“Esther’s Message for the Future” — A Pre-Purim Shiur for Young Couples and Parents with Rabbi Yanetz
Sunday, February 25 | 6:30 pm
Hosted in a private home | Address provided upon RSVP
Light dinner will be served
Come spend some time with your Shearith Israel friends and learn from Rabbi Yanetz in preparation for Purim! This special shiur will be held in a private home (note: this class is for adults, not children). Light dinner will be served. To RSVP, go to shearithisrael.shulcloud.com/form/pre-purim-shiur.

Seeking Teen Girls for Annual Shir Hashirim Reading
Eight Day of Passover, Saturday, April 7
After musaf on the last day of Passover, the teen girls of our synagogue 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 Hazan Rabbi Ira Rohde at irohde@shearithisrael.org.
To sponsor the kiddush in the girls’ honor, go to shearithisrael.org/teen-girls-shir-hashirim-2018.

SAVE THE DATE
“Pulpit Swap”
Shabbat, March 10, 2018
In the spirit of friendship and mutual respect, Rabbis Levine and Soloveichik will “swap” synagogues, enjoying the warmth of their peers kehillot and each treating the other to a special lecture after morning services.

To join our list of sponsors for the kiddush following this special lecture, visit shearithisrael.org/pulpit-swap.

“Devar Torah: The Dual Nature of Torah Observance” — by Jonathan Weinstein

We recently read the famous verse of “we shall do and we shall listen” which underscores the remarkable eagerness with which the Jewish people accepted the Torah. However, the Talmud (Shabbos 88) presents a rather different story in this regard, stating that Hashem had lifted the mountain over the Jewish people and presented them with an ultimatum: accept the Torah or die. Further complicating matters, Chazal also teach regarding the upcoming holiday of Purim that the Jewish people accepted the Torah willingly in the times of Ahashveros. So, was the acceptance willing or coerced? If both, what does that signify?

We see this same dichotomy in the opening of our Parasha. The word מַעַנֵּיה — which means “duties” — or donation, is mentioned three times. Rashi mentions the Rabbinic teaching that there were three separate collections of מַעַנֵּיה, two obligatory and one voluntary. This is of course parallels the obligatory and voluntary acceptances of the Torah.

We all know that in our service of Hashem there are certain things we must do, and we fulfill them as decrees of Hashem. But when we are compelled to do things, we don’t always bring our energy. We often feel it is a burden, something to check off the to-do list.

Parashat מֵאתוֹד is telling us that Hashem doesn’t want us to do things merely because we have to, but rather because we want to. Hashem wants us to serve him with love. With such an attitude, we can serve Hashem on a newly joyous level imbued with energy and passion.

This may lead one to ask, Why not make all Mitzvos voluntary, thereby allowing us to bring our maximum energy and passion to them? The answer is that this is not a sustainable model for consistent long-term religious life. The voluntary service of Hashem is all too easy when life is going well and time and energy abound. But the moment things get difficult and the real challenges of life emerge, often, everything will give, leaving us with nothing. That is why both the voluntary and the obligatory aspects of the service of Hashem are important.

The מֵאתוֹד used to build the Tabernacle was the obligatory one. The foundation of our service of Hashem must be the obligatory aspect. But if you want a beautiful Tabernacle replete with gold, silver, and the like, that comes most naturally from the voluntary מַעַנֵּיה. Joy and energy in the service Hashem often stem from creative passion.

So our relationship with Torah and Mitzvos exists on a dual plane. On the one hand, we are committed to the relationship even when we can’t bring all our energy, but when we can, we do so with great eagerness and zest.

Jonathan Weinstein is a student at Yeshiva University and a member of our ongoing Hbruta (Paired Learning) Program.

CONGREGATION SHEIRITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue
Shabbat Terumah
February 16-17, 2018
Hertz Pentateuch; p. 326; Haftarah; p. 336
Kaplan Living Torah; p. 380; Haftarah; p. 1120

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:14 pm
MINAH & ARBIT | 5:15 pm | Main Sanctuary

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS RETURNS NEXT WEEK.
ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary
TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Fidianqwe Youth Room
YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL | Ages 5-12 | 1:00 pm | Elias Room
MINHAN CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 | Little Synagogue
SEMINAR | Rabbi and Philip Sherman | “Prayer: The Hassan, the Congregation, and the Choir”
KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | Sotch and Arak sponsored by Suzanne Morad, in memory of her father, Saim Benjamion Morad.

