

LAST CHANCE: "Addy & Uno"

One-time Sunday Showing with a 50% discount

THIS 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.

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](http://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.)

**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 after services. Full preparation and training provided. Newcomers welcome! For information and to participate, please contact Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde at [irohde@shearithisrael.org](mailto:irohde@shearithisrael.org).  
To sponsor the *kiddush* in the girls' honor, go to [shearithisrael.org/teen-girls-shir-hashirim-2018](http://shearithisrael.org/teen-girls-shir-hashirim-2018).



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](http://shearithisrael.org/pulpit-swap).


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](mailto:parnas@shearithisrael.org).

DEBAR TORAH: DOUBLE DOUBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE: ON THE MEANING OF MEKHASHEFAH

— BY Z. EDINGER —

Exodus 22:17 states: מְכַשֶּׁפֶּה לֹא תִחְיֶה - "You shall not suffer a sorceress to live." The root כִּשַׁף means "to practice sorcery." It is a relatively rare word appearing 13 times in Tanakh. The Torah prohibits sorcery in several places (Deut. 18: 9-14, Mal. 3:5, Mic. 5:11, Nah. 3:4, et al). Our verse, however, differs from the others in two ways; it specifies that the punishment for sorcery is death, and it singles out the sorceress by specifically using the feminine form מְכַשֶּׁפֶּה—mekhashefah. Does our verse apply specifically to the sorceress, and not to male sorcerers? Targum Onkelos translates the verse literally "The sorceress shall not live." However, the Palestinian tradition found in Targums of Pseudo-Jonathan and Neophyti refer specifically to both sorcerers and sorceresses. The Septuagint actually uses a masculine noun, Pharmakous (sorcerer/potion-maker) in its translation of mekhashefah. The Latin Vulgate renders the word Maleficos (masculine plural) meaning "evil-doers." So it was well established by the time of the Mishna and Midrashim (c. 200 CE) that mekhashefah referred both to male and female sorcerers. This is explicit in the Mekhilta d'Ribi Ishmael: מְכַשֶּׁפֶּה לֹא תִחְיֶה: אֶחָד אִישׁ וְאֶחָד אִשָּׁה. The Talmud (Sanhedrin 67a) likewise states the mekhashefah means to include both male and female sorcerers alike: תַּנּוּ רַבְנֵי מְכַשֶּׁפֶּה אֶחָד הָאִישׁ וְאֶחָד הָאִשָּׁה. But, the Talmud wonders, if so, why does the verse specify "sorceress"? מפני שרוב נשים מצויות בכשפים. Because, "most women are involved with witchcraft." The Talmud presumably means that in biblical times witchcraft was practiced mainly by women. Following the Talmud, this explanation was adopted by nearly all subsequent commentaries both medieval and modern (Rashi, Rashbam, Ibn Ezra, Shadal, Cassuto, Noth, Sarna, and many others). Some additional insight into the prevalence of sorcerers and sorceresses in biblical times can be gleaned by examining Ancient Near Eastern cognates. The root KSP (כשפ) is found in Semitic languages with the identical meaning of "sorcery" and in its various masculine, feminine, and plural forms (Akkadian: *kašapu, kašaptu, kišpu*; Ugaritic: *kšpm*). In legal texts, such as the Code of Hammurabi, Neo Babylonian Laws, and Middle Assyrian Laws—we find that prohibitions of sorcery sometimes specify only the masculine *kašapu* and other instances specify both masculine and feminine forms (*kašaptu*): Thus we find in MAL §47: "If either a man or a woman be discovered practicing witchcraft, and the charges against them are proven, they shall kill the practitioner of witchcraft." This and several similar legal texts are similar in form to that of Leviticus 20:27: A man or a woman that divineth by a ghost or a familiar spirit, shall surely be put to death. This deliberate use of both genders in the ancient legal texts is very different than what we find in other types of ancient literature—specifically, Babylonian anti-witchcraft formulas, recipes, and prayers. In these magic texts we encounter the sorceress (by herself) and far fewer instances of male sorcerers. The very first of the Maqlu tablets states: I have called upon you, gods of night...Because a sorceress has bewitched me, A deceitful woman has accused me, Caused my god and my goddess to be estranged from me; I have become [ill.] It appears then that ancient magic texts support the conclusion that in ancient times "women were particularly associated with magical practices." Whereas legal texts of the same era were written to include both male sorcerers and female sorceresses, lest anyone make a mistake in the law. Returning to our verse we are left with a question. Our verse is part of a legal text. In fact, the entire Parashat Mishpatim is famous for its close resemblance and connection to the ancient law codes mentioned earlier. As such, we would expect to find the prohibition against sorcery to specify both male and female sorcerers. Why then does the text only use the word מְכַשֶּׁפֶּה—mekhashefah? One possible explanation is that the word mekhashefah is not in fact the feminine singular form of כִּשַׁף but rather it is a collective noun referring to all who practice sorcery regardless of gender. This was suggested by the famous 11th c. grammarian Jonah ibn Jannach. Jannach believed that: "just like daggah is not the feminine of dag [fish], but a collective noun denoting fish in general. Likewise, tziyyah (wasteland) is not the feminine of tzi (fleet); dayyah, a sort of bird, is not the feminine of day, meaning enough; and hassidah (stork) is not the feminine of hassid, a person devoted to G-d. Thus, we see that although the Hebrew suffix *ah* generally denotes the feminine form, this is not always the case, as is proven by mekhashefah, the collective of witches." Ibn Jannach's suggestion helps us understand that our verse only appears to specify a female sorceress. Mekhashefah is likely a collective noun, which would render our verse "Practitioners of sorcery shall not live." This gender neutral understanding would fit well within the laws prohibiting sorcery elsewhere in the Torah and with similar Ancient Near Eastern legal texts.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Mishpatim-Shekalim

