

Schedule Alerts

- Our offices will be **closed** on January 1, and Morning Services will be at **8:00 am**.
- PTTs returns from Winter Hiatus on **Thursday, January 2**.
- Toddler Program's Fall Semester has concluded. Spring Semester begins on **Monday, January 6**.

CHOIR SELECTIONS & MUSICAL NOTES

Shabbat Rosh Hodesh-Hanukkah—Special Choral pieces

This Shabbat, our choir will sing *Min HaMetsar* during the *Hallel* (about 9:30 am). This wonderful and elaborate piece was written by the famous French composer, Jacques Fromental HaLevy. It was formerly sung by our choir on Thanksgiving Day but has now become part of our service for *Shabbat Hanukkah*. This piece, along with *En Kelohenu* set to Handel's *See, the Conquering Hero Comes* from *Judas Maccaebus*, and the *Maoz Tzur* / "Rock of Ages" theme, makes Shabbat Hanukkah at Shearith Israel a particularly special day in the musical calendar of our synagogue.

Friday Evening:

Veshameru #2 (p.166) | Samuel Naumbourg
Psalm 23 (p.174) | Rev. H.P. Mendes
Yigdal (p.177) | Traditional Hanukkah ("Maoz Tzur")

Shabbat Morning:

Min haMetsar (p.350) | Jacques Fromental HaLévy
Tehilat (p.216) | Leon Hyman
En Kelohenu (p. 229) | G.F. Handel (*Judas Maccabeus*)
Adon Olam (p. 232) | Rev. I. L. Rohde

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hazakim u'Berukhim to our members, **Susan & Roger Hertog**, on the upcoming release of **The Susan & Roger Hertog Book of Exodus** in the *Koren Tanakh Land of Israel* series.

Mazal tob to our Youth Group Leader and Programming Coordinator, **Nat Bernstein**, upon her marriage to Moshe Bension.

Mazal tob to **Mrs. Lisa & Rabbi Ira Rohde** on the upcoming marriage of their daughter, **Ruth Malkah**, to Steven Gotlib. The congregation is welcome to join their *Sheba Berakhot* celebration on **Thursday, January 2**, following 6:30 pm evening services.

Thank you to **Marc Wiznia** for leading Junior Congregation this week.

DEBAR TORAH

—STEVEN GOTLIB, BET MIDRASH COORDINATOR—

Parashat Mikketz begins with Pharaoh having a series of bad dreams, which bother him tremendously. Of course, his mood was only exacerbated by the fact that no one in Egypt was able to interpret them for him in a contextually relevant way. It was only after Pharaoh laments about this travesty that his Winemaker recalled the Hebrew prodigy in the dungeon who was able to accurately tell the future based on the dreams of himself and the Royal Baker.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Jewish tradition is no stranger to the importance of dream interpretation. In addition to the *Shulhan Arukh* ruling that a bad dream warrants fasting, the Talmud in *Masekhet Berakhot* writes that “a dream that is not interpreted is like a letter that is not read.” In addition to text itself implying that dreams without interpretation are essentially useless, Rashi clarifies that “dreams are neither inherently good nor bad. Rather, they follow their interpretation.” Shortly thereafter, numerous stories are told of dreams being interpreted for good or bad and events in the dreamer's life following suit.

Do these Talmudic stories mean that the way we interpret our dreams will determine our reality? Or are they perhaps metaphors about how the directions our lives take are profoundly impacted by our general outlook? In the words of Rabbi Shimon Gershon Rosenberg in one of his Hanukkah *derashot*:

“Should an individual seek out the truth through their own subjective experience, or should they rather find it in the absolutist objective realm of reality? Once a person apprehends the truth as a construction of their own subjective internal experience, the concept of truth loses its totality and becomes relativized. Truth instead becomes dependent upon one's specific perspective, their emotions, feelings, and personal experiences...susceptible to all kinds of outside influences, and thus there is a subsequent lack of authenticity.”

We are left, then, with what appears to be a major issue. We perceive the truth of our reality through the lens of our internal experiences, but because those experiences are so subjective it's hard to build an authentic life on that foundation alone. How can we succeed in building something objective? Joseph gives us our answer in *Parashat Mikketz*. When Pharaoh said that Joseph's reputation for dream interpretation preceded him, the young man's immediate response was one of deflection. “It is not me who has the power to interpret your dreams, but God!” It was ultimately this ability to see that there was Someone above him in addition to the development of personal maturity such that he could shun the praise of the king of Egypt himself, that earned Joseph the position of second-in-command and allowed him to save the ancient world from terrible famine.

Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik built on this idea, writing that if a leader within the Jewish community “will display humility, modesty, generosity, ahavat Yisrael, and commitment to ideals; if he will shun publicity, refrain from supervising and criticizing others and instead engage in retrospection and self-examination; if he will pray with zeal and warmth and help others - then the people will follow him, for no one can resist the magnetic quality of the moral personality.”

