



SAVE THE DATE  
**"Pulpit Swap"**  
 Shabbat, March 10, 2018



In the spirit of friendship and mutual respect, Rabbis Levine and Soloveichik will "swap" synagogues, enjoying the warmth of their peer *kehillot* and each treating the other to a special lecture after morning services.

Rabbi Levine's lecture topic at Shearith Israel:  
*"A Revolutionary Tale: The Curious History of the First Hebrew Prayer for a Democratic Government"*

To join our list of sponsors for the *kiddush* following this special lecture, visit [shearithisrael.org/pulpit-swap](http://shearithisrael.org/pulpit-swap).

**JNF's Tu B'Shebat Festival: *Shuk Shack***  
**"Experience Israel in NYC"**

**This Wednesday, January 31 | 7:00 pm**  
**IAC HQ, 555 West 18 Street, New York, NY**  
 Shearith Israel is proud to co-sponsor this enormous communal festival. To RSVP and learn more about the festival, including the VIP Cocktail Reception, and JNFuture afterparty, visit [jnf.org/shukshack](http://jnf.org/shukshack).

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome new member **Nancy Hoffman** to the Shearith Israel family.

Condolences to Shearith Israel's Financial Associate **Ruth Yasky** and John Vinci on the passing of John's father, Salvatore Vinci.

Our next public tour is **Wednesday, February 14**

**Parnas Office Hours**  
 Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you. Please schedule a visit at [parnas@shearithisrael.org](mailto:parnas@shearithisrael.org).

**ASK THE YOETZET**

— BY SHIFFY FRIEDMAN, *YOETZET HALAKHA* —

This is a new installment in a column that appears on occasion, featuring our *Yoetzet Halakha*, Shiffy Friedman, who will provide helpful answers to questions that congregants pose to her. You may submit a question by email to [nycyoetzet@gmail.com](mailto:nycyoetzet@gmail.com).

**Q&A with the *Yoetzet*:**

**Question:** I have given some thought to starting to go to the mikveh but I actually know very little about it. Can you explain what a mikveh is and who it is intended for?

**Answer:** The word "mikveh" literally means a gathering of water. While some natural bodies of water qualify as a mikveh, most mikveh users today prefer the manmade version—and many of them resemble a modern day spa! In order for a mikveh to be built in a kosher fashion, there are many qualifications. Designing a kosher mikveh takes careful planning and the involvement of expert individuals. The mikveh needs to be built into the ground and the waters cannot be drawn, but need to be channeled into the mikveh through specific materials. Once constructed, the final step is out of our hands—waiting for the rain to fall and fill up the minimum required amount.

*Halakhot* of immersion in a mikveh apply to the following circumstances:

- Women who experience a menses dip in the mikveh after 11 or 12 days since beginning their monthly cycle. As the *halakha* stipulates that couples refrain from sexual intimacy during this period of time, the mikveh allows couples to reunite and, for this reason alone, makes the mikveh construction and usability a priority for a Jewish community. (In my role as *Yoetzet Halakha*, I deal primarily with education and questions that arise in this specific area of mikveh).
- A mikveh is also used as part of the process of conversion and is a necessary step for a man or woman who wishes to join the Jewish religion.
- Finally, a mikveh is used for an obligatory purpose is to dip new dishes or utensils before using them.

*Halakhot* of mikveh have been employed for centuries, as building a mikveh is an important first step in building a Jewish community. For each of these above cases, a blessing is said upon the mitzvah. Each of these topics can be treated at greater length.

There are also cases when the *halakha* does not require an immersion, but it is customary to dip. One example of this is a custom to dip as a representation of a "rebirth" before repenting on Yom Kippur (most often, it is men partaking in this ritual, but in some communities it is customary for women to as well). In these cases, no blessing is said upon immersion. Source used in preparing this answer: "*Waters of Eden: The Mystery of Mikvah*" by Aryeh Kaplan

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**Shiffy Friedman** graduated from Nishmat's Miriam Glaubach Center's U.S. *Yoetzot Halakha* Fellows Program in 2015. She counsels women in the area of women's health and *halakha*.

*Shearith Israel is a proud co-sponsor of the Manhattan Yoetzet Halakha Initiative. If you have any questions regarding Taharat Hamishpaha (Family Purity) or laws of Niddah, please contact our Yoetzet Halakha in confidence at [nycyoetzet@gmail.com](mailto:nycyoetzet@gmail.com), or by calling or texting 646-598-1080.*



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

**The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue**  
**Shabbat Beshallah-Shira**  
*January 26-27, 2018*

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 265; Haftarah: p. 283  
 Kaplan Living Torah: p. 320; Haftarah: p. 1108

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:48 pm

MINHAH & ARBIT | 5:00 pm | Main Sanctuary

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "Challah, Salt and Honey: A Culinary Approach" | 2017-2018 season sponsored by the Julis family.

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am  
 | Fidanque Youth Room

YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am  
 | Fidanque Youth Room

JUNIOR CONGREGATION WITH A TORAH READING | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 | Little Synagogue

LECTURE | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "Mannah-Schewitz: A Judaic Approach to Taste from the Exodus to Modern Cuisine"

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored by **Roger & Esme Berg** in honor of the recent birth of twin girls to their daughter Juliette, and in honor of their son Louis Alexandre's reading the haftarah on the occasion of his bar mitzvah anniversary, by **Rose & Henry Edinger** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Michal Herman, and by **Liliane Marks** in memory of her husband, Dr. Neville Marks.

