

Make Your End-Of-Year Gift Today

Now is the time to support Shearith Israel and our special funds (e.g. Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Sisterhood, Hebra, etc.) with an end of year gift. These gifts are a crucial part of our budget and enable Shearith Israel to maintain the high standard to which we are all accustomed.



Visit shearithisrael.org/year-end-gifts to select any and all funds you wish to support.

If you have any outstanding balances, now is also a good time to take care of those.

SAVE THE DATE

Shabbat Shira Sing-Along Luncheon

Shabbat, January 19, 2019

Have you ever wished you were more familiar with Shearith Israel's unique liturgy and melodies? Do you ever have the urge to sing along with the Shearith Israel choir (or belt it out at your own home)? At this special Shabbat luncheon, join the uplifting voices of our clergy — Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde, Associate Hazzan Rev. Philip L. Sherman, and *Shamash*, Z. Edinger — in discussing, learning, and singing classic Shearith Israel tunes.

All ages welcome.

Stay tuned for registration and sponsorship details.

CHOIR SELECTIONS THIS WEEK

Friday Night

V'Shameru (p. 166) | *Samuel Naumberg* (1817-1880)

Psalm 23 (p. 174) | *H. Pereira Mendes* (1852-1937)

Shabbat Morning

Misheberakh (p. 208) | *Leon Kramer* (1866-1941)

Yehi Hasdekha (p. 215) | *Julius Mombach* (1813-1880)

Tehilat (p. 216) | *Leon Hyman* (current choirmaster)

Public Tours

Our next public tour is
Wednesday, December 12, at
11:00 AM

Parnas Office Hours

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

DEBAR TORAH: VAYISHLAH

—Z. EDINGER, SHAMASH—

In this week's *Parasha*, the Torah records that Jacob purchased a plot of land near *Shechem* for 100 “*kesitahs*.”

וַיָּקֶן אֶת-חֵלְקֵת הַשְּׂדֵה אֲשֶׁר נָטָה-נָשָׂם אֶהְלֹו מִיַּד בְּנֵי-חֶמֶר אֶבְי שְׂכָם
בְּמָאָה קֶשִׁיטָה:

The parcel of land where he pitched his tent he purchased from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for a hundred kesitahs.

The Septuagint translates *kesita* as ἀμνών, “*amnon*”, a Greek word for lambs. Similarly, Onkelos uses the word חורפן — *Hurfan*, the Aramaic word for lambs. It is certainly possible that Jacob made a payment “in kind” — by bartering lambs from his flocks to purchase a field near *Shechem*.

Payments in the biblical times would not have been made in coinage as we know it today. Coinage was only introduced about the 7th century BCE. But transactions of value certainly took place even in very ancient times. These transactions were not made with coins but rather with pieces of precious metals, such as copper, silver, or gold, which were weighed and used as barter in return for agricultural produce or other goods.

In Ancient Egypt, the word for ox was occasionally used to refer to a standard weight that took the form of an ox. A relief from the tomb of *Paheri* (c. 1380 BCE) depicts gold rings being weighed against a weight in the shape of an ox head (image below.) Therefore, it is also possible that the “lambs” mentioned in our verse are not literally lambs, but rather a standard weight — i.e. “a lamb” of a gold or silver.



The Targum Yerushalmi and Targum Pseudo-Jonathan use the word מַרְגָּלִין meaning “pearls” or “gems.” While the Midrash and Talmud interpret *kesitah* as a type of small coin. *Shadal* (Luzatto) and other modern commentaries point to a possible relationship to the Arabic word قِسْط — which means equitable or fair payment.

The precise meaning of the word *kesitah* was lost already in antiquity. But the importance of the Torah describing this payment is clear. This piece of property near *Shechem* is a part of our most ancient ancestral homeland. It was owned by Jacob even before going down to Egypt, before the Exodus and before Joshua's conquest of Canaan. This land near *Shechem* was purchased by Jacob for good and valuable consideration, a fair payment of 100 *Kesitahs* to be precise.



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CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Vayishlah

November 23-24, 2018

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 122; Haftarah p. 137
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 154; Haftarah p. 1078

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:14 pm

EVENING SERVICES | 4:15 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Soloveichik | “Shabbat Between Athens and Jerusalem” | 2018-2019 season sponsored by the Julis family.

