

DEBAR TORAH by RABBI ROHDE

A Jewish Psychology of Discipline

The “Tough Love” Song of Haazinu depends upon a certain understanding of human psychology to make sense. According to that understanding, people require admonishment, chastisement, and criticism to make them better. As it says in Leviticus 19:17: “Do not hate your brother in your heart: You should surely rebuke your fellow [so] that you not share in their guilt.” It’s not that people are all bad, but at least for the past and present, the Torah tends to view human nature, including most of the best of us, as having a “dark side” which must be kept in check. Sigmund Freud was not per se a believing Jew, but his view of the “dark side” of human personality, which must be both kept in check as well as harnessed somehow for the good, was in keeping with much Jewish thought. Freud’s view of this “dark side” of personality was opposed by the Swiss psychologist Carl Jung, who came from an avowedly Christian background. Many Christians tend to view our present era as at least partially Messianic. They tend to see the “dark side” of human psychology as able to be overcome. Our American secular culture’s more positive view of human psychology seems to derive from such Christian sources. The Bible sows seeds of a more positive evaluation of human nature, but it is put off until the future. For now, we need to be rebuked and commanded to do good. The Talmudic dictum of Rabbi Hanina is: “Greater is he who is commanded [to do the right thing] and does it than he who is not commanded to [to do the right thing] and does it.” For Jews, perhaps in the future there may be a “circumcision of the heart,” as Jeremiah writes, but for now we need to actively circumscribe our thoughts and actions through the discipline of the Torah.

This view of human nature’s ever-present “dark side” often puts traditional Jewish thought at odds with the current psychology which pervades American culture. Personally, I find the pervasiveness of American culture’s quest for “authenticity” in all things to be deeply flawed, from a Jewish point of view. And indeed, perhaps such an insistence upon “truth” is itself phony. But all discipline must be meted out with love, even if it is “tough love” at times. As we mentioned above, the reason cited for rebuking our fellow is that we love him. At the end of Haazinu it is clear that God is rebuking the Israelites because He loves them and wants a great and better future for them.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal tob to **Adam Kalman**, upon becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his parents, **Hanna Pincas-Kalman & Michael Kalman**, and the whole family.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Haazinu & First Days Succot 5783

October 7-11, 2022

SCHEDULE

Shabbat Haazinu – October 7-8 – Bar Mitzvah of Adam Kalman

Candle Lighting | 6:10 pm

Friday Evening Services | 6:15 pm | Main Sanctuary

Zemirot | 8:15 am/**Shahrit** | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

Youth Program | 10:00 am | Led by Gabi & Raph | Fidanque Youth Room

Kiddush | following services | *Kiddush & wine sponsored by Hanna Pincas-Kalman & Michael Kalman, in honor of Adam becoming a Bar Mitzvah, and in loving memory of Hanna’s mother, Nili Pincas*

Shabbat Afternoon Class | 5:15 pm | Rabbi Soloveichik

Evening Services | 6:00 pm | Main Sanctuary

Habdala | 6:59 pm

EVE OF SUCCOT – Sunday, October 9

Shahrit8:05 am

Candle Lighting6:07 pm

Minha & Arbit6:00 pm

Kiddush in Elias Room SuccahFollowing Services

Kiddush followed by self-catered meals in Paved Paradise succah for registered guests

SUCCOT, DAY I – Monday, October 10

Zemirot8:15 am

Shahrit.....9:00 am

Youth Program10:00 am

Kiddush in Elias Room SuccahFollowing Services

Kiddush followed by self-catered meals in Paved Paradise succah for registered guests

Minha & Arbit6:00 pm

Candle Lightingafter 6:44 pm

Kiddush in Elias Room SuccahFollowing Services

Kiddush followed by self-catered meals in Paved Paradise succah for registered guests

SCHEDULE (cont.)

