

A Note About Our Weekly Dibrei Torah
Our Debar Torah this week is written by **Rabbi Harris Guedalia**. In addition to our Shearith Israel cast of writers, we like to expose you to guest Debar Torah contributors from other Spanish and Portuguese communities around the world. Thank you Rabbi Guedalia for this week's Debar Torah!

Buy a Siddur
A new reprinting of our siddurim are hot off the press and are available for purchase on our website at shearithisrael.org/store for \$25 each.

Scotch and arak sponsorships
In addition to our weekly Kiddush sponsors and contributors we accept sponsors for the scotch and arak that we make available each week. To sponsor or contribute go to shearithisrael.org/scotch-and-arak-sponsorships.

Weekday Toddler Summer 'Camp'
June 20- August 17
Tuesdays and Thursday | 9:30-11:30 am
For children aged 16-33 months.
Includes outdoor play and a wading pool. Adult caregiver presence is required.
Register online at shearithisrael.org/summer-toddler-camp.



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:
Wednesday, March 8 at 11:00 am

Constructive Criticism
Rabbi Harris Guedalia

In this week's parasha Jethro engages in what many would consider a dangerous activity, giving unsolicited advice. He sees his son-in-law at work and notices a problem. In chapter 18: 14-18 Jethro witnesses Moses sitting in judgment all day from morning till night. Jethro is critical of this and has a better suggestion for his son-in-law.

Was it appropriate for Jethro to criticize Moses the great prophet? Most commentaries suggest that it was done in a gentle manner. Something like "What is your opinion on the following?"

What was Jethro's criticism?

Jethro asks in verse 14 "*Why are you sitting with all these people crowded around you from morning to night?*" One interpretation of Jethro's complaint is "Why are you **sitting** while the people are **standing**?" Jethro criticizes Moses for dis-respecting the holy nation of Israel. (Rashi) A second version "Why are doing this by **yourself**? Why not have others sit with you and reduce your work-load?" (Hizkuni)

Moses answers (verses 15-16) "*Because the people come to seek God. The people come to me with their problems. I judge between litigants and I teach the word of God.*" – As if to say 'The people need to stand because of their long questions and the many petitioners, for only I can bring the word to God.'

Jethro warns Moses (Verses 17-18) – You will personally fail under these conditions. A new model of judging needs to be developed.

We learn from Jethro that if you want to give advice, there is a need for dialogue. Jethro speaks and Moses listens. Moses responds and Jethro listens. Only after this back and forth does Jethro give his advice. The give and take of conversation enables the two to come to an understanding. The result is an improvement in Moses' work. Thousands of assistants are added creating a real judicial system.

Before giving someone your advice – it helps to use this mnemonic device: "THINK"; T is it true? H is it helpful? Is it inspiring? N is it needed? K is it kind?

If we THINK before offering advice to others, and, if we engage in dialogue like Jethro – then we stand a good chance that our criticisms will be constructive and our advice accepted.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue
Shabbat Yitro
February 17-18, 2017

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

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:15 pm
MINHAH | 5:15 pm
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on the topic "The British are Coming– On Shabbat!" | *2016-2017 season sponsored by the Julis Family*

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a shiur on the topic "What the Incredibles Taught me About the Torah: An Animated Shiur on Parashat Yitro"
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

There will be no afternoon class or seudah shelishit this Shabbat

MINHAH/ARBIT | 5:10 pm
HABDALAH | 6:05 pm

Weekday Service Times
Mornings: Sunday & Monday: 8:00 AM, Tuesday -Friday: 7:15 AM,
**Evenings (Minhah & Arbit): Sunday- Thursday: 5:30 PM
****Note new time**

Presidents' Day Weekend
-The synagogue office will be closed this Monday, February 20
-PTTS will NOT meet on Sunday, February 19.
- Sjimon Den Hollander's class WILL meet on Sunday, February 19.
- Toddler Program will NOT meet on Monday, February 20

PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Purim Dinner and Entertainment for Youth and Adults 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 and entertainment for the adults. Childcare provided. Register at shearithisrael.org/purimdinner by March 7th to beat the procrastinator's pricing.



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.

The Sisterhood's Mishloah Manot Initiative Deadline: Sunday, February 19 at 8:00 pm

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 lirohde-csi@yahoo.com or Mrs. Carla Schein at 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 lirohde-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 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.

Matanot L'Ebyonim

It is one of the core mitzvot of Purim to give charity to the poor, Matanot L'Ebyonim. Your online gift or check made out to the "Rabbi's Discretionary Fund," (memo: "Matanot L'ebyonim") will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik on Purim to those in need. Go to shearithisrael.org/matanot to donate.

OTHER INITIATIVES

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Shearith Israel: A Monthly Q & A Z. Edinger

Thursday, March 23 | 7:00 pm

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 and he will prepare a class to satisfy you!

Enroll in CSI's Text Messaging Notification Service

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 enroll at: shearithisrael.org/text-message-notifications Please be assured, we will only text you for those alerts you have selected and will only use this on an as-needed basis.

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For details go to: shearithisrael.org/judaic-education

Sunday

- ◇ **Saadia Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions** | Sijmon 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 will be on THURSDAY, March 23 at 7pm | Email questions to 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

To find out when your favorite class is held, canceled or for special topics, go to shearithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome new member **Maurice Laurenti Haroche** to the Shearith Israel Family