

# NEW YORK NEEDS YOUR HELP!

## Upper West Side Blood and Bone Marrow Drive

THIS SUNDAY, January 7, 2018 | 10:00 am-4:00 pm

The Jewish Center, 131 West 86 Street

The blizzard this past week forced the cancellation of numerous blood drives, resulting in the loss of nearly 1500 blood donations. *Don't let that happen here!*

Give the gift of life—be a blood donor or do a simple bone marrow cheek swab.

January is **Blood Donor Month**, a time to remember that blood is precious and must be on the shelves in anticipation of any tragedy or critical situation, especially during the perilous winter months.

To register to reserve a convenient time slot, or to volunteer at the drive, visit [shearithisrael.org/uws-blood-drive](http://shearithisrael.org/uws-blood-drive). Walk-ins are also welcome.

## Tu B'Shebat Shiur

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Tuesday, January 30

7:00 pm

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

To join our list of sponsors for this public lecture, visit [shearithisrael.org/tu-bshebat-shiur](http://shearithisrael.org/tu-bshebat-shiur).



Our next public tour is **this Wednesday, January 10**

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

## DEBAR TORAH: THE STRONG HAND OF PHARAOH AND THE STRONG HAND OF GOD

— BY HAZZAN RABBI IRA ROHDE —

*"...Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he send them away, and with a strong hand will he drive them out of his land" (Exodus, 6:1)*

The term "strong hand" is especially significant, for the Torah repeats the term "brought you out of Egypt by a strong hand" in many contexts as worthy of special remembrance and gratitude. What the "strong hand" means here is rather ambiguous, and seems to carry multiple meanings. It means "by force" or "forcibly," but whose or what force is unclear. To begin with, this "strong hand" could belong to two different subjects: It might refer to the "strong hand" of Pharaoh, who drove out the Israelites, compelling them to leave quickly, chasing them out forcibly, so afraid were he and his people of the plagues brought upon them, lest the plagues spread from those already afflicted to wipe out the rest of the people. Or the term might refer to the "strong hand" of God, who forced Pharaoh and Egypt to comply with God's will.

The most modern JPS translation of the Torah apparently translates both of the "strong hand" terms here as God's, substituting the phrase "greater might," viz., "you shall soon see what I will do to Pharaoh: he shall let them go because of a greater might; indeed, because of a greater might he shall drive them from his land." But the plain meaning of the text, especially in comparison with other contexts, seems to be that both "strong hand" terms refer to Pharaoh's forcefulness. From his comment ad loc., it is clear that that is the way R. Obadiah Sforno interprets both: "Now, [just as] you have seen the wrongdoing of Pharaoh, who fights to hold on to Israel by power of coercion, [so] you shall see that, out of the accumulation of woes and pain, he will drive them out by compelling force, that he will strive with all his all his might to expel them."

Rashi in his commentary ad loc. seems to understand the first "strong hand" as referring to God's, and the second "strong hand" as referring to Pharaoh's: "For on account of My Strong Hand, which will compel him, he shall send them out, and he shall expel them from his land with a forceful hand: Indeed, against the will of the Israelites themselves will he drive them out, [so much so] that they will not have sufficient time to prepare food provisions. So it states (12:33): 'And Egypt coerced the people, [hastening to send them out, for they said *we're all to die*.]'" One can debate whether Rashi meant this as the literal translation, but it's clear that the Torah means for us to see both a human context (a coercing hand of Pharaoh, without whom Israel would never have had the resolve and unity to leave on their own), as well as a compelling Divine Hand, forcing Pharaoh, eventually, to send Israel free. On Passover our matza is both the bread of affliction, reminding us of Pharaoh's coercive hand, as well as the bread of victory and liberation, reminding us of how God's Powerful Hand forced Pharaoh's hand.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

## Shabbat Shemoth

January 5-6, 2018

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 206; Haftarah: p. 229  
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 258; Haftarah: p. 1212

We are pleased to welcome **Rabbi Yosef Chaim Yanetz**, his wife Rivka, and children Abigail and Ariel, to our community this Shabbat. Rabbi Yanetz is delivering the Debar Torah after morning services, as well as the Shabbat Afternoon Class. Rabbi Yanetz offers *Habruta* (One-on-One Learning) for all levels, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:25 pm

MINHAH & ARBIT | 4:30 pm | Main Sanctuary

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK.

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 are cancelled this week due to inclement weather.

