

DEBAR TORAH *by* RABBI ROHDE

“At-One-Ment” Through Contribution Towards the Sanctuary’s Good

As our Parnas, Mr. Louis Solomon, has written, we still need more to come forward to participate in our Year of Hope synagogue-repair campaign. Yet I especially want to thank those who have already and will continue to make their contributions for the work our Sanctuary requires. This year has been an extremely challenging one, and the challenges are far from over, but our campaign I believe has gained some additional strength and momentum through this year’s addition of a leap-month (and even a secular leap-day!) in our calendar. The additional time this year has given us a longer winter pause during which we could focus intently upon communal needs which normally get lost in the shuffle as wintertime stillness inexorably gives way before the oncoming rush of the springtime holidays and their duties. It’s not just, as Mr. Solomon has written, that we have an extra month to get pledges in (although that also has the drawback that we can’t get much work done until after the later spring festival season!); Rather, it seems almost as though our Sages wisely and providentially arranged our calendar in order to give us occasions from time to time to reflect upon and act upon fulfilling needs which in the ordinary course of things get neglected.

The proof of this is in the way the Sages divided our Torah into Parashiyot or Weekly Readings: During a Jewish leap-year, the added weeks call for more weekly readings devoted to the topic of the Building of the Tabernacle Sanctuary. We do read the same passages during a normative twelve-month year, but spread out over fewer weeks. It was specifically about the Needs of the Sanctuary (and donations for it) which the Sages chose to have the Jewish People devote their study during this extra time: Indeed, the custom of our Sages could have easily divided the Torah into sections quite differently. But instead they preferred to arrange the Cycle of Readings such that, for example, the opening section of our Parashah, which commands the half-shekel contribution required equally from every adult Jewish male will be read this year two weeks in a row, both this week and next week. The section is always read on more than one week, but having it repeated two weeks in a row consecutively as it is during a leap year such as this gives it special emphasis. The accompanying haftarah readings during this season also emphasize the Building of the Temple Sanctuary or, as we will read next week, collecting money and allocating it for needed Sanctuary restoration work. Next week’s haftarah for Shabbat Shekalim, in particular, seems to acknowledge that a public Sanctuary is liable to be taken for granted and can thereby, after a period of time, fall into disrepair, necessitating periodic public fund-raising for restoration campaigns and renovation programs. There’s an emphasis there that the funds get properly used and actually allocated to the artisans and workmen who need them. This week’s Torah and last week’s haftarah reading specifically mention the names of Bezalel and Ahisamakh, artisans in charge of the Tabernacle, and Hiram, the artisan in charge of the Temple. We too should encourage participation by as many in our community as possible, if not the equal participation of the half-shekel, and should be sure to acknowledge those who participate and get the work done.

One terminology which I have struggled to understand is the term “atonement” which is used in connection with these offerings. But perhaps it has to do with the individual contributing towards the public good. In contributing towards public, communal worship of God in the Sanctuary, a person overcomes his individual deficiencies. Contributing to public worship in the Sanctuary, one could say, makes the individual “at-one” with both God and with the community, as well.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Ki Tissa

March 1-2, 2024 | 22 Adar I, 5784

SCHEDULE

Kaplan: p. 440 | Haftarah: p. 1130

Hertz: p. 352 | Haftarah: p. 370

Candle Lighting | 5:30 pm

Evening Services | 5:30 pm

Friday Night Lights | following services | Rabbi Soloveichik

Zemirot | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

Shahrit | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

Year of Hope Lecture #6 | At Morning Services | Rabbi Soloveichik

Tot Shabbat | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room

Youth Groups | 10:00 am | Elias Room

Jr. Congregation | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

Kiddush | following services | *With brief remarks from Yakir Wachstok, who organized a successful effort to deliver combat boots to soldiers in Israel*

Shabbat Afternoon Class | 4:45 pm | Rabbi Soloveichik | Main Sanctuary

Teen Shiur | 4:45 pm | Baruch-Lev Kelman | Elias Room

Evening Services | 5:25 pm

Habdala | 6:21 pm

Weekday Service Times

Sunday & Monday Mornings: 8:05 am

Tuesday-Friday Mornings: 7:05 am

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

COMING UP

DEADLINE: THIS Monday!

Shabbat Adar Community Dinner

From Singapore to Savile Row to Bespoke in Brooklyn:

Hasidic London-Trained Tailor, Yosel Tiefenbrun,

In Conversation With Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Friday Evening, March 8 | Following Evening Services & Friday Night Lights

For details & registration, visit shearithisrael.org.

PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Visit shearithisrael.org for the full Purim schedule & activities

Sisterhood Mishloah Manot

DEADLINE EXTENDED: 11:00 pm THIS Sunday, March 3

This year's packages will be filled with Israeli products. Support the Israeli economy while sending Mishloah Manot to your fellow congregants!

Check your email for information on how to participate.

Women's Megillat Esther Reading

Prepare to read on Purim morning, Sunday, March 24 | 8:30 am

Ages 12-120 | Rehearsal: Sunday, March 10 | 7:00 pm

Contact Mrs Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com to participate.

A Purim Celebration Like No Other!

Portuguese Pirate Purim Parley with Baruch-Lev Kelman

Saturday Night, March 23 | During Megillah Reading

For Kids of All Ages (under 5 must be accompanied by an adult)

Dropoff in Elias Room at 8:00 pm | Come in costume!

Join Baruch-Lev for an evening of swashbuckling fun and Purim learning, during the first megillah reading!

Matanot L'Ebyonim

It is one of the mitzvot of Purim to give charity to the poor. Your online gift or check made out to the "Rabbi's Discretionary Fund," will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik on Purim to those in need.

2024 YEAR OF HOPE

Rabbi Soloveichik's *Year of Hope* Lecture Series

"Judaica and Us: The Story of the Jewish People in Ten Objects"

Lecture #6: THIS Shabbat | At Morning Services

The Marvelous Medieval Jewish Wedding Ring:

Remembering a Lost Custom

Year of Hope Capital Campaign

Replacing our Sanctuary Carpet & Other Vital Repairs

Our Sanctuary is a prayer space of profound beauty, dignity, and serenity that has stood the test of time. While to the casual eye, the majesty of the space endures, there's an undeniable truth beneath our feet—our carpet is torn and tattered, bearing witness to the countless footsteps of generations within these walls.

Among other infrastructure repairs, it's time to replace the carpet, in both the men's and women's sections, so that our sacred space reflects the reverence it deserves.

Join our growing list of donors, and help us reach our goal of 100% participation!

Donate at shearithisrael.org/giving/year-of-hope.

CSI WOMEN & GIRLS – BECOME A READER!

Teen Girls & Young Women's Shir HaShirim Reading

Shabbat, Hol HaMoed Pesah, April 27

The young women (post-Bat Mitzvah through 20s) of our congregation recite the Song of Songs on Pesah. Preparation and training provided. Newcomers welcome!

For information and to participate, please contact lrohde-csi@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

At this week's *kiddush*, we will hear briefly from **Yakir Wachstok**. Yakir organized a successful effort to deliver combat boots to soldiers in Israel. The whole operation is run by volunteers from Holliswood, Queens and is ongoing.

Condolences to **Betty Capelluto Emden**, upon the passing of Ronald Snyder.