NEW YORK NEEDS YOUR HELP!
Upper West Side Blood and Bone Marrow Drive

THIS SUNDAY, January 7, 2018 | 10:00 am-4:00 pm
The Jewish Center, 131 West 86th Street

The blizzard this past week forced the cancellation of numerous blood drives, resulting in the loss of nearly 1500 blood donations. Don’t let that happen here! Give the gift of life—be a blood donor or do a simple bone marrow check swab.

January is Blood Donor Month, a time to remember that blood is precious and must be on the shelves in anticipation of any tragedy or critical situation, especially during the perilous winter months.

To register to save a convenient time slot, or to volunteer at the drive, visit shearithisrael.org/uws-blood-drive.

Walk-ins are also welcome.

Tu B’Shevat Shiur
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Tuesday, January 30
7:00 pm

Rabbi Soloveichik’s will deliver a shiur dedicated to the themes of Tu B’Shevat. Tasty Tu B’Shebat treats will be served.

To join our list of sponsors for this public lecture, visit shearithisrael.org/tu-bshevat-shiur.

DEBAR TORAH: THE STRONG HAND OF PHARAOH AND THE STRONG HAND OF GOD
— BY HAZZAN RABBI IRA ROHDE

“...Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand shall he send them away, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land” (Exodus, 6:1)

The term “strong hand” is especially significant, for the Torah repeats the term “brought you out of Egypt by a strong hand” in many contexts as worthy of special remembrance and gratitude. When the “strong hand” means here is rather ambiguous, and seems to carry multiple meanings. It means “by force” or “forcibly,” but whose or what force is unclear. To begin with, this “strong hand” could belong to two different subjects. It might refer to the “strong hand” of Pharaoh, who drove out the Israelites, compelling them to leave quickly, chasing them out, lest a severe penalty befall them. The idea that the plagues befall Pharaoh’s land is a logical consequence of his complicity. Or the term might refer to the “strong hand” of God, who forced Pharaoh and Egypt to comply with God’s will.

The most modern JPS translation of the Torah apparently translates both of the “strong hand” terms here as God’s, substituting the phrase “greater might,” viz., “you shall soon see what I will do to Pharaoh; for I will let them go because of a greater might; indeed, because of a greater might he shall drive them from his land.” But the plain meaning of the text, especially in comparison with other contexts, seems to be that both “strong hand” terms refer to Pharaoh’s forcefulness. From this comment ad loc., it is clear that that is the way R. Obadiah Sforno interprets both: “Now, just as you have seen the wrongdoing of Pharaoh, who fights to hold on to Israel by power of coercion, [so] you shall see that out of the accumulation of war and pain, he will drive them out by compelling force, that he will strive with all his all his might to expel them.”

Rashi in his commentary ad loc. seems to understand the first “strong hand” as referring to God’s, and the second “strong hand” as referring to Pharaoh’s: “For on account of My Strong Hand, which will compel him, he shall send them out, and he shall expel them from his land with a forceful and indeed, against the will of the Israelites themselves will he drive them out, [so much so] that they will not have sufficient time to prepare food provisions. So it states (12:33): And Egypt coerced the people, [hastening to send them out, for they said we’re all to die.] One can debate whether Rashi meant this as the literal translation, but it’s clear that the Torah means for us to see both a human context (a coercing hand of Pharaoh, without whom Israel would never have had the resolve and unity to leave on their own), as well as a compelling Divine Hand, forcing Pharaoh, eventually, to send Israel free. On Passover our matza is both the bread of affliction, reminding us of Pharaoh’s coercive hand, as well as the bread of victory and liberation, reminding us of how God’s Powerful Hand forced Pharaoh’s hand.

Shabbat Shemot
January 5-6, 2018

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:35 pm
MINIHAI & ARBIT | 4:30 pm | Main Sanctuary

FRIIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK.

