

REMEMBERING BAGHDAD—
Between the Tigris and the Hudson:
The Iraqi Jewish Community and Shearith Israel
Featuring Mr. Ezra Zilkha and other Shearith Israel members
Sunday, December 16 | Following 6:30 pm Evening Services

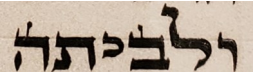

Come to Shearith Israel for an unforgettable evening to hear about Jewish life in Baghdad, from the cultured, progressive, and cosmopolitan city to the tragedy of the *Farhud*, from the unprecedented IDF Airlift operation *Ezra & Nehemiah* to the horrible Baghdad hangings of 1969. Hear firsthand accounts of life in Baghdad from Jews who lived through it. For more information, contact Z. Edinger at zedinger@shearithisrael.org.



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,

Caring Connection Meeting
THIS Thursday, November 8 | 8:00 pm
Shearith Israel's *Caring Connection* strives to "connect and build our community by caring for one another." Learn about current projects and potential future ones and consider getting involved. This meeting will be held in a private home. Contact caringconnection@shearithisrael.org for the address.

DEBAR TORAH (continued from back panel)

	
Shearith Israel Sefer #45 ("Barry Cohen")	Shearith Israel Sefer #28 ("K.K.T.T.")

The majority of Masoretic and scribal traditions indicate that there should be a small *kaf* in our *parasha*. For generations, scribe after scribe has been writing this special letter unusually small. But without ever knowing why! Perhaps this is something we should cry over - but don't cry too much - for what is truly praiseworthy is that this small letter has been meticulously guarded by our scribes for millennia. It is one of the small treasures hidden in the Torah open for us to interpret.

Public Tours Our next public tour is Wednesday, November 14, at 11:00 AM	Parnas Office Hours Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you. Please schedule a visit at parnas@shearithisrael.org .
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DEBAR TORAH: ולביתה—To Cry (BUT ONLY A LITTLE)
— Z. EDINGER, SHAMASH —

Out of the more than 300,000 letters in the Torah, a few letters are special and unusually written. One of these special letters occurs in the second verse of this week's *parasha* (Gen. 23:2.)


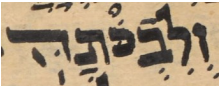
ויבא אברהם לספד לשרה ולביתה:
Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

The letter *kaf* in the word "*velivkotal*" (ולביתה) (*and to weep for her*) is written smaller than the rest. Many explanations for this unusual letter have been given. Most believe that the small *kaf* indicates that Abraham's weeping for Sarah was contained or diminished in some way. These explanations vary greatly, however, as to why Abraham's weeping was minimized. Perhaps because Sarah was very elderly and had lived a long and full life, perhaps because Abraham had taken another wife. Another explanation is that the small *kaf* indicates that men do not know how to cry very much (as opposed to women who were sometimes hired to wail at funerals.) Yet another explanation claims that Sarah died because of the ordeal of *Akedat Yizhak* and Abraham minimized his crying so people should not think he was responsible for causing Sarah's death. All of these explanations interpret the diminished *kaf* as an indication that Abraham's weeping was minimized.

Another explanation given is that the diminished *kaf* hints that Abraham and Sarah had a daughter! For if you remove the letter *kaf* - the remaining letters spell "*u'lvital*" — ולבה — which would render the verse: *Abraham mourned for Sarah and her daughter* (see: Baba Bathra 16b).

Ultimately, none of the explanations given are particularly satisfying and we are left to wonder why this *kaf* should be written so unusually.

There are several extant lists of the large and small letters in the Torah. These lists can be found in *Masekhet Soferim*, *Midrash Akiva ben Yosef* and the medieval masoretic work *Sefer Okhlah veOkhlah*. These lists however do not always conform with one another. So too, the ancient manuscripts of the Torah, such as the *Aleppo Codex*, *Leningrad Codex*, and others, together with the text of the *Mikraot Gedolot* do not always agree with one another as to which letters especially large or small.

	
Leningrad Codex (regular <i>kaf</i>)	London Codex (diminished <i>kaf</i>)

Almost all modern *sifrei torah* have a diminished *kaf* in our verse, including the *sefer* we read from this shabbat. Interestingly Shearith Israel's oldest *sefer*, the K.K.T.T. scroll, which came to NY from Amsterdam during the early years of our congregation, and which was probably written in Italy during the 16th century, does not appear to have a diminished *kaf* at all!

(continued on inside panel)

365th ANNIVERSARY
• 5414 • 5779 •
CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue
Shabbat Haye Sarah
November 2-3, 2018

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

#SolidarityShabbat
This Shabbat's lectures are dedicated to the victims of Pittsburgh.

