DEBAR TORAH
—AARON SCHWARTZ-MESSING, BET MIDRASH—

The Meiri and other commentators explain that the seven branches of the Menorah represent the seven wisdoms: Logic, Science, Psychology, Biology, Music, Philosophy, and Torah. It follows that the structure of the Menorah may shed light on the relationship between these wisdoms:

*You shall make a Menorah of pure gold; the Menorah shall be made of hammered work; its base and its shaft, its cups, calyxes, and petals shall be of one piece. (Exodus 25:31)*

The Torah states that it is imperative for the entire Menorah to be made of one piece—one unified block of gold which is carefully sculpted and carved until it takes the shape of the Menorah. Similarly, different wisdoms should not be viewed as independent unrelated entities which are artificially fused and reconciled, but rather all of wisdom is in and of itself unified. The branches of wisdom are simply subsets of one unified whole.

*Six branches shall emerge from its sides; three branches from one side of the Menorah and three branches from the other side of the Menorah. (Exodus 25:32)*

The middle branch represents Torah. The Torah is the basis, the core wisdom from which all other wisdoms emanate, as King David writes in Psalms: “The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the LORD, all who practice it gain sound understanding” (11:10).

The relationship between Torah and other wisdoms is deepened by a verse in Parashat Behaalotekha: "Speak to Aaron and say to him, ‘When you mount the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light towards the face of the Menorah’” (Numbers 8:2). Rashi explains: “towards the face of the Menorah—i.e., towards the central lamp, which is not on one of the branches, but rather on the central shaft of the Menorah itself.”

The branches do not act as their own independent sources of light. Just like the body of the Menorah is unified, the light of the Menorah is unified as well. The lights of the branches of the Menorah act as an enhancement and amplification of the illumination of the middle shaft. The light of secular wisdom does not function independently of the light of the Torah, but rather functions only to enhance and amplify the Torah’s light.

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**Important Notices**

- Jr. Congregation—The next Jr. Congregation with a Torah Reading will be Parashat Tetzaveh-Zakhor, March 7. If your child would like to read the Torah that week, contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lriohde.cs@gmail.com as soon as possible.
- Maintenance—Important repairs are currently underway near the Fidanque Room. Please pardon our appearance while we make these repairs.

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**Young Families Luncheon with the Author of Angelina Ballerina**

**Shabbat, March 28** | Following Morning Services

For girls, boys, and their parents

Join our young families and Katharine Holabird, best known for her beloved Angelina Ballerina book series, for a dairy Shabbat lunch and an entertaining program full of ballet facts and life lessons learned from the books.

Register or sponsor at shearithisrael.org/angelina.

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**Shearith Israel League Ping-Pong Meetup**

NEXT Sat. night, March 7 | 8-10 PM | At SPIN 54, 7 E 54th St

The Shearith Israel League invites you to a special event at SPIN 54 to socialize in a fun and lively atmosphere and of course to play ping-pong. See your fellow synagogue members in a whole new light and make new friends as we meet for this fun and relaxed social event. Drinks are included. All skill levels are welcome. $25 per person, 21+ only.

Space is limited, so register now at shearithisrael.org/ping-pong.

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**UPCOMING SISTERHOOD PROGRAMMING**

**Stitch & Fix Special: Embroidery with Jodie Sunday, March 15 | 10am-12pm | For teens & tweens**

Each participant will receive a starter embroidery kit to begin their individual project, under the instruction of Shearith Israel parent, Jodie Sherizen. Jodie will explain and demonstrate how to do the cross stitch. Bring your friends!

Price: $5 per registrant, to help defray expenses.

To register, visit shearithisrael.org/embroidery.

