

2019 New York Sephardic Jewish Film Festival

March 6-20

The Center for Jewish History, 15 W 16th Street

Shearith Israel is a proud co-sponsor of the 2019 New York Sephardic Jewish Film Festival. Shearith Israel members can get discounted tickets (see below).

The festival showcases films about Jewish communities in Morocco, France, Spain, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel, Syria, and Iraq.

Many films will be followed by a Q&A session with the directors as well as other guests.

Visit nysephardicfilmfestival.org to select the film(s) you'd like to see and use discount code SHEARITH.

Medicine, Halakha, and the Modern Woman

Wednesday, March 27 | 8:00 pm

Featuring our Yoetzet Halakha, Shiffy Friedman

Congregation Ramath Orah, 550 West 110th Street

Women are invited to attend a discussion about common issues relating to women's health and mikvah, presented by our Yoetzet Halakha, Shiffy Friedman, and OB/GYN Dr. Theresa Linsner.

CHOIR SELECTIONS THIS SHABBAT

Friday Night

V'Shameru (p. 166) | Leon Kramer

Psalm 23 (p. 174) | H. P. Mendes

Shabbat Morning

Yehi Hasdekha (p. 215) | Leon Kramer

Tehilat (p. 216) | Leon Hyman

En Kelohenu (p. 229) | Samuel de Sola

SMOKE FILLED ROOMS: GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE TABERNACLE, TEMPLE, & SYNAGOGUE — Z. EDINGER —

In this week's *parasha*, Moses finally completes the work on the *Mishkan* and we read: "Then the Cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the Glory of the LORD filled the Tabernacle" (Ex. 40:34).

God's presence within the *Mishkan* is made manifest by the appearance of a cloud. God frequently appears to the People of Israel from within a cloud. God leads the people out of Egypt and through the wilderness by a pillar of cloud (Ex. 13:21, etc.), God reveals Himself at Mount Sinai in a cloud (Ex. 19:9, 16) and even before the *mishkan* was built, Moses consults with God at the Tent of Meeting (*Ohel Mo'ed*) in the presence of a cloud (Ex. 33:9).

At the dedication of Solomon's Temple, God's presence is again indicated by the appearance of a cloud. I Kings 8:10-11: *When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD... for the glory of the LORD filled his temple*

The precise function of this cloud is not perfectly clear. Perhaps it was present to give a visual indication of God's presence, or perhaps it was there to protect the people from seeing the Glory of God, since one could not see God and live (Exodus 33:20).

Protecting one from seeing God's presence may also have been one of the functions of the *Ketoret* (Incense) which was not burned on the outdoor Altar where all other sacrifices were brought, but rather inside the Holy part of the sanctuary, in front of the Tent of Meeting (Ex. 30:35), precisely in the same place where the Cloud appeared when Moses spoke to God.

Clearly, the pillar of cloud was an indication of God's presence. The Tabernacle and later the Temple served two distinct but related functions. (1) It was the place where Moses or Aaron could consult directly with God (or where the High Priest could use the oracle of the *Urim v'Tumim*). And (2) it also served as the location for cultic service of God, where the priests could bring daily sacrifices and atone for the sins of the People.

At the dedication of the first temple, despite the presence of a cloud making God's presence manifest, Solomon asks "But will God really dwell on earth? Even the heavens cannot contain You, how much less this House that I have built!" (I Kings 8:27). When the Temple was later destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 587 BCE, God's presence ceased to reside in the Temple (Ezekiel 10).

Instead of the Temple being filled with the Cloud of the Lord, it became the place where God's *name* dwelt, but not God Himself (Ezra 6:12). Worship of the Lord continued and the sacrificial order was restored, but the Second Temple was not the location of God's *Shekhina*, and the oracular functions of the Tabernacle could no longer take place (Yoma 21b). Nevertheless, The Talmud relates that the light of the perpetual lamp inside the Holy part of the Sanctuary, was evidence that the *Shekhina* still resided among Israel (Shabbat 22b).

For more than 2000 years we have not been able to worship in the Temple nor witness the smoke rising from the Holy of Holies. But God's presence is still with us. According to the Rabbis, the *Shekhina* followed Israel into exile (Megillah 29a) and is present wherever a *minyan* gathers (Avot 3:7; Sanhedrin 39a).

Without the visual manifestation of the pillar of smoke, we may find it difficult to recognize God's presence. This is precisely why we recite the *Kedushah* so centrally in our prayers: "Holy, Holy, Holy; God's Glory fills the entire earth"; "Blessed is God's Glory in its Place"; "The Lord shall reign forever, through all generations." God's presence is still with us, it can be found wherever we gather to praise Him. We do not need a pillar of smoke to know he is near.



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CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Pekude

March 8-9, 2019

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 385; Haftarah p. 382
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 480; Haftarah p. 1134

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:37 pm

EVENING SERVICES | 5:45 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Soloveichik | "The Least Celebrated Rabbi in the Talmud" | 2018-2019 season sponsored by the Julis Family.

MORNING SERVICES | Main Sanctuary | 8:15 am

This week's *parasha* concludes the book of Exodus. Following the conclusion of the last word of the reading – the congregation says:

חֵזֶק וְנִתְחַזֵּק - חֵזְקוּ וַיִּצְמַח לְבַבְכֶּם כָּל הַמִּיחָלִים לָהּ

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

LECTURE | Rabbi Soloveichik | "Purim Under the Inquisition"

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | 4:30 PM | "Putting Melekh into the Megillah" | Levy Auditorium

EVENING SERVICES | 5:30 pm

HABDALA | 6:29 pm

Daylight Savings time begins at 2:00 am on Sunday. Remember to turn your clocks forward an hour on Saturday night!

