

YOUTH AND MAGEN AVRAHAM TEEN DEPARTMENT

We take the safety and health of our members very seriously and will do whatever we can to prevent further spread of Covid-19. As a reminder to all, even if COVID is not the concern at hand, if children are at all symptomatic (cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, GI symptoms, etc.), it is important that they stay home.

Shabbat Youth Groups: 9:45am (Location: 2nd floor classrooms)

Youth Groups are back in full swing with davening, Torah, snacks & play.
Youth Directors: Romy and Avraham Sanger
Assistant Youth Director: Alexander Wildes

Friday, December 17th: Magen Avraham Teen Oneg: 8:30pm:

Location: Pre-function room. Come hang out with other teens! We'll have ping pong, cards, board games & snacks.

YOUTH DVAR TORAH

Imagine the scene. Father and son have not seen each other for years - they have been separated by borders, famine, and perhaps not even being aware of each other's continued existence for several years. In an epic meeting Yaakov is approaching Yosef as he comes down to Egypt, and as dawn breaks they meet and fall into each other's arms and well up with emotion and tears. The pasuk reports that Yosef indeed cried, yet does not fully report Yaakov's reaction. Rashi fills us in that our Rabbis said that 'Yaakov was reciting the Shema!' Rabbi Daniel Fine asks, for years Yaakov has not seen his son and all he can do is think of reciting Shema now?! Why did he not wait for a few minutes and then recite Shema, or perhaps say Shema earlier?

The Maharal in his Gur Aryeh gives a most beautiful answer here, turning the question on its head. To introduce this we shall cite a story which Rav Shimshon Pincus writes in his sefer She'arim Be'tfillah - I think it was about Rav Yercham Levovitz, famed mashgiach of Mir Yeshiva. When Rav Yerucham was a little boy someone hit him hard, and he began to cry. Within a few seconds, he got up and immediately began davening Mincha. Someone asked him later what caused this rapid turnaround, to which Rav Yerucham responded 'I figured that I was anyway crying - why not direct those tears towards Hashem in prayer.' Yaakov Avinu was a man of greatness and indeed he surely welled up with emotion and tears upon meeting Yosef. But he understood and lived the message that ordeals, trials and emotions can be used to connect to the Divine. Thus, rather than engage in a moment of his own pure emotion, he heroically decided to channel all that emotion and direct it in a supernal call to Hashem - Shema Yisrael: recognising Hashem as the source of everything.

May we learn from Yaakov the importance of both furthering our own growth, of channelling our experiences, and of realising that our relationship with others is part of our growth and obligations in life too.

QUESTIONS

- Who volunteered himself in place of Binyamin
- How old was Yaakov in this week's Parsha?
- Why didn't the brothers want to tell Yaakov outright that Yosef was alive?
- Who revealed to Yaakov that Yosef was still alive?

ANSWERS

1. Yehudah
2. 130 years old
3. Because Yaakov was now 130 years old and for the last 22 years, had thought Yosef was dead. They didn't want to put him into shock.
4. Serach, the daughter of Asher played the harp. The brothers asked their niece to play a calming song on the harp and sing the lyrics, "Yosef is alive." When Yaakov overheard this song, he approached Serach to ask what this silly song was. Serach then told Yaakov that Yosef is really alive and is the ruler of the Egypt.

WEEKLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday:

- *Canceled this week* Sh'eilot and Tshuvot**

Monday:

- A Gemara Class Bava Kama: Laws of Personal Injury led by Rabbi Robinson:** 11:00am-12:00pm. Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary. Repeated on Zoom Tuesday at 8:00pm.
- Chug Ivrit led by Harel Fenigstein Chadashot (News from Israel):** 7:00pm-8:15pm. Available in person or via Zoom. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/uwsshaliach/chug-ivrit-chadashot>

Tuesday:

- The Marilyn & Sam Isler, "Studies in the weekly Parsha" led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson:** 10:30am-11:30am Meeting ID: 241022510. Dial In: 646 876 9923. Location: Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary
- Beit Midrash night, The M'lachim (Kings) Study Group led by Ron Platzer:** 8:00pm. Meeting ID: 850 0937 1460 Password: 560900
- A Gemara Class Bava Kama: Laws of Personal Injury led by Rabbi Robinson:** 8:00pm. Meeting ID: 858 4080 4793 Passcode: 931015

Wednesday:

- Chug Ivrit - Safa Ivrit (Hebrew Language) led by Harel Fenigstein:** 7:00pm-8:15pm. Available in person or via Zoom. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/uwsshaliach/chug-ivrit-safa>

