Open Bet Midrash
Weeknights | One hour before evening services
Our Shearith Israel Bet Midrash Program has officially begun its 2019-2020 season! Each weeknight will have two semikha students available to help satisfy your religious curiosity. If you are interested in setting up a habruta on any subject of your choice, please reach out to Steve Godlib at stjgott@gmail.com.

Feasts & Fasts: Rabbi Soloveichik’s Tuesday Morning Women’s Class
Returning THIS Tuesday, November 5 | 9:00 am
This class examines anew the rituals of the Jewish holiday or fast that is approaching, challenges our assumptions, letting us emerge with a deeper understanding of the rituals that we have been performing our entire lives.

There is a mailing list for this class that sends out reminders and cancellation notices. Make sure you are on it! Sign up at shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists.

The Road to Kingship
Sundays through Dec. 22 | 10:00 am | Rabbi David Silber
Tuition is $200, but FREE for Shearith Israel members
An exploration of the Samson story, the last 5 chapters of the Book of Judges, and Megillat Ruth as texts that prepare us for the institution of kingship. To register or request your member discount, visit shearithisrael.org/silber-kingship.

DEBAR TORAH—Z. EDINGER, SHAMASH—
This week’s parasha tells the story of the great flood and Noah’s Ark. God decides to destroy the world He created on account of man’s wickedness, and to start again with Noah and his descendants. After the flood recedes, Noah builds an altar and offered sacrifices to God. We are then told that:

The LORD smelled the pleasing odor, and the LORD said to Himself: “Never again will I doom the earth because of man; since the inclinations of man’s heart are evil from his youth, nor will I ever again destroy every living being, as I have done.” (Gen. 8:21)

What is meant by “the inclinations of man’s heart are evil from his youth” and why is the nature of man a reason for God to never again destroy the earth?

One way of understanding this verse is that because man is evil by nature, it would be unfair to punish man for these innate tendencies. God promises to be merciful and never again destroy the Earth despite the fact that man is evil, because humans can’t help but to sin; it is how they were created. In essence, we were “born this way.”

A very different way of understanding the verse appears when we compare our verse with Gen. 6:5, when God first determined to destroy the earth:

The LORD saw how great was man’s wickedness on earth, and how every plan of man’s mind was evil all the time.

Contrasting this verse with 8:21 after the deluge - we see that the flood was brought on because God determined that man was always evil “all the time.” But after the flood, Noah brings a sacrifice and God now determines that man is evil “from his youth.” I would suggest that the word לְעָל־לִיָּה is interpreted that man may have a tendency to sin when he is young, but he also has the ability to learn and grow. God here promises NOT to destroy the earth because humans have the ability to grow and overcome the sinful ways of their youth. Said differently, God here promises not to destroy the earth again because man has the potential for growth and improvement.

God’s assessment of man’s nature appears to have been affected in some way by Noah’s sacrifice. Perhaps this is precisely the lesson we should learn from the story of Noah. It is sacrifice and prayer that remind God that despite our failings and evil inclination, we also have the ability to do good; that we strive to be righteous and serve the Lord. The lesson of the Flood is that even though we will all sin from time to time, let us learn from our mistakes and overcome our weaknesses, and prove ourselves worthy in the eyes of the Lord.

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:34 pm
EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 5:30 pm | Main Sanctuary
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | “Jewish Drinking: L’Chaim vs, In Vino Veritas” | 2019-2020 season sponsored by the Fuls family.

ZEMIBOT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAHRIT | 9:15 am
TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room
YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room
JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue
SERMON | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | “How Do You Say ‘Butterfly’ In Your Language?”

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored by the Mateus-Tique family, in honor of Elia becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
SHABBAT AFTERNOON CLASS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | 4:25 pm | “Netziv on Totalitarianism” | Levy Auditorium
EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 5:25 pm
HARDALA | 6:21 pm

REMINDER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY NIGHT.

