

Open Bet Midrash

Weeknights | One hour before evening services

Our Shearith Israel Bet Midrash Program has officially begun its 2019-2020 season! Each weeknight will have two *semikha* students available to help satisfy your religious curiosity. If you are interested in setting up a *habruta* on any subject of your choice, please reach out to Steve Gotlib at stjgot@gmail.com.

Feasts & Fasts: Rabbi Soloveichik's Tuesday Morning Women's Class

Returning THIS Tuesday, November 5 | 9:00 am

This class examines anew the rituals of the Jewish holiday or fast that is approaching, challenges our assumptions, letting us emerge with a deeper understanding of the rituals that we have been performing our entire lives.

There is a mailing list for this class that sends out reminders and cancellation notices. Make sure you are on it!
Sign up at shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists.

The Road to Kingship

Sundays through Dec. 22 | 10:00 am | Rabbi David Silber

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.

#GetLit at Friday Night Lights

Friday Nights | 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!

To sponsor a session, in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one, go to shearithisrael.org/sponsoraclass.

DEBAR TORAH

—Z. EDINGER, SHAMASH—

This week's *parasha* tells the story of the great flood and Noah's Ark. God decides to destroy the world He created on account of man's wickedness, and to start again with Noah and his descendants. After the flood recedes, Noah built an altar and offered sacrifices to God. We are then told that:

וַיֵּרַח ה' אֶת-רִיחַ הַנִּיחֹחַ וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל-לִבּוֹ לֹא-אֶסָף קִלְקִל עוֹד אֶת-הָאָדָמָה בַּעֲבוּר הָאָדָם | כִּי יֵצֵר לִבְ הָאָדָם רָע מִנַּעֲרֹו וְלֹא-אֶסָף עוֹד לְהַכּוֹת אֶת-כָּל-חַי כָּאֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי:

The LORD smelled the pleasing odor, and the LORD said to Himself: "Never again will I doom the earth because of man, since the inclinations of man's heart are evil from his youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living being, as I have done. (Gen. 8:21)

What is meant by "the inclinations of man's heart are evil from his youth" and why is the nature of man a reason for God to never again destroy the earth?

One way of understanding this verse is that because man is evil by nature, it would be unfair to punish man for these innate tendencies. God promises to be merciful and never again destroy the Earth despite the fact that man is evil, because humans can't help but to sin; it is how they were created. In essence, we were "born this way."

A very different way of understanding the verse appears when we compare our verse with Gen. 6:5, when God first determined to destroy the earth:

וַיֵּרָא ה' כִּי רָבָה רַעַת הָאָדָם בָּאָרֶץ וְכָל-יֵצֵר מַחְשַׁבַת לִבּוֹ רָק רָע כָּל-הַיּוֹם

The LORD saw how great was man's wickedness on earth, and how every plan devised by his mind was nothing but evil all the time.

Contrasting this verse with 8:21 after the deluge - we see that the flood was brought on because God determined that man was always evil "*all the time*." But after the flood, Noah brings a sacrifice and God now determines that man is evil "*from his youth*." I would suggest that the word מִנַּעֲרֹו be interpreted that man may have a tendency to sin when he is young, but he also has the ability to learn and grow. God here promises NOT to destroy the earth because humans have the ability to grow and overcome the sinful ways of their youth. Said differently, God here promises not to destroy the earth again because man has the potential for growth and improvement.

God's assessment of man's nature appears to have been affected in some way by Noah's sacrifice. Perhaps this is precisely the lesson we should learn from the story of Noah. It is sacrifice and prayer that remind God that despite our failings and evil inclination, we also have the ability to do good; that we strive to be righteous and serve the Lord. The lesson of the Flood is that even though we will all sin from time to time, let us learn from our mistakes and overcome our weaknesses, and prove ourselves worthy in the eyes of the Lord.



• 5414 5779 •

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Noah

November 1-2, 2019

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

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:34 pm

EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 5:30 pm | Main Sanctuary
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "Jewish Drinking: L'Chaim vs. In Vino Veritas" | 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

SERMON | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "How Do You Say 'Butterfly' In Your Language?"

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored by the Mateus-Tique family, in honor of Elia becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

SHABBAT AFTERNOON CLASS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | 4:25 pm |

"Netziv on Totalitarianism" | Levy Auditorium

EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 5:25 pm

HABDALA | 6:21 pm

REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY NIGHT.

Weekday Service Times

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

Evenings (Arbit Only): Sunday-Thursdays: 6:30 PM

Central Park West at 70th Street, New York City • www.shearithisrael.org

**Celebrate Rabbi Marc Angel's
50th Anniversary in the Rabbinate
Shabbat, December 7**

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 join our list of sponsors for this kiddush in Rabbi Angel's honor, visit shearithisrael.org/rabbinate50.

**NYC Marathon May Affect Synagogue Access
This Sunday, November 3**

Be aware of heightened security and street closures that will affect access to the synagogue on Marathon Sunday. Minyan and Sunday Classes are running as usual; plan your commutes accordingly. The B/C subway exit at W. 70th St. may be closed off and we advise you to avoid Central Park West and access our street via Columbus Avenue.
Best of luck to our Marathon runners!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal tob to Elia Mateus-Tique, upon becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Mazal tob as well to his parents, Sharon Lavi Mateus-Tique & Jaime Mateus-Tique.

Mazal tob to Serach Soloveichik, upon becoming a Bat Mitzvah over Succot. Mazal tob as well to her parents, Lyaliza & Rabbi Meir Soloveichik.

**Portuguese Citizenship with Rita Mayer Jardim
THIS 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 update us on this law.

This event is free, but registration is encouraged at shearithisrael.org/portuguese-citizenship2.

Note that this session is meant for informational purposes only, not an endorsement.

Stitch & Fix

Presented by the Sisterhood

**Bi-Monthly on Sundays & Tuesdays | 10 am-12 pm
See schedule below | Elias Room**

Stitch and Fix, the revived Sewing Circle, meets 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 at your convenience. For questions, contact Rose Edinger at rgedinger@gmail.com.

Sunday Nov. 24 | Tuesday Nov. 26
Sunday Dec. 15 | Tuesday Dec. 17
Sunday Jan. 5 | Tuesday Jan. 7
Sunday Feb. 9 | Tuesday Feb. 11

Public Tours

Our next public tour is
**Wednesday, November
13, at 11:00 AM**

Parnas Office Hours

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

JEWISH EDUCATION 5780

- ⇒ **Friday Night Lights | Rabbi Soloveichik**
Friday Nights | Following Evening Services
- ⇒ **The Guide to the Duties of the Heart | Rabbi Sjimon den Hollander**
Sunday Mornings | 8:45 am
- ⇒ **The Road to Kingship | Rabbi David Silber**
Sunday Mornings | 10:00 am | *see side panel for details*
- ⇒ **Tuesday Morning Women's Class | Rabbi Soloveichik**
Returning THIS Tuesday, November 5 | 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

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.