

Announcing a Very Special Shabbaton
Learning History. Celebrating History. MAKING History
in Washington DC and Monticello

Friday, May 5 - Sunday, May 7

Join an exclusive opportunity to make history with Rabbi Soloveichik as we conduct the first ever hashcabah (memorial service) for Rachel Phillips Levy, Shearith Israel forebear and the only Jew buried on the grounds of Monticello. This educational trip is limited to 60 donors. For details, terms, and registration go to shearithisrael.org/Monticello.

Join Our Team of Knowledgeable
Shearith Israel Tour Guides

Do you love Shearith Israel- it's history, customs, architecture, design, and objects? Consider becoming a volunteer docent and help us educate the many groups of adults and youths who visit us on tours throughout the year. To express interest and learn more about what's involved please email Sarah Gross at sgross@shearithisrael.org.

Teen Girls Shir Hashirim Reading
Saturday, April 15 | Fifth Day of Pesah

After musaf on the fifth day of Pesah, the teen girls in our synagogue, ages 12-18, are invited to 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 Yehudit Robinson at yehuditrobinson@gmail.com.

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:
Wednesday, March 8 at 11:00 am

Building a Home, Cementing a Relationship

Rabbi Ira Rohde, Hazzan

To say that this week's parasha begins anticlimactically is rather an understatement. Exodus begins with a captivating story, then signs and wonders, a miraculous escape to freedom, thunderous Divine Revelation of Laws to keep them free, and then a vision of the Divine Cloud with the Divine Glory as a fire on the top of the mountain, and Moshe going up onto that mountain for forty days and nights, and then....

The tone abruptly switches: "The Lord spoke to Moses, saying 'Speak to the Children of Israel, that they should take for me a gift... gold, silver, and bronze, blue wool, and purple, and scarlet, and ...leathers, and acacia-wood... And they shall make for me a sanctuary, that I should dwell in their midst.'" In terms of drama of the story, it certainly seems anticlimactic, a sudden return to the mundane. After that come the even more mundane details of the building plans. Perhaps the goal of having God abide with them is not so mundane, after all, but the switch in tone from storytelling and great ethical principles to reading building plans is quite jarring. Ibn Ezra tries to connect the sequence, writing: "...Spoke - When [Moses] had ascended to the top of the mountain, [God] was speaking to [Moses] on the subject of the Tabernacle, with its rationale that they should make a Sanctuary... in which He should abide, and *there* [God] would speak with Moses so [Moses] wouldn't [need to] ascend the mountain [anymore]."

But that doesn't explain the complete shift in tone, especially the switch to a listing of the detailed plans for making the Tabernacle. Sure, the making of the Tabernacle was to allow for Moses to consult with God in a more regular and less scary venue. But even if making such a venue for God and Moses to meet here on earth demanded meticulous, painstaking care, why should all that detail have been retained and recounted in our Torah?

And yet that's the way it is with all *real* stories, as opposed to romances; certainly that's the way it is with all *real* relationships. First there is great drama, liberation, and romance. But then, afterwards, the Torah is trying to teach us, it's time to get down to the brass tacks of building a home together. There must be a shift. The relationships are only "cemented" through building a common home. That home's dimensions must be planned and executed carefully, to reflect the Divine command, and the Divine Order in Nature. It must use the highest, classic-quality materials, and must follow classic, simple geometrical proportions. It is painstaking work, and gone is much of the drama and romance.

But not the poetry. The dimensions follow ideal patterns, and even the listing of them has a poetic, fairy-tale flavor. And the descriptions of the materials and incense-spices give an air of the exotic, of royalty. Perhaps that's why the plans begin with the collection of gold, silver and brass. We're supposed to gasp a little when we hear mention of the fine, exotic, royal materials collected. The home we fashion together should be no ordinary home, but a palace. The drama of the romance has turned into the aesthetic poetry of the home. A house, it's been said, is not always a home. Making a home out of it involves bringing ideals down to brass tacks, as well as painstaking, creative, and artistic labor. The alluring Princess and her Prince Charming must build a palace together. Classic dimensions, patterns, and royal roles must be followed. After all, gravity is the same everywhere, and when proper architectonic dimensions are not followed, all buildings are in danger of collapse. Only after Israel shows it can build its first Divine Home together will Israel merit to make its final home in the Promised Homeland.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Terumah

March 3-4, 2017

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 326 ; Haftarah p. 336
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 380 ; Haftarah p. 1120

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:32 pm

MINHAH | 5:30 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on the topic "Tony Blair's Parashat Terumah Question" | 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 "Lincoln's Megillah"

