



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Ahare Moth
May 6 - 7, 2016

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

CANDLE LIGHTING | 7:40 pm
MINHAH | 6:45 pm

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a sermon on the topic “Fellow Travelers: A Tale of American Soldiers and a Jewish Businessman at an Irish Airport”
TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Fidanque Office
YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Children’s Library
JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue
CONGREGATIONAL KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Elias Room | Invited guests in Levy Auditorium following B’nai Mitzvah Program | *Sponsored by Liz Edelman and Henry Lipschutz in honor of Jesse & Raphael becoming b’nai mitzvah*

TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY | Rabbi Hidary | 6:35 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidary home, 1 W 85th St Apt. 6A

SPECIAL SHABBAT AFTERNOON LECTURE DURING WEEK OF YOM HASHOA | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic “The Jewish Gravestones of Holland and the Extraordinary Story They Tell” | promptly at 6:35 pm (NOT 6:45 as previously listed) | *Co-sponsored by the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands with promotional support by the Anne Frank Center and the New Amsterdam History Center*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 7:35 pm
KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary
HABDALAH | 8:39pm

Weekday Service Times

Morning: Sunday: 8:00 AM; Mon-Fri.: 7:15 AM
Evenings: Sunday – Thursday: 6:30 PM (Minhah & Arbit)

Crime, Punishment, and Reputation
Rabbi Richard Hidary

“Hashem spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron who died when they drew close to the presence of Hashem” (Leviticus 16:1).

The parasha opens with a reference to the death of two of Aharon’s sons, Nadav and Avihu, on the day of the consecration of the Mishkan. The verse includes just one detail, “they drew close to the presence of Hashem,” which prompts us to wonder what crime they committed that was so terrible to deserve immediate capital punishment. The story presented back in Leviticus 10 provides only slight help in describing their incense offerings as an improper “foreign fire.” Commentators ever since have struggled to reconstruct the details of this cryptically concise narrative.

Interestingly, there are two echoes of this story in the Prophets that may help shed light on this story. The first is about Eli the Priest at the Mishkan in Shilo who also has two sons who served in the Mishkan but performed the most horrific sins. They would forcibly grab from worshipers to come to the Mishkan any part of their animal sacrifice they wanted, even prohibited parts and even before parts of it were offered on the altar. They also would sleep with women who congregated in front of the Mishkan, probably widows and poor people asking for charity and vulnerable to predators. They acted with great insolence and impiety both to people and to God (2 Samuel 2:12-22). Eli’s two sons, Hofni and Phineas, were slain soon after in a war against the Philistines. The parallels between the stories are striking: two chief priests whose two sons die because of improper behavior with sacrifices in the Mishkan.

A second intertext is that of Yerobam who builds two altars in the North of Israel, in defiance of the Jerusalem Temple. He also has two sons who die prematurely. The first named Abiah dies young from a sickness. The second named Nadab reigns over the Northern Kingdom for just two years and is then killed along with all of the descendants of Yerobam (1 Kings 14-15). The parallels to this story are equally striking: While busy with consecrating the new altar, Aharon loses two sons named Nadab and Abihu. Yerobam, in the act of building two new altars, loses two sons with almost the exact same names: Abiah and Nadab.

If we read the later stories as commentaries on the earlier, we can propose that there may be more behind the story of Aharon’s sons than meets the eye. We do not know whether their misdeeds were motivated by personal greed, like the sons of Eli, or whether their actions undermined national unity and religious interests, like Yerobam and his sons. Either way, it is very significant that the Torah tells us only that they were worthy of capital punishment but withholds the details of their actions.

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(Debar Torah continued from back panel)

The Torah here teaches an important lesson about punishment, shame, and reputation. It is obviously essential that one who commits evil be immediately removed from power and appropriately punished. At the same time, that shame should not extend to innocent parties associated with the perpetrator, be they his family, institution, or nation. By withholding details of the sin, The Torah here tactfully protects the reputation of Aharon and the priesthood from the misdeeds of the few while still acknowledging and teaching lessons from that unfortunate event. May the Torah’s example guide us here as always in how we react to and learn from misdeeds and remain sensitive to the reputations of the innocent.

