



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

**Shabbat Vayishlah**  
*December 16-17, 2016*

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

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:12 pm  
MINHAH | 4:15 pm | Main Sanctuary  
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on the topic "The World's Tallest Menorah? The Story of a Court Case" | *2016-2017 season sponsored by the Julis Family*  
RAMAZ CHAMBER CHOIR PRE-HANUKKAH CONCERT  
Following Friday Night Lights

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary  
SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a sermon on the topic "Achilles' Heel, Learned Hand, and our Learned Foot"  
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

SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND PIRKEI ABOT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic "Hanukkah: The First Culture War" | 3:30 pm | Levy Auditorium | *Fall semester sponsored by Lewis Lipsey*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 4:05 PM  
HABDALAH | 4:56 pm

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Mazal Tob* Barbara and Sassoon Shahmoon on the marriage of their son, David Ezra Shahmoon and Sarah Boumendil. Sarah is the daughter of Giselle and Roger Boumendil of Paris.

*Mazal Tob* to Joshua Vorchheimer on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his parents Rachel and David Vorchheimer.

Welcome new member Juan Mesa-Freydell to the Shearith Israel family

Condolences to Vivienne Roumani-Denn on the passing of her brother, Jacques Roumani.

**Special Dues Offer and End of Year Gifts**

Now is the time to support Shearith Israel and our special funds (e.g. Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Sisterhood, Hebra, etc.) with an end of year gift. If you have any outstanding balances, now is also a good time to take care of those. Finally, don't miss out on our special offer to pre-pay you 2017-2018 membership dues at current rates. Please refer to your inbox for emails from us with details. If you have questions about your account, you may also contact our bookkeeper, Ruth Yasky, at 212-873-0300 x 228. To pay, go to [shearithisrael.shulcloud.com/payment.php](http://shearithisrael.shulcloud.com/payment.php), log in and make a donation.

**Parnas Office Hours**

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

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

**Jacob the Diplomat, the Conciliator**  
**Rabbi Ira Rohde, Hazzan**

If Abraham's and Isaac's was the Heroic Age, then perhaps Jacob's should be called the Bible's first great "Age of Diplomacy." Parashat Vayishlah reveals to us Jacob the Diplomat. Jacob too has become a great, magnificent man, but it has been through a painful process of acquiring diplomatic skill. In a later age, the Torah seems to be teaching us, it is not enough to be noble and heroic: A man must also be clever, wily, and even a bit sly, but he must learn, sometimes through painful lessons, how to develop himself into a skilled diplomat. Perhaps the Torah is trying to teach us, through its long, baffling concentration on Jacob's brother Esau, to appreciate the value of skillful diplomacy. Wars and battles alone do not "win the peace" between people and nations, and in fact, the wars themselves may even be considered somewhat incidental; it is the skillful diplomacy after and around the battles which in many ways is more important in keeping the peace and preserving order. If from Abraham we learn grand gestures of munificent graciousness, from Jacob we learn the finer, more delicate etiquette of how to curry favor, with our friends, and even with our enemies. Now, there are times to be diplomatic, to send gifts, to negotiate, and there are times to prepare for war, to divide the camp lest half be overtaken. Perhaps Jacob was a little too eager to conciliate with Shekhem, too anxious to please, to avoid "giving off a bad odor" among his Canaanite neighbors, and his sons were justified in pursuing war in violation of the agreement. But overall, the Torah seems to want us to learn the value of such a diplomatic outlook towards others, and even towards God. The gift of Jacob to his brother Esau, called a "Minha," becomes a paradigm for giving gifts and sacrifices to God. Modern thinkers tend to denigrate the importance of gift-giving, flattery, and currying favor. I remember being struck by a famous letter of Abigail Franks to her grown son, begging him to be "obsequious" to her brother, his employer - yes, she used that term. But our use of the term "please" is supposed to teach us how important it is to seek to curry favor and the pleasure of others, that others find us pleasing, "in the eyes of God and man." "And Jacob said, 'No, prithee, if prithee you would do me this favor, accept from me this offering, for to see your face is like seeing the face of God, and you have shown goodwill [with your reception] (Gen. 33:10)." Rashi ad loc comments: "'And you have shown goodwill'" - You were placated by me, and similarly every [good]-will in Scripture is a language of appeasing, 'appeasemento' in O.F. 'For they shall not be for goodwill' - the sacrifices come to propitiate and to seek goodwill. And similarly 'the lips of the righteous shall know favor (Prov. 10:32)' - they know to appease and seek goodwill." Jacob is revealed here as the great conciliator, the reconciliator, to be exact, for to reconcile, to pacify, to soothe the tensions, is to keep the peace.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

