

From the Files of a *Yoetzet*:  
Case Studies in Marriage & Mikveh  
*An evening for women of all stages and ages*  
Wednesday, December 11 | 7:30 pm | At a private home  
Shearith Israel is proud to co-sponsor this event with the Jewish Center and our Yoetzet Halakha, Shiffy Friedman. The event will be held in a private UWS home — to RSVP and receive the address, visit [tinyurl.com/yoetzet-cases](http://tinyurl.com/yoetzet-cases).

Parent-Child Learning  
Saturday Nights bi-weekly, December 14-February 22  
One hour after Habdala  
*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.  
To register, visit [shearithisrael.org/pclearning](http://shearithisrael.org/pclearning).

CHOIR SELECTIONS THIS SHABBAT  
Friday Night  
V'Shameru #2 (p. 166) | Samuel Naumbourg  
Psalm 23 (p. 174) | Leon Kramer  
Shabbat Morning  
Misheberakh (p. 208) | Leon Kramer  
Ubnuho Yomar (p. 218) | Rev. H.P. Mendes

Stitch & Fix—Presented by the Sisterhood  
Bi-Monthly on Sundays & Tuesdays | 10am-12pm | [See schedule below](#) | Elias Room  
Stitch and Fix, the revived Sewing Circle, meets on a regular basis. 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](mailto:rgedinger@gmail.com).  
Sunday Dec. 15 | Tuesday Dec. 17  
Sunday Jan. 5 | Tuesday Jan. 7  
Sunday Feb. 9 | Tuesday Feb. 11

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS  
We welcome new members Mikal & Brad Finkelstein to our growing Shearith Israel family.  
Mazal tob to Shlomit & Chaim Edelstein upon the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Yaakov, son of Shira & Daniel Edelstein.

TWO CONFRONTATIONS WITH ANGELS:  
THOUGHTS FOR PARASHAT VAYETSE  
—RABBI MARC D. ANGEL—  
As a young bachelor, Jacob fled home to escape his brother Esau's deadly wrath. Along the way, Jacob went to sleep and dreamed of angels ascending and descending a ladder that connected heaven and earth. When he awoke, he realized that he had had an amazing revelation. *"This is nothing but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."*  
This vision must have been a great source of strength to Jacob. He had literally seen his life in context with heaven and earth, in a vibrant relationship with God. It was the dream of a young idealist, seeking to make his way through the travails of life while maintaining a profound spiritual outlook.  
At the end of this week's Torah reading, Jacob again sees angels. But now Jacob is much older, the head of a large family. He is on the way back to his ancestral home. Just as he had fled his home in fear of Esau so long ago, he now dreads confronting Esau upon returning home. "And Jacob went on his way and the angels of God met him. And Jacob said when he saw them: *'this is God's camp.'* And he called the name of that place *Mahanaim* (camps)."  
This confrontation with the angels was not the idealistic, hopeful experience that Jacob had experienced as a young man. This was not a group of angels who connected heaven and earth. These were angels coming to offer Jacob courage as he was about to meet Esau. Jacob called the place *Mahanaim*—camps i.e. a military encampment. This wasn't a time for idealistic dreams; it was a time to prepare for war.  
Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik commented on the difference between a camp (*mahaneh*) and a community (*edah*). A camp exists as a defensive tactic. Those within the camp are surrounded by enemies; their physical existence is threatened so they come together to protect themselves.  
A community, by contrast, is united not by fears of external enemies, but by a shared worldview, a shared desire to live happy, good lives.  
During the course of life, we sometimes feel that we are in an *edah*; we live among people we trust and like; we strive for similar goals; we try to link heaven and earth by living our earthly lives with a keen sense of the spiritual. Yet, there are other times when we feel that we are in a *mahaneh*, we are threatened, our families are in peril. We unite in order to defend ourselves.  
For much of our lives, whether we realize it or not, we find ourselves simultaneously in an *edah* and in a *mahaneh*. Yet, different moods prevail at different times. When things go smoothly, we feel that our angels unite heaven and earth. Life is filled with possibilities, with happiness, with societal peace. Yet, there are times—too many times—when we cannot avoid being in a *mahaneh* mode. We face deadly enemies, merciless killers. The angels we see are angels who warn us of the dangers all around us. We hunker down; we worry about our physical survival. We ready ourselves for war.  
Perhaps Jacob's confrontations with both sets of angels is meant to be a reminder to us. We must never cease to see the angels connecting heaven and earth. We must never lose our humanity and our spirituality. We must never allow others to force us into a permanent *mahaneh* mentality.  
Yet, we must also be prepared to function as a *mahaneh* when we are threatened. When we are called upon to defend our lives and our way of life, we need to know that the angels of the Lord are with us in our *mahaneh*.  
Coming together as a *mahaneh* is our way of saving our lives. Coming together as an *edah* is our way of saving our way of life. Even when we are seemingly at peace, we must see the angels of *Mahanaim* and be prepared to defend our lives from enemies. Even when we are in the midst of battle, we must never lose sight of the angels connecting heaven and earth.

