



# ECHOD

10 TAMMUZ 5775 • JUNE 26-27, 2015  
PARSHAT CHUKAT • CANDLE LIGHTING: 8:14PM

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

## SHABBAT SCHEDULE

### Friday Evening

- 6:45pm: Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen Sanctuary
- 6:58pm: Earliest Candle Lighting
- 8:14pm: Candle Lighting
- 8:20pm: 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**: *On the Road to the Promised Land, Complaining Gets You Nowhere*
- 9:11am: Latest Shema
- 9:15am: Beginners Service led by **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in room LL201 (Lower Level)
- 9:45am: Rabbi Herschel Cohen Memorial Minyan in the Belfer Beit Midrash. Drasha by **Rabbi Ben Elton**

### Shabbat Afternoon

- 12:30pm: Lunch and Learn in the pre-function room (LL1)
- 4:00pm: Herb Weiss Bikur Cholim Society meets in shul lobby. New volunteers are urgently needed.
- 6:30pm: Beginners Mishna Chavura with **Moshe Sheinwexler** in the Belfer Beit Midrash
- 7:00pm: Louis Lazar Memorial Shiur with **Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld**: *"Pirkei Avot Highlights, #3: A Journey In Jewish Ethics"*
- 7:00pm: Bible Class with **Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald** in room 211
- 8:00pm: Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit
- 9:14pm: Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends

## WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

For the Week of June, 28– July 3

Sun – Thurs: Mincha/Ma'ariv: 8:20pm

Sunday	Monday & Thurs	Tues & Wed	Fri (July 3rd)
Daf Yomi: 7:45am	Daf Yomi: 6:15am	Daf Yomi: 6:20am	Daf Yomi: 7:45am
Shacharit: 7:10am	Shacharit: 7:00am	Shacharit: 7:10am	Shacharit: 7:10am
Shacharit: 8:30am	Shacharit: 7:50am	Shacharit: 7:50am	Shacharit: 8:30am

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### Hashkama Kiddush

Sponsored by **Henchy and Jerry Balsam** in honor of the birth of their daughter, **Molly**.

### Main Kiddush

Sponsors welcome

### Beginners Kiddush

Sponsored by **Sarah Leah and Lou Vynerib** who wish a wonderful summer to **Rabbi Ephraim and Aidel Buchwald** and a hearty welcome to **Dr. Leonard Davidman**.

### Seudah Shlishit

Sponsored by **Hadassa Gerber and Bill Greenbaum** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of Hadassah's mother, **Rosalyn Gerber, a"h.**; by **Trudy and Jay Zimmern** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of Jay's father, **Henry Zimmern z"l**; by **Joan and Les Erber** in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of Les's father, **Simon Erber, z"l**.

## THANK YOU TO OUR DVAR TORAH WRITERS

Mordechai Beilis	Michael Levy
Jesse Cogan	Solomon Max
Perry Davis	Shlomo Offer
Fred Ehrman	Bina Presser
Rabbi Ben Elton	Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld
Rabbi Yoel Epstein	Rabbi Charlie Savenor
Faith Fogelman	Jeffrey Schwartz
Bill Greenbaum	Morris Shamah
Jerry Greenberg	Rabbi Jay Stein
Mark Hus	Barry Youngerman
Lori Jacobowitz	
Ari Klapholz	

If you would like to write a Dvar Torah for next year, contact Barry Youngerman at [barry.youngerman@gmail.com](mailto:barry.youngerman@gmail.com)

Join our community.  
Go to [lss.org/join](http://lss.org/join)

## FEATURED UPCOMING EVENTS

### Senior Women's Talk Time • Next Session is Wednesday, July 1st, at 10:30am

Join LSS member and psychologist Ruth Riemer for a weekly ongoing small group discussion relevant to senior women in the LSS community. There is no charge, but prior registration is required, and the group will be limited to ten women. If interested please call 212-706-0327.

### "God Save the Queen: Monarchy, Judaism and Community" with guest lecturer Zaki Cooper • Monday, July 13th, at 7pm

Drawing on first-hand experience of working at Buckingham Palace, and using objects from his time working there, Zaki Cooper will describe the events of the Diamond Jubilee in 2012, when the Queen celebrated 60 years on the throne.

