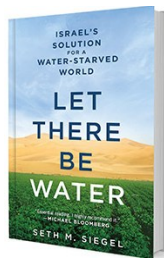


Incredible Kids Mega Challah Bake
Super (Challah) Bowl Sunday, February 5 | 10:30 am
At the New York Grand Hyatt in Midtown
 Shearith Israel is a proud sponsor of the upcoming Incredible Kids Mega Challah Bake. CSI Youth are invited to join Jewish children from all over New York City to get together for the Incredible Kids Mega Challah Bake. The event is the brainchild of a diverse group of Jewish moms of every style, observance, and denomination, all with one common goal: unity. The event will host approximately 1,000 Jewish children, all ready to roll up their sleeves and make their very own challah loaves. Last year, the Guinness Book of World Records was on hand to declare it the world's largest baking event. Want to help be a part of trying to break a new record? Register at kidschallahbake.com/rsvp.

Shabbat Tu B'Shebat Seder and Public Discussion
Featuring New York Times Best Selling Author:
Seth (Yossi) Siegel
Friday Night, February 10
Following Friday Night Lights
 Join Rabbi Meir Soloveichik and Yossi Siegel for a special evening featuring both the seder as well as a public discussion of Yossi Siegel's New York Times bestselling book, *Let There Be Water: Israel's Solution for a Water-Starved World*.
 Register at shearithisrael.org/tu-b'shebat-seder



Our next public tour is:
Wednesday, February 8 at 11:00 am

This week's parashah concludes the Book of Genesis. Our custom is to rise for the final verse and to say the following phrase upon completion of the reading:
‘חֲזַק וְנִתְחַזַּק - חֲזָקוּ וַיִּצְמַח לְבַבְכֶּם כָּל הַמִּיחָלִים לָהּ’
Be strong and let us be strengthened - Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all ye that hope for the LORD.

“The Twelve Signs:” Prophecy and Blessing Combined
Rabbi Ira Rohde

In Parashat Vayhi Jacob seems to combine into one the giving of blessings and the telling of future portents, the two functions of priest and prophet, respectively. In 48:9, Jacob says “take (Menashe and Ephraim) them unto me that I may bless them, and in 48:15 and 20 he is clearly giving a blessing. And yet in v. 21, Jacob seems to be switching somewhat into prophecy, and it's not quite clear whether Jacob is blessing the people that God should return them to the land of their fathers or whether he is predicting that God will return them to the land of their fathers. By 49:1 Jacob is clearly prophesying: “And Jacob called to his children, saying, gather yourselves and I shall tell you that which shall befall you in the end of the days.” And yet the prophecy for all of the tribes ends clearly in a blessing for Joseph in v. 24-26, and the end of this whole prophecy seems to refer retroactively to all of the preceding as a blessing, giving this curious explanation in 49:28: “All these [pertain to] the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them and blessed them, each man according to his blessing did he bless them.” Rashi (49:28) asks the obvious question: “But aren't there those among them whom he didn't bless but rather vexed [with a chiding or curse]?” The answer would seem to be that prophecy and blessing, as well as cursing, are interwoven functions and not fully distinguishable, as we see most famously in the story of the prophet Balaam. The curious way Menashe and Ephraim are blessed also seems to have to do with Jacob giving a “blessing” which is a true and appropriate prophecy of their future destiny. On his deathbed Jacob is both the patriarch dispensing the blessings of his heritage as well as the blind seer whose eyes bear weighty portents. And if we look carefully, back at Abraham and Isaac as well as forward to all the prophets thereafter, we see these functions combined and working in tandem.

What can we make of this combination of blessing and prophecy into one? And indeed, what are to make of the individual expressions, likening the tribes to animals, often seeming to curse them or predict a bad end? The key seems to be in this final expression “each man according to his blessing.” A year ago, in my comments on Parashat Vayiggash, I gave a sympathetic Jewish hearing to Joseph the Astrologer's reading of his family constellation. Here I'd also borrow from astrology to explain that there are several different personality types. These personalities define individuals, but they may define more collective entities such as tribes and peoples, as well. These “personality types” and their signs often hold the key to their destiny, and the proper fulfillment of the virtuous potential inherent in their personality often holds the key to their reaching their fullest blessing and happiness. Unlike the determinism of scientific psychology, which views only some traits as healthy and others sick, and has little room for variations in personality, astrologers traditionally allow for many different types of personalities, with different characteristics and a multitude of different healthy and sick trajectories for each. We as Jews must be careful not to take an excessively deterministic approach to astrology, but the basic understanding that personality type usually is destiny can be understood. It is notable that the twelve tribes correspond, like the astrological types, to the twelve months of the year and the twelve signs of the zodiac. The animals used may not be the same ones used in other cultures, the typology of the personality may not match up with other astrological systems, but the gist of it may be the same as in other astrological systems. The twelve tribes subdivide into clans, many with their own personalities, without necessarily an astrological reference, but the subdivision by genealogy may compare to subdivision by further astrological signs. I often note that today's synagogues use symbols of the twelve tribes as a reaction in place of the twelve signs of the zodiac which often adorned older Jewish religious structures, but that in fact they may amount to the same thing. In encompassing twelve (or thirteen) tribes, like the Greek amphictyony, there is an encompassing of a universe of personality types and characters, each with his own flagship characters, the development of which leads to its fulfillment in blessing or, and the frustration of which leads to failure, vexation, and curse. In this universe of personality and character, virtue, vice, blessing, curse, as well as the successes and failures which character and its types prophetically portend, are indeed combined.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Vayhee
January 13-14, 2017

