COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) UPDATE

What Shearith Israel Is Doing

- <u>Services</u>: Midweek services have been moved to the Main Sanctuary to allow attendees to sit further apart.
- <u>Kiddush</u>: To minimize risk of transmission through food, this Shabbat, we will not be holding a congregational *kiddush* and recommend congregants make *kiddush* at home. If anyone lacks provisions to make *kiddush* at home, grape juice will be available in the Elias Room so that you may make *kiddush* individually. If you are in need of a Shabbat meal, please see our *Shamash*, Z. Edinger.
- <u>Purim</u>: As a precautionary measure, we have decided to cancel the Purim Dinner. For now, all *megillah* readings, services, and our youth Puppet Show are proceeding as scheduled. If you already registered for the dinner, we will be issuing refunds. Stay tuned for further updates.
- Our Building: Maintenance staff is taking care to frequently disinfect surfaces such as door knobs, sinks, and railings. We are keeping our soap dispensers full, and placing hand sanitizers in other areas where soap and water may not be readily available.
- <u>Bowing</u>: In lieu of extending or receiving handshakes, we encourage you to consider adopting our gracious (and hygienic) S&P tradition of bowing.
- Youth: Tot Shabbat, Jr. Congregation and Youth Groups are proceeding as scheduled for the time being. Parents should make sure their children wash their hands frequently with soap and water. Our PTTS students are having supervised hand-washing during Hebrew School in order to reinforce good hygiene habits at this critical time.

What We Ask Of You

- PLEASE DO NOT COME TO SYNAGOGUE if you show any signs of illness, including fever, coughing, stomach bug, or any other cold or flu like symptoms. Jewish law places public safety above the requirement to attend synagogue.
- If you have been exposed to people or places that are high risk for transmission, please stay home and consult with your doctor.
- Help slow the spread of infectious diseases like Coronavirus by practicing good hygiene, covering your mouth and nose, using tissues, hand-washing and using hand sanitizers when soap and water is not available, and avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Keep up to date with information from the CDC and the NYC Dept. of Health.

וְהַעֲלֵה אֲרוּכָה וּמַרְפֵּא לְכָל-תַּחְלוּאַינוּ Restore our health and grant a perfect cure unto all our illnesses.

DEBAR TORAH

—YONI REUVEN, BET MIDRASH—

What is the most important verse in the Torah? At first glance, this question seems silly and almost heretical; a basic tenet of Judaism is the equal infinite worth of every single letter in the Torah! Despite this, our sages discussed this very question. One of the verses appears in this week's *Parasha*, Parashat Tetzavveh. We are told about the various utensils and articles of clothing that were required for the *Mishkan*, which eventually lead up to the commandment of sacrificing the *Korban Tamid* – the daily offering. It is the verse, "You shall offer the one lamb in the morning, and you shall offer the other lamb at twilight" (Shemot 29:39) that Rabbi Shimon ben Pazi – in the Midrash – states is one of the central verses in the Torah.

Upon hearing this, it seems preposterous. Of all the verses in the Torah to summarize the essential teaching of the Torah, why would Rabbi Shimon choose this one? Certainly, there are seemingly more apt choices, such as that of the *Shema Yisrael* (*Debarim* 6:4) and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (*Vayikrah* 19:18), both of which are other opinions in the Midrash. The verses relating to Judaism's monotheism or the foundation of its ethics would seem to take precedence over that of the daily sacrifices. What is the reason behind Rabbi Shimon's choice?

It appears that the answer lies in the nature of the sacrifice, namely, the *Tamid* (consistent) nature. Indeed, in addition to the fundamentals of faith mentioned earlier, the notion of consistency is crucial in Judaism. Of course, any amount of effort we put in, whether consistent or not, is good and should be praised. Our goal, however, should be to continuously and consistently direct our actions toward *Avodat Hashem* (worship of God). Just as the sacrifices were burned on the *Mizbeah* every single day and every single night, so too our service of God should be done every single day and every single night. When we come across this verse, we shouldn't view it as simply another one of the various commands we have regarding sacrifices. Instead, we should view it as imparting fundamental importance to us and our daily service.

Maintenance Notice

Important repairs are currently underway near the Fidanque Room. Please pardon our appearance while we make these repairs.

Public Tours
Our next public tour is
Wednesday, March 11,
at 11:00 AM

Parnas Office Hours

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



Shabbat Tetsavveh-Zakhor

March 6-7, 2020

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 339; Haftarah p. 995 Zakhor: p. 856 Kaplan Living Torah: p. 414; Haftarah p. 1124 Zakhor: p. 988

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:35 pm

EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 5:45 pm | Main Sanctuary FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "Zakhor in Buchenwald & Patton's Third Army" | 2019-2020 Season sponsored by the Julis family.

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHRIT | 9:15 am

TORAH READING INCLUDING ZAKHOR | 9:50 am

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

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

JR. CONGREGATION WITH A TORAH READING INCLUDING ZAKHOR | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue | Following services, a male adult will read Parashat Zakhor for anyone who may have missed it earlier.

SERMON | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "Zakhor with S.Y. Agnon"

THERE IS NO KIDDUSH THIS WEEK.

If anyone lacks provisions to make kiddush at home, grape juice will be available in the Elias Room so that you may make kiddush individually. If you are in need of a Shabbat meal, please see our Shamash, Z. Edinger.

SHABBAT AFTERNOON CLASS | 4:30 pm | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "Zakhor vs. the Megillah" | Levy Auditorium
EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 5:30 pm

HABDALA | 6:27 pm

The Fast of Esther is on Monday, and Purim begins Monday night. See inside for full Purim schedule.

