

DEBAR TORAH by RABBI ROHDE

The Last-Ditch Right of Redemption When All Seems Lost

Therefore, throughout the land of your possession, you shall give redemption for the land. If your brother becomes destitute and sells some of his inherited property, his redeemer who is related to him shall come forth and redeem his brother's sale.

(Leviticus 25:24-25)

Then Hanamel, my uncle's son, came to me in the prison yard, according to the word of the Lord, and said to me; Please buy my field that is in Anathoth, that is in the country of Benjamin, for the right of inheritance is yours, and you have the right of redemption; buy it for yourself." And I knew that this was the word of the Lord. (Jeremiah 32:7-9) So said the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel; Take these scrolls, this deed of purchase and the signed one and this open scroll, and put them into an earthen vessel so that they remain many years. For so says the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be purchased again in this land.

(Jeremiah 32:14-15)

Our less-frequently-read haftarah from Jeremiah, which speaks of “redeeming” the land, getting back to being freemen landholders after the land – and with the land their freedom – seemed forever lost, plays upon and relies for its meaning on the law in our Parasha which gives a “right of redemption” to close relatives (the text literally mentions “brother” but it is obvious from Jeremiah and Ruth that this includes uncles and cousins) of inherited-property owners, when that property has been sold off to outsiders (at least for the term of years up until the next Jubilee) or otherwise foreclosed upon. That law requires the “outside” purchaser (who is really a leaser) to accept reasonable compensation for the years left until the Jubilee in order to restore the property to family of the original owners. The law effectively parallels some of our laws which allow for the redemption of property going into foreclosure, which require, within certain limits, the buyer of many liens on foreclosing property to accept reasonable payment from the original owners to retrieve their property out of foreclosure. I actually had personal experience with something like this recently, when my brothers and I, who didn’t want a relative to lose his home, fronted a fixed reasonable payment to the purchaser of a tax lien, as well as to the county, to remove the tax lien and the threat of foreclosure. We also have made sure that other payments have kept up-to-date. The relative has always managed to pay us back, gratefully.

Such laws allow for restoration even out of the deepest despair, when the threat of loss has actually been concretized, seemingly irretrievably, through what seems to be a finalized transaction, through sale to another. What one had and treasured is now gone for good, the recognized property of another. And yet there is a last-ditch hope, out of the depths of defeat and despair. In the section of Jeremiah read as our haftarah, this parable sends a powerful message: Jeremiah’s bailing out his relative’s property even when he and they know that not only will their land soon be taken but that their very persons will be sold into Babylonian slavery as captives tells the people to yet hold out hope for restoration in the face of what seems to be finalized loss. Others are arriving to take over everything they possess, and yet they should still hold out hope that the privilege of last-ditch redemption will be exercised, in this case by God. They are reminded that God had originally Redeemed Israel from slavery in Egypt and Restored them to their Land in the first place, and that He would yet come to exercise His Right of Redemption still again.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Behar

May 24-25, 2024 | 17 Iyar, 5784

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Kaplan: p. 630 | Haftarah: p. 1174 // Hertz: p. 531 | Haftarah: p. 539

Candle Lighting | 7:56 pm

Evening Services | 7:00 pm

Zemirot | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

Shahrit | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

Shabbat Morning Talk | At Morning Services | Baruch-Lev Kelman

Tot Shabbat | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room

Youth Groups | 10:00 am | Elias Room

Jr. Congregation | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

Kiddush | following services | *Kiddush Contributor and Scotch & Arak sponsor: Alfandary-Nahon family, in memory of Francine's father, Robert Salomon Alfandary, and Laurent's brother, Philippe Nahon*

Shearith Israel welcomes First Sergeant Itai Sagi,
who was wounded in Gaza during the current war.

Shabbat Afternoon Class | 7:10 pm | Baruch-Lev Kelman | Main Sanctuary

No Teen Shiur this week.

Evening Services | 7:55 pm

Habdala | 8:57 pm

Lag La'Omer is on Sunday.

