ASK THE YOETZET
— BY SHIFFY FRIEDMAN, YOETZET HALAKHA

This is the first in a new column that will appear on occasion, featuring our Yoetzet Halakha, Shiffy Friedman, who will provide helpful answers to questions that congregants pose to her. You may submit a question by email to nyoyoetzet@gmail.com.

Question: What IS a Yoetzet Halakha?

Answer (adapted from yoatzot.org):

Nishmat, The Jeanie Schottenstein Center for Advanced Torah Study for Women, pioneered the education and certification of Yoetzet Halakha. Women Consultants in Jewish Law. In Jerusalem, Nishmat’s Keren Ariel Yoetzet Halakha Fellows Program is under the direction of Rabbi Yaacov Varhaftig. In North America, Nishmat’s Miriam Glaubach Center is home to the U.S. Yoetzet Halakha Fellows Program, led by its Dean, Rabbi Kenneth Auman. More than 110 certified Yoetzet Halakha serve Jewish women and couples throughout the world.

Yoetzet Halakha are women certified by a panel of Orthodox rabbis to be a resource for women with questions regarding Taharat Hamishpahah (an area of Jewish Law that relates to marriage, sexuality and women’s health). This role was devised to assist women who are more comfortable discussing very personal issues with another woman.

Women preparing to become Yoetzet Halakha devote two years to intensive study with rabbinic authorities in Taharat Hamishpahah. In addition, they receive training from experts in modern medicine and psychology, including gynecology, infertility, women’s health, family dynamics and sexuality.

Shiffy Friedman graduated from Nishmat’s Miriam Glaubach Center’s U.S. Yoetzet Halakha Fellows Program in 2015. She has been counseling women in the area of women’s health and halakha, both through her role as Yoetzet Halakha in Westchester County and through teaching brides and couples before marriage. Shiffy has taught at SAR Academy and currently teaches at Ma’ayanot Yeshiva High School. She received her B.A. in Judaic Studies from Stern College and a dual M.A. in Education and Jewish Studies from New York University. Prior to that, she spent a year studying in Israel at the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women in Migdal Oz. She and her husband, Rabbi Noam Friedman, live with their two children, Avital and Adir, in Morningside Heights, where they serve as the OU-JLIC couple at Columbia/Barnard Hillel. They look forward to getting to know members of the broader Manhattan community.

Shoresh Israel is a proud co-sponsor of the Manhattan Yoetzet Halakha Initiative. If you have any questions regarding Taharat Hamishpahah (Family Purity) or laws of Niddah, please contact your Yoetzet Halakha in confidence at nyoyoetzet@gmail.com or by calling or texting 646-598-1080.

CANDLES

Candle Lighting: 4:11 pm
MINIHAH & ARBIT: 4:15 pm
Main Sanctuary
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS: Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "When William Seward Visited the Kotel: A 19th Century Sabbath Story" | 2017-18 season sponsored by the Jals family.
HANUKKAH SHIUR (PART 1 OF 3) | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | Elios Room | 8:15 am
ZEMIRIOT: 8:30 am
SHAHARIT (NISHMAT): 9:00 am
TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHA NADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Fidanza Youth Room (NEW)
YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL | Ages 5-12 | 1:00 am | Elios Room
JUNIOR CONVIVIATION | Ages 5-12 | 1:30 am | Little synagogue LECTURE | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "When Churchill Quoted the Macabees: The Biblical Language of Leadership" KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | With greetings by Reuven Magnuse, member of a visiting delegation of Wounded IDF Soldiers.
SELUDA SHELESHIP & SHABBAT AFTERNOON PIRKEI ADOT SHIUR | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "Saul, David, and the Hanukkah Story" | 3:30 pm | Levy Auditorium | Class sponsored by Vizitienne Boumenni-Denn and Morton Denn in memory of Vizitienne’s father, Joseph Boumenni. Fall semester sponsored by Scott Shay, in memory of Chana Rachel bat Aaron v’Sarah.
MINIHAH & ARBIT: 4:05 pm
HARDALAH: 4:56 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.shoreshisrael.org

IN REVIEW: Thanksgiving Pack-A-Thon
Thank you to everyone who took part in this year’s enormously successful Thanksgiving Pack-A-Thon. We had an extraordinary number of volunteers from Shoresh Israel, The West End Collegiate Church, The Jewish Center, The Church of Latter-Day Saints, and elsewhere—and raised more money for hunger alleviation than in any previous year. Together, we packed thousands of meals and raised $18,104, surpassing our $18,000 goal.

