



January 2017

Dear Congregants,

Now that we are into our third year since launching "Jewry Duty", Shearith Israel's *minyan* strengthening initiative, we think it's fair to say this is no longer a new initiative but an established effort. We, and more importantly, your fellow congregants, especially those who come to recite *kaddish* during times of mourning and on *nahalot*, very much appreciate those of you have been able to attend *minyan*, whether on your designated date, another date or better yet, even more frequently.

Enclosed is the schedule for the new "Jewry Duty" cycle. Morning services last approximately 40 minutes, and evening services about 25 minutes. If we don't hear from you otherwise, expect to receive a "summons" by email (or snail mail if we don't have your email address) approximately two weeks ahead, with a reminder of that day's service times. We will also continue to include upcoming "Jewry Duty" listings on our weekly pre-Shabbat emails. You can also find the assignments on our website at: shearithisrael.org/jewryduty but please note, however, that reassigned dates will not be updated on the online rosters.

We hope that you enjoy "Jewry Duty". We know, however, that your schedules are busy, and we also fully understand that choosing to pray in a *minyan* is a private decision. If you are unable to participate or you wish to opt out of this program, please let us know. Alternatively, if you wish to provide a different day or perhaps you'd like to be reassigned to join a family member or friend, we will happily accommodate. Simply contact Deborah Bendheim at dbendheim@shearithisrael.org or reply to your email notice that you will receive a few weeks in advance of your assigned date.

Finally, please know that Jewry Duty is for men and women. While a *minyan* requires the participation of ten men, communal prayer is enhanced by the participation of all, both men and women. Perhaps of no less importance, daily attendees develop strong ties of camaraderie and community. All are uplifted by the knowledge that they are an essential part of the community and can rely upon one another when needed. And a strong, daily *minyan* is surely one of the essential characteristics of a *Kehillat Kodesh*, a holy congregation, which is what Shearith Israel has been for over 360 years.

Faithfully yours,

Louis M. Solomon, Parnas

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Zachary Edinger, Shamash