

## בצאתי ממצרים — OUT OF EGYPT: Celebrating Egyptian Jewish Heritage at Shearith Israel

Wednesday, May 8 | 7:00 pm

Please join us for an evening celebrating Egyptian Jewish Heritage at Shearith Israel. This very special event will take place on the eve of Yom HaAtzmaut — itself a seminal moment that changed the lives of the Jews of Egypt.

Moderated by Rabbi Soloveichik, the program will feature presentations by noted author, **Andre Aciman**, personal reminiscences from **Emy Cohenca** and her family, plus short presentations by our panelists **Lucienne Carasso Bulow**, **Professor Arnold Franklin**, **Rabbi Albert Gabbai**, and **Jeffrey Mosseri**. The evening will also include light traditional refreshments and an exhibit about Jewish life in Egypt, curated by our partner, the **American Sephardi Federation**, featuring photographs and artifacts loaned for the occasion by members of Shearith Israel. A special commemorative booklet highlighting family histories and photographs of Jewish life in Egypt will be distributed to all pre-registered attendees.



Register at  
[shearithisrael.org/egypt-heritage](http://shearithisrael.org/egypt-heritage).

*This program is one of our many Year of Years, 365th Anniversary events, showcasing the extraordinary diversity of our congregation and community.*

## CHOIR SELECTIONS THIS SHABBAT Friday Night

*V'Shameru* “#2” (p. 166) | Samuel Naumbourg  
*Psalms* 23 (p. 174) | Leon Kramer

### Shabbat Morning

*Yehi Hasdekha* “#3” (p. 215) | Leon Kramer  
*Tehilat* “#6” (p. 216) | Traditional  
*U'benuho Yomar* (p. 218) | Leon Hyman  
*Adon Olam* (p. 232) | Samuel de Sola

## THE PRIEST'S DIRECTION

— HAZZAN RABBI IRA ROHDE —

*“This is the direction concerning the beast and the fowl and all the living animal which swarms in the water, and for every animal which crawls upon the earth, to distinguish between the defiled and the pure, and between the animal which is eaten and an animal which may not be eaten”* (Lev. 11:46-47). *“This shall be the direction [concerning] the leper on the day of his purification; he shall be brought to the priest”* (Lev. 14:2). *“This is the direction [concerning] purification of one whose hand doesn't obtain, in whom there is a leprous lesion”* (Lev. 14:32).

The prominence, as the eighth word of Parashat Metzora, of a form of our word “Torah,” which I translated above as “direction,” gave me pause to meditate once more on the meaning of this very important word. As Eskimos are reported to have several terms for snow, we Jews have a bunch of words for “Law,” and none of them is as prominent and common yet elusive to define as our word **תורה**. According to the best Biblical etymologists, the word derives or shares a stem with the Biblical verb **ירה**, meaning to “shoot,” commonly with arrows as the object, but also used for rocks or other missiles. Our word **תורה** derives from a particular sense of the causative “Hif'il” verb-form, meaning to aim, point, or “direct” the arrow, and in that way cause the arrow to be shot. “Shooting” always involves intentional directing, as opposed to just throwing or tossing. So our word **תורה**, usually translated as “instruction,” might more literally be translated as “direction.” And the causative verb-form itself, usually translated as “instruct,” is actually used in giving place “direction,” or pointing the direction, as in Gen. 46:28 *“to point the direction to Goshen.”*

So in our Parasha, more than meaning “Law,” our term **תורה** is telling us the “directions” to be followed regarding the leper and his affliction. The priest has to “point out” with his hands and differentiate the particular lesion which is defiled and that which can be considered for purification, and then the priest must give directions and direct the purification process. More than just stating a “law,” the section dealing with unclean animals earlier in Parashat Shemini (which immediately precedes the laws of leprosy) imply a “pointing out” or pointing to different types of animals. One late-date but common use of these terms which has always intrigued me is R. Jacob b. Asher's entitling of one quarter of his great law-code **יורה דעה**—Instructing Knowledge.” R. Jacob b. Asher's plan of organization intentionally tried to be less philosophical and more biblical. Commonly, Ashkenazi and Sephardic rabbinical students who focus on this section are taught that the category of laws included are the guidelines for **איסור והיתר**—permissibility and impermissibility. But the sense of the term even here is a bit wider, more vague, and deliberately so: These are areas of law in which general ethical rules alone can't teach: Things have to be “pointed out” and “directed,” and much more concrete, specific types of rulings have to be given and followed. That's why these particular matters are dealt with here in Leviticus: They require a human leader like a priest to point out and issue “directions,” it seems, with his very hands. And just like directing the shooting of arrow causes us to reach our goal, when our arrow misses, it is because we have “misdirected” or “sinned.” But these cannot simply be general laws and instructions. It is precisely that “human” touch, that somewhat-vague sense of pointing “directions” and instructing with the very human hand, which our term “Torah” aims to preserve.