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 | Elias Room

JUNIOR CONGREGATION | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | “Jacob and Esau in Berlin”

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

SHABBAT AFTERNOON CLASS | Rabbi Soloveichik | 3:30 pm | “The Hanukkah of Adam and Eve” | Levy Auditorium

EVENING SERVICES | 4:05 pm

HABDALA | 4:59 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

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

Evenings (Arbit only):

Sunday-Thursday: 6:30 pm

REMEMBERING BAGHDAD—

Between the Tigris and the Hudson:
The Iraqi Jewish Community and Shearith Israel
Special interview with Mr. Ezra Zilkha, and a panel discussion featuring Professor Carole Basri, Mr. David Dangoor, and Mr. David Lavipour

Sunday, December 16 | 7:00 pm

Join us for an unforgettable evening to hear about Jewish life in the cultured, progressive, and cosmopolitan city of Baghdad before WWII, the tragedy of the Farhud and the unprecedented IDF Airlift operation *Ezra & Nehemiah*. Hear first-hand accounts of life in Baghdad from Jews who lived through it and about how this ancient community still survives in Israel and America today.

This event is FREE, thanks to our generous sponsor.
To register, visit shearithisrael.org/baghdad.

If your family has Iraqi heritage, we would like to include you in a special booklet being prepared for this event. You can submit this information through the registration form.



This program, which showcases the extraordinary diversity of our congregation throughout its history until today, is one of our many Year of Years, 365th Anniversary celebration events.

Mitzvot Workshops with Shamash, Z. Edinger For All Elementary School-Aged CSI Youth Select Sunday Mornings at 10:00 am

Sunday, December 23 | Sunday, March 3 | Sunday, April 14
These Mitzvot Workshops are a wonderful opportunity for our elementary school age youth - both boys and girls - to learn to sing the melodies of selected prayers from the Shabbat and holiday services as well as learn about the parts of the Torah service, and receive training in the hands-on parts of the service.

Sign up for December 23 at shearithisrael.org/mitzvot-workshop.

From Recife to New York:

A Shabbat Dinner with Today's Conversos of Brazil
Friday, December 14 | Following Friday Night Lights
Former Member of Knesset, Rabbi Haim Amsalem, has been working for years with the descendants of Brazil's Conversos, "Zera Yisrael," helping them to reconnect with their Jewish roots. He will be spending Shabbat with us, along with a group of these individuals and their spiritual leaders, **Rabbi Gilberto Emmanuel & Jacqueline Ventura** (who will be traveling from Recife, Brazil, 365 years after our original 23 founders!).

Introductory remarks by our member, **Sam Katz**.

To register or sponsor, visit
shearithisrael.org/conversos.

This program, which showcases the unique history of our congregation and its connections to current events, is one of our many Year of Years, 365th Anniversary celebration events.



NEW: Parent-Child Learning & Pizza

On 3 Saturday Nights:
December 15 | 6:30 pm
Led by Rabbi Soloveichik



January 12 | 6:45 pm
February 9 | 7:00 pm

For Elementary School Age
Children & Their Parents or
Grandparents

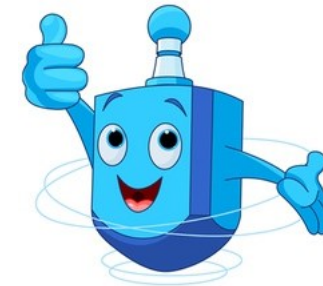
This new initiative gives parents (or grandparents) the opportunity to study Torah with their children together with Shearith Israel's clergy.

Pizza and prizes help make this a fun-filled evening of inter-generational learning.

Register for the December 15 session (only \$5 per person) at
shearithisrael.org/parent-child-learning.

Hanukkah Fest!

Sunday, December 9 | 10:30 am | Free and open to all
While many Jews celebrate Hanukkah by eating potato pancakes, deep fried in oil in remembrance of the miracle of the oil, here at Shearith Israel we honor the tradition of Amsterdam by eating vaffele (waffles) because God made a "miracle and wonder" (Hebrew: "nes va-fe'le") during these days. And after all, everyone loves a good waffle!



Please join CSI youth and PTTS for fun and educational Hanukkah festivities led by Nat Bernstein, our Youth Groups Leader and Programming Coordinator and Yona Glass, PTTS Hebrew School Principal, and Rabbi Ira Rohde. Kids will enjoy art projects, songs, homemade waffles, and more!

Brunch & Learn with Rabbi Soloveichik

For Elementary School Aged Children

Sundays, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

December 2 | February 3 | March 10

On several Sundays over the course of the year, children and their parents start the day together with morning services after which they will proceed to a topical "Brunch and Learn" with Rabbi Soloveichik.

Register at shearithisrael.org/brunch-learn.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal tob to **Rose & Henry Edinger** upon their granddaughter, Neima, daughter of Benjamin & Shlomit Edinger, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Mazal Tob to **Janice Ovadia** (former Executive Director) and her husband, Isaac Ovadiah, on the engagement of their daughter Simhi Ovadiah to Shimmie Jacoby of Cleveland.

Condolences to **Ira Kalfus** on the passing of his mother, Frieda Kalfus.