## Mazal Tov to the newly elected LSS officers for 2015-2016

Shirley Stark - President  
Ian Silver - Vice President  
Jay Ziffer - Vice President  
Ari Klapholz - Vice President  
Daniel Sabba - Treasurer  
Michael Roxland - Controller  
Morey Wildes - Recording Secretary  
Gloria Kestnebaum - Corresponding Secretary  
Jackie Kotler - Executive Secretary  
Adam Herbst - Financial Secretary

## YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Groups for Pre-K only this Shabbat at 10am  
In Room 206

There will be no youth breakfast

## WENDY BAKER HONORED

This past Shabbat, LSS congregants in the Nathaniel Richman Cohen main sanctuary roundly applauded **Wendy Baker** as Rabbi Robinson presented her with a plaque from Morningstar Full Gospel Assembly Church. Why? Because a carload from our clothing drive, spearheaded by Wendy, goes to this institution. It's attended by Marina Smith, our long-time coat-check lady, who with her family help us sort and pack during our drives.

The vast majority of the clothing and shoes collected in our May drive -- 93 large plastic bags, to be exact -- were driven by Glenn Richter and his colleague Henry Gerber to Boston Action for Post-Soviet Jewry in Waltham, MA, where they are being shipped to needy Jews in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. The generosity of clothing and volunteerism by members of LSS and the West End Synagogue was the second of two LSS clothing drives during year 5775. We also donated clothing to our long time friends at Valley Lodge, a shelter for 90 elderly people who would otherwise be homeless. Our Chesed goes to those in need, whether Jewish or non-Jewish.

## WEEKLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### SUNDAY

**Minchat Chinuch** with Rabbi Ben Elton • 9:15am  
Topic: *Mitzvah 401: The Daily Offering (Tamid)*

### TUESDAY

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

**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

### THURSDAY

Explorations in the Weekly Parsha with **Rabbi Shaul Robinson**  
7:00pm

**The Subversive Religious Poetry of Yehuda Amichai**

Facilitated by Sara Brzowsky will have a sporadic summer schedule. Email [sarabrzowsky@gmail.com](mailto:sarabrzowsky@gmail.com) to find out the time of the next meeting.

## BEGINNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **New sessions** of the **Hebrew Reading Crash Course Level I** will begin **Monday, August 3rd, 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](http://www.lss.org/beginners).**
- **Save the date!** **"First Call" Beginners Luncheon**, to be held **Shabbat, September 5th**, in honor of **Dr. Leonard Davidman**. The cost is still only \$20 per person. **Register and pay online at [www.lss.org/beginners](http://www.lss.org/beginners).** Please make your reservations and payment by **Thursday, September 3rd**.

## 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.*

### Torah B'Tzion

We'd like to thank the well over 100 members who will be travelling to Israel in the next 12 months and who participated in our survey. Many of you expressed interest in taking courses and participating in "walk & learn" activities while in Israel. Your responses will be instrumental in determining the types and format of the courses that will be offered. As it happens, Lloyd Epstein is currently in Israel and will be discussing the results of the survey with rabbis from Torah Mi'Tzion. This is the organization that sent us the wonderful kollel fellows a number of years ago.

### The Quiet Before the Storm

The latest deadline for the nuclear talks with Iran is June 30. While none of the deadlines of these negotiations have ever been met, there will, eventually be an agreement. And, while one can always be optimistic, everything that we have read so far indicates that it will be a very bad deal for Israel. Once the agreement is announced, Congress will have 30 days to review and vote on it. This is where we come in.

To start, we all need to be well informed about the latest rounds of negotiations. There many sources of news, but consider subscribing to [AIPAC's newsletters](#). A good one-page guide to what would constitute a good nuclear deal with Iran is available in the shul's lobby. If all the printed copies are gone, please visit the [Israel Advocacy](#) section of the LSS web site. The web site also includes a much more detailed brochure that AIPAC sent to all members of Congress. It is well worth reading to fully understand the scope of the talks.

