

CHOIR SELECTIONS THIS SHABBAT

Friday Night

V'Shameru #1 (p. 166) | Samuel Naumbourg

Psalm 23 (p. 174) | Rev. H.P. Mendes

Shabbat Morning

Misheberakh (p. 208) | Salamone Rossi

Tehilat (p. 218) | Leon Hyman

Stitch & Fix—Presented by the Sisterhood

Bi-Monthly on Sundays & Tuesdays | 10am-12pm

See schedule below | Elias Room

Stitch and Fix, the revived Sewing Circle, now has a new sewing machine! Drop in, select an item from our synagogue vestments that needs mending, then stitch and fix. For questions, contact Rose Edinger at rgedinger@gmail.com.

THIS Sunday Dec. 15

Please note: The session for this Tuesday, December 17 has been canceled.

Sunday Jan. 5 | Tuesday Jan. 7

Sunday Feb. 9 | Tuesday Feb. 11

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal tob to **Joanne & Yaakov Ben-Avi** upon their first grandson, Leo (Michael), son of Diana & Elan Ben-Avi, becoming a Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Mazal tob to **Ellen & Rob Kapito** and **Judith & Dr. Pinkas Lebovits** upon the birth of a granddaughter, Ava Giselle (Amalia Gitel), born to their children, Kayla & Elias.

Mazal tob to **Malka & Zachary Edinger** on the birth of a baby boy. Congratulations to big sister **Navah Manda Edinger**, to grandparents **Rose & Dr. Henry Edinger** and Elaine & Rabbi Michael Strasberg, and to the entire family.

Ruth & Irwin Shapiro are pleased to announce the engagement of their granddaughter, Rachel Shapiro, daughter of Monica & Sandy Shapiro, to Natan Bienstock, son of Sara & Mark Bienstock.

We mourn the loss of our member, **Katherine Noire**.

DEBAR TORAH

—YONI REUVEN, BET MIDRASH PROGRAM—

In the middle of Parashat Vayishlah, we learn about the enigmatic story of Yaakov's struggle with the angel. Yaakov wrestles with the angel, eventually succeeding, but not without first being struck in the hip socket. At the conclusion of the story, we learn that this story is the reason why we avoid eating the גיד הנשה — the sciatic nerve.

When I had first been taught this text, I had learned that it was due to the angel's strike of Yaakov's hip that was the cause of the commandment to avoid the sciatic nerve. A closer reading of the text, however, shows us that it is not the striking that is the source. First, if it were due to the strike, the Torah should have told us this commandment immediately after Yaakov was hit. Second, the *pesukim* write, "and he (Yaakov) was limping on his hip. Therefore, the Children of Israel are not to eat the sciatic nerve." It thus appears that it we refrain from eating the sciatic nerve due to Yaakov's limping. Why is it that we commemorate Yaakov's limping?

In life, all of us are struck down; we all go through lows. Everyone experiences failure — that is an inseparable part of being human. As such, it may be said that failure isn't inherently bad. Indeed, repentance, one of the major commandments, presupposes the inevitability of failure. Instead, it is how we react to failure that is important. If we allow our mishaps to dominate our lives, then our mishaps have won. But if we transcend them and grow from our mistakes, then we take ownership of them.

Thus, we don't commemorate Yaakov's being struck — we all get "struck." Instead, we commemorate his limp, the constant repercussion of the strike. Let us have the commandment against eating the sciatic nerve serve as a reminder that our lives do not revolve around our falling, but rather our rising from our falls. May we merit to grow from our mistakes and not let them hold us back.



• 5414 • 5779 •

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Vayishlah

December 13-14, 2019

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

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:11 pm

EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 4:15 pm | Main Sanctuary

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "A Jewish Woman's Chariots of Fire" | 2019-2020 season sponsored by the Julis Family.

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT | 9:15 am

TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room

YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium

JR. CONGREGATION WITH A TORAH READING | FEATURING PTTS | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

LECTURE | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "Moses Mendelssohn & the Moroccan Hanukkah: A Tale of Torah, Jews, and the Enlightenment"

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

FAMILY BEATBOX LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | *for registered guests*

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | 3:30 pm | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik |

"Hanukkah's Most Misunderstood Story" | Levy Auditorium

EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 4:05 pm

HABDALA | 4:55 pm

PARENT-CHILD LEARNING & PIZZA | LED THIS WEEK BY RAFE SASSON
6:15 pm | Elias Room | *for elementary school aged children & their parents or grandparents*

Weekday Service Times

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

Evenings: Sunday (MINHA & ARBIT): 4:15 PM

Monday-Thursday (Arbit only): 6:30 PM

Kiddush In Honor of Liz Rios

Shabbat, December 21 | Following Morning Services

Generations of children who have passed through Shearith Israel have experienced the warmth, creativity, and enthusiasm of our tireless Tot Shabbat and Toddler Program leader, Liz Rios. This year, we'd love to give a little back!

Join us as we present Liz with a special thank-you gift as a token of our appreciation.