If you took any photos at the event (or of the children on the Portico), please send them to srosenberg@shoreshisrael.org.

SAVE THE DATE: Shoresh Israel & The Jewish Center
Ski and Snowboard Trip
Monday, December 25
Join us on the slopes of Hunter Mountain!
Shoresh 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.

To register, go to shoreshisrael.org/ski.

CARING 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—a blood donor.

To maximize our impact, this year 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.

Our next public tour is Wednesday, December 13
Parnas Office Hours
Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you. Please schedule a visit at parnas@shoreshisrael.org.
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
Shabbat Luncheon Featuring a Conversation Between Rabbi Soloveichik and Dr. Andrew Porwancher
The Jewish Friends and Clients of Alexander Hamilton
Saturday, December 9 | Following Morning Services
How friendly was Alexander Hamilton with New York’s Jews? How did his Jewish friends help form his own views about the future of the United States? Most tantalizingly, what do these relationships tell us about Jewish links in Hamilton’s own past?
To register and sponsor, visit shearithisrael.org/hamilton.
Dr. Andrew Porwancher is the author of the forthcoming The Jewish Founding Father: Alexander Hamilton’s Hidden Life, to be published by Harvard University Press. He is a visiting scholar at the Straus Center’s Program on Early America and the Jews.

We’ve Recently Updated! 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. If you haven’t been receiving these texts but wish 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.

Youth At Shearith Israel

Introducing the New Fidanie Youths Room
This week, we are proud to unveil our brand new Fidanie Youth Room, where our children can enjoy an inviting, safe place of their own to play and learn. This was made possible by a grassroots initiative and the generosity of several of our Young Families and their supporters, who envisioned this project and undertook the fundraising and planning necessary to make it a reality.

Hanukkah Fest!
For all Shearith Israel Youth and PTTS Families
Sunday, December 17 | 11:00 am
Please join PTTS and CSI youth for fun and educational Hanukkah festivities, including an interactive olive press demonstration, art projects, songs, and homemade waffles.
While many Jews celebrate Hanukkah by eating potato pancakes, 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-te’e”) during these days. And after all, everyone loves a good waffle!

Junior Congregation with a Torah Reading
Next Shabbat, December 9 | 10:30 am
Come lead Junior Congregation! Parts of Torah reading and services for December 9 are available for participants (ages 5-12) to lead; many of them are quite brief and excellent for beginners. Please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde to arrange a part for your child (lrohde-csi@yahoo.com or 646-339-7845).

A Three-Part Series by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
The Most Misunderstood Holiday: The True Meaning of Hanukkah
Part 1: This Shabbat, December 2, 8:15 am
Part 2: Next Shabbat, December 9, 8:15 am
Part 3: Shabbat Hanukkah, December 16, 3:30 pm
(Morning Services begin at 8:30 am on Dec. 2 & 9)
In the weeks preceding Hanukkah, culminating on Shabbat Hanukkah, please join Rabbi Soloveichik for a pre-services shiur that will utilize both halakha and history to show how we have lost much of what this holiday is truly all about and why it is so important to rediscover it now.
The first two classes will take place prior to shaharit 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 minhah, at 3:30 pm.

Our Winter Bulletin Has Arrived!
Keep an eye on your mailbox for our hot-off-the-presses Winter 2017-2018 Bulletin. Until then, pick up a copy at the synagogue or check out the online version at shearithisrael.org/bulletins-and-guides.

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.

Welcome Reuven Magnagy of Israel’s Honor Day Delegation Following Morning Services | During Kiddush
This year, in honor of Israel’s 4th official Honor Day recognizing wounded soldiers and victims of terror attacks, an official delegation of 6 former IDF wounded soldiers will spend 8 days in New York. We are delighted that IDF veteran, Reuven Magnagy, will be addressing us this shabbat. Reuven was wounded in 2001, and has since gone on to become a Paralympic athlete, representing Israel in the Paralympic Games in London and Beijing.

Community Announcements
Mazal tov to Judy & Joel Schreiber on the birth of a great-grandson, born to their grandchildren, Tobi and Ben Weingarten.
Welcome new members Alan & Halana Greenberg to the Shearith Israel family.
Condolences to Isaac Corre, on the passing of his father, Rev. Alan D. Corré.
Mazal tov to Zoya Raynes & Robert Friedman who will be honored this Monday by the JCRG-NY at their Winter Benefit Reception at the Jewish Museum.