Once the nuclear agreement is announced, we will most likely need to quickly mobilize our resources to lobby our Congressman and Senators to reject what will probably be a bad deal for Israel. We will have more to say about this after the agreement is announced. For now, if you are not yet a member of AIPAC, please join. AIPAC's critical work is year-around, not just the three day annual conference. If you have any questions about AIPAC, please speak with Ann Crane.



## 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 CHUKAT

By: Perry Davis

### The Staff of Life

We are a people commanded to believe in an incorporeal God. Even so, there are certainly a lot of tangible ceremonial items in our Torah and our religion: the Mishkan and its utensils and "furniture," the sacred clothes of the Cohanim, the sacrifices, just to name a few.

In our parsha, we have the red heifer, the staff of Moshe and Aharon, the rock and the brass serpent. I'd like to focus on one of these – the staff Moshe used to hit the rock and bring water to a thirsty people. We know the result of that act. For Moshe and Aharon's failure to follow God's command exactly -- and only speak to the rock -- they are denied their greatest wish, to enter the Promised Land alongside their people.

The tragedy of this punishment is compounded by its enigmatic nature. God explains what they did wrong –

"Since you did not have faith in Me to sanctify Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly to the Land which I have given them" (Bamidbar 20:12)

Does Moshe's action really signify a lack of faith in God? Does the interpretation of the action provided by God merit such a harsh punishment?

The episode begins as God commands Moshe and Aharon to:

"Take the staff and assemble the congregation, you and your brother Aaron, and speak to the rock in their presence so that it will give forth its water. You shall bring forth water for them from the rock and give the congregation and their livestock to drink." (Bamidbar 20:8)

In a similar circumstance, in a previous generation, Moshe had hit a rock and water gushed out. Why would God tell Moshe now to take his staff if not to repeat the same act? If Moshe were to simply speak to the rock, why does he need the staff in the first place?

Rashbam is helpful. In a close textual analysis focusing on the language "Kach et hamateh" – "take the staff" – Rashbam focuses on the "ha" article – the specific staff. He posits that this particular staff is the the flowering stick which ended the rebellion in the previous parsha (17:25). Of all the tribal sticks, only Aharon's from the tribe of Levi miraculously erupted in beautiful blossoms.

Rav Chanoch Waxman of Yeshivat Har Etzion adds a further proof. He says that the flowering staff was placed "before the Lord" (similar language in parshat Chukat) as a sign of a life affirming God (the plague having just ended). It was displayed, "to remove from upon Me the complaints of the Children of Israel" (17:20). But Waxman adds more... to remove "the complaints of death dealing leadership" which were in fact complaints by the rebels in Parshat Korach against the leadership of God.

So the rebellion was clearly on Moshe's mind as he held this flowering staff aloft and addressed the crowd as "hamorim" – rebels. This was a valid demonstration and a very important symbol for the nation. But then Moshe faltered and he remembered a previous staff. He remembered the staff used to bring a deadly serpent to Pharaoh's court, a staff that took the life giving waters of the Nile and turned them to blood and killed all the fish and turned the Nile into death, a staff that hit a rock before a nation of slaves who knew of staffs that had been used to beat them and exercise power.

As Waxman explains:

As opposed to turning life into death, it (our parsha's staff) turns death into life. The dry wood of the staff springs back to life, it flowers, buds and blossoms, giving forth almonds, where before only lifeless wood had been present. Along with Moshe and Aharon's quelling of the plague, it symbolizes the life giving quality of their leadership. It is meant to show that God's leadership, as manifested through Moshe and Aharon, is in fact meant to lead to life.

Moshe failed in a pedagogical opportunity. He did not realize that – through the symbol of a raised flowering staff of life – a new generation of Jews would learn about a God who was both powerful and life-affirming. This new generation of Jews, yearning to finally enter the Promised Land and taste its fruits, would know that faith in God does not require the fear of a slave driver to achieve sustenance, peace and tranquility. As free people, they could intuit the new situation logically – as Rashi explains.

Moshe could not continue as a leader into Canaan because he forgot that words work with this new generation. As we bless water to this very day - "sh'hakol nihyeh bdvaro" "by Whose word all things came to be."

Shabbat Shalom