



ECHOD

Shaul Robinson
Rabbi

Josh Rosenfeld
Assistant Rabbi

Shirley Stark
President

Yanky Lemmer
Cantor

Sherwood Goffin
Senior Cantor

Brian Chartock
Executive Director

WELCOME TO OUR FOUNDING RABBI, RABBI SHLOMO RISKIN

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Friday Evening

- 4:13pm: Candle Lighting
- 4:15pm: Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary
- 4:15pm: Sephardi Minyan in rooms 208/210

Shabbat Morning

- 7:45am: Hashkama Minyan in the Belfer Beit Midrash followed by Kiddush and shiur with **Rabbi Moshe Sokolov**
- 8:30am: Parsha shiur with Rabbinic Intern **Jared Anstandig** in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary: *Joseph's Message to Jacob*
- 9:00am: Services in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary led by **Chazan Elie Landau**. Drasha by **Rabbi Shlomo Riskin**.
- 9:15am: Beginners Service led by **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in room LL201 (Lower Level)
- 9:33am: 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 shul lobby. New volunteers are urgently needed.
- 3:15pm: Louis Lazar Memorial Shiur with **Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld**: *"Did Bnei Yisrael Have the Slavery Coming to Them?"*
- 3:15pm: Bible Class in room 211 with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald**
- 4:00pm: Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit
- 5:13pm: Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends

YOUTH GROUPS

- Groups Start at 10am K-1 Room 211
- Pre-K: Room 208/210 2nd-tweens— Room 206/207

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

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- Saturday Night Dec. 19- Film Screening: Rock in the Red Zone
- Sunday, Dec. 20th— Book Club Meeting: Ally
- Tuesday, Dec. 22nd—Asarah B'Tevet Food Drive

See all our weekly classes on page 3

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Hashkamah Kiddush

Sponsored by **Sandy Gross** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of her grandmother, **Esther bas Menachem Mendel and Mindel, a"h**.

Main Kiddush

Sponsors Welcome

Beginners Kiddush

Sponsored by **Beatrice Stoller** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit and loving memory of her beloved brother, **Solomon Mazur, z"l**.

Seudah Shlishit

Sponsored by **Dr. Ira Friedman** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of his wife **Erika, Rivka Rachel bas Yosef, a"h**; and by **Trudy and Jay Zimmern** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of **Irma Zimmern, Henna bat Avraham, a'h**.

MAZAL TOV

- Mazel Tov to **Dr. Robert Riemer** upon publishing his second book with Amazon.com and Kindle. A mystery entitled, "A Time For Murder."
- Mazel Tov to **Vicki and Rabbi Shlomo Riskin** on the upcoming marriage of their grandson, **Akiva, son of Batya and Eddie Jacobs, to Moriah Alioua**.

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."

Women: Never had a Bat Mitzvah? Read This

If you are a Jewish woman who has not had a Bat Mitzvah, or has never read from the Torah and would like to learn- the **LSS Women's Tefillah Group Bat Mitzvah Project** is for you.

Cantor Goffin has agreed to give women a class in Trope (cantillation) starting this Sunday 12/20 at 6:00pm at Lincoln Square Synagogue.

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

Weekly Prayer Schedule—For the Week of December 20-25

Sun, Mon, Wed & Thurs Mincha/Ma'ariv: 4:20pm

Late Ma'ariv Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 8:30pm

Sunday	Mon & Thurs	Tues (Fast of Tevet)	Wednesday	Friday
Shacharit: 7:10am	Daf Yomi: 6:15am	Daf Yomi: 6:00am	Daf Yomi: 6:20am	Shacharit: 7:10am
Daf Yomi: 7:45am	Shacharit: 7:00am	Fast Begins: 6:05am	Shacharit: 7:10am	Daf Yomi: 7:45am
Shacharit: 8:30am	Shacharit: 7:50am	Shacharit: 6:50am	Shacharit: 7:50am	Shacharit: 8:30am
		Shacharit: 7:30am		
		Mincha: 4:05pm		
		Fast Ends: 5:04pm		

UPCOMING EVENTS

Film Screening: **Rock in the Red Zone** • Saturday Night, December 19th, at 8pm.

