Announcing a Very Special Shabbaton
Learning History, Celebrating History, MAKING History in Washington DC and Monticello
Friday, May 5 – Sunday, May 7
Join an exclusive opportunity to make history with Rabbi Soloveichik as we conduct the first ever haschabah (memorial service) for Rachel Phillips Levy, Shearith Israel forebear and the only Jew buried on the grounds of Monticello. This educational trip is limited to 60 donors. For details, terms, and registration go to shearithisrael.org/Monticello.

Join Our Team of Knowledgeable Shearith Israel Tour Guides
Do you love Shearith Israel—its history, customs, architecture, design, and objects? Consider becoming a volunteer docent and help us educate the many groups of adults and youths who visit us on tours throughout the year. To express interest and learn more about what’s involved please email Sarah Gross at sgross@shearithisrael.org.

Teen Girls Shir Hashirim Reading
Saturday, April 15 / Fifth Day of Pesah
After musaf on the fifth day of Pesah, the teen girls in our synagogue, ages 12-18, are invited to take part in our unique tradition as they read The Song of Songs for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. Full preparation and training provided. Newcomers welcome! For information, and to participate, please contact Yehudit Robinson at yehuditrobinson@gmail.com.

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

Building a Home, Cementing a Relationship
Rabbi Ira Rohde, Hazan
To say that this week’s parasha begins antithetically is rather an understatement. Exodus begins with a captivating story, then slow and wonders, a miraculous escape to freedom, then the Divine Revelation of Laws to keep them free, and then a vision of the Divine Cloud with the Divine Glory as a fire on the top of the mountain, and Moshe going up onto that mountain for forty days. The tone abruptly switches: “The Lord spoke to Moses, saying ‘Speak to the Children of Israel, that they should take for me a gift...gold, silver, and bronze, blue wool, and purple, and scarlet, and...leather, and acacia-wood... And they shall make, for me a sanctuary, that I should dwell in their midst.” In terms of drama of the story, it certainly seems antithetic, a sudden return to the mundane. After all, it’s the same people, all the details of the building plans, perhaps the goal of having God abide with them is not so mundane, after all, but the switch in tone from storytelling and great ethical principles to teaching building plans is quite jarring. Isn’t Egypt already a high point to connect the sequence, writing: “…Spoke. – When [Moses] had ascended to the top of the mountain, [God] was speaking to [Moses] on the summit of the Tabernacle, with its horns, that they should make a sanctuary, in which He should abide, and there [God] would speak with Moses so [Moses] wouldn’t [need to] ascend the mountain anymore.”

But that’s only the complete shift in tone. Especially the switch to a listing of the detailed plans for making the Tabernacle. Sure, the making of the Tabernacle was to allow for Moses to consult with God in a more regular and less scary venue. But even if making such a venue for God and Moses to meet here on earth demanded meticulous, painstaking care, why should all that detail have been retained and recounted in our Torah?

And yet that is the way it is with all real stories, as opposed to romances; certainly that’s the way it is with all real relationships. First there is great drama, liberation, and romance. But then, afterwards, the story is trying to teach us, it is time to get down to the brass tacks of building a home together. There must be a shift. The relationships are not just “cemented” through building a common home. That home’s dimensions must be planned and executed carefully, to reflect the Divine command, and the Divine Order in Nature. It must use the highest, classic-quality materials, and must follow classic, simple geometric proportions. It is painstaking work, and gone is much of the drama and romance.

But not the poetry. The dimensions follow ideal patterns, and even the listing of them has a poetic, fairy-tale flavor. And the descriptions of the materials and incense-spices give an air of the exquisite, of royalty. Perhaps that’s why the plans begin with the collection of gold, silver and brass. We’re supposed to get a little when we hear mention of the fine, exotic, royal materials collected. The home we fashion together should be no ordinary home, but a palace. The drama of the romance has turned into the aesthetic poetry of the home. A house, it’s said, is not always a home. Making a home out of it involves bringing ideas down to brass tacks, as well as painting, creative, and artistic labor. The alluring Princess and her Prince Charming must build a palace together. Classic dimensions, patterns, and royal roles must be followed. After all, gravity is the same everywhere, and when proper architectural dimensions are not followed, all buildings are in danger of collapse. Only after Israel shows it can build its first Divine Home together will Israel merit to make its final home in the Promised Homeland.

