



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Vayeilekh-Teshubah *September 18-19, 2015*

CANDLE LIGHTING | 6:42 pm

MINHAH | 6:45 pm

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi

Soloveichik delivers his Shabbat Teshubah Derasha
“Rembrandt and the Rabbis: Blessing Our Children
on the Eve of Atonement”

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

YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Children’s
Library

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

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | * *See in-
side for list of sponsors*

TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY | Rabbi Hidary |
5:30 pm | For high school students | Held at the
Hidarys’ home, 1 W 85th St Apartment 6A

SEUDAH SHELISHIT & AFTERNOON SHIUR

Rabbi Soloveichik gives a class on “Korban Copies:
The Goat of God and of Azazel” | 5:30 pm

MINHAH/ARBIT | 6:30 pm

KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 7:33 pm

Have a Great New Year!

Rabbi Richard Hidary

Jim Collins, the author of the bestseller *Good to Great*, studied the habits of dozens of CEO’s and found that the most successful ones do not have big egos or even great charisma. Rather, they possess the twin qualities of fearless will together with self-critical humility. “Their ambition,” he writes, “is directed first and foremost for the institution and its greatness, not for themselves.”

This description of great leadership perfectly matches that of Moshe, the humble tongue-tied shepherd who became our founding CEO. Perashat Vayeilekh presents the conclusion of Moshe’s valedictory speech and focuses on the transition to the next leader and the future challenges of the nation. Moshe begins with the immediate practical need for a military leader, recognizing that he is too old to go out to battle. He names Yehoshua as the person fit to lead them into battle and concomitantly emphasizes that God will be the one to lead them into battle. Moshe here is logistically pragmatic and spiritually inspiring at the same time.

Beyond the military needs, Moshe is ultimately concerned with the national adherence to the Torah’s covenant. He takes three steps to ensure the long term transmission of the Torah’s teachings. First, he entrusts the physical Torah scroll to the Levitical priests to safeguard the text itself. Second, Moshe calls for a reenactment of the Sinaitic lawgiving once every seven years at which all of the men, women and children would gather to hear the leader read the Torah to them. This would happen on Sukkot after the shemita year – which coincides exactly with the current new year 5776.

Third, God foresees that the Israelites will follow the idolatrous ways of the other nations and violate the Torah. Moshe therefore teaches them the poem of Haazinu as a witness to continuity of the covenant even through a cycle of sin, punishment, and reconciliation. This must have been a very sobering message for the people to hear and for Moshe to relay. We might have expected the final speech of a founding leader to recall all of his accomplishments in freeing the Israelites, saving their lives again and again, and revealing to them great prophetic truths. Instead, Moshe’s true humility shines forth in not being concerned with his personal legacy but rather by predicting the pitfalls that the future may bring and setting up mechanisms to overcome them.

This parasha encodes the essence of what makes a great leader and serves as a guide to each of us as we lead our own families, companies, and communities. During this time of reassessment and repentance, I hope we can all find inspiration both in Moshe’s tenacious will to teach justice and faith as well as his modesty in empowering those around him towards a future collective success. If we can do that, then we can look forward not to a good year, but to a great New Year! Shanah Tobah.

Simhat Torah Dinner and Ice Cream Extravaganza Monday Night, October 5

Following Simhat Torah hakafot in the sanctuary, we will host a light dinner. Pre-registration is mandatory. Register at shearithisrael.org/dinner-and-ice-cream

Our annual ice cream party for children will follow. As usual, volunteer teen scoopers are needed. Contact slandau@shearithisrael.org to help out- strong arms required, lactose tolerance preferred.

Sponsored by the Haberman and Lustig families.

Register now for PTTS Hebrew School

Polonies Talmud Torah School, provides children and teens, ages 3-16, with a substantive Jewish education in a positive and engaging environment. Register at shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool

A SHEARITH ISRAEL DOUBLE HEADER

Hatanim Luncheon

Saturday, October 10

Join us in honoring our Hatanim and their families with a luncheon following Morning Services:

Seth Haberman, Hatan Torah

Ari Sherizen, Hatan Bereshit

Register by September 30 at shearithisrael.org/hatanim2015

Shearith Israel Annual Gala

Wednesday, October 21

The gala is just one month away!

Make sure to reserve your spot and pay tribute to our longtime synagogue members and PTTS family, Lloyd Zuckerberg and Charlotte Triefus and Rabbi Shalom Morris.

