

(continued from back panel)

In the Code of Hammurabi, the slave's ear is cut off for trying to gain freedom and contradicting his master. In the Torah, the slave's ear is pierced for choosing to remain a slave thereby disobeying God's plan that all people should be free because every human is created equally in God's image. Once we learn to treat others not as means to get something or objects of our manipulation but rather as ends, each endowed with infinite value, then the rest of morality follows naturally.

Want to participate in the service?

If you are interested in learning to lead the *Zemirot* on Shabbat Morning, or, to perform any of the *Mitzvot* (honors) of the Torah Service (opening the *hehal*, carrying a *sefer*, *Levantar* or *Accompanian*) please contact our sexton, Zachary Edinger at zedinger@shearithisrael.org We welcome your interest and participation!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tob to Benjamin Samborik on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his parents Anna and Guennadi Samborik.

Mazal Tob to George and Lucienne Bulow on the birth of a granddaughter, Charlotte Ruth Bulow. Charlotte is the daughter of Harris and Heather Bulow. The family thanks all of the members for their many warm wishes.

Welcome to the following school groups who are joining us this Shabbat:
Congregation Rodeph Sholom - Tampa, FL
Temple Emanuel - Andover, MA

Thank you to the sponsors of our Young Families/Couples Mexican Fiesta:

Sponsors:

Jodie Steinway and Ari Sherizen
Dr. Rivka and Marc Wiznia

Supporters:

Zoya Raynes and Naftali Friedman
Roberta De Oliveira and Nicholas Garo

From Slavery to Empathy: The Foundation of Morality Rabbi Richard Hidary

Parashat Mishpatim immediately follows the Ten Commandments and elaborates predominantly on the ethical demands in the second half of the Decalogue. We therefore would expect this *parasha* to begin with laws of murder and homicide. Instead, however, we find, that capital cases are listed second (Exodus 21:12-32), only after the laws concerning slavery. Rather, the slavery laws serve as an introduction to the entire ethical code because the impetus to treat others with compassion stems from our own experience as slaves.

Every time the Torah enjoins us to remember that we were slaves in Egypt, the purpose is not that we should hold a grudge against the Egyptians. On the contrary, Deuteronomy 23:8 commands us: "You shall not abhor an Egyptian, for you were a stranger in his land." Rather, the Torah teaches us to remember how we suffered in Egypt in order to never cause others to suffer. Indeed, the essence of all of ethics, whether in the golden rule of Leviticus 19:18, in modern philosophy (see Emmanuel Levinas, *Ethics and Infinity*), or in recent psychological research (see Simon Baron-Cohen, *The Science of Evil: On Empathy and the Origins of Cruelty*) is the ability to empathize with others.

Although the Torah recognizes the institution of slavery, it is completely transformed to conform to higher standards of ethics. The non-Hebrew slave gains his freedom if the master causes him permanent bodily damage and the master can receive capital punishment for murdering the slave. The slave's humanity is thus preserved in these laws and in the prohibition from working him on the Sabbath. The Hebrew slave is treated more like a hired worker than what we usually think of as a slave. Slavery may have been a necessary safety net for people in extreme debt, but it is clear that the Torah's ideal is for all humanity to be free. Here is one example of how the Torah contrasts with widespread ancient Near Eastern standards. The very last law in the Hammurabi Code states:

If a slave says to his master: "You are not my master," if they convict him, his master shall cut off his ear.

Exodus 21:5-6, on the other hand, legislates:

If the slave declares, "I love my master, and my wife and children: I do not wish to go free," his master shall take him before God. He shall be brought to the door or the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall then remain his slave for life.

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CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Mishpatim February 5-6, 2016

Hertz Pentateuch: Torah Reading: p. 306; Haftarah: p. 323
Kaplan Living Torah: Torah Reading: p. 356; Haftarah: p. 1118

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:00 pm

MINHAH | 5:00 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on "Incense and Sensibility: The Extraordinary and Unknown History of Besamim" | 2015-2016 Season Sponsored by the Julis Family

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a sermon on "The Last Ringing of the Liberty Bell"

TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium

YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Children's Library

JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored by Anna and Guennadi Samborik in honor of Benjamin's Bar Mitzvah

YOUNG COUPLES/FAMILIES MEXICAN FIESTA LUNCHEON-SOLD OUT! | Elias Room | For registered guests | Thank you to our sponsors

TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY | Rabbi Hidary | 3:55 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidary home, 1 W 85th St Apt. 6A

SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND SPECIAL SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic "When was Matan Torah?: A Reflection on Rembrandt and the Rabbis" | 3:55 pm | Spring semester sponsored by Lewis Lipsey

MINHAH/ARBIT | 4:55 pm

KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 5:48 pm

Weekday Service Times

Morning: Sunday: 8:00 AM; Mon.-Fri.: 7:15 AM
Evenings: Sunday – Thursday: 6:30 PM (Arbit only)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

**Communities of Character:
A Conversation with David Brooks**
Monday, March 7 | 7:00 pm

Temple Emanu-El's Skirball Center: 1 E. 65th St.

