



# ECHOD

11 SHEVAT 5775 • JANUARY 30-31, 2015  
PARSHAT BESHALACH • CANDLE LIGHTING: 4:53PM

Shaul Robinson  
Rabbi  
Sherwood Goffin  
Senior Cantor  
Yanky Lemmer  
Cantor  
Lloyd Epstein  
President  
Ben Keil  
Executive Director

## SHABBAT SCHEDULE

### Friday Evening

- 4:53pm: Candle Lighting  
4:55pm: Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary  
8:30pm: Oneg with scholar in residence **Rabbi Alex Israel** at the Robinson Home (451 West End Ave.)

### Shabbat Morning

- 7:45am: Hashkama Minyan in the Belfer Beit Midrash followed by Kiddush and shiur with **Rabbi Moshe Sokolow**  
8:30am: The Siddur In Depth with **Rabbi Ben Elton** in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Main Sanctuary: *The Song at the Sea in Daily Prayer*  
9:00am: Services in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary. Drasha by **Rabbi Shaul Robinson**  
9:15am: Beginners Service led by **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in room LL201 (Lower Level)  
9:37am: Latest Shema  
9:45am: Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan in the Belfer Beit Midrash

### Shabbat Afternoon

- 3:00pm: Herb Weiss Bikur Cholim Society meets in front of LSS. New volunteers are needed.  
3:25pm: Beginners Mishna Chavura with **Moshe Sheinwexler** in the Belfer Beit Midrash  
3:55pm: Bible Class in room 211 with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald**  
3:55pm: Louis Lazar Memorial Pre-Mincha Shiur with **Rabbi Ben Elton**: *Techum Shabbat— The Sabbath Boundary*  
4:40pm: Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit  
5:55pm: Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends

*Thank you to our volunteer greeters, security guards, and ushers this Shabbat.*

## WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

For the Week of Sunday, Feb 1st - Friday, Feb 6th

Sun — Thurs

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 5:00pm

Mon — Thurs

Late Ma'ariv: 8:15pm

Sunday

Shacharit: 7:10am

Daf Yomi: 7:45am

Shacharit: 8:30am

Tues, Wed (Tu B'Shvat) & Fri

Daf Yomi: 6:20am

Shacharit: 7:10am

Shacharit: 7:50am

Mon & Thurs

Daf Yomi: 6:15am

Shacharit: 7:00am

Shacharit: 7:50am

## WELCOME TO OUR SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE



We are thrilled to welcome as our Scholar in Residence, **Rabbi Alex Israel**, of Yeshivat Eretz HaTzvi and Pardes. Rabbi Israel is a leading Tanach teacher and writer, sharing brilliant insights into Torah and Judaism.

**Friday night:** dessert and oneg at the Robinsons, 451 West End Avenue. Come for food, singing and a presentation on: *The Other Side of Rav Kook*. Rav Kook is identified with the settler movement. We shall discuss three of his ideas that are cutting edge, progressive, spiritual. We will talk about Art, Jewish Unity and the role of Halakha.

**Shabbat morning:** Singing Together in Harmony: The lessons of the Song of the Sea.

**Shiur after Kiddush:** Grumblings - A New Perspective: The Israelites complain as they travel through the desert. We shall re-read the story and identify a surprisingly positive side to this famous saga.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### Haskama Kiddush

Sponsored by The Fund

### Main Kiddush

Co-Sponsored in celebration of the Bar Mitzvah of **Ethan Borer-Newton**; by **Jeff Schwartz** and **Milayna Subar** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of Milayna's mother, **Ruthe Brown Subar, a"h**; and by **Jerry Tov Greenberg** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his father, **Allan I. Greenberg, z"l**, and to mark the conclusion of the shloshim for his mother, **Lillian Greenberg, a"h**.

### Beginners Kiddush

Sponsored by **Aviva & Ilan Itzhak** in honor of **Rabbi Buchwald** and his family and by **Jeffrey Solomon** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his father, **Marvin Solomon, z"l**.

### Seudah Sh'lishit

Sponsored by **Ruth Cogan** and **Naomi and Jessie Cogan** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of their husband and father, **Rabbi Leo J. Cogan, z"l**.

