

Jewish Education Alerts

- Rabbi Soloveichik's Tuesday Morning Women's Class returns from hiatus on **January 22**.
- Rabbi Silber's new class on the Book of Judges will begin on **Sunday, February 3**. To learn more and register (FREE for Shearith Israel members), visit shearithisrael.org/silber-judges.
- Rabbi Sjimon den Hollander's Sunday Class returns on **January 20**.

THIS SUNDAY!

Annual UWS Blood Drive

Sunday, January 13 | 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Lincoln Square Synagogue, 180 Amsterdam Avenue

Once again, Shearith Israel is joining forces with the Jewish Center, Lincoln Square Synagogue, Ohab Zedek, and West Side Institutional Synagogue to donate blood during the winter months when blood banks need it most.

Sign up to give the gift of life!

JScreen will be onsite for genetic screening for those interested.

To view time slots and register, visit shearithisrael.org/blood-drive2019.

Walk-ins are also welcome.

CHOIR SELECTIONS THIS SHABBAT

Friday Night (12/21)

V'Shameru (p. 166) | Leon Kramer

Psalm 23 (p. 174) | Henry Pereira Mendes

Shabbat Morning (11/22)

Misheberakh (p. 208) | Leon Kramer

Ubnuho Yomar (p. 218) | Leon Hyman

The choir will be performing special songs next week for Shabbat Shira—don't miss it!

Public Tours

Our next public tour is **Wednesday, February 13, at 11:00 AM**

Parnas Office Hours

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

DEBAR TORAH: PARASHAT BO

—R.ABBI YANETZ—

After the eighth plague, Pharaoh changed his mind: he was willing to let the Jews go. Careful reading of the *pesukim* can teach us an important lesson which sheds light on the purpose of the entire Passover story.

Pharaoh calls Moshe and Aharon, informing them that he is willing to let the Jews go serve their god. But then he asked them: "Who are the ones that you are planning to take with you?"

Moshe replied, "We shall go with our youth and our old people."

To that, Pharaoh responded, "Only the adult men shall go!"

What is so important about Moshe's insistence that the children go with him? A popular answer is that we need to take the children to teach them how to serve our god. Rabbi Chaim Palagi claims that taking the children with us is not just technical issue, but rather the ultimate goal of the whole story—to pass down the *Masora* to our future generations.

He derives this from the *pasuk* (*Shemot*, 13:8), "*And you shall explain to your son on that day, It is because of what God did for me when I went free from Egypt.*"

That is the aim of the whole story, that we will educate our children to know that God exists, watches, acts, controls all powers in the world, and can change nature when he decides to do so—that what he did during the Ten Plagues in Egypt is what he can do any time and every minute. That's why we add so many questions and interesting activities to attract the children on the night of the Pesach Seder, so that kids will stay up and be actively interested during the Seder.

This reminds me of a true story that happened during the Holocaust, at one of the concentration camps. Before Pesach arrived, a group of Jewish prisoners were looking for kosher matza to eat for the coming holiday. It was hard to get it, of course, but one of the Jews risked his life and managed to get a small piece of matza. When the night of Pesach arrived, he was happy to gather with the other Jews telling them that he has a *kezayit* of matza, but he realized how bad his friends felt that no one else was having matza but him. He started wondering if he should hand it over and allow someone else to have the *kezayit* of matza. An argument broke out among the gathered audience: who should have the matza? Some said that he should have it since he risked his life to get it; others said to hand it to the oldest member of the group or maybe to the Rabbi. It was definitely hard decision to make.

But one of the women raised her hand and said, "Give it to the child!"

This was a surprise, since a child is not even obligated in that *mitzvah*. But the Rabbi understood her point, and explained that she is actually right. What is all Pesach about? To teach our belief to our children! We all here are old people in this prison, and how long will we stay for? Our biggest chance to have a Jewish future is this child. He should get the matza, and we will explain to him the miracles that God made for us.

And that is exactly what happened: this child survived the war, he immigrated to America, became a Rabbi, and every year, he told over that story. Passing down our belief and our strongest faith to our children is the essence of Pesach.

It's now clear why Moshe insist taking the children with the adults, since that is the lesson and the goal of our story, to instill that in our children and they will instill that in their children, and so on, until the ultimate redemption comes.



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CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Bo

January 11-12, 2019

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 248; Haftarah p. 263
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 300; Haftarah p. 1102

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:31 pm

EVENING SERVICES | 4:30 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Soloveichik | "Shakespeare and Shabbat" | *2018-2019 season sponsored by the Julis family.*

MORNING SERVICES | Main Sanctuary | 8:15 am

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

YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room

JUNIOR CONGREGATION | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

LECTURE | Rabbi Soloveichik | "Exotic Matzah: A Culinary and Halakhic History"

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Emanuel Vazquez-Senior in memory of his parents, Angel Vasquez and Ana Senior, and co-sponsored by Suzanne Morad on the occasion of the 1st nahala of her father, Said Benjamin Morad.*

