

Important Construction Notices

We are working to come up with a satisfactory interim parking space for strollers. 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 mehitza) 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.

Yoetzet Halakha

If you have any questions regarding Taharat Hamishpaha (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.

One-On-One Tour of the UWS Mikvah

If any of our members is interested in learning more about Taharat Hamishpaha, the Laws of Family Purity, please contact Layaliza Soloveichik at layaliza@gmail.com for a private, one-on-one tour of the facilities at the local UWS Mikvah. To maximize confidentiality, these personal tours will take place at times during which the Mikvah is ordinarily closed to the public. Tours of other local Mikvaot are also possible. Women only.

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.

The Commandments are Personal

Rabbi Ira Rohde, Hazzan

Essential to an understanding of Philo Judaeus of Alexandria's "De Decalogo," his treatise upon the Ten Commandments, is the notion that there is a parallelism between the proper laws needed for the regulation of society and the laws needed for the regulation of the individual, which are also parallel to those laws by which nature is regulated. It is an ancient, classical concept found in Plato and elsewhere in Greek and Rabbinic Jewish thought, but also in several other ancient classical thought systems, such as Confucianism. One should govern the individual and his social groups as one would govern a well-run state, which in turn reflects the order and regulation which governs Nature. The same Laws of the Torah can be interpreted in terms of the optimal governance of society, the optimal governance of the individual and his family groups, as well as in terms of how it reflects and teaches about basic laws and regulation of Nature. Thus a good deal of Philo's writings consist of an interpretation of the Torah's laws for society in terms of their application to the governance of the individual and his soul.

This line of interpretation receives particular support from the Ten Commandments section. Philo notes that the entire section is addressed in the singular second person "thou" form (although this doesn't come out so clearly in modern English translation) in order to indicate clearly that it is directly addressed to each and every individual and gives three reasons why: "One answer which must be given is that He wishes to teach the readers of the sacred scriptures a most excellent lesson, namely that each single person, when he is law-abiding and obedient to God, is equal in worth to a whole nation, even the most populous, or rather to all nations, and if we may go still farther, even to the whole world. And therefore elsewhere, when he praises a certain just man, He says, I am thy God, though He was also the God of the world. And thus we see that all the rank and file who are posted in the same line and give a like satisfaction to their commander have an equal share of approbation and honor.

A second reason is that a speaker who harangues a multitude in general does not necessarily talk to any one person...If the exhortations are received as a personal message, the hearer is more ready to obey, but if collectively with others, he is deaf to them, since he takes the multitude as a cover for disobedience.

A third reason is [to teach the lesson] that He wills that no king or despot swollen with arrogance and contempt should despise an insignificant private person...For if the.. King of Kings. Could not brook to despise even the humblest, but deigned to banquet him on holy oracles and statutes as though he should be the sole guest, as though for him alone the feast was prepared to give good cheer to a soul instructed in the holy secrets and accepted for admission to the greatest mysteries...so then, though I be invested with the sovereignty of earth and sea, I will make myself affable and easy of access to the poorest, to the meanest, to the lonely who have none close at hand to help them..."

I believe Philo's point is pretty salient here: The inclusion of the entire people in the Mount Sinai experience as well as the inclusion of private individual and family matters such as the commandment to honor one's father and mother show how much the Torah intends and indeed requires that its commands be seen as applying personally to each and every individual.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue Shabbat Yithro *February 6-7, 2015*

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:01 pm

MINHAH | 5:00 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | following services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on: "Jews, Pilgrims, and the Invention of the Crockpot" | *2014-2015 season is sponsored by the Julis Family*

THE FIRST SHEARITH ISRAEL LEAGUE CHULENT, HAMIN, ADAFINA, CHILL, OR JUST "STEW" COOK-OFF SHABBAT DINNER | following Friday Night Lights | for registered guests | Elias Room

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a sermon entitled: "The American Revolution's Secret Huppah"

