



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Haye Sarah November 25-26 2016

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

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:13 pm
MINHAH | 4:15 pm | Main Sanctuary
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on the topic "Thanksgiving in Israel" | 2016-2017 season sponsored by the Julis Family

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a sermon on the topic "Jefferson's Nahalah"
TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium
YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room
JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue
KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Karen and Jack Daar in honor of the Hebra Hased Va'Emet*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 4:05 PM
HABDALAH | 4:58 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings: Sunday: 8:00 AM, Monday-Friday: 7:15 AM,
Evenings (Arbit Only): Monday - Thursday: 6:30PM

(continued from back)

God's role is straightforward and direct. Not only does God answer Abraham: He even answers the prayer of Abraham's servant!

The story of the love Rebecca and Isaac have for each other is also a story of noble love, of the love of heroes. Like the Song of Songs, the song of King Solomon, it is a love of kings, princesses, handsome princes and beautiful ladies and damsels. Courtly love was properly an invention of the Middle Ages, but it had its precedent in the noble, classical grace of ancient literature. Rebecca's noble grace entitles her to be seated in the tent and throne of Sarah, qualifies her for Isaac's love, and comforts Isaac upon his mother's loss.

As the heroic age of the Patriarchs recedes, the world will become more complex and less straightforward. Classical grace, diplomatic etiquette, and natural law will need to be replaced by formal laws and rules for the guidance of the nation. But the stories of the age of the Patriarchs will teach us how the righteousness and devotion, goodness, order, discipline, and virtue of the Torah is meant ultimately to restore us to and bring us into harmony with natural law, classical grace, and nobility. The heroes and the heroic age of old should still be our ideal and our inspiration. They should remind us that, although we don't see it as clearly, in succeeding them in the paths they laid for us, we, too, can be heroes; that we, too, can bear the Shield of Abraham.

Shearith Israel Cufflinks

Did you see the fabulous sterling silver cufflinks we presented to our gala honorees? You too can look like a CSI hero for only \$180 a pair. Treat yourself, a friend or loved one with a Hanukkah gift. Order by December 8 at shearithisrael.org/cufflinks



Parnas Office Hours

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

Our next public tour is:
Wednesday, December 14 at 11:00 am

"Haye Sarah:" Eulogy for a Noble Age Hazan Rabbi Ira Rohde

Parashat Haye Sarah begins with the death of Sarah and ends with the death of Abraham and Ishmael. Its story unfolds, so to speak, in a twilight, in the close of an age of legendary nobility, seen in the golden glow of its setting sun. That age will be replaced by a very different era. The descriptions of the world in Genesis and beyond has been shifting away from an ideal world, first dramatically with the Expulsion from Eden, but continuing more subtly through the decrease of life-spans and stories of Noah and Abraham, gradually becoming more like our own. Every age had its problems and flaws, it is true, and no age was an absolutely ideal paradigm. But they are still paradigmatic, and the paradigms become less and less ideal. The Bible's heroes aren't nearly as legendary as those of the Greeks, where we could speak of a kind of "twilight of the gods," but the Patriarchs and further figures in the Torah and Prophets are a kind of hero, living in ages which are successively less "heroic." Noah saved all land animal life on the entire planet. Abraham, starting out as a sojourner, becomes a powerful, respected and wealthy lord of the land, the progenitor of a dynasty, a ("נשיא א-להים" prince of God)." The age of Abraham is depicted as an age of the gallant and noble fight for the just and the right, and Abraham's connection to God is straightforward, honorable, natural and direct.

Isaac is heir to that heroic age. But he lives through the transition to an age which is less and less "heroic," certainly in the sense that heroism and righteousness in succeeding ages becomes less and less straightforward and successively less natural. That is why Isaac has trouble seeing the way forward in the negotiations with Rebecca and Jacob, who have a more twisted path to follow. Pioneering generations of all kinds often find similar differences between themselves and their successors.

But that's further down the road; in this Parashah, the Torah wants us to focus on the nobility of the pioneering, heroic generation of Abraham and Sarah, and from no vantage point was this more apparent than at life's end, as they reached their funerals. We use the hiph'il form "hesped" today to mean a eulogy; in this story the root term properly was used as a synonym for bewailing. However, to fittingly bewail or deeply feel the loss of anyone you must first lovingly appreciate and dramatize their heroism, so I fantasize that at her funeral Abraham had plenty about her to love and praise! In negotiating for a burial site, Abraham speaks and acts with the grace and diplomacy of a prince. He will not be content to be given a mere burial plot for his wife; he must own the entire field outright with the burial cave therein. He insists upon paying full price and having the sale witnessed legally, a negotiation which he punctuates with graceful, diplomatic bows. Abraham insists upon a proper wife of noble lineage for his son. Like a king, Abraham has a vizier, who looks after his affairs, whom he entrusts with this mission. The servant/vizier takes a proper oath, and Rebecca's nobility is borne out by her graciousness to the guest. And at that point, the servant returns the graciousness, giving precious, gracious gifts to Rebecca and her household.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Revealing the Enduring Ethics of Aggadah:
Levinas' Talmudic Readings
2-Part Winter Wednesdays Learning Series
Rabbi Richard Hidary