SUCCOT DAY II – Tuesday, October 11

Zemirot8:15 am

Shahrit9:00 am

Youth Program10:00 am

Kiddush in Elias Room SuccahFollowing Services

Kiddush followed by self-catered meals in Paved Paradise succah for registered guests

Minha & Arbit6:00 pm

Habdala 6:42 pm

Habdala followed by self-catered meals in Paved Paradise succah for registered guests

Hol HaMoed Succot – Intermediate Days of Tabernacles

Wednesday-Friday Mornings, Oct. 12-14

Shahrit, Musaf, & Hoshanaot 7:05 am

Breakfast in Elias Room SuccahFollowing Services

Wednesday & Thursday Evening, Oct 12 & 13

Minha & Arbit Services6:00 pm

COMING UP

Sisterhood Elias Room Succah Decorating

THIS Sunday, October 9 | 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Youth Paved Paradise Succah Decorating (with pizza!)

THIS Sunday, October 9 | 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Annual Simhat Torah Kiddush & Ice Cream Extravaganza

October 17 | following evening services

Following Simhat Torah evening services, join us for a light dairy kiddush with ice cream, outdoors on Paved Paradise. The kiddush will be free to attend; no registration required!

Sponsorships would be greatly appreciated at

shearithisrael.org/events/simbat-torah-ice-cream5783.

Ice Cream Extravaganza is sponsored—as always—by the Haberman & Lustig families.

Shearith Israel and Dorot present a new virtual series:

Synagogue Stories: Jewish History of New York

An 8-Part Virtual Series | Wednesdays | 2:30 pm-4:00 pm

Introductory Session: October 19

Next Session, featuring Shearith Israel, presented by Rev. Z. Edinger: October 26

Discover 365-plus years of Jewish life in America and New York City through its storied synagogues. Where better to start than with the story of Shearith Israel?

To register, visit tinyurl.com/SynagogueStories.

COMING UP

Hatanim Luncheon 5783

Shabbat Bereshit, October 22 | following Shabbat Morning Services

You are cordially invited to
Congregation Shearith Israel's

SHABBAT BERESHIT 5783 CELEBRATION

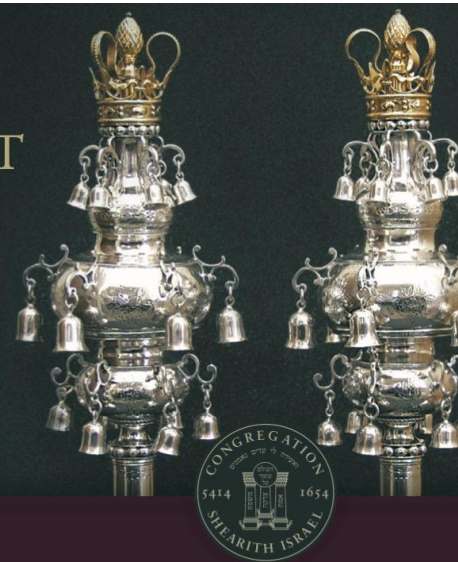
honoring our Hatanim and their families

RABBI IRA ROHDE *Hatan Torah*

LAURENT NAHON *Hatan Bereshit*

and a special birthday toast to
JON MENDES, Shearith Israel centenarian

Shabbat Bereshit, October 22, 2022
On Paved Paradise, Our Outdoor Pavilion



Register by **October 13** at shearithisrael.org/hatanim2022.

Shearith Israel's Three Sets of Myer Myers *Rimonim*:

A Special *Friday Night Lights* Talk & Exhibit

October 28 | Following Evening Services | At Shearith Israel

Myer Myers: the preeminent Jewish silversmith of the colonial era; congregant and Parnas of Shearith Israel; creator of three of Shearith Israel's priceless sets of historic *rimonim*, admired by experts and collectors of American Judaica. All three sets will return home from their temporary abodes at the New-York Historical Society, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and at the Touro Synagogue, respectively, and before re-loaning them, Shearith Israel will be exhibiting them as part of a very special Friday Night Lights talk by Rabbi Soloveichik.

Sponsorship opportunities will be available at

shearithisrael.org/events/mm-rimonim5783.

DEADLINE: This Sunday, Oct 9

Hershey Park Trip

Thursday, October 13 | Bus Departure at 8:30 am

CSI Youth joins with the rest of UWS youth on this all-day field trip to Hershey Park in Pennsylvania! Teens and families welcome. Children under grade 7 must be accompanied by an adult. Register at usisny.org.