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

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

Evenings:

Sunday-Thursday (Minha & Arvit): 6:30 pm (note new time)

PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

DEADLINE: THIS THURSDAY, MARCH 14

Purim Dinner

Featuring an extraordinary conversation between Rabbi Soloveichik and special guest, William Mehrvarz
Wednesday, March 20 | Following *Megillah* Reading
For Registered Guests

This year, we're honored to have William Mehrvarz as our guest. William's story is truly remarkable: despite being raised as a Muslim in Tehran, William felt drawn to Judaism, so much so that he lived as a Jew in secret for years, risking his life for his faith. He finally escaped Iran, converted to Judaism, and now attends Yeshiva University. To register or sponsor, visit shearithisrael.org/purimdinner5779.

CSI Youth Presents: Megillat Esther Puppet Show

Wednesday, March 20 | Arrive at 7:00 pm for 7:15 showtime

We welcome back The Talking Hands Theatre puppet show during the reading of the *Megillah* this year! All children are invited for an interactive Purim puppet show featuring big, colorful, Carnivale-inspired puppets. The audience is invited to sing, dance, learn a Middle Eastern rhythm, play "Haman Says," and get to know the characters of the Purim story. Children under 2 must be accompanied by their own caregiver.

If you would like to sponsor our Purim youth festivities, visit shearithisrael.org/purim-youth.

Annual Purim Breakfast

Thursday, March 21 | Following *megillah* readings

Every year we treat our congregation to a festive Purim Breakfast, following the readings of the *megillah* on Purim morning. To help ensure that we have plenty of hamentashen to go around, visit shearithisrael.org/purim-breakfast.

Don't Forget to Give *Matanot La'Ebyonim*

It is one of the *mitzvot* of Purim to give charity to the poor. Go to shearithisrael.org/matanot to donate.

Pre-Purim Lecture

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

THIS Tuesday, March 12 | 7:00 pm (after 6:30 pm services)

"The Triumph of Mordecai:
A Tale of Art, Torah, and Jewish History"

To sponsor, visit shearithisrael.org/purim-lecture.

"The Simpsons" and Other Jewish Families

With *The Simpsons* Writer, Mike Reiss

THIS Monday, March 11 | 7:00 pm

Free and open to the public

Mike Reiss has won four Emmys and a Peabody Award during his thirty years writing for "The Simpsons." In this fun-filled presentation, illustrated with rare cartoon clips, Reiss talks about Jewish themes in the show: Jewish writers, actors, guest stars, and Jewish-themed episodes. Reiss also explains how he somehow wound up writing seven Christmas books, two Christmas specials, and jokes for Pope Francis... really! Bring your copy of Mike's book to this event and get it signed by the author!

The event is free, but registration is encouraged at shearithisrael.org/mikereiss.



Judaica Appraisal Day

With Jonathan Greenstein, *Judaica Expert*

Sunday, March 10 | 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

Presented by The Sisterhood of the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue with contributions from the Shearith Israel League

Jonathan Greenstein will enlighten us about the field of antique Judaica. Some of Shearith Israel's treasured objects will also be highlighted. Mr. Greenstein will then evaluate and discuss pieces brought by the attendees at this event (our own kind of "Antiques Road Show"). So bring your menorahs, *kiddush* cups, spice boxes, *etrog* cases, or any other Judaica articles of interest you may want to share.

\$18.00 pre-registered or \$25.00 at the door

\$100 Sponsor (includes 2 tickets and a listing)

To register, visit shearithisrael.org/judaica.

Final Rehearsal for Women's *Megillah* Reading

THIS Sunday, March 10 | 7:00 pm

Any woman or girl who has passed their 12th birthday is eligible to participate in this beautiful Shearith Israel tradition!. Assignments can be as short as 3 verses, and audio is available on the synagogue website to study on the go, so don't be afraid to give it a try.

Anyone who wants to participate should contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com as soon as possible for an assignment.

Brunch & Learn with Rabbi Soloveichik

For Elementary School Aged Children & Their Parents

Final Session of the School Year: THIS Sunday, March 10 at 10:30 am

On several Sundays over the course of the year, children and their parents start the day together with morning services after which they will proceed to a topical "Brunch and Learn" with Rabbi Soloveichik.

Register at shearithisrael.org/brunch-learn.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome new members Renee & Avram Schreiber to our growing Shearith Israel family.

Mazal Tob to Lily Freilich upon becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Congratulations to her parents, Helen & Elliot Freilich, and to her grandmother, Estelle Freilich, and the entire Freilich family.

Mazal Tob to Gillian & Simon Salama-Caro upon the birth of a granddaughter, Ella Sara Lily, to their son and daughter-in-law Paul and Emilie.

Mazal Tob to Adele & Ronald Tauber, upon the birth of a baby boy to their children Sarah and Michael Tauber.

We welcome visitors from The Shul of NY, who are joining us for Friday Night Services this Shabbat.

Condolences to Gabriel Goldstein, on the passing of his mother, Reta Goldstein.

Public Tours

Our next public tour is this Wednesday, March 13, at 11:00 AM

Parnas Office Hours

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