Winter Coat Drive  
November 22-December 20  
Warm coats for men, women and children are needed.  
Place in the box outside Levy Auditorium.  
Sponsored by the Shearith Israel League  
in cooperation with New York Cares.

Thanksgiving Pack-a-thon  
Thank you to everyone who participated in the pack-a-thon this week. Help us reach our financial goal of $28,000 by December 15. Make a tax deductible donation to the Food Bank for New York City to benefit our project. Go to shearithisrael.org/pack-a-thon.

Buy a Shearith Israel Kippah  
Shearith Israel Kippot are available for purchase on our website at shearithisrael.org/store for $10 each.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tov to Beth and Marc Benguidi upon the marriage of their daughter, Elana, to Jack E. Harary of Brooklyn. Elana is the granddaughter of Henri Benguidi.

Mazal Tov to Yonina and Eric Gombarg upon the birth of a daughter. Congratulations to proud grandmother Gail Propp.

Manners, Laws, and the Man of His Honor  
Rabbi Ira Rohde  
One Hebrew term for etiquette, manners, or norms of conduct is “nimzum,” a derivative of the Greek term “nomos,” the term for a law or a rule. Perhaps the Rabbi sueth the Greek derived term to indicate habits and customs of behavior which were not per se legally obliga-
tory or divinely ordained but rather were merely “conventional.” As a foreign-derived term, it was naturally applied to the customs of the Gentiles whose laws were somewhat denigrated as being merely conventional as opposed to Divine购物了s. This, however, doesn’t mean that etiquette doesn’t have a powerful basis in Divine Law and pre-Divine Law, as the Rabbi wrote about “derekh etzri” “the way of the land,” the proper Hebrew term for manners: “Heed the way of the Torah.” The German-Jewish refugee sociologist Norbert Elias in 1978 in his book “The Civilization Process” wrote about how our modern rules of etiquette, manners, and politeness developed from medieval times to lessen the threat of violence among individuals and were paralleled by rules of diplomacy and engagement within and between societies. Flat-
terly and a hyperbolic use of deferential language were part of this. Elias’ use of an extreme form of courtesy and etiquette is certainly one of the main themes of Parashat Vayishlah, as well as breaches of proper etiquette by Shekhim and Jacob’s and Levi. The great courteses of honor shown is successful at avoiding violence and warfare, and conversely the breaches of courtesy and honor lead directly to violence. But there is another, Divine aspect to the courtesy here, as well. Just as human law has to be reflected in Divine Law, so human etiquette has to be reflective of Divine norms and rules. Without Divine morality, there can be no human morality; without Divine honor, there can be no human honor. Jacob’s courtesy and showing honor towards his brother Esau is clearly meant to be reflective of the honor and courtesy Jacob shows to God. Pacts and covenants between men must pattern themselves after the classical pact man makes with God. Jacob first enters and prays to God for his protection, and Jacob’s speech to his brother Esau afterwards mirrors his prayer to God. Jacob’s “gift” to his brother Esau is called both a “minah,” the term used for a sacrificial “offering,” as well as a “blessing.” Jacob “entres” his brother to accept the offering with goodwill, with the hope that the gift will find favor, propit-
tiate and please his brother. Jacob prays not just for Esau’s forgiveness but that “perhaps he shall delight in my countenance,” a phrase famous from the Priestly Blessing. Jacob humbles himself before his brother as if before God. All of this uses terminology in the human realm borrowed from the realm of sacrifice to God and Divine worship. Of course, these ideals of courtesy and etiquette are taken from the political realm of the royal court. And flattering smooth-talking deference has the practical function of massaging the ego. But the main point being made seems to be that in his approach to his brother Jacob is here deliberately and seriously imitating classic standards of honor and respect due to God. “Now, blessed of the Lord I have found grace in your eyes, do accept me from this gift, so for to see your face is like seeing the countenance of God, and you have favored me. (33:10)” Peace, honor, justice, and mo-
rality among men are bestowed by honoring standards of honor, courtesy, morality, and re-
spect which are properly only due to the Divine. The truth is, the language which Jacob uses in approaching Esau is not only flattering, but it actually conceals a bit of deception upon Jacob’s part, and we are led to believe that this is so on Esau’s part, as well. Jacob seems quite certain of Esau’s meekness intentions; that’s why he subordinates his camp. Jacob seems to feign his intention to make a proper ambassadorial visit to Esau’s home territory of Seir in the far South, but when Esau offers Jacob an official es-
cort, Jacob wiggles out of the commitment. He knows that a visit could easily turn into a trap. Jacob is particularly insistent that Esau give the gift of flocks because he hopes that this will propitiate and satisfy Esau’s desire to despise him. Underneath all the magnanimous, *conventional* courtesies, there is deference, left maneuvering going on here between the two broth-
ers; neither side is being honest with the other about his true intentions. Jacob is even more disingenuous later in seeming to accept the brideprice for his daughter Dinah willingly from Shekhim and his father. But there is still a point to such imitating of exalted Divine norms, even if it is not so di
capably. Jacob the deceiver has grown into Israel the diplomat. The ambitious boy Jacob has learned how to struggle honorably with his foes, and the grown man Israel has learned to fight as well as negotiate a place as a man of his honor.
UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

