

Meaning & Melody: The Depth and Beauty of Jewish Prayer
A Shabbat Morning Interlude with Rabbi Shalom Morris
All Congregants Welcome
10:00 am in the Small Synagogue
Starting February 7, 2015

Rabbi Morris will offer “Meaning & Melody” most Shabbat mornings. The shiur will consist of brief discussions focusing on prayers and their meanings as well as a review of their melodies. All are welcome to attend.

The next Women's Service will be held on Jan. 31. For more information contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde lirohde-csi@yahoo.com.

Sponsor Lunch for our Police
Have you noticed that every day, seven days a week, NYPD officers guard our building? To show them our appreciation for keeping us safe, we'd like to provide them with lunch. To sponsor a week of sandwiches for our friendly guardians, go to shearithisrael.org/sponsor-lunch-police
Thank you to Laurent Hasson for being our first sponsor

Mazal Tob
On the marriage of Josh Nathan Kazis and Emily Seife. Josh is son of members Sara E. Nathan and Joel D. Kazis and grandson of member Ruth G. Nathan.

Co-sponsored by Learners' Service and JICNY
Musical Habdalah
Next Saturday, January 10, in the Elias Room
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm following the synagogue Habdalah
This Habdalah introduces melodies and songs from various traditions accompanied by musical instruments.

Our next public tour is:
Tuesday, January 13 at 11:00 am
Meet with our Parnas
Our Parnas would be delighted to meet with you.
Please schedule a visit at parnas@shearithisrael.org.

Genesis Continued
Esther Hidary
The book of Genesis opens with the establishment of light, life and goodness by a Creator who brings order to what would otherwise be unbounded chaos and darkness. The book closes in this week's parasha – Vayehi – on a far more bittersweet note. Joseph, at long last reconciled with his brothers and having lived long enough to witness the birth of his great-grandchildren, dies in Egypt and is there embalmed and entombed. Just before his death, he predicts that God will one day see His people and lift them out of Egypt. He demands the promise that, when that time comes, the people of Israel will remember him and carry his bones with them into the Promised Land. Joseph's wish is not fulfilled until centuries later, when, in the opening of the book of Joshua, he is finally returned to his home. Our last glimpse in Genesis is not of the emergence of life but the death of Joseph, frozen in his exilic tomb, awaiting redemption.
In many ways, this is an apt conclusion to the long series of narratives contained in Genesis that describe the difficulties mankind encounters when trying to maintain the perfect Divine order. Constrained by his conflicting desires, material needs, and moral uncertainty, Man fumbles and gropes his way forward hoping to encounter the clarity of the Divine. With compassion and delicacy, the Torah teases out the nuances of this struggle and, in this final chapter of Genesis, uses the story of Joseph and his brothers to deliver an extraordinary message of hope.
After the death of Jacob, Joseph's brothers approach him in fear, believing that he never exacted revenge for their crimes out of deference to their father. They manufacture a deathbed wish from Jacob demanding that Joseph forgive his brothers. Joseph weeps when he hears their request and he goes on to “comfort them and speak to their hearts” telling them, “Fear not! For am I in place of God? You thought to do evil against me but God's thoughts were towards goodness. He brought us to the actions of this day, to keep a large nation alive.” Joseph's message here is sublime. Letting go of past wrongs, Joseph dismisses bitterness, anger and betrayal and leads his brothers from fear to hope, from guilt to reconciliation, and from meaninglessness to purpose. Rather than gloating over his success and invulnerability, Joseph humbles himself before his brothers and invokes the name of God. How is Joseph able to do this? From where does he draw such an extraordinary generosity of spirit?
Joseph gives the answer himself. As he tries to explain to his brothers, Joseph's life experiences have taught him to perceive something about the nature of his created existence that his brothers – in their guilt – cannot. What Joseph perceives is that there is light where his brothers only see darkness and that there is that in the world which seeks order, beauty and goodness despite the chaos which abounds in the hearts of men. For Joseph, even a tomb in Egypt is not a permanent end but a pause in the larger story of his people. Genesis is an ever recurring aspect of human existence. By paralleling the acts of his Creator, Joseph allows a world established on the principals of goodness to survive.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue
Shabbat Vayhee
January 2-3, 2015

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:22 PM
MINHAH | 4:30 PM
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | following services | Rabbi Hidary gives a talk on “A Song for the Sabbath Day”: “The Lord is Enthroned”: Metaphors of Majesty” — Part 2 of a 3 part series on Psalms of the Sabbath Prayers
Coming Up:
January 16 - “The Lord is My Shepherd”: Metaphors of Mindfulness

ZEMIROT | 8:15 AM | Main Sanctuary
SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 AM | Rabbi Hidary delivers a seminar entitled “From Priests to Rabbis: How the Yavnean Sages Saved the Jewish People”
LEARNERS' SERVICE with Rabbi Morris | 9:45 AM | Small Synagogue **RESUMES ON JANUARY 10**
TOT SHABBAT & SUPERVISED PLAY *Ages 0-4* | 10:00 AM | New Auditorium
YOUTH GROUPS *Ages 5-12* | 10:00 AM | Children's library followed by 2nd floor classrooms
JR. CONGREGATION *Ages 5-12* | 10:30 AM | Small Synagogue
Next Assigned Jr. Congregation Jan. 10th.
KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

JEWISH PHILOSOPHY: THE PARTS THEY SKIP IN HIGH SCHOOL Rabbi Hidary | 3:15 PM | For high school students
Held at Rabbi Hidary's home, 1 W 85th St Apartment 6A
RESUMES ON JANUARY 10
SEUDAH SHELISHIT & AFTERNOON SHIUR | 3:30 PM
Rabbi Richard Hidary on the topic: “How to Dance before a Bride” and Other Dilemmas of Dissimulation”
Spring Semester Sponsored by Lewis Lipsey

MINHAH/ARBIT | 4:15 PM
Keter Shem Tob with Rabbi Hidary in the Main Sanctuary
HABDALAH | 5:07 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

With Encouragement and Support of the Shearith Israel League

Instrumental Recital for Young Musicians!

