

Don't forget to sign me up!



REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Toddler Summer Camp

June 18-August 15 | Tuesdays and
Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 am

For ages 16-34 months | *Caregiver attendance required*

During our summer session, weather permitting, we enjoy outdoor time with small wading pools outside on our Portico “beach,” in addition to the beautiful Fidanque Youth Room. There is time for play, craft projects, exercises, saying *berakhot* (blessings), snack, stories, music and more.

To learn more and enroll, visit shearithisrael.org/toddler-summer-camp.

Are You a Part of Our Morning Minyan?

Morning minyan participants are treated to a “breakfast of champions” (cereal and milk and often more). Jumpstart your day by nourishing your body and soul and help make this minyan-strengthening initiative a success.

To sponsor, go to shearithisrael.org/cereal.

CHOIR SELECTIONS THIS SHABBAT

Friday Night

V'Shameru “#2” (p. 166) | Samuel Naumbourg
Psalm 23 (p. 174) | H. P. Mendes

Shabbat Morning

Yehi Hasdekha (p. 215) | Julius Mombach
Tehilat “#1” (p. 216) | Traditional
U'benuho Yomar (p. 218) | Leon Kramer

MUSINGS ON THE SACRIFICIAL TRADITION

— HAZZAN RABBI IRA ROHDE —

We Jews are not the only ancient faith still alive today which comes from a sacrificial tradition, and which keeps a sacrificial lore, and which makes apologetics for a sacrificial lore. Hindus, Muslims, and others have a sacrificial tradition. Laymen are often surprised when I mention Hinduism in this context, but at one time, Buddhists and Jains, among others, were considered heretics among Hindus because of their rejection of the traditions of the traditional Hindu Vedas, and particularly the Vedas' sacrificial tradition. Later on, Hindus stopped practicing animal sacrifice and, indeed, much meat-eating. But keeping the connection to the sacrificial tradition of a scripture was one of the ways in which orthodox Hinduism differentiated itself from the newer Buddhist doctrine. And, given other ways in which Buddhism and Buddhist missions to the Greek-speaking world from 240 B.C.E. may have influenced the formation of Christianity, I've always felt that served as a major precedent for the later Jewish/Christian split over the importance of animal sacrifice. Even the vegetarian yogi master under whose disciples I studied, Sri K. Pattabhi Jois, goes out of his way to mention that whatever one thinks or practices with regard to meat-eating or slaughter, and how little the sacrificial tradition is practiced, animal sacrifice as practiced for sacrificial purposes in scripture is not to be questioned.

And why not? Aside from the need to safeguard the tradition of the scriptures as a bulwark of orthodoxy. I think that the orthodoxies are recognizing a classic tradition which has deep, deep roots. Over and over again, there is the emphasis on the blood which must be poured out. The blood is the ancient symbol for the life force of an animal. We humans may have certain rights to eat parts of the animal's flesh. But the very term “animal” comes from the term “anima,” or soul, so that we recognize that such beings are unique in having a soul, somewhat like ours, a soul which comes from God. And if that soul comes from God, it is a soul which we humans, by definition, have no rights to. We may take the life of an animal, but we have no rights to its soul. The soul must be poured out to the God who gave it. When I went off to college, I told my parents I was becoming a vegetarian, which I remained faithfully for seven years. My mother purchased at the time for me the famous best-seller “Diet for a Small Planet,” by Frances Moore Lappe. I remember well her major argument for vegetarianism, which was that the modern food industry makes animals into “food factories.” My “primal diet” meat-eating friends of today still agree with that assessment. Now, I can defend the food industry, but although kashrut today has often not kept faith with that idea, at base there is an ancient recognition in Judaism that an animal is not merely a food factory. We cannot say to simply to the animal headed to the slaughter “Go, for that is the purpose for which you were created.” An animal's life has its own value: It is a soul from God, and God has His own purposes for that animal's existence. We must not consume its blood, for we do not own its life, although we have certain rights over its life under certain circumstances and conditions.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Tsav
March 22-23, 2019

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 409; Haftarah p. 995
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 498; Haftarah p. 1274

CANDLE LIGHTING | 6:52 pm

EVENING SERVICES | 6:30 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Soloveichik | “Why Haroset is A Health Food” | 2018-2019 season sponsored by the Julis Family.

MORNING SERVICES | Main Sanctuary | 8:15 am

TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room

YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room

JUNIOR CONGREGATION | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | “Leavened Bread: A Four-Thousand Year History”

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by the Haberman family, in memory of Eva Haberman on the occasion of her second nahala.*

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | 5:45 PM | “Hinei Mah Tob: An Unappreciated Psalm” | Levy Auditorium

EVENING SERVICES | 6:45 pm

HABDALA | 7:46 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

Sunday: 8:00 am | Monday-Friday: 7:15 am

Evenings:

Sunday-Thursday (Minha & Arbit): 6:30 pm

WOMEN AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

SHEARITH ISRAEL IS PROUD TO CO-SPONSOR TWO UNIQUE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Medicine, Halakha, and the Modern Woman

THIS Wednesday, March 27 | 7:30 pm | Women Only
Held at: Congregation Ramath Orah, 550 W110 Street
Join a discussion about common issues relating to women's health and *mikvah*, presented by Shiffy Friedman, and OB/GYN Dr. Theresa Linsner.