MEANING AND MELODY | Rabbi Morris | 10:00 am | Little Synagogue

TOT SHABBAT | *Ages 0-4* | 10:00 am | Elias Room

Featuring Rabbi Shalom Morris at 11:00 AM

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

ASSIGNED JR. CONGREGATION *Ages 5-12* | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by the Aaron family in honor of Laelah's Bat Mitzvah*

PARASHAT HASHABUAH: THE PARTS THEY SKIP IN HIGH SCHOOL | Rabbi Hidary | 3:55 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidarys' home, 1 W 85th St Apartment 6A

SEUDAH SHELISHIT & PIRKEI ABOT SHIUR

Rabbi Soloviechik | 3:55 pm

Spring Semester Sponsored by Lewis Lipsey

MINHAH/ARBIT | 4:55 pm

KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 5:50 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

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

Friday Night Lights&Bites

Friday night, February 20

Celebrate George Washington with Apple Cider

Join us for cocktails and light

hors d'oeuvres. For registered guests.

To Register: shearithisrael.org/bites

An Evening at Museo Ebraico, the Jewish Museum of Rome

Wednesday, February 25 | Doors Open at 7:30 pm

Dr. Giacomo Moscati, Vice President of the Jewish museum of Rome and Joyce Sarner, documentarian and program curator, will offer a stunning visual tour of the museum and its magnificent silver and textile collections. The program will delve into stories of the families that made up a small but highly multi-cultural Jewish society that was forced to reinvent itself in segregation. The presentation will cover the history of the Roman ghetto, the construction of the Great Temple, and the story of how the treasures were saved from Nazi looting. Free and open to the public.

Pre-Purim Baking Class

Sponsored by the Shearith Israel League

Thursday, February 26 | 7:00 pm

Come join baker Rivka Mallet to learn how to put a new spin on the traditional "Oznei Haman." We will learn (and taste) the secrets of making scrumptious Fazuelos, a Sephardic style of Hamantashen. Children and adults are welcome. Cost: \$10 per person, children under 13 are free. For questions, contact Rivka Shoulson at rlsvet@gmail.com. To register, go to shearithisrael.org/purimbaking.

Sisterhood Mishloah Manot Project

Want to send Mishloah Manot notifications to your friends and fellow congregants? This project will support both the Sisterhood and the Synagogue's Mishloah Manot project for seniors and the homebound. Participation form will be coming soon. For more information, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com or Mrs. Carla Schein at scheinc6@gmail.com.

Support our Police

Let's show our appreciation for all they do to keep us safe.

To join our growing list of sponsors go to:

shearithisrael.org/sponsor-lunch-police

Thank you to this week's sponsor:

Faith Fogelman

Mazal Tob

To Laelah Aaron on becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Laelah is the daughter of Penny and Mark Aaron and the granddaughter of Arthur and Carol Goldberg.

To Matide and Daniel Ferguson on the birth of a son, Chaim Benjamin Yosef, new brother to Ashley, Jeremiah, Althea, Charles, Chandler, Abigail, and Ahava.

We welcome the following new members to our community:

Eric and Yonina Gomberg

Women's Choir

Interested in joining a women's choir which will accompany our occasional Shabbat morning women's service? Women or girls who are interested or for more information, please contact

lrohde-csi@yahoo.com

The synagogue is seeking sponsors to help replenish our stock of Daily & Sabbath Prayerbooks and replace old and tattered volumes. This is a meaningful way to commemorate a special event or simhah, to honor or remember a loved one. For more information please contact zedinger@shearithisrael.org or mcaputo@shearithisrael.org

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

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

Spring semester sponsored by Josh Eisen and Bruce Roberts and Joy Saleh Roberts

- ◇ 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

Learn to Read Hebrew

Level 1: Sundays 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Level 2/3: Thursdays 6:45 - 7:45 pm

To sign up: shearithisrael.org/hebrewclasses