

**"Esther's Message for the Future"—A Pre-Purim Shiur for Young Couples and Parents with Rabbi Yanetz**  
 Sunday, February 25 | 6:30 pm  
 Hosted in a private home | Address provided upon RSVP  
 Light dinner will be served  
 Come spend some time with your Shearith Israel friends and learn from Rabbi Yanetz in preparation for Purim! This special shiur will be held in a private home (note: this class is for adults, not children). Light dinner will be served. To RSVP, go to [shearithisrael.shulcloud.com/form/pre-purim-shiur](http://shearithisrael.shulcloud.com/form/pre-purim-shiur).

**Seeking Teen Girls for Annual Shir Hashirim Reading Eighth Day of Passover, Saturday, April 7**  
 After *musaf* on the last day of Passover, the teen girls of our synagogue take part in our unique tradition as they read The Song of Songs for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. Full preparation and training provided. Newcomers welcome!  
 For information and to participate, please contact Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde at [irohde@shearithisrael.org](mailto:irohde@shearithisrael.org).  
 To sponsor the *kiddush* in the girls' honor, go to [shearithisrael.org/teen-girls-shir-hashirim-2018](http://shearithisrael.org/teen-girls-shir-hashirim-2018).



#### SAVE THE DATE

#### "Pulpit Swap"

Shabbat, March 10, 2018



In the spirit of friendship and mutual respect, Rabbis Levine and Soloveichik will "swap" synagogues, enjoying the warmth of their peer *kehillot* and each treating the other to a special lecture after morning services.

Rabbi Levine's lecture topic at Shearith Israel:  
*"A Revolutionary Tale: The Curious History of the First Hebrew Prayer for a Democratic Government"*  
 To join our list of sponsors for the *kiddush* following this special lecture, visit [shearithisrael.org/pulpit-swap](http://shearithisrael.org/pulpit-swap).

Our next public tour is **Wednesday, March 14**

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

#### DEBAR TORAH: THE DUAL NATURE OF TORAH OBSERVANCE —BY JONATHAN WEINSTEIN—

We recently read the famous verse of "we shall do and we shall listen" which underscores the remarkable eagerness with which the Jewish people accepted the Torah. However, the Talmud (Shabbos 88) presents a rather different story in this regard, stating that Hashem had lifted the mountain over the Jewish people and presented them with an ultimatum: accept the Torah or die. Further complicating matters, Chazal also teach regarding the upcoming holiday of Purim that the Jewish people accepted the Torah willingly in the times of Ahashverosh. So, was the acceptance willing or coerced? If both, what does that signify?

We see this same dichotomy in the opening in of our Parasha. The word "תרומה"—or donation—is mentioned three times. Rashi mentions the Rabbinic teaching that there were three separate collections of תרומה, two obligatory and one voluntary. This of course parallels the obligatory and voluntary acceptances of the Torah.

We all know that in our service of Hashem there are certain things we must do, and we fulfill them as decrees of Hashem. But when we are compelled to do things, we don't always bring our energy. We often feel it is a burden, something to check off the to-do list.

Parashat תרומה is telling us that Hashem doesn't want us to do things merely because we have to, but rather because we want to. Hashem wants us to serve him with love. With such an attitude, we can serve Hashem on a newly joyous level imbued with energy and passion.

This may lead one to ask, *Why not make all Mitzvot voluntary, thereby allowing us to bring our maximum energy and passion to them?* The answer is that this is not a sustainable model for consistent long-term religious life. The voluntary service of Hashem is all too easy when life is going well and time and energy abound. But the moment things get difficult and the real challenges of life emerge, often, everything will give, leaving us with nothing. That is why both the voluntary and the obligatory aspects of the service of Hashem are necessary.

The תרומה used to build the Tabernacle was the obligatory one. The foundation of our service of Hashem must be the obligatory aspect. But if you want a beautiful Tabernacle replete with gold, silver, and the like, that comes most naturally from the voluntary תרומה. Joy and energy in the service Hashem often stem from creative passion.

So our relationship with Torah and Mitzvot exists on a dual plane. On the one hand, we are committed to the relationship even when we can't bring all our energy, but when we can, we do so with great eagerness and zest.

*Jonathan Weinstein is a student at Yeshiva University and a member of our ongoing Habruta (Paired Learning) Program.*



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
 The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

## Shabbat Terumah February 16-17, 2018

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 326; Haftarah: p. 336  
 Kaplan Living Torah: p. 380; Haftarah: p. 1120

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:14 pm  
 MINHAH & ARBIT | 5:15 pm | Main Sanctuary

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS RETURNS NEXT WEEK.

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary  
 SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary  
 TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room  
 YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room  
 JUNIOR CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 | Little Synagogue  
 SEMINAR | Reverend Philip Sherman | "Prayer: The Hazzan, the Congregation, and the Choir"  
 KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | *Scotch and Arak sponsored by Suzanne Morad, in memory of her father, Said Benjamin Morad.*

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR RETURNS NEXT WEEK.

