

**REGISTER NOW—DEADLINE THIS SUNDAY!**  
**Sisterhood Pre-Hanukkah Jewelry-Making Workshop**  
**Sunday, December 3 | 4:00 pm**  
 Please join the Sisterhood for a family-friendly workshop with handcrafted jewelry designer, Ofra. Parents and children can work together to create beautiful jewelry with real pearls, semi-precious stones, crystals, and charms. For adults and children 5 and older.  
 Register by **this Sunday, November 26** at [shearithisrael.org/jewelry](http://shearithisrael.org/jewelry).

**SAVE THE DATE: Annual Ski and Snowboard Trip**  
**Monday, December 25**  
 Are you between the ages of 7 and 107? Do you like winter sports? Well, you're in luck!  
 Shearith Israel and The Jewish Center are joining forces again this year for a fun day of skiing and snowboarding! All are welcome—teens, singles, couples, families, first-timers, black diamond skiers, and more.  
 Registration details coming soon.

**CARING CONNECTION & THE LEAGUE PRESENT:**  
**Upper West Side Blood Drive**  
***The Esther Goldfarb Memorial Blood Drive***  
**January 7, 2018 | 10:00 am-4:00 pm**  
**The Jewish Center, 131 W 86 St**  
 Kick off the new year by giving the gift of life—be a blood donor. This year, to maximize our impact, we are partnering with numerous congregations on the Upper West Side, so far including: Darkhei Noam, The Jewish Center, Lincoln Square Synagogue, Congregation Shaare Zedek, and Young Israel of the Upper West Side.  
 Registration details to follow.

Our next public tour is **Wednesday, December 13**

**Parnas Office Hours**  
 Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you. Please schedule a visit at [parnas@shearithisrael.org](mailto:parnas@shearithisrael.org).

### DEBAR TORAH: THE GRIND

— BY DOVID SCHWARTZ & R. SIEGEL —

Lavan decided that Jacob must work for seven years for his daughter's hand. Jacob, lovestruck, readily agreed—he would work for seven years. In fact, they flew by: the *pasuk* says that the seven years seemed like seven short days because of Jacob's affection for Rachel (29:20). Of course, Lavan tricked him and gave Jacob his other daughter, Leah, instead, and demanded he work another seven years for Rachel. Needless to say, these seven years did not fly by: they were grueling, tiresome and monotonous. The second seven years were uninspired by his tired love and affections for Rachel, and we would expect that Jacob's work ethic would begin to falter. Indeed, this is what happens to us: uninspired work tends to produce uninspired results.

But Jacob overcame this. Rashi (29:30) quotes the *midrash* which states that even during the second seven years, Jacob worked admirably and honestly; he did not cut corners; he powered through the grind. Moreover, the Rambam (Hil. Schierut 13:11) states that Jacob symbolizes the ideal work ethic of diligence and integrity. While we may find this admirable, we also probably find it baffling. How could Jacob, cheated and mistreated by Lavan, possess the force of character to meet these standards?

I think the answer lies in the depiction of Jacob that we find in our liturgy. In *Mincha* on the Sabbath, we say that "Jacob and his sons rest in it," i.e. the Sabbath. What's the significance of that?

Abraham was the visionary of Judaism. He had a dominating and creative character which enabled him to invent and dream. His personality captivated many people and they all joined his faith. Abraham, as we say in our liturgy, "reveals": that is, he reveals the truth of G-d's word through his creativity and power.

Isaac was different. He was private and inward—he did not so much create as cause to flourish. He certainly did not invent Judaism; however, he did keep it going. That is why we describe Isaac as flourishing.

However, Jacob is a combination of the two: he is both inward and outward. But these two qualities actually complement each other. I believe that it is precisely because of his privacy and "rest" that Jacob can work so hard. Through his rest, his inwardness, his time spent alone, in contemplation of himself, he gains the power to influence others and work so hard for his wife and family. It is because he combined the two prominent traits of his father and grandfather that Jacob and Jacob alone was capable of raising the twelve tribes. Abraham had a personality which was too expansive; Isaac too narrow. Jacob synthesized these two traits. In doing so, he became capable of influencing those closest to him: his children.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
 The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

## Shabbat Vayetse November 24-25, 2017

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 106; Haftarah p. 135  
 Kaplan Living Torah: p. 130; Haftarah p. 1430

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:14 pm  
 MINHAH & ARBIT | 4:15 pm | Main Sanctuary  
 FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "Lincoln's Thanksgiving: A Shabbat Reflection" | 2017-18 season sponsored by the Julis family.

