



ECHOD

5 -7 SIVAN 5775 • MAY 22-25, 2015

PARSHAT BAMIDBAR & SHAVUOT

CANDLE LIGHTING: 7:55PM

Shaul Robinson
Rabbi

Sherwood Goffin
Senior Cantor

Yanky Lemmer
Cantor

Lloyd Epstein
President

Ben Keil
Executive Director

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Friday Evening

- 6:42pm: Earliest Candle Lighting
6:45pm: Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary led by **Chazzan Yanky Lemmer**
7:55pm: Candle Lighting
8:00pm: Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary

Shabbat Morning

- 7:45am: Hashkama Minyan in the Belfer Beit Midrash followed by Kiddush.
8:30am: The Siddur in Depth with **Rabbi Ben Elton: Akdamut and Yatziv Pitgam**
9:00am: Services in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary led by **Chazzan Yanky Lemmer**. Drasha by **Rabbi Ben Elton**
9:11am: Latest Shema
9:15am: Beginners Service led by **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in room LL201 (Lower Level)
9:45am: Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan in the Belfer Beit Midrash

Shabbat Afternoon

- 12:00pm: Mishnah Siyum Lunch in the ballroom
4:00pm: Herb Weiss Bikur Cholim Society meets in shul lobby. New volunteers are urgently needed.
6:10pm: Beginners Mishna Chavura with **Moshe Sheinwexler** in the Belfer Beit Midrash
6:40pm: Louis Lazar Memorial Shiur with **Rabbi Ben Elton: The Customs of Shavuot**
6:40pm: Bible Class and the Book of Ruth with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in room 211
7:40pm: Mincha (No Seudah Shlishit)
Shiur by Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld: *The Authority of the Talmud*. Sponsored by **Dorothea Krieger** in commemoration of the 3rd yahrtzeit on the 9th of Sivan of her father **Eliezer Natan ben Moshe Nachum HaKohen (Leo Krieger) z"l**.
8:56pm: Ma'ariv/Earliest Candle Lighting

WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

For the Week of Tuesday, May 26– Friday, May 29

Tue – Thurs: Mincha/Ma'ariv: 8:05pm

Tues, Wed & Fri

Thursday

Daf Yomi: 6:20am

Daf Yomi: 6:15am

Shacharit: 7:10am

Shacharit: 7:00am

Shacharit: 7:50am

Shacharit: 7:50am

SHAVUOT SCHEDULE

Saturday Night, May 23rd

- 8:56pm: Earliest Candle Lighting
8:56pm: Ma'ariv
10:45pm: Young Professionals Ice Cream and Study: *Blasphemy and the Third Commandment*
11:30pm: Beginners Shavuot Learn-In in room 206/207
12am-5am: Tikkun Leil Shavuot—see page 2 for the full schedule

Shavuot Day 1– Sunday, May 24th

- 5:06am: Services in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary
9:00am: Services led by **Chazzan Yanky Lemmer**. Drasha by **Rabbi Shaul Robinson**
10:00am: Youth Groups
6:45pm: Tea and Torah in the Belfer Beit Midrash—**Rabbi Joshua Strulowitz: The Unprecedented Historical Anomaly of Conversion in the Modern Era**
7:05pm: Book of Ruth class with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald**
8:05pm: Mincha
8:25pm: Shiur by **Rabbi Sokolow**
8:56pm: Earliest Candle Lighting/Ma'ariv

Shavuot Day 2– Monday, May 25th

- 8:00am: Hashkama Minyan (including Yizkor) in the Belfer Beit Midrash
9:00am: Services (including Yizkor) in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary led by **Chazzan Yanky Lemmer**. Drasha by **Rabbi Shaul Robinson**
10:00am: Youth Groups: A Dairy Happy Shavuot ice cream party
12:30pm: Young Professionals Picnic Lunch & Learn in Riverside Park
5:00pm: Women's Megillat Ruth reading in the Belfer Beit Midrash
6:00pm: Tea and Torah in the Belfer Beit Midrash—**Mrs. Nyla Kamlet: A Convert's Story**
7:00pm: Shiur by **Rabbi Shalom Morris** in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary: *Halachic Questions in Colonial America*
7:05pm: Book of Ruth class with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald**
8:05pm: Mincha in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Main Sanctuary
Neilat HaChag in the Ballroom with speaker **Rabbi Mordechai Prager** of West Side Kollel
8:58pm: Maariv/Yom Tov Ends

