

Winter Coat Drive

Now Through December 31

Donate gently used coats for men, women, and children, to keep those in need warm this winter season. We will get them to

New York Cares.

Drop off in the bin outside Levy Auditorium through December 31. (Tax receipts available upon request.)



Jewish Education Alerts

- Rabbi Soloveichik's Tuesday Morning Women's Class is on hiatus **until January 8.**
- Rabbi Silber's Sunday Class has concluded for the semester. Stay tuned for updates regarding future classes with Rabbi Silber.
- Rabbi Sijmon den Hollander's Sunday Class will be on hiatus **from December 30-January 13**, returning January 20.
- PTTS Hebrew School returns for the Spring Semester on **Thursday, January 3.**
- Toddler Program's Spring Semester starts on Wednesday, **January 2**—register now at shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram!

CHOIR SELECTIONS THIS SHABBAT

Friday Night (12/21)

V'Shameru (p. 166) | S. Naumbourg

Psalm 23 (p. 174) | H. Pereira Mendes

Shabbat Morning (11/22)

Yehi Hasdekha (p. 215) | J. Mombach

Ubnuho Yomar (p. 218) | Traditional (#6)

Public Tours

Our next public tour is
Wednesday,
January 9, at 11:00 AM

Parnas Office Hours

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

DEBAR TORAH: THE EMERGENCE OF A PROPHET

— HAZZAN RABBI IRA ROHDE —

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. Alas, Sovereign Lord, "I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you"

(Jeremiah 1:4-7, Sephardic Haftarah for Parashat Shemot)

Parashat Shemot spends a lot of the story talking about the emergence of Moshe as a Prophet. Indeed, it can be asked why the Torah wants us to know such details of the Prophet Moshe's life as his having been hidden from persecution by his mother and his having been raised by Pharaoh's daughter. I mean, if God chooses to give men prophesy, couldn't a prophet have emerged from more ordinary circumstances? And yet we see, over and over, that the prophets often arise out of special circumstances, as Jeremiah and Samson, to mention just a few, were chosen and designated to be prophets "from the womb."

With Moshe we have the emergence of a different kind of leadership in Israel: prophetic leadership. Shemot begins with a repetition of the Tribal names, the proliferation of Israel in Egypt, and their enslavement and persecution. Perhaps the very mention of tribes at the beginning of Shemot is implying a reminder to us that precisely here at this point the tribal leadership completely broke down. Not that the tribes had gotten together so well before, although at the end of Bereshit they seemed to have patched up differences.

But the tribal leadership didn't protect them from slavery. The fact that midwives and other women have to save the few babies they can may also be critiquing the failure of the traditional male political leadership. And in the end, it wasn't the tribal leaders who got them out of Egypt; rather, it was this new type of figure, a prophet. True, Moshe and Aaron come to be leaders of the Tribe of Levi. And later, the Prophet Joshua is in fact a tribal leader of Ephraim. But Moshe's leadership derives not from his tribal connections; rather it comes from his special status as a prophet.

And since the prophet's leadership is solely dependent upon God, indeed, miraculous, we often find stories which make the prophet depend upon God and His miraculous deliverance for his very coming into existence. The prophet's power depends upon and derives from God's Revelation of His Word and Ways to him. The prophet is God's spokesman, and no one else's. Pharaoh is used to being able to use his own authority over magicians and priests, but the Divine authority who commands Moses and Aaron will submit to no other. Among the Israelites, other forms of leadership may still be necessary, but they must carry out the Word of God revealed to the prophet. The many special stories told about the prophets' lives buttress their claims to a unique authority, an authority which can even challenge the normative authority of nations and their kings. It is true that Joseph and Jacob have prophetic visions, but they interact in more normative roles of political leadership. Our *parasha* is the first which begins to carve out this unique authority and role of prophet.



• 5414 • 5779 •

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Shemoth
December 28-29, 2018

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 206; Haftarah p. 229
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 258; Haftarah p. 1212

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:18 pm

EVENING SERVICES | 4:15 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Soloveichik | "Shabbat and The Anniversary of Apollo 8" | *2018-2019 season sponsored by the Julis family.*

MORNING SERVICES | Main Sanctuary | 8:15 am

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

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

JUNIOR CONGREGATION | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

TALK | Rabbi Soloveichik | "Churchill's Moses"

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

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

"The Burning Bush and the Eternal Flame" | Levy Auditorium

EVENING SERVICES | 4:10 pm

HABDALA | 5:03 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

Sunday & Tuesday: 8:00 am | Monday, Wednesday-Friday: 7:15 am

Evenings (Arbit only):

Sunday-Thursday: 6:30 pm

Note: Our offices will be closed on Tuesday, January 1.

