



# ECHOD

7 KISLEV 5775 • NOVEMBER 28-29, 2014  
PARSHAT VAYETZEI • CANDLE LIGHTING: 4:12PM

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

## Friday Evening

4:12pm: Candle Lighting

4:15pm: Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary led by **Chazzan Yanky Lemmer**

## 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 Sanctuary: 'Va Vo Vam'

9:00am: Services in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary led by **Chazzan Yanky Lemmer**. Drasha by **Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld**: "#JSIL or Beit Elokim? Tracing Israel's Roots with Yisrael Sabba."

9:15am: Beginners Service led by **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in room LL201 (Lower Level)

9:20am: Latest Shema

9:45am: Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan in the Belfer Beit Midrash

## Shabbat Afternoon

2:45pm: Beginners Mishna Chavura with **Moshe Sheinwexler** in the Belfer Beit Midrash

3:00pm: Herb Weiss Bikur Cholim Society meets in front of LSS. New volunteers are needed.

3:15pm: Bible Class in room 211 with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald**

3:15pm: Louis Lazar Memorial Pre-Mincha Shiur with **Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld**: "The Great Jewish Teacher's Strike Controversy of St. Louis, 1952: Labor Disputes in Hala-kha"

4:00pm: Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit

5:13pm: Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends

### 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

Youth Breakfast @ 9:30am in room 206



**\*\*NEW MA'ARIV MINYAN MONDAYS-THURSDAYS AT 8:15PM!**

### Weekday Prayer Schedule

**Sunday, Nov 30th- Friday, Dec 5th**

Mincha/Ma'ariv: Sun - Thurs at 4:15pm

**\*\*Late Ma'ariv Mon – Thurs: 8:15pm**

**Sunday**

**Mon & Thurs**

**Tues, Wed & Fri**

Shacharit: 7:00am Daf Yomi: 6:15am Daf Yomi: 6:20am

Daf Yomi: 7:45am Shacharit: 7:00am Shacharit: 7:10am

Shacharit: 8:30am Shacharit: 7:50am Shacharit: 7:50am

## Mazal Tov to our Members

- Mazal Tov to **Judy and Joel Schreiber** on the upcoming marriage of their granddaughter, **Blima Fein**, daughter of their children **Tobi and Avromi Fein**, to **Ben Weintraub**, son of **Judy and Neil Weintraub** of St. Louis.

## Thank you to our Sponsors

### Hashkama Kiddush

Sponsored by **Abraham Weishaus** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his mother, **Claire Weishaus, a"h**.

### Main Kiddush

Sponsored by **Jane and Warren Weiss** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of Warren's father, **Morris Weiss, z"l**, and by **Hannah and Paul Freilich** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of Hannah's mother, **Mala Holmes, a"h**.

### Beginners Service Kiddush

Sponsored by **Jackie Gross** in memory of her father, **Dagvadorj Auysh, z"l**.

### Seudah Sh'lishit

Sponsors welcome

See page 3 for a Journal written by the participants of the LSS Israel Solidarity Mission, which is now taking place. See [lss.org](http://lss.org) for photos and more details from the Mission participants.

## SAVE THE DATE

Chanukah Dinner & Music Festival  
Motza'ei Shabbat- December 20th, 2014



For more details and to sign up, visit [lss.org/MusicFestival](http://lss.org/MusicFestival)

מי ימלל גבורות ישראל

## Upcoming Events - [lss.org/events](http://lss.org/events)

- **"Can the Jews of Ukraine Survive?" • Sunday, November 30th • 7pm**

A lecture by Shaun Goldstone, the Joint Distribution Committee's Expert on the Former Soviet Union. He will discuss the ongoing crisis in the Ukraine, how it is affecting the Jewish community and what the JDC is doing to help.



- **Book Club Meeting: "Love and Treasure" by Ayelet Waldman • Monday, December 1st • 7:30pm**

Jack Wolkenfeld will be leading the discussion which will take place at the home of Gale and Jim Kaufman, 316 West 79th St.

- **Child Safety Class: Managing Emergencies • Wednesday, December 3rd • 7:30pm**

This class for parents and childcare providers will be led by Hatzalah veteran and LSS member Dr. James Nussbaum. We will learn CPR and other life saving techniques valuable for anyone who spends time with children. \$40/person.

