

Shabbat Zakhor

Shabbat Zakhor is the Sabbath preceding Purim. At about 9:00 am, during the *Nishmat* section (p.184), we read Jehudah HaLevi's masterful poem "*Mi Kamokha*" describing the story of Purim. Each stanza concludes with a biblical verse ending with the word "*lo*." This long poem includes two alphabetic acrostics and the full name of the author (אני יהודה הלוי הקטן).

ברבי שמואל הלוי. The sabbath gets its name from the additional Torah reading (Deut. 25:17-19) added after the regular weekly portion, *around 9:50 am*. It begins with the word "*Zakhor*," a command to "Remember" the treacherous attack of the Amalakites in the wilderness. *Haman*, villain of the Purim story, is the son of *Hamedatha* the Aggagite, and therefore presumed to be a descendant of the Amalekite king *Agag*, who is read about in this week's *Haftara*. One may fulfill a biblical commandment to remember the treachery of Amalek by hearing the *Zakhor* portion read publicly in synagogue. Please make an effort to attend.

"Esther's Message for the Future"

A Pre-Purim Shiur for Young Couples and Parents with Rabbi Yanetz

THIS 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.



"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.

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.

DEBAR TORAH: BELIEVE IN THE WISDOM OF THE GOODLY FORM

—BY HAZZAN RABBI IRA ROHDE—

"And you shall make garments of holiness for Aaron your brother for splendor and for beauty. And you shall speak unto all that are wise-hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, and they shall make Aaron's garments to sanctify him to serve as priest to Me."

Last week's Debar Torah by Jonathan Weinstein emphasized both the necessary obligatory as well as the voluntary aspect of Torah observance. It was asserted that beauty is elicited by creative energy, an energy coming from passion and joy, which can only be voluntary.

In contrast, I'd like to assert something different: that it is the object of a beautiful and goodly form which naturally arouses our passion, and both joyous devotion as well as drudging toil. How can that be, you may ask. Isn't beauty in the eye of the beholder? That object which one person finds beautiful and good, and hence arouses his passion, will not necessarily be according to another's aesthetic tastes. Hence each must find what arouses his passions and seek joyously and creatively to incorporate that aspect of the beautiful and good in his worship of God. So runs the modern argument.

But the Ancients, most of them, did not think that way. Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, all thought that what was beautiful and good was universally agreed upon, and the Torah seems to concur. There are universal, classic canons of beauty, just as there are universal, classic canons of morality. What all of us see and hear as beautiful in art and music, despite our modern-day protests to the contrary, is remarkably similar, and often can be demonstrated to be based upon sound, universal principles of mathematics and physics. Classic proportions and simple yet graceful, sturdy, well-planned but careful design are valued everywhere. R. Abraham Joshua Heschel is quoted as having said that one should craft one's life as one would a work of art. But it is the goal of crafting a thing of beauty and perfection which should arouse our passion, as well as our toil and devotion.

And the truth is, I'd argue philosophically, that we in fact do agree, deep down, on what is beautiful and good far more than we want to admit in our modern, relativistic age. We certainly argue about such things aplenty, and such arguments make no sense if everything is in the eye of the beholder! As an old-fashioned Platonist Jewish thinker, I'd argue that beauty and goodness are still based upon correspondence as well as variation from classic, ideal forms. And hence the best way to increase our passion is to strengthen our faith in those classic, beautiful forms. I've written before about the Tabernacle being designed as a model, well-furnished home, with regular meals, lighting, and fragrances, which comes to teach us about the importance of an orderly, well-furnished and beautiful home life. An attractive home of beauty will arouse our passions and devotion; we will want to come home to it again and again. Sadly, many do not really believe in the "magic" of a beautiful, orderly home. And the same goes with many common graces of living. But underneath it all, classic categories of graciousness, symmetry, simplicity, proportion, harmoniousness are still operative: The basic ancient canons, both of law and morality, as well as in aesthetics and the social graces, still count, deep down, although our faith in them is badly shaken.