EARLY BIRD PRICING UNTIL: THIS TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

Shabbat Shira Sing-Along Luncheon

Featuring our talented musical triumvirate:

Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde, Associate Hazzan Rev. Philip L. Sherman, and Shamash, Zachary Edinger

Shabbat, January 19 | Following Morning Services

Have you ever wished you were more familiar with Shearith Israel's unique liturgy and melodies? Do you ever have the urge to sing along with the Shearith Israel choir (or belt it out at your own home)? At this special Shabbat luncheon, join the uplifting voices of our clergy in discussing, learning, and singing classic Shearith Israel tunes in a laid-back, cozy atmosphere.

All ages are sure to enjoy what will undoubtedly be a chart-topping hit.

Register or sponsor at shearithisrael.org/sing-along-luncheon.

This event is one of our many Year of Years, 365th Anniversary events, showcasing and transmitting the unique musical traditions of our congregation.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal tob to Deena & Nissim Aboodi on the birth of a grandson, Ness Arthur, born to Debra Aboodi & Steve Sasson.

Mazal tob to Rose & Henry Edinger on the birth of a great-graughter, Aliza Tiferet, born to Chana (née Edinger) & Jono Fuchs.

We mourn the passing of our member, Sandra Bass. Condolences to her daughter, Elana Sinsabaugh.

Condolences to Alan Greenberg, on the passing of his father, Harold Greenberg.

Remembering Baghdad Continued: Two Upcoming Film Screenings

Wednesday, January 9 | 7:00 pm

Letters From Baghdad

This film tells the story of Gertrude Bell, who left the confines of England to seek freedom and independence in the Arabian desert and became the most powerful woman of her day in the British Empire. The film explores the choices that trailblazing women make, and how decisions made by Bell continue to influence current events in the Middle East and the world today.

Wednesday, February 6 | 7:00 pm

The Last Jews of Baghdad

Marking the anniversary of the Baghdad Hangings

With opening remarks from producer Carole Basri

Today, only 5 Jews remain in Iraq from a population of 160,000. This film asks, "Why did the Iraqi Jews leave?" The answer is found in the discriminatory laws and policies enacted by Iraq's government and leaders against these former members of Iraqi society who still consider themselves "Iraqi Jews."

Register for both films at shearithisrael.org/baghdad-screenings.



This series is part of our many Year of Years, 365th Anniversary events, showcasing the extraordinary diversity and heritage of our congregation.

Pre-Pay Your 2019-2020 Dues Through December 31

As we approach the end of 2018, and back by popular demand, we are again offering you another way to help the synagogue while potentially improving your own 2018 tax position.

Full, associate, and young members may pre-pay 2019-2020 dues at our current rates. If we receive your payment by December 31, 2018, you will be exempt from any dues increase that may be implemented in the upcoming year.

To pre-pay, go to shearithisrael.org/prepay2019.

Shearith Israel Toddler Program

Mondays and Wednesdays | 9:30 am-11:30 am

For ages 16-34 months

Parent or caregiver attendance required.

Now is the time to enroll your toddler for the Spring Semester of "the best-kept secret on the Upper West Side"!

To learn more and apply, go to shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram.

Parent-Child Learning & Pizza

On Upcoming Saturday Nights:

January 12 | 6:45 pm—Led by Rabbi Ira Rohde

February 9 | 7:00 pm—Led by Z. Edinger

For Children Aged 5-12 & Their Parents or Grandparents

This new initiative gives parents (or grandparents) the opportunity to study Torah with their children together with Shearith Israel's clergy. Pizza and prizes help make this a fun-filled evening of inter-generational learning.

Register for the January 12 session (only \$5 per person) at shearithisrael.org/parent-child-learning.

PTTS Shabbaton 2.0

Shabbat, January 19

After the success of our first PTTS Shabbaton, we're happy to announce our second Shabbat morning where PTTS students are invited to take the lead in our Junior Congregation. And feel free to stick around by signing up for our Shabbat Shira Sing-Along Luncheon!

Calling CSI Teens

We are looking for a few experienced Junior Congregation participants to mentor some of our PTTS students to help them prepare for this special event. This is a rewarding and fun chance to support our PTTS students, and can also be used to fulfill community service hours.

Contact Yona Glass at yglass@shearithisrael.org if you would like to help a PTTS student master their part.