MINHAH & ARBIT | 5:10 pm  
 HABDALAH | 6:04 pm

#### Weekday Service Times

##### Mornings:

Sunday & Monday (Presidents' Day): 8:00 am  
 Tuesday-Friday: 7:15 am

##### Evenings:

Sunday (Minhah & Arbit): 5:15 pm  
 Monday-Thursday (Arbit only): 6:30 pm

*See inside for Presidents' Week updates.*

## Schedule Alerts for Presidents' Week

- Our office will be closed on Monday, February 19 for Presidents' Day. The flag will be flown.
- Shahrar on Monday, February 19 will be at 8:00 am.
- Toddler Program will NOT meet on Monday, February 19.
- Rabbi Soloveichik's Women's Class will NOT meet on Tuesday morning, February 20.
- Rabbi Soloveichik's Talmud Class will NOT meet on Tuesday evening, February 20.
- PTTTS Hebrew School will NOT be in session until after Presidents' Week and Purim (class resumes Sunday, March 4).

## PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

DEADLINE: THIS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

### HerringFest: The Purim Edition

*A Purim Dinner featuring herring from the world-famous Russ & Daughters, foods from other fine purveyors, and an entertaining talk from Rabbi Soloveichik*

Wednesday, February 28 | Following *Megillah* Reading

In the tradition of our past standout "educulinary" events, we bring you our annual Purim Dinner—with a salty twist! This year, building on the success of last year's HerringFest, we're holding the sequel on Purim night, after *megillah* reading. Other smoked fish as well as non-fishy treats will round out this delectable dinner. (Note to parents: don't worry, there will be plenty of food for kids who don't like herring!)

Members: \$42/Adult || \$18/Child under 12

Non-Members: \$47/Adult || \$20/Child under 12

Register by THIS THURSDAY!

For registration and sponsorships, visit [shearithisrael.org/purimdinner5778](http://shearithisrael.org/purimdinner5778).

### Be Part of Our Women's *Megillat Esther*

Purim Morning, Thursday, March 1 | Services begin at 7:15 am

Calling all women aged 12 and up to read *megillah* this year, for the 29th year of this Shearith Israel tradition. Assignments are as short as 3 verses and all audio is available at [shearithisrael.org/megillat-esther](http://shearithisrael.org/megillat-esther). It's easy to learn and is a great way to participate this Purim! Contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at [lirohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lirohde-csi@yahoo.com) for more information and to get involved.

## PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

### Children's Musical Storytelling by *Story Arts*

Wednesday, February 28 | Elias Room

*Arrive early at 6:00 pm*

The reading of *Megillat Esther* begins promptly at 6:15 pm. Children are invited to the Elias Room for a special "infotainment" program, just for them.

*Parents are encouraged to arrive at 6:00 pm*, in order to help their children settle in, and then make their way to the Large Synagogue in time for *megillah*. Liz Rios and Yona Glass will provide supervision, but children under the age of 5 must be accompanied by an adult.

This year, we're pleased to welcome Heather Forest of *Story Arts*, who will do a dramatic telling of the Purim story and other Jewish folktales, accompanied by her guitar.

Our children's programming is free and open to all, though sponsors are greatly appreciated to help defray the cost.

Visit [shearithisrael.org/storyarts](http://shearithisrael.org/storyarts) to sponsor.

### Don't Forget To Give *Matanot L'Ebyonim*

It is one of the *mitzvot* of Purim to give charity to the poor, *Matanot L'Ebyonim*. You can easily fulfill this mitzvah through the synagogue: your online gift or check made out to the "Rabbi's Discretionary Fund," will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik on Purim to those in need.

Donate online at [shearithisrael.org/matanot](http://shearithisrael.org/matanot).

### Sponsor Our Annual Purim Breakfast

Thursday, March 1 | 8:30 am

Every year we treat our congregation to a festive Purim Breakfast following the reading of the *megillah* on Purim morning. Help ensure that we have plenty of hamentashen to go around by going here to sponsor: [shearithisrael.org/purim-breakfast](http://shearithisrael.org/purim-breakfast)

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Mazal tob* to Sarah Meira Rosenberg, Shearith Israel's Communications Associate and Programs Coordinator, on the marriage of her brother, Yair.

Sunday, March 18, 2018

# Passover

and the American Imagination



**Close Up View of Hebrew Inscription:**  
*Proclaim Liberty Throughout All The Land Unto All The Inhabitants Thereof*  
Leviticus XXV:10

**This major event is part of our Year of Years Celebrations which will culminate in 2019 when we mark 365 years of our congregation and Jewish life in America.**

**Hosted by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, participants will enjoy exclusive experiences, including:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Lectures and discussions with pre-eminent scholars such as Lincoln historian, Harold Holzer   | Remarkable Passover stories and lessons of liberty from the American Jewish historical narrative                                    |
| An exclusive viewing of rarely exhibited archival materials, such as Thomas Jefferson's Letter to Mordecai Manuel Noah of Shearith Israel | A take-home Haggadah Companion custom created by Rabbi Soloveichik, which participants can use to inspire their own Seder this year |

A bonus conversation—for luncheon participants only—with Harold Holzer and Rabbi Soloveichik on the making of Steven Spielberg's critically acclaimed film, *Lincoln*

Sunday, March 18, 2018 | Symposium 9 am - 12:30 pm

Luncheon to follow with a special tribute to Shearith Israel's 5778 *hatanim*  
**Simon Salama-Caro**, *Hatan Torah*  
**Robert Kapito**, *Hatan Bereshit*

Congregation Shearith Israel | 2 West 70th Street, New York City

Attire: Sunday Smart

**Tickets start at \$25. RSVP by March 4: [shearithisrael.org/gala2018](http://shearithisrael.org/gala2018)**