See page 3 for Mazal Tovs, Sponsorships, and New Members

SHAVUOT

Siyum Shabbat Luncheon—Shabbat, May 23rd

The Siyum luncheon in celebration of this year's communal study of Mishnah. will include learning, games, and prizes. The festive meal will be held in the ballroom. (SOLD OUT.)

Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundae Social—Motza'ei Shabbat, May 23rd, at 10:45pm

Great discussion with Rabbi Shaul Robinson on Blasphemy and Free Speech. Doesn't get sweeter than that!

Tikkun Leil Shavuot— Saturday Night, May 23rd

Join us for a full night of learning with clergy and guest speakers culminating with Shavuot morning services in the main sanctuary. *Full shiurim schedule below*

Women's Tefillah Group will be reading Megillat Ruth on the second day of Shavuot at 5pm the afternoon, followed by talk by Nyla Kamlet.

Picnic Lunch and Learn—Monday, May 25th (2nd day of Shavuot) at Riverside Park

Join us for a lunch and learn in the park! It is BYOL (Bring your own lunch) but the shul will provide dessert and words of Torah from our clergy .

YOUTH SHAVUOT PROGRAMS

- Exciting Tikkun Leil night for 6th grade and above! This includes mini-cheese cake making, TONS of snacks, lots of coffee to keep us awake and really interactive classes.
- Ice Cream party on second day of Shavuot (10am)
- Tween Day– Tweens lead the games for all other Shabbat groups after davening.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot at Lincoln Square Synagogue • May 23rd, 2015

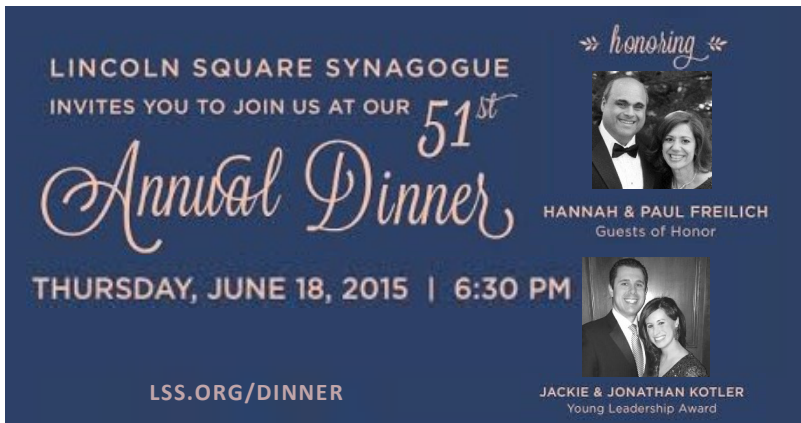
The Belfer Beit Midrash is open for individual or chevruta learning

12:00am-1:00am	Rabbi Shaul Robinson <i>Rav Aharon Lichtenstein, David Ben Gurion and a Carmelite Monk, on "Who is a Jew?"</i> Nathaniel Richman Cohen Main Sanctuary		Joel Sichel <i>A Shavuot Conversation</i> FOR TEENS Room 211	
1:00–1:20am	Refreshments (Second Floor Hallway)			
1:20am – 2:20am	Miriam Gedwiser, JD <i>"For I cannot withstand him": The consolation of Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai</i> Main Sanctuary	Rabbi Dr. Ben Elton <i>God, Nature and Heresy in 18th Century England: The David Nieto Controversy</i> Rooms 208/210	Rabbi Shaul Robinson <i>Another Shavuot Conversation</i> FOR TEENS Room 211	1am - 5 am Beginners Learning with Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald: <i>"The Taryag Mitzvot: A Survey of the 613 Commandments," starting with mitzvah #420: "Shema: The Oneness of God"</i>
2:20–2:40am	Refreshments (Second Floor Hallway)			
2:40am-3:40am	Ben Keil <i>"You Will Serve God on This Mountain"</i> Main Sanctuary	Jordan Mann <i>Aviva Zornberg's Ideas on Megillat Ruth</i> Room 208/210	Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld <i>Is the Year in Israel to "Brainwash" You?</i> FOR TEENS Room 217	
3:40– 4:00am	Refreshments (Second Floor Hallway)			
4:00am-5:00am	Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld <i>A Breslover Shavuot</i> Nathaniel Richman Cohen Main Sanctuary			[Room 206/207]
5:08am	Services in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Main Sanctuary			

