

Debar Torah
Rabbi Shalom Morris

Shelah - Generations

Instead of destroying the entire nation, God allowed the children to live. They would inherit the Land of Israel, and through them the nation would survive. It is a dramatic, and shocking, end to the generation that humiliated Egypt, crossed the sea and heard the voice of God at Sinai. How did they come to fall so far?

Whenever faced with challenge, the generation of the Exodus opined. In Egypt there were foods that they enjoyed, and there was security in their stability. It seems ludicrous that a people who suffered at the hands of their oppressors would continue to wax nostalgic for a land in which they had suffered so. And yet, it is something we've seen time and time again. In recent years, the Jews of Germany proudly identified as such. In our community's history too, our founders asserted their Portuguese origins, despite the horrors that befell them there.

This phenomena could be attributed to cognitive dissonance, but it is far more simple. Transition is difficult, and we tend to fall back on the familiar - choosing to recall the good. The 'punishment' of forty years of wandering was therefore less of a repercussion than it was a realization. Upon entering the Land of Israel, the tribes would be faced with hardships that would last for years as they would be forced to combat nations, walled cities, and even 'children of giants.' Under those condition, they would surely have faltered and romanticized their past. Therefore, God permitted this great generation, that had accomplished so much, to live out their lives in relatively Eden like conditions, where food, water and protection were provided to them with no exertion required.

Every generation confronts its own limitations and historical context. A generation that lives through war grows up differently than one that does not. Our children grow up at a time with no memory of the Holocaust nor its survivors, and where the State Israel is a given - a powerhouse of ingenuity and technology. How does that effect them and the decisions that they will make? What are our handicaps? Generational shifts are a given, a reality we cannot escape. Therefore, it requires that we give thought to the values learned that are most important to us to convey to a new generation. Which of our life lessons must our children retain? What wisdom should we communicate to a generation living in a different reality? What is the role of Torah in this question? Our people have always faced this question, moving from land to land, however through it all we survived and thrived. What is the secret to that success?



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

June 12-13, 2015
Shabbat Shelah Lekha

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 623; Haftarah p. 635
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 722; Haftarah p. 1192

CANDLE LIGHTING | 8:09 pm

MINHAH | 6:45 pm

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a lecture entitled: "You've Got Snail: A Tale of Torah and Science"

MEANING AND MELODY | 10:00 am | Rabbi Morris | Little Synagogue

TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium

YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Children's Library

ASSIGNED JR. CONGREGATION Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

PARASHAT HASHABUA: THE PARTS THEY SKIP IN HIGH SCHOOL |

Rabbi Hidary | 7:00 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidarys' home, 1 W 85th St., Apartment 6A

RABBI SOLOVEICHIK'S PIRKEI ABOT CLASS & SEUDAH SHELISHIT

Rabbi Soloveichik | 7:00 pm | Elias Room | *Sponsored by Muk and Vivien Eisemann on the occasion of the end of sheblosim of Muk's mother Evelyn Eisenmann*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 8:00 pm

KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 9:10 pm

Summer Shabbat Schedule

Starting Saturday, June 27, Shabbat morning services will be held in Levy Auditorium.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Siyyum in memory of Belda Kaufman Lindenbaum

Sunday, June 14 | 8:00 pm | Main Sanctuary

Our members are welcome to attend a siyyum of Tanach and Mishna in memory of our fellow congregant, Belda Kaufman Lindenbaum, a dedicated and passionate pioneer for Women's Torah scholarship.

Houston Flood Relief

The Jewish community of Houston needs our help to recover from recent severe floods. Help us show our support as a community by donating to an earmarked fund of Rabbi Soloveichik's Discretionary Fund. Donate at shearithisrael.org/discretionaryfund indicating "Houston relief" by Sunday, June 14.

Pay Tribute to Rabbi Ira Rohde for 25 Years of Devoted Service as our Hazzan

Saturday, June 20 | Following Morning Services

Join us for a special tribute to Rabbi Rohde and a kiddush luncheon in his honor. To view and join our growing list of sponsors go to shearithisrael.org/irarohde25, submissions due Tuesday, June 17.

Celebrate Our 2015 Graduates

Saturday, June 20 | Following Morning Services

Let's spread the good news and celebrate the success and accomplishments of all our graduates from pre-school to PhDs! In addition to feteing our guest of honor, Rabbi Ira Rohde, we will also recognize our 2015 graduates. Go online by Tuesday, June 17 to ensure your graduate is listed on our scroll of honor (for free!) and consider honoring your graduate by co-sponsoring (\$180) or contributing (\$36). For listings and sponsorships, visit shearithisrael.org/graduation.

Weekday Toddler Summer 'Camp'

June 23rd - August 20th

Tuesdays and Thursday | 9:30-11:30 am

For children aged 16-33 months.

Includes outdoor play and a wading pool. Adult caregiver presence is required. Register online at shearithisrael.org/content/summer-toddler-program-2015

Register now for PTTTS Hebrew School

Registration for the 2015-2016 year is now open! Our Hebrew School, the Polonies Talmud Torah School, provides children and teens, ages 3-16, with a substantive Jewish education in a positive and engaging environment. Our educated, trained and enthusiastic staff create an enjoyable and warm learning environment in which children are motivated to learn and grow. Students develop Hebrew language skills (reading, writing and comprehension), learn the major portions of the Tanakh, Jewish holiday rituals, Jewish history, and how Jewish ideas inform our values in modern times. Register at shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

View all our spring classes at shearithisrael.org/education

Sunday

◇ **Saadia Gaon's Emunot ve'Deot on Revelation and Commandments** | Sjimon den Hollander | 8:40 am [Last Class June 14](#)

Monday

◇ **YL Monday Night Learning *** | 7:15 pm

◇ **Hebruta Program*** | 7:15 pm

◇ **Living Jewish** | Rabbi Morris | 7:30 pm

◇ **Rambam Rules for Young Professionals** | Rabbi Morris | 8:30 pm

**In partnership with JICNY*

Tuesday

◇ **Shulhan Arukh** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:45 am [Last Class June 23](#)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tob to Elan and Diana BenAvi on the birth of a daughter, Fay Magnolia. Congratulations to the proud grandparents, Jacob and Joanne Ben-Avi.

We mourn the loss of our member Esther Shear. Condolences to her daughter Gabrielle Parish.

We welcome the following individuals to the Shearith Israel Family:
Francine Alfandary and Laurent Nahon

Share Some Nice Words About Rabbi Rohde

To show our great appreciation for Rabbi Rohde, we are asking for congregants of all ages to share a few words - memories funny and sweet, and sentiments of gratitude and congratulations. 1-3 sentences long. A few of these testimonials will be selected for inclusion in our printed program. But Rabbi Rohde will receive all comments that come in. Parents, please share this request with your children. The deadline is June 16, at noon. Please send to ashultz@shearithisrael.org. Unless we are otherwise notified, your name will be included.

Our Next Public Tour is:
Tuesday, July 14 at 11:00 am

Parnas Office Hours

Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you. Please schedule a visit at parnas@shearithisrael.org.