

OTHER INITIATIVES

Shearith Israel *Kippah*

Did you see the new Shearith Israel *Kippah* that recently premiered at our Gala? 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!

Jewry Duty

We have been pleased by the response of the “Jewry Duty” initiative, which began last year in an effort to bolster minyan attendance and will continue for a second year. Your attendance at mid-week minyan is especially helpful to mourners, encouraging to other minyan attendees, and, of course, spiritually valuable for each and every one of us. We have recently sent out a mailing to all eligible participants and you will receive your “summons” shortly before you are scheduled to attend. *To read more about Jewry Duty and to look up your assigned date, go to:* shearithisrael.org/content/jewryduty

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hazakim U’berukhim to our CSI marathoners : Alex Levi, Col. Jonathan de Sola Mendes, Sam Neumark, Amanda Schachter, Daniel Suckewer, and Phil Wagman.

Hazakim U’berukhim to JRunners and the International Minyan for NYC Marathoners for organizing the marathon minyan for the 32nd year.

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

Political Focus on the Family Rabbi Ira Rohde

The lesson of the first chapters of Genesis would seem to be that the attempt to give a law to the world and to found a just political and social order would fail until it focused with the utmost care upon the founding of the paradigmatic family of the Patriarchs and the eponymous founder of Israel. This seems to accord with Aristotle's teaching that the family ought to be a model for the organization of the state and society, encapsulated, e.g. on Wikipedia: “Aristotle argued that the natural progression of human beings was from the family via small communities to the polis.” Or let's say that, for the Torah, the “natural” logical progression *ought* to be from the family to the collective social and political order: In order to found a lasting social and political order which is not subject to collapse, God and we in imitation of Him must look to the careful founding of a politically paradigmatic family. True, the struggles in the family of the Patriarchs make it less than an ideal in a number of ways, although even those very struggles make it archetypal and in that sense paradigmatic. But it does arguably remain even an ideal family in terms of its political structure as a paradigm for society.

When we are told of other deaths in the Torah, we are told that they were “gathered to their people,” terms which probably denote some form of burial. But our Patriarch Sarah's and later Abraham's are the first burials about which we are told in detail, including where and who participated in the burial. It serves as a paradigm of the ideal of familial obligation to care for, honor, and respect its senior and most authoritative members, which extends even unto death and beyond. And that more intensive familial ideal of care and respect can then extend, mutatis mutandis, to the elderly, weak and dying in the rest of society.

The tale of the finding a wife for Isaac can be understood also as part of the creation of a politically paradigmatic family. The marrying-off of Isaac is paradigmatic of the necessary fostering of marriage within families and within the nation. The endogamy encouraged within Abraham's family will become paradigmatic for the encouragement of endogamy (while not absolutely banning exogamy), as a reinforcement of solidarity and loyalty in the people as a whole. The “sign” by which Rebecca is known to be the woman fit for Isaac is her kindness and hospitality, which are an extension of justice and righteousness in society (Abraham's hospitality to famished strangers is a sign and extension of his justice, and conversely Sodom's inhospitality to strangers is a sign and extension of its injustice). Rebecca's decency, kindness, hospitality, even her deference and modesty are to serve as a paradigm and emblem for the people as a whole. From the standpoint of the individual, in terms of his own probity and integrity, perhaps, the example of Isaac may not be the best to follow: His waiting to get married and his being married-off by others might not be ideal. But the continuation of the family and the nation by the fostering of marriage is a political necessity. And it must be fostered by adherence to political ideals.

These ideals are concerned with the fostering of virtue in individuals, but mostly as part of fostering a just society, and even the virtue of the individual is defined largely with a view to his contribution to society. Whether a marriage is originally contracted like Isaac's to Rebecca or is originally out of love like Jacob's to Rachel is of less concern to the Torah than the subsequent fair and kind treatment accorded to the spouse and his/her descendants.

Political justice is different from ethical morality in the following way: In political justice, it is assumed that disputes concerning right will inevitably and naturally occur, even disputes in which the major degree of right will not be on the winning side. Politics has to be practical. This is not so much the case in the realm of the ethical or moral individual (even though in other respects the law-abiding, well-run personality can be compared to a law-abiding, well-run polity). The quest of political justice is to bring the immorality which cannot be eliminated towards just resolutions. Some aspects of the stories of the patriarchs may strike the modern reader as immoral from the point of view of the individual's actions. But it is coming to terms with these and their just resolutions within the family and body politic, insofar as it is possible, that make these stories paradigmatic for the formation of the just society.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Haye Sarah

November 6-7, 2015

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 80; Haftarah p. 90
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 100; Haftarah p. 1066

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:29 pm

MINHAH | 4:30 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on “The Jewish Chariots of Fire”
Sponsored by the Julis Family

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a seminar on the topic “What Michelangelo Missed: Rembrandt Reads our *Haftara*”

WOMEN'S SERVICE | 9:00 am | Little Synagogue

TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium

YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Children's Library

JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Levy Auditorium

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY | Rabbi Hidary

3:20 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 “*Huppa*: A Four Thousand Year History in Less than an Hour” | 3:20pm | *The fall semester is sponsored by Lewis Lipsey*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 4:20 pm

KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 5:15 pm

Sunday Morning 8:00 AM, Mon-Thur. 7:15 AM;
Evening Services Sunday - Thursday: 6:30 PM (Arbit only)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

“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. If you are a CSI member, aged 25-42 and have not received an invitation by email, 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

Thanksgiving Pack-a-thon
Over-subscribed!
We are thrilled with the enthusiastic response to our pack-a-thon. Volunteer registration is now closed. But you can still help in this important project by making a tax deductible donation at shearithisrael.org/pack-a-thon. Your gift goes directly to the Food Bank of New York City and will be credited to our project.

Thank you to our partners at the West End Collegiate Church and our terrific event committee:
Karen Daar,
Laury Frieber,
Beth Goldman,
Joy Saleh Roberts,
Marlene Sperling,
Jodie Steinway,
Adina Wagman

Thanks to you, fewer New Yorkers will go hungry this season.

British Invasion Shabbat Dinner
Featuring Zaki Cooper and Our Resident Anglophile, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Friday Night, December 4
Following Evening Services and Friday Night Lights
Drawing on first-hand experience of working at Buckingham Palace, and using objects from his time working there, Zaki Cooper will provide his insider's insights into the real life of the royals and shed light on this magical institution. Who knows more about the British, Zaki Cooper or Rabbi Soloveichik? Find out at our British invasion Shabbat Dinner! British Menu will be served. Register at shearithisrael.org/british-invasion.

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

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

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