



ECHOD

30 SIVAN 5774 • PARSHAT CHUKAT • ROSH CHODESH TAMMUZ
JUNE 27-28, 2014 • CANDLE LIGHTING: 8:14PM

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

Friday Evening

- 6:45pm:** Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Main Sanctuary
6:58pm: Earliest Candle Lighting
8:14pm: Candle Lighting
8:20pm: Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Main Sanctuary

Shabbat Morning

- 7:40am:** Hashkama Minyan in the Belfer Beit Midrash followed by Kiddush and shiur with **Rabbi Moshe Sokolow**
9:00am: Services in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Main Sanctuary. Drasha by **Rabbi Shaul Robinson**.
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. Drasha by **Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld**.
12:30pm: Young Professionals Fiesta on the Terrace

Shabbat Afternoon

- 6:35pm:** Beginners Mishna Chavura with **Moshe Sheinwexler** in the Belfer Beit Midrash
7:05pm: Louis Lazar Memorial Pre-Mincha Shiur by **Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld**: *False Messiahs, Charlatans, & Prophetic Pretenders* - Part Two
7:05pm: Bible Class with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in room 211
8:05pm: Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit
9:14pm: Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends

Welcome to all those who are attending the
Young Professionals Fiesta! *Olé*

Youth Groups Shabbat Schedule

Youth Breakfast at 9:30
Pre-K: 10:00 am — Room 206
K and 1st grade: 10:00 am — Room 207
2nd- 4th Grade (girls): 10:00 am — Room 217
2nd- 4th Grade (boys): 10:00 am — Room 208
Tween Minyan: 10:00am— Ballroom

Weekday Prayer Schedule Sunday, June 29 - Friday, July 4

Mincha/Ma'ariv: Sun-Thurs at 8:20pm

Sunday (RC Tammuz)	Mon & Thurs	Tues & Wed	Fri (Independence Day)
Shacharit: 7:00am	Daf Yomi: 6:15am	Daf Yomi: 6:20am	Daf Yomi: 7:45am
Daf Yomi: 7:45am	Shacharit: 7:00am	Shacharit: 7:10am	Shacharit: 7:10am
Shacharit: 8:30am	Shacharit: 7:50am	Shacharit: 7:50am	Shacharit: 8:30am

Thank You To Our Kiddush Sponsors

Hashkama Kiddush

Sponsored by **Suzan and Fred Ehrman** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit today of their father, **David Weinman, Dovid ben Yisrael Yaacov, z"l**; and by **Wolf Helmreich** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his wife, **Selme Helmreich, a"h**.

Main Kiddush

Sponsored by **Chavie Kahn and Heshy Kofman** in celebration of the birthdays of their dear children, **Julian and Sarina**, and wishing them Mazal tov on their graduation from MDS, and much success as they join their brother **Simon** at SAR High School
CoSponsored by **Alvin Weiss** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his mother, **Jennie Weiss, a"h**; and by **Rose and Morton Landowne** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of Morton's father, **Louis Landowne, z"l**.

Beginners Service Kiddush

Sponsored by **Ilene & Lou Vynierib** in honor of **Rabbi Shaul Robinson** and **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald**—*Todah Rabah* to both of you. We welcome **Dr. Leonard Davidman** for a summer of learning.

Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan

Sponsored in celebration of Rosh Chodesh.

Seudah Shlishit

Sponsors Welcome.

Mazal Tov To Our Members

- Mazal Tov to **Madeline Kaplan** on her engagement to **Daniel Kramer**.
- Mazal Tov to grandparents **Dassa and Bill Greenbaum** on the birth of a baby girl, **Lucy (Leba Yutel)**, to their children **Aliza and Shmuel O'Connor**.
- Mazal Tov to **Mrs. Evelyn Eisenmann-Lunzer** on her 103rd birthday.

Welcome to the newest members of our LSS Community

Sonia Bitton
Alexandra and Gavriel Kahane
Oren Richland

Weekly Learning Opportunities – lss.org/classes

TUESDAY

- Parsha Class w/ Rabbi Shaul Robinson** • 10:30 am
- Tuesday Beit Midrash Night** • 8:15-9:15pm
8:15-9:15pm • *Chavurot led by LSS members*

WEDNESDAY

- Wednesday Beit Midrash Night** • 8:15-9:15pm
8:15-9:15pm • *Chavurot led by LSS members*

THURSDAY

- Jacob Adler Parsha Class w/ Rabbi Shaul Robinson** • 7:00pm
(Last class of the season)

Upcoming Meetings:

Board Meeting—**Sunday, June 29th, 7:30pm** in the Main Sanctuary
Membership Meeting—**Monday, June 30th, 7:30pm** in the Main Sanctuary
There will be Mincha and Ma'ariv before and after the meetings.