Weekday Service Times

Sunday & Monday (Memorial Day) Morning: 8:05 am

Tuesday-Friday Mornings: 7:05 am

Sunday-Thursday Evenings (Minha & Arbit): 6:30 pm

ANNUAL SPRING FUNDRAISER VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

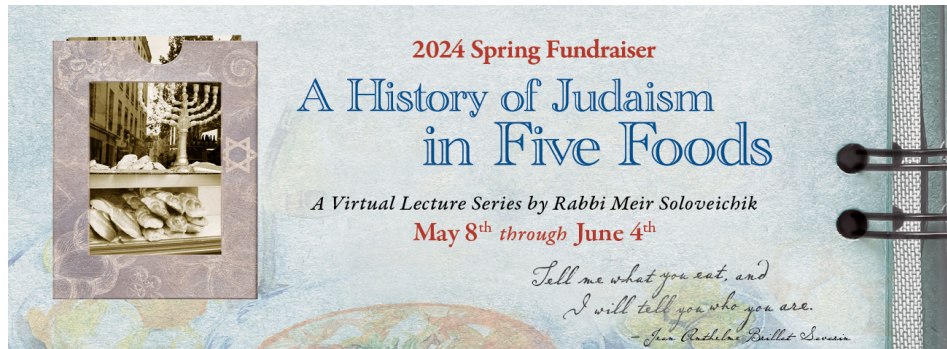
Next Session: THIS TUESDAY – You can still sign up!

"A History of Judaism in Five Foods"

A Virtual Lecture Series by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

May 8-June 4

Sign up and sponsor at shearithisrael.org/spring-fundraiser2024



Register & Sponsor now to access

the upcoming livestreams on Zoom at 7:30 pm!

Tuesday, May 28	Arbes to Hummus: A Little Legume, Jewish History, and the Future of Israeli Cuisine
Tuesday, June 4	A Talmudic Fisherman, Chagall's Herring, and Rabbinic Sushi: The Jewish Affection for Fish from Egypt to Today

All sponsors and underwriters will be recognized in a beautiful content-rich commemorative booklet.

For Sponsors of \$360 & above:

Sunday, June 9 - Special talk with Rabbi Soloveichik and Elizabeth Ehrlich, author of *Miriam's Kitchen*. Details sent by email.

Bonus update for sponsors of \$1,800 and above:

Sunday, June 2 - Be part of a **live studio audience** for Rabbi Soloveichik's last lecture, and enjoy herring and drinks. Details sent by email.

For Series Underwriters (\$3,600 & above):

Join Rabbi Soloveichik and others for an in-person **exclusive kosher food tour**, as well as receive access to **recordings** of the lectures after the series has concluded.

COMING UP

Registration & additional details at shearithisrael.org

Memorial Day at Chatham Square Cemetery

THIS Monday, May 27 | 10:30 am

Chatham Square Cemetery, 55 St. James Place

Please join us to honor those who have served in the United States Armed Forces and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The graves of 18 patriots of the American Revolution buried in this historic cemetery will be decorated. A color guard and field music will participate.

Sign Up to Be A Girls' Book of Ruth Reader

Next Rehearsal: Sunday, June 9 | 10 am | Main Sanctuary

Reading on Wednesday, Shabuot I, June 12

Interested? Contact Mrs. Lisa Robde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com to sign up.

Young Families' "Shabuot on the Slopes of Sinai"

Festive Catered Outdoor Luncheon with Learning & Activities

led by Baruch-Lev Kelman

Wednesday, Shabuot I, June 12 | Register now!

Share your news: Graduation Kiddush & Scroll of Honor

Shabbat, June 22 | Following Services

Featuring our annual ice cream cake tradition!

To submit your graduate's info or sponsor kiddush, visit shearithisrael.org/graduation2024

Celebrate Israel Parade: Sunday, June 2

Would You Like A Spot on the Sephardic Float?

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE. Request a spot at bit.ly/IsraelParade2024.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our office will be **closed** on Monday for the legal holiday.
- Morning services on Monday will be at **8:05 am**.

Mazal tob to **Yonina & Eric Gomberg**, upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Zachary.
Mazal tob as well to the proud grandmother, **Gail Propp**.

We mourn the loss of our member, **Judith Schreiber**.

Condolences to her husband, **Rabbi Joel Schreiber**.

Condolences to **Susan (William) Dellal**, upon the passing of her mother,
Malvina Strozenberg Ehrman.