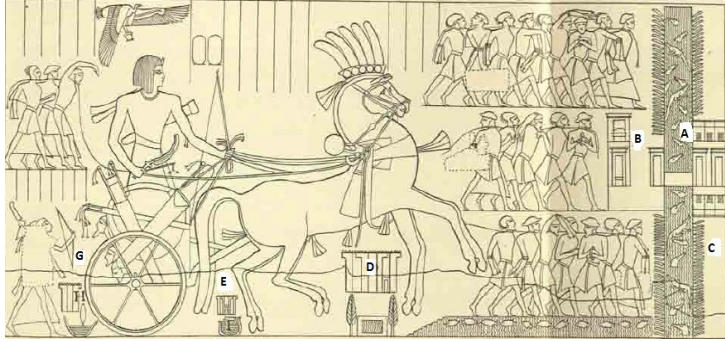


(continued from back panel)

This includes letter E (directly behind the horse's hind legs) which depicts the fort of "*Migdol*". On the right of the relief is a canal filled with fish or crocodiles (letter A.) Interestingly there are reeds on both sides of this canal and a bridge to facilitate crossing of the canal.



More recent archeological and topographical research has identified that directly south these forts but north of the Suez (Red Sea) lay a series of lakes called El Ballah lakes. More forts have been found on routes south of these lakes. Based on this some scholars speculate that the *Yam Suph* or Reed Sea is the El Ballah lakes, and presumably that the path of the Exodus could have been through these El Ballah lakes.

The Horus Road/Philistine Highway was a strongly garrisoned and well maintained road regularly used by the armies of Egypt. Chariots would have a distinct advantage on this road. The Israelites would have faced the might of the Egyptian army garrisoned at the ten forts along the way. Therefore, God leads them away from this military nightmare and into the *Yam Suf*—the Reed Sea, a marshy wetland where the military advantage of Egyptian chariots would be greatly diminished.

Archeology cannot confirm the specific details of a miraculous Exodus from Egypt. That we must take on faith. But archeology does shed light on the short reference to the Philistine Highway at the opening of our *parasha*. We now have a much better understanding of what the verse means "*Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt.*"

#### Parnas Office Hours

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

Our next public tour is:  
Wednesday, March 8 at 11:00 am

## THE REED SEA VS. THE PHILISTINE HIGHWAY

Z. Edinger

Exodus 13:17 *And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not by the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said: 'Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt.' (18) But God led the people about, by the way of the wilderness by the Red Sea; and the children of Israel went up armed out of the land of Egypt.*

Jews (and Christians) have taken the story of the Exodus from Egypt described in the Bible as a matter of faith for millennia. Beginning in the early Nineteenth Century archeological discoveries were often seen as scientific evidence for various biblical stories including the Exodus. Through much of the Twentieth century, scholars took for granted that an exodus event occurred which to greater or lesser degree is described in the Bible

Beginning in the 1980's, however, some scholars began to severely challenge the historical value of the Biblical account. Direct archeological evidence for the dramatic exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt does not exist. In fact, no clear archeological evidence exists for the Hebrews being in Egypt at all! For these reasons a scholarly minimalism has arisen that doubts the historicity of the Exodus tale at all.

I am of the opinion that there is little value in seeking archeological evidence to prove (or disprove) events described in the bible. However, archeology can be a great tool to help us understand the context of our biblical stories. One such example is found in this week's *parasha*. God leads the people away from the Philistine Highway and instead takes them through the *Yam Suf*—the (Red) Reed Sea. The biblical text tells us that God didn't want the people to "see war" and return to Egypt. Why is God 'worried' that the people will turn back when they see war on the Philistine road?

Archeology may not be able to tell us about the Exodus directly, but it does shed light about the coastal route of the Philistine Highway. Among the many reliefs depicted at the *Karnak* temple complex in southern Egypt are some related to the military exploits of the pharaoh *Seti I*. One of these reliefs (depicted below) is described as the *Way of Horus*, a main military road used by the Egyptians. The hieroglyphic descriptions accompanying the relief have led scholars to identify this road as the Philistine Highway from our *parasha* (*Derekh Eretz Pilishtim*.)

The relief depicts *Seti I* returning from a military campaign against the *Shasu* (bedouins.) Prisoners of this campaign are being marched in front of Pharaoh's chariot. Several forts line this military road (they are lettered B, C, D, E & G in this image.) There are ten forts listed on the hieroglyphics accompanying the reliefs at Karnak, and many of these have been identified archeologically.

