

## Pack-A-Thon Captains Needed!

The Holidays are a time of renewing our commitments and investing in *hesed* and *tsedaka*, and what better way is there to invest in both than through our Annual Thanksgiving Pack-A-Thon?

**Are you energetic, organized, and a seat-of-your-pants problem solver? We need you!**

This year's Pack-A-Thon, which will feed hundreds of people, needs Captains who can take charge and keep everything running smoothly throughout this two-hour event on Thanksgiving morning, featuring hundreds of volunteers. It is always a major logistical undertaking, but so very worth it.

If you are interested in stepping up as Captain, contact Barbara Reiss at [breiss@shearithisrael.org](mailto:breiss@shearithisrael.org).

## The Road to Kingship

Sundays | 10:00 am | Rabbi David Silber

*Beginning THIS Sunday, October 27*

*Tuition is \$200, but FREE for Shearith Israel members*

An exploration of the Samson story, the last 5 chapters of the Book of Judges, and Megillat Ruth as texts that prepare us for the institution of kingship. To register or request your member discount, visit [shearithisrael.org/silber-kingship](http://shearithisrael.org/silber-kingship).

## Stitch & Fix

*Presented by the Sisterhood*

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

See schedule below | Levy Auditorium

Now that the holidays are past, we are able to plan the future...**Stitch and Fix**, the reinvigorated Sewing Circle courtesy of the Shearith Israel Sisterhood, will begin meeting on a regular basis. Drop in, select an item from our synagogue vestments that needs mending, then stitch and fix. Some items you can even take home and fix up there! For questions, contact Rose Edinger at [rgedinger@gmail.com](mailto:rgedinger@gmail.com).

THIS Sunday Oct. 27 | THIS Tuesday Oct 29

Sunday Nov. 24 | Tuesday Nov. 26

Sunday Dec. 15 | Tuesday Dec. 17

Sunday Jan. 5 | Tuesday Jan. 7

Sunday Feb. 9 | Tuesday Feb. 11

DEBAR TORAH

—HAZZAN RABBI IRA ROHDE—

*When God began to create the heaven and the earth – The earth being unformed and void, with darkness over the surface of the deep and a wind from God sweeping over the water – God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, a first day.*  
(Gen. 1: 1-5, The Torah, JPS Transl.)

Our traditions refer to God as “Creator of Heaven and Earth” (Gen. 14:19), and “He who stretched forth the Heavens and founded the Earth” (Isaiah 51:13, Zachariah 12:1). That Creation and Foundation would seem to have been a complete, total creation - out of nothing. Yet when we read the wording of Genesis, the picture is far from clear, and indeed it's quite confusing: Terms which mean “void” or “abyss” are used, and yet there seems to be some kind of unformed “land” and the “deep” is filled with “water.” The philosophical and scientific traditions, both among non-Jews as well as among Jews, struggled with similar questions. Plato in the Timaeus says the earth was created by a “demiurgos,” – a craftsman or artisan. Aristotle, on the other hand, can't conceive of crafting something completely out of nothing, and says that there must be something like the “wood” out of which the artisan crafts which “underlies” Creation. This he calls “hyle,” a term coming from “wood,” or “hypokeimenon,” meaning “substance” or “underlying.” Later Jewish, Christian, and Muslim philosophers continue the discussion, and many of their answers, such as that of Maimonides, seem less guiding out of perplexity than leading the reader back into it!

One recent interpreter of Maimonides, however, makes a very good point: For Maimonides, even if there were some “substance” prior to Creation, because that “substance” would have been completely devoid of form, it couldn't have really have been thought of as “existing,” in the sense we know it, at all. Now, the terms “dark,” “deep,” and “water” would seem to have a more defined sense in Genesis. But because of their complete fluidity and undifferentiability of form, as well as the deep darkness which doesn't allow them to be seen, it would seem to me that that is the same point Genesis is making: It is only when Light Shines, revealing Form out of Chaos, that the World begins truly to *exist* in any comprehensible sense. Later in Genesis when God makes Man, He actually does “craft” him out of pre-existing “Earth,” whence comes his name “Adam” (“Earthling”). But again it is the “formation,” this time in the very Image of God, which is primary. And in our modern physics, although we might continue searching for ever-more-elusive substrates, our matter-energy continuum effectively means that only when matter-energy takes on mathematically-characteristic order and form can that matter-energy be said to come into existence. **Creation Out of No particular Thing is effectively Creation Out of Nothing.**

The Greek and Latin terms for “substance” are identified with the grammatical terms for “subject,” as well. The Greek subject “underlies” the action of the verb. But Hebrew is a much more “verb-based” language. The subject itself doesn't have much of an identity: it is formed largely through the action of verbs. The World Is what God's Words and Actions make the World Become. And we, too, craft ourselves through our actions: We are the product of the way we mold ourselves. **Whom we are is the Creation of what our words and deeds make us become.** May this thought inspire us to do and act our best in the cycle of the year ahead.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
*Year of Years Celebration*

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Bereshit

#ShowUpForShabbat

October 25-26, 2019

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 2; Haftarah p. 21  
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 2; Haftarah p. 1050

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:43 pm

EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 5:45 pm | Main Sanctuary

5780 SEASON PREMIERE: FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | “The Plane That Landed 5 Minutes Before Shabbat” | 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 | Elias Room

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

NO KIDDUSH THIS WEEK

HATANIM LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | *For registered guests*

SHABBAT AFTERNOON CLASS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | 4:35 pm |

“Adam I, Adam II, and John Adams” | Levy Auditorium

EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 5:35 pm

HABDALA | 6:30 pm

*Rosh Hodesh Heshvan is on Tuesday and Wednesday.*

### Weekday Service Times

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

Evenings: Sunday-Thursday: 5:45 PM

**Celebrate Rabbi Marc Angel’s  
50th Anniversary in the Rabbinate**  
Our Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Marc Angel, is celebrating 50 years in the rabbinate and will mark the occasion with a seminar, “Reflections on 50 Years of Rabbinic Service.” After the seminar, congregants are welcome to wish Rabbi Angel *mazal tob* at the kiddush to follow.  
To sponsor this kiddush in Rabbi Angel’s honor, visit [shearithisrael.org/rabbinate50](http://shearithisrael.org/rabbinate50).

