

Thanksgiving Pack-a-thon

Thank you to the 130+ adult and youth volunteers, our partners at the West End Collegiate Church and the Food Bank for New York City for making our Pack-a-thon a success. So far, we have raised over \$20,000 for hungry people in New York. You can still help us reach our financial goal of \$28,000 by December 15. Make a tax deductible donation to the Food Bank for New York City in support of our project.
Go to shearithisrael.org/pack-a-thon.

Hanukkah at Shearith Israel

Evening services during Hanukkah include the lighting of our historic Hanukkah lamp, dating back to the First Mill Street Synagogue of 1730. Congregational tradition has it that this Hanukkah lamp, fashioned in the style popular in Holland during the latter 17th and early 18th centuries, is among our oldest artifacts and might possibly have been brought here by the earliest Jewish settlers in New Amsterdam in the 1650s.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to last week's Kiddush sponsors, Rev. Phil and Andrea Sherman, in honor of Nina's engagement.

Thank you to Melissa Epstein and Adam Jackson for sponsoring a Monday morning breakfast.

Welcome to our special guest, Member of Knesset and Major General Elazar Stern and his wife Dorit.

Welcome New member: Dr. Gary Login

Condolences to Suzan Ehrman, on the passing of her mother, Ruth Weinman.

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Z. Edinger

Clothing plays an important part of this week's Parashah. In the beginning of our parashah Jacob gives Joseph a כִּתְנֵי פָּסִים-a coat of many colors (Ch. 37 Verse 3.) Exactly what this garment was is not perfectly clear – but it is a special gift, indicating the special relationship between Jacob and Joseph, and Joseph's elevated status in the household. This special garment contributes to the brother's hatred of Joseph. When the brothers accost Joseph the very first thing they do is to take off this special clothing (verse 23.) After the brothers have sold Joseph into slavery, the same garment is then sent to Jacob as evidence of Joseph's death (verses 31-33.) Jacob then rends his own clothing in grief, and puts on sackcloth as a sign of his mourning (verse 34.)

In the story of Judah and Tamar, Tamar changes her clothing in order to conceal her identity from Judah (38:14.) Judah believes that Tamar is a prostitute specifically because of her clothes and her veil (verse 15.) As a pledge for payment Judah leaves his accessories (his belt, ring, and, staff – verse 18.) These are later used by Tamar to prove that it was Judah who lay with her (verse 25.) Enslaved in Egypt, Joseph rises to a high status in the house of Potiphar. But, Potiphar's wife desiring to sleep with Joseph catches him by his clothing and uses this clothing as evidence of Joseph's wrong doing (Chapter 39, verses 12-18.) Continuing into next week's parashah (ch. 40, verse 42,) Joseph is raised to be an advisor to Pharaoh. Pharaoh gifts his ring to Joseph and gives him fine linen clothing and a golden necklace.

Clothing serves several functions in these stories. First, it is a sign of status. Clothing can at times elevate one's status – as seen by Jacob's gift of the multicolored cloak, and Pharaoh's gifts to Joseph. Just as clothing can elevate status, it can indicate lesser status as well – sackcloth for Jacob's mourning and a veil to hide the face of a prostitute. Clothing is not only used to indicate status, but it is also used as evidence. Sometimes this evidence is false, as with Joseph's blood stained clothes indicating his "death" by wild animal or his clothing used as evidence of his wrongdoing with Potiphar's wife. But this evidence can also be exonerating, as Tamar showed with Judah's accessories.

This week's parashah shows that we should not take clothing for granted. One's appearance can be important, whether for good or bad. In the words of Mark Twain: "*Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence in society.*"



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Vayesheb

December 4-5, 2015

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 141; Haftarah p. 152
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 182; Haftarah p. 1082

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:10 pm

MINHAH | 4:15 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on "Handel's Hannukah- And Churchill's" Sponsored by the Julis Family and tonight also by Debbie and David Sable in memory of their son, Natan Chaim Sable and David's father, Rabbi Jack Sable and in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Goldy Elissa, born to Elianna Sable Kaye and Yoel Kaye
BRITISH INVASION SHABBAT DINNER | Levy Auditorium
For registered guests

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Following services Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a seminar on "Rembrandt Reads Our Parasha: The Artist's Joseph Tells His Dream to Jacob"

TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium

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

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

The Next Assigned Jr. Congregation is on December 12

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored by the Solomon family

TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY | Rabbi Hidary | 3:30 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidary home at 1 W 85th St Apartment 6A

SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND PIRKEI ABOT SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic "Sufganiot: A Halakhic History" | 3:30 pm

The fall semester is sponsored by Lewis Lipsey

MINHAH/ARBIT | 4:05 pm

KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 4:55 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings: Sundays 8:00 AM, Mon-Thur. 7:15 AM;

Evenings: Sunday - Thursday: 6:30 PM (Arbit only)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Visit to the Nahmias et Fils Distillery
201 Saw Mill River Road, Yonkers, NY
Sunday, December 6 | 1:00 pm

Attend a demonstration and tasting.
A light lunch will also be served. For transportation, meet-up and payment information, go to sileague.org.
RSVP to mosserig21@bigplanet.com.
Sponsored by the Shearith Israel League, the American Sephardi Federation and the Beth Aharon Congregation of Riverdale.

Hanukkah Special Guest Lecture
"Coloring the Arch of Titus Menorah:
Recent Discoveries in Rome"

Professor Steven Fine
Monday, December 7 | 7:00 pm
Join us for a guest lecture during Rabbi Hidary's Second Temple History class. Steven Fine is the Dean Pinkhos Churgin Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University and Director of the Arch of Titus Project. His "The Menorah: From the Bible to the Apocalypse" will be published by Harvard University Press in 2016.
Free and open to the public.
Thank you to our sponsors Karen and Jack Daar, Mildred Green Shinnar and the Solomon Family.

PTTS and CSI Youth Hanukkah Fest
Sunday Morning, December 13
10:00 am -12:00 pm

While many Jews celebrate Hanukkah by eating potato latkes, deep fried in oil in remembrance of the miracle of the oil, here at Shearith Israel we honor the tradition of Amsterdam by eating vaffle (waffles) because God made a "miracle and wonder" (Hebrew: "nes va-fe'le") during these days.
And after all, everyone loves a good waffle!

Please join PTTS and CSI youth for Hanukkah festivities, including an olive press demonstration, art projects using sand and foil, a musical performance by PTTS students and of course, delicious waffles.

Save the Date: Tu B'Shebat Seder
Sunday Night, January 24

Adults and teens, join Rabbi Meir Soloveichik for an evening of toasting, eating and learning Torah. Special singing contribution by Rabbi Ira Rohde. Meanwhile, our younger members will enjoy their own holiday repast and activities led by Yona Glass and a special appearance by our in-house fruit juggler, Rabbi Soloveichik.
Registration information to follow.

Enroll in CSI's Text Messaging Notification Service
Many of our members and friends enjoy attending our special programs and events such as community meals, public lectures, etc. However, we know how busy you are and how easy it is to overlook an email or registration deadline; we want to help make it easier for you. We have set up a special text message service that can remind you when RSVP deadlines are approaching. We can also alert you of synagogue schedule changes, weather emergencies, security incidents or last minute class cancellations. To subscribe to our service, check our weekly emails for specific instructions. Please be assured, we will only text you for those alerts you have selected and will only use this on an as-needed basis.

Winter Coat Drive
November 22-December 20

Warm coats for men, women and children are needed.
Place in the box outside Levy Auditorium.
Sponsored by the Shearith Israel League
In cooperation with New York Cares.

Save the Date: Young Families Shabbat Luncheon
Saturday, February 6 | Following Morning Services
We've got a great group of young couples and families who enjoy getting together and inviting their friends to experience the best of Shearith Israel. Stay tuned for registration details for our next Young Families Shabbat Luncheon.

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For schedule and class details go to:
shearithisrael.org/content/judaic-education-and-major-lectures

Sunday

- ◇ **The Book of Kings** | Rabbi Hidary | 8:40 am
- ◇ **Saadia Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions** | Sjimon den Hollander | 9:30 am

Monday

- ◇ **Second Temple Jewish History** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:00 pm This week with special guest Professor Steven Fine
- ◇ **Bet Midrash** | Rabbi Hidary, Phil Getz, Dr. Josh Eisen, Rabbi Ira Rohde, Meira Wokenfeld | 8:00 pm
Fall semester sponsored by Josh Eisen.

Tuesday

- ◇ **Rambam's Mishneh Torah** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:45 am
- ◇ **Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought-A Class for Women** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am
- ◇ **Talmud Class: Tractate Rosh Hashana and the Philosophy of Jewish Time** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 8:00 pm NO CLASS THIS WEEK

Please consider sponsoring a class. Go to:
shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass

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

Our next public tour is:
Tuesday, December 8 at 11:00 am