



# ECHOD

Shaul Robinson  
Rabbi

Josh Rosenfeld  
Assistant Rabbi

Shirley Stark  
President

Yanky Lemmer  
Cantor

Sherwood Goffin  
Senior Cantor

Brian Chartock  
Executive Director

## SHABBAT SCHEDULE

### Friday Evening

- 4:16pm: Candle Lighting
- 4:20pm: Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary
- 4:20pm: Sephardic Minyan in the Belfer Beit Midrash

### 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 Shaul Robinson**
- 9:15am: Beginners Service led by **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in room LL201 (Lower Level)
- 9:36am: 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
- 3:20pm: Bible Class in room 211 with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald**
- 3:20pm: Louis Lazar Memorial Shiur led by Rabbinic Intern **Jared Anstandig: The Power of Blessing**
- 4:05pm: Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit
- 5:17pm: Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends

## YOUTH GROUPS

Groups Start at 10am  
Pre-K: Room 208/210

K-1 Room 211

2nd-tweens— Room 206/207

*Youth Breakfast  
@ 9:30am in room 208/210*

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### Hashkama Kiddush

Sponsored by the Fund

### Main Kiddush

Sponsored in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of **Marilyn Kahn a"h**, by her husband **Gerald Kahn** and by her son **Adam Kahn**.

### Beginners Kiddush

Sponsored by **Roberta and Robert Hadi** in honor of the 22nd birthday of their son, **Jonathan**.

### Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan Kiddush

Sponsored by **Debora Penchassi** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of her father, **Yaakov ben Pinchas, z"l**.

### Seudah Shlishit

Sponsors welcome.

## MAZAL TOV

- Mazal Tov to Grandparents **Estie and Barry Hollander** on the birth of a baby boy, born to their children **Daphna and Elie Mishaan**; and on the birth of a baby boy born to their children **Eliana and Josh Zelman**.
- Mazal Tov to **Dr. Robert Riemer** upon publishing his second book with Amazon.com and Kindle, a mystery entitled "A Time For Murder."

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Rachel Belleli

Mr. and Mrs. Noah and Gabrielle Lindenfeld

## GREET SOMEONE NEW THIS SHABBAT

Let's make our shul an even more welcoming place. If you see an unfamiliar face, introduce yourself and say "Shabbat Shalom."

## AFFORDABLE EXCELLENCE

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Shabbat accommodations and special rates for LSS guests. Mention LSS when making reservations.

## CALLING ALL OUTSTANDING BALANCES

The calendar year is coming to a close, and many of our congregants still have outstanding bills. Please pay your dues and/or any other outstanding pledges now.

Mail a check, call the office to pay by credit card, or pay online at [lss.org/payment](http://lss.org/payment)

## Weekly Prayer Schedule—For the Week of December 27—Jan 1

Sun- Thurs Mincha/Ma'ariv: 4:25pm

Late Ma'ariv Monday-Wednesday: 8:30pm

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Women's Talk Time • Wednesday, December 30th, at 11:30am

Join LSS member and psychologist Ruth Riemer for a weekly ongoing small group discussion relevant to women in the LSS community.

### Truth or Consequences: Media Bias in the War Against Israel • An Evening with Ido Aharoni and Bret Stephens • Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 7:30 pm • At LSS

UJA-Federation of New York and Lincoln Square Synagogue invite you to **Truth or Consequences: Media Bias in the War Against Israel**. Wars today are fought by air and on the ground, as well as on the battlefields of media coverage and public opinion. First hear from Israeli Consul General **Ido Aharoni** on defining Israel's brand image, which he believes is vital to national security. Then hear from Pulitzer Prize-winning Wall Street Journal columnist **Bret Stephens**, a bold critic of what he calls the media's double standing in reporting on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Tickets are available through UJA-Federation for a tax-deductible cost of \$18. More information and tickets are available here:

<http://tinyurl.com/tovbyachad>

**Reserve the date: Saturday Evening, February 20th: Third Annual LSS Benefit Concert. See flyer in shul lobby.**

## ISRAEL CORNER • פינת ישראל

### United Nations: Israel ranks as 18th best place in the world to live

Our very good friends at the United Nations have released their annual Human Development Index (HDI). The index ranks Israel in 18th place among the best countries in the world to live, putting it ahead of Japan, Italy, France and Austria. The HDI, which is published every year, ranks 188 countries according to their average life expectancy, education and Gross National Product per capita.

The HDI is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being well educated and enjoying a decent standard of living.