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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BY: RUVAN COHEN

Because Of This It Is Said

The two sections of Parshat Chukat are jarring to the ear of a regular parsha student. There appears to be two “ditties”, contemporaneous poetry.

ה' בְּסֵפֶר מִלְחָמוֹת יֵאמָר כֵּן עַל “Because of this it is said in the Book of the Wars of Hashem”

The context is a battle between Bnei Yisroel and the Amorites led by their King Sichon, in which, according to the midrash, an ambush in a valley was planned but Hashem caused the gorge to close, killing the Amorites waiting in ambush. Ramban said Sefer Milchamot Hashem was a separate book that listed all the wars fought in Hashem’s name from the time of Avraham Aveniu’s battle between the 4 kings and the 5 kings. Ibn Ezra says that the book is lost. Still, why is this book only mentioned here and why is this war selected for mention?

The second ditty is even more perplexing (21:17):

הַמוֹשְׁלִים יֵאמָר כֵּן עַל “Because of this the poets would say”

The poem that follows is about a previous battle between Sichon and Moav. Why would the Torah bother to include a contemporaneous poem about a battle that doesn’t even include Bnei Yisroel?

After years of asking, I think I may have an explanation for the inclusion of each of these ditties.

Let me start with the second ditty. A simple explanation seems to be found in references in both Rashi and the Rashbam, both of which identify the “poets” as Peor and his son Bilaam. Apparently Sichon was losing the battle against Moav until he hired Peor and Bilaam, who cursed Moav and enabled Sichon to win. The reason the Torah included this is because in the parsha immediately following, the King of Moav seeing that Bnei Yisroel had defeated Sichon and the Amorites, decides to utilize the strategy used against Moav by Sichon as Moav prepared to confront Bnei Yisroel.

Perhaps there is one overlay on this. Not too many weeks ago in B’Haalotcha (10: 29) Moshe Rabbeinu urges his father-in-law Yitro the Midianite to join Bnei Yisroel and participate in their destiny at the center of history. Yitro demurs. Now his descendents, Peor & Bilaam, are hired to use their connection to Hashem not be a part of history but to stand sniping from the sidelines. The consequences of our choices on the generations that follow us can be profound.

Now for the first ditty. Clearly, Sefer Milchamot Hashem has a list of battles far more extensive than those that are listed in the Torah or it wouldn’t have required a separate book. There are only two battles mentioned in the Torah from the forty-year desert wanderings spanning from the time of Yitziat Mitzraim until Kibush Haaretz under Yehoshua. Those are Milchemet Amalek and this battle with Sichon and the Amorites. The battle with Amalek is clearly not just a localized one-time battle with a foe. It is clearly paradigmatic – the battle against unprovoked evil, in what is cast through the generations as the battle against anti-Semitism. But what was so significant about the battle with Sichon and the Amorites that it too is worthy of mention?

I propose that this battle was paradigmatic as well. Sichon was a giant, according to the Midrash Tanchuma. I would suggest that this battle refers to the sin of the Miraglim when they reported that “the inhabitants of the land were giants. We felt like grasshoppers and so did we appear in their eyes (13:33)”. This is the Torah’s paradigm of the battle against self-doubt: against the propensity to say that we can’t stand up to this onslaught, can’t overcome the enormous challenges ahead of us. It is an eternal and recurring battle, and the Torah tells us, like it does with Amalek, that we must do battle – Hashem alone does not solve the problem – but that Hashem will be there with us and that we can prevail despite our fears of inadequacy.

May we all be זוכה to make choices that fulfill Hashem’s destiny for us and may we individually, and as Klal and Medinat Yisroel, be always blessed with victories over self-doubt.

Upcoming Events

- **Tzohar Rabbinic Council-7:30pm, July 1**
Rabbi Yaakov Medan, Rabbi David Stav, and Rabbi Avichai Ronsky, will discuss “Can Israel Remain Jewish without alienating American Jewry”
Register ahead by at lss.org.
- **Senior Women’s Talk Time-10:30am, Thursdays (First class will be July 3rd)**
This new program is run by LSS member and psychologist Ruth Riemer. Register ahead by calling the shul office or at lss.org.

Beginners Announcements

- **Hebrew Reading Crash Course Level I** began on **Monday, June 23rd at 6:30 pm**. The classes meet for 1½ hours, for **4 more weeks**, and are free and open to all. Register at www.beginners.lss.org.