

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

4:47pm Shabbat Candle Lighting

Friday Night

4:50pm Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary. Services officiated and Dvar Torah given by **Rabbi Shaul Robinson**. Davening led by **Chazzan Yisroel Lesches**.

Shabbat Morning

7:45am Hashkama Minyan in the Belfer Beit Midrash followed by a shiur given by **Rabbi Moshe Sokolow**

9:00am Services in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary. Drasha given by **Rabbi Shaul Robinson** followed by Musaf. Davening led by **Chazzan Yisroel Lesches**.

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

9:39am Latest Shema

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

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

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

Shabbat Afternoon

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)

3:20pm Beginners Mishna Chavura with **Moshe Sheinwexler** in the Belfer Beit Midrash

3:50pm Samson Raphael Hirsch Bible Class with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in Rm 211

3:50pm Louis & Rhoda Lazar Memorial Shabbat Pre-Mincha Shiur in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary given by **Rabbi Shaul Robinson** on "Pikuach Nefesh? Psychologists Responding to Emergencies on Shabbat"
Sponsored by Golda, Shira, and Hannah Hudes in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of their father and grandfather, Avraham Itzhak Hudes z"l and for the refuah of Shimon ben Yehudis, Ester Miriam bat Shaina Dina and everyone who needs a speedy refuah shleima.

4:35pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit.
Dvar Torah given by **Rabbi Shaul Robinson**.

5:49pm Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends

REFUAH SHLEIMA

Dear Friends,

Our beloved **Chaz, Sherwood Goffin, Shimon Ben Yehudis**, is seriously ill and is currently in critical condition in the ICU.

The family have requested that everyone please daven for his recovery.

Each minyan will be reciting tehilim during services-please make every effort to attend shul this shabbat and join us in davening for his refuah. If you are unable to attend we urge you to recite tehilim for the Chaz wherever you are-in shul we will be reciting tehilim 121 and 130.

Please respect the Goffin's privacy and do not reach out at this time. *Cards of encouragement and support can be dropped off or sent to the shul office and we will make every effort to pass them along.*

May our dear Chazzan Goffin have a complete and speedy recovery-Amen.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Hashkama Kiddush:

Martin Balsam in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his father, Morris Balsam z"l.

Ian Silver and family in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his brother, Jason Silver, Jacob ben Ben Zion z"l.

Gad Cabessa in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his mother, Mazal bat Yitzchak a"h.

Main Kiddush:

Gale and Jim Kaufman in commemoration of the Yahrzeit of Jim's father, Moishe Kaufman, Moshe Yehoshua ben Chaim v'Tyla Dina z"l.

Lee and Paul Holm in commemoration of the first yahrtzeit of Lee's beloved father, Mordechai Leib ben Menachem Mendel HaLevi z"l.

Janice and Stuart Shorenstein in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his father, Ben Shorenstein z"l.

Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan Kiddush:

Golda, Shira, and Hannah Hudes in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of their father and grandfather, Avraham Itzhak Hudes z"l and for the refuah of Shimon ben Yehudis, Ester Miriam bat Shaina Dina and everyone who needs a speedy refuah shleima.

Beginners Kiddush: Sponsored in loving memory of Farokh and Shmuel Shoshani z"l and in honor of Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald.

Seudah Shlishit:

Susan Ruttner in commemoration of the yahrtzeit on 21 Shevat of Greta Weinman's husband, Moishe Weinman z"l.

Ron Goldofsky in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his father Irving Goldofsky (Yitzchak ben Eliyahu) z"l.

HAKARAT HATOV

Evan Sehgal for writing this week's Dvar Torah.

MAZAL TOV

Grandparents **Sarah Leah and Lou Vynierib** on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Chana Perel Adler on the 21 of Shevat. Mazal tov to their children, Loren and Reuven Adler.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Avi and Debra Srulowitz

NEXT SHABBAT

Friday Evening and Shabbat Morning:

Services in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary officiated by and sermon given by **Rabbi Shaul Robinson**.

Davening led by **Chazzan Yanky Lemmer**.

