

Security Update in the Aftermath of Poway

In light of another violent attack on a synagogue, we wish to reassure you that Shearith Israel is committed to ensuring the safety of worshippers during services and visitors to our building.

Our synagogue has professional armed security present on Shabbat and Holidays and there is always someone at the door whenever the building is open. We are in regular contact with the head of our contracted security firm and have reviewed and strengthened our policies. We recently met with the head of NYPD's Clergy Outreach Unit and developed and trained our staff on security and emergency response procedures. We continue to review and enforce our procedures to ensure high levels of security and best practices for the safety of our congregants, guests, and visitors.

We are working on improving our physical infrastructure. Just a few years ago we were awarded a homeland security grant that enabled us to install new surveillance equipment and to train our staff on active shooters and other high risk situations. We have now been awarded a grant that will harden our entrances and enable lockdowns. This will take time but is already in progress.

With our fellow Jews from around the world, we mourn the horrific murder of Lori Gilbert Kaye, *Hashem yikom damah*, and pray for the Chabad of Poway community, and for a *refuah shelemah* for all those injured in the attack.

ה' יקום דמם ומן השמים תנוחמו

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Rabbi Nemitoff's confirmation class of B'nai Jehudah, of Overland Park, KS.

Mazal tob to Lynn Summers & Roger Mesznik, on the birth of a grandson, Rafael Gil Mesznik, to their children, Dr. Elizabeth Heller & Adriel Mesznik.

Our *Yoetzet Halakha*, Shiffy Friedman, will be joining us for Morning Services on Shabbat, and looks forward to getting to know our community at *kiddush*.

CHOIR SELECTIONS THIS SHABBAT

Friday Night

V'Shameru “#1” (p. 166) | Samuel Naumbourg

Psalms 23 (p. 174) | Rev. H.P. Mendes

Shabbat Morning

Misheberakh (p. 208) | Leon Kramer

Yehi Hasdekha (p. 215) | Leon Kramer

Tehilat (p. 216) | Jonathan Koch

Ubnuho Yomar (p. 218) | Leon Hyman

AHARE MOT: THE HEBRA HASED VA'AMET

— Z. EDINGER —

Chapter 16 of Leviticus begins by reminding us of the deaths of Nadab and Abihu, two of Aaron's sons who were killed after bringing an unsolicited sacrifice in the Tabernacle (back in chapter 10). It is a strange way to start our *parasha* which deals mainly with the rituals of *Yom Kippur*. The opening verses can be understood in a number of ways. One interpretation is that after the deaths of his sons, Aaron was anxious about having to serve inside the Tabernacle. Therefore, he is now given very precise instructions on how to avoid the same fate that befell Nadab and Abihu. In this way Aaron is able to resume his duties as High Priest.

The opening of this week's *parasha* gives us an opportunity to revisit the story of the deaths of Nadab and Abihu. Moses instructs two of Aaron's cousins, Mishael and Elzaphan to remove the bodies from the Tabernacle to a place outside the camp (and presumably to bury them.) They are instructed to handle the corpses by carrying them in their tunics. The great Rabbi Akiba posited that it was Mishael and Elzaphan who later inquired of Moses what they could do regarding the Paschal sacrifice which they missed on account of being impure from having handled a corpse (Numbers 9:6). Their inquiry was made out of an earnest desire to bring the Paschal sacrifice, and for this they are given a special remedy enabling them to bring the sacrifice a month later on “*pesah sheni*.”

It is fitting then, that on this week of *Aharei Mot*, immediately following Passover, we have an opportunity to recognize the holy work of the *Hebra Hased Va'Amet*, our congregation's burial society, sponsors of this week's kiddush. Like Mishael and Elzaphan, the *Hebra Kadisha*, or Holy Society, are intimately involved in the preparation of the deceased for burial and related tasks. In our community these tasks are performed by the *Hebra Hased Va'Amet* - literally *the Society of Faithful Kindness* (a name that reflects the words used by Jacob when he asked Joseph to make arrangements for his burial in the Land of Israel - Genesis 47:29).

The work performed by the burial society can be difficult, unsettling, and inconvenient. Nevertheless, the men and women who perform the *tahara* provide a dignified service to those who are no longer living. They do so with devotion and respect and without expectation of reward or recognition.

Beyond the holy tasks associated with *tahara* the Hebra also provides the Meal of Consolation (*Seudat Havra'ah*) served to mourners upon return from the cemetery, and it helps arrange for meals or other needs of the family during the week of *Shiva'h*.

With dignity and quietness, the Hebra also helps pay for the burial of the indigent. Burial fees cost many thousands of dollars and can quickly become a significant burden on families in grief who do not know how they will be able to afford to bury their loved one. In these cases, the Hebra ensures that everyone in our community will be able to have a dignified burial.

The Hebra also helps the congregation in a myriad of smaller ways; by sponsoring communal events and ceremonies at Beth Olam and at our historic cemeteries, by supporting the upkeep, maintenance, and repair of the cemeteries, and by helping sponsor a variety of events at the synagogue.

The Hebra was founded in 1802 and is the oldest extant Jewish philanthropic organization in New York today. It is still active and completely led by volunteers. On this Shabbat *Aharei Mot*, let us recognize the contributions of the *Hebra Hased Va'Amet* to our community.