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR RETURNS NEXT WEEK.
MINAH & ARBIT | 5:10 pm
HABDALAH | 6:04 pm

Weekday Service Times
Mornings:
Sunday & Monday (Presidents’ Day): 8:00 am
Tuesday-Friday: 7:15 am
Evenings:
Sunday (Minah & Arbit): 5:15 pm
Monday-Thursday (Arbit only): 6:30 pm

See inside for Presidents’ Week updates.

Central Park West at 70th Street, New York City • www.shearithisrael.org
Schedule Alerts for Presidents’ Week
- Our office will be closed on Monday, February 19 for Presidents’ Day. The flag will be flown.
- Shaharit on Monday, February 19 will be at 8:00 am.
- Toddler Program will NOT meet on Monday, February 19.
- Rabbi Soloveichik’s Women’s Class will NOT meet on Tuesday morning, February 20.
- Rabbi Soloveichik’s Talmud Class will NOT meet on Tuesday evening, February 20.
- PTTS Hebrew School will NOT be in session until after Presidents’ Week and Purim (class resumes Sunday, March 4).

Purim at Shearith Israel

Deadline: This Thursday, February 22

HerringFest: The Purim Edition
A Purim Dinner featuring herring from the world-famous Russ & Daughters, foods from other fine purveyors, and an entertaining talk from Rabbi Soloveichik

Wednesday, February 28 | Followings Megillah Reading
In the tradition of our past standout “educational” events, we bring you our annual Purim Dinner—with a salty twist! This year, building on the success of last year’s HerringFest, we’re holding the sequel on Purim night, after megillah reading. Other smoked fish as well as non-fishy treats will round out this delectable dinner. (Note to parents: don’t worry, there will be plenty of food for kids who don’t like herring!)

Members $42/Adult | $18/Child under 12
Non-Members $47/Adult | $20/Child under 12

Register by THIS THURSDAY!
For registration and sponsorships, visit shearithisrael.org/purimdinner5778.

Don’t Forget To Give Matanot L’Evyonim
It is one of the mitzvos of Purim to give charity to the poor, Matanot L’Evyonim. You can easily fulfill this mitzvah through the synagogue: your online gift or check made out to the “Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund,” will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik on Purim to those in need.

Donate online at shearithisrael.org/matanot.

Sponsor Our Annual Purim Breakfast
Thursday, March 1 | 8:30 am
Every year we treat our congregation to a festive Purim Breakfast following the reading of the megillah on Purim morning. Help ensure that we have plenty of hamantaschen to go around by going here to sponsor: shearithisrael.org/purim-breakfast

Community Announcements
Mazal tov to Sarah Meira Rosenberg, Shearith Israel’s Communications Associate and Programs Coordinator, on the marriage of her brother, Yair.

Sunday, March 18, 2018
Passover and the American Imaginatio
This major event is part of our Year of Years Celebrations which will culminate in 2019 when we mark 365 years of our congregation and Jewish life in America.

Hosted by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, participants will enjoy exclusive experiences, including:

Lectures and discussions with preeminent scholars such as Lincoln historian, Harold Holzer
Remarkable Purim stories and lessons of liberty from the American Jewish historical narrative
An exclusive viewing of rarely exhibited archival materials, such as Thomas Jefferson’s Letter to Monticello’s Manuel Noah of Shearith Israel
A take-home Haggadah Companion custom created by Rabbi Soloveichik, which participants can use to inspire their own Seder this year
A bonus conversation—for lunchbox participants only—with Harold Holzer and Rabbi Soloveichik on the making of Steven Spielberg’s critically acclaimed film, Lincoln

Sunday, March 18, 2018 | Symposium 9 am - 12:30 pm
Luncheon to follow with a special tribute to Shearith Israel’s 5778 hatorim
Simon Salama-Caro, Ilton Torah
Robert Kapito, Notar Bereshit
Congregation Shearith Israel | 2 West 70th Street, New York City
Attire: Sunday Smart
Tickets start at $25. RSVP by March 4: shearithisrael.org/gala2018