Remember to turn your clocks forward 1 hour on Sunday.

Weekday Service Times (See inside for full Purim schedule) Mornings: Sunday: 8:00 AM | Monday-Friday: 7:15 AM Evenings: Sunday-Thursday (Minha & Arbit): 6:30 PM

Central Park West at 70th Street, New York City • www.shearithisrael.org

Shabbat Zakhor is the Sabbath preceding Purim. At about 9 am, during the Nishmat section (p.184), we read Judah HaLevi's masterful poem "Mi Kamokha" describing the story of Purim. Each stanza concludes with a biblical verse ending with the word "lo." This long poem includes two alphabetic acrostics and the full name of the author: אני ההלי הטן ברבי שמואל הלי This Sabbath gets its name from the additional Torah reading (Deut. 25:17-19) added after the regular weekly portion. It begins with the word "Zakhor," a command to "Remember" the treacherous attack of the Amalakites in the wilderness. Haman, villain of the Purim story, is the son of Hamedatha the Aggagite, and therefore presumed to be a descendant of the Amalekite king Agag, whom we read about in this week's Haftara. One may fulfill a biblical commandment to remember the treachery of Amalek by hearing the Zakhor portion read publicly in synagogue. Please make an effort to attend. The Torah will be read at about 9:50 AM. Following services, a male adult will read Zakhor for anyone who may have missed it earlier.

SPACE IS LIMITED | SIGN UP NOW Professor Laura Leibman: The Art of the Jewish Family

An interactive crafting workshop

Tuesday, March 24 | 7:00 pm | For adults & children over 10 years old. In this very special and innovative event, each participant will be given the identity of one early American Jewish woman (many of whom were members of Shearith Israel) and then make and decorate their own commonplace book the way these women would have, with copies of historical artifacts such as poems, stories, sketches, recipes, portraits, and newspaper clippings.

Space is limited to 24 people; registration required at shearithisrael.org/leibman-workshop.

Young Families Luncheon with the Author of Angelina Ballerina
Shabbat, March 28 | Following Morning Services
For girls, boys, and their parents | featuring a guest ballerina
BONUS! EVERY FAMILY WILL RECEIVE A SIGNED COPY OF AN
ANGELINA BALLERINA BOOK

Join our young families and **Katharine Holabird**, best known for her beloved *Angelina Ballerina* book series, for a dairy Shabbat lunch and an entertaining program full of ballet facts and life lessons learned from the books.

Register or sponsor at shearithisrael.org/angelina.

Stitch & Fix Special: Embroidery with Jodie

Sunday, March 15 | 10am-12pm | For teens & tweens

Each participant will receive a starter embroidery kit to begin their individual project, under the instruction of Shearith Israel parent, Jodie Sherizen. Jodie will explain and demonstrate how to do the cross stitch. Bring your friends! **Price:** \$5 per registrant, to help defray expenses.

To register, visit shearithisrael.org/embroidery.



PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL



CSI YOUTH PRESENTS: "Esther Saves The Day!"

A Purim Puppet Show from WonderSpark Puppets
Monday Evening, March 9 | 7:00 pm | Elias Room

When the evil Haman threatens the Jews of Persia, it's up to the brave Esther and her clever uncle Mordecai to save the day in this Purim Shpiel. Show off your costumes as we watch the Purim story as you've never seen it before!

This show is for all children to enjoy while parents attend 7:15 pm megillah reading. Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult.

If you would like to sponsor this year's Purim Youth Programming, visit shearithisrael.org/wonderspark.

Don't forget to give *Matanot L'Ebyonim* in Time for Purim!

One of the mitzvot of Purim is to give charity to the poor, *Matanot L'Ebyonim*. You can easily fulfill this mitzvah through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. Donate online at **shearithisrael.org/matanot**, or send a check made out exactly to "Cong. Shearith Israel Rabbis Discretionary Fund" (in the memo, write: "Purim").

Your gifts will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik on Purim to those in need.

Women's Megillah Reading

Purim Morning, Tuesday, March 10 | 8:00 am

Join in the celebration of our women and girls on Purim morning at their a parallel Women's Megillah Reading.

Come and be inspired!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal tob to Susan & Meyer Solny on the marriage of their granddaughter.

Mazal tob to Rochelle & Eugene Major on the birth of a grandson, born to their children, Cara & Cal Major.

We mourn the loss of our member, Barbara K. Lipman.



PURIM SCHEDULE



Fast of Esther Monday, March 9

CHOIR SELECTIONS

Shabbat Zakhor utilizes two musical themes from our tradition; the first is the melody used for the poem *Mi Kamokha*; the second melody is our festive Purim tune which likely comes from Livorno, Italy and there is sung to a Purim poem called "*Akh ze Hayom Kiviti*." These melodies can be heard in the *Kaddish*, *Kedusha*, *Yigdal* and *En Kelohenu* sung this Shabbat.

Friday Evening:

Veshameru #2 (p.166) | Samuel Naumbourg
Psalm 23 (p.174) | Rev. H. P. Mendes
Yigdal (p.177) | Traditional, "Mi Kamokha" melody for Shabbat
Zakhor

Shabbat Morning:

Tehilat (p. 216) | Leon Hyman
En Kelohenu (p. 229) | Traditional Purim (Livorno /Akh ze HaYom
Kiviti)

Adon Olam (p. 232) | Salomone Rossi