul Robinson.

6:45pm Shabbat Across America—welcome to all those attending.

Pre-registration required (Ballroom)

Shabbat Morning

7:45am Hashkama Minyan in the Belfer Beit Midrash followed by a

shiur given by Rabbi Moshe Sokolow

8:30am Parsha Shiur given by Rabbinic Intern, Zac Schwartz on

"Inviting A Non-Religious Guest For Shabbat: Outreach or

Stumbling Block?"

9:00am Services in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary led by Chazzan Yanky Lemmer. Drasha given by Rabbi Shaul

Robinson followed by Musaf.

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

9:17am Latest Shema

9:45am Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan in the Belfer

Beit Midrash

10:00am Youth Groups for children ages 2-12

Shabbat Afternoon

12:30pm Beginners Luncheon—welcome to all those attending.

Pre-registration required (Room 206/207)

3:00pm Herb Weiss Bikur Cholim Society:

Meets in the Shele Danishefsky Covlin Foyer to visit patients at Mount Sinai West. (New volunteers needed and welcome)

3:45pm Shabbat Teen Oneg (Pre-function room)

4:00pm Beginners Mishna Chavura with Moshe Sheinwexler in the

Belfer Beit Midrash

4:30pm Samson Raphael Hirsch Bible Class with

Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald in Rm 211

4:30pm Louis & Rhoda Lazar Memorial Shabbat Pre-Mincha Shiur in

the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary given by

Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld on "Pirkei Avot pt. 7"

5:15pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit. Presentation given by Yana Lukeman

on "Ask AIPAC Anything"

6:31pm Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends

HAKARAT HATOV

Rabbi Charles Savenor for writing this week's Dvar Torah.

REFUAH SHLEIMA

Please daven for our beloved Chaz, Chazzan Sherwood Goffin, Shimon ben Yehudis. Cards of encouragement and support can be dropped off or sent to the shul office and we will pass them along to the Chaz.

PURIM @ LSS

The LSS Mishloach Manot Campaign

Purim is around the corner! Order your Mishloach Manot today to send to members of the shul. Through your participation, your friends and neighbors will receive a beautiful gift basket all while helping to support the shul in the process. Register at www.lss.org/campaign/purim2019

\$10 per family (6 family minimum, \$60), \$370 (maximum cost)

Deadline to order: Sunday, March 17

Purim Carnival: Sunday, March 17: 1:00pm-4:00pm: Join us for a fun, festive, activity filled day. Sponsors needed. Please email youth@lss.org

Purim Party: Wednesday, March 20:

The shul is looking to run a free community wide Purim celebration and is looking for sponsors. For details please Email: Rabbi@lss.org

ROSH CHODESH

Cantor

The molad for Rosh Chodesh Adar Sheni will be on Wednesday afternoon 41 minutes and 16 chalkim after 12 noon. Rosh Chodesh Adar Sheni will be on Thursday, March 7 and Friday, March 8.

THIS SHABBAT WE WELCOME:

5:15pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit. Presentation given by Yana Lukeman on "Ask AIPAC Anything"

Yana Lukeman has been serving on the AIPAC National Board of Directors since 2016. She has been an AIPAC Club Member for over 8 years serving in multiple volunteer roles including co-chairing one of the largest pro-Israel political networks in the country. She is also a founding member of the Manhattan Women's



Initiative and is also a co-chair of the AIPAC Connects' Council Political Committee, a program designed to foster shared commitments between members of AIPAC and our newly engaged Outreach activists. She has been instrumental in recruiting dozens of pro-Israel activists and training them to grow as leaders on their own.

Yana was born in Haifa, Israel, and lived there until the age of 9. Currently, she is a stay-at-home mom of 3 children. Aside from being an ardent pro-Israel activist, Yana is passionate about domestic violence and is an active member of Sanctuary for Families which services over 10,000 women and their children in the NY area.

