A Note About Our Weekly Dibrei Torah
Our Debar Torah this week is written by Rabbi Joseph Dweck, Senior Rabbi of the S&P Sephardi Community of the United Kingdom. In addition to our Shearith Israel cast of writers, we like to expose you to guest Debar Torah contributors from other Spanish and Portuguese communities around the world. Thank you Rabbi Dweck for this week’s excellent Debar Torah!

Buy a Siddur
A new reprinting of our siddurim are hot off the press and are available for purchase on our website at shearithisrael.org/store for $25 each.

Scotch and arak sponsorships
In addition to our weekly Kiddush sponsors and contributors we accept sponsors for the Scotch and Arak that we make available each week. To sponsor or contribute go to shearithisrael.org/scotch-and-arak-sponsorships.

Weekday Toddler Summer ‘Camp’
June 20-August 17
Tuesdays and Thursdays | 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/summer-toddler-camp.

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, March 8 at 11:00 am

Reaching Limits
by Rabbi Joseph Dweck,
Senior Rabbi of the S&P Sephardi Community of the UK
In our discussions on the Book of Shemos thus far, we have examined the various elements of freedom that are expressed through its stories and commandments. Here, in Parashat Mishpatim, we come to the detailed, everyday issues that affect our lives as free human beings. The laws presented in Mishpatim deal with many issues, among them are laws that address culpability for inflicting bodily harm, responsibilities for borrowing and lending, a judge’s directives and limits, and how we are to treat those in a weak or vulnerable state, like the widow, orphan and convert. It is clear that while in previous parashot we read of liberation and redemption from bondage, here we read of restrictions.

Before we leave Sinai to embark on building a free society, we are cautioned against using our freedom to abuse or mistreat others. The word mishpatim literally means judgments, which, with a bit of thought, seems a strange word to use for laws. ‘Judgment’ is used here because judgment by its very nature, creates definitions. Definition provides clarity, and when we judge, we draw lines, we sharpen details, and we ensure that delineation and dimension are intact so that the individual integrity of the different elements of our world can remain distinct and properly integrated.

These special laws, therefore, relate to judgments about appropriateness — namely, the appropriateness of our own free existence as it impacts our surroundings and interactions. Mishpatim ensure that freedom is kept sacred by making sure that it is not muddied by overextension. The limits that are set by Torah within civil law guard against the blurring of lines and unchecked actions to which freedom can give rise. The clarity of knowing what one is responsible for, when one must act or remain silent, what one can control and what one must never control are outlined, and in those judgments of appropriateness freedom emerges complete and healthy.

Parashat Mishpatim does more than set the circumstances for a group of righteous individuals to thrive, it also sets the terms through which a whole society can live in justice. In the vast matrix of reality where interactions of many detailed parts create the living web of civilization, appropriate judgments are essential in order to maintain its overall integrity and authenticity. When we respect the limits of our liberties, we leave open the ability for the human spirit to thrive and for civilization to flourish in all of its beautiful potential.

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue
Shabbat Mishpatim-Shekalim
February 24-25, 2017


CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:24 pm
MINAH | 5:30 pm
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on the topic “Menachem Begin’sMahar Hodesh” | This session is sponsored by Deborah Bendheim in loving memory of her father, Ralph Bendheim, in commemoration of his Nahala (Yahrzeit) | 2016-2017 season sponsored by the Julis Family

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAHART (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a shiur on the topic “The Ketuba of Hayim Salomon: Deciphering an Amazing Document from 1777”
TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium
YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room
JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue
KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium
SEUDEH SHELISHIT AND PIRKEI ABOY SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic “The Anatomy of the Megillah” | 4:15 pm | Levy Auditorium
Spring semester is sponsored anonymously in memory of Irena Cardozo

MINAH/ARBIT | 5:15 pm
HABDALAH | 6:14 pm

Weekday Service Times
Mornings: Sunday: 8:00 AM, Monday-Friday: 7:15 AM,
**Evenings (Minah & Arbit): Sunday- Thursday: 5:30 PM
**Note new time
**Purim at Shearith Israel**

**Purim Dinner and Entertainment for Youth and Adults**
Saturday night, March 11
Following 7:15 pm Megillah reading
Immediately following the Megillah reading, registered guests are invited to a festive family-style meal in Levy Auditorium. In addition to a tasty dinner, guests will enjoy our annual children’s costume parade and entertainment for the adults. Childcare provided. Register at shearithisrael.org/purim-dinner by March 7th to beat the procastinator’s pricing.

