EREV SHABBAT
4:49PM Candle lighting
4:55PM Minchah

SHABBAT
Rosh Chodesh
7:30AM Hashkama Minyan (The Max and Marion Grill Beit Midrash)
8:30AM Rabbi Israel Silverstein Mishnayot Class with Rabbi Avi Feder
9:00AM Shacharit (3rd floor)
9:15AM Hashkama Shiur with Rabbi Dovid Zirkind, Lions, Tiggers & Bears, Oh My! The Plague of Arov Revisited
9:30AM Young Leadership (1st floor)
9:41AM Sof Zman Kriat Shema
10:00AM Youth Groups: Under age 3 (drop off optional, babies must be able to independently sit upright), 3-6-year-olds: Geller Youth Center, 2nd-6th graders: 7th floor

WITH THANKS TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSOR:
Community Kiddush, Tobi Kahn in commemoration of the Yahrezeit of his father, Herbert Kahn, HeChaver Naftali ben Levi HaCohen

12:40PM Early Minchah (4th floor)
3:00PM Bikur Cholim/Bikur in the Home (meet at 730 Columbus Ave.)
4:40PM Minchah
4:25PM Afternoon Groups (10th floor)
Daf Yomi
Seudah Shlishit Speaker: Rabbi Avi Feder, Is Magic Muttar? A Jewish perspective on modern magicians

*Hilchot Shabbat with Rabbi Dovid Zirkind (will resume next week February 4)

5:50PM Shabbat concludes
Parent Child Learning with Rabbi Dovid Zirkind

DAILY SERVICES

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<td>Daf Yomi 7:45AM</td>
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<td>Minchah 4:55PM</td>
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<td>Candle Lighting 4:57PM</td>
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WOMEN'S TEHILLIM GROUP
Monday, January 30
at 7:15PM Contact Joyce Weitz for more info. at 212-877-1176

ONEG SHABBAT 15TH ANNUAL FAMILY FUN DAY
FEBRUARY 5TH, 2017 11AM-3PM

Hundreds of families in our community struggle to make ends meet. Since 1998, Oneg Shabbat of the West Side has provided over 150,000 Shabbat and Yom Tov meals to countless individuals and families on the UWS in a discrete and dignified manner. With your support at our 15th Annual Family Fun Day on February 5th, 2017, we can continue this important work. Come out for a day of fun, while helping your neighbors in need! As one of the premier events of the West Side Community and beyond, there will be activities for babies 6 months and up until the age of 10, including a music program, arts and crafts, face painting, inflatables and more. Please visit www.onegshabbat.org for more information and tickets.

THE JEWISH CENTER CELEBRATES JERUSALEM AT 50

The Jewish Center and AIPAC Invite the Community to:
What’s Next for the America/Israel Relationship
A Conversation with Times of Israel Editor-in-Chief David Horovitz
Tuesday, February 7th at 8PM
Please visit aipac.org/jc to register.

Join the Jc Aipac Delegation Policy Conference 2017
Sunday March 26 - 28, 2017
In Washington, DC
See page 2 for complete list of JC AIPAC delegation.

SHABBAT OF SONG FEATURING CANTOR CHAIM DOVID BERSON & LIPA SCHMELTZER
FEBRUARY 10-11, 2017

Come and join us for an inspiring Shabbat of Song featuring Lipa Schmeltzer, Chaim Dovid Berson & the Zameiru Orchestra.
Please visit the Jewish Center website for more details and to register.
Sponsorship opportunities available. Please contact Chaim Dovid Berson at cdberson@jewishcenter.org for more information.

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WITH MALCOLM GLADWELL
FEBRUARY 13, 2017 AT 7:30PM

Join UJA-Federation and Manhattan synagogues to hear from Malcolm Gladwell, author of best-sellers Outliers and David and Goliath.
Hosted by UJA-Federation of New York
Location: Park Avenue Synagogue
50 East 87th Street
(Enter on Madison Avenue)
New York City, NY
To register please visit www.ujafedny.org/event/register/a-community-conversation-with-malcolm-gladwell/
On February 25 the number of tickets at $150 per person are available so reserve early by Sisterhood for this season’s must-see musical followed by dessert. A limited calling the Jewish Center at 212-724-2700 or visit our website at www.jewishcenter.org.

Details to follow.