MAZAL TOV

Mendel Zecher on his upcoming marriage this Sunday to Ilana Ben-Ezra. Mazal tov to Mendel's parents, Marcy and Scott Zecher and to Lori and Marc Ben-Ezra (parents of the kallah) of Hollywood, Florida.

Harriet and Gary Laveman on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Andrew Laveman, son of Robyn and Michael Laveman.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Hashkama Kiddush:

Nancy and Melissa Towbin, in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of Albert Towbin z"l.

Bina Presser to celebrate with Lloyd Epstein and Judith Weil the birth of two grandsons born to their children Yoel and Nomi and Oren and Elisheva.

Main Kiddush:

Marcy and Scott Zecher in honor of the aufruf of their son, Mendel Zecher, and the upcoming wedding of Mendel to Ilana Ben-Ezra.

Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan Kiddush:

The Ruttner family in commemoration of the 15th yahrtzeit of Dr. Norman Ruttner z"l on Adar 21.

Bernard Broome and David Menaged in honor of Joel Abramson and Joe Verschleisser's return to shul.

Beginners Kiddush: Abraham De Ramos in honor of the women of the Beginners service.

Seudah Shlishit: Sponsors welcome.



UPCOMING EVENTS

AIPAC Discount Deadline: Monday, March 4

The always exciting annual AIPAC Conference will be held in Washington D.C. March 24-26. Cost: \$499 for LSS members that are not club members, \$399 for LSS members that are club members. Please visit the AIPAC website www.aipac.org and register using the code PC19LSS. If you have any questions or would like to attend, please email Ann Crane Lowy at anncrane2750@gmail.com.

Monday, March 4: Beginners Schmooze: 8:15pm-9:30pm

Free and open to all. Refreshments will be served. Call 212-874-6100 to confirm. Location: Room 211

*(Please note the time change) Wednesday, March 6: World Jewry Committee Meeting: 7:00pm

After a recent sermon by Rabbi Robinson, several members were moved to revive, reactivate, and revitalize the World Jewry Committee. If you are interested in joining the struggle against antisemitism, please come to the World Jewry Committee meeting. To help us anticipate the number of attendees please register at www.lss.org/event/worldjewrycommittee. Location: Rm 211

Tuesday, March 12: Board Meeting: 7:30pm

Location: Belfer Beit Midrash

Sunday, March 17:

- Spring Food and Clothing Drive: 10:00am 1:00pm
- Join LSS and Project ORE to help feed the Jewish homeless. The food collected will be delivered in time for the homeless to utilize the foods as part of their Purim Seudah. Gently-used clothing in clean condition will be collected as well. If you are interested in volunteering, please email wbaker@panix.com.
- Purim Carnival: 1:00pm-4:00pm

Join LSS for Purim Carnival. There will be different attractions such as songalong with Tkiya, wildlife show, and the Bible players. Cost: \$20 in advance, closes Thursday, March 14. \$25 at the door. To register, please visit www.lss.org/event/purimcarnival2019.

Wednesday, March 20: The Beginners Purim Bash: 7:30pm - 11:00pm

Maariv and Megillah reading followed by Purim Bash featuring renowned musical artist and performer Psachya Septimus. Cost: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. To register, please visit www.lss.org/beginners.

Sunday, March 24: Reforming UNRWA - The Master Initiative: 11:00am

David Bedein, Director of the Center for Near East Policy Research will present the latest initiatives of his organization in exposing how the United Nations Relief and Works Agency misappropriates donations to indoctrinate Arab students in Gaza and the West Bank and what is being done to combat this. Cost: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. To register, please visit www.lss.org/event/reformingunrwa.

March 31: Early Bird Deadline for the NORPAC event taking place on May 21

NORPAC's Mission to Washington is an annual event where close to 1.000 citizen activists meet with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle in order to advocate for a stronger U.S.-Israel relationship. Buses will leave LSS early in the morning and return later in the evening. This year's mission is especially important given that many of the new members of Congress need to be educated about the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship. To register, please visit www.norpac.net/mission-to-washington. For questions, please contact Dan Feder at dfeder613@gmail.com.

WEEKLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday:

Sunday Morning Responsa with Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld; Takes place after the 2nd Minyan Location: Belfer Beit Midrash.

Monday:

- Hebrew Reading Crash Course Levels I and II: 6:30pm-8:00pm There is no cost for this class. To register, please call 212-874-6100 or register online at www.lss.org/beginners.
- Chug Ivrit given by Hai Piazesky and Dan Munk. 7:00pm-8:15pm. In this class, we read articles from the Israeli press, watch videos of news stories, documentaries and comedy clips, listen to (and sing along!) to Israeli songs and chat in Ivrit. Location: Rm 207
- Jewish Living Workshop: 7:30pm-8:30pm Led by Dassa and Bill Greenbaum. Topic: Shabbat Day. To register, please email jlworkshop@yahoo.com. Location: Rm 208/210
- My Fire: The Spiritual Genius of Rebbe Nachman led by Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld: 8:00pm-9:00pm. After his return from the Holy Land, Rebbe Nachman's springs of Torah wisdom began to overflow. Through excursions into his central ideas and teachings, we will both discover his unique genius and why it matters for improving our own spiritual lives and deepening a connection to G-d. Location: Belfer Beit Midrash

Tuesday:

- The Marilyn & Sam Isler, "Studies in the weekly Parsha" led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson: 10:30am-11:30am. Location: Rm LL201
- Introduction to Bible: The 10 Commandments with Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald: 6:30—8:00pm: Cost: \$90, Free to LSS Members. To register, please call 212-874-6100 or register online at www.lss.org/beginners.
- Beit Midrash night, The M'lachim (Kings) Study Group led by Ron Platzer: 7:00pm-8:00pm, M'lachim, the Book of Kings - the death of David, the magnificent reign of Solomon and his fall, the split kingdom, the dramatic tales of Elijah and Elisha, and so much more. Join our lively weekly study/discussion group as we analyze, pasuk by pasuk, these exciting Biblical narratives. Location: Rm 211
- Community Kollel organized by Rabbinic Intern and Teen Director, Zac Schwartz: 7:30pm-9:30pm. To register please click on the link in the Echod electronic version or email teens@lss.org. Location: Belfer Beit Midrash

Wednesday:

- *(Please note the time change) Beit Midrash night: The Subversive Religious Poetry of Yehuda Amichai given by Sara Brzowsky: 7:00pm-8:00pm. Location: Rm 207
- Jewish History Series: Israel & Zionism led by Paul Shaviv: 8:00pm-9:00pm Topic: Before Zionism: 19th century Location: Belfer Beit Midrash

Thursday:

- Women's Talk Time: led by School Psychologist Ruth Moser Riemer: 11:30am-12:30pm. Last Week's Topic: The Funniest Thing That I Ever... Location: Rm LL201.
- The Jacob Adler Parsha Class: Explorations in the Weekly Parsha with Rabbi Shaul Robinson: 7:00pm-8:00pm. Location: Belfer Beit Midrash

HOSPITALITY NEEDS: Please host our Rabbinic Intern and Community Educator for Shabbat meals and /or lodging. Please email hospitality@lss.org with the subject line "Intern" and your availability to meet our current needs.

LSS Teen Directors and Rabbinic Intern, Zac & Rachel Schwartz are in need of meals and lodging on March 15-16 and March 29-30.

Community Educator, Zissy Turner and her husband, Sam, are in need of lunch on March 9 and meals and lodging on April 5-6.

| Weekly Prayer Schedule: | | March 3 | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Day | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday (Rosh Chodesh) | Friday (Rosh Chodesh) |
| Daf Yomi | 7:45am | 6:15am | 6:20am | 6:20am | 6:15am | 6:15am |
| Shacharit | 7:10am, 8:30am | 7:00am, 7:50am | 7:10am, 7:50am | 7:10am, 7:50am | 7:00am, 7:40am | 7:00am, 7:40am |
| Mincha/Maariv | 5:40pm | 5:40pm | 5:40pm | 5:40pm | 5:45pm | 5:40pm |

NEW OPPORTUNITY

LSS presents a new opportunity to Boost Your Business by placing a monthly ad with LSS which would be featured on our website homepage, weekly emailed newsletter, and outdoor display located in a prime NYC location.