Friday Evening: The Magen Avraham Teen Department Oneg: 8:00pm

Join us for our first Oneg of the year and get ready for a night filled with awesome activities, inspiration, and fun. Location: Pre-function room

Shabbat Day:

Spanbock Lecture: 11:15am

Join us for our fourteenth Annual Jonathan H. Spanbock Lecture in Jewish Ethics. Guest speaker Professor Roy D. Simon will be speaking on "You Have the Right to Remain Silent": Lawyers, Legal Ethics, & Lashon Hara. Please RSVP at www.lss.org/event/spanbock2019.
Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary

Beginners Luncheon: 12:30pm

The cost is only \$25 per person. Register and pay online at www.lss.org/beginners or call 212-874-6100. Please make your reservations and payment by Thursday, January 31st.
Location: Rm 206/207

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 30: No One Left Behind: How JNF Promotes Inclusion in the IDF: 7:00pm The United Congregations for Israel group (of which LSS is a member), together with the Jewish National Fund, invite you to "No One Left Behind: How JNF Promotes Inclusion in the IDF". Lt. Col. Tiran Attia, Director of Special in Uniform, will discuss an innovative program that integrates youth with disabilities into the IDF. Please register at www.jnf.org/nycspecial. Please note this is an offsite event. Location: Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, 30 West 68th Street

Wednesday, January 30: LSS Presents Lelamed: A New Women's Torah Leadership Initiative: 8:00pm Learn the practical skills to become leaders and educators within our shul community. Please register at www.lss.org/event/lelamed. Location: Rm 206/207

Thursday, January 31: Board Meeting: 7:00pm

Location: Belfer Beit Midrash

Shabbat, February 2: Spanbock Lecture at 11:15am and Beginners Luncheon at 12:30pm See front page for details

Sunday, February 3: Wrapunzel: The Art of Head Wrapping: 11:00am Join The Searith Israel Sisterhood and LSS to learn the different ways of head wrapping. Cost: \$5 in advance; \$10 at the door. Please register at www.shearithisrael.org/wrapunzel. Please note this is an offsite event Location: Congregation Shearith Israel, 2 West 70th Street

Wednesday, February 6: A Conversation with Bari Weiss: 6:00pm Join UJA and LSS for a conversation with New York times op-ed editor and writer Bari Weiss. A native of Pittsburgh, Weiss will share her incisive, nuanced take on Israel, anti-Semitism, and the American political and cultural landscape. Cost: \$10 for members, \$18 for non-members. To register, please click the link in the Echod electronic version or call the shul office at 212-874-6100.

Thursday, February 7: Membership Meeting: 7:00pm

Location: Ballroom

Thursday, February 7: Participation deadline for Bat Mitzvah Project Women, if you've never had a Bat Mitzvah or haven't read from the Torah, here is your chance to sign up. Read from the Torah on Shabbat, May 18 and get the help you need to prepare via recordings and supportive mentors. To register email lssbatmitzvah@gmail.com.

Shabbat, February 9: Shabbat in the Square: 12:00pm

Join LSS Young Professionals for Shabbat in the Square where Young Professional members can sign up to host or be hosted for Shabbat lunch. Please register at www.lss.org/event/shabbatinthesquare.

Shabbat, February 9: Women's Tefillah Group: 4:00pm

More details to follow.

Sunday, February 10: LSS Presents Lelamed: A New Women's Torah Leadership Initiative: 10:00am Learn the practical skills to become leaders and educators within our shul community. Please register at www.lss.org/event/lelamed. Location: Rm 206/207

Sunday, February 10: Torah Education & Morality: Are We Succeeding?: 10:00am Join LSS with The Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals as they present a stimulating panel discussion of some of today's leading educators, who will address the topic question from a variety of perspectives.

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 Director and Rabbinic Intern, Zac Schwartz and his wife, **LSS Teen Director Rachel**, are in need of meals Feb. 1-2 and meals and lodging on Feb. 15-16.

WEEKLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday:

- Sunday Morning Responsa** with Rabbi Shaul Robinson; Takes place after the 2nd Minyan Location: Belfer Beit Midrash.

Monday:

- Chug Ivrit** given by Hai Piazsky 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
- (Cancelled this week) The Journey: An In-Depth Study of Rebbe Nachman of Breslov's Epic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, pt. 5** led by Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld: 8:00pm-9:00pm. 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
- 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: 7:30-9:30pm. To register please click on the link in the Echod electronic version or email teens@lss.org. Location: Belfer Beit Midrash

Wednesday:

- Beit Midrash night: The Subversive Religious Poetry of Yehuda Amichai** given by Sara Brzowsky: 7:30pm-8:30pm. Location: Rm 207

Thursday:

- Women's Talk Time:** led by School Psychologist Ruth Moser Riemer: 11:30am-12:30pm. 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

Beginners Save The Date: Tuesday, February 5: 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.

