

Yom Yerushalayim
Sunday Morning, May 17 | 8:00 am
 Following 8:00 am morning services, Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a special shiur followed by a festive breakfast. At around 10:00 am, we head down to Chatham Square cemetery in Chinatown for our historic Revolutionary War memorial service. Round-trip transportation will be offered on a limited basis. Details to follow.

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Annual Pre-Memorial Day Service: Honoring Veterans of the Revolution and Members of the Armed Forces
Sunday Morning, May 17 | Chatham Square Cemetery | 11:00 am

Following Rabbi Soloviechik's Yom Yerushalayim shiur, head down to the Chatham Square Cemetery to honor veterans of the US Armed Forces including members of our congregation who participated in the Revolutionary War. This special service is open to all members of the community (veterans are encouraged to attend in their dress uniforms.) Join us as we place American flags at the graves of 22 veterans of the Revolution. The cemetery, active from 1682-1828, is located at 44 St. James Place, opposite Chatham Square. Transportation from and back to Shearith Israel will be offered on a limited basis. Details to follow.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tob to Brian and Chava Maccaba on the birth of a grandson.

Welcome new members:
Michael and Marlene Sperling

We extend sincere condolences to:
Gilda Angel upon the passing of her mother, Dorothy Schuchalter.

Thank you to neighborhood volunteers William Radacinski and John Clarke, for their magnificent efforts to beautify the historic 21st street cemetery.

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Our next public tour is:
Tuesday, May 12 at 11:00 am

Meet with our Parnas: Louis Solomon
Our Parnas would be delighted to meet with you.
Please schedule a visit at
parnas@shearithisrael.org.

Sephardic Reactions to Suffering

Rabbi Shalom Morris

In the face of his son's deaths Aaron was silent, '*vayidom Aha-ron*' (Vayikra 10:3). We don't really know what he felt, whether anger, intense pain, or sadness, or perhaps a combination of emotions. It is a poignant moment when his innermost feelings are kept private from us. We are at a loss. Is there then a lesson that we can learn from Aaron's reaction or lack thereof?

In contrast to Aaron, we know the feelings of Judah Leon Abravanel, son of Don Isaac Abravanel, upon the loss of his son. Before escaping from Spain to Italy in 1492, Judah Leon had his infant son preemptively sent across the border to Portugal. Abravanel did so before the king of Spain could convert the child and thereby try to force the Abravanel family to remain. Sadly, before arrangements were made for the child to be sent to Italy, he was forcibly converted by the king of Portugal. The child was forever lost to his family.

Judah lamented the horrific loss of his son in his poem '*Telunah Al Ha-Zeman*.' He wrote, "Twelve years have passed since I have seen my child. I can find no rest, no comfort. Not for me shines the light of the sun; my eyes are veiled in dark night. Not for me blooms the lily in the garden; my flowers are withered. The memory of him has robbed me of sleep. I have hung my harp on the weeping willow, transformed my song into lamentation." Abravanel's sadness never left him and he shared that with us. Upon writing this poem, he began to write his magnum opus '*Dialoghi d'amore*' (Dialogues of Love), considered one of the most important philosophical works of the Renaissance.

Aaron and Abravanel responded to personal tragedy in very different ways. Aaron was silent while Abravanel wrote. In doing so, they demonstrated to us that there is no one ideal way to mourn, to react to loss. Some choose to express their feelings, while others prefer to suffer in silence. Every person reacts to loss in his or her own way.

Indeed, R' Yosef Karo ruled that at a mourner's home a comforter must wait for the mourner to initiate conversation before speaking (S.A. - Y.D. 376:1). This allows the mourner to set the tone, whether they wish to sit in silence or to reflect upon their loss communally. In this way, we empower mourners to mourn in the manner most fit for them. Perhaps then, this is why at a *shiba*, Sephardim exit with the words '*min hashamayim tenuhamu*' (may you be comforted from Heaven) and Ashkenazim with the consolation '*haMakom yenahem etekhem*' (may the Omnipresent comfort you). Both invocations pray that God comfort the mourner. We pray so, because none of us truly knows what is in another's heart. We therefore pray that God, the '*bohen lebabot*,' console the mourner in the ideal manner that only God can know.

