Community Announcements

Mazal Tob to Ashley Ferguson on becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Congratulations to her parents Daniel and Matide Ferguson.

Mazal Tob to Andre and Maggie Guenoun on the marriage of their daughter Rebecca Guenoun to Michael Hagler. Michael is the son of Amy and Zalman Hagler and a great-nephew of Dr. Norman Lamm.

Mazal Tob to Emma Sage Stonehill on becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Congratulation to her parents, Robyn Price Stonehill and David Stonehill.

Hazak U'barukh to Trustee, Michael Lustig for being honored by Columbia-Barnard Hillel with their Seixas Award to be held on May 14. For information or to register email alison@hillel.columbia.edu.

Hazakim U'berukhim to Rabbi Meir and Layaliza Soloveichik for being honored by Nishmat at their 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner which will be held on May 17. For information or to register email dinner@afnishmat.org.

We extend sincere condolences to Debbie Sable upon the passing of her father, Ambassador Yehuda Avner.

First Days of Pesah Schedule at a Glance
Thursday Evening, April 2nd
Search for Leaven at night on Thursday (after sunset, 7:21 pm)
Friday, April 3rd
Fast of First Born begins (Dawn)
Morning Service and siyyum for the First Born
Stop eating hametz by
Dispose of hametz by
Eve of the First Day, Friday, April 3rd
Candle Lighting
Evening Services (Minhah & Arbit)
Begin the First Haggadah at home after 7:46 pm
First Day Morning, Saturday, April 4th
Zemirot
Shahrit
SECOND DAY OF PASSOVER
Eve of the Second Day, Saturday, April 4th
Evening Services (Minhah & Arbit)
End of Shabbat & Candle Lighting after 8:00 pm
Second Day Morning, Sunday, April 5th
Zemirot
Shahrit
Minhah & Arbit
Sunday Evening Habdalah

Reminder to please clean out your drawers in the main sanctuary before

Pesah.

Consecration of The Second Mill Street Synagogue

Zechariah Edinger

Shabbat haGadol is the anniversary of the consecration of the Second Mill Street Synagogue, which housed our congregation from April 17, 1818 until April 13, 1833. By 1818, the original Mill Street Synagogue was too small to accommodate the growing Jewish community. A larger synagogue was built on the same site which we refer to as the second Mill Street Synagogue. It provided one hundred sixty-seven seats for men and one hundred thirty-three seats for women. The women's gallery was reached by a covered passageway from the upper story of the adjoining brick schoolhouse on the north. This passageway was built as a narrow bridge over the intervening space between the buildings, in order not to dislocate the *succah* which was been built between these two buildings each year. There was some discussion as to whether the front of the women's gallery in the rebuilt synagogue should be open or be closed by a lattice. The final decision was that it should open with a "handsome planed turned mahogany banister."

At its dedication, Mordecai Manual Noah gave a dedicatory address in which he extolled the United States as a haven for Jews: "For the first time in eighteen centuries, it may be said that the Jew feels he was born equal, and is entitled to equal protection." It was because of this toleration that, according to Noah, the new synagogue needed to be built. "From the attractions of light and liberty which our dear country holds forth to the persecuted of all nations, many of our people have emigrated from Europe, and their increasing number made it necessary for their accommodation, that we should enlarge our place of worship."

The synagogue was in use for a relatively short fifteen year period, for by the 1830's most of the Jews of New York lived in what we now call Greenwich Village, too far to walk to lower Manhattan every Shabbat. As a result, in 1833 the congregation decided to move to new quarters on Crosby Street.

Shearith Israel commemorates the consecration of our synagogue buildings with a semi-festive service. The Ark is opened during much of the service and the Torah scrolls are dressed in festive colors. The beautiful poem Todot El (p. 342) is sung before Nishmat, and special blessings and memorial prayers are recited before the reading of the Torah. Memorial prayers are recited for Naphtali Judah, Harmon Hendricks, and, Abraham Touro who provided major funding build the Second Mill Street Synagogue.

Some remnants of the Second Mill Street Synagogue still exist today. The Perpetual Lamp (Ner Tamid) hanging in front of the Small Synagogue was made by J. and A. Seegers in New York City and has been in nearly continuous use since 1818. Another item, much less visible, is the marble plaque of the Ten Commandments which were a gift of Naphtali Judah made specifically for the 2nd Mill Street Synagogue to replace the old wooden tablets from 1730 (now in the small synagogue.) Today, these Marble tablets hang, mostly unseen, in the choir loft – embedded directly behind the Ten Commandments of the Main Sanctuary.