British Invasion Shabbat Dinner
Featuring Zaki Cooper and
our resident Anglophile, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Friday Night, December 4
Following evening services and Friday Night Lights
Drawing on first-hand experience of working at Buckingham Palace, and using objects from his time working there, Zaki Cooper will provide insights into the role of the Royal Family and shed light on this historic institution. Who knows more about the British, Zaki Cooper or Rabbi Soloveichik? Find out at our British invasion Shabbat Dinner! British Menu will be served. Register at shearithisrael.org/british-invasion by November 29.

Enroll in CSI’s Text Messaging Notification Service
Many of our members and friends enjoy attending our special programs and events such as community meals, public lectures, etc. However, we know how busy you are and how easy it is to overlook an email or registration deadline; we want to help make it easier for you. We have set up a special text message service that can remind you when RSVP deadlines are approaching. We can also alert you of synagogue schedule changes, weather emergencies, security incidents or last minute class cancellations. To subscribe to our service, check our weekly emails for specific instructions. Please be assured, we will only text you for those alerts you have selected and will only use this on an as-needed basis.

Crisis in Syria:
Current State and Future Prospects
With Moti Kahana
Thursday, December 3 | 7:00 pm
Join Rabbi Richard Hidary and Moti Kahana as they discuss the crisis in Syria. Moti Kahana is an American-Israeli businessman and humanitarian who made international headlines by financing much needed supplies for Syrians caught in a vicious civil war. He tried to negotiate the safe return of American journalist Steven Sotloff who was being held by ISIS, he smuggled Jews out of Syria and saved a young woman, Gill Rosenberg when it was thought that she was captured by ISIS while fighting alongside the Kurds in Northern Iraq.

Visit to the Nahmias et Fils Distillery
201 Saw Mill River Road, Yonkers, NY
Sunday, December 6 | 1:00 pm
Attend a demonstration and tasting. A light lunch will also be served. For transportation, meet-up and payment information, go to silague.org.
RSVP to mosserig21@bigplanet.com.
Sponsored by the Shearith Israel League, the American Sephardi Federation and the Beth Aharon Congregation of Riverdale.

Hanukkah Special Guest Lecture
"Coloring the Arch of Titus Menorah: Recent Discoveries in Rome"
Professor Steven Fine
Monday, December 7 | 7:00 pm
Join us for a guest lecture during Rabbi Hidary’s Second Temple History class. Steven Fine is the Dean Pinkhos Churgin Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University and Director of the Arch of Titus Project. His “‘Menorah: From the Bible to the Apocalypse” will be published by Harvard University Press in 2016. Free and open to the public.
Thank you to our sponsors Karen and Jack Daar and Mildred Green Shinnar.

PTTS and CSI Youth Hanukkah Fest
Sunday Morning, December 13
10:00 am -12:00 pm
While many Jews celebrate Hanukkah by eating potato latkes, deep fried in oil in remembrance of the miracle of the oil, here at Shearith Israel we honor the tradition of Amsterdam by eating vaffele (waffles) because God made a “miracle and wonder” (Hebrew: “nes va-fe’le”) during these days. And after all, everyone loves a good waffle!
Please join PTTS and CSI youth for Hanukkah festivities, including an olive press demonstration, art projects using sand and foil, songs and of course, delicious waffles.

WEEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION
For schedule and class details go to: shearithisrael.org/content/judaic-education-and-major-lectures

Sunday
◊ The Book of Kings | Rabbi Hidary | 8:40 am NO CLASS THIS WEEK
◊ Saadia Gaon’s Book of Beliefs and Opinions | Stimon den Hollander | 9:30 am

Monday
◊ Second Temple Jewish History | Rabbi Hidary | 7:00 pm
◊ Bet Midrash | Rabbi Hidary, Phil Getz, Dr. Josh Eisen, Rabbi Ira Rohde, Meira Wokenfeld | 8:00 pm Fall semester sponsored by Josh Eisen.

Tuesday
◊ Rabban’s Mishne Torah | Rabbi Hidary | 7:45 am
◊ Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought: A Class for Women | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am
◊ Talmud Class: Tractate Rosh Hashana and the Philosophy of Jewish Time | Rabbi Soloveichik | 8:00 am

Please consider sponsoring a class. Go to: shearithisrael.org/sponsoraclass

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

Our next public tour is:
Tuesday, December 8 at 11:00 am