In the face of his son's deaths Aaron was silent, '*vayidom Aharon*' (Vayikra 10:3). We don't really know what he felt, whether anger, intense pain, or sadness, or perhaps a combination of emotions. It is a poignant moment when his innermost feelings are kept private from us. We are at a loss. Is there then a lesson that we can learn from Aaron's reaction or lack thereof?

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The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

April 17-18

MINHAH | 6:45 pm

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a special pre-Yom Haatzmaut Lecture entitled: "Hats and Hebrews: How Haberdashery Made the Modern State of Israel"

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

Featuring Rabbi Morris at 11:00 am

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

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Deborah Skaler-Labendz and Asher Labendz in honor of the birth of their daughter Nessel Florence.*

HIGH SCHOOL | Rabbi Hidary | 6:15 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidarys' home, 1 W 85th St Apartment 6A

Rabbi Soloveichik | 6:15 pm

Spring Semester Sponsored by Lewis Lipsey

KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 8:16 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

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

DEADLINE: This Sunday, April 19

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity. Our menu features goat, venison, bison and squab among other exotic ingredients as Rabbi Soloveichik illuminates and entertains. 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. To register: shearithisrael.org/halakhic-dinner

"Maimonides and the Shaping of the Jewish Canon"
Professor James Diamond

Monday, April 20 | 7:00pm | Elias Room

(In Lieu of Rabbi Hidary's Maimonides Class)

Come hear Professor James Diamond, the Joseph & Wolf Lebovic Chair of Jewish Studies at the University of Waterloo, present a fascinating lecture about Maimonides and the Jewish Canon.

Yom Hashoa Program - for 20s and 30s only

Monday, April 20 | 7:00 pm | Levy Auditorium

(during YL Monday Night Learning)

Co-sponsored by JICNY

Hear testimonials from Holocaust survivors as we commemorate the 6 million.

Yom Haatzmaut at Shearith Israel

Wednesday, April 22 | 8:00 pm

Join us for a celebratory Israel themed reception and special lecture by Rabbi Soloveichik, "The Return of the King: David's Palace and the Future of Modern Israel."

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

Fire Safety for UWS Jewish Community

Monday, April 27 | 8:00 pm

Held at Lincoln Square Synagogue (180 Amsterdam Ave.)

Attend this Q&A Session with an FDNY Representative to address a variety of issues concerning how to safely use hot plates and the stove top on Shabbat and Yom Tov.

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.

Register at yu.edu/jhistory.

Shearith Israel Book Club

Thursday, April 30 | 8:00 pm

Wednesday, May 13 | 8:00 pm

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.

"Maimonides' Guide 3:31: On Transcending the Rationales of the Commandments"

Professor Yair Lorberbaum

Monday, May 4 | 7:00pm

(In Lieu of Rabbi Hidary's Maimonides Class)

Come hear Professor Lorberbaum, renowned professor and author, speak about Maimonides' Guide to the Perplexed.

Thank you to our anonymous sponsor.

Women's Service

Saturday, May 9 | 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 Avigail Friedman. To participate, contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com.

Girls' 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

lrohde-csi@yahoo.com.

Please consider sponsoring or contributing to a kiddush to follow the reading in honor of our girls.

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 * | SPECIAL YOM HASHOA PROGRAM THIS WEEK** | 7:00 pm
- ◇ **Hebruta Program*** | 7:15 pm
- ◇ **Living Jewish** | Rabbi Morris | 7:30 pm | **NO CLASS THIS WEEK**
- ◇ **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 | **NO CLASS THIS WEEK**

**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

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