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
Celebrate Rabbi Marc Angel’s 50th Anniversary in the Rabbinate
Shabbat, December 7
Our Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Marc Angel, is celebrating 50 years in the rabbinate and will mark the occasion with a seminar, “Reflections on 50 Years of Rabbinic Service.” After the seminar, congregants are welcome to wish Rabbi Angel mazel tov at the kiddush to follow.
To join our list of sponsors for this kiddush in Rabbi Angel’s honor, visit shearthisrael.org/rabbinate50.

NYC Marathon May Affect Synagogue Access
This Sunday, November 3
Be aware of heightened security and street closures that will affect access to the synagogue on Marathon Sunday. Minyan and Sunday Classes are running as usual; plan your commutes accordingly. The B/C subway exit at W. 70th St. may be closed off and we advise you to avoid Central Park West and access our street via Columbus Avenue.
Best of luck to our Marathon runners!

Community Announcements
Mazel tov to Elia Mateus-Tique, upon becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Mazel tov as well to his parents, Sharon Lavi Mateus-Tique & Jaime Mateus-Tique.

Mazel tov to Serach Soloveichik, upon becoming a Bat Mitzvah over Succot. Mazel tov as well to her parents, Layaliza & Rabbi Meir Soloveichik.

Portuguese Citizenship with Rita Mayer Jardim
THIS Thursday, November 7
Following 6:30 pm Evening Services
While Spain has ended its Law of Return for Sephardic Jews, Portugal continues to grant European citizenship to those wishing to reclaim their ancestors’ citizenship. Close to 10,000 people have already been approved with around 40,000 pending.
Rita Mayer Jardim, a Lisbon-based lawyer specializing in this path to Portuguese citizenship, will update us on this law.
This event is free, but registration is encouraged at shearthisrael.org/portuguese-citizenship2.
Note that this session is meant for informational purposes only, not an endorsement.

Stitch & Fix
Presented by the Sisterhood
Bi-Monthly on Sundays & Tuesdays | 10 am-12 pm
See schedule below | Elias Room
Stitch and Fix, the revived Sewing Circle, meets on a regular basis. Drop in, select an item from our synagogue vestments that needs mending, then stitch and fix. Some items can even take home and fix at your convenience. For questions, contact Rose Edinger at rgedinger@gmail.com.
Sunday Nov. 24 | Tuesday Nov. 26
Sunday Dec. 15 | Tuesday Dec. 17
Sunday Jan. 5 | Tuesday Jan. 7
Sunday Feb. 9 | Tuesday Feb. 11

Jewish Education 5780

⇒ Friday Night Lights | Rabbi Soloveichik
   Friday Nights | Following Evening Services
⇒ The Guide to the Duties of the Heart | Rabbi Simon den Hollander
   Sunday Mornings | 8:45 am
⇒ The Road to Kingship | Rabbi David Silber
   Sunday Mornings | 10:00 am | see side panel for details
⇒ Tuesday Morning Women’s Class | Rabbi Soloveichik
   Returning THIS Tuesday, November 5 | 9:00 am
⇒ Bet Midrash | led by Steven Gotlib
   Monday-Thursday | An hour before evening services

Please consider sponsoring a class.
Go to: shearthisrael.org/sponsoraclass

Coming Up At A Glance

⇒ Rita Jardim Presentation on Portuguese Citizenship
   Thursday, November 7 | Following 6:30 pm Evening Services | See center panel for details
⇒ Shabbaton to Touro
   Veterans Day Weekend, November 8-10
⇒ Mitzvot Workshop with Z. Edinger
   Sunday, November 17 | 10:30 am | For elementary school aged children
⇒ Rabbi Marc Angel Celebrates 50 Years in the Rabbinate
   Shabbat Morning, December 7 | See side panel for details
⇒ Brunch & Learn with Rabbi Soloveichik
   Sunday, December 8 | 10:30 am | For elementary school aged children

Don’t Let Us Go Dry
Be a scotch or arak sponsor. To sponsor or contribute go to shearthisrael.org/scotch-and-arak-sponsorships.

Public Tours
Our next public tour is
Wednesday, November 13, at 11:00 AM

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