## MAZAL TOV TO OUR MEMBERS

- Mazal Tov to **Stephen and Tzipora Kalish** on the birth of a baby boy, **Evan Alexander**.
- Mazal Tov to **John and Michaela Lehr** on the birth of a baby boy.
- Mazal Tov to **Hela Borer** on the Bar Mitzvah of her son, **Ethan Borer-Newton**.
- Mazal Tov to **Professor Rebecca Kobrin** on receiving a Lenfest Distinguished Teaching Award from Columbia University. She is an associate professor of history at the University and is the daughter of our members, **Ruth and Larry Kobrin**.

## Youth Announcements

### Youth Groups Schedule

Pre-k: Room 206 at 10:00am

k-1: Room 207 at 10:00am

2-4 grade girls: Room 208- 10 am

2-4 grade boys: Room 210- 10 am

5-8th boys and girls: Room 211—10:15am

Youth Breakfast @ 9:30am in room 206

Math Circle is in session- Monday nights from 6-8pm in room 208. Open to children in 4th grade and up. Contact [hjstein@gmail.com](mailto:hjstein@gmail.com)

## Special Announcements

### Give to LSS Every Time You Shop on Amazon!!

Amazon Smile offers the opportunity to share a portion of every purchase with LSS.

Don't forget to designate Lincoln Square Synagogue as your charity by going to [Amazon Smile](https://www.amazon.com/smile). (You can also simply save this [direct link](#) to your Bookmarks)

Then, whenever you visit [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), LSS will automatically benefit from your purchase.



## Weekly Learning Opportunities

### SUNDAY

**Minchat Chinuch with Rabbi Ben Elton • 9:15am**

Topic: Mitzvah 31 - Kiddush on Shabbat

### MONDAY

**Kadish Class with Rabbi Shaul Robinson • 8:30pm**

### TUESDAY

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

**Intro to Bible w/ Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald • 6:30-8pm**  
**(Not Meeting This Week)**

**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

**Talmudic Logic w/ Rabbi Dennis Weiss • 7:30pm**

An in-depth look at a single Talmudic subject matter, starting from the relevant Biblical texts and delving into the logic system of the Gemara. This year's topic will be **"Misappropriation & Trespass"**

**Nach B'lyun: Sefer Shmuel Beginning w/ Chapter 11**  
**With Rabbi Hayyim Angel**

The Spring Semester of the popular Series begins on Wednesday, January 28th. \$125 for the entire 8-session series or \$20 per class. Sign up at [lss.org/RabbiAngel](https://lss.org/RabbiAngel)

### THURSDAY

**Parsha Class with Rabbi Shaul Robinson • 7:00pm**

## Beginners Announcements

- The **FINAL** session of the **Hebrew Reading Crash Course Level I** will meet on **Monday, February 2nd, 2015 at 6:30pm**.
- **Please note!** Rabbi Buchwald's Introduction to Bible will **NOT** meet this **Tuesday, February 3rd**. The class will resume on **Tuesday, February 10th**. You may still register for Rabbi Buchwald's **Introduction to Bible: The 10 Commandments (Began Tuesday, January 27th, 6:30-8:00pm)**. This course, which meets for another **7 weeks** provides an in-depth study and analysis of the Decalogue (the Ten Commandments) and other basic Biblical texts. The religious significance of the Bible, scriptural exegesis and the relationship of the written and oral law will be discussed and analyzed. To register, please call **212-874-6100** or register online at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners). Cost: \$90, Free to LSS Members. **No one will be turned away for lack of funds.**
- **One Day Review (only 1 session)** will be held **THIS Monday, February 2, 2015 at 6:30pm**. The 1 class lasts 1 1/2 hours, and is free and open to all. Register at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners).
- **Save the date!** The next **Beginners Luncheon** will be **NEXT Shabbat, February 7th, 2015**. The cost is still only \$20. Please make your reservations by **THIS Thursday, February 5th, 2015**. You can register online at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners) or call **212-874-6100**.
- **Save the date!** New sessions of the **Hebrew Reading Crash Course Level II** will begin **Monday, February 9th, 2015 at 6:30pm**. The 5 classes last 1 1/2 hours, and are free and open to all. Register at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners).
- **Jewish Living Workshop** led by Dassa and Bill Greenbaum returns to LSS on **Monday, February 23rd, 2015 7:30-8:30pm**. The Jewish Living Workshop, a 10 sessions series, is a "hands-on" experience. We learn by doing. The workshop is free, a few sessions will require a modest fee for materials; register at [JLworkshop@yahoo.com](mailto:JLworkshop@yahoo.com) or [www.lss.org](http://www.lss.org). The first topic: **Shabbat – The Friday Night Experience**.