• 5414 • 5779 •

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
Year of Years Celebration

## CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

### Shabbat Metsora-HaGadol

*Consecration Shabbat—2nd Mill Street Synagogue*

*April 12-13, 2019*

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 470; Haftarah p. 1005  
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 568; Haftarah p. 1288

CANDLE LIGHTING | 7:14 pm

EVENING SERVICES | 6:30 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS: 5779 FINALE | Rabbi Soloveichik | “The Remarkable Insights of the Prague Haggadah” | *Sponsored this week by Carol & Alan Schechter, in memory of Carol's father, Matityahu b. Koppel on the occasion of his nahala. 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 WITH TORAH READING | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

SHABBAT HAGADOL DERASHA | Rabbi Soloveichik  
“Jews, Humanity, and the Secrets of the Sarajevo Haggadah”  
*Sponsored by Debbie and David Sable in memory of Debbie's father, Ambassador Yehuda Avner, on the occasion of his nahala.*

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Doina & Dr. Lawrence Bryskin in memory of Doina's mother, Hermina Levi, on the occasion of her nahala, and in honor of Rabbi Meir Soloveichik.*

SHABBAT AFTERNOON PRE-PESAH SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | 6:10 PM |

“Another Pesah With Maimonides” | Levy Auditorium

EVENING SERVICES | 7:10 pm

HABDALA | 8:10 pm

### Weekday Service Times

#### Mornings:

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

#### Evenings:

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

## PREPARE FOR PESAH

### PESAH KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Don't let Pesah keep you from sponsoring a *kiddush*!

- Each of the first and last days of the holiday will be accompanied by a *kiddush*, and sponsors are always welcome. Go to [shearithisrael.org/kiddushfund](http://shearithisrael.org/kiddushfund) to contribute.
- On the last day of Pesah, our congregation's teen girls will be reading *Shir HaShirim*, with a *kiddush* in their honor. To sponsor or contribute to this *kiddush* in support of our teen girls and their continuing involvement in our community, visit [shearithisrael.org/teen-girls-shir-hashirim-2019](http://shearithisrael.org/teen-girls-shir-hashirim-2019).

### CSI YOUTH DOUBLE HEADER! Mitzvot Workshop with Shamash, Z. Edinger & Matzah Baking

For Children Aged 5-12 | THIS Sunday, April 14 | 10:00 am  
In this last workshop of the year, Z. will prepare our children for the special Shearith Israel Pesah traditions.

Following this Pesah Workshop, we will have our annual hands-on matzah baking workshop! Make sure to sign up so we can have the appropriate amount of supplies.

Sign up for both free activities at  
[shearithisrael.org/mitzvot-workshop](http://shearithisrael.org/mitzvot-workshop).

### Selling Hametz & Maot Hittim

Rabbi Soloveichik will be selling our community's *hametz* before Pesah. You can authorize him to sell *hametz* on your behalf using our convenient online form until April 18.

Visit [shearithisrael.org/pesah5779](http://shearithisrael.org/pesah5779) for more details.

While you're there, take the time to think of those less fortunate and fulfill the mitzvah of Maot Hittim by donating through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. You can submit online or by check made out exactly to "Congregation Shearith Israel Rabbi's Discretionary Fund" (indicate "maot hittim" in the memo). To donate, please go to [shearithisrael.org/pesah5779](http://shearithisrael.org/pesah5779).

### Shabbat HaGadol—Consecration Shabbat

Shabbat HaGadol, the "The Great Sabbath," is the designation used for the Sabbath preceding Passover. The *Haftarah*, taken from Malachi, includes the verse: "*Behold, I send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.*" Shabbat HaGadol is traditionally an occasion for a "great" sage to exhort the congregation concerning the upcoming Passover holiday.