Israel has a life expectancy at birth of 82.4 years, an average of 12.5 years of education, an adult literacy rate of 97.8% and a Gross National Income per capita of \$30,675.

Between 1980 and 2014, Israel's HDI value increased by 19%. During the same period, Israel's life expectancy at birth increased by 8.3 years, average years of schooling increased by 2.7 years, and GNI per capita more than doubled.

All this human development progress was made during a period of time in which Israel also fought wars in Lebanon, Gaza and on the streets of its cities.

For more detailed information, if you are reading this article online visit <http://hdr.undp.org/en/country-reports> and <http://tinyurl.com/zn8qfzp>. Or, Google 'United Nations Human Development Index 2015'.

<p><b>In case of a bereavement, please call our Clergy at 646-543-7485 (day or night)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>LINCOLN SQUARE SYNAGOGUE OFFICERS</u></b> <b>Shirley Stark, President</b> (<a href="mailto:president@lss.org">president@lss.org</a>) <b>Ian Silver, Jay Ziffer, Ari Klapholz, Vice Presidents</b> <b>Daniel Sabba, Treasurer</b> <b>Michael Roxland, Contoller</b> <b>Adam Herbst, Financial Secretary</b> <b>Jackie Kotler, Executive Secretary</b> <b>Gloria Kestenbaum, Corresponding Secretary</b> <b>Morey Wildes, Recording Secretary</b> You may contact our officers by emailing <a href="mailto:Officers@lss.org">Officers@lss.org</a></p>
<p><i>If you would like to receive the Shabbat Echod by e-mail, sign up at <a href="http://www.lss.org">www.lss.org</a>.</i></p>	

LSS is delighted to be partnering with  WebYeshiva.org to bring a world of Torah learning to our community and help broadcast the Torah of LSS around the world! The new Tuesday Night 7:15pm EST Gemara B'Shana with Rabbi Shaul Robinson program will now be broadcast live around on the internet. This course, dedicated to the memory of Bruce Ritholtz, a"h, is a tremendous project which will undertake the ambitious goal of studying and completing an entire tractate of Talmud each year, followed by a siyum to mark its completion at the time of Bruce's yahrtzeit between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

Visit <http://www.webyeshiva.org/course/lss/>

## BEGINNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Save the date!** The next **Beginners Luncheon** of the season will be **Shabbat, January 9th, 2016**. The cost is only **\$25 per person**. Please note **new date and price**. Register and pay online at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners). Please make your reservations and payment by **Wednesday, January 6th**.
- **Save the date!** New sessions of the **Hebrew Reading Crash Course Levels I and II** will begin **Monday, January 11th, 2016 at 6:30pm**. The 5 classes last 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!** Register now for **Introduction to Bible: The 10 Commandments** with Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald (Begins **Tuesday, February 9th, 2016 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](http://www.lss.org/beginners). Cost: \$90, Free to LSS Members. **No one will be turned away for lack of funds.**

## WEEKLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### SUNDAY

**Coffee & Responsa w/ Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld** • *After Second Minyan (9:15am)*

- Journey through the fascinating and compelling world of rabbinic responsa literature, navigating the historical, sociological, and psychological nuances of the Halakic process through study of a seminal responsum each week - all accompanied by a strong cup of delicious coffee or tea.

### MONDAY

**Invitation to Tefillah w/ Rabbinic Interns Rabbi Jared Anstandig & Rabbi Mark Weingarten** • 7:30-8:15pm

- Each week, we explore, uncover, and understand a new aspect of the daily prayers, with the ultimate goal of making Tefillah a more intimate and meaningful experience.

### TUESDAY

**Parsha Shiur with Rabbi Shaul Robinson** • 10:30am

**Beit Midrash Night:**

- Samuel Group Chabura facilitated by Ron Platzer • 7:30pm  
Adultery, incest, rebellion -- the travails of David, the greatest Jewish king -- A great story, complex characters, a subtle, sophisticated text.
- Tanach Survey: The Books of Samuel and Kings • 7:00 pm -  
Facilitated by Marcy Zwecker and Robin Mitchnick (*Meets in a private residence, please call office for details*)

**Gemara B'Shana with Rabbi Shaul Robinson** • 7:15pm

- A new program dedicated to the memory of Bruce Ritholtz a"h with the ambitious goal of studying and completing an entire tractate of Talmud, focused on analysis and group discussion. This year we will be studying tractate Ta'anit.

