



ECHOD

5 TEVET 5775 • DECEMBER 26-27, 2014
PARSHAT VAYIGASH • CANDLE LIGHTING: 4:17PM

Shaul Robinson
Rabbi

Sherwood Goffin
Senior Cantor

Yanky Lemmer
Cantor

Lloyd Epstein
President

Ben Keil
Executive Director

Friday Evening

4:17pm: Candle Lighting

4:20pm: Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary

Shabbat Morning

7:45am: Hashkama Minyan in the Belfer Beit Midrash followed by Kiddush and shiur with **Rabbi Moshe Sokolow**

9:00am: Services in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary. Drasha by **Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld**: *Lishbor Shever b'Mitzrayim*: Thoughts on a Jew's Role in a Fraying Society

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

2:50pm: 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.

3:20pm: Bible Class in room 211 with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald**

3:20pm: Louis Lazar Memorial Pre-Mincha Shiur with **Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld**: What we talk about when we talk about *Gedolim*: Necessary and Absolute Truth in *Gedolim* Stories.

4:05pm: Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit

5:18pm: Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends

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

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



LSS Security Update

The LSS Security Committee under the leadership of **Ian Silver** security@lss.org wishes you a safe new year. Please be alert and aware of your surroundings.

If you see something - say something.

Thank you to our Sponsors

Hashkama Kiddush

Sponsored by **Sandy Gross** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of her grandmother, **Esther bas Menachem Mendel, a"h** and on the occasion of a birth of a great niece, born to **Tzippy (Gross) and Ehud Rabin** in Jerusalem on the seventh day of Chanukah.

Main Kiddush

Sponsored by **Jerry and Adam Kahn** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of their wife and mother, **Marilyn Kahn, a"h**.

Co-Sponsored by grandparents **Rose and Morton Landowne** in honor of the birth of a daughter, **Netta Sara Leiter**, to their children **Lea and Hayim Leiter**, in Jerusalem, last September 4th, on the occasion of Netta's first visit to New York City.

Beginners Service Kiddush

Sponsored in honor of **Aidel and Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** and in honor of Rabbi Buchwald's birthday.

Seudah Shlishit

Sponsored by **Dr. Ira Friedman** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his wife, **Erika Friedman, a"h**, and by **Alan and Miriam Axelrod** in memory of Alan's father **Herman Axelrod, z"l**, for whom he is observing Yahrzeit this Shabbat.

Mazal Tov to our Members

- Mazal Tov to **Dalia Picciotto and Joseph Cohen** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Ezra** on Tuesday.
- Mazal Tov to **Dorothy Zenilman** on the engagement of her granddaughter, **Ariela Zenilman**, daughter of **Dr. Michael and Marilyn Zenilman** to **Jeremy Rumeld**.
- Mazal Tov to **Lee and Paul Holm** on the engagement of their daughter, **Eliana**, to **Sam Yamshon**, son of **Ellen and Dan Yamshon** of Sacramento, CA. Mazal Tov also to brother, **Jacob**, and grandparents, **Ruth and Morty Levin**.
- Mazal Tov to **Lenore Richter**, to be presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Yeshiva Ketana of Manhattan's upcoming January 4th annual dinner.

Weekday Prayer Schedule

Sunday, Dec 28th- Friday, Jan 2nd

Mincha/Ma'ariv: Sun - Wed at 4:25pm

Late Ma'ariv Mon - Wed: 8:15pm

Sunday	Mon	Tues, Wed, Fri	Thurs (Fast of Tevet)
Shacharit: 7:10am	Daf Yomi: 6:15am	Daf Yomi: 6:20am	Fast Begins: 6:08am
Daf Yomi: 7:45am	Shacharit: 7:00am	Shacharit: 7:10am	Shacharit: 6:50am
Shacharit: 8:30am	Shacharit: 7:50am	Shacharit: 7:50am	Daf Yomi: 7:45am
			Shacharit: 8:30am
			Mincha/Ma'ariv: 4:15pm
			Fast Ends: 5:11pm

Upcoming Events - lss.org/events

- **Asara B'Tevet Food Drive • Thursday, January 1st • Between 7am-5pm**

Drop off food donations in the shul lobby between Shacharit and Mincha. Use the money you save on not eating meals to help the hungry: Jewish homeless at Project ORE and all hungry at our local food pantry.

