

LESS THAN 2 WEEKS AWAY!
Shearith Israel & The Jewish Center
Ski & Snowboard Trip
Monday, December 25

Join us on the slopes of Hunter Mountain!
 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.

This trip is all-inclusive (equipment, transportation, even lessons for beginners), though it is BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch). There is **preferred pricing for members** of Shearith Israel and The Jewish Center, but non-members are welcome as well, so invite your friends.

To register, go to shearithisrael.org/ski.

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. To maximize our impact, this year 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.

To register or volunteer at the drive, visit shearithisrael.org/uws-blood-drive.

Our next public tour is **Wednesday, January 10**

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

**DEBAR TORAH: WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN:
 EGYPTIAN NAMES IN THE JOSEPH STORY**

— BY Z. EDINGER —

In this week's *parasha* we read of Joseph's meteoric rise from incarcerated slave to viceroy of Egypt. It is the story of a Hebrew slave's successful entry into the upper echelons of Egyptian society. Joseph's transformation is not only material (new clothing, jewelry, and power), but he is also transformed culturally. In chapter 41, verse 45, Pharaoh gives Joseph an Egyptian name and arranges his marriage to the daughter of a prominent Egyptian religious leader. "*Pharaoh called Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphra, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt.*"

Potiphra (and the related name *Potiphar*) is a well attested form of name in Egyptian—*Pa-di-XX*—meaning "Gift of XX" (where XX is the name of a deity). The name *Pa-di-PRe* has been found on an ancient Stela dating to the 21st Egyptian dynasty (Stela Cairo JE 65444, c. 1000 BCE). Therefore we can say with some confidence that *Potiphra* is the Egyptian name, *Pa-di-PRe*, meaning "gift of Re" (the sun god).

The name *Asenath* is usually understood by most scholars as coming from the Egyptian (*Nes-Neit*, meaning "She belongs to (the goddess) Neith." This type of name is well known—there are 139 examples of the pattern "She (or He) belongs to XX" i.e. (*Nes-Amun*; (*Nes-Horus*, etc. This particular formula however, "*She belongs to Neith*," has not been found. Why *Potiphra*, the High-Priest of the sun-god Ra, would name a daughter "*she belongs to Neith*," a goddess unrelated to the religious cult of *On*, is questionable and other etymologies are possible.

Joseph's name, *Zaphenath-Paneah*, has been the subject of much speculation. The Targumim translate the name to mean "*the revealer of hidden things*," understanding *Zaphenath* as being related to the Hebrew צפון (*hidden*). Most modern scholars, however, understand the name to be a Hebrew rendering of a well-known Egyptian form *Dje-XX-ef-'Ankh*, meaning: "*the god XX says, he will live*." Many examples of this name exist but always including the name of a specific deity, i.e. "*The god (Amun, Isis, Horus, etc) says he shall live*." Our form, *Za phe nath-Pa neah*, would accordingly be, *Dje-Pa-Net-ef-'Ankh*, meaning "*the god says he shall live*" using the Egyptian generic word for god "*Net(r)*" but not specifying any particular deity.

Because this type of name has never been found without the inclusion of a particular deity (and other questions) some scholars have proposed alternative etymologies for *Zaphenath-Paneah*. However, it is entirely fitting that Joseph, a Hebrew, who consistently attributes his successes to God, be given a name that specifically avoided invoking a deity of the Egyptian pantheon.

Joseph tells Pharaoh in verse 14: "בְּלִעְדִּי: אֶ-לֹהִים, יִצְנֶה אֶת-שְׁלוֹם פְּרַעֲה Not I, but God will answer to Pharaoh's wellbeing." Pharaoh, in kind, says in verse 38: הֲבִינָּהּ אֶת-לֵבְךָ בּוֹ. קְנוֹ-אִישׁ, אֲשֶׁר רוּחַ אֱ-לֹהִים בּוֹ. הֲדִישׁ אֶ-לֹהִים אוֹתָהּ אֶת-כָּל-זֹאת, אֵין-נִבּוֹן וְהָכֵם, הֲדִישׁ אֶ-לֹהִים אֲתָהּ? "Could we find another like him, a man in whom is the spirit of God?" And in the next verse, אֵין-נִבּוֹן וְהָכֵם, הֲדִישׁ אֶ-לֹהִים אֲתָהּ? "God has made all this known to you, there is none as discerning and wise as you." Clearly, Pharaoh was being careful to credit Joseph's abilities to the Hebrew God (*Elohim*). Therefore, it is entirely appropriate that Joseph's Egyptian name should be *Za phe nath-Pa neah*—only the meaning should not be rendered: "*the god says he shall live*" but rather God says he shall live. Here the Egyptian generic word for god *Net(r)* is used in place of the Hebrew *Elohim*.

Joseph, despite being completely acculturated to the Egyptian world, and surrounded everywhere by the Egyptian pantheon, kept faithful to the one God of Israel—because of this he is given a name free of any Egyptian pagan meaning. The Joseph story teaches us that it is possible to successfully assimilate to one's surrounding culture without having to give up one's religion—the key is to recognize that it is God who is responsible for our success. "*Not by might, nor by power, but only by My spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*"



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Mikkets-Hanukkah
December 15-16, 2017

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 155; Haftarah: p. 987
 Hanukkah: p. 598
 Kaplan Living Torah: p. 200; Haftarah: p. 1360
 Hanukkah: p. 694

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:11 pm | *Hanukkah candles should be lit prior to Shabbat candles.*

MINHAH & ARBIT | 4:00 pm | Main Sanctuary

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "The Light of Hanukkah in the Shadow of the Swastika" | 2017-18 season sponsored by the Julis family.

