

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Friday (Fast of Tevet):

6:05am Fast Begins  
6:50am & 7:30am Shacharit  
3:55pm Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat  
Davening led by Chazzan Yanky Lemmer  
Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.  
4:14pm Candle Lighting  
4:32pm: Sunset  
5:03pm: Repeat Shema  
5:04pm Fast Ends

Shabbat:

7:45am Hashkama Minyan; Location: Belfer Beit Midrash. Hashkama Kiddush to follow; Shiur by Dr. Moshe Sokolow on the third floor.  
9:00am Chazzan Sherwood Goffin Memorial Minyan;  
Davening led by Chazzan Yanky Lemmer  
Drasha before Musaf by Rabbi Tepler.  
Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.  
Main Kiddush to follow in the Ballroom.  
9:30am Beginners Service led by Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald;  
Location: 3rd Floor. Beginners Kiddush to follow.  
9:35am Latest Shema  
9:45am Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan;  
Drasha before Musaf by Rabbinic Intern Ilan Kaissar;  
Location: Belfer Beit Midrash.  
10:00am Youth Groups; Supervised play. Location: Second floor classrooms for ages 3+ and Room LL2 for ages 0-2  
2:25pm Beginners Mishna Chavura with Moshe Sheinwexler;  
Location: Belfer Beit Midrash.  
3:15pm Louis and Rhoda Lazar Memorial Shiur by Rabbinic Intern Ilan Kaissar in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.  
*Sponsored by Barbara Schwartz Spero in commemoration of the 10th yahrtzeit of her beloved father, Shmuel Zanvil H'Cohen of Los Angeles z"l.*  
4:00pm Mincha; Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary.  
Followed by Seudah Shlishit.  
\*Hebrew only\* shiur with Lloyd Epstein TMZ Kollel Fellow Bezalel Racz in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary  
4:32pm: Sunset: Latest time to daven Mincha.  
5:15pm Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Dr. Rachel Fester

MAZAL TOV

Ilene and Lou Vynierib on the recent marriage of their dear granddaughter, Malka Sima Adler, to Ephraim Kroopnick of Bergenfield, New Jersey, on Sunday, December 17th.

HAKARAT HATOV

Pamela Nadler Emmerich for writing this week's Dvar Torah.  
To our Israel Solidarity Mission Committee: Ken Cappell and Barbara Klein: Your hard work, your dedication, and your passion for this mission truly helped it come to life and we are ever so grateful. May the mission inspire and help strengthen both those attending and those that you will be meeting in Israel.

ISRAEL SOLIDARITY MISSION

נסייעה טובה to our Israel Solidarity Mission participants! LSS is full of pride to be represented by you in our homeland.

THIS SHABBAT

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

Lincoln Square Synagogue's Security Team Will Conduct In-vac/Ex-vac Drills During Morning Services. For the safety of you, your family, your friends and the entire LSS community, it is essential that you participate in This very important drill.

Follow all Directions Given and Make This a Successful Drill.

For this drill we will not be exiting the building. In the event of a fire alarm or other emergency, do not panic.

What to do in an Emergency:

- Stay in your seat quietly and await instructions from our security staff.
- If our security staff orders an evacuation, proceed quietly and quickly to the nearest EXIT (remind yourselves where your nearest EXITS are).
- DO NOT USE THE ELEVATORS.
- Congregants with limited mobility should wait in their seats. Designated volunteers will help you evacuate. Please follow their instructions.
- Do not stop to retrieve coats or personal items.
- Do not attempt to find anyone else before evacuating.
- Upon exiting the building, move quickly away from the building. DO NOT CONGREGATE IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING.
- Youth Department staff have been trained to evacuate the children. You can meet your children within the Lincoln Towers grounds or buildings behind the Shul.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Hashkama:

Golda Hudes in commemoration of the 3rd yahrtzeit (13th Tevet) of her mother, Sara bat Yakov and Simcha a"h.

Yehudit and Jeffrey Neuman in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of Jeffrey's mother Marlene Neuman, Malka bat Yitzchak a"h

Main Kiddush:

Tova and Howard Weiser in honor of the brave soldiers of the IDF and the hostages held in Gaza, and in memory of those who have fallen in the current war ה'י"ד.

Beginners:

Ilene and Lou Vynierib in honor of the recent marriage of their dear granddaughter Malka Sima Adler to Ephraim Kroopnick.

