The Art of the Jewish Family

An interactive crafting workshop with Professor Laura Leibman Tuesday, March 24 | 7:00 pm For adults & children over 10 years old

In the 19th Century, before Facebook or Instagram, commonplace books were a place to record memorable quotes, images, and ideas. By writing in each other's collections, women built friendships and shared the emotional peaks and valleys that made up their world.

In this very special and innovative event, each participant will be given the identity of one early American Jewish woman (many of whom were members of Shearith Israel) and then make and decorate their own commonplace book, with copies of historical artifacts such as poems, stories, sketches, recipes, portraits, and newspaper clippings.

Space is limited to 24 people; registration required at shearithisrael.org/leibman-workshop.

UPCOMING SISTERHOOD PROGRAMMING

Stitch & Fix

Bi-Monthly on Sundays & Tuesdays | 10am-12pm Sunday, Feb. 23 | Tuesday, Feb. 25 Sunday, March 15 | Tuesday, March 17

For anyone handy with a needle and thread—teenagers welcome! Join our Sewing Circle to repair and restore our beautiful Shearith Israel vestments to their original glory! If you'd like to participate or have questions, contact Rose Edinger (rgedinger@gmail.com).

Visit shearithisrael.org/stitch-fix for additional dates.

Sisterhood Tambourine Workshop Sunday, March 1 | 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Women and teenage girls are invited to a multi-faceted and inspirational tambourine workshop. **Miriam Liebermann**, MSW, author, community activist, and inspirational speaker, will conduct the workshop and then lead a song and dance.

Artistic talent is not necessary! Stencils will be provided. Charge for Admission: \$25 for adults, \$20 for teens

Register at shearithisrael.org/tambourine.

GERSHOM, ELIEZER, & THE LEGACY OF MOSES —Z. EDINGER, SHAMASH—

The Torah tells us that Moses was the greatest prophet ever to have lived, he alone spoke with God face to face. We are not, however, told that Moses was a particularly great parent. In fact, what little we are told of in the Torah points to Moses being absent and perhaps neglectful as a parent.

In the beginning of *Parashat Shemot*, Moses married Zipporah, a daughter of Jethro (Reuel) of Midian. Moses and Zipporah had two sons: Gershom, who was named at Exodus 2:22, and Eliezer ,whose name we first learn of in this week's *parasha* (18:4). After encountering God at the burning bush, and being given a mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, "*Moses took his wife and sons, mounted them on a donkey, and returned to the land of Egypt*" (4:20). Along the way, Zipporah saves Moses from mortal danger by circumcising their son. (Something that Moses neglected to perform himself.)

We do not hear about Zipporah, Gershom, or Eliezer again until this week's parasha. They are completely absent during the entire story of the Exodus. Only now, at the beginning of this weeks' parasha do we read that "Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after she had been sent home, and her two sons [Gershom and Eliezer]...Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought Moses' sons and wife to him in the wilderness, where he was encamped at the mountain of God' (18:2-5). The Torah does not tell us when or why Moses sent is family back to Midian. Rashi quotes a midrash that explains: "When Aaron met Moses and his family returning from Midian he said: 'Who are these?' Moses replied: 'This is my wife and these are my sons.' He said to him: 'And where are you taking them?' He replied: To Egypt.' He said: 'We are already pained over those [Israelites] there and now you want to add more to their number?' So Moses said to Zipporah: 'Go to your father's house.' She took her two sons and returned.' Thus according to the Midrash Moses sent Zipporah and their sons home in order to spare them the pain of life in Egypt.

When Jethro finally does reunite his daughter and grandsons with Moses there is no reunion between husband and wife, nor of sons with their father. Rather, it is only Moses and Jethro who embrace and then they immediately seclude themselves in a tent to catch up (18:7). Moses does not have time to spend with his family as he is at work all day (18:13). The Midrash also indicates that Moses was frequently separated from Zipporah on account of his being a prophet (See Rashi and related midrashim in Numbers 12).

