A Note About Our Weekly Dibrei Torah
Our Debar Torah this week is written by Rabbi Harris Guedalia. Over the course of this year, in addition to our Shearith Israel cast of writers, we will expose you to guest Debar Torah contributors from other Spanish and Portuguese communities around the world. Thank you Rabbi Guedalia for this week’s excellent Debar Torah!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the Shearith Israel Family:
Evelyn and Manny Gross
Susan and Roger Hertog
Judith and Isaac Sherman
Alexandra and Chalom Silber

Hazak U’Barukh to many-time marathon participant, honorary trustee, and esteemed nonagenarian member, Col. Jonathan de Sola Mendes on completing the NYC Marathon!

Shearith Israel Cufflinks
Did you see the fabulous sterling silver cufflinks we presented to our gala honorees? You too can look like a CSI hero for only $180 a pair. Treat yourself, a friend or loved one with a Hanukkah gift. Order by December 8 at shearithisrael.org/cufflinks

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:
Wednesday, December 14 at 11:00 am

Lekh Lekha
Rabbi Harris Guedalia (with Hershel Sennett)

Rav Kook identified two Jewish ideals, the national and the spiritual: The land of Israel and The Torah. Below we will consider the origin of these fundamentals.

Genesis 15, 1-8, God tells Abram...“your reward is very great”. Verse 5 explains, And He (God) took him (Abram) outside and said “Look now toward heaven...” Apparently this is the reward. Rashi points out that the simple explanation of this verse is, God took him out of the tent to see the stars. Rashi adds that according to the Midrash, God took Abram away from his fate: As Abram and Sari your fate is not to have children - but as Abraham and Sarah you will.

The conversation concludes in verse 8, “There will be children and these children will inherit this land”. This is the great reward. Only the children of Abraham and Sarah will inherit this land.

But Abraham had other children with other women. With Hagar, (Genesis 16,6) and with Ketorah (Genesis 25, 1.) Although these children are also descendants of Abraham they have no share in the land. In Genesis 7: 4-5, God tells Abram that he will be the father of many nations, and that his name is now Abraham. Rashi adds that he will be the father of the entire world. Biologically he will be the father of many peoples, but spiritually he will influence the entire world.

What was Abraham’s universal message? Mammonides tells how Abraham taught the message of one God to all people and wrote books affirming this great principle and taught it to Isaac his son. This world view was followed until the days of Egyptian slavery when many turned away from monotheism. In consequence this tradition was given to Moses and the Jews only on Mount Sinai. Abraham taught God’s ways to all, Moses only to the Jewish people.

The Rabbis understood that at times a Jew may have to decide between these two values, land and Torah. It is taught a resident of Israel may leave the land only for certain approved reasons. One is to study Torah. The Torah has sustained us throughout history. We are blessed that today we have the opportunity to do both.

Rabbi Harris Guedalia is the founder and director of the Gimmel Foundation, an educational and social service organization serving Southern Israel, centered in Kiryat Malachi. He is the son of the late Judah & Selma Guedalia (and the uncle of our shamash, Zachariah Edinger.)

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Lekh Lekha
November 11-12, 2016
Herz Pentateuch: p. 45; Haftarah p. 60
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 52; : Haftarah p. 1058

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:23 pm
MINHAH | 4:30 pm | Main Sanctuary
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on the topic “The Seven Sabbaths of John Quincy Adams” 2016-2017 season sponsored by the Fuld Family

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a lecture on the topic “UNESCO and Us: Archaeology, Theology, and Jerusalem

WOMEN'S SERVICE (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Little Synagogue
TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium

YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Fidankshe Auditorium

JRF. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Levy Auditorium
KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

SEUADAH SHELISHIT AND PIRKEI ABOIT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic “Between Athens and Jerusalem: Shimon the Righteous and Antigonus of Socho” 3:30 pm | Levy Auditorium | Fall semester sponsored by Lewis Lipsey
MINHANAH/ARBIT | 4:15 PM
HABDALAH | 5:08 pm

Weekday Service Times
Mornings: Sunday: 8:00 AM, Monday-Friday: 7:15 AM
Evenings (Arbit Only): Monday-Thursday: 6:30PM
UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

The Esther Goldfarb Memorial Blood Drive
This Sunday, November 13, 2016 | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Give the Gift of Life and be a Blood Donor. To sign up, email RitaRodin165@aol.com. Sponsored by the Sherith Israel League

A Very American Community Shabbat Dinner
Friday Night, November 18
Deadline: Tuesday, November 15
In anticipation of Thanksgiving, come to Sherith Israel for a special Shabbat dinner program featuring award winning writer-journalist, Melanie Kirkpatrick, author of Thanksgiving: The Holiday at the Heart of the American Experience in conversation with Rabbi Soloviechik. Together, they will give a vivid portrait of the history of our nation's and our synagogue's most beloved national holiday. Procrastinators Pricing has now kicked in. Register at sherithisrael.org/americandinner.

