

Living For The Future

For what do we live? Rebecca has two characteristically similar exclamations attributed to her: In 25:22 she exclaims “If...for what is this [happening] to me,” and then in 27:46 she says “If...for what life to me?” The first exclamation she makes when the twins Jacob and Esau are wrestling within her womb and she consults an oracle for explanation. The second exclamation she makes when speaking to Isaac about the possibility of Jacob marrying Hittite women like Esau has done. Rebecca in these exclamations reveals what she lives for, which is the continuation of Abraham’s family and dynasty. By contrast, Esau in 25:32 makes a statement about life which stands in some opposition to his mother’s: After merely being famished for a meal after a hunt, he says “Behold, I am going to die, and for what is this birthright to me?”

In the first instance, Rebecca is in so much pain that she fears for her own life as well as for the life of her offspring. During those days, the birth of twins was fraught with pain and danger for the mother. Childbirth was risky, but the amount of pain, travail, and bleeding that the mother endured in incubating and birthing twins was far and above beyond the norm. Rebecca stood to make the ultimate sacrifice for the one purpose of the continuation of the Abrahamic dynasty of Isaac’s heir or heirs. Similarly it was with Rebecca’s second exclamation since, as I discussed last week, intermarriage among Hittites such as Ephron basically would have meant that Abraham’s line would have been a petty and short-lived Canaanite line of kings. As our haftarah predicts, Esau’s dynasty and nation of Edom would not last. They had by Malachi’s time lost their East Bank home of Seir, and despite expanding into Judean territory, they would not maintain their own identity. Esau the person was not willing to sacrifice for the sake of the dynasty and nation, but was willing to give up a lasting legacy for food in the present. Rebecca, on the other hand, lives only for the future of her progeny and nation.

Only Jacob, who values the dynastic national future so much that he is willing to run and scheme in pursuit of it, and who is willing to spend years of hardship to marry suitable royal consorts and bear suitable heirs, shows himself worthy of being blessed with the grant of dynastic succession rights. Only Jacob concerns himself with his progeny so much that he lives and dreams only for them. Rebecca and Jacob live for the future, not for the present. And that is why it is Jacob who is granted that future for which his mother lived and dreamed.



Shabbat Toledoth

November 17-18, 2023 | 5 Kislev, 5784

SCHEDULE

Kaplan: p. 116 | Haftarah: p. 1070

Hertz: p. 93 | Haftarah: p. 102

Candle Lighting | 4:19 pm

Friday Evening Services | 4:30 pm | Main Sanctuary

Friday Night Lights | Following Services | Main Sanctuary | "A Torah Reading Like No Other" | *5784 Season of Friday Night Lights is sponsored by the Julis-Rabinowitz family*

Zemirot | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

Shahrit | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

Rabbi Soloveichik's Lecture | At Morning Services | "George Washington and the Washington March"

Tot Shabbat | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room

Youth Groups | 10:00 am | Elias Room | This week with Adams Kornblum

Junior Congregation | 10:30 am | Small Synagogue

Kiddush | following Services | *Kiddush sponsored by Maurice L. Haroche and Jack L. Haroche on the occasion of Jack's aufruf, and in memory of Gilbert Haroche; The Roberts Family, in memory of Bruce's mother, Flori Roberts; Kiddush supporter: Liliane Marks, in memory of her husband, Neville Marks*

Shabbat Afternoon Class | 3:30 pm | Rabbi Soloveichik

Evening Services | 4:15 pm

Habdala | 5:04 pm

Parent-Child Learning | 6:00 pm | Led by Rev. Edinger | Elias Room

Weekday Service Times

Sunday Morning: 8:05 am

Monday-Wednesday & Friday Mornings: 7:05 am

Thursday (Thanksgiving): 7:45 am

Sunday-Thursday Evenings (**Arbit Only**): 6:30 pm

THIS SATURDAY NIGHT

For details and signup, go to shearithisrael.org

Return of Motzei Shabbat Parent-Child Learning!

First Session: November 18 | 6:00 pm | *Led by Rev. Z Edinger*

Bonus Hessed Activities:

- We will devote some time to making cards for the Pack-A-Thon
- **Bean Drive!** Remember to drop dry beans in the Masbia bins outside Levy

Next Session: December 16 | 6:00 pm | *Led by Rabbi Soloveichik*

COMING UP THIS WEEK

For details and signup, go to shearithisrael.org

Sunday Matinee with Sisterhood

All proceeds will be donated to Friends of the IDF

Sign up for all three films: \$50.00 | Individual films: \$18.00 each

Link to each film will be sent in advance for viewing at your leisure

Film discussion with host Emmanuel Cohn will take place on Zoom

FIRST FILM DISCUSSION: Sunday, November 19 | 4:00 pm

"The Women's Balcony"

Thanksgiving at Shearith Israel

Thursday, November 23

Register & Donate to our Annual Pack-A-Thon

Help us reach this year's goal of \$25,000!

Thanks to a matching grant, all contributions (up to \$10,000) will be **doubled**.



WE'RE REACHING CAPACITY - SIGN UP BEFORE WE SELL OUT!

Register Your Children for Parade Viewing

Children of Members & Pack-A-Thon donors of \$180 & up: **Free!**

Non-Member children: **\$36 in advance | \$50 at the door (subject to availability)**

See shearithisrael.org/packathon2023 for full Thanksgiving schedule.

Masbia Bean Drive

Through November | Drop off dry beans outside Levy Auditorium

DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL PROGRAM

Congregation Shearith Israel and the K3 Council at Japan Society present

A Story of Moral Clarity and Courage:

The Incredible Japanese Tale of Setsuzo Kotsuji, Protector of Jews, Convert to Judaism

Monday, December 4 | 7:00 pm | At Shearith Israel

Featuring:

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, Ambassador Mikio Mori, Consul General of Japan in New York, & Dr. Joshua W. Walker, President and CEO of Japan Society

For details and signup, go to shearithisrael.org/events/japan-society

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal tob to **Maurice Haroche**, upon the forthcoming wedding of his son Jack Haroche to Jenna Podolsky.

Mazal tob to **Adele & Ronald Tauber**, upon the recent Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Zelig Rubenstein.

Congratulations to **Salomon vaz Dias**, upon receiving the Builder of Zion award for his longstanding service to the American Zionist Movement (AZM).

Condolences to **Janet Kirchheimer**, upon the passing of her mother, Margot Strauss Kirchheimer.

Condolences to **Laurent Nahon**, upon the passing of his mother, Colette Nahon.

Condolences to **Naomi Neustadter** and to **Ralph Sutton**, upon the passing of their sister, Sally Heller.

BECOME A SECURITY VOLUNTEER

Be part of a trained corps of Shearith Israel Security Volunteers

We need you NOW!

We are offering the following opportunities:

1. Interested in joining a Shearith Israel team of security volunteers? **Community Security Service (CSS)** will provide our participants with the training, guidance, and resources needed to stand ready as volunteers to protect our *kehillah*.
2. Interested in learning security basics as a way to skillfully recognize and report security or safety threats to your community? Participate in **Entry Point**, a one-hour standalone session delivered virtually by a certified CSS instructor.

Express your interest at shearithisrael.shulcloud.com/form/css-volunteer