

Inviolable Procedure

The prominence of the “Anointing/Inauguration of the Priests” and its ceremony throughout more than half of the Book of Leviticus, and its prominence particularly in this Parashah, is something I’ve struggled to understand until recently. The insight I’ve had recently is the following: The rest of the Torah consistently mentions Moses to signify that the Torah and its civil and procedural laws go back to the time of the Prophet Moses, the very beginnings of Israelite Peoplehood. And hence, they have always been fixed that way and should remain unchangeable and inviolable. So similarly the Book of Leviticus is saying that sacrificial/sanctificational and defilement/purification law goes back to the very Installation of Aaron and his sons as the first Priests who were the first to administer those laws. And the clear significance of that is that these laws and procedures have been executed this way since time immemorial and should be considered unchangeable and inviolable.

Of course, Moses was still the prophet who received these laws from God (although often God spoke to Aaron along with Moses), but Leviticus wants to emphasize that these laws were promulgated by the hereditary priesthood of Aaron and his sons. Hence Leviticus uses this device of emphasizing the “Anointment/Inauguration” of the Priests to emphasize that all of these laws and ceremonies had been administered exactly in this way since the days of the first Priests. And there is an emphasis that not only must these laws be administered exactly this way, with daily sacrifices and occasional sacrifices according to standard procedure, but that only Aaron and his family and the families of the Levites could be put in charge to administer these laws, unlike the improper procedures of the sons of High Priest Eli in the time of Samuel, and unlike the practice in the Northern Israelite Kingdom, where non-Aaronites were given priestly duties.

It also thus makes some sense, if tragic, that Aaron’s most immediate heirs should have died for the sin of not following proper procedure, and that this death is so emphasized throughout this long section of Leviticus: It is a warning that the procedures are inviolable and must be carried out constantly and inviolably as they always were done. The Aaronite Priests were to have a monopoly over all Priestly duties, together with their brethren the Levites. But this did not mean that as rulers within the Sanctuary they were dictators over the procedures and could change them according to their dictates: They were administrators of all such procedures, but they too were bound by the practices whereby those duties were first vouchsafed to them at the Inauguration of their first ancestors. They along with the People who regularly supplied the offerings needed were responsible that all of these matters were carried out in a regular, timely matter inviolably according to time-honored procedure.



Shabbat Shemini

April 14-15, 2023 | 24 Nisan 5783

SCHEDULE

Candle Lighting | 7:16 pm

Friday Evening Services | 7:00 pm | Main Sanctuary

Zemirot | 8:15 am

Shahrit | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

Youth Program | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room

Kiddush | following services | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by The Julis Romo Family in memory of Mitch's father, Maurice Ralph Julis (Moshe b. Raphael)*

Shabbat Afternoon Class | 6:30 pm | Rabbi Soloveichik

Evening Services | 7:15 pm | Main Sanctuary

Habdala | 8:13 pm

Rosh Hodesh Iyar begins on Thursday night.

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

Sunday: 8:05 am

Monday-Friday: 7:05 am

Evenings:

Sunday-Thursday: 6:30 pm

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

2023 SPRING FUNDRAISER

BEGINS MONDAY — SIGN UP NOW!

WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS:

**Seven Iconic Images in the History of Israel,
and the Stories Behind Them**

*An Important 7-Part Virtual Series by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Beginning NEXT Monday, April 17*

Sign-up levels from \$250 to \$18,000

All prior registrants will receive the Zoom link on Sunday, April 16, and it will be in the confirmation email for new registrants when you sign up.

Special Offer for Series Underwriters (\$3,600 and up):

Don't worry about missing a livestream; a recording of the lectures will be made available to you.

All sponsors will be recognized in a beautiful content-rich commemorative booklet that will be mailed out after the series.

Sign up at shearithisrael.org/giving/SpringFundraiser2023

Don't forget to count the 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 (day). The boards have been used annually for nearly 300 years.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences to **Aura Bijou-Plotkin**, upon the passing of her mother,
Dorothy Goldberg.

COMING UP – *Mark Your Calendars!*

Yom HaShoah UWS Reading of the Names

April 17-18 | Shearith Israel slot at 3:40-4:00 am

View details at mmjccm.org/yomhashoah.

Limited ticket availability - Don't miss out!

CSI Youth Mets Game Outing

Sunday, April 30 | 1:40 pm | Citi Field | Fun for all ages!

Highly subsidized tickets: Members \$18 | Non-members \$25

(Face Value: \$46)

Great matchup - two leading teams: Atlanta Braves vs. New York Mets.

Reserve your highly subsidized tickets at shearithisrael.org/mets2023.

BOOK EVENT:

One Hundred Saturdays:

Stella Levi and the Search for a Lost World

with author Michael Frank and Shearith Israel member, Isabelle Levy

May 4 | 7:00 pm (following 6:30 pm Evening Services)

Registration coming soon.

Young Families Lag La'Omer Bonfire & Celebration

Tuesday Evening, May 9 | Outdoor Pavilion

5th Annual *Smash The Stigma* Event

Presented by Shearith Israel's Caring Connection

Held annually during Mental Health Awareness Month and co-sponsored by a consortium of neighborhood synagogues and Jewish institutions

May, Date TBA

Stay tuned for registration and details.

Salute To Israel Parade Cooldown For CSI Youth

Sunday, June 4 | Following the parade | Outdoor Pavilion

Graduation Kiddush, Scroll Of Honor, & Young Families

Summer Sendoff Picnic

Shabbat, June 17 | following services