COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) UPDATE

What Shearith Israel Is Doing

- **Services:** Midweek services have been moved to the Main Sanctuary to allow attendees to sit further apart.
- **Kiddush:** 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 Shannash, Z. Edinger.
- **Purim:** 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.
- **Bowling:** In lieu of extending or receiving handshakes, we encourage you to consider adopting our gracious (and hygienic) S&PS 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 at 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.

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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 Tetzaveh. 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” (Shmot 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 (Devarim 6:4) and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Vayikra 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 continuously direct our actions toward Avodat Hashem (worship of God). Just as the sacrifices were burned on the Mizbeach 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.

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**Maintenance Notice**

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

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**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.

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Shabbat Tetsavveh-Zakhor
March 6-7, 2020

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 339; Haftarah p. 995
Zakah: p. 856
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 416; Haftarah p. 1124
Zakah: 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 & Parson’s Third Army” | 2019-2020 Season sponsored by theJulis family.
ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAHIRAT | 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 Shannash, Z. Edinger.

**SHABBAT AFTERNOON CLASS** | 4:30 pm | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | “Zakhor vs. the Megillah” | Levy Auditorium
EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 5:30 pm
HARADLA | 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, Judah HaLevi, as well as the name of the author’s teacher, Rabbi Yehuda Halevi. 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 Amalekites in the wilderness. Haman, villain of the Purim story, is the son of Hamedatha the Agagite, 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 bearing 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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**Don’t forget to give**

**Matanot L’Evyonim in Time for Purim!**
One of the mitzvot of Purim is to give charity to the poor, Matanot L’Evyonim. You can easily fulfill this mitzvah through the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund. Donate online at shearithisrael.org/matnot, or send a check marked “Cong. Shearith Israel Rabbi Discretionary Fund” (in the memo, write: “Purim”).
Your gifts will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik on Purim to those in need.

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**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!

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**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mazel tov to Susan & Meyer Solny on the marriage of their granddaughter.**

**Mazel tov 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.*

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**PURIM SCHEDULE**

**Fast of Esther**
Monday, March 9
Dawn (Fast Begins)………………………………………………………………………………………………………………5:56 am
Sunrise……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………7:16 am
Morning Service (Shahrit)……………………………………………………………………………………………………7:15 am
Eye of Purim
Monday, March 9
Minha (men wear tefillin)………………………………………………………………………………………………………6:30 pm
Arbit (Evening Service)…………………………………………………………………………………………………………7:00 pm
Reading of Megillah………………………………………………………………………………………………………………7:15 pm
End of Fast……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………7:38 pm
Late Reading of Megillah………………………………………………………………………………………………………..9:00 pm

**Purim Day**
Tuesday, March 10
Shahrit Service…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………7:15 am
Morning Reading of Megillah……………………………………………………………………………………………………8:00 am
Women’s Megillah Reading………………………………………………………………………………………………………8:00 am
Late Morning Reading of Megillah………………………………………………………………………………………………11:00 am
Purim Day Minha & Arbit Services…………………………………………………………………………………………..6:30 pm
End of Day………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………7:19 pm

**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 “Abk ze Hayom Kiviti.” These melodies can be heard in the Kiddish, Kedusha, Yigdal and En Kelohenu sung this Shabbat.

**Friday Evening**
*Ve’hameru #2* (p.166) | Samuel Naumberg
Psalms 23 (p.174) | Rev. H. P. Mendes
Yigdal (p.177) | Traditional, “Mi Kamokha” melody for Shabbat Zakhor

**Shabbat Morning**
*Tzilat* (p. 216) | Leon Hyman
En Kelohenu (p. 229) | Traditional Purim (Livorno /Abk ze HaYom Kiviti)
*Adon Olam* (p. 232) | Salomone Rossi