

**A Note About Our Weekly Dibrei Torah**  
Our Debar Torah this week is written by **Rabbi Schachar Orenstein**, Rabbi of the S&P Synagogue in Montreal. 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 Orenstein for this week's Debar Torah!

## PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

**The Sisterhood's Mishloah Manot Initiative**  
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. Please stay tuned for more information via email about how to participate. For questions, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at [lirohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lirohde-csi@yahoo.com) or Mrs. Carla Schein at [scheinc6@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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!

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

Our next public tour is:  
**Wednesday, February 8 at 11:00 am**

**Parashat Bo**  
**By Rabbi Schachar Orenstein,**  
**Rabbi of the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue of Montreal**  
Who were the people that got to leave Mitzrayim/Egypt? The *Hakhamim* tell us that only one fifth of our people left Egypt. We know that there were 600,000 men, and we generally estimate a total of three million people including women and children. That means that twelve million never left. That's an incredible number. Almost unbelievable. When did all of this happen? Rashi says that during the plague of darkness Hashem killed many Hebrews and buried them so that the Egyptians wouldn't scoff at God for failing to redeem God's nation. What could these Hebrews have possibly done to forfeit being part of this great event? Our Sages tell us that our people descended to the depths of impurity, but why did four-fifths perish and one fifth survive? We find an answer in last week's parasha, God tells Moshe and Aharon to command **Pharaoh and Bnei Yisrael** to free B'nei Yisrael from Egypt. Obviously, Moshe has to tell this to Pharaoh, but why should he have to command the Hebrews to free the Hebrews? Shouldn't they want to leave of their own accord?

An answer is that the majority of the people became complacent and happy being slaves. Slavery for our people wasn't acceptable, but it was familiar and comfortable, and most of them, 80% of them were not willing to leave their slavery behind and try something new. The majority was unwilling to bend and make changes when they were necessary. Those who did leave, the 20%, who were willing to try something different, were willing to dream the impossible dream. They were willing to dream and do the right thing when everyone around them was doing wrong, when everyone around them stopped dreaming.

The reality is that sometimes we, like the 80%, accept the status quo even when it is not right. We may be surrounded by an unacceptable status quo, but the message here however, is to continue to dream and work toward manifesting our dreams, to bring what is, a little closer to what ought to be, to right that which may seem to be unrightable. Shearit Yisrael, the remnant of Israel, our people are a people of dreamers. We dreamed the impossible dream in Mitzrayim. We dreamed the impossible dream before 1948.

*Im tirzu eyn zo agada.* If you will it it is no mere legend, no mere dream. We dreamed Morocco, in Poland, in Lebanon and Iraq. *Shir hamaalot, b'shuv Hashem et shevitenu hayinu k'cholmim.*

As I recently heard Rav Druckman explain, "When we returned from Babylon, from exile, that which helped us to return was our dreams, hayinu k'cholmim. We were dreamers. We didn't forget our dreams. We didn't forget our dreams of Yerushalayim. Our bodies may have been in exile but our imagination was not. We continued to hope, to dream, to imagine the impossible, to imagine the possibility of possibility. If God forbid, we forgot to dream, to dream the impossible dream, then we really run the risk of perishing in the darkness of Mitzrayim.

We must continue to dream and to make our dreams, our ideals, a reality, with God's help. Whether in time of surplus or recession, time of peace or time of war, in the face of love or in the face of hatred, we must continue to dream the impossible dream, and with God's help, the impossible may become possible, the inconceivable is conceived.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
**The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue**

## Shabbat Bo

*February 3-4, 2017*

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 248 ;Haftarah p. 263  
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 300; Haftarah p. 1102

**CANDLE LIGHTING** | 4:58 pm

**MINHAH** | 5:00 pm

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS** | Following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on the topic "You say Magdil, I say Migdol: Shabbat Lessons from George and Ira Gershwin" | *2016-2017 season sponsored by the Julis Family*

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

**SHAHARIT (NISHMAT)** | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a sermon on the topic "The Scientist in the Crib: An Adult's Reflection on Children's Logic"

**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 | *Sponsored by Dr. Dennis and Mrs. Estelle Freilich and Mrs. Miriam Rand, in honor of their grandson, Alexander Rand Freilich, upon his becoming a Bar Mitzvah.*

**SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND SHABBAT BO SHIUR** | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic "What Tefillin Did the Rambam Wear?" | 3:50pm | Levy Auditorium | *Spring semester is sponsored anonymously in memory of Irma Cardozo*

**MINHAH/ARBIT** | 4:50 pm

**HABDALAH** | 5:47 pm

### Weekday Service Times

Mornings: Sunday: 8:00 AM, Monday-Friday: 7:15 AM,  
Evenings (Arbit Only): Monday - Thursday: 6:30 PM

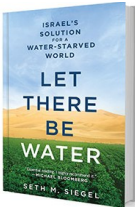
UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Shabbat Tu B'Shebat Seder and Public Discussion  
Featuring New York Times Best Selling Author:  
Seth (Yossi) Siegel

Friday Night, February 10 | Following FNL  
DEADLINE: This Monday, February 6

Join Rabbi Meir Soloveichik and Yossi Siegel for a special evening featuring both the seder as well as a public discussion of Yossi Siegel's New York Times bestselling book,

*Let There Be Water: Israel's Solution for a Water-Starved World*. Register at [shearithisrael.org/tu-b'shebat-seder](http://shearithisrael.org/tu-b'shebat-seder) by February 6.



Strengthening our Minyan  
with more Opportunities to Learn

In our continued effort to bolster our weekday minyan, we have invited a young Sephardic rabbi, Rabbi Yosef Yanetz, to attend our evening services on *Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays*, along with several YU rabbinical students . In addition to attending minyan, they will be available for *habruta* (paired leaning) with members of our community. Men and women, adults, children, and teens, beginners through experts are all warmly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

We also wish to take this opportunity to formally introduce Moshe Frances, a talented hazan, to our community. With the guidance of Rabbi Ira Rohde, Mr. Frances has been studying the S&P minhag. He has been leading certain services on certain Shabbatot and mid-week as well as reading Torah.

This initiative is part of our commitment to transmit our *minhag* to future generations and to ensure an adequate pool and pipeline of hazanim trained in the S&P *nusah*. Many of our congregants who have had the opportunity to hear Mr. Frances have been delighted by his voice, sensitivity to our *nusah*, and gentle demeanor.

Hummus! The Movie

Thursday, February 9 | 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Held at the Asia Society (725 Park Avenue)

“Hummus!The Movie” explores the incredible impact of this ancient, simple, staple "superfood" by following the stories of three very different restaurateurs in Israel who find common ground in the love of this delicious food. Join us for a screening of this award-winning film followed by a conversation with the Executive Producers, including our member Mitch Julis, and a special tasting of assorted Hummus! Purchase your tickets at [asiasociety.org/new-york/events/hummus-movie](http://asiasociety.org/new-york/events/hummus-movie)

Cardozo's Ancestors:

The Supreme Court, the Judiciary, and the Jews  
Rabbi Soloveichik

Monday, February 13 | 7:00 pm

*Sponsored by the Kaye Family in memory of  
Judge Judith Kaye on the occasion of her first nahala  
Co-sponsored by YU's Straus Center's Program on Early  
America and the Jews*

We will study the early American Jews that were the ancestors of Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo, and ponder how their story impacted the life of one of the most prominent and distinguished Jews in the history of the American judiciary.

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

Wednesday, February 15 | 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](mailto:zedinger@shearithisrael.org) and he will prepare a class to satisfy you! This Months topic: **Dirty Dancing: Why Dancing was Prohibited in the Levy Auditorium.**

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For details go to: [shearithisrael.org/judaic-education](http://shearithisrael.org/judaic-education)

Sunday

- ◇ **Saadiyah Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions** | Sjimon 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

To sponsor a single class or an entire semester, go to [shearithisrael.org/sponsoraclass](http://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](http://shearithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists) to select which emails you'd like to receive.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Mazal Tob* to Rebecca and Eitan Kimelman on the birth of a son.

*Mazal Tob* to Alexander Freilich on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his parents, Helen and trustee, Elliot Freilich and to his grandparents, Estelle and honorary parnas, Dennis Freilich.

*Condolences* to Dr. Morris and Linda Shamah on the loss of their son-in-law, Steven Esses.