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 180 ; Haftarah p. 191
 Kaplan Living Torah: p. 240 ; Haftarah: 1090

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:33 pm
MINHAH | 4:30 pm | Main Sanctuary
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on the topic “A Disguise in a Blessing” | 2016 -2017 season sponsored by the Julis Family

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Shlomo Riskin delivers a lecture on the topic “The United City and the United Nations: The Allure and Sanctity of Jerusalem”
TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium
YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Fidanque Room
JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue
KIDDUSH | Elias Room | *Sponsored by Deborah Bendheim in loving memory of her father, Ralph Bendheim, in commemoration of his nahala*

SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND PIRKEI ABOT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | 3:30 pm | Levy Auditorium | *Fall semester sponsored by Lewis Lipsey*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 4:30 PM
HABDALAH | 5:19 pm

Weekday Service Times
 Mornings: Sunday– Monday (MLK Day): 8:00 AM,
 Tuesday-Friday: 7:15 AM,
 Evenings (Arbit Only): Monday - Thursday: 6:30 PM

MLK Day Weekend Updates
 -Sjimon Den Hollander's Sunday morning classes will meet as usual.
 -PTTS will not meet on Sunday.
 -Our office will be closed this Monday in observance of MLK Day.
 -Toddler program will not meet on Monday.
 -Rabbi Soloveichik's class will not meet on Monday night.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

*The United City and the United Nations:
The Allure and Sanctity of Jerusalem*
Part 2 of a 3 part Jerusalem’s Jubilee Lecture Series
This Shabbat following morning services
Guest Speaker, Rabbi Shlomo Riskin

Rabbi Riskin is one of the founders and the first spiritual leader of the Lincoln Square Synagogue in New York, which he led for 19 years. In 1983, at the peak of his profession, he left New York to become the rabbi of Efrat, a new Israeli city 8 miles south of Jerusalem, which he helped found and establish.

Efrat is now a flourishing community of close to 12,000 people. Rabbi Riskin founded and serves as Chancellor and Rosh Yeshiva of Ohr Torah Stone Institutions, a network of over 3,000 students ranging from junior-high schools to post-graduate programs preparing the leaders for world Jewry.



Jerusalem's Jubilee: A Three Part Lecture Series
Join us next Shabbat for part 3 of this three-part lecture series marking the calendar year in which we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the unification of this holiest city.
Part 3: Rabbi Soloveichik - Shabbat Morning, January 21
*The First Jewish Ruler of Jerusalem in 2000 Years:
The Remarkable Story of Viscount Herbert Samuel*

To join our growing list of sponsors for this important series, go to shearithisrael.org/jerusalem_jubilee

Benefactor
Roni and Robert Pick
The Solomon Family

Sponsor
Alan & Carol Schechter Charity Fund Inc.
Anonymous

Chai Contributor
Sue and Norman Javitt
Sidney and Meralée Schlusberg

**Shabbat Dinner For Teens and Their Entire Families
with Rabbi Soloveichik**
Friday night, January 20 | Following Friday Night Lights
Deadline: This Tuesday, January 17

Teens and their families are invited to a special Shabbat dinner with Rabbi Soloveichik and his family. In light of the events to be held on this date, we have decided to pivot with the more relevant American Inauguration Day theme. Register at shearithisrael.org/teen-inauguration-shabbat



**Exclusive Tour of “The First Jewish Americans:
Freedom and Culture In ‘The New World’ Exhibit**
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
The New-York Historical Society
170 Central Park West (At 77th street)
Sunday, February 5 | 11:45 am



Our January 29th tour is now SOLD OUT!
We are offering an additional tour date on February 5th starting promptly at 11:45AM (11:30 arrival recommended). Again, Rabbi Soloveichik will lead a tour of this fascinating exhibit, which is directly connected to the history of our community and congregation and showcases several important objects from our collection as well as extensive loans from the private collection of our newest member, Leonard Milberg. As spaces are highly limited, for now registration is open to sponsors ONLY. We will open the program to non-sponsors, subject to remaining spots as we get closer to the date.

Register at shearithisrael.org/The-First-Jewish-Americans.

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For details go to: shearithisrael.org/judaic-education

- Sunday*
- ◊ **Saariah Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions** | Sjimón den Hollander | 8:45 am
- Monday*
- ◊ **Monday Night Learning: A Series on Early America and The Jews** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 7:00 pm | NO CLASS THIS WEEK
- Tuesday*
- ◊ **Katzap Class and Breakfast** | Following Morning Services
 - ◊ **Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought - A Class for Women** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am
 - ◊ **Talmud Class: Tractate Sanhedrin** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 7:00 pm
- Wednesday*
- ◊ **NEW: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Shearith Israel: A Monthly Q & A** | Z. Edinger | 7:00 pm | On select Wednesdays | Next class on January 25 | Email questions to zedinger@shearithisrael.org.

To sponsor a single class or an entire semester, go to shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass

To find out when your favorite class is held, canceled or for special topics, go to shearithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists to select which emails you’d like to receive.

Parnas Office Hours

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hazak u’barukh to trustee, **Seth Haberman**, CEO of Visible World, for being awarded an Emmy for the development of Targeted TV Advertising.

We mourn the loss of our member **Deborah Neumark**.
Condolences to her husband Mel, and her children, Avery Neumark, Rachel Neumark Herlands, Lizbeth Neumark and Miriam Shalev.