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

HALLEL WITH SPECIAL CHOIR PERFORMANCE | Main Sanctuary | *Featuring Min Hametsar by Jacques Fromenthal HaLevy*

TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room

YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room

JUNIOR CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

SERMON | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "Hanukkah at Valley Forge: A Tale of Truth and Legend"

KIDDUSH | Elias Room

SEUDA SHELISHIT & HANUKKAH SHIUR (PART 3 OF 3) | Rabbi

Meir Soloveichik | 3:30 pm | Levy Auditorium | *Hanukkah Series*

sponsored by the Freilich family, in memory of past Parnas, Dr. Dennis Freilich. Fall semester of Shabbat Afternoon Class sponsored by Scott Shay, in memory of Chana Razel bat Aaron v'Sarah.

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):

Sunday-Thursday: 6:30 pm

Layalza Soloveichik & the rabbis' wives of the UWS
cordially invite the women of the community to
"The Annual Westside Mikvah Fundraiser"

Wednesday, December 27 | 7:30 pm
535 West End Avenue, Apartment 14

Come celebrate and support the Upper West Side mikveh, with special guest speaker Rebbetzin Peshi Neuberger. Because the West Side mikveh faithfully serves the community day in and day out, it is easy to forget about its financial needs. **Even if you cannot attend, please consider donating** to maintain this essential community institution.

To donate, sponsor, and register, visit
westsidemikvahfundraiser.com.



SAVE THE DATE
Young Couples and Families Pre-Tu
B'Shebat Luncheon
Shabbat, January 27 | Following
Morning Services

Hug a tree and celebrate the new year with
Rabbi and Layalza
Soloveichik & Co. Join us for a family
luncheon of Torah and fruity goodness.
Registration details coming soon.

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. Visit shearithisrael.shulcloud.com/form/omnibus2017 to submit your 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. Visit shearithisrael.shulcloud.com/form/earlybird-membership_2018-2019 to pre-pay online.

HANUKKAH AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

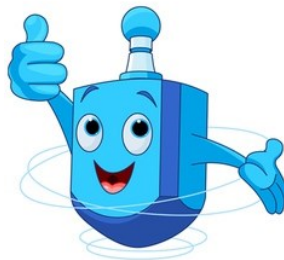
The Final Installment *The Most Misunderstood Holiday: The True Meaning of Hanukkah* Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Part 3 of 3: This Shabbat (Shabbat Hanukkah)
December 16 | 3:30 pm

In this culminating class of his three-part Hanukkah series, Rabbi Soloveichik will utilize both halakha and history to show how we have lost much of what this holiday is truly all about and why it is so important to rediscover it now.

Shabbat Hanukkah—Special Choral Performance This Shabbat, December 16 | During Morning Services

Join us for services this Shabbat, when our choir, led by Leon Hyman, will perform *Min HaMetsar* during the *Hallel* (about 9:30 AM). This wonderful and elaborate piece was composed by the famous French composer, Jacques Fromental HaLevy. This piece, along with the theme of *Maoz Tzur* and *En Kelohenu* set to Handel's *See, the Conquering Hero Comes*, makes Shabbat Hanukkah at Shearith Israel a particularly special day in the musical calendar of our synagogue.



Hanukkah Fest!

For all Shearith Israel Youth
and PTTS Families
This Sunday, December 17 |
10:00 am

Join PTTS and CSI youth for fun and informative Hanukkah festivities, including art projects, holiday songs, and homemade waffles. No registration required! Potato pancakes may be delicious, but here at Shearith Israel we honor the tradition of Amsterdam by eating vaffele (waffles) because God made a "miracle and wonder" (Hebrew: "nes va-fe'le") during these days. And after all, everyone loves a good waffle!

Enjoying Our New Fidanque Youth Room

Thank you to all the Young Families and their supporters who have made this room happen. We're immensely gratified by the positive response we received after unveiling the room last Shabbat. To ensure the room is used as intended and to preserve it for long term enjoyment, please take note of the following guidelines:

- This room was designed primarily with our youngest children in mind. Tot Shabbat will be held there each week;
- Our older children (5-12) will continue to enjoy the beautiful Elias Room most weeks;
- On the occasions when Elias is unavailable, Youth Groups will also be held in the Fidanque Youth Room, with a partition.

We will be evaluating these arrangements over time and making adjustments as needed.

A few general reminders:

Tot Shabbat is a combination of supervised play and structured Shabbat activities. The schedule is (approximately) as follows:
⇒ **10:00 am - 10:30 am:** Free play and snacks
[No drop-off before 10:00, please—Liz needs to prepare the room.]
⇒ **10:30 am - 11:15 am:** Older children may attend Junior Congregation; younger ones remain with Liz.
⇒ **11:15 am:** Circle Time with Shabbat songs and stories with Shanade
⇒ **11:45 am:** Cleanup and wrap-up
⇒ **After services or speech:** Pickup
⇒ Parents should pick up children **before kiddush**. Children may not play unsupervised in the new Fidanque Youth Room (or in the hallways). Liz will lock the Fidanque Youth Room when Tot Shabbat ends.

Junior Congregation with a Torah Reading Shabbat, January 13 | 10:30 am

Come lead Junior Congregation! Parts of Torah reading and services for January 13 are available for participants (ages 5-12) to lead; many of them are quite brief and excellent for beginners. Please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde to arrange a part for your child (lrohde-csi@yahoo.com or 646-339-7845).