



Congregation Darchei Noam

**Congregation Darchei Noam**  
**Invites you to a Scholar-in-Residence**  
**Shabbat with**

**Daniel Raphael Silverstein**

**Fourth-year student at**  
**Yeshivat Chovevei Torah**

**September 12 – 13, 2014**

Friday	5:45 pm	Mincha, Kabblat Shabbat, Ma'ariv
	8:30 pm	Dessert, <i>Rosh Hashana Through the Eyes of Kaballah</i> Not just a day in shul, but a day of cosmic rebirth which we can each be a part of. What does judgement/Din actually mean, and what is the work we are being asked to do in preparation for the New Year?
Saturday	9:00 am	Shacharit, Musaf, <i>Dvar Torah – The Ba'al Shem Tov and the Alter Rebbe</i> Their relationship to each other, their contributions to Judaism and the Jewish world, some examples of their teachings, etc.
	following	Kiddush
	6:30 pm	Mincha, Seudah Shelishit, <i>The Right Time to Pray</i> Our classical sources offer profound but apparently contradictory advice about when is a good time to pray. We will look at what is behind the different perspectives and see what we can learn from them.
	8:15 pm	Ma'ariv

**Daniel Raphael Silverstein in his own words:**

Living and sharing Torah is central to who I am. I've been called to the rabbinate to serve individuals and communities, by helping them on their own journeys of discovery and fulfillment. Playing that role is a tremendous privilege and an awesome responsibility.

I was born and raised in London but now I'm based in New York. Before rabbinical school, I earned my living as a spoken word artist, MC and creative educator, with a strong focus on Jewish themes and content. Before that, I worked as Director of the UJS-Hillel Culanu student center in Cambridge (UK) and also as a Public Affairs Officer for the Embassy of Israel in London.

My major passions have always been Jewish community, prayer and spirituality, music, poetry and informal education. I feel extremely fortunate to have found a path that has allowed me to coalesce all of these.

As a teenager, I gained invaluable experience in informal education and community building through leading countless weekly meetings and biannual camps for the youth group Bnei Akiva.

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In 2001, while at college, I started writing and performing my own poetry and prayers, influenced by both classical Jewish texts and contemporary artists such as Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, Nina Simone, Bjork, Talib Kweli and Saul Williams. I was soon being invited to perform all over the UK, and then in Europe, the US and Israel, using the stage name Danny Raphael.

In 2006, I started using poetry and music as educational tools. I've found them to be very powerful in helping people understand themselves and the world around them, including such issues as bullying, racism, body image, genocide, civil rights, ecology, as well as religious festivals, prayer and faith.

I've learnt a tremendous amount by witnessing people of all ages create their own poems, songs, prayers and stories, discovering something about themselves in the process. At the closing section of each session, when those who wish to share their creations, it often becomes apparent that something profound and deeply transformative is happening.

In 2008, I co-founded Lines of Faith with Mohammed Yahya. Lines of Faith is a Muslim-Jewish hip hop and poetry collective that uses performances and workshops to challenge prejudice and build meaningful bonds between communities. The group has run hundreds of programs throughout the UK, Europe and the USA.

I also co-founded Moishe House London, a successful experiment in post-denominational Judaism that has helped to breathe fresh life into the London Jewish community. This involved hosting and facilitating meals, parties, rituals and other events, and this is where I first found myself in a quasi-rabbinic role.

In 2009, all of my interests converged when I started studying for the rabbinate.

My expected ordination is in June 2015, from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in NYC.

I graduated from the University of Cambridge (BA) and Warwick University (MA). I have also studied for three years in Israel, at Yeshivot Ein Tzurim, Shvilei HaTorah and Maale Gilboa. I currently live in Riverdale, NY with my wife Karin, who is a non-profit consultant.

Some of the places I've performed: Glastonbury Festival, Big Chill Festival, Sunrise Festival, Green Man Festival, Trinity International Hip Hop Festival, Nuremberg Anti-Racism Festival, Salon Amsterdam, The Jazz Cafe, Ministry of Sound, Cargo, Thekla, 93 Feet East, The Spitz and many others in the UK, Israel, Austria, Hungary, Sweden, France, the Czech Republic and the USA.

Some of my favourite educational clients: Bnai Jeshurun Synagogue, Park East Synagogue, Camp Yavneh, Bnei Akiva, Reform Synagogue Youth, UJS-Hillel, UJIA Birthright, Immanuel College, Westminster Academy, Glasgow University, Manchester University, King Solomon High School, Menorah Grammar School, Kids Co., Muslim-Jewish Conference, Paddington Arts, West London Synagogue, Paideia – The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden, Hounslow Mosque.

## **Congregation Darchei Noam**

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