Cost: \$500 to place your ad in 3 locations, \$800 includes a link to your business website. To submit your ad, visit www.lss.org/boostyourbusiness.

For questions, contact Stephanie at 212-874-6100 or Stephanie@lss.org.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

זרעים Seedlings (2 years old) Room 210 אורשים 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



Shabbat schedule:

10:00 am Drop Off (Rooms 206-211)

10:45 am Davening, Circle Time, and Healthy Kiddush (Rooms 206-211)

11:00 am Parsha & Candy: Keeping Shabbat & Building

a Mishkan (Rooms 210-211)

11:10 am Recreation, Games, and Rehydration (Room 206-207)

11:45 am Groups End

Dvar Torah

Parshat Vayakhel begins when Moshe speaks to *Bnei Yisrael* and explains the law of keeping Shabbat. This flows into instructions to begin building the *Mishkan*. Why does this sound familiar? Because the instructions about the *Mishkan* are a repetition of everything we already learned a few weeks ago in Parshat Terumah. Rashi explains that anytime something is especially important to *Hashem*, it's repeated in the Torah. Another example of this repetition is with the story of Rivka; when Eliezer is wondering how he'll know when he meets the right girl for Yitzhak to marry, *Hashem* repeats this story twice to explain how important it is.

Back to the beginning of the Parsha, and the commandment to keep the Shabbat; although building the *Mishkan* was an incredibly holy commandment, it is not more holy than keeping Shabbat. The lesson for us is to remember that no matter what we have going on in our lives, whatever *Mishkan* we have to build, whether we're busy with work, school, family or friends, we must take the time to observe Shabbat and make the day special and holy.

After Shul Ask Your Children:

- A. What does Vayakhel mean?
- B. What had to happen before the construction of the Mishkan began?
- C. Who was in charge of crafting the Mishkan?

the Mishkan.

Hashem had to forgive Bnei Yisrael for the Egel Hazahav before they could start.

Betzalel

Answers: A. "Assemble": Moshe assembled the Jewish people together to give them the commandments of Shabbat and building

BABY & ME RECAP

Last week in Baby & Me we practiced our Shabbat prepping - together, we added all our special ingredients to the communal 'Chicken Soup Pot.' Some examples from the babes included pinwheel cookies, sweet potatoes, and noodles! We kneaded our pretend 'challah dough' and reconnected with our dinosaur who wants to spend Shabbat with me! We read *One, Two, Three Purim* to get ready for the special Tkiya Musical concert at the Purim Carnival, March 17! Please note, Baby & Me is cancelled this Shabbat and will resume next Shabbat, March 9.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 17: 1:00pm-4:00pm: Purim Carnival

To register, please visit www.lss.org/event/purimcarnival2019
LSS Youth proudly offers fun and educational programming to children

every Shabbat and holiday throughout the year. The annual Purim Carnival is the most critical fundraiser for the Youth Department to defray the costs of staffing and events, and we can't do it without you.

Please consider sponsoring generously by contacting youth@lss.org.

Sunday, March 31: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm: Babies & Brunch: Jungle Babies Thank you to our sponsors, The Kuzniecky and Kanarfogel families

MAGEN AVRAHAM TEEN DEPARTMENT UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, March 10: Pre-Purim Chopped Cook-Off: 10:30am—12:30pm

Get ready for an awesome Purim themed chopped event! Just like the cooking show, there will be different rounds with many different ingredients to utilize. Teams will work together and everyone will get to explore their creative cooking side while having fun! Join us for an awesome event that will get you in the Purim spirit! Cost: \$5.

To register, please visit www.lss.org/event/chopped.