To join the Honor Roll (starting at just \$18), visit shearithisrael.org/liz-kiddush.

This kiddush is underwritten; all proceeds will go toward enhancing our youth programming.

Pre-Pay Your 2020-2021 Dues Through December 31

As we approach the end of 2019, and back by popular demand, we are again offering you another way to help the synagogue while potentially improving your own 2019 tax position. Full, associate, and young members may pre-pay 2020-2021 dues at our current rates. If we receive your payment by December 31, 2019, you will be exempt from any dues increase that may be implemented in the upcoming year.

To pre-pay, go to shearithisrael.org/prepay2020.

ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT

Mark Twain In the Holy Land

Sunday, February 2 | 11:30 am & 12:30 pm

At The New-York Historical Society

Mark Twain's memoir of his tour of the Holy Land launched his career; his experiences are particularly fascinating when considered from the perspective of Jewish history and religion. Join Rabbi Meir Soloveichik for a tour on the final day of the New-York Historical Society's exhibit on Twain's trip through the Mediterranean.

Registration is currently open to sponsors only (\$180) at shearithisrael.org/nyhs-twain.

Public Tours

Our next public tour is
**Wednesday, January 8, at
11:00 AM**

Parnas Office Hours

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

YOUTH SHABBATON THIS WEEKEND

This whole weekend is packed with activities for CSI Youth & PTTS students—Take a look:

Special Jr. Congregation *featuring* PTTS

Shabbat Morning | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

Our PTTS Hebrew School students have been diligently studying their parts and we look forward to having them lead the *tefilah* at Jr. Congregation. Come cheer them on!

Beatbox Workshop

Elias Room | Following Junior Congregation

For children, tweens, and teens | *Led by champion beatboxer Mark Martin*

This Shabbat, we warmly welcome **Mark Martin**, Winner of the 2016 American Beatbox Championships. Following Jr. Congregation, Mark will host a beatbox workshop for the teenagers and children. *Note: children **can** participate in this workshop even if they are not attending the luncheon that follows.*

Family Beatbox Luncheon

Elias Room | Following Services | For Registered Guests only

With special guest, champion beatboxer Mark Martin

Over a delicious family-friendly meal, children will deliver *dibre torah* and Mark will discuss the use of beatboxing as a tool for speech therapy.

SEASON PREMIERE: Parent-Child Learning & Pizza

Saturday Nights bi-weekly | One hour after Habdala

Beginning THIS Shabbat, December 14

Through February 22 | *Led this week by Rafe Sasson*

For Elementary School Age Children & Their Parents or Grandparents

This educational initiative gives parents (or grandparents) the opportunity to study Torah with their children in a fun interactive setting led by Shearith Israel's clergy and talented volunteers. Pizza and prizes help make this a fun-filled evening of inter-generational learning.

The program is free, but please register for each session you will be attending at shearithisrael.org/pclearning so that we can know how many to expect!

Youth & PTTS Pre-Hanukkah Fest

For Elementary School-Aged Children

THIS Sunday, December 15 | 4:45 pm | Levy Auditorium

Finish off this youthful weekend with this year's Hanukkah celebration, featuring CSI-traditional waffles, plus sufganiot, music from Rabbi Ira Rohde, and an olive oil press demonstration.

To register for a little bit of learning and a whole lot of fun, visit shearithisrael.org/pre-hanukkah-fest.

JEWISH EDUCATION 5780

- ⇒ **Friday Night Lights** | Rabbi Soloveichik
Friday Nights | Following Evening Services
- ⇒ **Shabbat Afternoon Class** | Rabbi Soloveichik
Shabbat Afternoons | One hour before Minha (*but never earlier than 3:30 pm*)
- ⇒ **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 | *Registration details at shearithisrael.org/silber-kingship*
- ⇒ **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

RABBI SOLOVEHICK'S UPCOMING MAJOR LECTURES:

Mark Your Calendars and Watch Your Emails Following Evening Services

- ⇒ **Wednesday, January 8:** *"From Mitzrayim To Manhattan: What the Metropolitan Museum Teaches Us About the Exodus"*
- ⇒ **Monday, February 10:** Special History Lecture
- ⇒ **Tuesday, March 3:** Major Pre-Purim Shiur

YOUTH CORNER

- ⇒ **Kiddush to Honor Liz Rios**
Shabbat Morning, December 21 | *See side panel for details*
- ⇒ **Beatbox Luncheon**
Saturday, December 14 | Following Morning Services
- ⇒ **Parent-Child Learning**
Saturday, December 14 | One hour after habdala | *for elementary school aged children | see side panel for details*
- ⇒ **Youth Pre-Hanukkah Fest**
Sunday, December 15 | 10:00 am | *for elementary school aged children*
- ⇒ **Parent-Child Learning**
Saturday, December 28 | One hour after habdala
- ⇒ **Mitzvot Workshop with Z. Edinger**
Sunday, January 5 | 10:00 am | *for elementary school aged children*