



Shearith Israel Annual Gala

Tuesday, November 1

6:15 pm (following 5:45 pm services)

Join us as we honor this year's hatanim Arnie Goldfarb and Peter Neustadter for their contributions in shaping Shearith Israel's past, present and future. The evening's program will feature a concert by the Shearith Israel choir honoring Maestro Leon Hyman for 60 years of service as our choirmaster.

Register at shearithisrael.org/gala2016

Women's Service

Parashat Lekh-Lekha, Saturday November 12

Little Synagogue

We are looking for Torah readers for our Women's Service for November 12th, Parashat Lekh Lekha. Now is the time to sign up so you have enough time to learn your part. If interested, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com.

Register for PTT'S

Our Hebrew School, the Polonies Talmud

Torah School, provides children and teens, ages 3-16, with a substantive Jewish education in a positive and engaging environment. To register, go to shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool.

Shearith Israel Toddler Program

There are still a few spots left. To learn more and apply go to shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Member Sharon Lavi Mateus-Tique to the Shearith Israel family.

The Tithe-Confession: An Unusual Temple Prayer

Z Edinger

This week's *Parashah* begins with a special formula to be recited when giving the First Fruits (*Bikkurim*) in Jerusalem. This formula is well known to us as the base text used to tell the story of the Exodus in the *haggadah*. Our *parashah* then gives us a second and much less well known formula to be recited in Jerusalem after giving the Tithes.

Deut. 26: 12 *When you have concluded tithing a tenth part of your yield—in the third year of the Tithe cycle - and have given it to the Levite, the stranger, the orphan, and the widow, that they may eat their fill in your settlements, 13 You shall declare before the LORD your God: "I have cleared out the consecrated portion from the house; and I have given it to the Levite, the stranger, the orphan, and the widow, just as You commanded me; I have neither transgressed nor forgotten any of Your commandments: 14 I have not eaten of it while in mourning (beOni) , I have not cleared out any of it while I was unclean, and I have not given any of it to the dead. I have obeyed the LORD my God; I have done just as You commanded me. 15 Look down from Your holy abode, from heaven, and bless Your people Israel and the soil You have given us, a land flowing with milk and honey, as You swore to our fathers."*

While the rabbinic rules of tithing can be complex, the basic system is fairly straightforward. A portion of one's annual produce is taken and given to the Priests (*Terumah*). From the remainder of the produce, a portion is then given to the Levites (*Ma'aser Rishon* – the First Tithe.) A second tithe is then taken - which is to be consumed by the owner in Jerusalem (*Ma'aser Shenii*.) Every three years in the cycle - the Second Tithe is not consumed by the owner, but rather is given to the poor (*Ma'aser Ani*.)

The declaration in our *parashah* is recited after the completion of each third year in the cycle – this is called by the Rabbi's "Viduy Ma'aser" - the Tithe-Confession. This declaration is quite unusual for many reasons. Verse 14 stands out in particular as requiring explanation. *"I have not eaten of it while in mourning (beOni), I have not cleared out any of it while I was unclean, and I have not given any of it to the dead."* Why are these three items mentioned at all? What is the significance of this list of things that were NOT done?

Based on Talmudic sources – Rashi interprets the three clauses as pertaining to the Second Tithe. They are specific *halakhot* related to the sanctity of the Second Tithe. I have not eaten of it while in mourning – because it is consecrated produce (*Kodashim*); I have not taken it while unclean – because that would render it impure; I have not given it to the dead – not literally to the dead, but rather *I have not sold this holy produce to perform the mitzvah of burying the dead* – because the tithe produce is itself holy and cannot be used for any other purpose – no matter how important.

A very different explanation is given by Rashbam. He believes that the first clause has nothing to do with mourning. Rather the Hebrew word *beOni* (from the root A-V-N) should be understood as in Job (20:10) or Hosea (12:9) to refer to 'stolen goods.' Thus the verse should be rendered *"I have not inappropriately embezzled the Tithe by eating it myself"* and does not relate to mourning at all.

I propose that a plain reading of the three clauses of verse 14 does NOT refer to the Second Tithe eaten by the farmer in Jerusalem, but rather to the Poor Man's Tithe (*Ma'aser Ani*). The purpose of these three clauses is to assert that every single bit of the tithe has been made available to feed the needy. (1) I have not eaten any of it myself; (2) I have not prevented anyone in need from partaking of it by rendering it impure. (3) *I have not given it to the dead*, literally, meaning that I have not wasted any of it by pouring it on a grave.¹ This declaration is made to show that not only did the farmer take tithes, but that the entire tithe was made available in full to those in need of it.

¹In ancient times this was a common near eastern practice, called *kispu* in Akkadian. It was still known in Israel during the Second Temple period (See the apocryphal works of Sirach 30:18 and Tobit 4:17.)



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Ki Tabo

September 23-24, 2016

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 859; Haftarah p. 874
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 988; : Haftarah p. 1240

CANDLE LIGHTING | 6:32 pm

MINHAH | 6:30 pm | Main Sanctuary

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Following services | Scholar in Residence, Dr. Ronnie Perelis, delivers a public lecture on the topic "Climbing God's Mountain: A Convert's Tale from 17th Century Amsterdam"

TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium

YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room

JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | *Thank you to Kiddush Donor: Laury Frieber in honor of Reuben Frieber reading the haftarah and additional support by Faith Fogelman*

SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Dr.