Jewish National Fund and United Congregations for Israel Invite You to

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

"How JNF Promotes Inclusion in the IDF"

Featuring Guest Speaker

LT. COL. (RES.) TIRAN ATTIA



Lt. Col. (Res.) Tiran Attia serves as Director of Special in Uniform, an innovative program sponsored by Jewish National Fund that integrates youth with disabilities into the IDF. During his 28-year IDF career, Lt. Col. Attia commanded a tank, the Technology and Logistics training program, and the Sar-El program for army volunteers.

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

7:00 pm

RSVP by January 27 at jnf.org/nycspecial

Weekly Prayer Schedule:	January 27					
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
Mincha/Maariv	4:55pm	5:00pm	5:00pm	5:00pm	5:00pm	5:00pm

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



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: The Ten Commandments (Rooms 210-211)
 11:10 am Recreation, Games, and Rehydration (Room 206-207)
 11:45 am Groups End

This week's Parshat Yitro highlights the ten commandments. The Parsha begins with Yitro coming to visit Moshe. Moshe tells him of all the miracles which had just happened as the Jewish people departed Egypt. The next day, which Rashi says was the day after Yom Kippur, Moshe sits down to judge the people, all day and all night; Yitro tells Moshe it's too much work for one man -- Moshe needs to delegate. He should pick righteous men and appoint them as the judges over groups of ten, groups of fifty, groups of one hundred, and groups of one thousand. Hashem then tells Moshe to prepare the Jewish people to receive the Torah. The people approach Mount Sinai where they hear the Ten Commandments:

1. I am the Lord your G-d who took you out of Egypt
2. Do not have any other gods before me
3. Do not take G-d's name in vain
4. Observe the Shabbat
5. Honor your father and mother
6. Do not kill
7. Do not commit adultery
8. Do not steal/kidnap
9. Do not be a false witness
10. Do not be jealous of your neighbor

After Shul ask your children:

- A. What was the advice that Yitro gave Moshe?
- B. Where was the Torah given?
- C. What was the fourth commandment?
- D. What was the fifth commandment?



- Answers:
- A. That he should appoint judges underneath him
 - B. Mount Sinai
 - C. Observe Shabbat
 - D. Honor your father and mother

BABY & ME RECAP

This past Shabbat the babes spent their time preparing for *Tu B'shvat*. Together they sang "*Hashkedyia Porachat*" and read "*One, Two, Three, Tu B'Shvat!*" a PJ Library story by Naomi Shulman. Please join us this Sunday at 10:00 am for a special Babies & Brunch: Winter Crafts!

HAKARAT HATOV

Estee and Eli Friedman & Debra and Avi Srulowitz for sponsoring Babies & Brunch Winter Crafts this Sunday.

Hattie and Josh Danziger for sponsoring baby care packages for new LSS parents.
 Email youth@lss.org to join the effort.

SAVE THE DATE



Sunday, March 17: Purim Carnival:
 1:00pm-4:00pm
 Sponsors Needed-please email youth@lss.org



Parshat Yitro

Let's say I believe in G-d. After all, when I gaze at the stars or marvel at a newborn baby, it's hard not to believe there is a Creator. To paraphrase Avraham (according to the *Midrash*), is there a house without an architect or a builder? Moreover, the laws of physics which govern everything we know, are constant and universal. This implies an order that must be intentional. Fine, there is a Creator. But...

1. How do I know the Torah is the word of G-d? Maybe the Torah is a collection of Moshe's 613 best ideas.
2. Why did G-d even give us a Torah? If He has expectations of me, why doesn't He simply speak to me directly?
3. And what is this concept of *mitzvot/commandments*? Why do I have to do what He says? I think of myself as a moral person and I have a lot of my own ideas as to right and wrong.

The answers are in Parshat Yitro, and Chazal underlined them by means of *Midrashim*.

The following *Midrash* answers the first two questions: Everyone at Mount Sinai heard the first two of the, עשרת הדברות Ten Commandments. After each commandment, the people died and were miraculously revived.