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue
Shabbat Terumah
March 3-4, 2017

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:32 pm
MINAH | 5:30 pm
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on the topic “Tony Blair’s Parshat Terumah Question” 2016-2017 season sponsored by the Jufit Family

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a sermon on the topic “Lincoln’s Megillah
TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium
YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elia Room
JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue
KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium
SEUDAH SHELSHTIT AND PIKEKE ABOY SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic “Purim Torah: A Philosophical Analysis” | 4:25 pm | Levy Auditorium | Spring semester is sponsored anonymously in memory of Irma Cardozo

MINAH/ARBIT | 5:25 pm
HABDALAH | 6:23 pm

Weekday Service Times
Mornings: Sunday | 8:00 AM, Monday-Friday: 7:15 AM, Evenings (Minah & Arbit): Sunday– Wednesday: 5:30 PM Fast of Esther– Thursday, March 2
Fast Begins: 4:56 AM, Morning Services: 7:15 AM, Minah (men wear tehillin); 5:30 PM, Fast Ends: 6:18 PM
Because the fast would fall out on Shabbat, the practice is to observe the fast on the Thursday prior

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 326 | Haftarah p. 336
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 380 | Haftarah p. 1120
**Purim at Shearith Israel**

**Purim Schedule**
Fast of Esther (Observed) **Thursday, March 9th**
- Dawn (Fast Begins) ........................................... 4:56 am
- Morning Service (Shahrit) .................................. 7:15 am
- Minhah (men wear tefillin) ................................. 5:30 pm
- Fast Ends .......................................................... 6:18 pm

**Eve of Purim**
Saturday Evening, March 11th
- Shabbat Minhah .................................................. 5:40 pm
- Habadalah .......................................................... 6:32 pm *

*note updated time from bulletin
- Purim/Morzaei Shabbat Arbkat ................................... 7:00 pm
- Children’s Megillah Program .................................. 7:00 pm
- Reading of Megillah ............................................. 7:15 pm
- Purim Dinner ....................................................... For Registered Guests
- Late Reading of Megillah ...................................... 9:00 pm

*Moves Clocks One Hour Ahead Tonight!

**Purim Day**
Sunday, March 12th
- Morning Shahrit .................................................. 8:00 am
- Morning Megillah Reading & Breakfast .................. 8:30 am
- Women’s Megillah Reading .................................. 8:30 am
- Late Morning Megillah Reading ............................. 11:00 am
- Purim Day Minhah & Arbit Services ......................... 6:30 pm
- End of Purim Day ................................................ 7:21 pm

**Purim Dinner**
Saturday night, March 11
Following 7:15 pm Megillah reading
Deadline: Tuesday, March 7
Immediately following the Megillah reading, registered guests are invited to a festive meal in Levy Auditorium. In addition to a tasty dinner, guests will enjoy entertainment overseen by Rabbi Soloveichik as well as our annual children’s costume parade. Childcare provided.
Register at shearithisrael.org/purimdinner by March 7th to beat the procrastinator’s pricing.

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

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

**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.
Join our sponsors at shearithisrael.org/purim-breakfast.

**Women’s Megillah Reading**
Sunday, March 12 | service begins at 8:00 am
All women are invited to attend this annual tradition.

**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 “edulinary” 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 Carmel/Yatir wineries, and enjoy relevant shirim by our own Rabbi Soloveichik.
Stay tuned for registration information.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome New Members Bess Castagnello and her fiancé Simcha Ferr to the Shearith Israel Family**

**Hazak U’Barukh** to our member, David Sable who will be the featured speaker at the 21st Shabbat Across America this Friday night, March 3rd held at Lincoln Square Synagogue.