*Rabbi Robinson now gives two Lunch and Learn Classes - on Monday in Midtown (5th and 52nd St) and on Wednesday near Wall Street - please speak to him for more details*

### WEDNESDAY

**Talmudic Logic with 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: **"Double Jeopardy: A Study of Kim Lei B'd'raba Minei"**

**Beit Midrash Night** • 8:40pm

- Facilitated by Sara Brzowsky. The Subversive Religious Poetry of Yehuda Amichai: We continue to analyze the Israeli poet's final masterpiece, Patuach Sagur Patuach.

### THURSDAY

(NOT MEETING THIS COMING WEEK, DEC 31)

**Parsha Class with Rabbi Shaul Robinson** • 7:30pm

- Join Rabbi Shaul Robinson for an exciting and timely look at the weekly portion utilizing contemporary and ancient commentators to uncover new depth in Torah study

**Cholent Chabura with Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld** • 8:45pm

- Welcome Shabbat early and explore a challenging new topic in Jewish thought each week in this informal and friendly gathering. Chabura meets in a private residence. *Please contact office for location.*



## D'var Echod B'lev Echod

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

14 Tevet 5776 • December 25-26, 2015

Parshat Vayechi

By: Faith Fogelman

### *Essence & Identity*

What is the difference between essence and identity? Essence is (seemingly) ever-lasting; identity is changeable. Essence is man's core, the root of being, predictive. Identity is superficial. Essence is man's soul while identity is a temporary dweller. Essence defines; identity mutates. Essence is real. Identity is *impression management* as described by sociologist Erving Goffman in *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*.

Jacob, in the Parsha entitled *And He Lived*, died. Prior to his demise, like a piercing laser that never forgets, Jacob identified the essence of each son. Although nobody wants to be defined by others, there was powerful truth in Jacob's last words. Each son had to face his own essence, no escape. Jacob predicted that which will befall them in the *End of Days* (49:1) based on their essence.

Some sons were defined by prior actions. Reuben rested with Bilhah, Jacob's concubine (35:2), and lost primogeniture due to lust and all-round disrespect. Simeon and Levi battled unnecessarily with Shechem (34:25), resulting in ultimate dispersal of their progeny. Judah is praised; Zebulun and Issachar were defined by their respective trades. Using the vernacular, Jacob told it like it was and his sons showed no resistance. If he had told them what he thought their identities or assumed identities were, his words would have been diminished.

Perhaps Jacob's sons did not offer resistance because they could not believe how accurately he defined their essence; they were exposed, for better or worse. Their stillness reflects how dumbfounded they were when Joseph revealed the truth about his identity. In *Vayechi* the emotional penetration was sharper. Essence, not identity, was revealed.

People today spend a great deal of money in therapy to search for identity, not essence. Just as there is a difference between character and personality, people intertwine essence and identity. Austrian neurologist, psychiatrist, and Holocaust survivor Victor Frankl wrote in *Man's Search for Meaning* that survival in the concentration camps, aside from external circumstances, depended on something intangible. Stripped of personal, professional, and prestigious identity, this something - call it essence - was the core of strength to facilitate hope and survival from day to day. Prior identities were meaningless for endurance and survival predictors.

People need a starting point to search for their essence, which is usually hidden from self. It may be felt just before sleep or perhaps interacting triggers a sudden recognition of one's core. Is the individual the only one who can recognize it? Apparently not. Jacob knew the essence of all his sons beyond their own self-knowledge. We could say that he was an insightful man, but he also took the time to understand his sons beyond projected identities. Aside from our own insightful parents, or perhaps grandparents, nobody is going to identify our essence. As a sidebar, since gossip is identity driven, and essence transcends identity, those who gossip really do not know their victim.

Over a lifetime, people will have and assume a myriad of identities in all realms of life. We only have one essence. Can we change it? Is it the same as character which can be developed and improved? Jacob was a special father who cared enough to publicly tell his sons who they really are. They never fooled him. His mild rebukes at the time of their misdeeds belied his true feelings and perceptions. He knew the root cause of bad behavior.

Again, can essence be changed? The basic core of a person is constant. Yet, despite previous statements in this essay, essence can be modified with *awareness*. Jacob gave the gift of awareness to his sons and therefore to us. Awareness can facilitate internal changes leading to different actions. Think of all the personalities in *Beresheet*. What was their essence? Their identity? Which one ultimately mattered?

Forget about managing impressions, what is your essence? Not sure? Ask Jacob, or more correctly, Israel. HaShem changed his name because He knew his essence.

*Shabbat Shalom*