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Ethan and Aviva Leibowitz
Mrs. Helga Weisburger

51st ANNUAL DINNER



FEATURED UPCOMING EVENTS

Senior Women's Talk Time • Next Session is Wednesday, May 27th, at 10:30am.

Join LSS Member and psychologist Ruth Riemer for a weekly ongoing small group discussion relevant to senior women in the LSS community. There is no charge, but prior registration is required, and the group will be limited to ten women. If interested please call 212-706-0327.

Board of Trustees Meeting • Tuesday, May 26th, at 7:30pm

There will be an early Mincha at 7:15pm before the meeting.

Scholar in Residence: Ido Aharoni, Israeli Consul General to the United States • Shabbat, May 30th

Join us as we, together with the Development Corporation for Israel, Israel Bonds, welcome Ido Aharoni as our Scholar-in-Residence on the Shabbat preceding the Celebrate Israel Parade. Main Kiddush that week is sponsored by Israel Bonds in celebration of their national new leadership Shabbaton.

Spring Book Club Meeting: Ben-Gurion: Father of Modern Israel by Anita Shapira

Sunday, May 31st, at 7:30pm

The Spring Book club will meet at the home of Gail Castagnello. We will be discussing the Book Ben-Gurion: Father of Modern Israel by Anita Shapira. Our presenter will be Professor Gilbert Kahn, political science professor at Kean College in NJ.

Remembering Yaakov Birnbaum, z"l • Sunday Evening, June 7th, time TBA

Recognized as the father of Soviet Jewry movement, Yaakov's life was devoted to advocating for freedom, human rights and social action. Natan Sharansky, a human rights activist and former political prisoner in the Soviet Union and currently the Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel will be the keynote speaker.

MAZAL TOV

- Mazal Tov to **Rabbi Dr. Ben Elton** on his engagement to **Hinda Young**.
- Mazal Tov to **Naomi and Gary Stein** on the birth of a baby boy. Mazal Tov to grandparents **Rocky and Freddy Kohn, Robby and Rachel Jetter, and Aaron and Francine Stein**.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Shabbat Hashkama Kiddush

Sponsored by **Suzan and Fred Ehrman** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of their mother, **Anna Ehrman, a"h**.

Shabbat Beginners Kiddush

Sponsored anonymously in loving memory of **Shmuel Shoshani z"l**, and in honor of **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald**.

Sunday's Main Kiddush

Sponsored by Naomi and Gary Stein in celebration of the birth of their son.

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.

LINCOLN SQUARE SYNAGOGUE OFFICERS

Lloyd Epstein, *President* (president@lss.org)

Alan Samuels, Ian Silver, Shirley Stark, *Vice Presidents* **Daniel Sabba**, *Treasurer*
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Debra Verstandig, *Executive Secretary* **Jay Ziffer**, *Corresponding Secretary*
Morey Wildes, *Recording Secretary*

You may contact our officers by emailing Officers@lss.org

WEEKLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY

Minchat Chinuch with Rabbi Ben Elton • 9:15am

Topic: *Mitzvah 378: The Priestly Blessing*
(NOT MEETING THIS WEEK)

TUESDAY

Parsha Class with **Rabbi Shaul Robinson** • 10:30am

Tuesday Beit Midrash Night • 7:30-9:15pm

- Tanach Survey: The Books of Samuel and Kings (7pm)
Facilitated by Marcy Zwecker and Robin Mitchnick
(meeting in a private home – call office for details)
- Politics and Kingship: The Book of Samuel
Facilitated by Ron Platzer