- **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 uncompromising 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

Weekly Learning Opportunities

MONDAY

- **Kaddish Class** with Rabbi Shaul Robinson • 8:30pm
(NO CLASS THIS WEEK 12/29)

TUESDAY

- **Parsha Class w/ Rabbi Shaul Robinson** • 10:30am
(NO CLASS THIS WEEK 12/30)
- **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 (NO CLASS THIS WEEK 12/31)
- **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"
(NO CLASS THIS WEEK 12/31)

THURSDAY

- **Parsha Class** with Rabbi Shaul Robinson • 7:00pm
(NO CLASS THIS WEEK 1/1)

Beginners Announcements

- **Save the date!** The next **Beginners Luncheon** will be **Shabbat, January 3rd, 2015**. The cost is still only \$20. Please make your reservations by **Thursday, January 1st, 2015**. You can register online at www.lss.org/beginners or call **212-874-6100**.
- **Save the date!** New sessions of the **Hebrew Reading Crash Course Level I** will begin **Monday, January 5th, 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**.
- **Save the date!** Register now for **Introduction to Bible: The 10 Commandments** with Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald (Begins **Tuesday, January 27th, 2015 6:30-8:00pm**). 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. Cost: \$90, Free to LSS Members. **No one will be turned away for lack of funds.**
- **Save the date!** **One Day Review (only 1 session)** will be held **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**.
- **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**.

ISRAEL CORNER • פינת ישראל

Traveling to Israel for Yeshiva Week or Spring Break?

Will your family be in Israel during January 18-25 or February 8-15? We are exploring the possibility of partnering with an organization there to offer a seminar on social, religious and/or political issues confronting Israel today. Specific details are being worked out, but, to start, could you let us know if you will be in Israel during either of these time periods. Please email nathan.vogel.lss@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Ki Mi'Tzion Tetze Torah

A few weeks ago, we were privileged to hear from Rabbanit Dr. Michal Tikochinsky from Beit Morasha. Rabbanit Tikochinsky is one of the leading women Talmud scholars and educators in the world today, a sought after lecturer in Talmud, Jewish law and women's issues. She holds a Master's Degree in Law and a Doctorate in Talmud from Bar Ilan University. Rabbanit Tikochinsky is Director of the Moshe Green Beit Midrash for Women's Leadership and the Women's *Halakha* Program, which offers a select group of senior women Torah scholars the opportunity to study and take examinations that are parallel to the requirements for male rabbinical candidates in Israel.

Through a special arrangement with BMJ, we will start receiving Rabbanit Tikochinsky's weekly commentary on the *Parashat HaShavua*. These *Divrei Torah* will be posted on the lss.org/beitmorasha web site. Space permitting, we will also include excerpts in the Echod.

Volunteers Needed

The Israel Committee is looking for new members to join our ranks and help plan and execute future activities. Of course, we are looking for members who have a passion for Medinat Israel and would like to engage in activities to support her. Equally important, we need people with professional skills, whether in advertising, marketing, communications, social media and project management. The first meeting of 2015, when we will scope out possible events for the new secular year, will be held on January 7 at 7:00 pm. Please email anncrane2750@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

LSS Israel Alumni Directory

We are compiling a directory of former LSS members who have made Aliya. An email will be sent out to the shul members asking whether they know of any such former members and, if so, to provide their names and email addresses. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Lea Segre Tomchei Shabbos Fund discreetly distributes thousands of dollars to our own community members to defray the costs of Shabbat and Yom Tov meals and clothing. Help yourself and your neighbors by sending your contributions, earmarked for LSTSF to the LSS office. If you are aware of any LSS community member (including yourself) who could benefit from a Shabbat meal, please let us know by contacting the LSS office or by confidential email to rabbi@lss.org.