Top 10 Myths and Misconceptions in Keeping *Taharat Hamishpaha*

Tuesday, April 2 | 7:30 pm | Women Only

Hosted in a private home on the UWS—address provided upon RSVP
Join Shiffy Friedman for a discussion of the Top 10 Myths and Misconceptions in Keeping *Taharat Hamishpaha* (Jewish Family Purity Law), including issues of mental health and anxiety that can arise from keeping *Taharat Hamishpaha*, and how the laws of *Taharat Hamishpaha* can remain relevant for married women of all ages and stages.

To RSVP, visit tinyurl.com/misconceptions-rsvp.

Teen Girls Needed for *Shir HaShirim* Reading!

Eighth Day of Passover, Saturday, April 27

After *musaf*, 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 as soon as possible.

To sponsor the *kiddush* in the girls' honor, go to shearithisrael.org/teen-girls-shir-hashirim-2019.

Public Tours

Our next public tour is
Wednesday, April 10,
at 11:00 AM

Parnas Office Hours

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

PESAH AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

ONLY A FEW WEEKS AWAY!

Pre-Pesah Pack-A-Thon

Tuesday, April 9 | 7:00 pm | For all ages

Register at shearithisrael.org/pesah-packathon

This year, in addition to our interfaith Thanksgiving Pack-a-thon, we are organizing a Pre-Pesah Pack-a-thon in collaboration with the Jewish humanitarian organization, Chamah.

This important event will provide ample food to Jewish families who otherwise could not afford to have proper holiday meals on Pesah. **Our volunteers will be packing several hundred hearty, substantial food packages including enough meat and fish for families to enjoy throughout**

Pesah (and perhaps beyond). The packages will not be distributed through food pantries; rather, Chamah volunteers deliver the meals directly to the homes in a discreet, anonymous fashion.

The cost for this Pack-a-thon is upwards of \$30,000, so we need your donations and your participation!

Chamah has offered us a 1 to 1 matching grant so that every dollar we raise will be matched by Chamah. We have already secured generous early gifts bringing us nearly half-way toward our goal, but we still have a long way to go in a short time.

To volunteer and/or donate to this important cause, visit shearithisrael.org/pesah-packathon.

All ages are welcome—the younger children will be creating holiday cards for the packages to give them that extra human touch—so sign up your whole family!



Maot Hittim 5779

As part of experiencing freedom ourselves, we must also ensure that our fellow Jews have the means to celebrate freedom too. Your online Maot Hittim gift or check made out to the "Rabbi's Discretionary Fund" (indicate "maot hittim" in the memo) will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik right before Pesah. To donate, please go to shearithisrael.org/maot-hittim

Potter & Pesah

With the author of The Hogwarts Haggadah,
Rabbi Moshe Rosenberg

Sunday, April 7 | 5:30 pm | For ages 7 - 107

What does the most famous boy wizard in the world have in common with the Exodus story?

More than you think! Learn how to bring some magic to your *seder* with Rabbi Rosenberg's bestselling haggadah.

Rabbi Moshe Rosenberg is the spiritual leader of Congregation Etz Chaim in Kew Gardens Hills, and the author of many works about the parallels and lessons of Harry Potter and Torah, including *The Unofficial Hogwarts Haggadah*, *Morality for Muggles*, and recently, *The Unofficial Muggle Megillah*.

This event is free and open to the public, but registration is encouraged—and enters you to win a **FREE** signed copy of the *Hogwarts Haggadah*! Sign up at shearithisrael.org/potter-pesah.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hazaka u'berukha to **Matea Frieber**, who was selected to compete as a national finalist in the *Hidon HaTanakh* Bible Contest, scheduled to take place at Yeshiva University on May 5. She was ranked #1 in the qualifying exams at her school, Park East.

Mazal Tob to **Col. Jonathan de Sola Mendes**, the *Live the Mission* honoree at the 8th Annual Sephardic Academy of Manhattan masquerade gala. The gala will be held at Moise Safra Center on Monday, April 8. To attend or sponsor, visit sephardicacademy.org/gala.

Mazal Tob to **Judi & Alan Eisenman** on the birth of a granddaughter Rory Lou (חנה מלכה) born to their children Ariana and Jason Eisenman. Mazal tob as well to grandparents Joanie & Larry Weissman, the great grandparents, Aunts and Uncles Kara & Avram Zamist, Marc & Liz Guttman, Alex Weissman and Lauren and Andrew Weissman.

Condolences to **Daniel Feder**, on the passing of his father, Aaron Feder.

Update on the Touro Case

We are gratified to report that the United States Supreme Court denied Congregation Jeshuat Israel's (CJI) petition for certiorari. Hence, the prior uniformly favorable ruling of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, which held that Shearith Israel owns the Touro Synagogue and the *rimonim* is left standing, with no further opportunity for appeal. To read more, visit shearithisrael.org/press.