Seudah Shlishit:

Kiddush is sponsored by Rachel Neumark Herlands and Jonathan Herlands, and Joyce and David Friedman in commemoration of the yahrtzeits of Rachel's mother, Debby Neumark a"h, and Joyce's mother, Edith Jaskoll a"h.

WEEKDAY MINYAN

Shacharit:

Sunday, December 24th @ 7:10am & 8:30am  
Monday, December 25th @ 7:00am & 8:30am  
Tuesday & Wednesday, December 26th & 27th @ 7:10am & 7:50am  
Thursday, December 28th @ 7:00am & 7:50am  
Friday, December 29th @ 7:10am & 7:50am

Mincha/Maariv:

Sunday-Thursday, December 24th-28th @ 4:25pm

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Shabbat, January 6th: Beginners Luncheon:** The cost is now \$35 per person. Registration will close Wednesday, January 3rd at 12:00pm. Register online at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners)

**Sunday, January 7th: LSS Films & Culture Committee Presents Prayer for the French Republic at the Manhattan Theater Club: 2:00pm** Join LSS friends to see this 2022 Drama Desk award winner. The story begins in 1944, with a Jewish couple in Paris desperately awaiting news of their missing family. Seventy years later, we see the couple's great-grandchildren facing the same questions as their ancestors: Are we French? Are we Jewish? Are we safe? This timely narrative explores five generations of a French Jewish family grappling with belonging, assimilating, and continuing tradition amid rising antisemitism. Plus, there is an exclusive post-show discussion with a production representative immediately after the play. Order your tickets today at [www.lss.org/form/frenchrepublic](http://www.lss.org/form/frenchrepublic). A limited number of \$110 orchestra tickets are available to LSS members: maximum of two ticket purchase. The play is approximately 3 hours long with two intermissions plus a 20–30-minute discussion.

## WEEKLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

**Sunday, December 24th**

- **9:15am Kosher Made Clear - Hilchot Kashrut Tzurba Style:** Led by Rabbi Tepler this week. Location: Belfer Beit Midrash

**Monday, December 25th**

- **9:30am: Morning Off? Morning On! Legal Holidays with the Assistant Rabbis:** Topic: The Spiritual Potential of Long, Cozy Winter Nights by Rabbi Tepler. Location: Belfer Beit Midrash.
- **\*CANCELED\* 7:00pm: Chug Ivrit Chadashot (News from Israel) with Gali Rabin.**

**Tuesday, December 26th**

- **\*CANCELED\* 11:00am-12:00pm: The Marilyn & Sam Isler, "Studies in the Weekly Parsha"**
- **6:30pm: United Hearts for Israel:** If you have been affected by the crisis in Israel, The Jewish Board invites you to their community of healing. Register at [www.tinyurl.com/UnitedHeartsIL](http://www.tinyurl.com/UnitedHeartsIL)
- **8:15pm: The M'lachim (Kings) Study Group led by Ron Platzer:** If you are interested in joining, please contact Ronald Platzer at [RPlatzer@citytech.cuny.edu](mailto:RPlatzer@citytech.cuny.edu).

**Wednesday, December 27th**

- **6:30pm: United Hearts for Israel:** If you have been affected by the crisis in Israel, The Jewish Board invites you to their community of healing. Register at [www.tinyurl.com/UnitedHeartsIL2](http://www.tinyurl.com/UnitedHeartsIL2)

**Thursday, December 28th**

- **\*CANCELED\* 11:00am-12:00pm: Gemara Makot Class**
- **11:00am-12:00pm: Women's Talk Time: led by School Psychologist Ruth Moser Riemer.** Meeting ID: 972 4054 8238 Passcode: 142533
- **\*CANCELED\* 7:00pm: Jacob Adler Parsha Class: Explorations in the Weekly Parsha**

**Daf Yomi:** Sunday at 7:30am, Monday and Thursday at 6:10am, and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6:20am. Location: Belfer Beit Midrash and Virtual. Details on [www.lss.org/LearningOpportunities](http://www.lss.org/LearningOpportunities)

## WE STAND WITH ISRAEL

**Hafrashat Challah for the Hostages:** Participate in the meaningful tradition of Hafrashat Challah as a symbol of solidarity for the hostages in Gaza. Let's unite women from every corner in a shared act of connection and support. The goal is to gather 40 women for each hostage. Commit to this cause by pledging your name at [www.tinyurl.com/c4Israel](http://www.tinyurl.com/c4Israel)

