

**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 THIS MONDAY January 19th  
[shearithisrael.org/cook-off\\_competition](http://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](http://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 Soloveichik at [layaliza@gmail.com](mailto: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 most every day, NYPD officers have been guarding our building? To show them our appreciation for keeping us safe, we've been providing them with lunch. To sponsor a week of sandwiches for our friendly guardians go to:  
[shearithisrael.org/sponsor-lunch-police](http://shearithisrael.org/sponsor-lunch-police)

*Thank you to this week's sponsors:*

Jonathan and Michelle Aufzien

Miriam Davidson

Esther and Rabbi Richard Hidary

Lawrence and Ruth Kobrin

The Neumark Family

Erica Markowitz

Nicole D Robles

Madelene Towne

**Meet with our Parnas**

Our Parnas would be delighted to meet with you.  
Please schedule a visit at [parnas@shearithisrael.org](mailto:parnas@shearithisrael.org).

**Age is Just a Number**

Rabbi Shalom Morris, Education Director

The Torah often makes a point to tell us a person's age at the time of their death, perhaps as a mark of accomplishment. However, when the Torah tells us their age at a certain moment in their life, it is seemingly trying to convey to us something altogether different. Such a midlife notation occurs in our parashah with reference to the ages of Moshe and Ahron. The Torah says that Moshe was eighty, and Ahron was eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh (Exodus 7:7). Why at that moment was it important for the Torah to tell us their years?

A recurrent theme in the book of Bereshit (Genesis) is sibling rivalry. It occurs between Yitzhak and Yishmael, Ya'akov and Esav, and Yosef and the brothers. In fact in each instance it is the younger son who is chosen to lead, perhaps exasperating the familial tension. In each instance an estrangement ensues, dividing the family and causing parental despair.

The book of Bereshit leads us into a period of exile. The next book of Shemot (Exodus) is a book about redemption. The people as a whole will be freed from Egypt. What accounts for this shift from servitude to salvation?

I believe the answer may lie in Moshe and Aaron. Here too, we have two brothers, the elder is passed over, and the younger is chosen to lead. However, in this instance jealousy does not descend, rather we are told that Aaron went to greet his brother with joy. He was happy for his kid brother's achievement and was pleased to assist him any way he could. This display of unity symbolized that a persistent challenge had been overcome.

Perhaps then the Torah tells us their age, not to simply tell us how old they were but to make the point that Moshe was younger, and yet he and his brother Aaron still spoke to Pharaoh together in one unified voice. The message then is that when as a people we can find our common voice and truly work together, anything is possible, even redemption.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

**Shabbat Vaera**

*January 16-17, 2015*

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:36 pm

MINHAH | 4:45 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | following services | Rabbi Hidary gives a talk on: "The Lord is My Shepherd": Metaphors of Mindfulness

DINNER FOR 20S AND 30S *co-sponsored by JICNY* | following Friday Night Lights | Elias Room | Registered guest only

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Hidary delivers a seminar entitled: "The History and Mystery of the Most Important Bible Codex"

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

YOUTH GROUPS | *Ages 5-12* | 10:00 am | Children's library

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

The next Assigned Jr. Congregation is February 7

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | *This week's Kiddush is sponsored by Anonymous*

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

SEUDAH SHELISHIT & AFTERNOON SHIUR | 3:30 pm

Rabbi Richard Hidary will lead an interactive workshop on the topic "Can Computers Decide Ethics? Rabbi Akiva vs. Bentham vs. Kant in the Prisoner's Dilemma"

*Spring Semester Sponsored by Lewis Lipsey*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 4:30 pm

Keter Shem Tob with Rabbi Hidary in the Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 5:22 pm

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

## The Continuing Mysteries of the Aleppo Codex

January 31, Saturday Evening

*In partnership with the Shearith Israel League*

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 this Shabbat morning, January 17.

## Friday Night Lights&Bites

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

Join us for cocktails and light

hors d'oeuvres. For registered guests.

To Register:

[shearithisrael.org/bites](http://shearithisrael.org/bites)

*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*

It is thrilling to report that the S&P Youth Instrument Recital is now oversubscribed. Therefore, registration to join the roster of Shearith Israel youth and teens who will play an instrument is closed. BUT: You can still participate as a member of the audience that evening. Are you a music lover? A hearty clapper? A cheerful supplier of uncritical applause? We are now accepting registration for members of the S&P congregational family to attend the recital as an audience member to support our junior musicians. To sign up or for questions, please contact Layaliza Soloveichik at [layaliza@gmail.com](mailto:layaliza@gmail.com)

## Continue the Unity: Organized by OneFamily

Sunday, February 8 | 3:00 pm

Held at The Ramaz Upper School 60 East 78th Street

Come show your solitary with Israel and welcome Rachelle Fraenkel, Bat Galim Shaer and Iris Yifrah, bereaved mothers of Naftali z"l, Gilad z"l and Eyal z"l.

RSVP at [onefamilytogether.org/unity](http://onefamilytogether.org/unity)

## Mazal Tob

Judy and Joel Schreiber upon the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Aaron Schreiber, son of their children, Avram and Tammy Schreiber

*We mourn the loss of our member:*

Mr. Mitchell Bogen. We extend condolences to his wife Mary, and to his son, Jules Bogen.

## Women's Service

The next women's service will be held on January 31<sup>st</sup>. We will celebrate Shirin Kaye becoming a Bat Mitzvah. For more information, please contact Mrs Lisa Rohde at [lirohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lirohde-csi@yahoo.com).

## 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.

## 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 Soloveichik at [layaliza@gmail.com](mailto:layaliza@gmail.com)

## 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: Wednesdays 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](http://shearithisrael.org/hebrewclasses)

## WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

View all our spring classes at [shearithisrael.org/education](http://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 | [NO CLASS THIS WEEK](#)

### Wednesday

- ◇ Parashat Hashabua Esther Hidary | 10:00 am

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

Our next public tour is:  
Tuesday, February 10 at 11:00 am