February 9-10, 2018

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 306; Haftarah: p. 992

Shekalim: p. 352

Kaplan Living Torah: p. 356; Haftarah: p. 1270

Shekalim: p. 440

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:05 pm

MINHAH & ARBIT | 5:15 pm | Main Sanctuary

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "John Lennon was Wrong: A Shabbat Reflection" | 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 | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 | Little Synagogue

TALK | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "Adam Smith and the Shekel of Fire: Judaism, Markets, and Money"

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored by Lydia & David Sarfati in memory of Lydia's father, Shelomo bar Moshe Van Moppes.

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | 4:00 pm | "The Most Surprisingly Named Holiday: A Purim Shiur" | Levy Auditorium

MINHAH & ARBIT | 5:00 pm

HABDALAH | 5:54 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

Sunday: 8:00 am

Monday-Friday: 7:15 am

Evenings:

Sunday (Minhah & Arbit—note new time): 5:15 pm

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

Rosh Hodesh Adar begins on Wednesday evening, February 14.

Central Park West at 70th Street, New York City • [www.shearithisrael.org](http://www.shearithisrael.org)



LAST CHANCE BEFORE PROCRASTINATOR PRICING

## 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 **THIS Monday, February 12**  
to avoid Procrastinator Pricing!

For registration and sponsorships, visit  
[shearithisrael.org/purimdinner5778](http://shearithisrael.org/purimdinner5778).

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](http://shearithisrael.org/megillat-esther). It's easy to learn and is a great way to participate this Purim! Contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at [lirohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lirohde-csi@yahoo.com) for more information and to get involved.

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](https://shearithisrael.org/purim-breakfast).

**Send *Mishloach Manot* to a Member**  
**ORDERING DEADLINE: THIS SUNDAY, 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](mailto:lrohde-csi@yahoo.com) or Mrs. Carla Schein at [scheinc6@gmail.com](mailto:scheinc6@gmail.com).

**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](http://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](https://shearithisrael.org/matanot).

*Mazal tov* to Justin Berger on becoming a bar mitzvah this shabbat in the Lauderdale Road Synagogue, Maida Vale, London. Justin is the son of Rabbi Jeffrey & Michie Berger.

*We are delighted to welcome* members of Congregation Rodeph Sholom, visiting from Tampa, Florida.

*We mourn* the loss of our member, **Manos Marcus**.

View all our Winter Semester classes at  
[shearithisrael.org/judaic-education](https://shearithisrael.org/judaic-education)

Sign up to be notified of any schedule changes or  
cancellations at [shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists](https://shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists).

# Passover and the American Imagination

Sunday, March 18, 2018

**Close Up View of Hebrew Inscription:**

*Proclaim Liberty Throughout All The  
Land Unto All The Inhabitants Thereof*  
Leviticus XXV:10

**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.**

**Participants will enjoy exclusive experiences all created and  
presented by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, 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***

Congregation Shearith Israel | 2 West 70th Street, New York City

Attire: Sunday Smart

**Tickets start at \$25. RSVP by March 4: [shearithisrael.org/gala2018](http://shearithisrael.org/gala2018)**