**Boots for Israel:** Boots for Israel began with a call from Israeli General Daniel Jacobs, seeking tactical boots for his unit. Facing a shortage of suitable footwear for reservists, our Executive Director's shul, Young Israel of Holliswood, mobilized to help. Through a stroke of luck, a local shoe wholesaler had the exact boots in stock, enabling them to send the boots to Israel at reduced rates. Now, with growing requests, they need your support to continue providing Boots for Israel. Donate today to help them sustain this critical mission. Donate at [www.yiholliswood.org/payment.php](http://www.yiholliswood.org/payment.php)

**Contact Your Elected Officials:** We have an essential role to play to help protect Israel. Urge members of Congress to continue speaking out and standing with Israel as it acts to defeat the terrorist threat. The message can be simple: "The Jewish community thanks you for your support. I thank you for your support. Please continue to do so publicly and proudly. It is imperative that Israel destroy any remnant of Hamas so that the people of Israel and the people of Gaza can live free of tyranny and in prosperity and harmony". Please urge your elected officials to stand with Israel! Reach out at [www.takeaction.aipac.org/Wyv8pgS](http://www.takeaction.aipac.org/Wyv8pgS)

Donate to American Friends of unit 669 at: Zelle: org669.afu@Donate Paypal: @AFU669

## YOUTH & MAGEN AVRAHAM TEEN DEPARTMENTS

**Youth Groups: 10:00am:** Location: Second Floor Classrooms. Supervised play.

**Baby & Me (Newborn-2yrs): Shabbat, 10:00-11:30am in LL203:** Enjoy parent-baby bonding from 10-11am (unsupervised), followed by a lively 30-minute program led by Devorah Batt at 11:00am. A dedicated nursing area is available in LL203.

### Upcoming Events:

**Sunday, December 31st: A Trip to the MET: 10:00am-11:30am:** Please join us for a Youth Trip to the Met on December 31st 10:00-11:30am with docent, Elana Kaplan. Children will tour the Egyptian section of the museum and compare the artifacts to the artifacts discussed in the Torah. Please express your interest at [www.tinyurl.com/TripMET](http://www.tinyurl.com/TripMET)

**Tamim Academy NYC Winter Tours: Wednesday, January 3rd, Tuesday, January 9th, Thursday, January 18th: 8:45am-9:45am:** RSVP at [admissions@tamimnyc.org](mailto:admissions@tamimnyc.org). Currently accepting applications for the 2024/25 academic year for grades K-2. Visit [www.tamimnyc.org](http://www.tamimnyc.org) for more information.

**Friday Night, January 5th: 4:30pm:** Teen Minyan: Join your peers for meaningful tefillah and a yummy Kiddush! Location: Belfer Beit Midrash

**Motzei Shabbat, January 6th: Winter Wonderland Party: 6:00pm—7:30pm:** Come in pajamas, sip on hot cocoa while you watch a movie with friends! Pizza will be served.

**Sunday, December 7th: Babies & Me: 9:45am—11:15am:** Details to follow.

*Sponsorships needed! For details email [youth@lss.org](mailto:youth@lss.org).*

## END OF YEAR GIVING

### Tax-Wise Strategies to Easily Maximize Your End-Year Gifts:

Donations coming from IRA accounts designated as RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions) Donating stocks, bonds, or mutual funds is easy and financially savvy. When you contribute appreciated securities, you not only support LSS but may also enjoy potential tax benefits. Visit [www.lss.org/securities](http://www.lss.org/securities) for guidance on how to advise your broker. Your smart giving makes a significant difference! Closing out past membership dues and charges, Gifts of Cash, Gifts of Appreciated Securities, IRA Charitable Rollover, A tax free gift from your IRA, Gifts in Your Will or Revocable Trust, Gifts of Retirement Assets, Gifts of Real Estate, Gifts of Life Insurance, Long term appreciated securities. If you have any questions please email [finance@lss.org](mailto:finance@lss.org) or call 212-874-6100 ext 106. To pay your balance online please visit [www.lss.org/payment](http://www.lss.org/payment) *Reminder: you must be logged in.*

# DVAR TORAH PARSHAT VAYIGASH

By: Pamela Nadler Emmerich

The phenomenon of dysfunctional family dynamics, punctuated by parental favoritism and sibling rivalry, is a common thread that is woven through the stories of our patriarchs told in Sefer Bereishit. Jealousy, betrayals, and deceit abound, with brothers uniting not in the presence of their fathers, but to bury them (Gen. 25:9, 35:29).