Location: Pre-function room

Thursday, March 21: Teen Purim Fun

Megillah reading followed by breakfast Location: Pre-function room

To sponsor an event, please email teens@lss.org

Parshat Vayakhel/Shekalim March 1-2

Written by: Rabbi Charles Savenor

Parshat Vayakhel



Vayakhel introduces us for the second time to Bezalel, the chief architect and builder of the Mishkan. "And Moses said to the Israelites, 'See, the Lord has singled out by name, Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. He had endowed him with a divine spirit of skill, ability and knowledge in every kind of craft, and has inspired him to make designs for works in gold, silver, and copper, to cut stones for settings and to carve wood – to work in every kind of designer's craft – and to give directions." (Exodus 35:30-34)

Of particular interest to us is the manner in which God announces Bezalel's appointment. In our first encounter with this creative genius, the Torah employs the same awkward and puzzling wording. "Re'eh karati veshaym Betzalel, which translates literally as "See, I have singled out by name, Bezalel." (Exodus 31:2)

Moses could have made a straightforward announcement, but the Torah utilizes a peculiar phrasing for an introduction in both places. The awkwardness of this wording is a red flag to our traditional commentators who pick up on the same point.

Rashi advocates that this strange statement in the Torah means no more than "I have designated Bezalel for this task." Midrash Rabbah, which predates Rashi, gives an explanation that complements his straightforward interpretation. The Midrash relates that when Moses was on Mount Sinai to receive the Torah, God showed Moses the Book of Life, containing the names of every Jew in every generation from Creation until the ultimate Redemption. At that time God says to Moses "I have predetermined the creation of all people, and this includes Bezalel, who will construct the Mishkan."

Midrash Rabbah avows that God created everyone before the world itself was actually complete and that our leaders occupy a prominent place in this divine blueprint. Thus, Bezalel had been named by God before time started because he possessed a unique role in the wilderness.

By contrast, we find a source in the Zohar which arrives at a completely opposite conclusion! The Zohar asserts that Bezalel, whose name literally translates as "in the shadow of God," is not a surname he received at the beginning of time, but rather it is an honorific title that he achieved by fulfilling his divinely mandated duties. Applying the Zohar's explanation to the introduction of Bezalel, we would read the verse as "Behold, I have designated that the name of the person to work in this holy endeavor should strive to be called Bezalel, in the shadow of God."

In describing Bezalel's responsibilities, the Torah includes another role in addition to that of architect and craftsman. In Exodus 35:34 we are told that "U-lehorot natan be'leebo," which can be interpreted as "and the ability to teach was bestowed upon him." With everything else on Bezalel's agenda, we wonder what role teaching plays for him?

The majority of our traditional commentators assert that Hashem grants Bezalel with educational skills because the Israelites, who had been slaves for generations, did not possess the necessary skills to construct the Mishkan. Therefore, part of Bezalel's job description included teaching others his trade.

Bezalel's appointment teaches us something fundamental about the management of the construction of the Mishkan at one time, as well about leadership development for all times. In any profession or organization, leadership status requires that one be aware of the details, as well as the greater picture. Leadership begets responsibility and great attention to our words and actions. To be a leader also means living up to one's name and earning the respect of others. Most importantly, to be a leader, one must see himself or herself as a teacher.

Ecclesiastes teaches us that "Whatever comes into being, the name was given long ago" (6:10). Similar to what we learned about the predestined course of Bezalel to become a leader, each human being is given a name and a unique purpose in the world. It is our challenge to tap into the wealth of potential inside each of us and to capitalize on it to achieve, or earn, our names.

While Bezalel merited living up to his name by working in "the shadow of God," his true mission was to teach others how to find the shelter of God's presence in their lives. As we strive to reach our potential and live up to our names as Jews and as human beings, we too enter into the shadow of God.

Shabbat Shalom!

For more information about writing a Dvar Torah, see Bill Greenbaum in shul, or email dvar@lss.org, or leave a message for him with the Shul office at 212-874-6100.

We are currently looking for writers for Parshat Vayikra and Parshat Shmini.