

Compost Your Succot Greens

Due THIS Thursday, October 11

Rather than throwing out your lulabim, take advantage of this special 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 in the bin near the water fountain outside Levy Auditorim** and we'll do the rest.

Jewish Education Returning in 5779

Sjimon den Hollander's Sunday Class

Saadiah Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions

Resumes this Sunday, October 7 | 8:45 am

NEW! Entering the Land: The Book of Joshua

Rabbi David Silber | 10:00 am - 11:30 am

11 Sessions, beginning THIS Sunday, October 7
(Tuition is \$275, but **FREE** for Shearith Israel members)

Rabbi Soloveichik's Tuesday Morning Women's Class

Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought

Resumes this Tuesday, October 9 | 9:00 am

Friday Night Lights Season Premiere

5779 Season begins Friday Evening, October 26

Following Evening Services

Shearith Israel Toddler Program

Mondays and Wednesdays | 9:30 am-11:30 am

For ages 16-34 months

Parent or caregiver attendance required.

Spaces are still available in our program. Experience “the best-kept secret on the Upper West Side”! To learn more and apply, go to shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram.

מקרא — “Holy Writ” — The Divine Summons

— HAZZAN RABBI IRA ROHDE —

Lately I've been parsing the various connotations and shades of meaning of the Hebrew verb קרא, meaning “summoning, calling, declaiming, naming, or reading.” With that in mind, I noted that our Parasha writes that God “said”—ויאמר — let there be Light, and then God “called”—ויקרא— the Light “Day,” and the Dark He called Night. What is the difference between “saying” and “calling”? Continuing on, I noted that God “makes”—ויעש—a “Firmament”—רקיע—and then “calls” the Firmament “Heavens”—שמים. God also “calls”—ויקרא—the “Dry ground”—ליבשה—“Land”—ארץ—and the “Collecting of the Waters”—ולמקוה המים— He called “Seas”—ימים. Then God seems to stop “calling,” or at least that verb isn't used for a while. It's interesting that the Torah refers to the “Two Great Lights,” without explicitly calling them sun and moon. God then continues to say, create and make/do many things, but the next time we see the verb קרא, it is God bringing all of the animals to man, for man to do the “calling” of the name of each. Then Man even “calls” his help-meet “woman,” (and, much later, “Eve”). Then, the next time we find the verb “call,” it is God “calling” to Man after eating of the forbidden fruit, asking Man “Where art thou?”

“Calling,” then, would seem to have a rather scolding, upbraiding connotation. I suppose that “calling” is much louder than ordinary speaking, and we don't do it without a good reason, the usual one being to “decry,” to chide, berate, or castigate, or to nag. (My voice teacher uses the term “call register” for certain “Hey you!” exclamatory modes of voice production which are distinct from our regular “speaking” voice.) God adopts a stern, severe tone after making Light, separating the Day and keeping it distinct from Night, keeping the Night's darkness from invading and overtaking it. Similarly, God is adopting a scolding tone when He “calls” the firmament “heavens” for God is warning the “upper waters” to stay up in the sky and not return to mix with the waters below. Once Land is separated from Seas, they, too, must be rebuked and chided to remain separate.

But although Day, Night, Sky, Land, and Sea are at God's command, God puts most of the creatures of the Earth at the command of man. Of course, it doesn't say that Man named the Sun or Moon. Of course, the “Two Great Lights” don't really have opposite forces that require rebuking. And you could say that they each “rule over” and potentially command their own spheres of Day and Night, respectively. But, in addition, they are given over to Man to use as signs for the passage of time. The animals, certainly, are delegated to Man to summon for his own purposes. God's “call” to Man after eating the forbidden fruit is, of course, a Summons to God's Judgment. So although much is subject to Man's purposes, Man is subject to God's regulation and judgment over how Man commands.

The Torah and Bible, which we begin again this week, is also called מקרא. The term primarily might mean “Reading” or Scripture, but it retains the sense of the Divine “Call,” or Summons. We are like the King's governors and vassals who have been given great authority, but are subject to regulation, inquiry, and judgment with regard to how we exercise that authority. Now that the Tishre season of Holy Convocations and Summonses—מקרא קודש—has ended, our Torah serves as our Writ of Summons that we will ultimately be held responsible once more. Soon enough, we will all be summoned once again, as Adam was, and asked where we were.

365th ANNIVERSARY

• 5414 • 5779 •

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Bereshit

October 5-6, 2018

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

CANDLE LIGHTING | 6:14 pm

EVENING SERVICES | 6:15 pm

MORNING SERVICES | Main Sanctuary | 8:15 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 | Little Synagogue | 10:30 am

SERMON | Rabbi Soloveichik

KIDDUSH | Elias Room | *Sponsored by the Hatanim.*

HATANIM LUNCHEON FOR REGISTERED GUESTS | Levy Auditorium

SHABBAT AFTERNOON CLASS | Rabbi Soloveichik | 5:05 pm | “Bereshit,

Turner, and the Lonely Man of Faith” | Levy Auditorium

EVENING SERVICES | 6:05 pm

HABDALA | 7:02 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

Sunday: 8:00 am | Monday-Friday: 7:15 am

Evenings:

Sunday-Thursday: 6:15 pm (**note new time**)

Rosh Hodesh Marheshvan begins Monday evening.

