

The First Shearith Israel League Chulent, Hamin, Adafina, Chili, or just "Stew" Cook-Off Competition and Shabbat Dinner

Part 1: Cook-off Competition
Thursday evening, February 5
Sign up to compete by January 19th
shearithisrael.org/cook-off_competition

Part 2: Shabbat Dinner
Friday Night, February 6
Sign up to eat by February 3rd
shearithisrael.org/cook-off_shabbat_dinner

One-On-One Tour of the UWS Mikvah

If any of our members is interested in learning more about Taharat Hamishpacha, the Laws of Family Purity, please contact layaliza@gmail.com for a private, one-on-one tour of the facilities at the local UWS Mikvah. To maximize confidentiality, these personal tours will take place at times during which the Mikvah is ordinarily closed to the public. Tours of other local Mikvaot are also possible. Women only.

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 this week's sponsors:
Anonymous
Robert and Zoya Friedman
Jonathan and Rachel Sopher

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.

Maturity Forged in Adversity

Rabbi Ira Rohde, Hazzan

1:7 *"And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceedingly mighty, and the land was filled with them."* Many such long strings of synonyms for increase in size of the Children of Israel are repeated whenever the experience of Egypt is mentioned in the Bible. In the Torah's terse style, such atypical wordiness tends to occur when the Torah is "waxing poetic," in an outburst of lyrical praise, such as here, where it is of Israelite numeric strength and might. But such a lapse into a lyrical tone means that the Torah is trying to alert us to appreciate a qualitative shift. Even the plain meaning of the text says that, more than the increase in the quantitative size, the "Children of Israel" have now become a nation. The Haggadah, in commenting on a parallel string of synonyms in Deuteronomy, brings out nuances in the different terms. The parallel term for "multiplied" or "becoming numerous" is interpreted as indicating "reaching maturity," as the Song of Songs depicts a girl reaching puberty as an adult woman.

So the Israelites reached maturity as a nation with a "marked" national identity, as the Haggadah also points out, in Egypt, in a land which was not their own. This was already happening before they became enslaved, but their enslavement, as well as the process leading to their subsequent establishment as a free people in their own land, intensified that maturation. It was in the "iron furnace" of Egyptian adversity that the Israelite nation came of age. The adversity which tested them developed their strength and might in extraordinary ways in response. As hard as they worked to fulfill the obligations due ('קן') to their taskmasters in Egypt in bricks was as hard as they would learn to work to "pay their due" to fulfill their obligations under the Law ('קן') to God and their society. It's interesting that the terms used for Egyptian "slavery" and Divine "service" are intentionally the same, although one type of labor is described as having a rigor which is crushing or back-breaking. The entire thrust of the Torah's laws is geared to appreciating the Divine liberation from slavery enough to do the utmost to prevent ever falling into permanent slavery again, save only submission to service of God out of free will. The experience of rampant injustice under slavery would galvanize their will to found a just society upon Divine Law.

For the individual, as well, oftentimes growth which leads to real maturity must be forged in the tests of adversity. Trial and travail is often the crucible in which the will and discipline to forge a strong and free identity is galvanized.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue
Shabbat Shemoth
January 9-10, 2015

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:28 pm

MINHAH | 4:30 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | following services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on: "The World's Greatest Physicist Encounters Shabbat"

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a lecture entitled: "The Ten Commandments" vs. The New Moses Movie: A Lecture on Hollywood and Religion

LEARNERS' SERVICE with Rabbi Morris | 9:45 am | Small Synagogue— This week: A Review of Mussaf

Sponsored by Yedidya Flaquer

TOT SHABBAT | *Ages 0-4* | 10:00 am | New Auditorium

Featuring Rabbi Morris at 11:00 am

YOUTH GROUPS *Ages 5-12* | 10:00 am | Children's library followed by 2nd floor classrooms

ASSIGNED JR. CONGREGATION *Ages 5-12* | 10:30 am | Small Synagogue

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

PARASHAT HASHABUAH: THE PARTS THEY SKIP IN HIGH SCHOOL Rabbi Hidary | 3:30 pm | For high school students
Held at Rabbi Hidary's home, 1 W 85th St Apartment 6A

SEUDAH SHELISHIT & AFTERNOON SHIUR | 3:30 pm
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Spring Semester Sponsored by Lewis Lipsey

MINHAH/ARBIT | 4:20 pm

Keter Shem Tob with Rabbi Hidary in the Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 5:14 pm

MUSICAL HABDALAH | 6:00 pm | Elias Room

Co-sponsored by Learners' Service and JICNY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Co-sponsored by Learners' Service and JICNY
Musical Habdalah

This 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.

Chai Tea with Ronit Appel

This Tuesday, January 13 at 5:30 pm in the Elias Room
Ronit Appel will discuss Jewish and Israeli art.
Come mingle, learn, and discuss over tea and light refreshments.
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. For Registered Guests Only.
shearithisrael.org/bites
1/30: The Wines and Fruit of Tu B'Shebat
2/20: Celebrate George Washington with Apple Cider
New! 3/6: Post Purim Hilchot of Cocktails

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.

Help Provide Meals to New Mothers:

A Project of Caring Connections

If any of our members is interested in occasionally being asked to assist with providing meals for members of our congregation who are new mothers, a Caring Connection initiative, please contact layaliza@gmail.com

Women's Service

The next Shahrarit Women's Service will be held on Jan. 31 in the Small Synagogue. All women are welcome to attend. For more information contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde lrohde-csi@yahoo.com.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to our
Shearith Israel family:
Aryeh and Elana Bourkoff
Eli and Laurie Bryk
Mitchell and Joleen Julis
Thomas and Dafna Kaplan
Aviva Roumani

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.

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

This is THE LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP because the recital is almost fully oversubscribed and, thus, registration will be closed within the next several days.

Shearith Israel welcomes all youth and teens 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, email layaliza@gmail.com

Event Committee:

Jennifer Ash and Seth Haberman

Robyn and Mark Tsesarsky

Rachel and Dr. David Vorchheimer

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
includes breakfast

Level 2: Wednesday 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm | January 28 - March 18

Level 3: Thursdays 6:45—7:45 pm | January 29 - March 19

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 | 8:40 am
- ◇ **Saadia Gaon's Emunot ve'Deot on Revelation and Commandments** Sjimon den Hollander | 9:30

Monday

- ◇ **Maimonides' Guide for the Perplexed on Prophecy** Rabbi Richard Hidary | 7:00 pm | [RESUMES JANUARY 26](#)
- ◇ **YL Monday Night Learning *** | 7:00 pm
- ◇ **Hebruta Program *** | 7:15 pm
- ◇ **Living Jewish** Rabbi Morris | 7:30 pm [RESUMES JANUARY 26](#)
- ◇ **Bet Midrash** | 8:00 pm | [RESUMES JANUARY 26](#)
- ◇ **Rambam Rules for Young Professionals** Rabbi Morris | 8:30 pm

**In partnership with JICNY*

Tuesday

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

This week's class sponsored by the Major, Schwartz and Spievack families in memory of their father and grandfather, Kalman Fulep Z"L

Wednesday

- ◇ **Parashat Hashabua** Esther Hidary | 10:00 am

Tai Chi with Lewis Paleias | Thursdays at 11:00 am