

Schedule for Fast of Tebeth, Tuesday, January 7

Fast begins: 5:53 am

Morning Services: 7:15 am

Minha & Arbit (with *tefillin*): 4:00 pm

Fast ends: 5:04 pm

Stitch & Fix—Presented by the Sisterhood

Bi-Monthly on Sundays & Tuesdays | 10am-12pm | Elias Room

January 5 Session CANCELLED | Tuesday, Jan. 7

Sunday, Feb. 9 | Tuesday, Feb. 11

Join the Sisterhood’s Sewing Circle: drop in, select an item from our synagogue vestments that needs mending, then stitch and fix.

Shearith Israel Toddler Program Spring Semester
Starts THIS Monday, January 6

It’s not too late to register—spaces are still available in our program!

To learn more and apply go to shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram.

CHOIR SELECTIONS

Friday Evening:

Veshameru #1 (p.166) | Samuel Naumbourg

Psalm 23 (p.174) | Rev. H.P. Mendes

Shabbat Morning:

Misheberakh (p. 208) | Salomone Rossi

Adon 'Olam (p. 232) | Salomone Rossi

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal tob to Lilane Marks on the recent marriage of her son,
Lionel Marks, to Alexandra Brezcki.

Mazal tob to Ruth Malkah Rohde upon her marriage to Steven
Gotlib. Congratulations as well to her parents, Mrs. Lisa &
Rabbi Ira Rohde.

Condolences to Karen Daar, on the passing of her mother, Hilda
Anne Rosensweig.

DEBAR TORAH

—MARC EICHENBAUM, RABBINIC INTERN AT THE YOUNG ISRAEL
OF LAWRENCE-CEDARHURST—

Joseph was undoubtedly one of the most influential people of his generation. However, despite his great accomplishments, he was not immune to the criticism of our Sages. The Talmud (Berakhot 55b) teaches that conducting oneself with an air of superiority, or acting in a self-aggrandizing manner, is one of three things that shorten a person’s life. To prove this, the Talmud points out that Joseph died before his brothers because he acted with airs of superiority! Presumably, the actions referred to in our *gemara* are those mentioned in Sota (13b) where we learn that Joseph was punished for remaining silent when the brothers standing before Joseph referred to their father as “*your servant*” (i.e. Joseph’s servant). Despite the fact that Joseph had not yet revealed his true identity to his brothers, The Talmud assumes he should not have permitted the brothers to refer to their father in this degrading manner.

The Talmud’s example is quite puzzling. It is true that Joseph remained silent when hearing his brothers refer to their father as his servant, but that was not done out of arrogance or pride, on the contrary, Joseph was carrying out God’s will. After all, it is logical to assume that Joseph was aware that his place of authority was a fulfillment of the prophecy he had received showing the brothers bowing down before him. Why should such a minor omission, permitting his father to be referred to as Joseph’s “*servant*,” warrant the severe punishment of premature death?

Rabbi Abraham Isaac HaKohen Kook in his *Ein Ayeh* (Berachot 55b) gives a beautiful answer to our dilemma. Many people see life as a mission to accomplish lofty goals. Whether it be finding a cure to a disease, studying the entire Talmud, raising a family, or any other goal a person may consider lofty—it is those things that occupy most of one’s time and energy. While these goals are definitely important, that does not mean that they should override the smaller, day-to-day goals that seem comparatively less important. G-d desires that we succeed in both our lofty and our more mundane goals. To illustrate this point, our Sages chose Joseph as the example of one who exercises power in a self-aggrandizing manner. It is true that Joseph’s silence when the brother’s refer to their father pales in comparison to his broader and loftier goals, but that does not give him a free pass.

People too often overlook the small details of life. While lofty goals and accomplishments may make headlines, it is the day-to-day activities of life that truly build a person’s character.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Vayiggash
January 3-4, 2020

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 169; Haftarah p. 178
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 222; Haftarah p. 1086

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:22 pm

EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 4:30 pm | Main Sanctuary

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | “Judaism, Philo-
semitism, and Anti-Semitism” | 2019-2020 season sponsored by the Julis
family.

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT | 9:15 am

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

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

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

SERMON | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Susan &
Avery Neumark, in honor of the forthcoming marriage of their son, Jacob,
to Jannah Eichenbaum.*

SHABBAT AFTERNOON CLASS | 3:30 pm | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik |

“The First Page of the Talmud” | Main Sanctuary

EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 4:15 pm

HABDALA | 5:08 pm

The Fast of Tebeth is on Tuesday. See inside for schedule.

Weekday Service Times

Mornings: Sunday: 8:00 AM | Monday-Friday: 7:15 AM

Evenings: Sunday (Minha & Arbit): **4:30 PM**

Monday & Wednesday-Thursday (Arbit only): 6:30 PM

Public Tours

Our next public tour is
**Wednesday, January 8, at
11:00 AM**

Parnas Office Hours

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

ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT

Mark Twain In the Holy Land

Sunday, February 2 | 11:30 am & 12:30 pm

New-York Historical Society

Mark Twain’s memoir of his tour of the Holy Land launched his career; his experiences are particularly fascinating when considered from the perspective of Jewish history and religion. Join Rabbi Meir Soloveichik for a tour on the final day of the New-York Historical Society’s exhibit on Twain’s trip through the Mediterranean.

