

DEBAR TORAH by RABBI ROHDE

Invocations for Protection & Victory, Blessing, Favor, & Prosperity

7 To convene the assembly, you are to sound long blasts, not short ones. 8 The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to sound the trumpets. This shall be a permanent statute for you and the generations to come. 9 When you enter into battle in your land against an adversary who attacks you, sound short blasts on the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God and saved from your enemies. 10 And on your joyous occasions, your appointed feasts, and the beginning of each month, you are to blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to serve as a reminder for you before your God. I am the LORD your God. (Num. 10:7-10)

There are two basic uses of the silver trumpets, we are told, although the second use seems clearly subdivided into a third, and even the first category of use may have more than one purpose. The first use is to call together or amass an assembly or congregating of the people. For this the priests would sound a "blast," apparently a long blast or tone. From the end of the paragraph we see that such assemblies or mass gatherings were called for religious festivals. However, the beginning of the paragraph implies that the trumpets could be used for other occasions when it was necessary to call together an assembly, at least for peaceful purposes, such as non-belligerent political assemblies to appoint or inaugurate a magistrate or monarch or to proclaim or legislate laws.

The second use of sounding the trumpets was when an encampment had to be on the march or on the move. In order to give orders that a whole assembled "troop" of people should together be on the move in the most orderly fashion, by rank and file, avoiding gaps, clear and loud projected sound with a sense of urgency was required. The term used for this in Hebrew is the term for vocal "shouting." Movement involves a certain amount of constant "din," never coming to a stop, and a simple blast would not cut it. A "shout," a battle "cry" or "alarm" would have to be raised, perhaps a "whooping" consisting of a connected series of sounds each puff of which was shorter in duration. This "shout" of the trumpets was used to give orders that the camp must be on the march, even if it was a peaceful march. But as I have written before, ideally the camp was always to move in military-style formation, for the sake of order and to be on-guard against pitfalls and circumstance. Hence unsurprising we find that same "shout" of the trumpet being prescribed for going into battle or even for assembly to go into battle, which requires the same raising of the battle-cry to order the troops to march ahead into battle.

The paragraph ends with the Divine dimension of the blowing of the "shout" and the "blast." The "shout" invokes God's Presence in going into battle with Israel's troops, or protects the troops in the perils of their journey. It raises morale, and gives hope that God will be on their side as they march, forging ahead into danger. The People take courage in knowing that God's Power has been invoked to protect and save them.

The meaning of God with the "blast" is more difficult to explain uniformly. Assemblies for festivities should be occasions for seeking God's continued blessings, which are the result of God's Favor. Assemblies for legislative and political purposes should be occasions for seeing to it that human law and rule reflects Divine Rule and Law. Only when man's realm reflects God's Rule will the Divine Blessing of prosperity be granted in man's realm.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Behaalotekha

June 21-22, 2024 | 16 Sivan, 5784

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Kaplan: p. 702 | Haftarah: p. 1192 // Hertz: p. 605 | Haftarah: p. 620

Candle Lighting | 8:13 pm

Evening Services | 7:00 pm | Little Synagogue

Zemirot | 8:30 am | Main Sanctuary

Shahrit | 9:10 am | Main Sanctuary

Shabbat Morning Talk | At Morning Services | Rabbi Soloveichik

Followed by presentations from our college students, Louis and Rafi Nahon, Jacob Seligson, and Emma Vorchheimer, about their campus challenges in a post-October 7 world

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 | Levy Auditorium | *Dairy kiddush with ice cream cake sponsored in honor of our graduates - See Scroll of Honor for full sponsor listings*

Shabbat Afternoon Class | 7:30 pm | Rabbi Soloveichik | Main Sanctuary

Teen Shiur | 7:30 pm | Baruch-Lev Kelman | Elias Room

Evening Services | 8:15 pm

Habdala | 9:13 pm

Weekday Service Times

Sunday Morning: 8:05 am

Monday-Friday Mornings: 7:05 am

Sunday-Thursday Evenings (Minha & Arbit): 6:45 pm

THIS SHABBAT

Graduation Kiddush & Scroll of Honor

This Shabbat, June 22 | Following Services

Featuring our annual ice cream cake tradition!

First-hand Accounts from College Campuses:

Following services, in the Main Sanctuary, we will be hearing from some of our own college students – **Louis and Rafi Nahon** (University of Chicago), **Jacob Seligson** (NYU), and **Emma Vorchheimer** (Barnard) – about their experiences on campus since October 7, and how they have navigated the challenges.

NEW THURSDAY CLASS

1001 Galilean Nights: Tales from the Jerusalem Talmud

Thursdays, following 6:30 pm Evening Services

With Baruch-Lev Kelman, Rabbinic Intern

In ancient times, the land of Israel was home to wise sages, vengeful emperors, and fearsome knights. Join Baruch-Lev as we explore the rich sagas of the oft overlooked Jerusalem Talmud.

Summer Schedule

We are transitioning to our summer season

Throughout the summer:

- Shabbat morning services will begin with Zemirot at **8:30 am**
- Friday Night Services will be held in the Little Synagogue
- Beginning Shabbat of July 6, services will be held in Levy Auditorium, our Summer Sanctuary, followed by a congenial *kiddush* outdoors on Paved Paradise.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal tob to all our 2024 graduates!

Refer to our Scroll of Honor for full graduate listings.

We mourn the loss of our member, **Mildred Green Shinnar**.

Of Interest to the Community

- This Sunday, **Rev. Z. Edinger** will be speaking at *It Happened Here: Places Over Time*, a symposium at the restored Eldridge Street Synagogue, that will explore themes of sacred versus secular, continuity versus change, and of course, how Lower Manhattan was the heart of it all for the American Jewish community.

For tickets and additional details, visit

tribester.com/event/it-happened-here-places-over-time

- Shearith Israel is pleased to be the host venue of the World Zionist Organization's 2024 **International Bible Contest** for Adults (**Hidon Tanakh**) on Sunday, June 23, at 4 pm. Following the contest, all guests are invited to a complimentary dinner.
- West Side Hatzoloh is having its annual online fundraising campaign as part of the **Global Chevra HatzalahThon**. West Side Hatzoloh provides essential services to our community. Their volunteers are always on the front lines that heed the call 24/7 for us, our families and our community.

Please let Hatzoloh know that the Shearith Israel community cares! Please donate at: hatzalahthon.com/westside/sp.

Free Public Synagogue Tours

Monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month | 5:45 pm

Individuals and groups are welcome to attend a free, guided tour on the second Wednesday of every month at 5:45 pm (prior to Evening Services), led by Rev. Z. Edinger. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person, although any amount is appreciated. Tours generally last 45 minutes.