What can restore our faith, our belief in the "magic" of classic models? Well, for me, although this might seem improbable, perhaps our modern forms of art and music point to a way. "Abstract" art is now being analyzed in terms of classic canons and the way it concurs and differs. Our most modern styles of music, dance, and athletics are being analyzed and improved according to classic techniques. I have a singing teacher who is still training the most extreme rockers and rappers according to the most classic vocal techniques. And beyond that, we should all be reassured by Scripture and the promises of Jewish tradition: These canons were devised by the wisest of the wise, whom God filled with the spirit wisdom to make the most beautiful things. Let us do our best to follow their blueprint for goodness and beauty, and hopefully God will inspire us with energy and passion, as well.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Tetsavveh-Zakhor

February 23-24, 2018

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 339; Haftarah: p. 995

Zakhor: p. 856

Kaplan Living Torah: p. 414; Haftarah: p. 1274

Zakhor: p. 988

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:22 pm

MINHAH & ARBIT | 5:30 pm | Main Sanctuary

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "General Eisenhower's Parashat Zakhor" | 2017-2018 season sponsored by the Julis family.

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 WITH A TORAH READING | Ages 5-12 |

10:30 | Little Synagogue

TALK | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "Purim at Nuremberg: 1945"

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

PRE-PURIM SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

| 4:15 pm | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored by Suzanne Morad in memory of Manijeh Morad, and by Cindy Trop in honor of the nahala of her father, Melekh ben Zion.

MINHAH & ARBIT | 5:15 pm

HABDALAH | 6:13 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

Sunday: 8:00 am

Monday-Friday: 7:15 am

Evenings:

Sunday (Minhah & Arbit): 5:30 pm

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday (Arbit only): 6:30 pm

See inside for Purim Schedule.

PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Schedule

Fast of Esther

Wednesday, February 28th

DAWN (FAST BEGINS)5:10 am

MORNING SERVICE (SHAHRI).....7:15 am

Eve of Purim

Wednesday Evening, February 28th

MINHAH (MEN WEAR TEFILLIN)5:15 pm

ARBIT (EVENING) SERVICE6:00 pm

END OF FAST.....6:07 pm

READING OF MEGILLAH.....6:15 pm

MEGILLAH IS FOLLOWED BY HERRINGFEST DINNER

FOR REGISTERED GUESTS

LATE READING OF MEGILLAH8:00 pm

Purim Day

Thursday, March 1st

MORNING SHAHRIT.....7:15 am

MORNING MEGILLAH READING.....8:00 am

WOMEN'S MEGILLAH READING8:00 am

MEGILLAH IS FOLLOWED BY BREAKFAST FOR ALL

LATE MORNING MEGILLAH READING11:00 am

END OF PURIM DAY6:08 pm

POST-PURIM SERVICE (ARBIT ONLY).....6:30 pm

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.

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

PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Children's Musical Storytelling by *Story Arts*

Wednesday, February 28 | Elias Room

Arrive early at 6:00 pm

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. Heather Forest of *Story Arts* will perform 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 to sponsor.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences to Lawrence Kobrin, on the passing of his brother, Jay Kobrin.

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. Full preparation and training provided. Newcomers welcome!

For information and to participate, please contact Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde at irohde@shearithisrael.org.

To sponsor the *kiddush* in the girls' honor, go to shearithisrael.org/teen-girls-shir-hashirim-2018.

CALL TO ACTION:

Help Make our March 18 Event, "Passover and the American Imagination," A Great Success

We have seen tremendous enthusiasm for our upcoming symposium and luncheon, an event which constitutes a novel approach to our annual fundraiser. As we enter the home stretch, we need your help to catalyze registration in the short time we have left.

Your personal outreach will make a big difference in encouraging more attendees to register and to give generously.

If you would like to dedicate some time and energy toward spreading the word and recruiting membership to support the success of this event, please contact Barbara Reiss at breiss@shearithisrael.org.

DEADLINE TO BE LISTED IN OUR HAGGADAH
COMPANION TRIBUTE FOLIO: MARCH 4



The poster features a large, stylized title "Passover and the American Imagination" in a black, handwritten-style font. Below the title is a photograph of a white ceramic jar with Hebrew inscriptions. To the right of the jar is a red wax seal with the text "CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL" and the years "1844" and "1854". Below the photograph is a small text box that reads: "Close Up View of Hebrew Inscription: Proclaim Liberty Throughout All The Land Unto All The Inhabitants Thereof Leviticus XXV:10".

Sunday, March 18, 2018

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*

Tickets start at \$25. RSVP by March 4: shearithisrael.org/gala2018