SAVE THE DATE: Annual Ski and Snowboard Trip
Monday, December 25
Are you between the ages of 7 and 107? Do you like winter sports? Well, you’re in luck!
Shearith Israel and The Jewish Center are joining forces again this year for a fun day of skiing and snowboarding! All are welcome—teens, singles, couples, families, first-timers, black diamond skiers, and more.
Registration details coming soon.

CAREING CONNECTION & THE LEAGUE PRESENT:
Upper West Side Blood Drive
The Esther Goldfarb Memorial Blood Drive
January 7, 2018 | 10:00 am–4:00 pm
The Jewish Center, 131 W 86 St
Kick off the new year by giving the gift of life—be a blood donor. This year, to maximize our impact, we are partnering with numerous congregations on the Upper West Side, so far including: Darkhei Noam, The Jewish Center, Lincoln Square Synagogue, Congregation Shaare Zedek, and Young Israel of the Upper West Side.
Registration details to follow.

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

DEBAR TORAH: THE GRIND
BY DOVID SCHWARTZ & R. SIGEL

Lavan decided that Jacob must work for seven years for his daughter’s hand. Jacob, loverstruck, readily agreed—he would work for seven years. In fact, they flew by; the pasuk says that the seven years seemed like seven short days because of Jacob’s affection for Rachel (29:20). Of course, Lavan tricked him and gave Jacob his other daughter, Leah, instead, and demanded he work another seven years for Rachel. Needless to say, these seven years did not fly by; they were grueling, tiresome and monotonous. The second seven years were uninspired by his tired love and affection for Rachel, and we would expect that Jacob’s work ethic would begin to falter. Indeed, this is what happens to us: uninspired work tends to produce uninspired results.

But Jacob overcame this. Rashi (29:30) quotes the midrash which states that even during the second seven years, Jacob worked admirably and honestly; he did not cut corners; he powered through the grind. Moreover, the Rambam (Hil. Schierut 13:11) states that Jacob symbolizes the ideal work ethic of diligence and integrity. While we may find this admirable, we also probably find it baffling. How could Jacob, aching and mistreated by Lavan, possess the force of character to meet these standards?

I think the answer lies in the depiction of Jacob that we find in our liturgy. In Mincha on the Sabbath, we say that “Jacob and his sons rest in it,” i.e. the Sabbath. What’s the significance of that? Abraham was the visionary of Judaism. He had a dominating and creative character which enabled him to invent and dream. His personality captivated many people and they all joined his faith. Abraham, as we say in our liturgy, “reveals”: that is, he reveals the truth of G-d’s word through his creativity and power.

This is different. He was private and inward—he did not share much create as cause to flourish. He certainly did not invent Judaism; however, he did keep it going. That is why we describe Isaac as flourishing.

However, Jacob is a combination of the two: he is both inward and outward. But these two qualities actually complement each other. I believe that it is precisely because of his privacy and "rest" that Jacob can work so hard. Through his rest, his inwardness, his time spent alone, in contemplation of himself, he gains the power to influence others and work so hard for his wife and family. It is because he combined the two prominent traits of his father and grandfathers that Jacob and Jacob alone was capable of raising the twelve tribes. Abraham had a personality which was too expansive; Isaac too narrow. Jacob synthesized these two traits. In doing so, he became capable of influencing those closest to him: his children.

CONGREGATION SHEARIT ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue
Shabbat Vayetse
November 24-25, 2017
Hertz Pentateuch: p. 106; Haftarah p. 135
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 130; Haftarah p. 1430