ZEMIROT | 5:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary
TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am
Fidane Youth Room
YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL are cancelled this week due to inclement weather.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue
DEBAR TORAH | Rabbi Yosef Chaim Yanetz
KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium
SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Yosef Chaim Yanetz | 3:30 pm | Levy Auditorium
MINIHAI & ARBIT | 4:20 pm
HARDALAH | 5:10 pm

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

CONGREGATION SHEARIT ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 206; Hafarah: p. 229
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 258; Hafarah: p. 1212

We are pleased to welcome Rabbi Yosef Chaim Yanetz, his wife Rivka, and children Abigail and Ariel, to our community this Shabbat. Rabbi Yanetz is delivering the Debar Torah after morning services, as well as the Shabbat Afternoon Class. Rabbi Yanetz offers Habruta (One-on-One Learning) for all levels, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Central Park West at 70th Street, New York City • www.shearithisrael.org
Shearith Israel Toddler Program
“The best-kept secret on the Upper West Side”
Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30-11:30am
Spring Semester: January 3–June 6
For ages 16 - 34 months
Caregiver attendance required

You can still enroll!
Provide your toddler with the opportunity to be part of our wonderfully fun and educational Toddler Program, held in the brand-new Fidance Youth Room, and led by the marvelous Liz Rios. 1 and 2 day options available.
To learn more and apply, pick up a brochure in our lobby, and go to shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram.

Special Offer for Shearith Israel Members
50% Discount on Rabbi Soloveichik’s New Online Course: Jewish Ideas and the American Founders
If you’ve ever wanted to learn from Rabbi Soloveichik in the comfort of your own home, this is the course for you.
In eight new lectures brought to you by the Tikvah Fund, Rabbi Soloveichik will take you through early American Jewish history and explain the connections between Jewish ideals and the founding of America. You can:
- watch or listen to these lectures at your own pace
- watch or listen as often as you like
- gift them to others
Normal cost for this online course is $40, but using an exclusive 50% coupon code for Shearith Israel members brings the price down to only $20.
Simply go to tikvahfund.org/course/jewish-ideas-american-founders, create an account, and enroll in the course with the coupon code "ShearithIsrael" to start learning today.

Class Schedule Alerts
♦ Rabbi Soloveichik’s Talmud Class will take place this week on Monday, January 8 and not on Tuesday, January 9.
♦ Rabbi Soloveichik’s Women’s Class resumes Tuesday, January 16.

Junior Congregation with a Torah Reading
Next Shabbat, January 13 | 10:30 am
Come lead Junior Congregation! Parts of Torah reading and services for January 13 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).

Early Bird Deadline: This Monday, January 8
Young Couples and Families
Pre-Tu B’Shevat Luncheon
Shabbat, January 27 | Following Morning Services
Mark the new year for trees and celebrate the Jewish link to the fruits of the Holy Land with Rabbi and Layaliza Soloveichik & Co. Join us and invite your friends for a family luncheon of Torah and fruity goodness.
Got a New Year’s Resolution to sign up for programming on time? We’ll help you stick with it with our Early Bird Pricing:
Members: $35 $30/adult, $15 $12/child under 12
Non-Members: $40 $35/adult, $18 $15/child under 12
Regular pricing begins this Tuesday, January 9!
For registration and sponsorship details, visit shearithisrael.org/tu-bshevat-lunch.

JNF’s Tu B’Shevat Festival: Shuk Shack
“Experience Israel in NYC”
Wednesday, January 31, 2018 | 7:00 pm
IAC HQ, 555 West 18 Street, New York, NY
Shearith Israel is proud to co-sponsor this enormous communal festival. To RSVP and learn more about the festival, including the VIP Cocktail Reception, and JNFuture afterparty, visit jnf.org/shukshack.

Community Announcements
We welcome the following new members to the Shearith Israel family:
Robert & Rachel Garson and their children, Noa, Gabriella, and Emilie
Kenneth & Randee Rubenstein
Condolences to Jean and Serge Naggar, on the passing of their son, Alan Naggar. Condolences to his wife, Michelle, to his siblings, David Naggar and Jennifer Naggar Weitz, to his uncle Jeffrey Mosseri, and his cousin, Viviane Bregman.