

Important Construction Notices

We are working to come up with a satisfactory interim parking space for stroller. Meanwhile, please be considerate and fold your strollers in the coat room.

Also, because the elevator in 8 west is and will be out of service for an extended period, we have made arrangements for a small women's section (enclosed by a mechitza) located in the back of the main floor of the sanctuary below the cross section. This is intended for use ONLY by those women who are unable to ascend the stairs to the ladies gallery. Please inform the staff upon arrival if this applies to you. The design of the Mehitza is still a work in progress and we hope that you will be patient until a more aesthetically pleasing mehitza can be designed.

Learn to read Hebrew—Begins THIS WEEK!

Only \$100 for 7 sessions!

Level 1: Sundays 10:00 am - 11:00 am | January 25- March 15
includes breakfast

Level 2: Wednesday 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm | January 28 -
March 18

Level 3: Thursdays 6:45—7:45 pm | January 29 - March 19
Wednesday and Thursday classes immediately follow evening services. Participants are encouraged to attend.

shearithisrael.org/hebrewclasses

Support our Police

In appreciation for all they do to keep us safe, we've been providing them with lunch. To join our growing list of sponsors go to:
shearithisrael.org/sponsor-lunch-police

Thank you to this week's sponsors:

Alan and Judi Eisenman

Estelle Guzik

Neal and Maud Kozodoy

Barbara Herlands Smith

Susan Wind

Ealan and Melinda Wingate

On the Word Totafot

Z. Edinger (Based on *Balashon*, 1/24/2007)

וְהָיָה לָךְ לְאוֹת עַל-יָדְךָ, וּלְזִכָּרוֹן בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ, לְמַעַן תִּהְיֶה תִּזְכָּרְתָּ יְהוָה, בְּכִיךָ : כִּי בְּיָד ה' הִצִּילָנוּ
הוֹצֵאָךְ יְהוָה מִמִּצְרַיִם

And this shall serve you as a sign on your hand and as a reminder on your forehead — in order that the Teaching of the Lord may be in your mouth — that with a mighty hand the Lord freed you from Egypt. Exodus 13:9

וְהָיָה לְאוֹת עַל-יָדְכֶם, וּלְטוֹטֶפֶת בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ : כִּי בְּחֹזֶק יָד, הוֹצִיאָנוּ יְהוָה מִמִּצְרַיִם.
And so it shall be as a sign upon your hand and as a totafot on your forehead that with a mighty hand the Lord freed us from Egypt. 13:16

These verses appear at the end of this week's *parasha*. Moses instructs the people that they are to observe a holiday (verse 6) and to sanctify the first born (verse 12) even when they are settled in the land of Israel. These observances must be explained to the children (verses 8 & 14) to teach them about the miraculous Exodus from Egypt. After mentioning the obligation to teach the story of the Exodus we are then confronted with the above verses. R' Samuel b. Meir (Rashbam, 11/12th c.) explains that the obligation to remember and tell over the Exodus story should be *as if* it were written on your arm or hanging on your forehead like a piece of Jewelry. In other words, that these observances and memorials should be as close and dear to us as if they were on our body, impossible to forget.

The meaning of the word *totafot* is unclear. Onkelos (~2nd c.) translates *totafot* as "*tefilin*" i.e. the phylacteries that are worn every day during prayer. Indeed these verses, together with two similar verses in Deuteronomy (well known from the *Shema*), are the biblical source for the obligation to wear *tefilin*. Unfortunately, this does not help us to understand the meaning of the word *totafot*.

The Talmud (Sanhedrin 4b) gives two explanations of the word that both indicate a relationship to the number four – an allusion to the number of biblical sections placed into the *tefilin*. R' Akiba (quoted by Rashi) gives an unusual etymology "*Tot*" in *Coptic* means *two*, and "*Fot*" in *Afriki*" thereby indicating the number four – of the *tefilin*.