PTTS Hanukkah Fest  
This Sunday, December 18 | 11:00 am –12:00 pm  
PTTS students will enjoy Hanukkah festivities, songs and of course, delicious waffles.

The Annual West Side Mikvah Fundraiser  
This Monday, December 19  
Dessert reception at 7:30 pm Program begins at 8:00 pm  
at the home of Tracy Gerber | 441 West End Ave, #9A  
*Sponsored by the rabbis' wives of the UWS*  
Join guest speaker, Elisheva Liss, licensed marriage and family therapist, on the topic "Let's Talk: Considering a Paradigm Shift in Our Conversations About Intimacy" at this annual fundraiser. Even if you cannot attend, your donation will go to the operation of the mikvah.  
Register and donate at [westsidemikvahfundraiser.com](http://westsidemikvahfundraiser.com).

Newly Inaugurated Presidents and the Jews:  
Lessons from Early America for Today  
Rabbi Soloveichik  
This Monday, December 19 | 7:00 pm  
*Sponsored by YU's Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought*  
Join us for Rabbi Soloveichik's next installment of his "Early America and the Jews History" Series. This series meets on select Mondays. Sign up for email notifications at:  
[shearithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists](http://shearithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists)

Young Couples and Families  
"Shang-Chai" Shabbat Luncheon  
Saturday, December 24 | Following Morning Services  
DEADLINE: This Monday, December 19  
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.  
To register or sponsor, go to [shearithisrael.org/shang-chai](http://shearithisrael.org/shang-chai)



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  
For ages 7-97  
Teens may sign up without a parent (with parental authorization)  
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](http://shearithisrael.org/ski).



Winter Coat Drive  
Now through December 28  
*Sponsored by the Shearith Israel League and Caring Connection*  
Donate gently used coats for men, women, and children, to keep those in need warm this winter season. Simply drop them off in the box located near the water fountain outside Levy Auditorium. We are aiming to collect 50 coats that will be transferred to NY Cares for distribution.

Hollywood Themed Shabbat Dinner  
For Teens and Their Entire Families  
with Rabbi Soloveichik  
Friday night, January 20 | Following Friday Night Lights  
Teens and their families are invited to a special Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi Soloveichik and his family.  
Register at [shearithisrael.org/teens-Hollywood](http://shearithisrael.org/teens-Hollywood).

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

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For details go to: [shearithisrael.org/judaic-education](http://shearithisrael.org/judaic-education)  
*Sunday*  
◇ Saadiah Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions | Sjimón den Hollander | 8:45 am  
*Monday*  
◇ Monday Night Learning: A Series on Early America and The Jews | Rabbi Soloveichik | 7:00 pm | Select Mondays  
*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  
◇ 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 this week | Email questions to [zedinger@shearithisrael.org](mailto:zedinger@shearithisrael.org).

To sponsor a single class or an entire semester, go to [shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass](http://shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass)

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

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Shearith Israel: A Monthly Q & A  
A New Class by Z. Edinger  
Begins this Wednesday, December 21 | 7:00 pm  
Intended for both new members and "old-timers," beginners and advanced students, this class will be based on topics suggested by you! If you've ever had a question about our congregation's history, liturgy, music, or customs - this is the class for you. Please submit your questions to [zedinger@shearithisrael.org](mailto:zedinger@shearithisrael.org) and he will prepare a class to satisfy you!