**Register for PTTTS Hebrew School**  
*Thursdays with special programming on select Sundays*  
For over 200 years, Shearith Israel’s Hebrew School has given children the strong educational foundation and skills necessary to access Jewish texts, understand their heritage, learn the Western Sephardic tradition, and lead a vibrant Jewish life.  
Learn more and register at [shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool](http://shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool).

**CHOIR SELECTIONS THIS SHABBAT**  
**Friday Night**  
*V’Shameru* “#2” (p. 166) | Samuel Naumbourg  
*Psalm 23* (p. 174) | Rev. H.P. Mendes  
*Tenu Shebaha* (Festival Prayerbook) | Words & music by Rev. Jacques Judah Lyons  
**Shabbat Morning**  
*Misheberakh* (p. 208) | Salamone Rossi  
*Yehi Hasdekha* (p. 215) | Leon Hyman  
*Ubnuho Yomar* (p. 218) | Rev. H.P. Mendes  
*Adon Olam* (p. 232) | David Aaron de Sola

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
*Welcome and thank you to Matthias Dettling, Head of Culture and Education at the Swiss Consulate in NY, and his family, who are joining us this Shabbat in honor of #ShowUpForShabbat.*  
This Shabbat is the second annual #ShowUpForShabbat, a national initiative started by the AJC on the Shabbat following the attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. Last year, countless Jews and people of all faiths and backgrounds filled synagogues across America and around the world in what was described as the largest expression of support for the Jewish community ever.

**Portuguese Citizenship with Rita Mayer Jardim**  
**Thursday, November 7 | Following 6:30 pm Evening Services**  
While Spain has ended its Law of Return for Sephardic Jews, Portugal continues to grant European citizenship to those wishing to reclaim their ancestors’ citizenship. Close to 10,000 people have already been approved with around 40,000 pending.  
**Rita Mayer Jardim**, a Lisbon-based lawyer specializing in this path to Portuguese citizenship, will return to our Congregation to update us on this law.  
Questions abound, and you can learn the answers during an informal chat where a successful case will be discussed. This event is free, but registration is encouraged at [shearithisrael.org/portuguese-citizenship2](http://shearithisrael.org/portuguese-citizenship2).  
*Note that this session is meant for informational purposes only, not as an endorsement of any business.*

**Composting of Lulabim and Other Succot Greens**  
**Due THIS Monday morning, October 28, by noon**  
**Bin outside Levy Auditorium**  
After Succot, rather than throwing out your lulabim, take advantage of this eco-friendly opportunity and leave your lulabim with us! The NYC Dept of Sanitation (DSNY) will collect our Succot organics for composting.  
Leave your lulabim, etrogim, and any other Succot plant material in the box near the water fountain outside Levy Auditorim and we'll do the rest.

**Touro Shabbaton Updates—Keep An Eye on Your Inboxes!**  
Registrants for our Veterans Day Weekend Shabbaton to the Touro Synagogue will be receiving updated and logistical information via email, so keep an eye out! If you would like to join the waitlist for this sold-out Shabbaton, contact Sarah Gross at [sgross@shearithisrael.org](mailto:sgross@shearithisrael.org).

<b>Public Tours</b> Our next public tour is <b>Wednesday, November 13, at 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Parnas Office Hours</b> Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you. Please schedule a visit at <a href="mailto:parnas@shearithisrael.org">parnas@shearithisrael.org</a> .
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**JEWISH EDUCATION 5780**  
⇒ **Friday Night Lights | Rabbi Soloveichik**  
Returning THIS Friday Night, October 25 | Following Evening Services  
⇒ **The Guide to the Duties of the Heart | Rabbi Sjimon den Hollander**  
Returning THIS Sunday, October 27 | 8:45 am  
⇒ **The Road to Kingship | Rabbi David Silber**  
Beginning THIS Sunday, October 27 | 10:00 am | *see side panel for details*  
⇒ **Tuesday Morning Women’s Class | Rabbi Soloveichik**  
Returning Tuesday, October 30 | 9:00 am  
⇒ **Bet Midrash | led by Steven Gotlib**  
Monday-Thursday | An hour before evening services

Please consider sponsoring a class.  
Go to: [shearithisrael.org/sponsoraclass](http://shearithisrael.org/sponsoraclass)

**COMING UP AT A GLANCE**  
⇒ **Rita Jardim Presentation on Portuguese Citizenship**  
Thursday, November 7 | Following 6:30 pm Evening Services | *See center panel for details*  
⇒ **Shabbaton to Touro**  
Veterans Day Weekend, November 8-10  
⇒ **Mitzvot Workshop with Z. Edinger**  
Sunday, November 17 | 10:30 am | for elementary school aged children  
⇒ **Rabbi Marc Angel Celebrates 50 Years in the Rabbinate**  
Shabbat Morning, December 7 | *See side panel for details*  
⇒ **Brunch & Learn with Rabbi Soloveichik**  
Sunday, December 8 | 10:30 am | for elementary school aged children

**Don't Let Us Go Dry**  
Be a scotch or arak sponsor. To sponsor or contribute go to [shearithisrael.org/scotch-and-arak-sponsorships](http://shearithisrael.org/scotch-and-arak-sponsorships).