## FEATURED UPCOMING EVENTS

### **The Return: A film about being young and Jewish in Poland today • Motza'ei Shabbat, January 31<sup>st</sup> • 8pm**

Please join us for a fascinating look at four young Polish women who are struggling to define what being Jewish means to them in a country that was once the epicenter of the Jewish world and is now regarded as "the Jewish graveyard." Adam Zucker, who directed and produced *The Return*, will introduce the film and take questions following the screening. Tickets are \$15 at the door.



### **Tu B'Shvat Seder • Party Room, 160 Riverside Blvd • Thursday, February 5th • 8:30pm**

Talia and Jethro Solomon invite the community to a Tu b'Shvat Seder at their home. Join Rabbi Ben Elton for insights into the seven fruits of the Land of Israel and a chance to eat, drink and enjoy warm company in cold weather. A \$25 Starbucks voucher will be won on the night! If you would like to talk about one of fruits please email [belton@lss.org](mailto:belton@lss.org).



### **Art of the Holocaust Lecture w/ Ronit D. Appel • Monday, February 9th • 7pm**

Guest lecturer Ronit Appel will cover the inspiring life stories of famous Jewish artists who painted during the Holocaust. These artists went to great lengths to ensure that their artwork would survive the war. It serves as testimony to what transpired and helps commemorate the memories of those who perished.



### **Jonathan H. Spanbock Memorial Lecture • Shabbat Day, February 14th**

10th annual Jonathan H. Spanbock Lecture in Jewish Ethics: The Treatment of Immigrants in Biblical Narrative and Law. Delivered by Rabbi Saul Berman. Services at gam, Lecture at 11:15am.



### **Book Club Meeting: A Guide for the Perplexed by Dara Horn • Motza'ei Shabbat, February 14th • 8pm**

At the home of Karen and Roy Simon. Jack Wolkenfeld will be leading the discussion.

### **Film Screening: Above and Beyond & Talk by Rav Benny Lau • Motza'ei Shabbat, February 28th • 7:30pm**

Above and Beyond is the story of "Machal," a group of World War II pilots, mostly American, who volunteered to fight for Israel in its 1948 War of Independence and helped found the Israeli Air Force. Following the film, at 9:15 pm we have the privilege of hearing from Rabbi Dr. Benjamin (Benny) Lau, Senior lecturer at Beit Morasha of Jerusalem's Beit Midrash for Women and Advanced Halacha Program, a founder of the Beit Midrash for Social Justice, and head of the Israel Democracy Institute's Human Rights and Judaism in Action project. \$10 in advance at [lss.org/film](http://lss.org/film)



## ISRAEL CORNER • פינת ישראל

### **Annual AIPAC Conference: March 1 - 3**

The AIPAC Policy Conference is the pro-Israel community's preeminent annual gathering. The Policy Conference 2014 was the largest event to date with over 14,000 attendees. The event attracted community and student activists from all 50 states, and more than half of the Senate, a third of the House of Representatives and countless Israeli and American policymakers and thought leaders. Over three jam-packed days, Policy Conference participants choose from hundreds of informative sessions and participate in the pro-Israel community's largest and most important advocacy day.

To register, please visit [www.policyconference.org](http://www.policyconference.org). When you register, please do so under LSS in order to be invited to the LSS luncheon during the conference. Should you have questions, please see Ann Crane

### **The 20th annual LSS NORPAC mission to Washington will take place on Wednesday May 13th, 2015.**

Why should you care?