WEDNESDAY

Wednesday Beit Midrash Night • 8:15-9:15pm

- The Subversive Religious Poetry of Yehuda Amichai
Facilitated by Sara Brzowsky

Spring Semester of Nach B'lyun with **Rabbi Hayyim Angel**

Began on April 15h. \$25/class. Sign up at lss.org/rabbiangel

THURSDAY

Explorations in the Weekly Parsha with **Rabbi Shaul Robinson**
7:00pm

BEGINNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Save the date! THIS Saturday night, May 24th, 12:00am-7:00am – All Night Shavuot Learn-A-Thon.** The keynote opener, with Rabbi Shaul Robinson will start at **12:00am** and Rabbi Buchwald's class starts at **1:00am** and **will continue until 5:00am.** Topic: **"The Taryag Mitzvot: A Survey of the 613 Commandments,"** starting with mitzvah #420: "Shema: The Oneness of G-d." Refreshments will be served, no reservation necessary.
- **Save the dates!** Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald will be teaching a **FREE Crash Course in Basic Judaism at Congregation B'nai Israel, 45 Twombly Avenue in Staten Island,** for 3 consecutive Wednesday nights, starting on **May 27th at 7:00pm.** To register, please visit www.njop.org/ccbj or call **646-871-4444.**
- The next session of the **Hebrew Reading Crash Course Level I** will meet on **Monday, June 1st at 6:30pm (the class will not meet on Monday, May 25th),** and continue for **1 more week.** The classes meet for 1 1/2 hours, and are free and open to all.
- The next session of the **Hebrew Reading Crash Course Level II** will meet on **Monday, June 1st at 6:30pm (the class will not meet on Monday, May 25th),** and continue for **2 more weeks.** The classes meet for 1 1/2 hours, and are free and open to all. **Register at www.lss.org/beginners.**
- **Save the date!** The **FINAL Beginners Luncheon** of the season will be **Shabbat, June 6th, 2015.** The cost is still only \$20. Please make your reservations by **Thursday, June 4th.** You can register online at www.lss.org/beginners or call **212- 874-6100.**

ISRAEL CORNER • תניף לארשי

CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE—Sunday, May 31st

Join Rabbi Robinson, our fellow congregants and thousands of others for a unique experience as we proudly march up Fifth Avenue to show our love, support and solidarity with Israel.

Meeting Time: 1:10 pm

Meeting Site: Section 7W-52nd Street between 5th and 6th Avenue



- For those who ordered tee shirts through the LSS web site, we will email you when to pick them up from the shul.
 - For those who would still like to purchase a tee shirt (we have ordered some extras) please call the shul or report to the parade site and purchase one there (\$5).
 - For those who would like to march and did not purchase a parade tee shirt, wear a blue shirt and join us at the parade meeting site.
- Please be part of this special day! Numbers matter! The world will be watching, won't you stand up and be counted?

Ki'Mitzion Tetze Torah

Shavuot is a good time to remind you that every week we receive commentary on the Parshat Hashavua from Rabbanit Michal Tikochinsky of Beit Morasha in Jerusalem. Printed copies of the commentary are placed in the shul's lobby but they are often "sold out". Please note that all the rabbanit's commentaries are posted on the shul's web site, in the [Beit Morasha](#) section. This is a good place to catch up on commentaries that you may have missed and also to share with others.

We would also like to share with you a possible new initiative to promote a stronger connection between our members and Eretz Israel, while studying Torah. Over the course of the year, many of our members visit Israel. Some travel to visit family members, some to see children or grandchildren who are studying or serving in the IDF and some are simply touring the country.

To those fortunate people, we say: Why not study Torah in the place where much of the action described in the Tanach took place? We are exploring the possibility of partnering with an Israeli institution of learning to provide short-term classes for our members while they are in Israel. This could range from attending a single lecture to learning with a chavrusa. We will conduct a survey in the next few weeks to gauge the level of interest within the community for such a program.