Thursday:

- Women's Talk Time:** led by School Psychologist Ruth Moser Riemer: 11:30am-12:30pm. Meeting ID: 972 4054 8238 Password: 142533
- Jacob Adler Parsha Class:** Explorations in the Weekly Parsha led by Rabbi Shaul Robinson: 7:00pm. Meeting ID: 912 657 888 In person location: Belfer Beit Midrash



To add the name of an IDF soldier please email info@lss.org

We at LSS, honor congregants and their family members that have served, and are serving now in the IDF:

Alan Papier	1984-1985	Givati Brigade
Idan Ziv z"l	1999	Cheil Hakesher
Rabbi Yonatan Shai Freedman	2003	Armored Corps
Elliot Z	2005-2006	Nahal Division
Hillel Axelrod	2011-2014	Kfir Brigade
Abbaiah Savitt	2012-2013	Nahal Division
Daniel Shibley	2013-2015	Nahal Division
Mayer Horwitz	2015-2019	7th Armored Brigade
Jordana Offer	2017-2019	Education Corps
Daniel Vogel	2017-2019	Nahal Brigade
Binyamin Goffin	2020	Palgat Hanegev-Combat Medic

We commemorate lone soldiers:

Michael Levin z"l
Alex Singer z"l
Max Steinberg z"l

May their memory be for a blessing



DVAR TORAH

Parashat Vayigash
December 11, 2021
By Judy Sokolow

Although the Shema prayer does not appear in the Bible until the sidrah of Ve'etchanan in Sefer Devarim (6:4-9) (which is read during the summer; hence it is not usually the subject of an Echod dvar-Torah), Rashi made reference to it in our sidrah.

Drama had been building. Joseph had already revealed his true identity to his brothers and, to allay their fear of retribution and pangs of guilt, explained that it was G-d's will that he had come down to Egypt "to ensure your survival on earth, and to save your lives in an extraordinary deliverance" (45:7). Amid copious tears, he then instructed his brothers to return to Canaan and to bring their father Jacob back with them to Egypt.

And so they did. After recovering from hearing the famous words "Od Yosef chai--Joseph is yet alive" (45:26) (a phrase co-opted to name a venerable Israeli charity), the extended family set out for Egypt. G-d appeared to Jacob along the way to reassure him: "I Myself will go down with you to Egypt and I Myself will also bring you back" (46:4). Jacob reached Egypt and awaited Joseph in Goshen.

How do you think you would react were you about to meet a long-lost, estranged yet beloved family member? We read: "Joseph ordered his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; he presented himself to him and, embracing him around the neck, he wept on his neck a good while" (46:29). Apparently without any malice or vindictiveness that might have been sparked by Jacob's past behavior concerning him and his brothers, Joseph hugged his father and wept. As noted above in his words to his brothers, Joseph understood that he was G-d's agent in fulfilling the covenant that G-d had made with Abraham: that his descendants would be enslaved in a foreign land, but that G-d would rescue them, and give them what would come to be known as the land of Israel (see Genesis 15). Joseph had come to peace with G-d and his family and turned his attention to his father.

So Joseph hugged Jacob and wept as we might have expected, but what about Jacob? Rashi noted: "But Jacob did not fall upon Joseph's neck, and did not kiss him; and our Rabbis said it was because he was reciting the Shema." What? Was this the routine morning or evening Shema? Arguably it was not.

R. Yehudah Loeb ben R. Bezalel, better known as the MAHARAL of Prague, noted the appropriateness of the Shema prayer in expressing love of G-d and wrote: "When Jacob came and saw his son Joseph as a king, his love and awe of G-d entered his heart; that His characteristics are good and pure and how He pays his worshippers with good reward." Jacob felt the need to acknowledge G-d before he could turn to his son.

So, both father and son saw their relationship with each other in the framework of their faith.

In his book *Spirituality, Law, and the Shema*, Rabbi Norman Lamm distinguished between normative, rote, "halachic" practices and those times when practice reflects spirituality, which is "subjective... unfettered and self-directed, impulsive and spontaneous." "Yet both are necessary" he posited. "Without the body of the law, spirituality is a ghost. Without the sweep of the soaring soul, the corpus of the law tends to become a corpse" (p. 6).

I would imagine that there was much soul soaring that day. May we, as well, have faith-based experiences that make our souls soar.

I would once again like to thank my husband, Moshe Sokolow, for being my research assistant.

DVAR TORAH

The next Shabbatot available to write a Dvar Torah are:
Vaera 1/1, Bo 1/8, Mishpatim 1/29, & Terumah, Shabbat Zachor 2/5
If interested, please email Bill Greenbaum at dvar@lss.org.