Public Tours

Our next public tour is
Wednesday, October 10,
at 11:00 AM

Parnas Office Hours

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

Youth Team Meet-and-Greet for Parents
with our new Youth Groups Team, Nat Bernstein &
Daniela Bernstein

Monday, October 22 | 7:00 pm

At the home of Zoya & Naftali Friedman

Join us in getting to know our new youth groups leaders, Nat and Daniela, at this meet-and-greet hosted by Zoya and Naftali Friedman. Between the two of them, we believe our youth will benefit from two energetic, creative, and inspiring role models.

Dairy dessert will be served. Address will be provided upon RSVP at shearithisrael.org/meet-and-greet.

Nat, our Youth Group Leader and Programming Coordinator, hails originally from Michigan, and attended Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. She's held Jewish educational roles in organizations such as: Temple Beth Emeth Hebrew School in Ann Arbor, MI, the American Hebrew Academy in Greensboro, NC, and Eden Village Camp. She has also been awarded fellowships from distinguished organizations, including the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, The Tikvah Fund, and the Drisha Institute.

Daniela, our Youth Group Leader, is from San Francisco, California, and is currently studying at Columbia University's joint program with the Jewish Theological Seminary. Her youth education experience comes from four years as a Teacher's Assistant in Congregation Beth Shalom's Hebrew School in San Francisco. She's also done a number of impressive internships, including working at San Francisco's public defender's office, the San Francisco District Attorney's office, and for a California State Senator.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday Night Lights Season Premiere

Friday Night, October 26 | Following Evening Services

As Shabbat begins earlier and the nights grow longer stay around for a bit after Friday evening services for an inspiring shiur delivered by Rabbi Soloveichik. There's no better way to transition from the workweek to Shabbat!

THIS WEEK!

Film Screening:

Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel

with opening remarks from our Communications

Associate and avid baseball fan, Sarah Meira Rosenberg

THIS Wednesday, October 10 | 7:00 pm

A stirring story of sports, patriotism, and personal growth, *Heading Home* charts the underdog journey of Israel's national baseball team as they compete for the first time in the World Baseball Classic. Their lineup included several Jewish American Major League players, most with a tenuous relationship to Judaism, never mind having ever set foot in Israel. Their odyssey takes them from the Holy Land, where they are greeted as heroes, to Seoul, where they must debunk their has-been/wannabe reputations. With their Mensch on the Bench mascot by their side, the team laughs, cries, and does much soul-searching, discovering the pride of representing Israel on the world stage.

For tickets, visit shearithisrael.org/heading-home.

**Only \$5 for members/\$8 for non-members in advance,
\$10 for all at the door.**

Women's Services

Shearith Israel's women's services are conducted by and for women and are an opportunity for women to lead prayer, read from the Torah, and perform the mitzvot associated with our services. We welcome the opportunity to celebrate momentous occasions - such as a girl becoming Bat Mitzvah or a bride before her wedding - in the context of our Service.

Upcoming Women's Services:

- **Oct. 13 (Parashat Noah) | Shabbat Morning, 9:00 am | in celebration of the Bat Mitzvah of Barbara Sasson**

There are parts still open for Barbara's bat mitzvah service. Please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com as soon as possible to request an assignment.

SAVE THE DATES

**PTTS Shabbaton &
Young Couples and Families Luncheon**

Shabbat Morning, November 3

Jr. Congregation with a Torah Reading begins at 10:30 am

Luncheon begins after Morning Services

Young families will form meaningful bonds at this first-ever PTTS Shabbaton. Students from our Polonies Talmud Torah Hebrew School will be preparing in class for this big day when they are invited to take center stage in our Junior Congregation on Shabbat morning, with a Young Couples and Families Luncheon to follow. Get to know our younger community members and their families, and cheer them on as they carry on our unique Shearith Israel traditions.

Luncheon registration details coming soon.

A Community Dinner

**Featuring Scott Shay in Conversation with
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

Friday Evening, November 9 | Following Evening Services

Religion can be both inspiring and distressing. And many critiques of it are simultaneously compelling and dubious. In his new book, *In Good Faith: Questioning Religion and Atheism*, author and Shearith Israel member, **Scott Shay** examines atheist arguments with a refreshing modern eye in this comprehensive look at our most fundamental questions about faith and reason. Enjoy an elegant Shabbat dinner and hear Scott in conversation with Rabbi Soloveichik as they discuss these age-old questions.

Scott A. Shay has had a successful business career spanning Wall Street, private equity, venture capital, and banking. Throughout his life, he has also been a student of religion and how religion ought to apply to the world outside of the synagogue, church, or mosque. In addition to authoring articles relating to the Jewish community, Scott has also written the best-selling title, *Getting Our Groove Back: How to Energize American Jewry*.

Stay tuned for registration details.