

### Important Construction Notices

We are working to come up with a satisfactory interim parking space for strollers. Meanwhile, please be considerate and fold your strollers in the coat room.

Also, because the elevator in 8 West is and will be out of service for an extended period, we have made arrangements for a small women's section (enclosed by a mehitza) located in the back of the main floor of the sanctuary below the cross section. This is intended for use ONLY by those women who are unable to ascend the stairs to the ladies gallery. Please inform the staff upon arrival if this applies to you. The design of the mehitza is still a work in progress and we hope that you will be patient until a more aesthetically pleasing mehitza can be designed.

The synagogue is seeking sponsors to help replenish our stock of Daily & Sabbath Prayerbooks and replace old and tattered volumes. This is a meaningful way to commemorate a special event or simhah, to honor of or in memory of a loved one. For more information please contact [zedinger@shearithisrael.org](mailto:zedinger@shearithisrael.org) or [mcaputo@shearithisrael.org](mailto:mcaputo@shearithisrael.org)

### One-On-One Tour of the UWS Mikvah

If any of our members is interested in learning more about Taharat Hamishpaha, 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.

### Support our Police

Let's show our appreciation for all they do to keep us safe.

To join our growing list of sponsors go to:  
[shearithisrael.org/sponsor-lunch-police](http://shearithisrael.org/sponsor-lunch-police)

Our next public tour is:  
**Tuesday, February 10 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](mailto:parnas@shearithisrael.org).

### Miriam's Song

Rabbi Richard Hidary

After Moses and the Israelites cross the Reed Sea, they break into song praising God for saving them from their enemies. This ancient poem, which remains part of our daily morning liturgy, begins with these words (Exodus 15:1):

I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously; Horse and driver He has hurled into the sea.

The text continues with the song for eighteen verses. One verse later, we read of Miriam leading her own group in song and dance:

<sup>20</sup>Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women went out after her in dance with timbrels.

<sup>21</sup>And Miriam chanted for them: Sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously; Horse and driver He has hurled into the sea.

Strangely, Miriam's song ends abruptly leaving us with a question: what exactly did she sing? Furthermore, were women singing at the same time as the men or separately? Philo thinks the women sang the same song together with the men:

This wonderful sight and experience, an act transcending word and thought and hope, so filled with ecstasy both men and women that, forming a single choir, they sang hymns of thanksgiving to God their Savior, the men led by the prophet Moses and the women by the prophetess Miriam.

A fascinating Dead Sea Scroll fragment, however (4Q365), inserts a new and different song that was sung separately by the women:

The enemy's hope has perished and he is forgotten... They have perished in the mighty waters...

This debate between biblical exegetes about whether the women sang together or separately and whether they sang the same song or a different one continued for centuries among the rabbis as well. (Thanks to Rabbi Gil Student for these references.) Sa'adia Gaon (882-942), following the Mekhilta, proposes that the women recited separately the same entire song responsively with Miriam, even though the Torah only recorded the beginning. Rabbi Moses Mendelssohn (1729-1786) writes that Miriam and the women sang with the men only the one line chorus in response to the full song of Moses. Rabbi Haim Yosef David Azulai (1724-1806) writes concerning the Haftarah that Deborah sang her song to the men as well, suggesting that Miriam may have done the same. The Netziv (1817-1893), on the other hand, argues that the women composed and sang separately their own long song but that only the chorus of that song was recorded in the Torah. I wonder what the Netziv would have thought about the Qumran fragment had he lived to see it!

In our times too, even in our own synagogue, we put into practice both of these approaches. On most weeks, women join the men in prayer and responsive song in the main sanctuary. This week, however, the women take up their voices to sing on their own in the women's service—*hazakot u-brukhot* to all the participants and especially to the Bat Mitzvah. We continue to seek out the best way for every member of the congregation to find their role and unique voice within the framework of our traditional communal prayer. As we do so, let us look to Miriam's song—in its array of interpretations—as a model.



## CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue Shabbat Beshallah-Shirah

*January 30-31, 2015*

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:53 pm

MINHAH | 5:00 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | following services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on: "Malcolm Gladwell and the Almond Tree" | *2014-2015 season is sponsored by the Julis Family* ...&BITES | following Friday Night Lights | Levy Auditorium | The Wines and Fruit of Tu B'Shebat | For registered guests

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a sermon entitled: "The Stradivarius Returns to the Subway"

WOMEN'S SERVICES | 9:15 am | Little Synagogue | *In celebration of Shirin Kaye's Bat Mitzvah*

TOT SHABBAT | *Ages 0-4* | 10:00 am | Coat Room

Featuring Rabbi Shalom Morris

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

JR. CONGREGATION *Ages 5-12* | 10:30 am | Levy Auditorium

The next Assigned Jr. Congregation is February 7

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by the Kaye family in honor of Shirin Kaye's Bat-Mitzvah*

PARASHAT HASHABUAH: THE PARTS THEY SKIP IN HIGH SCHOOL Rabbi Hidary | 3:45 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidarys' home, 1 W 85th St Apartment 6A

SEUDAH SHELISHIT & PIRKEI ABOT SHIUR | 3:45 pm

Rabbi Soloviechik

*Spring Semester Sponsored by Lewis Lipsey*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 4:45 pm

Keter Shem Tob with Rabbi Hidary in the Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 5:41 pm

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

## The Continuing Mysteries of the Aleppo Codex:

*A Conversation Between*

**Matti Friedman and Rabbi Richard Hidary**

*about the most important Hebrew Bible, the State of Israel and the Jews of Arab Lands*

**This Saturday Night, January 31 | 7:00 pm**

*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.

Thank you to our supporters:

Peter and Naomi Neustadter

Ralph Sutton

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

Friday Night, February 6

Sign up by Tuesday, February 3

[shearithisrael.org/cook-off\\_shabbat\\_dinner](http://shearithisrael.org/cook-off_shabbat_dinner)

## Meaning & Melody: The Depth and Beauty of Jewish Prayer A Shabbat Morning Interlude with Rabbi Shalom Morris

**10:00 am in the Small Synagogue**

**Starting February 7, 2015**

Rabbi Morris will offer "Meaning & Melody" most Shabbat mornings in the Little Synagogue. The shiur is for learners and will consist of brief discussions focusing on prayers and their meanings as well as a review of their melodies. All are welcome.

*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*

Are you a music lover? A hearty clapper? A cheerful supplier of uncritical applause? We are now accepting registration for members of the Shearith Israel 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)

## Women's Choir

We are forming a women's choir which will accompany our occasional Shabbat morning women's service. Women or girls who are interested or for more information, please contact

[lrohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lrohde-csi@yahoo.com)

## Yoetzet Halakha

If you have any questions regarding Taharat Hamishpaha (Jewish Family Law) laws of Niddah, sexuality and women's health, please contact our Yoetzet Halakha, Lisa Septimus in confidence at 917-382-9008 or [nycyoetzet@gmail.com](mailto:nycyoetzet@gmail.com).

## Mazal Tob

To Shirin Kaye on becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Shirin is the daughter of Jonathan and Nielufar Kaye and the granddaughter of Hon. Judith Kaye.

To our member, Chava Maccaba, who will be honored on February 3, at the National Jewish Outreach Program (NJOP) annual dinner with the Carl and Sylvia Freyer Young Leadership Award.

**Hazakim u'berukhim** to Caring Connection: Thank you to Rabbi Hidary, Zechariah Edinger and our Caring Connection volunteers who promptly reached out to the seniors and home-bound in our community to make sure they were prepared for the harsh weather this week. For more information about Caring Connection and to get involved, please contact [rhidary@shearithisrael.org](mailto:rhidary@shearithisrael.org)

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

# WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

View all our spring classes at [shearithisrael.org/education](http://shearithisrael.org/education)

## Sunday

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

## Monday

- ◇ **Maimonides' Guide for the Perplexed on Prophecy** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:00 pm
- ◇ **YL Monday Night Learning \*** | 7:00 pm
- ◇ **Hebruta Program\*** | 7:15 pm
- ◇ **Living Jewish** | Rabbi Morris | 7:30 pm
- ◇ **Bet Midrash** | 8:00 pm

*Spring semester sponsored by Josh Eisen, Bruce Roberts and Joy Saleh Roberts*

- ◇ **Rambam Rules for Young Professionals** | Rabbi Morris | 8:30 pm

*\*In partnership with JICNY*

## Tuesday

- ◇ **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
- ◇ **History of the Sephardim, the Spanish & Portuguese Jews** | Rabbi Morris | 6:45 - 7:30 pm
- ◇ **Talmud Class: Tractate Berakhot and the Philosophy of Jewish Prayer** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 8:00 pm

## Wednesday

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

## Learn to Read Hebrew

*Level 1: Sundays 10:00 am - 11:00 am*

*Level 2: Wednesday 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm*

*Level 3: Thursdays 6:45—7:45 pm*

To sign up: [shearithisrael.org/hebrewclasses](http://shearithisrael.org/hebrewclasses)