**CSI Youth Megillah Esther Show**
Saturday night, March 11 | Arrive at 7:00 pm
Elias Room
Children are invited for a special interactive Purim show by Yeladues. To sponsor, go to shearithisrael.org/yeladues.

The Sisterhood’s Mishloah Manot Initiative
Deadline: Sunday, February 26 at 8:00 pm
Want to send Mishloah Manot to your fellow congregants for Purim this year? Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to send special Purim greetings and to reach out to our Shearith Israel community. This project will support the Sisterhood’s many projects. If you have not yet received an email with instructions and wish to participate please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com or Mrs. Carla Schein at scheinc6@gmail.com.

**Women’s Megillah Reading**
Sunday, March 12 | service begins at 8:00 am
We are looking for volunteers 12 or over to read Megillah. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com. Assignments are as short as 3 verses and all audio is available on the synagogue website. It’s easy to learn and is a great way to participate this Purim!

**Purim Morning Breakfast**
Sunday, March 12 | Following 8:00 am services
Immediately following the 8:00 am readings of the Megillah, congregants are welcome to enjoy a festive breakfast.
To sponsor, go to shearithisrael.org/purim-breakfast.

**Matanot L’E’yanim**
It is one of the core mitzvot of Purim to give charity to the poor, Matanot L’E’yanim. Your online gift or check made out to the "Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund," (memo: "Matanot L’E’yanim") will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik on Purim to those in need. Go to shearithisrael.org/matanot to donate.

**Other Events & Initiatives**

**Save the Date: Wine and Cheese Event**
Wednesday, March 29 (note date change from bulletin)
Say “Cheese!” In the tradition of our past stand-out “educulinary” events, we are delighted to bring you a special wine and cheese pairing party. We will learn about cheese making from an expert kosher cheese maker, “the Cheese Guy.” Sample wine and cheese pairings carefully curated by Carmet/Yatir wineries, and enjoy relevant shiurim by our own Rabbi Soloveichik. Stay tuned for registration information.

**Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Shearith Israel: A Monthly Q & A**
Z. Edinger
Thursday, March 23 | 7:00 pm
Intended for both new members and "old-timers," beginners and advanced students, this class will be based on topics suggested by you! If you’ve ever had a question about our congregation’s history, liturgy, music, or, customs – this is the class for you. Please submit your questions to zedinger@shearithisrael.org and he will prepare a class to satisfy you!

**Weekday Judaic Education**
For details go to: shearithisrael.org/judaic-education

- **Sunday**
  - Saadiah Gaon’s Book of Beliefs and Opinions | Sjimon den Hollander | 8:45 am

- **Tuesday**
  - Katzip Class and Breakfast | Following Morning Services
  - Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought - A Class for Women | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am | Spring semester is sponsored anonymously in memory of Debby Neu mark
  - Talmud Class: Tractate Sanhedrin | Rabbi Soloveichik | 7:00 pm

- **Wednesday**
  - Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Shearith Israel: A Monthly Q & A | Z. Edinger | 7:00 pm | On select Wednesdays | Next class will be on THURSDAY, March 23 at 7pm | Email questions to zedinger@shearithisrael.org.

- **Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday**
  - Habruta (Paired) Learning | 5:15 pm - 7:15 pm | Before and after evening services, Rabbi Chaim Yanetz and rabbinical students from YU are available in the Elias Room to study in habruta with congregants of all ages.

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

  To find out when your favorite class is held, canceled or for special topics, go to shearithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists.

**Finding Community Announcements Online**
Need to look up shibah information, or better yet, a birth announcement? Our website is a great resource. Go to: shearithisrael.org/announcements for the latest community news.