365th ANNIVERSARY  
• 5414 • 5779 •  
CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
*Year of Years Celebration*  
CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue  
Shabbat Vayetse  
December 6-7, 2019  
Hertz Pentateuch: p. 106; Haftarah p. 135  
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 130; Haftarah p. 1430  
CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:10 pm  
EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 4:15 pm | Main Sanctuary  
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "When Should We Light A Candle, and When Should We Curse the Darkness?" | 2019-2020 season sponsored by the Julis Family.  
ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary  
SHAHRIT | 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  
SPECIAL SEMINAR | Rabbi Marc D. Angel | "Reflections on 50 Years of Rabbinic Service"  
KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored in honor of Rabbi Marc Angel's 50th anniversary in the Rabbinate. See inside for listing of sponsors.  
SHABBAT AFTERNOON HANUKKAH SHIUR | 3:30 pm | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | Levy Auditorium  
EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 4:05 pm  
HABDALA | 4:55 pm  
Weekday Service Times  
Mornings: Sunday: 8:00 AM | Monday-Friday: 7:15 AM  
Evenings: Sunday (MINHA & ARBIT): 4:15 PM  
Monday-Thursday (Arbit only): 6:30 PM  
SUNDAY evenings now include *Minha & Arbit* and will vary by sundown times. Remember to check the schedule.  
Central Park West at 70th Street, New York City • [www.shearithisrael.org](http://www.shearithisrael.org)

### Kiddush Sponsors in Honor of Rabbi Angel:

Harriet & Isaac Ainetchi	Roberto Salama
The Bengualid Family	Ivy & Marvin Schildkraut
Ardith Bondi	Schneierson & Krimolovsky
Malaika Amon & Anthony	Families
Bregman	Judy & Joel Schreiber
Gail Castagnello	Lina & Gilles Sion
Florie Algranti Charles	Barbara Herlands Smith
The Daar Family	Sisterhood of the Spanish &
Susie, William, David & Daniel	Portuguese Synagogue
Dellal	The Solomon Family
The Friedlaender Family	Margo & Benjamin Suckewer
Juan Mesa-Freydell	Jonathan Tobin
Laury, Reuben, & Matea Frieber	Madelene & Stan Towne
Faith Fogelman	Jale Turcihin
Dr. James Goldman	Dr. Bella H. Weinberg
Andre & Maggie Guenoun	Rabbi Margaret Moers Wenig
Institute for Jewish Ideas & Ideals	Susan Wind
David Lavipour	Rivka & Marc Wiznia & Family
Michael Lustig, Rachel Brody, & Family	

\*Listing includes sponsorships submitted by Thursday, December 5.

## DEADLINES COMING UP

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PICTURES:

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

### **Kiddush In Honor of Liz Rios**

**Shabbat, December 21 | Following Morning Services**

Generations of children who have passed through Shearith Israel have experienced the warmth, creativity, and enthusiasm of our tireless Tot Shabbat and Toddler Program leader, Liz Rios. This year, we'd love to give a little back!

To thank Liz, and to find out how to contribute pictures to the gift we are planning for her, visit [shearithisrael.org/liz-kiddush](http://shearithisrael.org/liz-kiddush).