PLEASE CONSIDER LSS IN YOUR YEAR END GIVING

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

Donations coming from IRA accounts designated as RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions) need to be deposited by Dec. 31 or they could be disallowed by the IRS. Please get their contributions in early. Reminder December 31 is a Friday and final checks will be deposited in the morning. Please note that anything received in the office after noon on Friday will not be deposited in time.

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 contact the shul office at info@lss.org or call 212-874-6100.



Lincoln Square Synagogue Presents

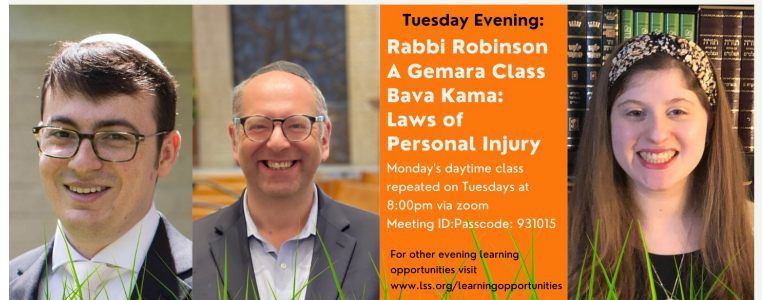
DAYTIME LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Email info@lss.org to sponsor a shiur and/or breakfast

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Rabbi Yoni Zolty Sh'eilot and Tshuvot: Learning Classic & contemporary responsa 9:15am Following Shacharit	Rabbi Robinson A Gemara Class Bava Kama: Laws of Personal Injury 10:00 am-11:00am	Rabbi Robinson Parshat HaShavuah shiur 10:30am- 11:30am	Rabbanit Mindy Personalities in Rabbinic Literature January 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th 12:00pm-1:00pm

In the Belfer Beit Midrash

In the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary



Tuesday Evening:
Rabbi Robinson
A Gemara Class
Bava Kama:
Laws of
Personal Injury

Monday's daytime class
repeated on Tuesdays at
8:00pm via zoom
Meeting ID: Passcode: 931015

For other evening learning
opportunities visit
www.lss.org/learningopportunities

180 Amsterdam Avenue.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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In case of a bereavement, please call our
Clergy at 646-543-7485 (day or night)

If you would like to receive the Shabbat
Echod by e-mail, sign up at www.lss.org or

LINCOLN SQUARE SYNAGOGUE OFFICERS

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LINCOLN SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

Winter Wonderland

FRIDAY NIGHT SHABBAT DINNER

DECEMBER 17

FOLLOWING MINCHA/MAARIV AT 4:15PM
DINNER BEGINNING AT APPROXIMATELY 5:30PM

HONORING
DR. SARA NASH AS ATERET HATORAH
AND LINDA ROGERS AS ATERET HAKEHILLA

LOCATION: BELFER BEIT MIDRASH
BUFFET BY PETAK'S CATERING



Young Professionals Winter Wonderland Kiddush

Shabbat, December 18

Following morning services

Belfer Beit Midrash

Must be vaccinated (12+) or show at the door
results of negative PCR test taken within 48 hours

No fee to attend

Please register in advance

Sponsors welcome!

E: rabbanit@lss.org

www.lss.org

(212) 874-6100

Greet, meet and eat with other
LSS Young Professionals!



Women's Tefillah Group Presents: Chodesh Tevet Shiur

With Rabbanit Mindy Schwartz Zolty



*Asnat: Wife of Yosef,
Daughter of Potiphar,
Daughter of Dinah?*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH
8:00PM**

Sponsored by Golda Hudes,
in commemoration of the
yahrtzeit of her Mother,
Sara bat Yakov a"h

Join via Zoom
Meeting ID: 885 6034 3511
Password: 123188

Men and women welcome

To sponsor the next shiur email info@lss.org



Scholar in Residence



Rav Ari Kahn

Rabbi of the Mishkan Etrog Community
Director of the Overseas Students Programs
at Bar-Ilan University

Shabbat of January 8th

Thursday January 6th-7:00pm

- Parsha and Pizza Shiur:
Emancipation from Mental Slavery

Friday January 7th

- Friday Night Neriot Shabbat Shiur after Maariv
The Sabbatical Year and BDS- A View from Israel

Saturday January 8th

- Drasha after musaf in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary
The "Wicked" Child In and Out of Context
- Seudah Shlishit
The Limits of the Elasticity of Elu V' Elu