Register by October 7 at shearithisrael.org/gala.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Kippur Tickets and Offerings

Congregants with a reserved seat should each bring a print-out of their email confirmation or a ticket. You may still make your Kippur and Succot offerings and purchase your lulabim and etrogim at shearithisrael.org/highholidays5776.

Kippur Youth Programming

Tot Shabbat for the Holidays (childcare) will be available during Kal Nidre and throughout Kippur. We will also hold Jr. Congregation and Youth Groups. More details to follow.

City Harvest Kosher Food Drive

This Fall we are launching Hesed initiatives focused on alleviating hunger in New York City. For the month of September, the Shearith Israel League’s Social Action Committee is sponsoring a City Harvest Kosher Food Drive. A food collection bin will be placed outside of Levy Auditorium near the water fountain. Alternatively, a Shearith Israel Teen Team will pick up donations for the food drive anywhere from W. 57th Street to W. 96th Street (some East side locations may be considered.) Contact Teen Team Chair Sara B. Goldstein at Goldsteinbsara@gmail.com or leave a message for League Social Action Chair Rita Rodin at 917-734-1932. Please go to shearithisrael.org/food-drive for important kashrut rules and other specifications.

“Wildman” Steve Brill Central Park Succot Outing
Wednesday, September 30 | 4:00pm

Back by popular demand, Wildman will lead children and adults through a unique foraging expedition and edible tour through a new route in Central Park. Culminating in a pizza dinner in the succah. Don’t miss out! Register at shearithisrael.org/wildman. Deadline September 24.

Succah Greens Composting
Due Friday, October 16

After Succot, rather than throwing out your lulabim, take advantage of this special eco-friendly opportunity and leave your lulabim with us! The NYC Dept of Sanitation (DSNY) will collect our Succot organics for composting. Leave your lulabim with Z. Edinger before Friday, October 16 and we’ll do the rest.

Help Build and Decorate BOTH Shearith Israel Succot!
Sunday Morning, September 27

We are pleased to report that we WILL have a second succah this year. This means we are able to accommodate plenty of members and guests who wish to enjoy self-catered meals. If you have not yet made your reservations and payment arrangements (see details below), please do so ASAP by contacting Maria Caputo at mcaputo@shearithisrael.org or 212-873-0300 x230. But we need your help. Kids and adults are invited to come by on Sunday, September 27 to build and decorate the new succah! Our day starts with morning services at 8:00 am. Immediately after which, we will put up the schach on our new succah. At 10:00 am, all congregants, including our youngest members are welcome to help decorate our new succah. Bring your own decorations or help put up decorations prepared by our toddler program and others!

Sisterhood Elias Room Succah Decorating Events

Thursday, September 24 | 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Friday, September 25 | 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Sunday, September 27 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Teens and adults, women and men, are invited to help decorate the Elias Room Succah. To participate, contact lirohdc@cs@yahoo.com or art1show@verizon.net or sign up at shearithisrael.org/sisterhood-succah-decorating-5776. To make a contribution to the Sisterhood Succah Fund, please either send a donation to The Sisterhood Succah Fund at the synagogue office, make a gift online or contact ryasky@shearithisrael.org.

Meals in the Succah

Shearith Israel members and their guests are welcome to enjoy self-catered meals in one of two Shearith Israel community Succot. Registration and a cover charge of \$12 per seat (including children) are required for each meal. We supply beverages, table cloths and disposables and you bring the food (strictly kosher, of course). To register contact mcaputo@shearithisrael.org ASAP. Please let her know if you prefer the Elias or the new Succah.

**Thank you ot our*
Shabbat Teshubah Derasha and Kiddush Luncheon Sponsors

Sponsors:

Nicole and Raanan Agus
Yasmine Ergas and Leonard Groopman
Jane & Reuben Leibowitz
David and Debbie Sable
The Solomon Family

Co-sponsors:

Raquel and Steve Herz
The Neumark Family

Supporters:

Anonymous
Rachel Donna and Ariel Amram Bengio
Sabra and Simon Gerson
Meralee and Sidney Schlusberg

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the Shearith Israel Family:
Eduardo Lipschutz and Cecilia Michelson

Condolences to David Sable on the passing of his mother, Elissa Sable.

Thank you to Mr. Norman Benzaquen for sponsoring kiddush on the First Day Rosh Hashanah

Parnas Office Hours

Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you.
Please schedule a visit at
parnas@shearithisrael.org.

Our next public tour is:
Tuesday, October 13 at 11:00 am