

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.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tob to Rabbi Meir and Layaliza Soloveichik and the entire Soloveichik family on the birth of a baby boy.

Mazal Tob to Program Director, Alana Shultz, on her engagement to Slava Rubin.

Mazal Tob to Samuel Neumark upon his engagement to Liz Uretsky, daughter of Murielle and Steve Uretsky of Los Angeles, CA. Congratulations to parents Susan and Avery Neumark and grandparents Debby and Melvin Neumark.

Mazal Tob to Marvin and Aviva Sussman on the birth of a grandson born to their children JJ and Aliza Sussman in Jerusalem and on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Yoav, son of their children Rina and Avi Sussman in Ra'anana. Mazal Tov to great-grandmother Els Bendheim in Ra'anana.

Welcome New Member Dr. Craig Moskowitz

Condolences to Raanan Agus upon the passing of his father, Dr. Saul Agus.

Condolences to our new member, Michael Sperling on the passing of his father, Paul Sperling, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

Welcome members of Congregation B'nai Jehudah of Overland Park, Kansas, joining us for services this Shabbat.

Thank you to our Police Fund Sponsor: Harriet and Isaac Ainetchi

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

Parnas Office Hours

Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you.

Please schedule a visit at
parnas@shearithisrael.org.

Rav Aharon zt"l

Rabbi Richard Hidary

The Jewish world lost a leading light of our generation this week with the passing of Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein zt"l. Rav Aharon had a profound impact on my life as he did on his many students. As a high school student, I remember struggling through his writings with a dictionary beside me. I wasn't yet prepared then to appreciate his profundity but I did at least learn many great SAT words. During my two years studying at Yeshiva Har Ezrion, however, I was privileged to come to understand, through his example, simple words like humility, piety, honesty, and responsibility.

Rav Aharon was obviously a genius in all areas of Torah and the humanities; but even more impactful was his own character, thought patterns, and reactions in shaping the way that we thought about and approached problems ourselves. In our many Q and A sessions with the Rosh Yeshiva, more striking than his ability to cite all relevant sources by heart was the way he dissected each word of the question like he would a piece of Talmud in order to lay out the many facets of each issue. The care he took in crafting each phrase that he uttered and the expectation that we do the same challenged us to think with more clarity, preciseness and depth.

Regarding this week's parasha, Rav Aharon analyzed the concepts of purity/impurity and holiness (tum'ah/tahara and kedusha). He noted that ancient pagans believed that impurity was a natural force in the world carried by demons and evil spirits. Modern scientists, on the other hand, deny the very categories of purity and holiness since an impure object is quantifiably no different from a pure one. The Torah forges a third path in teaching that impurity and holiness are legal states in halakha that human beings create. An animal has no holy status until a person designates it as a sacrifice or uses its skin to write a Torah. Impurity can inhere in food, drink, and vessels used by humans but does not apply to natural objects like live animals, plants, or raw materials. It is then by immersion into a natural body of water that a person or object returns to its natural state of purity. These halakhic categories teach us that we have the ability and responsibility to create places and times of holiness in this world and to protect that holiness from contamination by ensuring that it only is approached in purity.

This devar Torah typifies much of Rav Aharon's own life and his own yearning for holiness and purity through tireless devotion and sense of responsibility. I can hear his voice reciting kaddish or the haftarah from Isaiah 55 with an passionate tremor that embodied his intense fear of Heaven. I also remember when I visited his home with a group of students and after we left I realized I forgot my backpack in his apartment; I returned to find him at the sink washing the dishes. No task was too mundane and no challenge was too weighty to bear in his role as an oved Hashem – a servant of God, a role that defined his sense of duty to his family, to his yeshiva, and to Medinat Yisrael. He extended great comfort to me and my family in our time of mourning several years ago and we now join together with his family and talmidim in mourning the loss of a sagacious leader whose influence on the Jewish world will be felt for many generations to come.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Tazria-Metsora

April 24-25

CANDLE LIGHTING | 7:27 pm

MINHAH | 6:45 pm

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a sermon entitled: "Know Thy Selfie: A Reflection on Rembrandt in the Age of iPhones"

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

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

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

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

PARASHAT HASHABUAH: THE PARTS THEY SKIP IN HIGH SCHOOL | Esther Hidary | 6:20 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidarys' home, 1 W 85th St Apartment 6A

SEUDAH SHELISHIT & PIRKEI ABOT SHIUR

Rabbi Soloveichik | 6:20 pm

Spring Semester Sponsored by Lewis Lipsey

MINHAH/ARBIT | 7:20 pm

KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 8:24 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Baseball Game with Rabbi Hidary and Rabbi Morris
Sunday, April 26 | 8:05 pm | Yankee Stadium
Join the Rabbis at the Yankees vs. Mets game at Yankee Stadium. There are a few great seats left section 128 (face value \$175). \$65 members/\$80 non-members. To purchase, email Rabbi Hidary at rhidary@shearithisrael.org.
This event is generously subsidized by John Lewin.
Congratulations to last shabbat's Jr. Congregation raffle winner, Jenna Roberts, who won two free tickets to the game.

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
Starts This Week | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Wednesdays April 29, May 6, May 13, and May 20
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
The next meeting is This Thursday and it's not too late to speed read Hemingway's "East of Eden." RSVP to ehidary@gmail.com.

"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)
Hear Professor Lorberbaum, renowned professor and author, speak about Maimonides' Guide to the Perplexed.
Thank you to our anonymous sponsor.

Annual West Side Mikvah Fundraiser Event
Tuesday, May 5 | 535 West End Ave | 7:30 pm
Women are invited to celebrate and support the West Side Mikvah. There will be a dessert reception, raffle and speech by guest speaker, Rebbetzin Rivkah Slonim.
Register at westsidemikvahfundraiser.com

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 lirohde-csi@yahoo.com.

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. Afterwards, we head down to Chatham Square cemetery in Chinatown for our historic Revolutionary War memorial service. See below. To sign up, go to shearithisrael.org/yom-yerushalayim-lecture

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 our Yom Yerushalayim festivities, at around 10:00 am we 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. To sign up, go to shearithisrael.org/chatham-square-service

Jews and Booze: A Halakhic Tale of Godfathers and God-fearers in the Age of Prohibition
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
First Night of Shabuot, Saturday Night, May 23
We'll offer you a lecture and cheesecake that you can't refuse.

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

View all our spring classes at shearithisrael.org/education

- Sunday*
- ◇ **Sephardic Responsa on Contemporary Issues** | 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 | *Sponsored by Harriet and Isaac Ainetchi*
 - ◇ **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 This Week!
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
Thank you to Harriet and Isaac Ainetchi for sponsoring the first week of classes