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | 3:30 pm |

"Lamb and Lamentation" | Levy Auditorium

EVENING SERVICES | 4:25 pm

HABDALA | 5:17 pm

PARENT-CHILD LEARNING | 6:45 pm | Rabbi Ira Rohde | Elias Room

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

Sunday: 8:00 am | Monday-Friday: 7:15 am

Evenings (Arbit only):

Sunday-Thursday: 6:30 pm

RSVP DEADLINE: THIS MONDAY, JANUARY 14

Shabbat Shira Sing-Along Luncheon

Featuring our talented musical triumvirate:

Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde, Associate Hazzan Rev. Philip L. Sherman, and Shamash, Zachary Edinger

Shabbat, January 19 | Following Morning Services

Have you ever wished you were more familiar with Shearith Israel's unique liturgy and melodies? Do you ever have the urge to sing along with the Shearith Israel choir (or belt it out at your own home)? At this special Shabbat luncheon, join the uplifting voices of our clergy in discussing, learning, and singing classic Shearith Israel tunes in a laid-back, cozy atmosphere. Meals like these are a great opportunity to invite your friends to our community without having to host them yourself!

Register or sponsor at shearithisrael.org/sing-along-luncheon.

This event is one of our many Year of Years, 365th Anniversary events, showcasing and transmitting the unique musical traditions of our congregation.



THE SHEARITH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD PRESENTS

Wrapunzel

Sunday, February 3 | 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Joined by Sharsheret, helping families facing cancer

Want to give your creative side a twist?

Looking for an elegant solution to a bad hair day?

Tired of shivering, windblown, as temperatures drop? Intrigued by well-priced soft silk scarves and a side order of technique?

Know a cancer patient who might benefit?

Join the Shearith Israel Sisterhood, Wrapunzel, and Sharsheret at this special event, featuring demonstrations, one-on-one tutorials, plus scarves, accessories, and specialty gear for sale.

To register, visit shearithisrael.org/wrapunzel.

Only \$5 in advance; \$10 at the door.

Light refreshments will be served. Women only, please.

Remembering Baghdad Continued:

Upcoming Film Screening

Wednesday, February 6 | 7:00 pm

The Last Jews of Baghdad

Marking the anniversary of the Baghdad Hangings

With opening remarks from producer Carole Basri

Today, only 5 Jews remain in Iraq from a population of 160,000. This film asks, "Why did the Iraqi Jews leave?" The answer is found in the discriminatory laws and policies enacted by Iraq's government and leaders against these former members of Iraqi society who still consider themselves "Iraqi Jews."

Register at shearithisrael.org/baghdad-screenings.

Only \$5 per member/\$8 per non-member in advance, \$10 at the door.

Special Commemorative Baghdad Booklet

Our limited edition "*Remembering Baghdad*" booklet, featuring exclusive photographs and life stories of our many Iraqi Jewish community members, will be available at the screening for \$5. This beautifully designed volume is only available through Shearith Israel. You can buy it at this screening, or place an order online at

shearithisrael.org/baghdad-book.



This screening is part of our many Year of Years, 365th Anniversary events, showcasing the extraordinary diversity and heritage of our congregation.

Shearith Israel Toddler Program

Mondays and Wednesdays | 9:30 am-11:30 am

January 2-June 5

For ages 16-34 months | *Parent or caregiver attendance required.*
There is still time to enroll your toddler for the Spring Semester of "the best-kept secret on the Upper West Side!"
To learn more and apply, go to shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram.

Parent-Child Learning & Pizza

On Upcoming Saturday Nights:

THIS Saturday night, January 12 | 6:45 pm

Led by Rabbi Ira Rohde

February 9 | 7:00 pm—Led by Z. Edinger

For Children Aged 5-12 & Their Parents or Grandparents

A wonderful opportunity for parents (or grandparents) to study Torah with their children together with Shearith Israel's clergy.
Pizza and prizes help make this a fun-filled evening of inter-generational learning.

Register for the January 12 session (only \$5 per person) at shearithisrael.org/parent-child-learning.

PTTS Shabbaton 2.0

Shabbat, January 19

On this special Shabbat, PTTS students take the lead at Jr. Congregation. Feel free to stick around by signing up for our Shabbat Shira Sing-Along Luncheon!

Calling CSI Teens

We are looking for a few experienced Junior Congregation participants to mentor some of our PTTS students to help them prepare for this special event. This is a rewarding and fun chance to support our PTTS students, and can also be used to fulfill community service hours.

Contact Yona Glass at yglass@shearithisrael.org if you would like to help a PTTS student master their part.

Meldadura of Reverend A. L. Cardozo

Monday, January 28 | Following 6:30 pm Evening Services

All are welcome to join us at the Meldadura marking the 13th *nahala* of Reverend Abraham Lopes Cardozo.

Services begin at 6:30 pm with Arbit in the Little Synagogue.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal tob to Ahron Herring, upon his marriage to Jessica Schechter this upcoming Sunday.

Mazal tob to Ellen & Robert Kapito on the birth of a baby boy to their children, Shira & Josh Arcus.