

Celebrate Our 2015 Graduates

Saturday, June 20

Kiddush following Morning Services

Let's spread the good news and celebrate the success and accomplishments of all our graduates from pre-school to PhDs! Go online to ensure your graduate is listed on our scroll of honor (for free!) and consider co-sponsoring our graduation kiddush for just \$180 (even if you cannot attend). For listings and sponsorships, visit shearithisrael.org/graduation.

Construction Update

Work is underway. This week marked the beginning of the dismantling and demolition of the interior of 8 West. Additionally, be aware of the vibration monitors that have been installed throughout 2 West, especially near the Tiffany windows. Please be careful that neither you nor your children touch them. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this transition period.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tob to Barbara and Sassoon Shahmoon on the engagement of their son David Ezra Shahmoon to Sarah Boumendil of Paris, France.

New Members: We welcome Daniel and Leyla Posner to the Shearith Israel family.

We Mourn the Loss of Our Member: Nelly Enriquez. Condolences to her sister Vally Enriquez

We Mourn the Loss of Our Member: Belda Kaufman Lindenbaum. Condolences to her husband Marcel and sister Carol Kaufman Newman.

We Mourn the Loss of Our Member: Hedy Wegier. Condolences to her daughter Lady Marcelle Quinton and granddaughter Joanna Bateman.

Our next public tour is:
Tuesday, June 9 at 11:00 am

Parnas Office Hours

Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you.
Please schedule a visit at
parnas@shearithisrael.org.

Let Freedom Ring!

Rabbi Shalom Morris

In 1751 a bell was cast. The work was carried out by the firm Lester and Pack, today named Whitechapel Bell Foundry, located just a few blocks away from Bevis Marks Synagogue in London. The bell was ordered by the Assembly of the British colony of Pennsylvania for their soon to be completed bell tower. They instructed that there be inscribed upon the bell 'Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.' These words are taken from this week's parashah. The Torah declared that every fifty years (yobel) all Jewish slaves shall be set free. However, the language of freedom ensured through yovel is unique. The Torah uses the uncommon word deror, not the usual hofshi or herut, to declare this freedom. How is deror different? The answer lies in the world's most famous Biblical misquote. The actor Charlton Heston, playing Moses in the film 'The Ten Commandments,' demanded of Pharaoh 'Let My People Go.' In truth, in the Torah Moshe demanded on behalf of God 'Shelah et ami ve'yaabduni,' 'Let My People Go that they shall serve Me.' The objective of the Exodus was not the freedom from bondage, but the freedom to fulfill a higher purpose.

Yobel was unique because all Jewish slaves were set free at once, even those who had previously opted to remain indentured. It removed the possibility of perpetual or hereditary servitude from Israel. The message was clear. Jews were already servants to another master, to God, and they could not be permitted to forget that. According to Nechama Leibowitz, this is the unique freedom of deror. More than freedom from slavery, it implies the more intrinsic freedom of the mind – the freedom or demand to fulfill a higher calling.

It is no surprise then that the 'Liberty Bell' also became an icon for the American Spanish & Portuguese Jewish congregations founded in colonial times. It appears on the emblem of Philadelphia's Mikveh Israel and is immortalized in the 'Liberty Bell Bells (rimonim)' of our congregation. No notion is more Jewish than living a life of purpose. The bell represents an idea to which we aspire. We live with profound freedoms, and we are challenged to fulfill those freedoms with higher actions and behaviors. Perhaps theologically that is why the Liberty Bell is cracked. While a cracked bell emits no sound, if we realize its ideals it is our actions that 'Let Freedom Ring.'



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

May 15-16, 2015

Shabbat Behar-Behukkothai

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 531; Haftarah p. 551
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 630; Haftarah p. 1178

CANDLE LIGHTING | 7:47 pm

MINHAH | 6:45 pm

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a lecture entitled: "The Soldiers at the Wall: The Story of Israel's Most Famous Image"

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

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

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

Synagogue | the next Assigned Jr. Congregation is May 24

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium, Elias Room, and

Portico | *Sponsored by Alana Shultz and Slava Rubin in honor of their recent engagement and by Julia and Yair Cohen and the Moalem family in memory of their father Yehezkel Moalem.*

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

SEUDAH SHELISHIT & AFTERNOON SHIUR

Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic "Robert Frost and Rav Lichtenstein: A Poetic Reflection on a Torah Giant" | 6:45 pm
Spring Semester Sponsored by Lewis Lipsey

MINHAH/ARBIT | 7:45 pm

KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 8:47 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

THIS SUNDAY, YOM YERUSHALAYIM

**The Ancient Graffiti on the Kotel: An Archeological Mystery
Yom Yerushalayim | Sunday Morning, May 17 | 8:00 am**

Following morning services, Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a special shiur on the topic "The Ancient Graffiti on the Kotel: An Archeological Mystery" followed by a festive breakfast. Afterwards, we head down to Chatham Square cemetery in Chinatown for our historic Revolutionary War memorial service. See below.

**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.

**Yom Yerushalayim Screening of
"Beneath the Helmet: From High School to the Home Front"
Sunday, May 17 | 7:00 pm | following 6:30 pm evening
services**

Sponsored by the Tsesarsky family

See this documentary which follows the stories of five 18 year-old Israelis as they are drafted into the IDF. Producer David Coleman and soldier, Lt. Aviv Regev will join us for Q&A. Light Refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to all.

**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
Zabava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western
Thought*

11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Wednesday, May 20

Join us for the last installment of Rabbi Soloveichik's course which utilize original source documents from the archives of the Congregation to explore Judaism during the American Revolution.

Register at yu.edu/jhistory.

Learners' Service

Saturday, May 23 | 9:45 am | Little Synagogue

'Eat, Pray, Learn' in an inviting atmosphere geared toward those new to full Shabbat services. We join afterwards for a social Kiddush luncheon in the Elias Room accompanied by explanations of the customs, rituals, songs and prayers of Shabbat meals.

SHABUOT HIGHLIGHTS

**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 | 11:30 pm
We'll offer you a lecture and cheesecake that you can't refuse.

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.

**8th Annual Jewish Community Pre-Memorial Day Event
Wednesday, May 20 | The Jewish Center (131 W. 86th St.)
Doors open at 6:30 pm (family dinner at 6:00 pm)**

Join over 50 marines for an evening honoring the lives of service members who were killed in defense of our country and paying tribute to the dedication of our active and retired service members the US Armed Forces. Refreshments and care package activity following the ceremony. To register for the lecture and/or dinner go to jewishcenter.org

Shearith Israel Book Club

Wednesday, June 3 | 8:00 pm

Held in a private home | Esther Hidary

Join us for the last meeting of the year. Now there is no excuse not to start reading "The UnAmericans" by Molly Antopol. RSVP to ehidary@gmail.com.

Weekday Toddler Summer 'Camp'

June 23rd - August 20th

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 am

For children aged 16-33 months.

Includes outdoor play and a wading pool. Adult caregiver presence is required. Register online at

shearithisrael.org/content/summer-toddler-program-2015

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** | Sjimmon 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 | 7:00pm - 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

Hebrew classes

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

To sign up: shearithisrael.org/hebrewclasses