Thanksgiving Pack-a-thon 2016
Thursday, November 24 | 10-11:30 am
Building on the success of last year’s Pack-a-thon, this year, for this very important boxed project, we will be partnering with the West End Collegiate Church and also with the Jewish Center as part of our “Achdut in Action” Initiative. On Thanksgiving morning, after Rabbi Soloviechik’s special Thanksgiving address, UJA will have us set up in Levy Auditorium to pack over one thousand meals to be distributed to hungry New Yorkers. We are delighted to report that we have already secured a matching grant from a generous donor who will give $5 for every $1 donated to this project (with a $10,000 cap). We have a variety of roles for volunteers and volunteers are asked to donate a minimum of $18 to help us reach our overall goal of $18,000. We have over 55 volunteers and have raised almost $12,000 so far! All proceeds will go to the Mer Council on Poverty’s hunger relief program. Register at sherithisrael.org/pack-a-thon2016

THANKSGIVING DAY ACTIVITIES
Start the day with morning services at 7:45 am followed by: Rabbi Soloviechik’s Thanksgiving Address
Children’s Hesed Cafeteria Activity
Refreshments
Parade Viewing for Youth
Hunger Alliteration Pack-a-thon (registration required)

Sign up for the Spring Semester of Caregiver and Me Toddler Program
Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30-11:30am
For ages 16 - 36 months | Begins January 4, 2017
Led by our veteran early childhood specialist, Liz Rios, toddlers learn colors and shapes, create arts and crafts, sing songs, explore Jewish holidays, music and enjoy special visits by Rabbi Ira Rohde. Spaces are limited. 1 or 2 day options. Preferred pricing for members. Register now at sherithisrael.org/toddlerprogram.

Like us on Facebook
Did you see our posts about Jon Mendes' marathon run, our gala photo album, and Rabbi Meir Soloviechik's standing room only pre-election shiur? Join the conversation. Like us on Facebook and share your favorite posts. facebook.com/sherithisrael.nyc

Exclusive Tour of “The First Jewish Americans: Freedom and Culture In The New Word” Exhibit
Rabbi Meir Soloviechik and Museum Curator, Debra Bach
The New-York Historical Society
170 Central Park West (At 77th street)
Sunday, December 18 | 10:00 am
(one hour before the museum opens to the public)
Building upon the overwhelming enthusiasm of our recent exclusive tour at the Morgan Library and Museum, our congregants have more reason than ever to take interest in this extraordinary exhibit. This exhibit is directly connected to the history of our community and congregation and showcases several important objects from our collection as well as extensive loans from the private collection of our member, Leonard Milberg. And who better to guide us through this exhibit, vividly bringing the history to life, but our own resident historian, Rabbi Soloviechik along with Debra Bach, the curator of the exhibit.
As spaces are highly limited, we are opening registration for now to sponsors ONLY. We will open the program to non-sponsors, subject to remaining spots as we get closer to the date. Register at sherithisrael.org/The-First-Jewish-Americans

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION
For details go to: sherithisrael.org/judaic-education

Sunday
◊ Saadia Gaon’s Book of Beliefs and Opinions | Simon den Hollander | 8:45 am

Monday
◊ Monday Night Learning: A Series of Series | Series 1 “Early America and the Jews” | Rabbi Soloviechik | 7:00 pm | on select Mondays | Sponsored this week by Joe Blank in memory of Jakob Blank

Tuesday
◊ Kutzap Class and Breakfast | Following Morning Services
◊ Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought- A Class for Women | Rabbi Soloviechik | 9:00 am
◊ Talmud Class | Rabbi Soloviechik | 7:00 pm (NEW TIME) | BEGINS THIS WEEK

To sponsor a single class or an entire semester, go to sherithisrael.org/sponsoraclass

Join the email lists that you are interested in and follow our class schedules and topics. Go to sherithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists to select your lists.

OTHER INITIATIVES
Yoetzet Halakha
If you have any questions regarding Taharat Hamishpah (Jewish Family Law) laws of Niddah, sexuality and women’s health, please contact our Yoetzet Halakah, Ilana Gaddish in confidence at (646) 598-1080 or nycyoetzet@gmail.com

Hard time remembering RSVP deadlines?
We can remind you by text. Enroll at: sherithisrael.org/text-message-notifications

Don’t let us go dry.
Be a scotch or arak sponsor. To sponsor or contribute go to sherithisrael.org/scotch-and-arak-sponsorships