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:14 pm
MINHAH & ARBIT | 4:15 pm | Main Sanctuary
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | Lincoln’s Thanksgiving: A Shabbat Reflection” | 2017-18 season sponsored by the Julis family.
ZEMIROT | 8:15 am
SHAHARIT (NISHWAT) | 9:00 am
TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am |
Levy Auditorium
YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am |
Levy Auditorium
JUNIOR CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am |
Little Synagogue
SERMON | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored by Karen and Jack Daar, in honor of the engagement of Laura Daar and Elizer Frye, and Liliane Marks, in memory of her mother Josephine Saada Danhan and in honor of the recent marriage of Zachary and Malika Eldinger.
YOUNG COUPLES AND FAMILIES LUNCHEON | Elias Room | For Registered Guests
SEUDA SHELISHIY & SHABBAT AFTERNOON PIRKEI ABOY
SHUL | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | 1:30 pm | Levy Auditorium |
Class sponsored by Vivienne Roumani-Denn and Morton Denn in memory of Vivienne’s brother, Jacques Roumani (Yaakov Nissim b. Yosef Roumani). Fall semester sponsored by Scott Shay, in memory of Chana Razel bat Aaron v Sarah.
MINHAH & ARBIT | 4:05 pm
HABDALAH | 4:38 pm

Weekday Service Times
Mornings:
Sunday: 8:00 am
Monday-Friday: 7:15 am
Evenings (Arbit Only):
Sunday-Thursday: 6:30 pm

Central Park West at 70th Street, New York City • www.shearithisrael.org
### WEEKLY JEWISH EDUCATION

View all our Fall classes at shearithisrael.org/judaic-education
Sign up to be notified of any schedule changes or cancellations at shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists

Our Fall Semester of Jewish Education is now in full swing—come learn with us any day of the week:

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

- **Habruta (Paired) Learning**
  - Rabbi Yanetz & Co.
  - Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays | 5:15 - 7:15 pm

- **Minyan, Class, and Breakfast**
  - Tuesdays | 7:15 am

- **Feasts and Fasts**
  - The Festivals in Jewish Thought
  - A Class for Women
  - Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
  - Tuesdays | 9 am

- **Talmud Class**
  - Masekhet Yoma and the Meaning of the Mikdash
  - Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
  - Tuesdays | 7 pm

- **An Overview of James (Joshua) Seixas’ Hebrew Grammar**
  - Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde
  - Thursdays | 7:15 pm

- **Friday Night Lights**
  - The Making and Meaning of Shabbat
  - Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
  - Fridays | Following Kabbalat Shabbat

- **The Misunderstood Masterpiece**
  - A New Approach to Pirkei Abot
  - Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
  - Saturdays | One hour before Minnah

To sponsor a class or series of classes, visit shearithisrael.org/sponsoraclass

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### FROM THE DISTRIBUTOR THAT BROUGHT YOU “THE WOMEN’S BALCONY”

*The Film Critics are Calling a “Must-See” and “A Masterpiece” “1945”*

Now playing at Lincoln Plaza Cinemas, with a special screening to be held at Shearith Israel, on Yom Hashoah, April 11.

On a summer day in 1945, an Orthodox man and his grown son arrive in a small village in Hungary while the villagers prepare for the wedding of the town clerk’s son. The townspeople—suspicious, remorseful, fearful, and cunning—expect the worst and behave accordingly. A superb ensemble cast, lustrous black and white cinematography, and historically detailed art direction contribute to this eloquent drama.

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### A Three-Part Series by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

**The Most Misunderstood Holiday: The True Meaning of Hanukkah**

- December 2, 8:15 am | December 9, 8:15 am
- December 16, 3:30 pm

(Morning Services begin at 8:30 am on Dec. 2 & 9)

In the weeks preceding Hanukkah, and culminating on Shabbat Hanukkah, Rabbi Soloveichik will shed light on how one of the most culturally famous of Jewish holidays has been misinterpreted, and that its history and true meaning speak profoundly to both American Jewry and the State of Israel today.

The first two classes will take place prior to shabbat on Shabbat mornings, December 2 and 9, at 8:15 AM and the series will conclude on the afternoon of Shabbat Hanukkah, December 16, prior to minnah, at 3:30 PM.

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### Always Missing Deadlines? Enroll in CSI’s Text Messaging Notification Service

We can remind you by text when RSVP deadlines are approaching. We can also alert you of weather emergencies, security incidents, or other critical notices. To subscribe to our service, visit shearithisrael.org/text-message-notifications.

Please be assured, we will only text you for those alerts you have selected and will only use this on an as-needed basis.

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### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Thank you to all our donors and volunteers who participated in this year’s Pack-A-Thon. Special thanks to our Event Committee, for their invaluable input and energy:*  