YOUNG COUPLES & FAMILIES PRE-TU B'SHEBAT LUNCHEON | Elias Room | For registered guests.

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | 3:40 pm | "Lechem Mishneh: A Halakhic History" | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored by Jeff Berger in memory of his father, Joseph Berger.

MINHAH & ARBIT | 4:40 pm

HABDALAH | 5:36 pm

Weekday Service Times

**Mornings:**

Sunday: 8:00 am

Monday-Friday: 7:15 am

**Evenings:**

Sunday (Minhah & Arbit—note new time): 5:00 pm

Monday-Thursday (Arbit only): 6:30 pm



### Shabbat Shirah

This Shabbat's Torah portion includes the Song of the Sea, sung by Moses and the Children of Israel after crossing the Red Sea. This ancient poem is cause for a semi-festive atmosphere in the synagogue. The cloaks are dressed in festive colors, the *Az Yashir* melody is used as the musical theme throughout the service and during the morning *Zemirot* (about 8:45 AM) and the Torah reading (about 9:45 AM), the *Shirah* is chanted to an elaborate melody reserved for special occasions known as the "*High Na'um*." Please join us for this special reading!

### Tu B'Shebat Shiur

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
THIS Tuesday, January 30  
7:00 pm



Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a shiur dedicated to the themes of Tu B'Shebat. Tasty Tu B'Shebat treats will be served.

For sponsorship opportunities for this public lecture, visit [shearithisrael.org/tu-bshebat-shiur](http://shearithisrael.org/tu-bshebat-shiur).

### IMPORTANT NOTE ON CHILDCARE

#### For Registered Guests of Today's Young Couples & Families Pre-Tu B'Shebat Luncheon

Liz will be overseeing the children at the luncheon in the Elias Room. She will be sitting with them during the meal. After most of the children have finished eating, Liz will lead them to the Fidanque Youth Room where she will provide fun and supervision. If children want to stay in the Elias Room, it's up to their parents to supervise them.

If they wish to join Liz in Fidanque a little later on, parents (or a responsible older child) must escort them. It is important that children are not walking through the synagogue on their own and that they do not take food or drink outside the Elias Room (especially as they walk through the Small Synagogue). Thank you for your cooperation.

View all our Winter Semester classes at  
[shearithisrael.org/judaic-education](http://shearithisrael.org/judaic-education)

Sign up to be notified of any schedule changes or cancellations at [shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists](http://shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists).

## SHEARITH ISRAEL'S ANNUAL EVENT

SAVE THE DATE  
Sunday Morning, March 18



Pictured from Left to Right:  
Liberty Bell Rimmonim, 1961  
Benjamin Franklin's proposed  
seal for the United States



## Passover and the American Imagination

A major symposium and luncheon—in preparation for our upcoming *Year of Years* celebration in 2019, which will mark 365 years of Jewish life in America—and in tribute to Shearith Israel's 5778 hatanim, **Simon Salama-Caro** and **Robert Kapito**.

Set aside an entire morning that will prepare you for this year's Passover seder with remarkable stories and lessons of liberty from the American Jewish historical narrative, presented by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik along with pre-eminent historians.



For more information, registration, and tribute folio listings, please visit:  
[shearithisrael.org/gala2018](http://shearithisrael.org/gala2018).

## PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

### SAVE THE DATE

### Herringfest: The Purim Edition

*A Purim Dinner featuring herring from the world-famous Russ & Daughters, foods from other fine purveyors, and an entertaining talk from Rabbi Soloveichik*

Wednesday, February 28 | Following *Megillah* Reading

It's our annual Purim Dinner—with a salty twist! This year, after the success of last year's Herringfest, we're holding the sequel—with even more herring!—on Purim night, after *megillah* reading. Other smoked fish with delicious bagels and spreads will round out this delectable dinner. (Note to parents—don't worry, there will be plenty to eat for kids who don't like herring!)

Registration and sponsorships coming soon.

### Be Part of Our Women's *Megillat Esther*

Purim Morning, Thursday, March 1

Services begin at 7:15 am

Calling all women aged 12 and up to read *megillah* this year, for the 29th year of this Shearith Israel tradition. Assignments are as short as 3 verses and all audio is available at [shearithisrael.org/megillat-esther](http://shearithisrael.org/megillat-esther). It's easy to learn and is a great way to participate this Purim! Contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at [lirohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lirohde-csi@yahoo.com) for more information and to get involved.

### Sponsor Our Annual Purim Breakfast

Thursday, March 1 | 8:30 am

Every year we treat our congregation to a festive Purim Breakfast following the reading of the *megillah* on Purim morning. Help ensure that we have plenty of hamentashen to go around by going here to sponsor: [shearithisrael.org/purim-breakfast](http://shearithisrael.org/purim-breakfast)

### Send *Mishloach Manot* to a Member

**ORDERING DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 11 AT 11 PM**

Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to send special Purim greetings and to reach out to our Shearith Israel community. This project will support the Sisterhood's many projects. Please stay tuned for more information via email about how to participate. For questions, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at [lirohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lirohde-csi@yahoo.com) or Mrs. Carla Schein at [scheinc6@gmail.com](mailto:scheinc6@gmail.com).