At first, the story of Joseph and his brothers appears to continue this tradition of familial disharmony and distrust. However, by the time Parshat Vayigash concludes we find the tradition broken, with Jacob alive to witness his sons' reconciliation and the family, soon-to-be nation, able to move forward as a unit.

Vayigash opens with Judah's poignant plea for Benjamin to be allowed to return home, largely to spare Jacob the irreparable pain he would inevitably suffer should his youngest son be detained in Egypt. Of course, unbeknownst to Judah, in a masterful twist of irony, the Egyptian prince to whom he makes this appeal is the very brother he sold into slavery 22 years earlier, Benjamin's full brother Joseph. It is Judah's heartfelt supplication that ultimately causes Joseph to break his charade, weep and reveal his true identity. The applicable verses read:

[Gen. 45:1] And Joseph could no longer restrain himself in the presence of all who were stationed around him, and he cried out: "Have everyone leave me." So no one stood with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. [45:2] And he wept aloud...[45:3] Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?"

This was not the first time Joseph cried following an encounter with his brothers (see Gen. 42:24; 43:30), but it is the first time he did so in front of them. Since Joseph had the time and wherewithal to ask his entourage to leave before he wept, he clearly could have asked the brothers to do so as well, indicating that his emotional display before them was intentional.

Which begs the question: Why now? What had Judah said that triggered Joseph's tearful confession?

Several reasons can be found in the commentaries. One possibility is that Joseph was simply moved by the realization of the profound grief his father would suffer should Benjamin not return to him (Bekhor Shor).

Yet another proposal is that Judah's declared willingness to sacrifice his own freedom for Benjamin's sake kindled, even

intensified, Joseph's compassion for his brothers (see Shadal, with attribution to R. Avraham Chai Meinstern). As many modern commentators and scholars have observed, Joseph had cleverly tested his brothers' character by devising a situation in which they again controlled the fate of another of Jacob and Rachel's sons. In so doing he invited the brothers not only to recognize their past wrongdoings but to not repeat their earlier behavior. Through his speech, Judah demonstrated his (and by extension his brothers') integrity, family loyalty, and personal growth, suggesting that Joseph had nothing more to gain from continuing his stratagem (see Nahum Sarna, the *JPS Torah Commentary: Genesis*, p. 308). With Joseph's trial of his brothers concluded, he could move forward towards mending their relationship. As Everett Fox states (*The Schocken Bible*, Vol. 1, p. 202): "Once the brothers pass the test, life and covenant can then continue." But first Joseph had to assure his brothers that he bore no malice towards them for their past deeds of betrayal and that G-d alone was responsible for the entire saga. Only then could mutual family trust be restored and reunification made possible. And only after the family was made whole could the story of the nation of Israelites continue.

This parsha, therefore, teaches us that it is never too late to learn from our mistakes, to atone, to forgive and ultimately make peace with others; that selective memory is sometimes a helpful tool on the journey towards reconciliation; and that family harmony is a necessary first step towards national unity.

This Dvar Torah is in memory of my beloved brother Berl Nadler, z"l, whose shloshim is observed on the 8th of Tevet. Unlike the jealous brothers of Sefer Bereishit, Berl was a devoted and loving older brother, whose enthusiastic pride in his siblings' accomplishments (and those of his four children and 14 grandchildren) was a constant in our lives. May his memory be for a blessing.

*Dvar Torah writing is open to all LSS members, their children, and LSS clergy. Guidelines will be provided on request. For more info, see Bill Greenbaum in shul, email him at [dvar@lss.org](mailto:dvar@lss.org), or call the shul office.*

*The next Shabbatot available: Bo 1/19-20, Yitro 2/2-3, Mishpatim/Rosh Chodesh Adar One 2/9-10, Terumah 2/16-17.*

*Enjoy reading the weekly Dvar Torah*

*-in print, in the Shelly Danishefsky Foyer, or*

*-on [lss.org](http://lss.org) under the Echod tab, or*

*-in the Electronic Echod (available to print at home).*

In case of a bereavement, please call our Clergy at 646-543-7485

If you would like to receive the Shabbat Echod by e-mail, sign up at [www.lss.org](http://www.lss.org) email

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Please note that the deadline to submit content for the Echod, excluding sponsorships, is Wednesday at 3:00pm.