



# ECHOD

18 SHEVAT 5775 • FEBRUARY 6-7, 2015

PARSHAT YITRO • CANDLE LIGHTING: 5:02PM

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

## SHABBAT SCHEDULE

### Friday Evening

- 5:02pm: Candle Lighting  
5:05pm: 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**  
8:30am: The Siddur In Depth with **Rabbi Ben Elton** in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Main Sanctuary: *The Ten Commandments in Daily Prayer*  
9:00am: Services in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary led by **Chazzan Yanky Lemmer**. Drasha by **Rabbi Shaul Robinson**  
9:15am: Beginners Service led by **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in room LL201 (Lower Level)  
9:34am: Latest Shema  
9:45am: Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan in the Belfer Beit Midrash  
12:30pm: Beginners Shabbat Luncheon in room 206/207

### Shabbat Afternoon

- 3:00pm: Herb Weiss Bikur Cholim Society meets in front of LSS. New volunteers are needed.  
3:35pm: Beginners Mishna Chavura with **Moshe Sheinwexler** in the Belfer Beit Midrash  
4:05pm: Pre-Mincha Shiur with **Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld**: *Rebels, Radicals, & Rabblers: Three Unusual Rabbis . Week 1 - R. Shmuel Aleksandrov*  
4:05pm: Bible Class in room 211 with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald**  
4:50pm: Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit  
6:04pm: 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 8st - Friday, Feb 13th

Sun — Thurs

Mincha/Ma'ariv: 5:10pm

Mon — Thurs

Late Ma'ariv: 8:15pm

Sunday

Tues, Wed & Fri

Mon & Thurs

Shacharit: 7:10am

Daf Yomi: 6:20am

Daf Yomi: 6:15am

Daf Yomi: 7:45am

Shacharit: 7:10am

Shacharit: 7:00am

Shacharit: 8:30am

Shacharit: 7:50am

Shacharit: 7:50am

LSS is delighted to be involved in a **Sefer Torah dedication project**, with giving opportunities at the Parsha and Aliyah level. Dedications will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. Full Parshas can be dedicated for \$2400 and Aliyas can be dedicated for \$360.

To make a dedication, or to see images from the Sofer's progress in Israel, visit [lss.org/torah](http://lss.org/torah)

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### Hashkama Kiddush

Sponsored by **Linda and Morris Shamah** in honor of the birth of a new great grandson, **Zeev Nechemia**, to parents **Adina and Jeremy Singer**, of Modi'n Israel.

### Main Kiddush

Sponsored by **Robyn and Alan Samuels** in celebration of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Charlie**.

### Beginners Kiddush

Sponsored in honor of **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald's** contribution to Jewish Outreach.

### Seudah Sh'lishit

Sponsored by **Ron Goldofsky**, in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his father, **Yitzchak ben Eliyahu, z"l**; and by **Susan Ruttner** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of **Moish Weinman, z"l**.

## MAZAL TOV TO OUR MEMBERS

- Mazal Tov to **Ruvan and Shelley Cohen** for being honored at the Sinai Schools dinner on Sunday.
- Mazal Tov to **Alan and Robyn Samuels** on the bar Mitzvah of their son, **Charlie**. Mazal Tov also to siblings **Sophie** and **Andy**.
- Mazal Tov to **Jordan Mann and Alison Feit** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **David Feit Mann** in Israel.

## SECURITY ANNOUNCEMENT

### **New LSS Security Training:**

Part 1: Sun Feb 22 Part 2: Sun March 1, 7 pm to 10 pm

The next shul security class for LSS members given by CSS will be Sun. Feb 22nd and Sun March 1, 2015, from 7 to 10 pm

You must attend both 3-hour classes. Graduates of this class will be classified as LSVs, Local Synagogue Volunteers, and will be qualified to take security shifts and other responsibilities. You will never work alone but will always partner with a Team Leader. Location of the class: Upper West Side.

Please contact the LSS head of security Ian Silver at [security@lss.org](mailto:security@lss.org). Provide your name, phone number and email address. Now is the time to act.