- **Chanukah Dinner and Music Festival • Motza'ei Shabbat, December 20th**

Chanukah dinner at 7pm; Concert Followed by Dessert reception at 8:30pm

Featuring singer and songwriter **Eitan Katz**, LSS chazzan **Yanky Lemmer**, with guest appearance by LSS senior chazzan **Sherwood Goffin**. Dinner, Concert & Dessert: \$75; Dinner Only: \$38; Concert & Dessert Only: \$56; Children's Party with movie and magician: \$10, family \$25; Sponsorship packages available. *Sponsored by the UJA Federation of New York*



- **Film Screening: Hamorah Irena • Motza'ei Shabbat, January 3rd • 8:00pm**

In the toughest neighborhood in Jerusalem, where children quickly learn not to expect too much—stands one uncomplaining third-grade Russian teacher. With rare empathy, determination and occasionally controversial teaching methods, *Hamorah Irena* refuses to let her students give up on themselves. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door



**Sign up in advance for our events at [lss.org/events](http://lss.org/events)**

## Weekly Learning Opportunities

### MONDAY

- **The Jewish Living Workshop** • 7:30-8:30pm  
*See flyer for more details*
- **Mini-mester** with **Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld** • 7:15pm  
*Shattered Vessels: Judaism's Encounter with the Post Modern.* The class will meet Nov. 24th, Dec. 1st. & Dec. 8th

### TUESDAY

- **Parsha Class w/ Rabbi Shaul Robinson** • 10:30am (Not meeting 12/2)
- **Intro to Bible w/ Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** • 6:30-8pm
- **Tuesday Beit Midrash Night** • 7:30-9:15pm
- **Tanach Survey: The Books of Samuel and Kings**  
Facilitated by Marcy Zwecker and Robyn Mitchnick
- **Politics and Kingship: The Book of Samuel**  
Facilitated by Ron Platzer
- **Faith and Prayer Class w/ Rabbi Ben Elton** • 8:30pm  
Consider the central texts of our liturgy and discuss openly what they mean to us and how we respond to them.  
**Next Class Topic: The Shemoneh Esrei**

### 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: The Second Book of Shmuel** • 7:15pm  
w/ **Rabbi Hayyim Angel**  
The cost is \$125 for the entire 8-session series or \$20 per class. Co-sponsored by The Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals ([Jewishideas.org](http://Jewishideas.org)). **Sign up at [lss.org/RabbiAngel](http://lss.org/RabbiAngel)**

### THURSDAY

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

**For full class descriptions, visit [lss.org/classes](http://lss.org/classes)**

## Beginners Announcements

- Rabbi Buchwald's **Introduction to Bible** will meet on Tuesday, 6:30-8:00pm, for another **2 weeks**.
- The FINAL session of the **Hebrew Reading Crash Course Level I** will meet on **Monday, December 1st, 2014 at 6:30pm**. The class meets for 1 1/2 hours, and is free and open to all.
- The next session of the **Hebrew Reading Crash Course Level II** will meet on **Monday, December 1st, 2014 at 6:30pm**, and continue for **1 more week**. The classes meet for 1 1/2 hours, and are free and open to all. Register at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners).
- Save the date! **Friday and Saturday, December 12th-13th** for the **Beginners Chanukah Shabbaton**. \$40 includes three meals. Payment and reservations must be received by **Monday, December 8th**. Register online at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners).
- Save the date! **Monday, December 22nd, 7:00 pm** for the **Beginners Annual Chanukah Bash**. Live music by Jerry Greenberg. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Register online at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners). Sorry, no phone reservations.

**SOUTHERN ISRAEL SOLIDARITY MISSION**

Shalom from Israel! We have been posting daily updates of the mission on the LSS home page. For those of you who've missed them, here is a brief synopsis:

**Sunday**

We were treated to a thought-provoking discussion by Rabbi Bill Berk of the Hartmann Institute in Jerusalem titled: Wrestling with the Ethical use of Weapons: From Tanach to the IDF in Gaza. Rabbi Berk cited many sources from the Chumash, Nevi'im, Talmud, the Ramban and a former head of the Mossad that boil down to this one message: Having military power is a good thing, but it has to have limits.

All IDF soldiers are required to carry with them at all times a Code of War Ethics, known as Tohar Ha'Neshek (literally, pure arms). One recent example. There is a bakery right next to the shul where the four rabbis were butchered so barbarically just a few days ago. The bakery is staffed primarily by an Arab staff. Right after the massacre, the Arab bakery workers were terrified to see a large number of Israeli policemen storming the bakery. It turned out that the policemen were there to protect them from a possible retaliatory attack by Jews, an attack that never materialized.