Most conspicuously, Gershom and Eliezer are absent from Numbers 3:1-4 where the descendants of Moses and Aaron are introduced but only Aaron's line is actually named. In this same section we are told that Aaron's sons succeeded him in the Priesthood. But unlike Aaron, Moses' children do not succeed him (Numbers 27:16). The midrash there imagines that Moses appealed to God to appoint his sons to succeed him, but God finds them unworthy of leadership: בְּנֵיךְ לַשְׁבוּ לַּהְם (לֹא עַסְקוֹ בַּתִּיֹנְדִי - "Your sons' sat still and did not involve themselves in Torah."

What becomes of the line of Moses? Eliezer is mentioned in Chronicles, where we read: "The sons of Eliezer: Rehabiah the chief; Eliezer had no other sons, but the sons of Rehabiah were very numerous." (I Chronicles 23:15-17).

We learn in the book of Judges that Gershom had a son named Jonathan (also identified as Shebuel in Chronicles), who became a priest for the tribe of Dan. In chapter 18 we read rather ignominiously that: "The Danites set up the Idol for themselves; and Jonathan son of Gershom son of Moses, and his descendants, served as priests to the Danite tribe until the land went into exile. They maintained the idol Micah had made throughout the time that the House of God stood at Shiloh" (Judges 18: 30-31).

Moses may have been the greatest of Prophets, but his family life appears to have suffered for it. Perhaps this is a lesson we can learn from. No matter how prominent or busy we become in our professional lives, it is important to spend time with our children and family.



Shabbat Yithro

February 14-15, 2020

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 288; Haftarah p. 302 Kaplan Living Torah: p. 344; Haftarah p. 1114

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:11 pm
EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 5:15 pm | Main Sanctuary
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK.

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
SEMINAR | Z. Edinger | "Deemphasizing the Ten Commandments:
An Ancient Heresy with Modern Ramifications"
KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

SHABBAT AFTERNOON CLASS | 4:05 pm | Z. Edinger | "Chanting the Ten Commandments: A Tale of Two Tropes" | Levy Auditorium EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 5:05 pm HABDALA | 6:00 pm

Presidents Day is on Monday. Please note that our offices will be **closed**, Toddler Program will not meet, and Morning Services are at 8:00 am.

Weekday Service Times

Mornings: Sunday & Monday: 8:00 AM | Tuesday-Friday: 7:15 AM
Evenings: Sunday (Minha & Arbit): 5:15 PM
Monday-Thursday (Arbit only): 6:30 PM

Public Tours
Our next public tour is
Wednesday, March 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.

Central Park West at 70th Street, New York City • www.shearithisrael.org

DEADLINE: THIS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

A Shabbat Dinner with Hazzan Jonathan Garcia

Friday Night, February 21 | Following 5:30 pm evening services
Enjoy an intimate Shabbat dinner, featuring guest Hazzan,
Jonathan Garcia, who will be joining us from London, along with
his new bride, Micol Bedarida Garcia.

Together with our clergy, Hazzan Garcia, who regularly leads services at Lauderdale Road Synagogue and occasionally at Bevis Marks, will create a beautiful, music-filled atmosphere for this relaxed dinner, sharing melodies and stories from the London S&P tradition.

Hazzan Garcia will return to lead Musaf on Shabbat morning.

To register or sponsor the dinner, visit shearithisrael.org/garcia-dinner.

Meldadura for Reverend A. L. Cardozo

THIS Monday, February 17 | Following 6:30 pm Evening Services
An open invitation is extended to anyone who wishes to attend
the Meldadura marking the 14th nahala of Rev. A. Lopes Cardozo. As always, the Meldadura will be followed by sushi and fresh pastries.
To RSVP, email Debby Cordozo Smith (debbysmith9730@gmail.com).