Wednesdays, December 7 and December 14 | 7:00 pm
Emmanuel Levinas was a French philosopher of ethics and existentialism. In addition to his major contribution to general philosophy, Levinas was also a Jewish community leader and teacher. For many years, he delivered an annual lecture at the Colloquia of Jewish Intellectuals analyzing a Talmudic passage philosophically. These readings remain some of the most innovative, interesting, and inspiring Talmudic interpretations that succeed in unpacking some of the depths of Talmudic thought and its relevance to modern society. In these two lectures, we will attempt to re-enact those lectures, follow Levinas' steps through a textual analysis, and assess how well they stand the tests of time, scholarship, and enduring value.
Free and open to the public.

Young Couples and Families “Shang-Chai”
Shabbat Luncheon

Saturday, December 24 | Following Morning Services
In honor of the Jewish tradition to eat Chinese food on the Eve of December 25th, young couples and families are invited to join the Soloveichik family for a fun and uplifting Chinese themed Shabbat luncheon.
Go to shearithisrael.org/shang-chai to register.

Sign up for the Spring Semester of
Caregiver and Me Toddler Program
Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30-11:30am
For ages 16 - 34 months | Begins January 4, 2017
Led by our veteran early childhood specialist, Liz Rios, toddlers learn colors and shapes, create arts and crafts, sing songs, explore Jewish holidays, music and enjoy special visits by Rabbi Ira Rohde. Spaces are limited. 1 or 2 day options. Preferred pricing for members. Register now at shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram.

Exclusive Tour of “The First Jewish Americans:
Freedom and Culture In The New World” Exhibit
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik and
Museum Curator, Dr. Debra Schmidt Bach
The New-York Historical Society
170 Central Park West (At 77th street)
Sunday, December 18 | 10:00 am
(one hour before the museum opens to the public)



Building upon the overwhelming enthusiasm of our recent exclusive tour at the Morgan Library and Museum, our congregants have more reason than ever to take interest in this extraordinary exhibit. This exhibit is directly connected to the history of our community and congregation and showcases several important objects from our collection as well as extensive loans from the private collection of our member, Leonard Milberg. And who better to guide us through this exhibit, vividly bringing the history to life, but our own resident historian, Rabbi Soloveichik along with Dr. Debra Schmidt Bach, the curator of the exhibit. As spaces are highly limited, we are opening registration for now to sponsors ONLY. We will open the program to non-sponsors, subject to remaining spots as we get closer to the date.
Register at shearithisrael.org/The-First-Jewish-Americans

A Shearith Israel and Jewish Center
Ski and Snowboard Trip
An Intergenerational "Achdut in Action" Program
Sunday, December 25, 7:00 am - 8:00 pm
Celebrate the first day of Hanukkah on the slopes of Hunter Mountain. Shearith Israel and the Jewish Center are joining forces for a fun day of skiing and snowboarding. This intergenerational activity is geared towards teens, singles, couples, and families (children age 7 and up), first-timers and black diamond skiers and snowboarders. This trip is all-inclusive (lift tickets, optional rentals, transportation), but it is BYOL (bring your own lunch). Register at shearithisrael.org/ski.

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For details go to: shearithisrael.org/judaic-education

- Sunday
- ◊ Saadiah Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions | Sjimon den Hollander | 8:45 am
- Monday
- ◊ Monday Night Learning: A Series on Early America and the Jews | Rabbi Soloveichik | 7:00 pm | No class this week
- Tuesday
- ◊ Katzap Class and Breakfast | Following Morning Services
 - ◊ Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought- A Class for Women | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am | *Sponsored by Martine Schenker in memory of her father Henry Krenik*
 - ◊ Talmud Class: Tractate Sanhedrin | Rabbi Soloveichik | 7:00 pm
- Wednesday
- ◊ NEW: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Shearith Israel: A Monthly Q & A | Z. Edinger | 7:00 pm | On select Wednesdays | Begins December 21

To sponsor a single class or an entire semester,
go to shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass

To find out when your favorite class is held, canceled or our special topics go to shearithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists to select which emails you'd like to receive.

Wine and Cheese Event
The event which was advertised in our Fall bulletin for November 30 has been postponed to March 15. Stay tuned for more information and we hope you'll join us then.

Don't let us go dry.
Be a scotch or arak sponsor. To sponsor or contribute go to shearithisrael.org/scotch-and-arak-sponsorships

Hard time remembering RSVP deadlines?
We can remind you by text. Enroll at: shearithisrael.org/text-message-notifications