CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

presents

A Very Merry UnGala

Tribute Folio

May 30th 2013
Location: Your Home | Attire: Top Hat Optional

Inspired by Lewis Carroll's literary classic Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.
The Rudin Family
is proud to present
The Samuel Rudin Trophy to the winner of the

ING NEW YORK CITY MARATHON
Sunday, November 3, 2013

The Rudin Trophy is given in memory of their beloved father, grandfather,
great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather, a long distance
runner for the Pastime Athletic Club in the Bronx between 1917 and 1923.

Samuel Rudin (1896-1975)

An avid long distance runner and civic leader, Samuel Rudin rose from humble beginnings on New York’s Lower East Side to become one of New York’s major builders and owners of real estate. Rudin joined the Pastime Athletic Club in the Bronx in 1917 while a student at City College and competed in long distance races as a member of the Club through 1923. In 1925, he founded the Rudin Management Company, a real estate firm which presently owns and manages 18 multi-story apartment houses and 16 office buildings in Manhattan. Samuel Rudin was actively involved with many charitable organizations in New York City, including the United Jewish Appeal, City College Fund and the Boy Scouts of America. In 1967, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Iona College in New Rochelle, New York. Today the Rudin family continues to play a major philanthropic role in New York City and is proud to have been a sponsor of the New York City Marathon since its inception as a five borough race in 1976.
Once upon a time, many years ago, 23 Jews of Spanish and Portuguese descent fleeing the relentless Inquisition, arrived at a land named New Amsterdam and founded the first Jewish Congregation in North America.

The name and landscape of the place changed but our congregation remained. Over 358 years, Shearith Israel members and friends built a strong, distinguished community, welcoming Jews of all backgrounds that flocked to America for refuge or opportunity. Shearith Israel continues to stand as a pillar of Jewish American life, setting high ritual, cultural, educational and spiritual standards for the entire community.

Each name in this tribute folio has joined the long cast of characters who have contributed to Shearith Israel’s story of prayer, community, tradition and hesed. Your generous support enables us to continue to honor our past, strengthen our community and pass on our traditions for the next chapter of Jewish and American history.

So lift your tea cup and toast to 358 years of vibrant Jewish life and the many more yet to unfold.
This year’s UnGala has given us the opportunity to celebrate every person who unselfishly contributes to Shearith Israel by:

Honoring our past with dignity through the preservation of our historic spaces including our main sanctuary and small synagogue, three historic cemeteries in Lower Manhattan and our active cemetery in Cyprus Hills, Queens.

Ensuring a strong future through engaging educational programs with rigorous ritual and liturgical training for youth including PTTS, our Toddler Programs, Junior Congregation, and special opportunities for girls.

Upholding and celebrating our minhag and liturgical traditions through dedicated clergy members, our sublime choir and active minyanim, Shabbat and holiday services.

Creating a caring community through crucial hesed efforts such as meal delivery, telephone calls and visits to members experiencing times of difficulty, illness or mourning.

Celebrating our community’s legacy of strong female voices through our community groups, women’s Shabbat services and unique Shir HaShirim, Megillat Ruth and Megillat Esther readings.

Serving as a major cultural institution by hosting events such as the Sephardic Music Festival, Carnegie Hall Neighborhood Series and our Young Leadership Concert with the Salomé Chamber Orchestra.

Building an informed and educated community through extensive adult education opportunities including our Scholar in Residence program, academic symposiums, lectures and discussions with Jewish scholars from around the world.

Strengthening our connection with the State and people of Israel through education and advocacy.

Thank you for enabling the continuation and strengthening of our congregation’s mission and legacy.
To all of the donors to our *UnGala*, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to each and every donor to the 2013 *UnGala* Fund. You are a group of special people who support our community without any expectation of recognition or fanfare. Your donations will provide vital funding for Shearith Israel and support innovative new projects, successful ongoing programs and the maintenance of our beautiful sanctuary. Your gifts are critical to sustaining the continued growth and success of our community.

Over the past few years, we have taught more participants at our weekly educational programs, trained more children at our highly regarded Junior Congregation and enjoyed many kiddush luncheons as a community. We welcomed many guests to our Shabbat and holiday service and guided scores of tour groups who have come to see our magnificent sanctuary and learn about us. Just this year alone, we hosted 16 world-class Scholars in Residence. None of this would have been possible without you.

Particularly in this year of transition it is heartening to see the tangible generosity of our community. I look forward to celebrating with all of you at our next in-person gala and thank you for your participation in this unusual and successful *UnGala*.

David J. Nathan

Parnas
I am honored to be chairing Shearith Israel’s innovative *UnGala* fundraising event, which represents a creative and forward-thinking approach to fulfilling the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah* that our Jewish community holds so dear. Our historic synagogue, whose roots date back to the earliest Jewish settlement in North America, brings an irreplaceable richness and meaning to our individual and collective lives as Jews, as New Yorkers, and as Americans. Being a member of Shearith Israel means being part of a beloved institution with a proud and unique history. While following the beautiful Spanish & Portuguese *minhag*, we are a congregation comprised of Jews from many different backgrounds and cultures. It is a rare and special synagogue that can embrace and unite members from a variety of Jewish traditions, and we take particular pride and satisfaction in our diversity as a community.

Thank you to all those who have contributed so generously so that Shearith Israel can continue its sacred work, sustain and enhance our magnificent services, offer our many diverse and enriching programs, further our *hesed* efforts, and to our talented and dedicated staff who work so hard. Lastly, we must take pride in the magnificent and venerable 116-year-old physical facility. Your commitment to the continuity and growth of our own Jewish community—Congregation Shearith Israel: The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in the City of New York is greatly appreciated.

Beth Bengualid

*UnGala* Chair
Patron of the Arts

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Patron of the Arts

May the Congregation of Shearith Israel continue to grow and be blessed.

Liz, Oliver, Alexandra, Bradley & Spencer Stanton
Bard

Norman S. Benzaquen

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*As of May 30, 2013
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