

OTHER INITIATIVES

Thanksgiving Pack-a-thon
Sign up by November 4!

This Thanksgiving, as many of us sit down with our families and partake in a delicious and filling Thanksgiving meal, many fellow New Yorkers, both Jews and non-Jews, will not. While we live in one of the most affluent areas in the world, approximately 2.6 million New Yorkers have difficulty affording food for themselves and their families every day.

This year we'd like to make a difference! Join us and our friends from West End Collegiate Church this Thanksgiving for a very important *hesed* project, in collaboration with the Food Bank For New York City. On Thanksgiving morning, after Rabbi Soloveichik's special Thanksgiving address, the Food Bank For New York City will set us up in Levy Auditorium and help us pack 2,500+ meals. We are delighted to report that a generous donor will be making a substantial contribution for every pre-registered volunteer who helps at the "pack-a-thon." Help us reach our goals of 2,500 meals and \$18,000 by committing to participate in this important project.

If you register as a pack-a-thon volunteer by November 4, our donor will donate \$360 —\$360 generates 1,800 meals (after November 4, \$180 will be donated.)

Go to shearithisrael.org/pack-a-thon to register and/or donate.
Event Committee (in formation):
Karen Daar, Laury Frieber, Beth Goldman, Joy Saleh Roberts, Jodie Steinway, and Adina Wagman

Our next public tour is:
Tuesday, November 10 at 11:00 am

Three Near-Death Experiences
Rabbi Dr. Richard Hidary

We are informed that the command of filicide is just a test, but Abraham does not know that, yet. Nevertheless, Abraham surprisingly seems to intuit that Isaac will somehow survive the ordeal. For example, when they reach Mount Moriah, Abraham tells his servants, "You stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go up, *we* will worship and *we* will return to you." He uses the plural—both Abraham and Isaac will return. Is Abraham simply prevaricating in order to avoid the servants' suspicion? Or is he expressing a faint hope that his son will be saved from a grim fate? A similar sense of optimism appears as both father and son walk to the God-chosen mountain, and the son innocently turns to his father in wonder, asking, "Here are the firestone and the wood but where is the sheep for burnt offering?" Abraham responds, "God will see to the sheep for His burnt offering, my son." This ambiguous answer not only protects the child from learning of his fate, it also reveals Abraham's own wishful desire that the sacrifice will turn out not to be his son. Sure enough, these prophetic words come true after the angel stops him just as he lifts his knife. Abraham then looks up and sees a ram caught in the thicket, a ram that was not apparent there before. Abraham maintains faith that Isaac will have a future, even as he follows God's command to sacrifice that very future.

This message of hope is highlighted by comparing this story with a parallel from the preceding chapter in Genesis 21. It is another story of Abraham arising early in the morning to commit an action that almost kills his child who is then miraculously saved by an angel at the very last moment. On that occasion, however, it was Ishmael whom Abraham banished to the wilderness where Hagar left him under a bush to die. There too, something that was not apparent before suddenly appears to the parent of the child: a well of water.

But the similarity between these two stories also serves to highlight an essential difference. While Abraham maintains hope throughout the ordeal, Hagar gives up. After the water runs out, Hagar abandons the child under a bush and cries in despair, sitting a bowshot away so as not to hear her child dying. Compare this with yet another story of an abandoned child, Moses, who has been decreed to be killed. His mother painstakingly prepares a wicker basket and places it among the reeds on the Nile while the baby's sister stands watch close by. Unlike Hagar, Moses' mother does not give up hope, and his sister eventually becomes instrumental in arranging the return of the child to his mother. All three of these children come close to death. However, while Hagar disengages and gives up when confronted with trauma, Abraham and Moses' family continue with faith and optimism even in the most trying of circumstances. Again and again, the Torah teaches that in the face of the gravest dangers and challenges, it is our spirit of hope that will motivate us to continue building for the future.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Vayera
October 30-31, 2015

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 63; Haftarah p. 76
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 78; Haftarah p. 1060

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:37 pm
MINHAH | 5:45 pm
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on "Strangers and Neighbors: When Gentiles Experience Shabbat" | *Sponsored by the Julis Family*

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Hidary delivers a sermon on the topic "The Overconfidence Bias: How to Develop Moral Courage in a World of Ethical Ambiguity"
TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium
YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room
ASSIGNED JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue
KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Laury Frieber, in honor of her son Reuben A. Frieber's reading the Haftarah and in memory of her father, Arthur A. Frieber*

TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY | Rabbi Hidary
4:30 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidary home at 1 W 85th St Apartment 6A

SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND PIRKEI ABOT SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic "The Eyes Have It: Pirkei Abot and Rembrandt on Abraham's and Balaam's Vision"
4:30pm | *The fall semester is sponsored by Lewis Lipsey*
This week is sponsored by Elaine Rubel

MINHAH/ARBIT | 5:30 pm
KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary
HABDALAH | 6:23 pm

Sunday Morning 8:00 AM, Mon-Thur. 7:15 AM;
Evening Services Sunday - Thursday: 6:30 PM (Arbit only)
Reminder to change your clocks back an hour on Sunday.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The NYC Marathon is This Sunday

As in past years, Shearith Israel is teaming up with JRunners and with the International Minyan for NYC Marathoners. Minyan-goers may check their tefillin, siddurim and tallitot with the Minyan organizers for pickup on our portico at the end of the race.

Good luck to our member marathoners:
Amanda Schachter and Alex Levi, Sam Neumark, Daniel Suckewer, Phil Wagman and special mention to Col. Jonathan de Sola Mendes, who at 95 is the oldest runner in the NYC Marathon.

Women’s Service

Saturday, November 7 | Parashat Haye Sarah

By and for women, these services are an opportunity for women to lead prayer, read from the Torah and perform the rituals associated with our services. New and experienced participants are welcome. To learn more and to participate email lirohde-csi@yahoo.com.

Shearith Israel Kippot

Did you see the new Shearith Israel Kippot that premiered at our Gala this past week? Wondering where you can get one? Shearith Israel Kippot are available for purchase on our website at shearithisrael.org/store for \$10 each! Show off your great sense of style and allegiance to CSI and grab this great deal while it lasts!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Members: We welcome the following individuals into the Shearith Israel family :
Adam Hurwich and Dr. Meryl Jaffe
Roy Kirsh

Mazal Tob to Program Director, Alana Shultz and Slava Rubin upon the birth of a baby boy.

“Wildman” Steve Brill Central Park Outing
Sunday, November 15 | 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Fun for all ages! At only \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members, you won’t want to miss this. Wildman will lead children and adults through a unique foraging expedition and edible tour through a new route in Central Park. We will forage for delicious mushrooms, roots, nuts, and fruits that grow in our backyard!
Be sure to invite your friends– Register at shearithisrael.org/wildman. Deadline November 12.

Intimate Shabbat Dinner for Singles
with Rabbi Richard and Esther Hidary
Friday Night, November 20
Following evening services and Friday Night Lights, singles will enjoy an elegant and interactive Shabbat dinner in the Elias Room. Invitations will go out shortly. If you are a CSI member, aged 25-42 and would like to make sure that you’re on the invitation list, let us know by emailing slandau@shearithisrael.org.

“A Community’s Response to Crisis:
Israel Under Assault”
Saturday, November 21
Following Morning Services
Join us for a dynamic dialogue between Rabbi Soloveichik and Eric Goldstein, CEO of UJA Federation.
An Intimate Luncheon with Eric Goldstein:
Reflections from a Modern Orthodox CEO
Following the public presentation, registered sponsors are invited to the Elias room for an intimate discussion with Eric Goldstein and elegant lunch. Sponsorship levels: \$180/\$270/\$360/\$1000. To sign up, go to shearithisrael.org/eric-goldstein

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For schedule and class details go to:
shearithisrael.org/content/judaic-education-and-major-lectures

Sunday

- ◇ The Book of Kings | Rabbi Hidary | 8:40 am
- ◇ Saadia Gaon’s Book of Beliefs and Opinions | Sjimon den Hollander | 9:30 am

Monday

- ◇ Second Temple Jewish History | Rabbi Hidary | 7:00 pm
 - ◇ Bet Midrash | Rabbi Hidary, Phil Getz, Dr. Josh Eisen, Rabbi Ira Rohde, Meira Wokenfeld | 8:00 pm
- Fall semester sponsored by Josh Eisen.*
This week sponsored by the Roberts family in memory of Maurice A. Saleh.

Tuesday

- ◇ Rambam’s Mishneh Torah | Rabbi Hidary | 7:45 am
 - ◇ Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought- A Class for Women | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am
 - ◇ Talmud Class: Tractate Rosh Hashana and the Philosophy of Jewish Time | Rabbi Soloveichik | 8:00 pm
- Sponsored by Peggy Samuels and Lester Schwalb in memory of Lester’s parents Rochelle and Nathan Schwalb*

Please consider sponsoring a class. Go to:
shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass

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