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

SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND PIRKEI ABOT SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic "Purim Torah: A Philosophical Analysis" | 4:25 pm | Levy Auditorium | *Spring semester is sponsored anonymously in memory of Irma Cardozo*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 5:25 pm

HABDALAH | 6:23 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings: Sunday: 8:00 AM, Monday-Friday: 7:15 AM,
Evenings (Minhah & Arbit): Sunday- Wednesday: 5:30 PM

Fast of Esther- Thursday, March 9

Fast Begins: 4:56 AM, Morning Services: 7:15 AM,
Minhah (men wear tefillin): 5:30 PM, Fast Ends: 6:18 PM
Because the fast would fall out on Shabbat, the practice is to observe the fast on the Thursday prior

PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Purim Schedule

Fast of Esther (Observed)

Thursday, March 9th

Dawn (Fast Begins)	4:56 am
Morning Service (Shahrit)	7:15 am
Minhah (men wear tefillin)	5:30 pm
Fast Ends	6:18 pm

Eve of Purim

Saturday Evening, March 11th

Shabbat Minhah	5:40 pm
Habdalah	6:32 pm *

*note updated time from bulletin

Purim/Motzaei Shabbat Arbit	7:00 pm
Children's Megillah Program	7:00 pm
Reading of Megillah	7:15 pm
Purim Dinner	For Registered Guests
Late Reading of Megillah	9:00 pm

Move Clocks One Hour Ahead Tonight!

Purim Day

Sunday, March 12th

Morning Shahrit	8:00 am
Morning Megillah Reading & Breakfast	8:30 am
Women's Megillah Reading	8:30 am
Late Morning Megillah Reading	11:00 am
Purim Day Minhah & Arbit Services	6:30 pm
End of Purim Day	7:21 pm

Purim Dinner

Saturday night, March 11

Following 7:15 pm Megillah reading

Deadline: Tuesday, March 7

Immediately following the Megillah reading, registered guests are invited to a festive meal in Levy Auditorium. In addition to a tasty dinner, guests will enjoy entertainment overseen by Rabbi Soloveichik as well as our annual children's costume parade. Childcare provided.

Register at shearithisrael.org/purimdinner by March 7th to beat the procrastinator's pricing.



CSI Youth Megillat Esther Show

Saturday night, March 11 | Arrive at 7:00 pm

Elias Room

Children are invited for a special interactive Purim show by Yeladudes.

To sponsor, go to shearithisrael.org/yeladudes.

Matanot L'Ebyonim

It is one of the core mitzvot of Purim to give charity to the poor, Matanot L'Ebyonim. Your online gift or check made out exactly to "Congregation Shearith Israel Rabbi's Discretionary Fund," (memo: "Matanot L'ebyonim") will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik on Purim to those in need.

Go to shearithisrael.org/matanot to donate.

Purim Morning Breakfast

Sunday, March 12 | Following 8:00 am services

Immediately following the 8:00 am readings of the Megillah, congregants are welcome to enjoy a festive breakfast.

Join our sponsors at shearithisrael.org/purim-breakfast.

Women's Megillah Reading

Sunday, March 12 | service begins at 8:00 am

All women are invited to attend this annual tradition.

OTHER EVENTS & INITIATIVES

Save the Date: Wine and Cheese Event

Wednesday, March 29 (note date change from bulletin)

Say "Cheese!" In the tradition of our past stand-out "educulinary" events, we are delighted to bring you a special wine and cheese pairing party. We will learn about cheese making from an expert kosher cheese maker, "the Cheese Guy." sample wine and cheese pairings carefully curated by Carmet/Yatir wineries, and enjoy relevant shiurim by our own Rabbi Soloveichik.

Stay tuned for registration information.

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For details go to: shearithisrael.org/judaic-education

Sunday

- ◊ Saadiah 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 | 7pm

Wednesday

- ◊ Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Shearith Israel: A Monthly Q & A | Z. Edinger | 7:00 pm | On select Wednesdays | Next class will be on THURSDAY, March 23 at 7pm | Email

questions to zedinger@shearithisrael.org.

Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday

- ◊ Habruta (Paired) Learning | 5:15 pm - 7:15 pm | Before and after evening services, Rabbi Chaim Yanetz and rabbinical students from YU are available in the Elias Room to study in habruta with congregants of all ages.

To sponsor a single class or an entire semester, go to 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

to select which emails you'd like to receive.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Members Bess Castagnello and her fiancé Simcha Fern to the Shearith Israel Family

Hazak U'barukh to our member, David Sable who will be the featured speaker at the 21st Shabbat Across America this Friday night, March 3rd held at Lincoln Square Synagogue.