Saturday, February 7 | 7:00 pm

To be held in a private home

THE TIME TO SIGN UP IS NOW!

Shearith Israel welcomes all youth and teens -- both the children and grandchildren of members -- to play an instrument at a music recital to be held in a private home. All instruments welcome. If you prefer to perform in an instrumental ensemble with a musical friend who may not be a member, that is welcome as well. For more info and sign up, go to shearithisrael.org/recital.

Event Committee:

Jennifer Ash and Seth Haberman

Robyn and Mark Tsesarsky

Rachel and Dr. David Vorchheimer

The First Shearith Israel League Cook-Off Competition and Shabbat Dinner

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATE:

Part 1: Thursday evening, February 5 and

Part 2: Friday Night, February 6

Whether you call it Chulent, Hamin, Adafina, Chili, or just "Stew," Jews have been eating it for centuries.

We know you have great recipes. So now it's your turn, if you dare, to test your mettle against the Shearith Israel Competition on **Thursday evening, February 5**. Read more and register to compete in the Cook-off competition at

shearithisrael.org/cook-off_competition

Then, on **Friday evening, February 6**, all are welcome to sample our congregation's culinary diversity and to judge the winner during Shearith Israel League's first annual Chulent/Hamin/Adafina Cook-Off Shabbat Dinner! To learn more and sign up for the dinner go to

shearithisrael.org/cook-off_shabbat_dinner

Chai Tea with Ronit Appel

Tuesday, January 13 at 5:30 pm Elias Room

"Chai Tea" is our version of high tea with a Jewish twist. On January 13, Ronit Appel will facilitate a discussion on Jewish and Israeli art. Come mingle, learn, and discuss over tea and light refreshments.

All are welcome! Recommended donation: \$10 CSI members; \$12 non-members. Please RSVP to ashultz@shearithisrael.org

Friday Night Lights&Bites

All congregants are welcome to join us for cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres. Registration Required.

shearithisrael.org/bites

1/30: The Wines and Fruit of Tu B'Shebat

2/20: Celebrate George Washington with Apple Cider

The series will culminate in an (extra) festive community dinner on Hilkhof of cocktails in March. Stay tuned for details.

The Continuing Mysteries of the Aleppo Codex January 31, Saturday Evening

Matti Friedman, author of "The Aleppo Codex: A True Story of Obsession, Faith, and Pursuit of an Ancient Bible" will give a presentation with Rabbi Hidary. Rabbi Hidary will also deliver an introductory seminar on the Aleppo Codex on Shabbat morning, January 17.

Learn to read Hebrew! sign up for the new semester!

Only \$100 for 7 sessions!

Level 1: Sundays 10:00 am - 11:00 am | January 25 - March 15
(except February 15) - *includes breakfast*

Level 2: Wednesday 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm | January 28 - March 18
(except March 4)

Level 3: Thursdays 6:45—7:45 pm | January 29 - March 19
(except March 5)

Wednesday and Thursday classes immediately follow evening services. Participants are encouraged to attend.

shearithisrael.org/hebrewclasses

Weekday Judaic Education

View all our spring classes at shearithisrael.org/education.

Sunday

- **Psalms and Spirituality** Rabbi Richard Hidary | Sundays | 8:40 am
- **Saadia Gaon's Emunot ve'Deot on Revelation and Commandments** Sijmon den Hollander | Sundays | 9:30 am [RESUMES JANUARY 11](#)
- **Maimonides' Guide for the Perplexed on Prophecy** Rabbi Richard Hidary | Mondays 7:00 pm | [RESUMES JANUARY 26](#)

Monday Learning in partnership with JICNY

- **YL Monday Night Learning** Mondays | 7:00 pm
- **Hebruta Program** Mondays | 7:15 pm
- **Living Jewish** Rabbi Morris | Mondays | 7:30 pm
- **Rambam Rules for Young Professionals** Rabbi Morris | Mondays | 8:30 pm
- **Bet Midrash** | Mondays | 8:00 pm | [RESUMES JANUARY 26](#)

Tuesday

- **History of the Sephardim, the Spanish & Portuguese Jews** Rabbi Shalom Morris | Tuesdays | 6:45 - 7:30 pm | [Will resume on TUESDAY nights starting JANUARY 27](#)
- **Shulhan Arukh** Rabbi Hidary | Tuesdays | 7:45 am
- **Jewish Time: The Festivals in Halakha and Jewish Thought- A Class for Women** Rabbi Soloveichik | Tuesdays | 9:00 am | [RESUMES JANUARY 13](#)
- **Talmud Class: Tractate Berakhot and the Philosophy of Jewish Prayer** Rabbi Soloveichik | Tuesdays | 8:00 pm | [RESUMES JANUARY 6](#)

Wednesday

- **Parashat HaShabua** Esther Hidary | Wednesdays | 10:00 am | [NO CLASS THIS WEEK](#)