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am  
 SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am  
 TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium  
 YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium  
 JUNIOR CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue  
 SERMON | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
 KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Karen and Jack Daar, in honor of the engagement of Laura Daar and Eliezer Frye, and Liliane Marks, in memory of her mother Josephine Saada Dahan and in honor of the recent marriage of Zachary and Malka Edinger.*  
 YOUNG COUPLES AND FAMILIES LUNCHEON | Elias Room | For Registered Guests

SEUDA SHELISHIT & SHABBAT AFTERNOON PIRKEI ABOT  
 SHIUR | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | 3:30 pm | Levy Auditorium | *Class sponsored by Vivienne Roumani-Denn and Morton Denn in memory of Vivienne's brother, Jacques Roumani (Yaakov Nissim b. Yosef Roumani). Fall semester sponsored by Scott Shay, in memory of Chana Razel bat Aaron v'Sarah.*  
 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):**  
 Sunday-Thursday: 6:30 pm

**Shabbat Luncheon Featuring A Conversation Between  
Rabbi Soloveichik and Historian, Andrew Porwancher  
*The Jewish Friends and Clients of Alexander Hamilton*  
Saturday, December 9 | Following Morning Services**

This extraordinary event will reveal incredible, little known details about Alexander Hamilton's relationships with Jews in New York, mostly members of Shearith Israel. We will discuss fascinating court cases in which Alexander Hamilton represented Jews, and the story of Jews at Columbia College, Hamilton's alma mater. Questions to be addressed include: How friendly was Alexander Hamilton with New York's Jews? How did his Jewish friends help form his own views about the future of the United States? Most tantalizingly, what do these relationships tell us about Jewish links in Hamilton's own past? To register and sponsor, visit [shearithisrael.org/hamilton](http://shearithisrael.org/hamilton).

*Andrew Porwancher is the author of the forthcoming The Jewish Founding Father: The Secret Life of Alexander Hamilton, to be published by Harvard University Press. He is a visiting scholar at the Straus Center's Program on Early America and the Jews.*

FROM THE DISTRIBUTOR THAT BROUGHT YOU  
“THE WOMEN’S BALCONY”

*The Film Critics are Calling a “Must-See” and “A Masterpiece”*

**“1945”**

**Now playing at Lincoln Plaza Cinemas, with a special  
screening to be held at Shearith Israel,  
on Yom Hashoah, April 11.**

On a summer day in 1945, an Orthodox man and his grown son arrive in a small village in Hungary while the villagers prepare for the wedding of the town clerk's son. The townspeople—suspicious, remorseful, fearful, and cunning—expect the worst and behave accordingly.

A superb ensemble cast, lustrous black and white cinematography, and historically detailed art direction contribute to this eloquent drama.

**WEEKLY JEWISH EDUCATION**

View all our Fall classes at [shearithisrael.org/judaic-education](http://shearithisrael.org/judaic-education)  
Sign up to be notified of any schedule changes or cancellations at  
[shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists](http://shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists)

Our Fall Semester of Jewish Education is now in full swing—  
come learn with us any day of the week:

**Saadiyah Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions**

Sjimon Den Hollander  
Sundays | 8:45 am

**Habruta (Paired) Learning**

Rabbi Yanetz & Co.  
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays | 5:15 - 7:15 pm

**Minyan, Class, and Breakfast**

Tuesdays | 7:15 am

**Feasts and Fasts:  
The Festivals in Jewish Thought  
A Class for Women**

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
Tuesdays | 9 am

**Talmud Class:  
Masekhet Yoma and the Meaning of the Mikdash**

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
Tuesdays | 7 pm

**An Overview of James (Joshua) Seixas’ Hebrew Grammar**

Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde  
Thursdays | 7:15 pm

**Friday Night Lights:  
The Making and Meaning of Shabbat**

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
Fridays | Following Kabbalat Shabbat

**The Misunderstood Masterpiece:  
A New Approach to Pirkei Abot**

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
Saturdays | One hour before Minhah

To sponsor a class or series of classes, visit  
[shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass](http://shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass)

**A Three-Part Series by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
*The Most Misunderstood Holiday:  
The True Meaning of Hanukkah***

December 2, 8:15 am | December 9, 8:15 am  
December 16, 3:30 pm

(Morning Services begin at 8:30 am on Dec. 2 & 9)

In the weeks preceding Hanukkah, and culminating on Shabbat Hanukkah, Rabbi Soloveichik will shed light on how one of the most culturally famous of Jewish holidays has been misinterpreted, and that its history and true meaning speak profoundly to both American Jewry and the State of Israel today.

The first two classes will take place prior to *shahrit* on Shabbat mornings, December 2 and 9, at 8:15 AM and the series will conclude on the afternoon of Shabbat Hanukkah, December 16, prior to *minhah*, at 3:30 PM.

**Always Missing Deadlines? Enroll in CSI's Text  
Messaging Notification Service**

We can remind you by text when RSVP deadlines are approaching. We can also alert you of weather emergencies, security incidents, or other critical notices. To subscribe to our service, visit

[shearithisrael.org/text-message-notifications](http://shearithisrael.org/text-message-notifications).

Please be assured, we will only text you for those alerts you have selected and will only use this on an as-needed basis.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Thank you* to all our donors and volunteers who participated in this year’s Pack-A-Thon. Special thanks to our Event Committee, for their invaluable input and energy: Jennifer Ash, Karen Daar, Blair Garff, Zoya Raynes, Alessandra Rovati, Louis Solomon, Marlene Sperling, Michael Sperling, and Adina Wagman.