(continued on side panel)



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

## Shabbat Beshallah-Shirah

February 10-11, 2017

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 265; Haftarah p. 283  
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 320; Haftarah p. 1108

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:07 pm

MINHAH | 5:15 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on the topic "A Shabbat for the Birds" | 2016-2017 season sponsored by the Julis Family

TU B'SHEBAT SEDER | Following Friday Night Lights | For Registered Guests

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a lecture on the topic "What Was Actually Said at Gettysburg: A Lecture in Honor of Lincoln's Birthday"

TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium

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

JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue  
KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored by Liliane Marks in memory of her husband Neville Marks and in honor of Madeleine and Theo Isaac's birthdays

SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND A SPECIAL TU B'SHEBAT PIRKEI ABOT SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic "Elisha Ben Abuya, Rabbi Meir, and Tu B'shebat" | 4:00pm | Levy Auditorium | Spring semester is sponsored anonymously in memory of Irma Cardozo

MINHAH/ARBIT | 5:00 pm

HABDALAH | 5:56 pm


#### Weekday Service Times

Mornings: Sunday: 8:00 AM, Monday-Friday: 7:15 AM,  
Evenings (Arbit Only): Monday - Thursday: 6:30 PM

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Cardozo's Ancestors:  
The Supreme Court, the Judiciary, and the Jews  
Rabbi Soloveichik  
Monday, February 13 | 7:00 pm  
*Sponsored by the Kaye Family in memory of  
Judge Judith Kaye on the occasion of her first nahala  
Co-sponsored by YU's Straus Center's Program on Early  
America and the Jews*

We will study the early American Jews that were the ancestors of Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo, and ponder how their story impacted the life of one of the most prominent and distinguished Jews in the history of the American judiciary.



Everything You Ever Wanted to Know  
About Shearith Israel: A Monthly Q & A  
Z. Edinger  
Wednesday, February 15 | 7:00 pm  
This Months Topic: Dirty Dancing:  
Why Dancing was Prohibited in the Levy Auditorium.

Intended for both new members and "old-timers," beginners and advanced students, this class will be based on topics suggested by you! If you've ever had a question about our congregation's history, liturgy, music, or, customs - this is the class for you. Please submit your questions to [zedinger@shearithisrael.org](mailto:zedinger@shearithisrael.org) and he will prepare a class to satisfy you!

PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

CSI Youth Megillat Esther Show  
Saturday night, March 11 | Arrive at 7:00 pm | Elias Room

Children are invited for a special interactive Purim show by *Yeladudes*.

To sponsor, go to [shearithisrael.org/yeladudes](http://shearithisrael.org/yeladudes).

The Sisterhood's Mishloah Manot Initiative

Want to send Mishloah Manot to your fellow congregants for Purim this year? Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to send special Purim greetings and to reach out to our Shearith Israel community. This project will support the Sisterhood's many projects. If you have not yet received an email with instructions and wish to participate please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at [lrohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lrohde-csi@yahoo.com) or Mrs. Carla Schein at [scheinc6@gmail.com](mailto:scheinc6@gmail.com).

Women's Megillah Reading  
Sunday, March 12 | service begins at 8:00 am

We are looking for volunteers 12 or over to read Megillah. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at [lrohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lrohde-csi@yahoo.com). Assignments are as short as 3 verses and all audio is available on the synagogue website. It's easy to learn and is a great way to participate this Purim!

Purim Dinner  
Saturday night, March 11  
Following 7:15 pm Megillah reading

Immediately following the *Megillah* reading, registered guests are invited to a festive family-style meal in Levy Auditorium. In addition to a tasty dinner, guests will enjoy our annual children's costume parade. Register at [shearithisrael.org/purimdinner](http://shearithisrael.org/purimdinner).



Purim Morning Breakfast  
Sunday, March 12 | Following 8:00 am services

Immediately following the 8:00 am readings of the Megillah, congregants are welcome to enjoy a festive breakfast. To sponsor, go to [shearithisrael.org/purim-breakfast](http://shearithisrael.org/purim-breakfast).

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For details go to: [shearithisrael.org/judaic-education](http://shearithisrael.org/judaic-education)

*Sunday*

- ◊ Saadiah Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions | Sjimon den Hollander | 8:45 am

*Tuesday*

- ◊ Katzap Class and Breakfast | Following Morning Services
- ◊ Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought - A Class for Women | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am | *Spring semester is sponsored anonymously in memory of Debby Neumark*
- ◊ Talmud Class: Tractate Sanhedrin | Rabbi Soloveichik | 7:00 pm

*Wednesday*

- ◊ Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Shearith Israel: A Monthly Q & A | Z. Edinger | 7:00 pm | On select Wednesdays | Next class on February 15 | Email questions to [zedinger@shearithisrael.org](mailto:zedinger@shearithisrael.org).

*Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday*

- ◊ **Habruta (Paired) Learning** | 5:15 pm - 7:15 pm | Before and after evening services, Rabbi Chaim Yanetz and rabbinical students from YU are available in the Elias Room to study in *habruta* with congregants of all ages.

To sponsor a single class or an entire semester, go to [shearithisrael.org/sponsoraclass](http://shearithisrael.org/sponsoraclass)

To find out when your favorite class is held, canceled or for special topics, go to [shearithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists](http://shearithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists) to select which emails you'd like to receive.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Mazal Tob* to Olalla Levi on becoming a bat mitzvah. Congratulations to her parents Alex and Amanda Levi and to her grandmother Hindy Schachter.

Welcome Moshe Frances, his wife Celia, and son, Isaac, who are with us this shabbat.

Welcome students from Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Tampa, Florida who are joining us this Shabbat.