D'var Echod B'lev Echod

Insights into the weekly Parsha and other matters at the heart of the LSS community

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PARSHAT BAMIDBAR & SHAVUOT

By: Shlomo Offer

The Prophet and the Prostitute

Ever since the writing of the Septuagint (Targum HaShivim), the book of Bamidbar has been translated "Numbers" from the rabbinic appellation "*Sefer Hapekudot*." Granted, it was done in reference to the events bracketed in time by the census Moshe performed just after Mount Sinai, and again the census performed 38 years later on the plains of Moav, before the People of Israel entered the land. Except for Joshua and Caleb, none of the men enumerated in the first count are still alive at the second. But calling it Numbers presents a misleading emphasis because the book is actually more about the complexity of names, roles, choices, conflicts and consequences than about the simplicity of a census number.

Moshe counted the people and was praised; King David counted the people and was chastised. Because Moshe's count was accompanied by an exhaustive list of names and narratives, it served in an act of love for Hashem to count *Bnei Yisrael*. David's failing was that he sought a quantity, to revel in his power as leader. Numbers are soulless; names are qualitative and convey identity, character, and fate. The dryness of the census in reading parashat Bamidbar is compensated by the deep richness of narrative and emotional impact of Hosea's life and prophesy in the haftorah reading. Through the naming of his children, Hosea brings his prophesy to life.

What's in a name? Every *Yom Hashoah* and *Yom Hazikaron*, in Israel, it is customary to recite the poem *L'Kol Ish Yesh Shem*, "Every Person has a Name" by the beloved Israeli poet Zelda Mishkofski. In it she exhaustively lists the names given a person by his parents, his luck, his efforts, his sins, his aspirations, his enemies, his love, his challenges, even his death. The poem is reminiscent of a *Medrash Tanhuma in Vayakhet*.

Every time a man increases his mitzvot, he earns himself a new name. There are three names by which a person is called: one that his father and mother call him, one that his peers call him, and one that he has earned for himself. The best one is the one he earned for himself.

This is a message of hope that, No matter what our circumstances, and how far we have wandered, we can still renew ourselves, energized by knowledge of G-d's unwavering love and betrothal to His people.

Hosea lived and prophesied in the last years of Jeroboam II, a corrupt king of the northern tribes, and he spent his life forewarning their demise at the hands of the Assyrians in 722 B.C. His life overlapped those of Amos and Isaiah, who lived in the southern kingdom of Judea.

The Navi uses the metaphor of Hosea's marriage to Gomer, a prostitute, to explain Hashem's loyalty and belief in the people of Israel, in spite of their disloyalty in an era where idol worship was rampant. And the names Hashem commanded for his children represent a lifelong commitment to his prophesy.

Hosea challenged God, asking why He does not abandon the Jews and take another nation as his chosen people. In response, Hashem commanded Hosea to marry Gomer, a harlot, even though he knew she would not be faithful. They had three children, and Hashem instructed that they be named *Yizreel*, after the valley where so many Israelites were killed, but also meaning the re-sowing of Israel into the land after the diaspora; *Lo-Ruchama*, meaning without mercy; and *Lo-Ami*, meaning they are no longer My people. Then, Hashem ordered him to send his family away, and he could not abandon them. He understood, viscerally, G-d's continuing love and longing for the people of Israel. This was not just a metaphor of a disloyal wife: Hosea was made to actually live out the prophesy in his life, so that he would speak from the heart. In our haftorah, Hosea teaches that the Jewish people can turn things around and reclaim Hashem's love. Then the names of the children of Israel will change and become *Ami*, My People, and *Ruchama*, Worthy of Mercy. We can control our destiny by being faithful to Hashem.

The haftorah ends with G-d's promise that we recite every day while putting on tefillin, that Israel will be betrothed to Him forever, in justice and in mercy, and in true fidelity, and we will know G-d. Motivated by this knowledge, we can keep the hope that we can and will be accepted by G-d. In the words, *lehavdil*, of a song from the rock musical, Hair: "I believe in G-d, and I believe that G-d believes in . . . me."