MARCH WEST
FEBRUARY

Jonathan Buksbaum
Jacob Buksbaum
Susan Center
Michelle Chein
Hillel Cohen
Arthur Degen
Susan Degen
Daniel Faizakoff
Lauren Geller
Martin Geller
Talia Gerber
Hanna Gerber
Estee Gerber
Sander Gerber
Tracy Gerber
Avi Heller
Steve Kimelman
Ira Kellman
Rona Kellman
Eitan Kimelman
Jonah Kupetzky
Frans Kupetzky
Charlie Laifer
Daniel Laifer
Jill Lavitsky
Eric Lavitsky
Rabbi Yosie Levine
Susan Lobel
Daniel Mael
Linda Moed
David Pfefferman
MARCH
WEST
FEBRUARY

The New York Times called the new Broadway musical, Join us for a Friday night dinner with Lipa Schmeltzer. To sponsor Kiddush or Seudah Shlishit or a JC event, please contact Aaron at astrum@jewishcenter.org

THE JEWISH CENTER AND AIPAC INVITE THE COMMUNITY TO: WHAT’S NEXT FOR THE AMERICA/ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP. A CONVERSATION WITH TIMES OF ISRAEL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF DAVID HOROVITZ
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 7TH AT 8PM
Please visit aipac.org/jc to register.

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WITH MALCOLM GLADWELL
FEBRUARY 13, 2017 AT 7:30PM
Join UJA-Federation and Manhattan synagogues to hear from Malcolm Gladwell, author of best-sellers Outliers and David and Goliath. Hosted by UJA-Federation of New York
Location: Park Avenue Synagogue 50 East 87th Street(Enter on Madison Avenue) New York City, NY
To register please visit www.ujafedny.org/event/register/a-community-conversation-with-malcolm-gladwell/

SISTERHOOD EVENING AT THE THEATER
FEBRUARY 25, 2017
The New York Times called the new Broadway musical, Natasha Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812 “rapturous” and “a witty, inventive enchantment.” On February 25th, decide for yourself if this is the next Hamilton. Join the Sisterhood for this season’s must-see musical followed by dessert. A limited number of tickets at $150 per person are available so reserve early by calling the Jewish Center at 212-724-2700 or visit our website at www.jewishcenter.org.

SAVE THE DATE
WEST SIDE HATZOLAH DINNER
MARCH 20, 2017
Details to follow.
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAZAL TOV
Becky Hanus & Eitan Kimelman on the birth of a boy. Mazel tov to grandparents, Barbara & George Hanus
Lily Kaplan on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter Yardena Kaplan, daughter of David & Michelle Kaplan of Modiin. Mazel tov to aunt and uncle, Andrew & Chaviva Kaplan and the entire family.
Stephen A. Rutenberg on being honored at the upcoming Annual Lawyers Division Event and receiving the James H. Fogelson Emerging Leadership Award
Ephie Reinhard on his engagement to Erica Tannenbaum

THANK YOU TO OUR USHERS
Adina Spiro Wagman and Philip Wagman

THANK YOU TO CSS
We would like to once again thank CSS and our dedicated CSS members for providing the security for our synagogue this week.

CONDOLENCES
Vivian Falk on the passing of her father Leon Korngold

Thinking of running the New York City Marathon? Join The Jewish Center Centennial Team! Space is limited. For more information, please email batsheva@jewishcenter.org

HOST YOUR CLERGY FOR SHABBAT
The JC is blessed to have a wonderful group of clergy that visit for Shabbat on a rotating schedule. If you would like to host any of our clergy and their families for a Shabbat, Yom Tov, or just a meal, please contact Rabbi Zirkind at dzirkind@jewishcenter.org

COMMUNITY SECURITY SERVICE
Looking for an easy and fun way to get involved with The Center while getting some exercise and meeting people? If so, have you considered volunteering for CSS to help with the shul’s security on Shabbat and Chaggim? CSS will be holding training sessions this winter. The L1 course will be on two consecutive Wednesday nights beginning January 18 for 1.5 to 2 hours each and does not involve any physical training. The L2 course will be for six weeks for 2 to 2.5 hours each and will involve some physical training. Both the L1 and L2 courses are open to all -- no prior experience is necessary. If interested, please contact Steve Graber at steve.graber@gmail.com. All members are welcome.

JC KIDDUSH UPDATE
We are blessed to have so many members and friends with us on Shabbat morning. To help make it possible for everyone to enjoy the Kiddush following services, we will have two Kiddush locations whenever possible. Beginning January 14th, you will be able to enjoy Kiddush on either the first or fifth floor. Please check the weekly bulletin for details. And please be sure to sponsor at least once annually. Call, email, visit our website or use our app and help keep our Kiddush the hottest in town.

COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
For more information visit our website or contact Rabbi Dovid Zirkind at dzirkind@jewishcenter.org

DAILY (except Shabbat)
Israel Friedman Daf Yomi with rotating JCU Faculty, 7:45AM

TUESDAY
Advanced Gemara Chaburah
with Rabbi Noach Goldstein
7:45-8:30AM

Nosh and Drash
with Dr. Adena Berkowitz,
10:15-11:30AM

Jewish History: Judaism in a Christian Empire
with Rabbi Ari Lamm, 7:00PM

NEW!
Exodus: The Origins of Leadership, Community and Redemption
Sadye and Henry Bayer Chumash Class
with Rabbi Yosie Levine, 8:00PM

WEDNESDAY
Women of the Bible
with Rabbi Yosie Levine, at 11:00AM

SHABBAT
Rabbi Israel Silverstein
Mishnayot Class
with Rabbi Yosie Levine, 8:30AM

Hashkama Shiur
with rotating JCU Faculty, 9:15AM

Israel Friedman Daf Yomi
with rotating JCU Faculty, 1 hour before Minchah

39 Melachot
With Rabbi Dovid Zirkind

To sponsor Kiddush or Seudah Shlishit or a JC event, please contact Aaron at astrum@jewishcenter.org
Arrogance and Dissonance
Rabbi Noach Goldstein

Whatever his exact formulation was, everyone knows the quote attributed to George Santayana that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Thus the massive emphasis the Torah places on remembering the exodus from Egypt. Already beginning with the Golden Calf, Bnai Yisrael have always struggled to actualize the mitzva of zechut yeidiot mitzrayim but what about the other nation that experienced those miracles, the Egyptians themselves? The hafarah that we normally read during Parshat Va’eira makes clear that the only description that could be given for their record is abject failure. As always, it is imperative for us to study that failure and apply the relevant findings to our own lives.

Hashem orders Yechezkel to declare the following in His name:

ִיתִנִי וַאֲנִי עֲ— (Yechezkel 29:3)

To put it mildly, the Egyptian kings did not absorb the lessons of the Plagues, the Splitting of the Sea, and the repeated humiliation of their gods. Therefore as Nevuchadnezzar lays siege to Jerusalem, Yechezkel warns the current pharaoh that his hour of punishment is not far behind. However, Yechezkel’s wording is subject to multiple interpretations, and the commentators help tease out different layers of meaning in the verse.

Simply translated, Yechezkel accuses Pharaoh of declaring himself divine, a self-created god who controls the Nile. Malbim (R. Meir Leibush b. Yecheil Michel Wisser, 1809-1979) points out that we need awareness of recent Egyptian history in order to fully appreciate Yechezkel’s condemnation. Three consecutive times in the years leading up to Yechezkel’s prophecy, the Egyptian army marched abroad against Babylonia, and three consecutive times Egypt was soundly defeated (at Charan, Carchemish, and outside Jerusalem).

One would think that even the most egomaniacal Egyptian ruler would curb his divinity-claims after suffering such defeats, but, familiar as we are with pharaohs, we know better. Malbim writes that according to Yechezkel, the Egyptians developed an astounding rationalization: Pharaoh did possess supernatural authority—but specifically over the Nile region. He could be beaten in the Levant, but surely not at home in full view of “his” river. Thus Hashem orders Yechezkel to promise Pharaoh that while he may wallow in the Nile thinking himself invincible, foreign invaders would soon break through the next verse states that God will hook the crocodile’s jaws and drag it from the river.

Rashi, following the Targum, does not understand that Yechezkel refers to Pharaoh’s claim of divinity, yet according to his approach, Pharaoh’s arrogance and cognitive-dissonance emerge even more forcefully. First, Pharaoh proclaims that he does not need help from above, since my Nile supplies all my needs. By itself we would certainly find the statement reprehensible, but at least it would be understandable; we could envision some Saudi prince speaking this way. Thanks to his luck to have the Nile, Pharaoh mistakenly believes that he can declare independence from divine authority.

However, he continues by announcing through his might and my strength I have magnified my glory and my empire. Immediately after crediting inherited natural resources with granting him invincibility, Pharaoh turns around and claims that his own brilliance is responsible for his power. In one sentence, Pharaoh insists, “The Nile makes me great…and I am a self-made man!” This would be akin to that Saudi prince following his explanation that he does not pray because his country’s oil deposits guarantee prosperity, with a comment that the real secret cause for their economic strength is that he got an MBA.

For the arrogant, no leap of faith is too great to stop believing in their own greatness. The Kil Yakar writes that the burning bush symbolizes Pharaoh, who would suffer the pain of the Plagues and yet somehow persist in his refusal to allow Bnei Yisrael to leave. Indeed, the human capacity for self-delusion in service of the ego can reach almost miraculous levels. Short of splitting the sea, nothing could make the pharaohs abandon belief in their own divinity, and nothing could make them realize the mastery of the Ribono Shel Olam. As for the man who could not fathom the dissonance of a burning bush unconsumed, we know that he was the humblest person to walk the earth.

Fascinatingly, Egypt’s only successful military expedition during the end of the First Temple Period was a southward attack up the Nile against the Kingdom of Kush.