The first two *Dibrot* were heard by the Israelites directly from the mouth of G-d. The Ramban says that much is obvious from the grammar; the Torah records these Commandments in the first person. "I am Hashem, your G-d" (Shemot 20:2). And "You must not have any other gods before me" (20:3). Starting with the third Commandment, Hashem is referred to in the third person, implying the last eight *Dibrot* were transmitted indirectly, from G-d to Moshe to us.

The Israelites could only tolerate the briefest personal encounter with G-d. After the second Commandment, they said, "Let Hashem not speak with us (further) lest we die" (20:16). Each time G-d spoke, the souls of the Israelites departed, and after each, G-d resurrected them with the dew that He will use again in the future for תחיית המתים (Sanhedrin 91b). Since only Moshe could survive personal communication with G-d, the Israelites had an idea. Let Moshe be our intermediary (G-d had the same idea earlier, 19:3). "They said to Moshe, 'You speak to us and we will listen.'" (20:15) The Israelites overheard G-d giving Moshe the last eight *Dibrot* and verified that they were recorded faithfully. Thereafter, the Israelites accepted that the rest of the Torah which Moshe wrote down was the word of G-d as well.

And who was G-d who gave us the Torah? He referenced Himself, not as the G-d of creation nor as the G-d of Avraham, Yitzok and Yaakov, but as "the Lord your G-d who took you out of Egypt" (20:2). The same G-d whom everyone had witnessed inflict the plagues and split the Reed Sea. He was G-d whom we already personally knew (Kuzari, Rabbi Yehuda HaLevy, first essay, paragraph 25).

Other religions have charismatic leaders who claim G-d personally spoke to them, but how does anyone else know that is true? Maybe that person was hallucinating, or worse, claiming Divine imprimatur to his own ideas. Maybe those leaders knew magic or science unknown to their followers and claimed that as proof they were G-d's messenger. After the events at Mount Sinai, the Israelites could not harbor the same reservations. "This detailing of chronicles in your Torah removes any suspicion of falsification or mass conspiracy. It would be impossible for even ten people to conspire together without the collaboration ending in confusion. Eventually, the lie would be exposed.... If this would be true of just ten people trying to pass on a date to their children, how much more so would it be impossible to proliferate a lie of this kind to an entire generation of people." (Kuzari, Rabbi Yehuda HaLevy, first essay paragraph 48))

A second *Midrash* answers the third question: G-d held Mount Sinai over the heads of the Israelites like an upside-down cup and said, accept the Torah or I will drop this mountain on you and bury you here (Shabbat 88a).

"They stood at the foot of the mountain" — " (19:17) ויִתְּצֻבוּ בַתְּחִיתֵי הָהָר. The Torah could simply have said תחת ההר The word "בתחתית" implies the people were standing just beneath Mount Sinai, which G-d held over their heads. Why the threat?

The purpose of creation was for the Jews to follow the Torah. If the Israelites had not accepted the Torah, the earth would have reverted to its primordial state of "emptiness and void" תוהו ובוהו (Reish Lakish Shabbat 88a). Hashem's Divine plan couldn't be dependent on human caprice. We had to accept the Torah, so Hashem "influenced" our choice (Marahal).

Once you accept that G-d gave us the Torah, keeping the *mitzvot* is neither voluntary nor mutable. Rabbi Jacob Ariel (Chief Rabbi of Ramat Gan) explains, "The Holy One, blessed be He, did not 'suspend the mountain over their heads' not because coercion is preferable to free will, but because voluntary personal behavior is not Torah. The *mitzvot* are, as their name implies, something we do because we are commanded and not simply because we so desire..."

There is a G-d. We know him. He took us out of Egypt and He sustained us in the wilderness. He gave us the Torah. There are a million eye (and ear) witnesses to that. He tried to speak directly to each of us but we couldn't survive such proximity to Holiness. Even prophets in subsequent generations only heard G-d's voice in dreams or through cloudy visions. Only Moshe could speak directly to G-d; therefore, Moshe became our intermediary, faithfully writing what G-d told him. And the Torah contains G-d's expectation for all of us — in that sense, we all were at Sinai. Let us accept the yoke of heaven and thereby grow into better people and make the world a better place.

Shabbat Shalom