Registration is currently open to sponsors only (\$180) at shearithisrael.org/nyhs-twain.

SHEARITH ISRAEL & OTHER UPPER WEST SIDE SYNAGOGUES PRESENT:

Mental Health First Aid Training

Sunday, February 9 | 10:00 am-6:00 pm

At Lincoln Square Synagogue, 180 Amsterdam Ave

Mental Health First Aid training provides proven practices that will help you recognize the early signs and symptoms of mental illness and substance misuse. You will learn how to listen without judgment, and respond to and help someone in distress until they can get the professional care they may need. Certificate of completion will be presented to participants.

This event is FREE, but space is limited to 60 participants, so sign up today! To register, visit shearithisrael.org/mental-health-training.

Parent-Child Learning & Pizza

Saturday Nights bi-weekly | One hour after Habdala

Next week’s session (January 11) will be led by Z. Edinger For Elementary School Age Children & Their Parents or Grandparents

This educational initiative gives parents (or grandparents) the opportunity to study Torah with their children in a fun interactive setting led by Shearith Israel's clergy and talented volunteers. Pizza and prizes help make this a fun-filled evening of inter-generational learning.

The program is free, but please register for each session you will be attending at shearithisrael.org/pclearning so that we can know how many to expect!

Solidarity March

Sunday, January 5 | 11:00 am | Foley Square

When anti-semitism strikes our community, we stand up and stand together. This Sunday, we will march through our streets—proud, united, and strong.

Shearith Israel is joining this Sunday's Solidarity March organized by UJA Federation NY, JCRC-NY, ADL-NY, AJC-NY, and the New York Board of Rabbis. We will be meeting at 11 AM at Foley Square and will march across the Brooklyn Bridge. We encourage you to come with us on this march, and hope you will encourage your friends to join you.

We are cancelling this Sunday's 10 AM programs -- Mitzvot Workshop and Stitch & Fix -- in order to enable our members and their children to join the march without missing out on our programs.

THIS SATURDAY NIGHT

Teen Bowling & Pizza

This Saturday night, January 4 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Bowlmor Times Square, 222 W. 44th St

Shearith Israel teens (members only) are invited for a fun night of bowling and pizza to kick off the new year. Just \$20 includes bowling, shoe rental, pizza and unlimited beverages. If you are interested in this or future outings, contact Francine Alfandary (falfandary@yahoo.com).

Film Screening: Children of the Inquisition

with special guest speaker, Rabbi Marc Angel

This Saturday night, January 4 | 7:30 pm

At Lincoln Square Synagogue, 180 Amsterdam Ave

Shearith Israel and Lincoln Square are proud to present this screening of this remarkable film about the history and experiences of Sephardi Jews following the Spanish & Portuguese expulsions, following descendants of crypto-Jews to our time. After the film, Rabbi Marc Angel will speak about the religious issues surrounding identity, conversion. and his own work with modern-day descendants of crypto-Jews.

\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. To register, visit shearithisrael.org/children-inquisition.

From Mitzrayim to Manhattan:

What the Egyptian Exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Teaches Us About the Exodus

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

THIS Wednesday, January 8 | 7:00 pm (following 6:30 pm evening services)

To celebrate the release of The Susan & Roger Hertog Book of Exodus in the Koren Tanakh Land of Israel series, Rabbi Soloveichik will be delivering this special keynote address. Introductory remarks will be given by David Arnovitz, Editor-in-Chief of the Koren Tanakh Land of Israel.

By fusing extraordinary findings by modern scholars on the ancient Near East with the original Hebrew text and a brand new English translation by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, this series clarifies and explains the Biblical narrative, laws, events, and prophecies in context with the milieu in which it took place.

RABBI SOLOVEHICK’S UPCOMING MAJOR LECTURES

Mark Your Calendars and Watch Your Emails

Following Evening Services

⇒ Wednesday, January 8: “From Mitzrayim To Manhattan: What the Metropolitan Museum of Art Teaches Us About the Exodus”

⇒ Monday, February 10: Special History Lecture

⇒ Tuesday, March 3: Major Pre-Purim Shiur

MORE JEWISH EDUCATION 5780

⇒ Friday Night Lights | Rabbi Soloveichik

Friday Nights | Following Evening Services

⇒ Shabbat Afternoon Class | Rabbi Soloveichik

Shabbat Afternoons | One hour before Minha (but never earlier than 3:30 pm)

⇒ The Guide to the Duties of the Heart | Rabbi Sjimon den Hollander

Sunday Mornings | 8:45 am

⇒ The Idea of Kingship | Rabbi David Silber

Sunday Mornings | 10:00 am | Begins February 2 | \$250 cost, but FREE for Shearith Israel members | Registration details at shearithisrael.org/idea-kingship

⇒ Tuesday Morning Women’s Class | Rabbi Soloveichik

Tuesdays | 9:00 am | Sign up for weekly reminders at shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists

⇒ Bet Midrash | led by Steven Gotlib

Monday-Thursday | One hour before evening services