**Monday**

The overarching theme of this very sad, yet ultimately emotionally uplifting day was Achdut. As Rabbi Robinson announced in shul last Shabbat, we visited Har Nof. We entered the town to be "greeted" by the large, black-bordered death notices of the four keddoshim that covered all walls. We filed off the van, silent, nervous (what does one say?), misty-eyed. Because of the way that the funeral arrangements were made, the Twersky family had already gotten up from shiva. So, we divided into small groups and visited the Kipinsky, Goldberg and Levine families.

It was the last day of the families' shiva and Rabbi Robinson gave us strict instructions to respect their privacy, not bombard them with questions since they were no doubt exhausted, but if, and only if, spoken to, we should convey the heart-felt sympathy of the entire kehila and, if possible, to ask them what message they have for our us and for American Jews in general.

And so, we filed in, slowly, tentatively, and nervously. What happened next was astounding. We were greeted with a mixture of curiosity, warmth and gratitude. And, yes, by a bit of playing Jewish geography. Even after having been visited by hundreds (possibly, thousands) of visitors, the mourners thanked us for coming. And, even though we met with the three families separately, they all conveyed the same message, which they uttered in nearly identical words. They were moved and comforted by the achdut that emerged from this unspeakable tragedy.

They had been visited by Jews of all religious affiliations, and no religious affiliations, they had been visited by Jews from all over the country and from countless other countries. As one mourner put it, in the days after the massacre, the streets were filled like on Purim, but the faces were like Tisha B'Av. Their message for us is simple: It should not take another such tragedy to bring us together. What we need is ahavat hinam, unconditional love for one another. There were, to be sure, tears, but what was most forthcoming was a sense of resilience; this will not stop us, we will always remember our beloved departed, but we will continue in our ways.

**Tuesday**

Sderot: Imagine what Manhattan would look like if every Rite Aid, Duane Reed, Starbucks and bank were to be turned into a bomb shelter. Multiply the total by 10. Now you have an idea of how many shelters there are in this town. Yet, for all its problems, the population keeps expanding. The rapid growth and the high unemployment rate have led to social problems. There are, to be sure, efforts to address some of these issues. The Chesed Center of Sderot runs a food bank, a soup kitchen and a second-hand clothing store. The members of the mission helped pack grocery bags to be distributed for Shabbat. Let's just say that we will never take the clean vegetables sold at Fairway for granted. Especially, the fennel.

We then visited the Hesder Yeshivah where students combine learning Torah with serving in the IDF. There, we were honored to be addressed by the rosh yeshivah who took us to the roof of the yeshivah and showed us all the construction going on, including two expansions of the yeshivah. His point was that before the rocket attacks, Sderot was a small "hicktown". But now, because of all the attacks, davka, they are going to build and show our bad neighbors that we will not be intimidated into leaving. He then introduced us to Haim who is a commander as an army engineer. Haim participated in Operation Protective Shield. Sadly, he lost two soldiers under his command and was wounded in the shoulder. They say that when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. In Sderot's case, life often gives metal rockets. This is where Yaron steps in. He takes the (free!) metal thoughtfully air mailed by Hamas straight into Sderot, and he turns it into works of art. Roses are a very popular design. And, on the roof of the yeshiva with its panoramic view of Sderot and Gaza, stands a tall Hanukkah menorah made by Yarom completely from the tubes used by Hamas to fabricate its rockets. The Hashmonaim would have been proud.

Over dinner, we heard from an amazing couple: Hannah and Adiel. Hannah is a social worker; Adiel is a sound technician and a music teacher. During the recent war in Gaza, Adiel spent 28 straight days inside Gaza. His unit involved reconnaissance. They are the ones who go in -- on foot -- before the bulk of the army moves in, in force with its armed personnel carriers and its tanks. They are the ones that scout the area, identify potential enemy targets and generally guide the army into position. Over the course of 28 days, they moved in and out of 10 houses, making sure that they and the block they were on were cleared before they moved to the next house. They literally slept with their boots on. Showers? Not exactly. They had to resort to using baby wipes to maintain a modicum of hygiene. One Friday night, one soldier started singing yedid nefesh. Then another joined in the singing. And another. Friday night candles? Not exactly, they would give away your position and would be a very tempting target to the sniper across the street. Just another normal Shabbat in a Gaza as seen through the night vision goggles. And, did we mention that for 38 year old Adiel, this was his fourth war? As for Hannah, while tending to her patients by day, she had to cope with such questions from her own three children as: "Where is Abba?", "When is he coming home?", "Why do the Arabs hate us so much that they want to kill us?" And, as if all this was not hard enough, once Adiel entered Gaza, he could not call or text her for the entire 28 day mission. Hannah did not know about her husband's condition until he walked out of Gaza 28 days after he marched in and could call her to say "I am okay. All my men are okay. We're coming home."



