

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 Steven Gotlib at stjgot@gmail.com.

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

Tuesdays | 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.

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

DEBAR TORAH

—STEVEN GOTLIB, BET MIDRASH COORDINATOR—

וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל־אַבְרָם לֵךְ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם וּמִמְלַךְתָּהּ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ אֶל־הָאֶרֶץ אֲרָצָה:
The LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your native land and from your father's house to the land that I will show you" (Translation from Sefaria.org).

The *Midrash Tanhuma* tells us that Hashem telling Avram to leave his birthplace and travel to the yet-to-be-revealed land is like a fragrant oil that was hidden away for ages finally being removed from its resting place and brought around the world so that everyone could experience its wonderful scent. The Midrash then inserts additional words into the *pasuk* quoted above showing that Hashem told Avram:

לֵךְ לָךְ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם וְאֶנִּי אוֹדִיעַ טִבְעָךָ בְּעוֹלָם

"Go forth from your land and I will reveal your goodness to the world" (My translation).

Rashi expands this midrashic explanation to say that Avram being sent out from his land was also a personal benefit and source of blessing for Avram, allowing him to inspire a great nation in his footsteps. But what did Avram do to deserve such a *zehut*?

In his *Mishneh Torah (Hilkhos Avodah Zarah 1:3)*, Maimonides explains that when Avram was only a child, he was able to figure out that the world could not exist without a Caretaker (מְנַהֵיג). He eventually was able to intellectually develop his understanding of Hashem so precisely and fight for Him so strongly against everyone around him that Hashem was able to reveal Himself to Avram directly, without the need for a vision, dream, or intermediary first like we see with other prophets.

A midrash in *Beresheet Rabbah* likens Avram's experience meeting Hashem to a man who walks from one place to another and finds himself in front of a lit-up palace (בְּיָרֵה אֶחָת דּוֹלֶקֶת). He then asks himself, "How is it possible that there can be such a thing without a Caretaker (מְנַהֵיג)?" Just then, a man appears to him and announces, "I AM THE CARETAKER OF THIS PALACE!"

What is fascinating about this *midrash* is that the phrase "lit-up" (דּוֹלֶקֶת) can be translated in one of two ways. One way is to say that the lights are turned on, the torches are burning, etc. It is impossible for such a palace to be functioning without someone there to take care of it and therefore there must be a Caretaker somewhere, even if He is unseen.

The second definition is a little less intuitive. It can be read, not as a "lit-up" palace but as one that is "set ablaze." Avram, when he found himself face-to-face with a world set on fire, full of idol-worshippers and brimming with immorality, asks how it could be possible that no one is caring for the state of reality. It is impossible that such a marvelous thing can appear to go so wrong and that no one is there waiting to make it right. With the realization that the palace has a Caretaker comes the realization that the fire setting it ablaze can be put out and the palace can be restored to its former glory. It was Avram's job to show that to people and it is our job to emulate him and continue his work now in our own communities.



• 5414 • 5779 •

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Lekh-Lekha

November 8-9, 2019

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 45; Haftarah p. 60
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 52; Haftarah p. 1058

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:27 pm

EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 4:30 pm | Main Sanctuary

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS RETURNS NEXT WEEK.

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHRIK | 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

BAR MITZVAH PROGRAM | Short program led by Rabbi Marc Angel

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Yulia Shapiro & Igor Levin, in honor of Gregory becoming a Bar Mitzvah.*

SHABBAT AFTERNOON CLASS RETURNS NEXT WEEK.

EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 4:20 pm

HABDALA | 5:12 pm

Veterans Day is on Monday, and the anniversary of Kristallnacht is on Shabbat.

Weekday Service Times

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

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

**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.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

We send best wishes to our **Newport Shabbaton participants** in including Rabbi Soloveichik & Z. Edinger, who are joining Congregation Jeshuat Israel for a special shabbaton at the Touro Synagogue. Rabbi Soloveichik will be delivering a number of talks and tours, including a special Touro Edition of Friday Night Lights.

Hazak u'barukh to **Elie Hirschfeld**, who was appointed to the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. The Holocaust, followed by 45 years of atheist Communist governments, created a critical need that led to the Commission's establishment in 1985.

Futhermore, some Jewish sites have also been affected by a resurgence of anti-Semitism.

Mazal tob to **Halana & Alan Greenberg**, on the birth of a grandson, born to their children Eliana and Matthew Greenberg.

Mazal tob to **Gregory Levin**, upon becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Mazal tob as well to his parents, **Yulia Shapiro & Igor Levin**.

We mourn the loss of our member, **Richard Schulz**.

Condolences to **Igor Levin**, upon the passing of his stepfather, Vladimir Baranov.

**Annual Thanksgiving Pack-A-Thon
Thursday, November 28 | 9:30 am**



We are thrilled to be launching our **2019 Pack-A-Thon!**

This year, together with **Chamah**, we will be packing robust packages of chicken, meat, and more that will be distributed to hundreds of struggling Jewish families.

We are delighted to once again be partnering with our local faith community partners in this inter-faith project — The Jewish Center, The West End Collegiate Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and Drisha — and we welcome this year's new partner, the Sephardic Academy of Manhattan.

Come join us on your own or with your whole family on Thanksgiving Day, to give back to those in need, and **help us reach our \$18,000 goal!** which is still only a fraction of the total cost of this project.

Participation starts at **\$18** per person, but larger donations are encouraged, and once again, thanks to an anonymous grant, all donations will be **TRIPLED** (up to \$10,000) — so donate today!

To volunteer at the Pack-A-Thon and/or support this event, visit shearithisrael.org/packathon2019.

**Thanksgiving Parade Viewing for Youth
November 28 | 9:30 am**

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**.

Please note that the parade viewing is for *children*, and adults are asked to give priority to the children. Please limit registration to 4 children and 2 adults.

Parade Viewing Registration is FREE for:

- CSI Members
- Current PTTS Students
- Current Toddler Program Students
- Pack-A-Thon donors at the \$180 level and above

For all others, **registration is \$18 per person in advance and \$25 at the door.**

To register your child for the parade viewing, visit shearithisrael.org/parade2019.

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**
Tuesdays | 9:00 am | *Sign up for weekly reminders at shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists*
- ⇒ **Bet Midrash | led by Steven Gotlib**
Monday-Thursday | One hour before evening services

Please consider sponsoring a class.
Go to: shearithisrael.org/sponsoraclass

COMING UP AT A GLANCE

- ⇒ **Mitzvot Workshop with Z. Edinger**
Sunday, November 17 | 10:30 am | for elementary school aged children
- ⇒ **Thanksgiving Pack-A-Thon**
Thursday Morning, November 28 | 9:30 am | *See side panel for details*
- ⇒ **Stitch & Fix**
Sunday, November 24 & Tuesday, November 26 | 10:00 am | *See center panel for details*
- ⇒ **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

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.