All of us are leaders in our own way and possess the incredible ability to inspire our friends, families, and those we meet in the street to be their best selves. But we can only truly tap into this ability by learning from our forefather Joseph. It is only by humbling ourselves before *Hashem's* Majesty that we will be able to unlock our hidden potential to interpret our dreams, and our lives, in their brightest light.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Mikkets-Rosh Hodesh-Hanukkah *December 27-28, 2019*

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 155, 695, 599; Haftarah p. 987
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 200, 814, 696; Haftarah p. 1082

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:17 pm
EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 4:15 pm | Main Sanctuary
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | “The Missile Menorah & the Potato Hanukkah” | 2019-2020 season sponsored by the Julis family.

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAHRIIT | 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
SERMON | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored by Mrs. Lisa & Rabbi Ira Rohde, in honor of the marriage of Ruth Malkah Rohde to Steven Gotlib. Kiddush Contributor: Edna & Rouvain Bension in honor of the marriage of Nat Bernstein & Moshe Bension.

NO SHABBAT AFTERNOON CLASS THIS WEEK.

EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 4:10 pm
HABDALA | 5:02 pm
PARENT-CHILD LEARNING & PIZZA | LED THIS WEEK BY RABBI SOLOVEICHIK | 6:30 pm | Elias Room | for elementary school aged children & their parents or grandparents

*Our offices will be **closed** on January 1. See below for service changes.*

Weekday Service Times

Mornings: Sunday & **Wednesday** (January 1): 8:00 AM
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday: 7:15 AM
Evenings: Sunday (Minha & Arbit): 4:15 PM
Monday-Thursday (Arbit only): 6:30 PM

NEW: Teen Bowling & Pizza

Saturday night, January 4 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Bowlmor Times Square, 222 W. 44th St

Shearith Israel teens (members only) are invited for a fun night of bowling and pizza to kick off the new year. Just \$20 includes bowling, shoe rental, pizza and unlimited beverages. For questions, contact **Ariel Haberman** (Ariel@habermans.com) or **Francine Alfandary** (falfandary@yahoo.com).

For registration and sponsorship opportunities, visit shearithisrael.org/teen-bowling.

Subway meetup instructions will be included in the confirmation email when you register.

SHEARITH ISRAEL & OTHER UPPER WEST SIDE SYNAGOGUES PRESENT:



Mental Health First Aid Training

Sunday, February 9 | 10:00 am-6:00 pm

At Lincoln Square Synagogue,
180 Amsterdam Ave

Mental Health First Aid training provides proven practices that will help you recognize the early signs and symptoms of mental illness and substance misuse. You will learn how to listen without judgment, and respond to and help someone in distress until they can get the professional care they may need. Certificate of completion will be presented to participants.

This event is FREE, but space is limited to 60 participants, so sign up today! To register, visit shearithisrael.org/mental-health-training.

Parent-Child Learning & Pizza

Saturday Nights bi-weekly | One hour after Habdala

This week's Hanukkah-themed session will be led by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

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/pcllearning so that we can know how many to expect!

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.

Film Screening: Children of the Inquisition

with special guest speaker, Rabbi Marc Angel

Saturday Night, January 4 | 7:30 pm

At Lincoln Square Synagogue, 180 Amsterdam Ave

Shearith Israel and Lincoln Square are proud to present this screening of this remarkable film about the history and experiences of Sephardi Jews following the Spanish & Portuguese expulsions, following descendants of crypto-Jews to our time. After the film, **Rabbi Marc Angel** will speak about the religious issues surrounding identity, conversion. and his own work with modern-day descendants of crypto-Jews.

\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. To register, visit shearithisrael.org/children-inquisition.

Time is Running out to 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.

Stitch & Fix—Presented by the Sisterhood

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

Sunday Jan. 5 | Tuesday Jan. 7

Sunday Feb. 9 | Tuesday Feb. 11

Join the Sisterhood's Sewing Circle: 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.

From Mitzrayim to Manhattan:

What the Egyptian Exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Teaches Us About the Exodus

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Wednesday, January 8 | 7:00 pm (following 6:30 pm evening services)

To celebrate the release of **The Susan & Roger Hertog Book of Exodus** in the *Koren Tanakh Land of Israel* series, Rabbi Soloveichik will be delivering this special keynote address. Introductory remarks will be given by David Arnovitz, Editor-in-Chief of the *Koren Tanakh Land of Israel*.

By fusing extraordinary findings by modern scholars on the ancient Near East with the original Hebrew text and a brand new English translation by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, this series clarifies and explains the Biblical narrative, laws, events, and prophecies in context with the milieu in which it took place.

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 of Art Teaches Us About the Exodus"*

⇒ Monday, February 10: Special History Lecture

⇒ Tuesday, March 3: Major Pre-Purim Shiur

MORE 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 Sijmon den Hollander

Sunday Mornings | 8:45 am

⇒ The Idea of Kingship | Rabbi David Silber

Sunday Mornings | 10:00 am | *Begins February 2* | \$250 cost, but FREE for Shearith Israel members | Registration details at shearithisrael.org/idea-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