## D'var Echod B'lev Echod

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

7 KISLEV 5775 • NOVEMBER 28-29, 2014

PARSHAT VAYETZEI

By: Rabbi Jay M. Stein

After being denied an exit visa to Israel on the grounds of national security in 1973, Anatoly Sharansky became an activist. On March 1977, he was arrested, and in July 1978 convicted on charges of treason and spying for the United States, and sentenced to 13 years of forced labor. After 16 months of incarceration in Lefortovo prison, he was sent to Perm 35, a Siberian labor camp.

Long before he was sent to prison, long before he would eventually make his way to Israel, he was already free. As he wrote in his book *Defending Identity*, "I destroyed my career prospects and many people began avoiding me. Despite the privations, the act of breaking out of the world of doublethink was a wildly liberating experience... From the moment I publicly said what I thought, I gained both freedom and purpose. By fighting for my own right to immigrate to Israel, I was fighting for a basic freedom, the freedom to choose where I live – and I was also fighting to deepen my connection to my people and my history. Simultaneously, a life of constant self-censorship had ended and a life enriched by identity had begun... Reconnecting to my own past was like drinking water after a long fast, I was filling a deep void."

Jacob, too, was a wanderer, finding himself somewhere between the conflict with Esau and the captivity of Lavan. Jacob takes off his pack and lies down and he slept and dreamed. The first dream is of a ladder with angels ascending and descending. It is pure fantasy whose symbolism is not lost on us. It is a metaphor of the aspiration of being connected to this world, while at the same time striving for new heights. That is precisely where Jacob finds himself. Contrary to the other dream Jacob has, this is not a dream of anxiety nor a dream that leaves Jacob injured. Rather, this dream propels Jacob forward to a life of holiness, a life of elevation, and a life of success. As he wakes, he recognizes the miraculous power of a good night's rest and he calls out Achen yaish adonai bemakom hazeh, v'anochi lo yadati... "Surely God is in this place and I had no idea." Mah Norah Ha Mokem hazeh, "What an incredible place this is." (Genesis 28:16-17)

Jacob falls in love and then is married – and then married again – and then he finds himself unable to extricate himself from his life's circumstance. The empowered Jacob slowly, almost imperceptibly, transforms into the trapped Jacob. He begins to look for a way out and dreams once more. He has no idea where his goals have gone. He has lost track of himself and now he dreams of commerce, sheep of color, and the next big deal to negotiate with his father-in-law. The rabbis offer us the most striking midrash, an angel coming to Jacob with an incredible wake-up call. K'var Higaah ha'eit... koom tzei min ha'aretz hazot v'shoov el eretz moladicha... it is time to leave, it is time to go home. It is time to return to the land of your birth. It is time to be reborn. It is time to reconnect with who you once were.

The angel's message to Jacob is, "Once you dreamed of stairways leading to heaven. Now you dream of how to increase the number of sheep and goats you own. You have been corrupted by the values of Lavan's world. The time has come for you to leave this place and return to the Land." (Midrash Hagadol 31:13)

Then in the most beautiful language, the midrash concludes with Jacob's response, "I'kayaim v'shavti b'shalom el beit avi, I got up and without fanfare, without ceremony and without pageantry. I got up in peace and returned to my father's house."

This is not just Jacob's story. This is our narrative as well. Many of us have silenced a voice within, a voice that refuses to be quiet. Many have lost track of who we are because life happens.

Responsibilities to others override our responsibility to self. There were times we dreamed of who we would become but as time passed those dreams were transformed and, in fact, some even disappeared. Jacob teaches us that it doesn't have to be. You haven't yet arrived at your final resting place. There are more dreams to come and more ladders to climb. You can dust off the cobwebs that have grown on our childhood ambition, you can aim high and you can live energized again.