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**Shabbat Terumah**

**February 28-29, 2020**

Hertz Pentateuch p. 325; Haftarah p. 336

Kaplan Living Torah p. 380; Haftarah p. 1120

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**Candle Lighting** | 5:27 pm

**Evening Services (Minha & Arbat)** | 5:30 pm | Main Sanctuary


**Zemirot** | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

**Shabbat** | 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

**Sernon** | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | “Is it David’s or Solomon’s Temple?”

**Kiddush** | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored by Lydia Sarbati in memory of Shelomo van Moppes.

**Shabbat Afternoon Pre-Purim Shiur** | 4:25 pm | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | Levy Auditorium

**Evening Services (Minha & Arbat)** | 5:25 pm

**Habdala** | 6:18 pm

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**Weekday Services**

**Morning Services**

- Sunday: 8:00 AM | Monday-Friday: 7:15 AM
- Evening Services: Sunday (Minha & Arbat): 5:30 PM
- Monday-Thursday (Arbit only): 6:30 PM

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**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.

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Central Park West at 70th Street, New York City • www.shearithisrael.org
**SPACE IS LIMITED | SIGN UP NOW**

Professor Laura Leibman: The Art of the Jewish Family
An interactive crafting workshop
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 feelings and experiences.

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.

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**CHOIR SELECTIONS**

**Friday Evening:**
Veishameru #1 (p. 166) | Samuel Naumborg
Psalm 23 (p.174) | Leon Kramer
Yigdal (p.177) | Samuel de Sola
Shabbat Morning:
Misbeberakh (p. 208) | Leon Kramer
Yehi Hadekha (p. 215) | Julius Mombach
Ubnaho Yomar (p. 218) | Leon Hyman
Adon Olam (p. 232) | #1 Traditional

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**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mazel Tob to Guela Levi Freeman upon the marriage of her son, Jonathan Freeman, to Jenica Miller.

Mazel tob to Janice & Isaac Ovadiah, on the birth of a granddaughter, Raquel, to their children, Simhi & Shimmie Jacoby.

We mourn the loss of our long-time member, Renee Aley.

We mourn the loss of our member and trustee, Elliot Freilich.
Condolences to his wife, Helen, his children, Alexander, Lily, and Isaac, his mother, Estelle, and his brothers, Benjamin, Jonathan, and David. Elliot was the son of our past Parnas, Dr. Dennis Freilich, a”h.

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**PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL**

**Major Pre-Purim Shuir**
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Tuesday, March 3 | Following Evening Services
From Mordecai to Mordecai: The Incredible Inspiration for Daniel Deronda

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**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. Show off your costumes as we watch 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.

If you would like to sponsor this year’s Purim Youth Programming, visit shearithisrael.org/wonderspark.

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**Don’t forget to give Matanot L’Evyonim**

One of the mitzvot of Purim is to give charity to the poor, Matanot L’Evyonim. 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 Soloveichikon Purim to those in need.

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**Women’s Megillah Reading**

Purim Morning, Tuesday, March 10 | 8:00 am
Join in the celebration of our women and girls as on Purim morning, they conduct a parallel Women’s Megillah reading in the Little Synagogue. Contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde.csi@gmail.com if you would still like to participate in the reading.

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**JEWISH EDUCATION 5780**

⇒ Friday Night Lights | Rabbi Soloveichik
 ⇒ Friday Nights | Following Evening Services
⇒ Shabbat Afternoon Class | Rabbi Soloveichik
 ⇒ Shabbat Afternoons | One hour before Minha
⇒ The Guide to the Duties of the Heart | Rabbi Simon den Hollander
 ⇒ Sunday Mornings | 8:45 am
⇒ The Idea of Kingship | Rabbi David Silber
 ⇒ Sunday Mornings | 10:00 am | [Not meeting this week]
⇒ 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/joinouremail-lists]
⇒ Bet Midrash | led by Steven Rohde Gotlib
⇒ Monday-Thursday | One hour before evening services

Thank you to Suzanne Stern for sponsoring a Bet Midrash session this past week in memory of Gittel Haya b. Bracha & Abraham HaCohen.
To sponsor a session, week, or season, visit shearithisrael.org/sponsoraclass.