*This kiddush is underwritten; all proceeds will go toward enhancing our youth programming.*

DEADLINE: THIS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

### **PTTS Shabbaton & Family Beatbox Luncheon**

*With special guest, champion beatboxer Mark Martin*

**NEXT Shabbat, December 14**

Our PTTS Hebrew School students are encouraged to take center stage at Junior Congregation on this special Shabbat, and then warmly welcomed to join the exciting programming we have planned: **Mark Martin**, Winner of the 2016 American Beatbox Championships, will be joining us for our family luncheon after services.

Following Jr. Congregation, Mark will host a **beatbox workshop** for the teenagers and children, and he'll also give a talk at the luncheon on the use of beatboxing as a tool for speech therapy.

To register or sponsor, go to [shearithisrael.org/beatbox](http://shearithisrael.org/beatbox).

## Special History Lecture

**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

**THIS Monday, December 9 | Following 6:30 pm Evening Services**

*"The British Chief Rabbi, Politics, and the Jews:  
A Reflection on An Extraordinary Outcry"*

## 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](http://shearithisrael.org/nyhs-twain). *Space is limited—only 20 people per tour!*

## UWS Synagogues Present: Koolulam

**Thursday, May 21, 2020 | 7:00 pm | Ticket Price - \$36**

*The Streicker Center at Temple Emanu-El | 5th Ave at 65th St.*

The break-out Israeli musical phenomenon, Koolulam, has brought together diverse populations across Israel, South Africa and the US, to merge their individual voices into the magic of a single song. Now, for the first time, they are bringing their unique approach to music and community to Manhattan. UJA-Federation of New York and The Streicker Center are pleased to bring this event to Manhattan and Shearith Israel is proud to participate as a community partner, bringing together Manhattan synagogues and institutions for a unifying event.

Registration details to follow.

## 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](http://shearithisrael.org/prepay2020).

### **Public Tours**

Our next public tour is this **Wednesday, December 11, at 11:00 AM**

### **Parnas Office Hours**

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

## 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 Sjimon den Hollander**  
Sunday Mornings | 8:45 am
- ⇒ **The Road to Kingship | Rabbi David Silber**  
Sunday Mornings | 10:00 am | *Registration details at [shearithisrael.org/silber-kingship](http://shearithisrael.org/silber-kingship)*
- ⇒ **Tuesday Morning Women's Class | Rabbi Soloveichik**  
Tuesdays | 9:00 am | *Sign up for weekly reminders at [shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists](http://shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists)*
- ⇒ **Bet Midrash | led by Steven Gotlib**  
Monday-Thursday | One hour before evening services

## RABBI SOLOVEHICK'S UPCOMING MAJOR LECTURES:

*Mark Your Calendars and Watch Your Emails*

**Following Evening Services**

- ⇒ **Monday, December 9:** *"The British Chief Rabbi, Politics, and the Jews: A Reflection on An Extraordinary Outcry"*
- ⇒ **Wednesday, January 8:** *"From Mitzrayim To Manhattan: What the Metropolitan Museum Teaches Us About the Exodus"*
- ⇒ **Monday, February 10:** Special History Lecture
- ⇒ **Tuesday, March 3:** Major Pre-Purim Shiur

## YOUTH CORNER

- ⇒ **Kiddush to Honor Liz Rios**  
Shabbat Morning, December 21 | *See side panel for details*
- ⇒ **Brunch & Learn with Rabbi Soloveichik**  
Sunday, December 8 | 10:30 am | *for elementary school aged children*
- ⇒ **Beatbox Luncheon**  
Saturday, December 14 | Following Morning Services | **RSVP**  
**Deadline:** Wednesday, December 11 | *register at [shearithisrael.org/beatbox](http://shearithisrael.org/beatbox)*
- ⇒ **Parent-Child Learning**  
Saturday, December 14 | One hour after habdala | *for elementary school aged children | see side panel for details*
- ⇒ **Mitzvot Workshop with Z. Edinger**  
Sunday, January 5 | 10:00 am | *for elementary school aged children*