



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.

"Addy & Uno"

One-time Sunday Showing with a 50% discount Sunday, February 11 | 12:00 pm

Join fellow Shearith Israel members and other Upper West Side synagogues for *Addy & Uno* -- a 50 minute puppet-musical focused on empathy toward kids with disabilities.

This is a special showing: **the musical is usually performed on Saturdays, so this is your big chance to see it!** Not only that, this is a joint event with other UWS synagogues, in keeping with the spirit of *achdut* and community that underlies the *Addy & Uno* musical itself. The show was even created by UWS parent, Nava Siltan, Ph.D.

SPECIAL OFFER:

Shearith Israel is excited to be able to share with registrants a **special 50% discount code** - when you register through shearithisrael.org/addyanduno, you will receive an email confirmation with the code and instructions for purchasing tickets. **NOTE: Filling out the form does NOT purchase tickets; you must do so separately after receiving the code.** (Tickets are ordinarily \$42.25 each, but our code cuts that price drastically.)

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

Parnas Office Hours
Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you. Please schedule a visit at parnas@shearithisrael.org.

DEBAR TORAH: WHY DO THE MOUNTAINS TREMBLE?

— BY HAZZAN RABBI IRA ROHDE —

"And Mt. Sinai was altogether smoking, because the Lord had descended upon it in the fire, and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of the furnace, and the whole mount trembled very much." (Exodus 19:18)

This year in my reading of the Book of Exodus as it lead from the plagues of Egypt, through the Crossing of the Sea, and through the Giving of the Ten Commandments, I've been struck by the descriptions of the "physical" miracles and the disruptions of the natural order. Particularly in Parashat Yithro, the disruptions of nature are hard to explain. I mean, it's one thing to claim that God's Strong Hand had to be shown to the Egyptians and to the world at large in order to defeat Egypt and its gods. But by this point in Yithro, the Egyptians have been defeated, and all we have is Moses and Israel, and yet still we have a burning, quaking, trembling mountain, with lightning and thunder, scaring Israel out of their wits. God didn't only take us out of Egypt with signs and wonders: He also gave us the Torah with signs and wonders, and displayed yet again His Awesome, Fearful Glory, this time to Israel alone. What was the point of that?

The apparent answer is that the Giving of the Torah is also to be understood as a great Miracle in the Natural World, for by means of it Divine Order and Law are imposed upon Chaos. The point of the quaking, burning mountain is not merely to inspire reverence and fear: it is there to teach the Israelites that the Law and Order of the entire Created, Natural World itself depends upon Israel's keeping the Torah. The Giving of the Torah itself could be interpreted as part and parcel, indeed the culmination, of the Miracles and Wonders of the Exodus from Egypt, for it is through the Giving of the Law of the Torah that the decadence and decay of Egypt are finally defeated. Although the laws among men would seem to be mere convention, far removed from the inevitability of Nature and the immutability of the Laws of Nature, we are to understand that the very Law and Order of Nature depends upon the keeping of the Divine Law among men.

Who would have thought that the treatment of a small segment of foreign slaves in the great Kingdom of the Two Egypts would matter all that much? And, even if it might have engendered moral outrage among some, who would have thought that the natural world would have been disturbed in the slightest? And yet we see that this infraction, and the further infractions to which it inevitably led, brought about a complete decay of the foundations of the Egyptian world, of the very Land of Egypt itself. The Torah begins with Creation because, we are to understand, the Divine Order which lies at the very foundation of Creation depends upon man's keeping the Divine Law of the Torah. And, knowing that its very foundation depended upon it, at the Giving of the Torah to Man, the very Earth itself, and, indeed, the entire order of Creation, shook. Ps. 68:9 reads "Earth trembled, even Heaven rained, from before God; This is Sinai..." That is the Psalm which Sephardim read to commemorate the Giving of the Torah on Shabuot. Indeed, it was only at the Giving of the Torah to Israel and mankind at Sinai that the Decadence of Egypt, and its threat to the very Order of Creation, were finally and ultimately defeated.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Yithro February 2-3, 2018

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

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:57 pm

MINHAH & ARBIT | 5:00 pm | Main Sanctuary

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "Keeping Time in the Twilight Zone" | 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 | "How Coffee Changed the Jewish World: A Parashat Yithro Story"

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | 3:55 pm |
"The Most Praised Non-Jew in the Talmud" | Levy Auditorium

MINHAH & ARBIT | 4:55 pm

HABDALAH | 5:45 pm

10 Commandments

This shabbat's Torah portion (read around 9:45 am) includes the Ten Commandments. The reading about God's giving the Torah at Sinai is occasion for a semi-festive atmosphere in the synagogue. The cloaks are dressed in festive colors, the *Azharot* melody (from *Shabu'ot*) is used as the musical theme throughout the service, and much of the Torah portion is chanted to an elaborate melody reserved for special occasions known as the "*High Na'um*." Please note that the congregation stands for the recitation of the 10 Commandments.

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

Sunday: 8:00 am

Monday-Friday: 7:15 am

Evenings:

Sunday (Minhah & Arbit—note new time): 5:00 pm

Monday-Thursday (Arbit only): 6:30 pm

PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

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: \$38/Adult || \$18/Child under 12

Non-Members: \$42/Adult || \$20/Child under 12

Register by **Monday, February 12**
to avoid Procrastinator Pricing!

For registration and sponsorships, visit
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. It's easy to learn and is a great way to participate this Purim! Contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com for more information and to get involved.

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.

Send *Mishloah Manot* to a Member **ORDERING DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 11 AT 11 PM**

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. More information about how to participate has been sent via email. For questions, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com or Mrs. Carla Schein at scheinc6@gmail.com.

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 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.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tob to Rose & Henry Edinger on the recent marriage of their granddaughter Chana Edinger to Jonathan (“Jono”) Fuchs of Teaneck, NJ.

Thank you to our Tu B'Shebat Shiur sponsors:

Esther & Bill Schulder

and contributors:

Joseph Blank

Linda & Dr. Morris Shamah, in memory of Marlene Cohen

View all our Winter Semester classes at shearithisrael.org/judaic-education

Sign up to be notified of any schedule changes or cancellations at shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists.

SHEARITH ISRAEL'S ANNUAL EVENT

REGISTER NOW
Sunday Morning, March 18



Pictured from Left to Right:
Liberty Bell Rimonim, 1961
Benjamin Franklin's proposed seal for the United States

Passover

and the American Imagination

A major symposium and luncheon—as part of our *Year of Years* programming and events, leading up to a celebration in 2019, which will mark 365 years of Jewish life in America - and in tribute to Shearith Israel's 5778 Hatanim, **Simon Salama-Caro** and **Robert Kapito**.

Set aside a morning that will prepare you for this year's Passover seder with remarkable stories and lessons of liberty from the American Jewish historical narrative, presented by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik along with pre-eminent historians.

For information, registration, and tribute folio listings, please visit:
shearithisrael.org/gala2018.