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CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Ahare Mot

May 3-4, 2019

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 480; Haftarah p. 948
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 584; Haftarah p. 1262

CANDLE LIGHTING | 7:36 pm

EVENING SERVICES | 6:45 pm

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 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

SERMON | Rabbi Soloveichik | “Of Memory and Meaning: Yom Hazikaron and Yom HaAtzmaut”

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by the Hebra Hased Va'Amet, and by Naftali and Zoya Raynes Friedman, in honor of Avi Friedman for reading his first Haftarah (thank you to Rabbi Rohde for teaching him so diligently & to Z for his encouragement), and also in honor of Samuel who will be chanting Kol Yisrael in the large synagogue for the first time.*

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | 6:30 PM | “Moses, Sinai, and the Purpose of Pirkei Abot” | Levy Auditorium

EVENING SERVICES | 7:30 pm

HABDALA | 8:35 pm

Rosh Hodesh Iyar is on Sunday and Monday. Yom HaAtzmaut is on Thursday.

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

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

Evenings:

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

Churchill: Walking With Destiny

A Conversation between

Rabbi Meir Solovichik and Andrew Roberts

THIS Monday, May 6 | 8:00 pm

Co-sponsored by YU's Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought

To RSVP and to sponsor, shearithisrael.org/churchill.

DEADLINE: THIS TUESDAY, MAY 7

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 | Space is limited; register now!

Join the Sisterhood for a multigenerational tour of the Yeshiva University Museum/Leo Baeck Institute exhibit that tells the story the Kindertransport—the rescue of thousands of Jewish children from the Nazi Germany to the relative safety of Great Britain.

Anne Kelemen, who left Vienna on the Kindertransport at the age of 14, will speak to our group at a private luncheon after the tour.

To register, visit shearithisrael.org/kindertransport.

בצאתי ממצרים — OUT OF EGYPT:

Celebrating Egyptian Jewish Heritage at Shearith Israel

Wednesday, May 8 | 7:00 pm

Moderated by Rabbi Soloveichik, this 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.

Register at 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.

AN IMPORTANT CARING CONNECTION PROGRAM

SMASH THE STIGMA:

A Jewish Communal Conversation on

Suicide and Depression

Tuesday, May 14 | 7:00 pm

In addition to **Rabbi Simkha Weintraub, LCSW**, who will address clinical signs and resources, we have two exceptional panelists, **Shanee Markovitz** and **Ruth Roth**, who will candidly share their first-hand encounters with suicide, and how they turned their personal tragedies into activism. Moderated by **Nathan Romano**, the president of NAMI: National Alliance on Mental Illness.

To register and/or to support our *Caring Connection*, visit shearithisrael.org/awareness.

Host Committee: Dr. Victoria Bengualid, Zoya Raynes, Suzanne Stern

Community Partners: Ansche Chesed, B'Bayit, B'nai Jeshurun, Darkhei Noam, Drisha, Jewish Center, Manhattan Day School, Ramath Oran, Rodeph Sholom, West Side Institutional Synagogue



Don't Forget to Count Sefirat ha'Omer!

Shearith Israel has two "Omer Boards" which pre-date the Mill Street Synagogue of 1730. They are used in the synagogue to count the seven weeks between Passover and *Shabuot*. This is based on Leviticus 23:15, which instructs us to count 50 days from the offering of the new barley sacrifice on Passover until the holiday of *Shabuot* when the new wheat was offered. The measurement of the offering was called an "Omer," and from this unit of measurement comes the name used for this seven-week period. The letters H, S, D found on the boards stand for the *Homer* (H is an archaic way of transliterating the Hebrew letter 'ayin), S for *Semana* (weeks), and *Dia* (days). The boards have been used annually for nearly 300 hundred years.

Calling Girls for The Book of Ruth

On the First Day of Shabuot, the girls of our synagogue (through college age) recite the Book of Ruth for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. If your daughter would like to participate, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde (lrohde-csi@yahoo.com).

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.

Class Schedule Alerts

- Rabbi Silber's final Sunday class of the semester will take place **this Sunday, May 5, at 10:00 am**.
- Rabbi den Hollander's Sunday class will **not** meet this Sunday.

A HEBRA HASED VA'AMET ACTIVITY

Cemetery Cleanup Day

THIS Sunday, May 5 | 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Chatham Square Cemetery, 55 St. James Place

Help us remove weeds and other dead plant material, trim bushes, add gravel, and clear the walkway, etc. Dress for the mess; we supply the rest.

Register at shearithisrael.org/cleanup.

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 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 commemorative booklet which will include a newly updated Congregational Honor Roll.**



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.

Shearith Israel is a proud co-sponsor of

UWS Celebrates Israel

THIS Sunday, May 5 | B'nai Jeshurun | 257 W 88th St

11:00 am-6:00 pm | Tickets: jccmanhattan.org/uwsisrael

A day of celebration in honor of Israel's Independence Day! In the event of forecasted rain, activities (including Israeli dancing, an IDF obstacle course, food, kids' theater, crafts, and a live Eurovision show), will be indoors. Keynote address by Congressman Jerrold Nadler, tech talk, wine-tasting, Israeli fashion show & culinary demos, urban beit midrash, and more!

Thursday Evening, May 9 | 5:00 pm

Riverside Park at 105th St | Tickets: jccmanhattan.org/uwsisrael
Community Party by the Shore! Hudson River becomes the Tel Aviv Tayelet. Come at 5 pm for kids' activities, or join at 6:30 pm for an afterwork celebration.