

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Indian cooking class with Fiona Amiel
*Co-sponsored with the Shearith Israel league,
JICNY and JDC Entwine*

Wednesday, March 18 | 7:00 pm | Levy Auditorium

Love Indian food? Join Shearith Israel member, Fiona Amiel for an interactive cooking demo while learning about the Jewish communities in India. Take advantage of this great opportunity to learn and taste authentic Jewish Indian food and to take home amazing recipes. Cost \$10. To register, go to shearithisrael.org/Indian-Cooking.

Women's Service

Saturday, March 21 | Little Synagogue

These services are an opportunity for women to lead prayer, read from the Torah and perform the mitzvot associated with our services. Join us as we celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of Ashley Ferguson.

Torah Tour of the American Museum of Natural History with Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Sunday, March 22 | 12:30 pm

Join us for a halakhic tour for families through the exhibits of the American Museum of Natural History, led by aspiring biblical naturalist, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik. The museum has a suggested donation entrance price but you can pay as you wish. Please arrive prepared to pay. RSVP at shearithisrael.org/torah-tour-natural-history

Shearith Israel Book Club

8:00pm | Wednesdays March 11, April 15, and May 13

Location in a private home | Esther Hidary

Join the Shearith Israel book club! RSVP to ehidary@gmail.com and start reading! The second book is "East of Eden" by John Steinbeck.

Jews for George: An Exploration of Judaism in the Age of the American Revolution

Co-sponsored by YU's Center for the Jewish Future and YU's Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought

Wednesdays April 29, May 6, May 13, and May 20
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

This four-part course, led by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, will utilize original source documents from the archives of the Congregation to explore Judaism during the American Revolution. Fee \$125 by April 15, after \$180. To register, go to yu.edu/jhistory.

Substance and Style

Rabbi Shalom Morris, Education Director

The seeming repetition of the construction of the mishkan provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon its architecture and what we can learn from it. There were essentially two elements to the Tabernacle. There were its bones - the technical structure and layout of the building and the various religious items contained within it. Additionally, there was the overall decor of the space including the design elements of the items, walls and draperies. I draw this distinction because the eventual Temple in Jerusalem would generally maintain the same structural layout and the same particular religious items, while the design elements would look quite different. What are we to make of this distinction between substance and style?

Over the past several years I've had the pleasure to visit Spanish & Portuguese synagogues in Western Europe, North America and the Caribbean. Seeing one after another I was taken by the similarities and differences between them. The overall majority of them maintain certain elements, such as inward facing seats, a women's balcony, the tebah set towards the middle/rear, and no parohet upon the hehal. This layout of all of these synagogues is based upon the plan of the Esnoga in Amsterdam which is based upon Jacob Judah Leon's seventeenth century model of the Bet Hamikdash.

And yet, the decor of the spaces differ completely from one another. Bevis Marks in London follows the City Church style, Touro in Newport is colonial American, the island communities of the Caribbean look completely Caribbean with their white washed walls and sand floors, Beth Elonim in Charleston is in the Federalist style, and of course Shearith Israel's decor is quintessential nineteenth century New York with its red carpeting, faux marble columns, Tiffany stain glass windows, etc. Each community designed their synagogues in line with contemporary aesthetics.

As we've seen in the Miskan and Bet Hamikdash there is a precedent for distinguishing between style and substance. Substance maintains earlier tradition. Style however, can and perhaps should change to reflect the tastes of the time, making our 'mikdashe me'at,' small temples, remain beautiful and relevant in contemporary times.

This then, surely was the mentality (hashkafah) of the Portuguese Jews. They wished to preserve the Torah and minhagim, while doing so in context of the places within which they lived. They did so not only with their synagogues, but more importantly with how they lived their lives. Amazingly, they pursued this path without a sense of tension, but with the perspective that it was the most natural thing for a Jew to do. In that way they continue to act as a model for us in how we may persevere in our commitment to Jewish tradition, but as part of the wider world around us.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Vayaqhel-Pekude-Parah

March 13-14, 2015

CANDLE LIGHTING | 6:42 pm
MINHAH | 6:45 pm
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | following services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on: "The Mystery of the Bird's Head Haggadah"
2014-2015 season sponsored by the Julis family