The LSS Film Club is excited to present **Rock in the Red Zone**, a film about music, romance and the Israeli spirit. Laura Bialis' inspiring documentary is about an American living in Sderot—home to a thriving music scene but better known as the target of Hamas rockets—and the resilience, pain and love she encounters there. Join us on Saturday night, Dec. 19 at 8 pm. Admission is \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. To register, go to lss.org/film

Book Club Meeting: "Ally" by Michael Oren • Sunday, December 20th, at 7:30pm • At the home of Karen and Roy Simon. We are fortunate to once again have Jerome Chanes, who is a Senior Fellow at the CUNY Center for Jewish Studies and a prolific author, journalist, and speaker, lead the discussion.

Asarah B'Tevet Food Drive • Tuesday, December 22nd • From 3pm-Mincha (4:05pm)

Use the money you save on not eating meals to help the hungry: Jewish homeless at Project ORE and all hungry at the local food pantry. The shul will be open all day if you want to drop off food earlier.

Women's Talk Time • Wednesday, December 23rd, 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



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. 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.
- **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. 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.

Topic: Sunday Morning Responsa #6: R. Yechezkel Landau (Noda b'Yehuda) on Autopsies and Medical Investigation

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*)

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

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.

WEDNESDAY

Melachim & Modern Tanakh Methodology & Controversies Lecture Series • R. Nathaniel Helfgot • 7:30pm

Join leading scholars and educators for mini-semester, 8-week courses on a variety of subjects from modern Tanakh methodology to medical ethics.

Full series \$150, One Class \$20. Sign up at lss.org/classes

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

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

6 Tevet 5776 • December 18-19, 2015

Parshat Vayigash

By: Rabbi Michael Levy

The Stories We Tell Ourselves

(Adapted from lectures by Rabbi David Fohrman.)

Suppose I asked you "What did you do yesterday?" You list 19 activities. It turns out that I counted 173 activities as I videotaped you yesterday. Why the discrepancy?

Every day, we decide what's important enough to remember. . . Over time, we weave our "story" from these memories; stories that may not be accurate..

Yosef's Story

Yosef, unaware that his father believes him to be dead, weaves a story that might have sounded like this:

"Why isn't my father looking for me?"

Maybe my father's request that I check on my brothers' welfare was a set-up! After all, our family expels one member during each generation-first Ishmael, then Esau, now me! My father, angered by my haughty dreams, must have decided to banish me." Yosef names his first son Menashe, "God has made me forget my father's house."

When fashioning our "life stories" from possibly flawed memories, we may come to believe that our "script" truly reflects what actually happened.

For years I clung to my story: "my childhood could have been happier. 'they' pushed and pushed, nothing was ever good enough. There as this HUGE argument when I was ten years old, and I'm still bitter about it."

When I shared my story with my sister a decade later, she responded, "That's not how it happened at all!" She was right.

The Demise of Yosef's "Story"

At the beginning of "Vayigash," Yehuda pleads with Yosef to release Binyamin, citing his father's grief if Binyamin remains in captivity. Yosef's "beliefs about his father instantly vanish, replaced by the true picture of a man mourning for his deceased son.

Overwhelmed, Yosef can no longer restrain his emotions, and reveals himself to his brothers.

Yosef's brothers, with their own stories, are confronted by the brother whom they sold into slavery. A Midrash compares their distress to the distress that we will feel at the Final Judgment, when our stories and justifications will vanish in the face of The Truth.

So Much Uncertainty!

For a few hours, millions of moviegoers will allow themselves to forget their stories and enter the "Star Wars" world, where it's easier to interpret events and characters. If only they, and all of us, could keep in mind the following suggestion, offered by the late Lubavitcher rebbe:*1

"Life does not tell stories. People do. Life provides no more than raw materials. Raw enough for us to look back and construct at least two versions of our own biography: one a prison, the other a palace.

This is the greatest kindness the Master of Life has given us: He has placed his own pen in our hands, so that we may enjoy the dignity of a palace constructed by our own design."

May God grant us the wisdom to keep our own imperfect knowledge and memories in mind as we endeavor to tell ourselves palatial stories.

*1 A Daily Dose of Wisdom from the Rebbe -words and condensation by Tzvi Freeman
Tevet 28, 5772 * January 23, 2012.