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

DEBAR TORAH | Rabbi Yosef Chaim Yanetz

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Yosef Chaim Yanetz | 3:30 pm | Levy Auditorium

MINHAH & ARBIT | 4:20 pm

HABDALAH | 5:10 pm

### Weekday Service Times

#### Mornings:

Sunday: 8:00 am

Monday-Friday: 7:15 am

#### Evenings:

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

## Shearith Israel Toddler Program

*"The best-kept secret on the Upper West Side"*

Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30-11:30am

Spring Semester: January 3-June 6

For ages 16 - 34 months

Caregiver attendance required

*You can still enroll!*

Provide your toddler with the opportunity to be part of our wonderfully fun and educational Toddler Program, held in the brand new Fidanque Youth Room, and led by the marvelous Liz Rios. 1 and 2 day options available.

To learn more and apply, pick up a brochure in our lobby, and go to [shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram](http://shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram).

SPECIAL OFFER FOR SHEARITH ISRAEL MEMBERS

**50% Discount on Rabbi Soloveichik's**

**New Online Course:**

*Jewish Ideas and the American Founders*

If you've ever wanted to learn from Rabbi Soloveichik in the comfort of your own home, this is the course for you.

In eight new lectures brought to you by the Tikvah Fund, Rabbi Soloveichik will take you through early American Jewish history and explain the connections between Jewish ideals and the founding of America. You can:

- watch or listen to these lectures at your own pace
- watch or listen as often as you like
- gift them to others

Normal cost for this online course is \$40, but using an exclusive 50% coupon code for Shearith Israel members brings the price down to **only \$20**.

Simply go to [tikvahfund.org/course/jewish-ideas-american-founders](http://tikvahfund.org/course/jewish-ideas-american-founders), create an account, and enroll in the course with the coupon code

**"ShearithIsrael"**

to start learning today.

## Class Schedule Alerts

- ◆ Rabbi Soloveichik's Talmud Class will take place this week on Monday, January 8, **not** on Tuesday, January 9.
- ◆ Rabbi Soloveichik's Women's Class resumes Tuesday, January 16.

### Junior Congregation with a Torah Reading

**Next Shabbat, January 13 | 10:30 am**

Come lead Junior Congregation! Parts of Torah reading and services for January 13 are available for participants (ages 5-12) to lead; many of them are quite brief and excellent for beginners. Please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde to arrange a part for your child ([lrohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lrohde-csi@yahoo.com)).

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE: THIS MONDAY, JANUARY 8



**Young Couples and Families  
Pre-Tu B'Shebat Luncheon  
Shabbat, January 27 | Following  
Morning Services**

Mark the new year for trees and celebrate the Jewish link to the fruits of the Holy Land with Rabbi and

Layalza Soloveichik & Co. Join us and invite your friends for a family luncheon of Torah and fruity goodness.

Got a New Year's Resolution to sign up for programming on time? We'll help you stick with it with our

**Early Bird Pricing:**

*Members: ~~\$35~~ \$30/adult, ~~\$15~~ \$12/child under 12*

*Non-Members: ~~\$40~~ \$35/adult, ~~\$18~~ \$15/child under 12*

**Regular pricing begins this Tuesday, January 9!**

For registration and sponsorship details, visit [shearithisrael.org/tu-bshebat-lunch](http://shearithisrael.org/tu-bshebat-lunch).



SAVE THE DATE

**"Pulpit Swap" Shabbat**  
Shabbat, March 10, 2018



This year, both Shearith Israel and The Jewish Center, our peer synagogue on the Upper West Side, are looking forward to milestone anniversaries. The Jewish Center is about to celebrate its Centennial anniversary and Shearith Israel is preparing to celebrate our 365th, our Year of Years.

In the spirit of friendship and mutual respect, we have decided to share our riches with each other. Rabbis Levine and Soloveichik will "swap" synagogues on this Shabbat, enjoying the warmth of their peer *kehillot* and each treating us to a special lecture after morning services.

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

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

**Wednesday, January 31, 2018 | 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

*We welcome* the following new members to the Shearith Israel family:

**Robert & Rachel Garson** and their children, Noa, Gabriella, and Emilie  
**Kenneth & Randee Rubenstein**

*Condolences to Jean and Serge Naggar*, on the passing of their son, Alan Naggar. Condolences to his wife, Michelle, to his siblings, David Naggar and Jennifer Naggar Weitz, to his uncle Jeffrey Mosseri, and his cousin, Viviane Bregman.