Rashi seems unsatisfied with this explanation and quotes Menahem ben Saruq (Spain, 10th c.) that *Totafot* means to speak – as in " - והטף אל דרום And speak" to the south." (Ezekiel, 21:2) and " אל תטיפו Don't speak" (Micha 2:6). *Totafot* therefore is compared to the memorial of our first verse - "a reminder between your eyes" (Ex. 13:9) "for whoever sees them tied between the eyes will remember the miracle and speak about it."

Ramban (Nahmanides) rejects this explanation, and prefers to translate *Totafot* as a headband – relying on the Talmud's use of this word in the Tractate Shabbat (57a) that "[A woman] may not go out [on the Sabbath] with a *totepeh*." Rabbi Abahu said: "What is *totepeh*? It is a forehead-band extending from ear to ear".

Most modern day academic explanations seem to favor *headband* as the meaning of *totafot*. In Isaiah (3:19) we find certain jewelry called *netifot* apparently a type of headband which drooped (*tipah*) on the forehead. Alternatively, the word could be related to the Arabic "*Tafa*" which means to go around or encircle.

Regardless of the etymology – what is clear is that the *tefilin* we wear are intended to be a lasting memorial to the miracle of the Exodus. Laying *tefilin* on our arms and foreheads is a reminder that the Exodus should be as impossible to forget as something bound physically to us.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Bo

January 23-24, 2015

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:44 pm

MINHAH | 4:45 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | following services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on: "Shabbat Afternoon with Menachem Begin"

2014-2015 season is sponsored by the Julis Family

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a lecture entitled: "When Lincoln Died on Passover: A Tale From American Jewish History"

LEARNERS' SERVICE with Rabbi Morris | 9:45 am - 11:30 am
| Little Synagogue | *Sponsored by Rudy Stern*

TOT SHABBAT | *Ages 0-4* | 10:00 am | Elias Room (enter via Levy Auditorium)

YOUTH GROUPS | *Ages 5-12* | 10:00 am | Children's library

JR. CONGREGATION *Ages 5-12* | 10:30 am | Levy Auditorium

The next Assigned Jr. Congregation is February 7

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Seth Haberman and Jennifer Ash in honor of Simon and Eva Haberman's 60th wedding anniversary*

PARASHAT HASHABUAH: THE PARTS THEY SKIP IN HIGH SCHOOL Rabbi Hidary | 3:35 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidarys' home, 1 W 85th St Apartment 6A

SEUDAH SHELISHIT & PIRKEI ABOT SHIUR | 3:35 pm
Rabbi Soloviechik

Spring Semester Sponsored by Lewis Lipsey

MINHAH/ARBIT | 4:35 pm

Keter Shem Tob with Rabbi Hidary in the Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 5:31 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Chai Tea with Janet Kirchheimer
Tuesday, January 27 | 5:30 pm | Elias Room
"Chai Tea" is our version of high tea with a Jewish twist. Join Janet R. Kirchheimer to discuss and enjoy the works of Carl Dennis, Emma Lazarus, C.P. Cavafy, Nancy Dugan and more. Come mingle, learn, and discuss over tea and light refreshments. All are welcome! Recommended donation: \$10 CSI members; \$12 non-members. Please RSVP to ashultz@shearithisrael.org

Tu B'Shebat Centerpieces for Your Table
Sponsored by The Sisterhood
Wednesday, January 28
11:15 am – 12:00 pm (following Esther Hidary's class)
AND 7:00 – 7:30 pm (following evening services)
Tu B'Shebat, the New Year of the Trees, is almost here, a day that has been designated to eat numerous fruits and nuts. Rose Edinger, will demonstrate how to design an edible, floral, centerpiece using assorted fruits and nuts. All are welcome to come and learn a fun way to display edibles for the table. RSVP to rgedinger@gmail.com

Friday Night Lights&Bites
Next Shabbat, January 30: The Wines and Fruit of Tu B'Shebat
Join us for cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres. For registered guests.
To Register: shearithisrael.org/bites

Women's Service
Next Shabbat, January 31 | 9:15 am | Little Synagogue
All women and girls are welcome as we celebrate Shirin Kaye becoming a Bat Mitzvah. For more information, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com.