At Shearith Israel, Shabbat HaGadol is the anniversary of the consecration of the 2nd Mill St. Synagogue Building, which was completed and dedicated just in time for Passover 1818. We commemorate the consecration of our synagogues with a semi-festive service. The Ark is open during much of the service and the Torah scrolls are dressed in festive colors. The beautiful poem *Todot El* (p. 342) is sung before *Nishmat*, and special blessings and memorial prayers are recited before the reading of the Torah.

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Chatham Square Cemetery Memorial Event Honoring the Patriotic Service rendered by our Members Sunday, May 19 | 10:30 am

Chatham Square Cemetery | 55 St James Place

Please join us for our annual Memorial Service to honor the patriotic service rendered by the members of our congregation and to decorate the graves of 19 veterans of the American Revolution. This year's ceremony includes special presentations by Colonel Jonathan de Sola Mendes, USMC, Retired, and by Lieutenant Arthur Goldberg, USN, Retired. This truly special ceremony features the participation of a color guard and field music and is both enjoyable and moving. All attendees this year will receive a special commemorative booklet which will include a newly updated Congregational Honor Roll.

If you are a current or former member of Shearith Israel who has served in the military or in any of the uniformed services of the United States, please let us know at [shearithisrael.org/chatham-memorial-2019](http://shearithisrael.org/chatham-memorial-2019).

The booklet will also contain a special *Veterans Tribute List* to honor the military service of family and friends who are or were not members of our congregation. If you would like to add a listing in honor or in memory of a veteran, visit [shearithisrael.org/chatham-memorial-2019](http://shearithisrael.org/chatham-memorial-2019).

Suggested donation is \$18 per name.

*This program is one of our many Year of Years, 365th Anniversary events, showcasing the extraordinary historical roots and uniquely American history of our congregation and community.*



### IMPORTANT PRE-PESAH TIMES

- **Bedikat Hametz**—Thursday Evening, April 18, after sunset, 7:38 pm
- **Fast of First Born**—begins Friday Morning, April 19, 4:44 am  
Shahrit & *siyyum* at 7:15 am
- **Stop eating hametz**—Friday, April 19, by 10:41 am
- **Dispose of any remaining hametz**—Friday, April 19, by 11:48 am
- **Candle Lighting**—Friday, April 19, 7:21 pm

### FROM THE SISTERHOOD

#### Kindertransport: Rescuing Children on the Brink of War *A private tour and luncheon with remarks from survivor,* *Anne Kelemen*

The Center For Jewish History | 15 W 16th Street  
Sunday, May 12 | 11:30 am

Join the Sisterhood for a multigenerational tour of the Yeshiva University Museum/Leo Baeck Institute exhibit that tells the story through narrative, artifacts, and multimedia of the Kindertransport - the rescue of thousands of Jewish children from the clutches of Nazi Germany to the relative safety of Great Britain.

In addition to an exclusive tour, we will be joined by Anne Kelemen, who left Vienna on the Kindertransport at the age of 14. She will speak to our group to tell her remarkable and moving story at a private luncheon after the tour.

To register, visit [shearithisrael.org/kindertransport](http://shearithisrael.org/kindertransport).

### FROM THE HEBRA HASED VA'AMET

Cemetery Cleanup Day  
Sunday, May 5 | 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
Chatham Square Cemetery, 55 St. James Place

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Mazal tob* to Debbie & David Sable, on the birth of a granddaughter to Elianna and Yoel Kaye. She will be named this Shabbat. Mazal tob as well to the big sister, Goldy Elissa.

*Mazal Tob* to Judy & Joel Schreiber, on the birth of a great-granddaughter to their grandchildren, Jordan and Kyra Schreiber.

*Condolences* to Mindy Lamm, on the passing of her sister, Gloria Mehler.

Public Tours  
Our next public tour is  
this Wednesday, May 8,  
at 11:00 AM

Parnas Office Hours  
Louis Solomon would be delighted to  
meet with you. Please schedule a visit at  
[parnas@shearithisrael.org](mailto:parnas@shearithisrael.org).