## FEATURED UPCOMING EVENTS

### **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 9am, 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)



### **Polemics and Purim: The Visual Imagery of Purim in the Jewish/Christian Debate • Sunday, March 1st • 10:30am**

Presented by Dr. Dana Fishkin, Assistant Professor of History, Touro's Lander Center for Women and Graduate School for Jewish Studies. This lecture illuminates the dynamic of Jewish-Christian interactions through analysis of Purim in Medieval Manuscripts.



### **Book Launch: Judaism and Other Religions: Models of Understanding by Alan Brill • Sunday, March 8th • 7pm**

Rabbi Dr Alan Brill will be in conversation with Rabbi Dr Ben Elton Chaired by Rabbi Ysoscher Katz of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah. Alan Brill is the Cooperman/Ross Endowed Chair for Jewish-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University, where he teaches Jewish studies in the graduate program. Dr. Brill received his BA, MA, and Ordination from Yeshiva University and his PhD from the Department of Theology at Fordham University. Currently, is engaged in long term research on a book on the Varieties of Modern Orthodoxy.



## ISRAEL CORNER • פינת ישראל

*Note: This article contains links and is best viewed online. If you are reading this in hard copy, please consider reading the electronic version of the Echod after Shabbat.*

### **ADVOCATE FOR ISRAEL**

In the early 1940's, even as the news of the horror of the concentration camps was coming out of Europe, many Jews were reluctant to speak out lest they be accused of a dual loyalty. Let's not be like those Jews, let our voices be heard in the corridors of Congress while there is still time to act. Here are two ways that we can help:

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

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.

#### **Annual NORPAC Conference: May 13**

During this one day event attendees will meet virtually the entire U.S. Congress and will make sure that the issues of importance to our community – such as the commitment to a strong and secure Israel -- get the attention and support they deserve. To register, please visit [www.norpac.net](http://www.norpac.net). While the date of the conference may seem far away, note that there is a discount for those who register before the end of February. Buses will be leaving from in front of LSS in the morning and returning in the evening.

### **ISRAELI ELECTION ANALYSIS**

Former Israeli Ambassador to the U.N., Aaron Jacob will discuss the Israeli electoral system and current political alignments, especially relating to security issues. The event will be held at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue at 30 West 68<sup>th</sup> Street, on February 17 at 6:30 pm. There is no fee but RSVP is required and seating is limited. Please write [swfsisrael@gmail.com](mailto:swfsisrael@gmail.com) or [oklugman@swfs.org](mailto:oklugman@swfs.org) to RSVP.

## 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

### Board Meeting • Sunday, February 22nd • 7:30pm

#### 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.

You shop. Amazon gives.  


## Weekly Learning Opportunities

### SUNDAY

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

Topic: Mitzvah 48 - Not to Strike One's Parents

### 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

**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 began on Wednesday, January 28th. \$125 for the entire 8-session series or \$20 per class. Sign up at [lss.org/RabbiAngel](https://www.lss.org/RabbiAngel)

### THURSDAY

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

## Beginners Announcements

- **Welcome to those who are attending the Beginners Luncheon.**
- 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](https://www.lss.org/beginners). Cost: \$90, Free to LSS Members. **No one will be turned away for lack of funds.**
- New sessions of the **Hebrew Reading Crash Course Level II** will begin **THIS 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](https://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](https://www.lss.org). The first topic: **Shabbat – The Friday Night Experience.**



## D'var Echod B'lev Echod

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

18 SHEVAT 5775 • FEBRUARY 6-7, 2015  
PARSHAT YITRO

By: Morris Shamah M.D.

### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

In 19-5 we read: "...If you will harken to my commands and you will keep my treaty (with you)...you will become a nation of priests (to the world) and a sacred nation."

What commands? What treaty? To what have we committed ourselves in agreeing to proceed with the exodus? Priests to whom?

Just a few days later God specifies what are the bullet points of our obligations- **עשרת הדברות** the Ten Commandments, is prophesied to the multitudes that God delivered from oppression. These ten items are taken by some to represent the basic chapter headings of all our obligations in this God-Human covenant.