The Continuing Mysteries of the Aleppo Codex
Next Saturday, January 31 | 7:00 pm
In partnership with the Shearith Israel League
Matti Friedman, author of "The Aleppo Codex: A True Story of Obsession, Faith, and Pursuit of an Ancient Bible" will give a presentation with Rabbi Hidary.

The First Shearith Israel League Chulent, Hamin, Adafina, Chili, or just "Stew" Cook-Off Shabbat Dinner
Friday Night, February 6
Sign up by February 3rd
shearithisrael.org/cook-off_shabbat_dinner

Meaning & Melody: The Depth and Beauty of Jewish Prayer
A Shabbat Morning Interlude with Rabbi Shalom Morris
10:00 am in the Small Synagogue
Starting February 7, 2015
Rabbi Morris will offer "Meaning & Melody" most Shabbat mornings. The shiur will consist of brief discussions focusing on prayers and their meanings as well as a review of their melodies. All are welcome to attend.

With Encouragement and Support of the Shearith Israel League
Instrumental Recital for Young Musicians!
Saturday, February 7 | 7:00 pm
To be held in a private home
Are you a music lover? A hearty clapper? A cheerful supplier of uncritical applause? We are now accepting registration for members of the Shearith Israel congregational family to attend the recital as an audience member to support our junior musicians. To sign up or for questions, please contact Layaliza Soloveichik at layaliza@gmail.com

Continue the Unity: Organized by OneFamily
Sunday, February 8 | 3:00 pm
Held at The Ramaz Upper School 60 East 78th Street
Come show your solitary with Israel and welcome Rachelle Fraenkel, Bat Galim Shaer and Iris Yifrah, bereaved mothers of Naftali z"l, Gilad z"l and Eyal z"l.
RSVP at onefamilytogether.org/unity

Yoetzet Halakha
If you have any questions regarding Taharat Hamishpakha (Jewish Family Law) laws of Niddah, sexuality and women's health, please contact our Yoetzet Halakha, Lisa Septimus in confidence at 917-382-9008 or nycyoetzet@gmail.com.

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

View all our spring classes at shearithisrael.org/education

Sunday
◇ **Psalms and Spirituality** | Rabbi Hidary | 8:40 am
◇ **Saadia Gaon's Emunot ve'Deot on Revelation and Commandments** | Sjimon den Hollander | 9:30 am

Monday
◇ **Maimonides' Guide for the Perplexed on Prophecy** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:00 pm
◇ **YL Monday Night Learning *** | 7:00 pm
◇ **Hebruta Program*** | 7:15 pm
◇ **Living Jewish** | Rabbi Morris | 7:30 pm
◇ **Bet Midrash** | 8:00 pm
◇ **Rambam Rules for Young Professionals** | Rabbi Morris | 8:30 pm
**In partnership with JICNY*

Tuesday
◇ **Shulhan Arukh** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:45 am
◇ **Jewish Time: The Festivals in Halakha and Jewish Thought- A Class for Women** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am
◇ **History of the Sephardim, the Spanish & Portuguese Jews** | Rabbi Morris | 6:45 - 7:30 pm
◇ **Talmud Class: Tractate Berakhot and the Philosophy of Jewish Prayer** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 8:00 pm

Wednesday
◇ **Parashat Hashabua** | Esther Hidary | 10:00 am

Tai Chi with Lewis Paleias | Thursdays at 11:00 am

Our next public tour is:
Tuesday, February 10 at 11:00 am

Meet with our Parnas
Our Parnas would be delighted to meet with you. Please schedule a visit at parnas@shearithisrael.org.