The fact that a CNN correspondent justified the murders of 4 Jewish Hostages at a French Supermarket due to the Israeli treatment of Palestinians should concern us all. The fact that anti-Semitic acts in Britain have soared 400% is our problem. The fact that the radical Left in this country has managed to sabotage any rational discussion regarding the Palestinian issue is your problem.

The fact that our children are growing up in an environment where wearing a kippah could invite a violent reaction and security is needed outside our Synagogue, should set off alarm bells for us all. Confronting the growing threat of Islamic Fundamentalism throughout the world and the ever growing threat of a Nuclear Iran, which would forever compromise the security of Israel and America, is your responsibility.

We can't solve all the problems in one day but we can make sure these issues remain a priority on the agenda of 535 of the most powerful people in the world. Keeping the U.S. -Israel relationship strong is something that we all easily have the privilege to do.

There are never enough participants to think that your support won't make a difference. Register at [www.NORPAC.net](http://www.NORPAC.net). Early Bird Discount is set to expire at the end of February.



## D'var Echod B'lev Echod

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

**11 SHEVAT 5775 • JANUARY 30-31, 2015**  
**PARSHAT BESHALACH**

**By: Jesse Cogan**

The message of the tree: Torah for Tu Bishvat

The list of Torah's "Rules of Engagement" - negotiating peace, use of force, exemptions, treatment of women and children and total obliteration of key nations, finishes with a fascinating final rule. If you besiege a city for three days and you need fortification, don't cut down its fruit trees. Why? "Man is the tree of the field." says the Torah. (Dev 20:19)

A beautiful, even haunting thought, but what does it mean?

Rashi says it's a *dilma*, a rhetorical question. Is man a tree of the field? Do trees have hands or weapons to defend themselves? People fight people, not trees. Let them be, says Rashi.

The Ibn Ezra vehemently disagrees, challenging Rashi for using *pilpul*, rhetoric thinking, to explain a straightforward moral lesson. The metaphor is simple, he says. A fruit tree is life, man depends on it for sustenance. What kind of jerk would cut it down? You might need it someday!

An entire body of halacha, the laws of destruction, *bal tashchis*, are learned from these few mysterious words. Rashi says to not destroy for altruistic reasons. Ibn Ezra says it's for reasons of self-preservation. Either way, the fruit trees remain standing. Yet the main question is left unanswered. Is man a tree of the field or not?

Should you clean up polluted waters to save money on Polish Spring or because you rescue the fish, plants and other organisms living in their biosphere. Save the remains of a *kiddush* because staff and members will have something to nash? Or give it to the street people, Rachael Lindenthal style. Take a carpool to work because you'll save money? Or because carbon transmission of gas threatens a dangerous climate change. Feed a stray dog because it makes you feel good or because it makes the dog feel good.

It's wartime when God chooses to tell the Jewish people to separate plastics from paper, restrict hunting and fishing or to leave a milk container in the refrigerator even if it has less than enough for a cup of coffee.

War is hell (not my line). You can have laws to protect trees yet you destroy entire villages, rape, kill, and pilfer. How nasty was God Himself last week sending frogs, lice and seven other freaks of nature, to show Who's Boss. And this week, He sends the Egyptians to their death drowning them in the very sea he parted for His people.

You can relinquish styrofoam, march to save the whales, and never let the sink run too long. You can't, however, control the killing and pilferage of war. As God describes the Rules of Engagement, he reminds you of the innocent, life-giving tree.

The Quran and the Torah both insist on negotiating peace before going to war. The Torah, however, sends our boys off with a *mitzvat lo saaseh*, a "don't do" commandment, prohibiting cutting down fruit trees. The Quran sends their boys off with a *mitzvat asseh*, to kill and destroy the enemy by any means possible. We both say *Kaddish*. They exalt Allah for killing the enemy. We exalt God to remind us in our mourning that everything God does is good.

Is man a tree or is he not a tree? For practical reasons, it hardly matters; the tree is left standing. In war-time, however, the message of the tree is clear. Whether you fight to save yourself or fight to save an ideal, if the holy laws of *bal tashchis* were followed, the world would be at peace.