CONGREGATION STIFFARM The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue Shabbat Tsav-HaGadol

March 27-28, 2015

CANDLE LIGHTING | 6:57 pm

MINHAH | 6:45 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS SEASON FINALE | following services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on: "The Lonely Man in Madrid: Reflections on a Remarkable Trip" | 2014-2015 season sponsored by the Julis family PRE-PESAH SHABBAT DINNER | following Friday Night Lights | Levy Auditorium | For registered guests | Sponsored by Eli and Monique Benun, Jack and Martine Schenker, and the Solomon family

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers his Shabbat HaGadol Derasha entitled: "Is Bitter Better? A Culinary and Theological Approach to Maror"

MEANING AND MELODY | 10:00 am | Rabbi Morris on the topic of "'The Haggadah and Ha Lahma 'Anya'" | 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 | Little Syna-

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | Kiddush Sponsors: Doina and Larry Bryskin in honor of Rabbi Soloveichik and in memory of her mother, Hermina Levi. Alan and Carol Schechter in memory of her father, Matityahu bar Koeppel. Kiddush Fund Contributor: Jonathan de Sola Mendes in memory of his wife, Mary Ellen.

PARASHAT HASHABUAH: THE PARTS THEY SKIP IN HIGH SCHOOL | Rabbi Hidary | 5:50 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidarys' home, 1 W 85th St Apartment 6A

SEUDAH SHELISHIT & PESAH SHIUR

Rabbi Soloveichik | 5:50 pm Spring Semester Sponsored by Lewis Lipsey

MINHAH/ARBIT | 6:50 pm KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary HABDALAH | 7:52 pm

The Sabbath preceding Passover is called Shabbat HaGadol, i.e. the "Great Sabbath." A special haftarah from Malachi is read. Rabbis would exhort their congregations on this Shabbat concerning the Passover Festival. At Shearith Israel, this is also the anniversary of the consecration of the Second Mill Street Synagogue.

PESAH AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Sale of Hametz

Appoint Rabbi Richard Hidary as your agent. 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.

Donate for Maot Hittim

Make a donation for 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.

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 led by Rabbi Shalom Morris and Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde. Each spirited and interactive Haggadah is accompanied by explanations of our traditions and melodies. Deadline: March 29. To register or to sponsor a meal for a congregant in need, go to: shearithisrael.org/haggadot.

Girls' Shir Hashirim Reading Shabbat, Eighth Day of Pesah, Saturday, April 11

The young women of our congregation read the Song of Songs for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. To cosponsor this kiddush, contact ashultz@shearithisrael.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Our next public tour is: Tuesday, April 14 at 11:00 am

Shearith Israel Book Club 8:00pm | Wednesdays 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 next book is "East of Eden" by John Steinbeck.

Baseball Game with Rabbi Hidary

Sunday, April 26 | 8:05 pm | Yankee Stadium Join Rabbi Hidary at the Yankees vs. Mets game at Yankee Stadium. All ages are welcome. Great seats in section 128 (face value \$175). \$65 members/\$80 non-members. One lucky participant will win a baseball signed by Rabbi Hidary himself! Register at shearithisrael.org/baseball

This event is generously subsidized by John Lewin.

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 \$150 by April 15, after \$180. To register, go to yu.edu/jhistory.

Halakhic Dinner led by Rabbi Soloveichik Tuesday, May 5 | 7:00 pm

Did you know that giraffes are kosher? How about locusts? They are! We'll learn about some far out kosher foods, and we'll eat some too. Goat, venison, bison and squab are just a few of the expected featured ingredients. This unique dining experience is being offered at a significant subsidy and we are seeking sponsors to help make this available to as many members as possible. Deadline April 30. To Register, go to: shearithisrael.org/halakhic-dinner

Women's Megillat Ruth Reading First day of Shabuot | Sunday, May 24

The girls of our synagogue recite Megillat Ruth for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. If your daughter would like to participate, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com. Sponsorship opportunities available.

"Hidden Heritage: The Secret Jews of Portugal" A Heritage Trip in Collaboration with Ohr Torah Stone June 22 - 29, 2015

Rabbi Morris, together with Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, retrace the footsteps of Portugal's Jews on a 500-year journey of persecution, hiding and return. Rabbi Morris will infuse the trip with the connections between our community and Portugal, as well as S&P traditions and melodies. To view the itinerary and to sign up, go to ots.org.il/ hidden-heritage-trip/

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 IICNY

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

Wednesday

Parashat Hashabua | Esther Hidary | 10:00 am

Sign up for the next semester of Hebrew classes! Starts the week of April 26

7 sessions for just \$100! Level 1: Sundays 10:00 am - 11:00 am Level 2: Wednesdays 6:45 - 7:45 pm Level 3: Thursdays 6:45 - 7:45 pm

To sign up: shearithisrael.org/hebrewclasses