Join UJA-Federation of New York, Shearith Israel and Manhattan synagogues for a community-wide conversation about the bonds that unite us in an increasingly divisive time. David Brooks will share his reflections on character, gratitude, and how we can magnify the best in ourselves and in each other. Mr. Brooks will also engage in dialogue with UJA-Federation CEO Eric Goldstein about finding common ground and fostering collective purpose.

\$18 per person (Your gift represents a charitable contribution to UJA-Federation of New York.) To register, visit ujafedny.org/uja-david-brooks.

HerringFest!
With Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Tuesday, March 8 | 7:00 pm

HerringFest! will take place during Adar, the joyous month associated by our sages with the constellation of "dagim," or fish. Participants will be able to sample a dazzling variety of ways in which the herring can be enjoyed. Featuring a short shiur by Rabbi Soloveichik, HerringFest! is sure to be an unforgettable culinary experience of Shearith Israel's Dutch and Jewish heritage. Take advantage of our early-bird rates! Prices go up after Feb 10. Go to shearithisrael.org/herringfest to register.

Please consider sponsoring this unique event.

Jr. Congregation Updates

Jr. Congregation meets weekly promptly at 10:30 am in the Small Synagogue. In an effort to encourage increased attendance at our weekly Jr Congregation, we have decided to assign some parts every Shabbat. Please contact Mrs. Lisa

Rohde to arrange a part for your child. (lrohde-csi@yahoo.com) (cell: 646-339-7845).

The Future Face of Israel: Ethiopian Shabbat Dinner
Friday Night, March 11 | Following Evening Services
Co-sponsored by Chassida Shmella Ethiopian Jewish Community

Operation Moses and Operation Solomon were two massive and miraculous emigrations of Ethiopian Jews to Israel in our time. Learn more about the adaptation and achievements of this last remnant of the Jewish people during this traditional Ethiopian meal, as the generations of Ethiopian Jews celebrate and share stories of their own personal miracles as productive citizens of the Jewish state. Dinner is followed by lectures and Q + A with our speakers, former MK Deputy Speaker Pnina Tamano-Shata and Professor Ephraim Isaac. To learn more and to register, go to shearithisrael.org/ethiopianshabbat.

**Jews Among Persians and Greeks:
Reading Esther in Context**
Monday, March 21 | 7:00 pm

Bet Midrash Special Guest Speaker: Professor Joseph Angel

Joseph Angel is a scholar of ancient Judaism with a focus on religion and history in the Second Temple Period. He is the author of *Otherworldly and Eschatological Priesthood in the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Studies in the Texts of the Desert of Judah 86; Leiden: Brill, 2010), which explores the imaginative depictions of angelic and messianic priestly figures in the Dead Sea Scrolls as a reflection of the religious worldview of the Qumran community and broader segments of Second Temple society. His other publications include articles on ancient Jewish magic, the Second Temple of Jerusalem, and Qumran liturgy, as well as commentaries on Second Temple period texts. He is the recipient of research fellowships from the Alexander von Humboldt and Yad Hanadiv/Beracha Foundations.

Purim Dinner
Wednesday, March 23

Following 7:30 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. Register for our Purim celebration at shearithisrael.org/purimdinner.

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For schedule and class details go to:
shearithisrael.org/content/judaic-education-and-major-lectures

Sunday

- ◇ **The Book of Kings** | Rabbi Hidary | 8:40 am
- ◇ **Saadia Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions** | Sjimon den Hollander | 9:30 am

Monday

- ◇ **Second Temple Jewish History** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:00 pm
- ◇ **Bet Midrash** | Rabbi Hidary, Phil Getz, Dr. Josh Eisen, Rabbi Ira Rohde, Meira Wokenfeld | 8:00 pm
New semester begins this week!

Tuesday

- ◇ **Rambam's Mishneh Torah** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:45 am
- ◇ **Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought- A Class for Women** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am
- ◇ **Talmud Class: Tractate Rosh Hashana and the Philosophy of Jewish Time** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 8:00 pm | *Spring semester sponsored by Gregory Bell*

Please consider sponsoring a class. Go to:
shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass

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:
Tuesday, February 9 at 11:00 am