Youth Announcements - lss.org/youth

Save the Date!

The next Super Fun Shabbat (SFS) will take place on January 10th .

We'll be having afternoon Shabbat groups starting at 3:30 for grades 1-5. And Special programming for toddlers once again.

More info to follow.



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 VAYIGASH

By: Bill Greenbaum

"Vayigash eilav Yehuda..."

"And Yehuda approached him [Yosef, Viceroy of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh]..."

Yehuda's petition to Yosef leads to Yosef finally revealing himself to his brothers. It is one of the most dramatic and emotional scenes in all of *Tanach*. Yehuda appeals to Yosef to accept himself (Yehuda) as a slave on trumped-up charges against Benjamin, and let Benjamin return to their father Yaakov, so Yaakov will not die of the shock from losing Benjamin. Yosef can maintain his secret identity no longer, and bursts into tears.

To appreciate just how special this episode of "vayigash" is, I urge the reader to open the black-bound Rabbinical Council of America Edition of the *Artscroll Siddur*, and read Rabbi Saul Berman's inspiring and insightful essay, "An Overview: The 'Approach' in Prayer." Rabbi Berman writes that, according to the Sefer Rokeach, our three small steps forward each time we recite the Standing Prayer "relate to the fact that – as an introduction to petition – the word 'vayigash' (and he approached) appears three times in Tanach." Those three times are:

- Avraham's petition to God to save the city of Sodom on behalf of the few innocent citizens who live there;
- Yehuda's petition to Yosef (whose identity the brothers don't know), to take himself (Yehuda) as a slave in place of Benjamin, allowing Benjamin to return in peace to their father;
- Eliyahu the Prophet's petition to God to bring a miracle to restore the faith of the Jewish people in the one God.

Rabbi Berman's comparison of these three pivotal episodes in Tanach is full of meaning for the contemporary Jew. Yehuda's petition is by far the most emotionally dramatic of the three episodes of "vayigash." It pierces Yosef's stoic ability to withhold his true identity, and it reunites the house of Israel in peace.

Every year when we read this parsha, it gives us a chance to reflect on how we approach prayer as individuals and as a community. As a useful thought experiment, let's compare our own approaches to communal prayer with our approaches to watching a professional ball game and watching a play or musical in live theater. For example:

1. Do we come with joy and anticipation at the prospect of speaking to the Almighty every time we come to shul to pray? How does that compare to the sense of joy and anticipation we bring to the stadium or the theater.
2. Do we connect socially with our seat neighbors and friends during davening or Torah reading, (as we would in the ball park), or do we provide the serenity of our listening and intention to enable the prayer leader/Torah reader to represent and lead us communally in petitioning, thanking, and praising God (similar to the way an audience watches and listens silently during a play or musical, until they respond emotionally and in unison to what's happening in the play – part of the magic of the theater)
3. If you talk socially during davening or Torah reading, have you ever asked a slower davener sitting next to you whether your conversation adversely affects his/her concentration? In a ballgame, that wouldn't matter. In a theater, a seating neighbor might ask you to quiet down or stop your conversation.
4. Do we bring a sense of awe and wonder to the experience of davening? That sense of awe and wonder is experienced by passionate sports fans at a ballgame, and by passionate fans at the theater. Children observe everything we adults do. Do you share or express your sense of awe and wonder with any children in the vicinity of your seat?

Finally, do we look forward to davening and communal Torah study as a chance for an intimate conversation for us as individuals and members of the Covenant – *bnei* and *bnot brit* -- to have with God, the way Avraham, Yehuda, and Eliyahu did?

So, may our approach to prayer strengthen our relationships with God and our wonderful kehilla, the same way that Yehuda's approach to petitioning Yosef in this week's parsha restored love and unity to the House of Israel.

Shabbat Shalom