DEBAR TORAH — STEVEN GOLTIB —

In the first aliya of Parashat Tazria, we read that if a person develops a scaly affliction called a nega, they are to get themselves examined by one of the priests (Lev. 13:2). The Mishnah in Negaim teaches us many things about the examination process as follows:

- An affliction can only be inspected at very specific times of day (Negaim 2:2).
- A priest who is blind in either eye or who has diminished vision cannot examine an affliction (Negaim 2:3).
- One can inspect any affliction, provided it is not their own. Rabbi Meir says that a close relative’s would also not be allowed (Negaim 2:5).

So, what do these mishnayot teach us about the nature of inspecting this mysterious divine affliction? That we care about getting it right. We care about issuing as accurate as a judgement as possible and ensuring that no one is treated incorrectly.

Any of the situations above may lead to inspection issues that complicate an otherwise straightforward judgment. Negaim cannot be inspected if it is too bright or too dark outside, lest the coloring of the affliction be judged inaccurately. Likewise, the priest’s vision has to be as good as possible, or the coloring could be misidentified as well.

Finally, a priest cannot inspect their own affliction and maybe not even the afflictions of their close relatives. Why? Because they are too close to the case. Their perspective will be laden with conscious and unconscious biases. Human beings can always be too self-critical or self-confident, and we know our feelings towards family always gets in the way of viewing them objectively. This last Mishnah therefore teaches us the value if realizing our limitations and knowing when to get a second opinion or to ask for advice.

As people we may not always be perfect, but we can certainly create systems to check our balances.

Steven Goltib is a rabbinical student at Yeshiva University, and a student in our ongoing Bet Midrash program with Rabbi Yanetz, which meets at Shearith Israel on most weeknights.

CHOIR SELECTIONS THIS SHABBAT

Friday Night
V’shameru #1 (p. 166) | Samuel Naumbourg
Psalm 23 (p. 174) | Rev. H.P. Mendes

Shabbat Morning
Yehei Hasdeka #1 (p. 215) | Traditional
Tehilat (p. 216) | Leon Hyman
U’benuh Oomer (p. 218) | Samuel Naumbourg
En Kolohenu (p. 229) | Samuel de Sola

CANDLE LIGHTING | 7:07 pm
EVENING SERVICES | 6:30 pm
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS: HAGGADAH EDITION | Rabbi Soloveichik |
MORNING SERVICES | Main Sanctuary | 8:15 am
TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Fidankahe Yound Room
YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 1:00 pm | Elias Room
JUNIOR CONGREGATION | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue
LECTURE | Rabbi Soloveichik | “Hare Today: The Haggadah’s Rabbit Revisited”
KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium
SHABBAT AFTERNOON PRE-PESAH SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | 6:00 PM | “Rabbi Akiba’s Extraordinary Addition to the Haggadah” | Levy Auditorium
EVENING SERVICES | 7:00 pm
HABDALA | 8:02 pm

Weekday Service Times
Mornings:
Sunday: 8:00 am | Monday-Friday: 7:15 am
Evenings:
Sunday-Thursday (Minha & Arvit): 6:30 pm

Central Park West at 70th Street, New York City • www.shearithisrael.org
**PREPARE FOR PESAH**

Shabbat HaGadol Derasha
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
NEXT Shabbat, April 13 | Following Morning Services

“Jews, Gentiles, and the Secrets of the Sarajevo Haggadah”

Sponsored by Debbie and David Sable in memory of Debbie’s father, Ambassador Yehuda Amnon, on the occasion of his nasha.

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**THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

**Potter & Pesah**

With the author of _The Hogwarts Haggadah_, Rabbi Moshe Rosenberg

who will be introduced by his daughter, Shearith Israel’s Communications and Programs Associate, Sarah Meira Rosenberg

5:30 pm | For ages 7-107

What does the most famous boy wizard in the world have in common with the Exodus story? More than you think! Learn how to bring some magic to your _seder_ with Rabbi Rosenberg’s bestselling haggadah.

Rabbi Moshe Rosenberg is the spiritual leader of Congregation Etz Chaim in Kew Gardens Hills, and the author of many works on Harry Potter and Torah.

Online registration is closed, but walk-ins are welcome!

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**PREPARE FOR PESAH**

DOUBLE HEADER!

Mitzvot Workshop with Shamash, Z. Edinger &
Mattath Baking

For Children Aged 5-12 | NEXT Sunday, April 14 | 10:00 am

In this last workshop of the year, Z. will prepare our children for the special Shearith Israel Pesah traditions.

Following this Pesah Workshop, we will have our annual hands-on matzah baking workshop! Make sure to sign up so we can have the appropriate amount of supplies.

Sign up for both (it’s FREE!) at shearithisrael.org/mitzvot-workshop.

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**WE NEED 20 MORE VOLUNTEERS!**

Pre-Pesah Pack-A-Thon

THIS Tuesday, April 9 | 7:00 pm

For all ages

Register at shearithisrael.org/pesah-packathon

Another way to fulfill the mitzvah of Maot Hittim this Pesah!

Together with Chamah, Shearith Israel will provide ample food to Jewish families who otherwise could not afford to have proper holiday meals on Pesah.

Our volunteers will be packing several hundred hearty, substantial food packages including enough meat and fish for families to enjoy throughout Pesah (and perhaps beyond). The packages will not distributed through food pantries; rather, Chamah volunteers deliver the meals directly to the homes in a discreet, anonymous fashion.

To volunteer and/or donate to this important cause, visit shearithisrael.org/pesah-packathon.

Thank you to trustee and Chamah board member Oliver Stanton, who helped facilitate this meaningful partnership.

The Site of Shearith Israel’s First Synagogue To Be Named: “Mill Street Synagogue/Seixas Way”

Ceremony at the SE Corner of S. William & Broad Streets

THIS Monday, April 8 | 12:30 PM

Thanks to the efforts of the Lower Manhattan Historical Association, the site of Shearith Israel’s first synagogue building will be co-named “Mill Street Synagogue/Seixas Way.” All are invited to the ceremony that will unveil the new street sign.

The ceremony will include presentations by city officials and dignitaries, including our own Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, the 10th Minister of Shearith Israel since the Revolution and a great fan of our first minister, the “patriot rabbi” Reverend Gershom Mendes Seixas.

RSVP to james.kaplan@lmha-nyc.org is requested, and required to attend the reception to follow at the Fraynce Tavern Museum.

For more information, visit lmha-nyc.org/mill-street-synagogue.

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**SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 12, 11:30 AM**

_Presented by The Sisterhood_

**Kindergarten: Rescuing Children on the Brink of War**

A private tour and luncheon with remarks from Holocaust survivor, Anne Kelemen

The Center For Jewish History | 15 W 16th Street

Registration coming soon. Children 6th grade and up are welcome.

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**HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO:**

Alexander Seligson on the passing of his mother, Anita Seligson.

Our sister congregation, Lincoln Square Synagogue, upon the loss of “The Chaz,” Sherwood Goffin, their beloved cantor for many years.

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Public Tours

Our next public tour is this Wednesday, April 10, at 11:00 AM

Parnas Office Hours

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