

Gratitude for Deliverance from the “Hardships on the Way”

In Chapter 18, verse 1, it says that Moses’ father-in-law Yithro had heard all about God’s had done for Moses and Israel regarding God’s having taken Israel out of Egypt. And yet in verse 8 it says that Moses recounted to his father-in-law everything which God had done to Pharaoh and Egypt on account of Israel. If Yithro already knew all about this, what was the point of Moses’ recounting this to him?

One answer which can be given is that what Yithro had originally had heard was simply about Moses’ success in having gone back to Egypt and taken Israel out. Since Moses was no longer in Egypt and was now back in the desert, where Yithro had stayed, there was no point in Yithro’s further staying separated from his son-in-law. Whatever arrangements which had been made for the temporary stewardship of the possessions (whatever they might have been, although our text is rather contradictory about whether Zipporah and the sons had originally gone back to Egypt with Moses or not; still, Moses must have had flocks of sheep he had left with Yithro) Moses had entrusted to his father-in-law, now those arrangements were no longer necessary. Yithro comes to congratulate Moses upon his successful mission to Egypt and back to the desert. But what Moses specifically recounted to Yithro in Verse 8 was about all of the trouble, hardship, and travail which Israel had encountered “on the way,” and how God had miraculously rescued Israel from it. This refers to the Reed Sea encounter with Egypt. As it says in Verse 11, Yithro says that he now knows that the LORD is greater than any other god “because of the matter which they plotted against them,” which seems to refer to the Egyptians’ plotting to trap Israel militarily when Israel seemed geographically trapped between the desert and the Reed Sea. Perhaps Verse 11 also refers to other “hardships Israel had encountered on the way,” such as the lack of potable water at Marah and the lack of food.

Moses recounting this tale of God’s grace “on the way” to Yithro and Yithro rejoicing over this tale and consequently offering a sacrifice attended by Moses, Aaron, and Israel’s Elders were all expressions of thanksgiving. All retellings of such deliverances are accounted as praises and giving thanks to the LORD, our great Savior and Deliverer. Moses, in his retelling, and Yithro, in his rejoicing and offerings, teach us how to be thankful and grateful, not just for escaping slavery itself, but for deliverance even from “the hardships on the way,” which otherwise would have blocked our path forward. It is often the “little” deliverances “on the way” which are as important as the “big” deliverances in assuring the success of any mission, and which we must always remember to recall, recount and be grateful for.



Shabbat Yithro

February 10-11, 2023 | 20 Shebat 5783

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Hertz: p. 288 | Haftarah: p. 302

Kaplan: p. 344 | Haftarah: p. 1118

Candle Lighting | 5:07 pm

Friday Evening Services | 5:15 pm | Main Sanctuary

Friday Night Lights | following services | Main Sanctuary | 2022-2023
Season sponsored by the Julis-Rabinowitz family

Zemirot | 8:15 am

Shahrit | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

Youth Program | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium

Kiddush | following services | Levy Auditorium

Shabbat Afternoon Class | 4:15 pm | Rabbi Soloveichik

Evening Services | 5:00 pm | Main Sanctuary

Habdala | 5:56 pm

Parent-Child Learning | 6:30 | Elias Room | led by the Jakobishvili family in honor of Flora’s bat mitzvah

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

Sunday: 8:05 am

Monday-Friday: 7:05 am

Evenings:

Sunday-Thursday: 5:20 pm

If you can help out and attend minyan, morning or evening, please contact Z. Edinger.

THIS SUNDAY

Sundays with Sisterhood

The Illustrated Sephardi Ketubah Over The Ages

Sunday, February 12 | 10:00 am | On Zoom | Cost: \$12.00

Led by Shalom Sabar

Our speaker will be the world-renowned scholar and author, Shalom Sabar, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Art History and Folklore at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. As part of the Sisterhood's ongoing exploration of history, culture, and identity, Professor Sabar will dazzle us with an illustrated tour of the evolution of the *ketubah*, from pre-expulsion to its flourishing in the Sephardi world.

Register at shearithisrael.org/events/ketubbah.

Guided Tour of "Crossroads of Sefarad" Exhibit

February 12 | 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm | Levy Auditorium

Created by ANU – *Museum of the Jewish People*, in partnership with the Jewish Heritage Alliance, this exhibit explores the history of the Sephardic Jews on the Iberian Peninsula, their prosperity and growth under different governments, and eventual expulsion starting in 1492. **Warren Klein**, curator of the Herbert & Eileen Bernard Museum of Judaica at Temple Emanu-El, will lead a guided tour of the exhibit - don't miss it!

Sign up for the tour at shearithisrael.org/events/crossroads.

First Rehearsal

Women's Megillah Reading

Purim Morning, Tues, March 7 | 8:00 am

Rehearsals: THIS Sunday, Feb 12 & 26 | 6:15 pm

On the morning of Purim, the women and girls of the synagogue conduct a parallel Women's Megillah reading in the Small Synagogue. Join us for our 34th year!

New readers are warmly invited to participate.

Any woman or girl above bat mitzvah age is very welcome to participate and should contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com as soon as possible for an assignment of at least half a chapter.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences to **Elizabeth Edelman**, upon the passing of her father, Herb Edelman.

COMING UP

Motzei Shabbat Parent-Child Learning

THIS Saturday Night, February 11 | 6:30 pm

Led by the Jakobishvili family, in honor of Flora's bat mitzvah

Next Session:

Saturday Night, February 25 | 7:00 pm

Led by Dr. Pasha Kletenik, Head of School, MDS

"Learning From the Heroes of the Purim Story"

Register at shearithisrael.org/pcl.

PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Monday night, March 6-Tuesday, March 7

Purim Night Services, followed by Megillah: 5:55 pm

For CSI Youth: Myron the Magnificent's Purim Magic Show: 5:45 pm

Late Reading of Megillah: 8:00 pm

Purim Morning Reading of the Megillah: 8:00 am

Women's Megillah Reading in Small Sanctuary: 8:00 am

Sisterhood Mishloah Manot

Place your order by 11 pm NEXT Thursday, February 16

Once again the Sisterhood is offering members an opportunity to send Mishloah Manot to other members of our congregation. Your friends can receive either a card or a package of Purim treats (their choice of which they want) for pickup at the synagogue, letting them know you included them on your list.

To select recipients, visit shearithisrael.org/sisterhoodmanot.

For CSI Youth:

Myron the Magnificent's Purim Magic Show

During Megillah Reading | Doors open 5:45 pm | Show starts at 6:00 pm

Registration encouraged, sponsorship opportunities available at shearithisrael.org/purim-magic.

Matanot L'Ebyonim

Donate at shearithisrael.org/matanot-lebyonim.