And a not too deep analysis of the chapter headings of this pact will show that the Divine plan is pretty clear, and that our role in society is lucidly specified.

At its core the **עשרת הדברות** begins with a clear assertion that there is one God that affects and controls history-that this monotheism is not to be tainted with any physical icons that one might use to represent Hashem, that there are no other gods. This is *debra 1 and debra 2*. That is-the treaty is with a One and Only King. From these two paragraphs and from many other verses in our literature, our Jewish and non Jewish thinkers have created a theology-a study of God-what is God, what is Monotheism, and so much more.

The next 8 chapter headings-*debrot*- specify the basics of the by-laws of our unique treaty. Over all the national constitution is a source book for civil ethical and moral behavior!!!.

The third-"Do not raise the name of Hashem your God in vain" Generally is felt to mean that one should not "swear unnecessarily while using the name of God in the oath". But when is such an oath made-generally in court when testifying. We are herein warned not to make an oath when lying in court. Hence we here find a directive to conduct a system of honest and just courts. No consideration may be given to undue influences, to status, to any outside considerations other than justice. Rabbi Moshe Shamah feels that this directive is also aimed at those that conceive of ways to worship the Divine that were not so directed by God at Sinai and as interpreted by our rabbinic authorities-no magical theurgic forms of worship, no new requirements, no adding or subtracting from the by laws of the treaty-of the **ברית**. Hence this is also partially a continuation of 1 & 2.

And then **שבת**. At first glance this might only be seen as a testimony by the vassal (man) of his obedience to the master (God) that is an expansion of the first two *dibrot*. And indeed, in the version in our chapter that may very well be the case. But if we browse the presentation of the Decalogue in **דברים** we see a second very clear enunciation of the purpose of Shabbat- **עבדך ואמתך כמוך** - so that your slave and maid should rest as you do. Meaning-social equality. And indeed this is what Shabbat is to us even today. All "rest" from the most unfortunate to the most blessed. And indeed, the Torah states that even God rested on the seventh day (Meaning he ceased creating). *Debra 5*-honoring parents. But one can interpolate this obligation as a life long behavioral modification program that inculcates respect for tradition, authority, and, in general, "man".

*Debra 6,7,8,9, and 10* are of course the fundamental principals of a society of individuals created in the image of God- **בצלם אלקים** - meaning all human groups.

**TO SUMMARIZE:** The covenant that we have cosigned with Hashem is basically an acknowledgment of our cosigners nature and a series of chapter headings of a code of laws that are really a model for a just nation-for a good civilization. And we must serve as the agents of God by exemplary adherence to this - **תורה** this book of instruction- to teach the rest of humanity the way of life demanded by God.

I can loudly hear my fellow Torah observant readers screaming that I am ignoring so very much of our Judaism. Am I advocating a Reform Judaism? What about prayer, **קורבנות**, **תפילין**, **קשרות**, family purity laws and so much more. **Sorry, but they all fit into this model-all of them.** The details of each law are necessary specifications of how a large group conforms to the ideal. In support I will quote two. In describing the reason that God chooses Abraham as the initiator of His special relationship with our ancestor **אברהם** states: "For I have singled him out that he may instruct his children and his posterity keep the way of the Lord **by doing what is just and right**" (Ber 18:19).

In the ultimate chapter of Rambam's Guide to the perplexed he concludes with the following: *Thus said the Lord: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the strong man glory in his strength, let not the rich man glory in his riches. But only in this should one glory: in his earnest devotion to Me. For I the Lord act with kindness Justice and equity in the world, for in these I delight"* (Jer 9,22,23)

And we can now understand why Hillel could tell the future convert that came requesting to convert to Judaism, but wanted to learn the entire Torah while standing on one leg. Hillel accepted him and said: "what to you is detested do not do to your neighbor-this is the entire Torah. **And the balance is expansion of this principle-go and study**" (B.Shabbat,31a)