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:33 pm
EVENING SERVICES | 5:30 pm
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Soloveichik | "The Mysterious Origin of 'Shabbat Shalom'" | *Sponsored this week by Chavie Kahn & Heshy Kofman in commemoration of the nahala of Chavie's father, R. Solomon Kahn, and in memory of the victims in Pittsburgh. 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 | Fidanque Youth Room
JUNIOR CONGREGATION WITH A TORAH READING | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue | Featuring our PTTS Hebrew School students
LECTURE | Rabbi Soloveichik | "The Embrace: A Religious Reflection on the Meaning of an Image"
KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium
PTTS & YOUNG FAMILIES LUNCHEON | Elias Room | for registered guests
SHABBAT AFTERNOON CLASS | Rabbi Soloveichik | 4:25 pm | "Between Hebron and Jerusalem" | Levy Auditorium
EVENING SERVICES | 5:25 pm
HABDALA | 6:19 pm
*Clocks turn back one hour on Saturday night.
Rosh Hodesh Kislev begins on Wednesday evening.*

Weekday Service Times
Mornings: Sunday: 8:00 am | Monday-Friday: 7:15 am
Evenings (Arbit only): Sunday-Thursday: 6:30 pm (**note new time**)

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

THANKSGIVING AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

EARN YOUR THANKSGIVING BY GIVING BACK

Fourth Annual Thanksgiving Pack-A-Thon

Thursday, November 23, 9:30 am

Levy Auditorium

On Thanksgiving morning, after Rabbi Soloveichik's special Thanksgiving address, registered volunteers from Shearith Israel, the Jewish Center, the West End Collegiate Church, the Church of Latter-day Saints, and Drisha will pack meals that will be distributed to hungry New Yorkers by the Met Council on Poverty.

Last year, we raised over \$18,000 to fight hunger. And like last year, every dollar you donate to this initiative will be TRIPLED through the generosity of an anonymous matching grant.

To sign up or support this event, visit shearithisrael.org/packathon2018.



Would You Like To Co-Sponsor Our Thanksgiving Festivities?
Visit shearithisrael.org/thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Parade Viewing

This Year, Pre-Registration is Required, but still free for Shearith Israel Youth (and pre-registered Pack-A-Thon Volunteers)

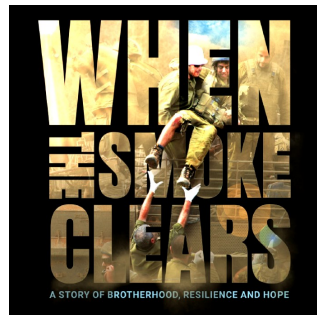
Our Portico provides one of the best Thanksgiving Parade views in the city. In an effort to ensure an orderly, secure, and enjoyable experience for the kids, we ask that you pre-register. **Note: no adults are admitted unless your small child needs you.**

Registration is FREE for CSI Members (and for pre-registered Pack-A-Thon volunteers); \$5 per person in advance for all others, including guests of members. Special thanks to our volunteer congregants who will be helping manage the crowd and make this a safe and memorable experience for all.

To register your child(ren) for the Portico Parade Viewing, visit shearithisrael.org/parade.

Film Screening in Honor of Veterans Day:

When the Smoke Clears



NEXT Saturday Night,
November 10 | 6:30 pm

With introductory remarks from Eldad Neumeier, a former IDF and U.S. Service member, and spokesperson for Kosher Troops

This gripping film tells the true stories of young Israeli soldiers, Gil, Ofer, and Elad, whose injuries leave them fighting for the strength to live. Making breakthroughs and finding meaning by reaching out to those in need, they discover that what didn't kill them really did make them stronger.

Express appreciation from the IDF and the US Armed Forces by welcoming former IDF sniper and Sergeant, US Army, Eldad Neumeier, who will be introducing the film and representing "Kosher Troops."

For tickets, visit shearithisrael.org/smoke.
Only \$5 for members/\$8 for non-members in advance,
\$10 for all at the door.

Kosher Troops helps provide kosher food and holiday packages for Jewish servicemen and women in the United States Armed services. For more information, visit koshertroops.com.

NYC Marathon May Affect Synagogue Access

This Sunday, November 4

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!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

THIS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5

THE ONLY STOP ON SCOTT SHAY'S TOUR WHERE YOU CAN HEAR HIM WITH RABBI SOLOVEICHIK

A Shabbat Dinner Featuring

Shearith Israel Member and Author, Scott Shay
in Conversation with
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Friday Evening, November 9 | Following Evening Services

Religion can be both inspiring and distressing. And many critiques of it are simultaneously compelling and dubious. In his new book, *In Good Faith: Questioning Religion and Atheism*, Scott Shay examines atheist arguments with a refreshing modern eye in this comprehensive look at our most fundamental questions about faith and reason.

To register, visit shearithisrael.org/scott-shay.

NEW: Parent-Child Learning

On 3 Saturday Nights:

December 15 | 6:30 pm

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. After the conclusion of Shabbat, start the week off with inspiring and enriching Torah study and an excellent opportunity to bond with your child. Pizza and prizes help make this a fun-filled evening of inter-generational learning.

Register or sponsor at
shearithisrael.org/parent-child-learning.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Mazal Tob to Nicole & Raanan Agus, in honor of their daughter, Gabrielle Agus, who recently made *aliyah*.*