Ronnie Perelis on the topic, *"Lost and Found Along the Way: Wandering Jews and the Search for God in the New World"* | 5:25 pm | Levy Auditorium | *Fall semester sponsored by Lewis Lipsey*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 6:25 PM

HABDALAH | 7:23pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings: Sunday: 8:00 AM; Monday -Friday: 7:15 AM

Evenings: Sunday - Thursday: 6:30PM (Minhah & Arbit)

Reminder: Selihoth (Evening Supplications) are recited each evening during the month of Elul.

HIGH HOLIDAYS PREPARATION

Divine Dialogue: Paths to Approaching God in Prayer A Two-Part High Holidays Preparation Series Rabbi Richard Hidary

Part 2- This Monday, September 26 | 7:00 pm

Prayer calls upon us to approach God with our deepest concerns and hopes both in daily tefilah and especially on the High Holidays. Standing before the Infinite can be difficult and daunting.

Luckily, we have many models from Abraham and Rambam to contemporary thinkers who can help guide us through the different pathways towards having a dialogue with the Divine. This series explores some of these approaches and apply them to the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur liturgies.

Last Chance! Sit in on our Choir Rehearsal Friday, September 30 | 5:15 - 6:15 pm

Maestro Leon Hyman, veteran choirmaster of our renowned Shearith Israel choir, is offering this unique opportunity for members and guests to get an inside glimpse into the making of our music as the choir prepares for the intensive High Holiday services. Hear our choir rehearse the High Holiday liturgy, a few original compositions by the maestro himself as well as some Shabbat classics. These unique opportunities will be free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to sit upstairs in the ladies gallery to get the best view. Our beautiful Friday night services will follow shortly after the rehearsal. Please keep in mind to dress appropriately for Shabbat as we encourage you to attend services after the rehearsal.

Shabbat Teshuba Derasha Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Shabbat, October 8, 2016 | Following Morning Services
*God's Ketubah: What the Jewish Wedding Contract Teaches Us
About Life, Love and the Day of Atonement*

To sponsor the kiddush luncheon following the derasha go to shearithisrael.org/shabbat-teshubah-derasha2016
Sponsor, \$360, Co-sponsor, \$250, Supporter, \$180

Important High Holiday Reminders

- Print your ticket and bring it to services (NO digital tickets please)
- If you need help with the stairs, please let us know ahead of time by contacting mcaputo@shearithisrael.org or calling 212-873-0300
- Please limit what you bring into the building. All belongings are subject to security inspections. Large packages will not be allowed in either sanctuary.
- If you have not yet made holiday offerings, please do so at shearithisrael.org/lulab.
- If you have not signed up for childcare please send your children's names and ages to dlandau@shearithisrael.org.

High Holiday Seating- For Guests

We welcome visitors to join us for our High Holiday services. Seats in the main sanctuary are available at \$400. Tickets for our parallel service are available at \$180. All Parallel Service ticket holders may join the main service on the second day of Rosh Hashanah and on Kippur, except for Kal Nidre and Neila. Visit shearithisrael.org/seating_reservations_5777 to purchase your tickets.

SUCCOT

Reserve your Lulab Set

For your convenience, purchase your lulabim and etrogim through the synagogue at \$65 per set. Go to shearithisrael.org/lulab. For questions, contact zedinger@shearithisrael.org.

Sisterhood Succah Decorating

Thursday, October 13, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Friday, October 14, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sunday, October 16, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

It's that time of year again when we are preparing to decorate our beautiful Succah!! Please join us, Teens and adults, women and men, to help decorate for the Succot Festival.

To participate, contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com or Aimee Margolis at art1show@verizon.net.

Meals in the Succah

Shearith Israel members and their guests are welcome to enjoy self-catered meals in a Shearith Israel community succah. Registration and a cover charge of \$12 per seat (including children) are required for each meal. We supply beverages, table cloths and disposables and you bring the food (strictly kosher, of course). Space is highly limited. We will accommodate members and immediate family on a first-come-first-serve basis. Non-member guests will be accommodated closer to the date depending on availability. Due to our new building construction, we do not have a courtyard or sidewalk succah this year. If we are over-subscribed, we will create a wait list and hope to accommodate as many people as possible. Please email mcaputo@shearithisrael.org to register.

Save the Date: Simhat Torah Dinner and Ice Cream Pary Monday, October 24 | Following Hakafot For registered guests

Join us as we celebrate the Torah with this sweet annual dinner. Registration details will follow.
Sponsored by the Haberman and Lustig families

Calling All Local Men: Help ensure our daily minyanim Receive Text Message Reminders on an As-Needed Basis

Men above bar-mitzvah age are encouraged to sign up for our minyan text message alerts, which will let you know when we are running short and are looking for additional men to help make the minyan. Please be assured, we will only text you on an occasional, as-needed basis. There is no commitment other than your willingness to accept these occasional texts. Your fellow congregants, especially those who come to say kaddish or have a nahala, will be most grateful. To enroll, email dlandau@shearithisrael.org and provide your name and cell phone number. If you wish to only be contacted for morning or evening services, let us know.

Parnas Office Hours

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