Register now for PTTTS Hebrew School
Early bird pricing ends June 1

Polonies Talmud Torah School, provides children and teens, ages 3-16, with a substantive Jewish education in a positive and engaging environment. Register at shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool

Contribute to the PTTTS Hebrew School
Scholarship Fund

We offer many scholarships to ensure that all qualified applicants can receive a Jewish education. Please consider sponsoring a student for an academic year or semester or contributing to our Hebrew school scholarship fund with a tax deductible contribution of any amount. Go to shearithisrael.org/hebrew-school-scholarship-fund

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tob to Jesse Lipschutz on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his parents Liz Edelman and Henry Lipshutz.

Mazal Tob to Rafael Lipschutz on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his parents Liz Edelman and Henry Lipshutz.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

“A Tale of Two States:
Comparing the Declarations of Independence
of Israel and America”
Rabbi Soloveichik in Conversation with
Leon Wieseltier
*Co-sponsored by the YU Straus Center for Torah
and Western Thought Program and
Congregation Shearith Israel*
Wednesday, May 11 | 7:00 pm | Held at Shearith Israel
Email strauscenter@yu.edu to RSVP.

Two Part Series with Professor Yaron Harel
Monday, May 9 | 7:00 pm | The Encounter between the
Jews from Spain and the Jews of Aleppo at the Begin-
ning of the 16th Century
Monday, May 16 | 7:00 pm | Jews, Muslims and
Christians in Syria in the 19th Century
Prof. Yaron Harel is a member of the Department of Jew-
ish History and Contemporary Jewry, and the head of the
academic committee of the Dahan Center at Bar Ilan Uni-
versity. His research interests are engaged in political, social
and cultural history of the Jews in the Middle East. He
published twelve books and dozens of articles worldwide.

Yom Yerushalayim at Shearith Israel
Sunday Morning, June 5 | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Following 8:00 am morning services, Rabbi Soloveichik will
deliver a special shiur in honor of Yom Yerushalayim.

Shabu`ot Public Lecture
Saturday Night, June 11 | 11:30 pm
Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a special public lecture enti-
tled “When Jews Owned Slaves: An Often Untold Tale of
History, Rituals and Jewish Law” After the talk, guests are
invited to enjoy some cheesecake!

Annual Pre-Memorial Day Service: Honoring Veterans
of the Revolution and Members of the Armed Forces
Sunday Morning, May 22 | 10:30 am
Chatham Square Cemetery
Join us at the Chatham Square Cemetery in Chinatown to
honor veterans of the US Armed Forces including members
of our congregation who participated in the Revolutionary
War. Led by Rabbi Soloveichik, this special service is open
to all members of the community (veterans are encouraged
to attend.) The cemetery, active from 1682-1828, is located
at 55 St. James Place, opposite Chatham Square.

Transportation from and back to Shearith Israel is availa-
ble. Go to shearithisrael.org/chatham-square-service
to sign up.

Calling all Veterans!
Shearith Israel is honored by our members’ long history of
military service – going back to the Revolutionary War! We
are currently updating our “honor roll” of veterans for our
congregational records. If you or a family member are a vet-
eran or are currently serving in: the United States Armed
Services, the IDF, or other military organizations, we would
like to know. Please contact Zachary Edinger at
zedinger@shearithisrael.org.
Additionally, if you are interested in learning about Shearith
Israel’s revival of the “Sephardic Post” of the Jewish War
Veterans of the United States of America, please contact
zedinger@shearithisrael.org.

Girls’ Megillat Ruth Reading
First day of Shabuot | Sunday, June 12
The girls of our synagogue recite Megillat Ruth for the con-
gregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. If your
daughter would like to participate, please contact Mrs. Lisa
Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com.
*Please consider sponsoring or contributing to a kiddush in
honor of our girls.*

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For details go to: shearithisrael.org/judaic-education

- Tuesday*
- ◇ Rambam’s Mishneh Torah | Rabbi Hidary | 7:45
am
 - ◇ Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought-
A Class for Women | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am
 - ◇ Talmud Class: Tractate Rosh Hashana and the
Philosophy of Jewish Time | Rabbi Soloveichik |
8:00 pm | *Spring semester sponsored by Gregory Bell.*
- Sunday*
- ◇ The Book of Kings | Rabbi Hidary | 8:40 am
 - ◇ Saadia Gaon’s Book of Beliefs and Opinions |
Sjimon den Hollander | 9:30 am

Don't let us go dry.
Be a scotch or arak sponsor. To sponsor or contribute go
to shearithisrael.org/scotch-and-arak-sponsorships

Please consider sponsoring a semester or a class. Go to:
shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass

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

Our next public tour is:
Wednesday, May 11 at 11:00 am