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Hidary delivers a seminar entitled: "Robbers, Rabbis, Hustlers, and Holy Men: The Monastic Context of Talmudic Tales"
MEANING AND MELODY | Rabbi Morris | 10:00 am | Little Synagogue
TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium
Featuring Rabbi Morris at 11:00 AM
YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Children's library
ASSIGNED JR. CONGREGATION Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Small Synagogue
KIDDUSH | Elias Room
YOUNG COUPLES AND FAMILIES LUNCH | Levy Auditorium
| For Registered Guests

PARASHAT HASHABUAH: THE PARTS THEY SKIP IN HIGH SCHOOL | Rabbi Hidary | 5:35 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidarys' home, 1 W 85th St Apartment 6A

SEUDAH SHELISHIT & PESAH SHIUR
Rabbi Soloveichik | 5:35 pm
Spring Semester Sponsored by Lewis Lipsey

MINHAH/ARBIT | 6:35 pm
KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary
HABDALAH | 7:35 pm

PESAH AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Sale of Hametz

If you would like to appoint Rabbi Richard Hidary as agent to sell your Hametz before Pesah, please fill out the online form before Thursday, April 2 at 5:00 pm at shearithisrael.org/hametz. Please contact Rabbi Hidary at rhidary@shearithisrael.org if you have specific questions regarding the sale of Hametz.

Donate for Maot Hittim

Make a donation to Maot Hittim to help those in need in a discreet, dignified way. Your contribution will be sent to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund for distribution overseen by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik. Go to shearithisrael.org/maothittim to donate

Passover Package Deliveries with DOROT

Sunday, March 22 | 10:30 am

Prepare for Pesah with a good deed by bringing matzah, gefilte fish, horseradish and other goodies to the homebound elderly. Our group will gather at the Louis D. Brandeis High School at 145 West 84th Street (between Columbus & Amsterdam avenues) for an orientation at 10:30am with DOROT. At the end of the orientation, will be divided up into pairs and assigned local seniors to visit. To RSVP, please email Rabbi Hidary at rhidary@shearithisrael.org in addition to going to shearithisrael.org/dorot-delivery and signing up. You must RSVP to participate. The Deadline is THIS SUNDAY, March 15.

Matzah Baking Extravaganza

Sponsored by Shearith Israel Youth and PTTS

Thursday, March 26, 5:00-6:00 pm | Elias Room

There's no better way to get excited about Passover than by baking some matzah! Join us on Tuesday, March 26 at 5pm, as Rabbi Yisroel Fried of Chabad of the West Side conducts a hands-on educational Matzah baking workshop. Each child will have the opportunity to make his or her own matzah from scratch and partake in every step of the process. In addition, each child will receive hand baked Passover matzahs made in Israel.

RSVP to Alana Shultz at ashultz@shearithisrael.org.

Shabbat Hagadol Derasha

By Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Saturday, March 28

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik delivers the Shabbat Hagadol Derasha on the intriguing subject of "Is Bitter Better?"
A Culinary and Theological Approach to Maror."

Pesah Haggadot (Seders)

Co-sponsored by JICNY

Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4 | 8:15 pm

Join us as we celebrate Pesah with a community Haggadah (Spanish-Portuguese Seder) on each of the first two nights of Pesah. Each spirited and interactive Haggadah is accompanied by explanations of our traditions and melodies.

Deadline: March 29. For more information and to register, go to shearithisrael.org/haggadot

Girls' Shir Hashirim Reading

Shabbat, the Eighth day of Pesah, Saturday, April 11

The young women in our synagogue, will read the Song of Songs for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. For more information or to sign up to read, contact Yehudit Robinson at yehuditrobinson@gmail.com

Pesah in Israel Reunion

If you are a Shearith Israel member or Shearith Israel *oleh* planning to celebrate Pesah 2015 in Israel, we would love for you to join our social gathering in Israel! Help us plan by submitting our survey by March 18. If you have not received our online survey, email dlandau@shearithisrael.org

New Members:

We welcome Marty and Judith Grumet to the Shearith Israel Family.

Our next public tour is:

Tuesday, April 14 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.

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

View all our spring classes at 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 and 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 2/3: Thursdays 6:45 - 7:45 pm

To sign up: shearithisrael.org/hebrewclasses

Tai Chi with Lewis Paleias | Thursdays at 11:00 am
Last Class will be Thursday March 19