Parent-Child Learning & Pizza

Saturday Nights bi-weekly | One hour after Habdala
FINAL SESSION OF THE SEASON:
February 22, led by Rabbi Rohde

The program is free, but please register for this session at **shearithisrael.org/ pclearning** so we can know how many to expect!

Parent-Child Learning is sponsored by the Shearith Israel League.

New York Sephardic Jewish Film Festival February 23 - March 2

Shearith Israel is once again a proud co-sponsor of this celebration of Sephardic Jewish film. To find out more and get tickets, visit **nysephardicfilmfestival.org**.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal tob to Natalie Dweck, on the birth of a grandson, Samuel Elias.

Mazal tob to Lauren & Mitch Presser, upon the birth of a granddaughter.

Condolences to trustee, **Zoya Raynes**, on the passing of her sister, Svetlana Raynes.



PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL



Major Pre-Purim Shiur Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Tuesday, March 3 | Following Evening Services

CSI YOUTH PRESENTS: "Esther Saves The Day!" A Purim Puppet Show from WonderSpark Puppets Monday Evening, March 9 | 7:00 pm | Elias Room

When the evil Haman threatens the Jews of Persia, it's up to the brave Esther and her clever uncle Mordecai to save the day in this Purim Shpiel. It's the Purim story as you've never seen it before!

This show is for all children to enjoy while parents attend 7:15 pm megillah reading. Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Annual Purim Dinner

Monday Evening, March 9 | following 7:15 megillah reading

Dinner details and pricing coming soon.

Give Mishloah Manot to a Member! Ordering Deadline: THIS Monday, February 17 at 11 PM

Want to send Mishloah Manot to your fellow congregants for Purim this year? Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to send mishloah manot to our Shearith Israel community. This project will support the Sisterhood's many projects.

To select recipients, visit **shearithisrael.org/sisterhoodmanot.** If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde (lirohde.csi@gmail.com), Carla Schein (scheinc6@gmail.com), or Rivka Wiznia (rlsvet@gmail.com).

Don't forget to give Matanot L'Ebyonim

One of the mitzvot of Purim is to give charity to the poor, *Matanot L'Ebyonim*. You can easily fulfill this mitzvah through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. Donate online at **shearithisrael.org/matanot**, or send a check made out exactly to "Cong. Shearith Israel Rabbis Discretionary Fund" (in the memo, write: "Purim"). Your gifts will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik on Purim to those in need.

It's Not Too Late to Join Our Women's Megillah Reading!

Megillah Reading Purim Morning, Tuesday, March 10 | 8:00 am Rehearsals on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 6 pm & Sunday, March 8 at 7 pm (following evening services)

On the morning of Purim, the women and girls of the synagogue conduct a parallel Women's Megillah reading in the Little Synagogue. Contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde.csi@gmail.com as soon as possible for an assignment if you'd like to participate.

CHOIR SELECTIONS

Friday Evening:

Veshameru #2 (p.166) | Samuel Naumbourg

Psalm 23 (p.174) | Leon Kramer

Yigdal (p.177) | Traditional (Shabuot theme)

Shabbat Morning:

Misheberakh (p. 208) | Salomone Rossi Tehilat (p. 216) | Jonathan Koch Ubnuho Yomar (p. 218) | Rev. H. P. Mendes Adon Olam (p. 232) | Traditional (Shabuot theme)

JEWISH EDUCATION 5780

- ⇒ Friday Night Lights | Rabbi Soloveichik Friday Nights | Following Evening Services
- ⇒ Shabbat Afternoon Class | Rabbi Soloveichik Shabbat Afternoons | One hour before Minha
- ⇒ RESUMES THIS SUNDAY! The Guide to the Duties of the Heart | Rabbi Sjimon den Hollander
 Sunday Mornings | 8:45 am
- ⇒ The Idea of Kingship | Rabbi David Silber Sunday Mornings | 10:00 am | \$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