

UWS Synagogues Present: Koolulam
Thursday, May 21 | 7:00 pm | Ticket Price - \$36
The Streicker Center at Temple Emanu-El | 5th Ave at 65th St.
The break-out Israeli musical phenomenon, Koolulam, has brought together diverse populations across Israel, South Africa and the US, to merge their individual voices into the magic of a single song. Now, for the first time, they are bringing their unique approach to music and community to Manhattan. UJA-Federation of New York and The Streicker Center are pleased to bring this event to Manhattan and Shearith Israel is proud to participate as a community partner, bringing together Manhattan synagogues and institutions for a unifying event.

Register at tinyurl.com/koolulam.

CHOIR SELECTIONS

Friday Evening:
Veshameru #1 (p.166) | Samuel Naumbourg
Psalms 23 (p.174) | Rev. H. P. Mendes

Shabbat Morning:
Misheberakh (p. 208) | Leon Kramer
Tehilat (p. 216) | John Koch
Adon Olam (p. 232) | Salomone Rossi

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hazakim u'Berukhim to Daisy Braverman and Rabbi Ira Rohde on their recent participation in the International Ladino Day, hosted by the American Sephardi Federation at the Center for Jewish History.

Mazal tob to Jackie & Andrew Klaber on being honored at this year's Stanton Street Shul Pre-Purim Masquerade Ball, to be held on Sunday, March 8. To honor the Klabs and support the Stanton Street Shul, go to stantonstshul.com.

Mazal tob to Gail Propp on being honored at this year's Ramaz Annual Dinner, to be held on Sunday, February 23 at the New York Marriot Marquis. To honor Gail and to support Ramaz, please go to ramaz.org/dinner.


DEBAR TORAH
—STEVEN GOTLIB, BET MIDRASH COORDINATOR—
“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose / By Any Other Name would smell as sweet,” said Juliet about her beloved Romeo, arguing that the fact that the name he had carried since birth and which was solely responsible for keeping the young lovers apart was rather meaningless in the grand scheme of things.

Psychology, however, seems to imply that Juliet’s emotional declaration in William Shakespeare’s famous play may not have been scientifically accurate. In 2008, researchers from McGill University as well as the Montreal Neurological Institute concluded that the presentation of an odor with a positive, neutral, or negative sounding name had a profound impact on how people interpreted the smell. On the Biblical level, my teacher Rabbi David Silber has noted that names in the Torah are often descriptions which tell us something about the figure’s inner essence or place in the grand narrative that God has written.

I would like to argue that this extends to the names which we have given to the various Biblical Books as well. *Sefer Bereshit* is the story of God’s creation of the world and our primary roles within it. *Sefer Vayikra* writes a lot about what to call things from various types of sacrifices to holidays and more, solidifying our people’s relationship with the mission that God has given us. *Sefer Bemidbar* includes the various adventures (and misadventures) of the Israelites in the Sinai Desert. Finally, *Sefer Debarim* is the speech that Moses gave to the people before they were finally able to enter the Promised Land. But what about *Sefer Shemoth*, the “Book of Names”? That apparently has nothing to do with the Exodus from Egypt or its aftermath which this section of the Torah so prominently celebrates.

I’d like to make a suggestion based on an idea from Shearith Israel’s very own Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik. In a recent lecture, R. Soloveichik spoke about the profound meaning of the Exodus from Egypt and the Plagues that accompanied it. The political aspects of the Exodus reflected in the freeing of *Bnai Yisrael* were bound up with theology. Each plague that was brought down on the Egyptians was intentional, designed not only to punish them but to fundamentally counter their entire religious worldview. It was not enough for the *Bnai Yisrael* to simply be freed from Egyptian slavery. They needed to be freed from the Egyptian ways of life which had confined them to a particular role for so long. *Sefer Shemoth*, then, is not only about bringing Israel out of Egypt, but with bringing Egypt out of Israel, allowing our people to reclaim our national identity (or “name”) and to begin again as a free entity.

Sefer Shemoth, as R. Soloveichik so eloquently pointed out, is then the book of how we reclaimed our name from those who would attempt to take it away and push us into slavery to foreign ways of life. It is truly the book where the People of Israel establish out name forevermore.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Shemoth
January 17-18, 2020

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 205; Haftarah p. 229
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 250; Haftarah p. 1212

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:37 pm
EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 4:45 pm | Main Sanctuary
SPECIAL FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS PRESENTATION | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | “The Extraordinary History of *Am Yisrael Chai*: A New Reflection on A Famous Phrase” | *This week’s special presentation is sponsored by Joleen & Mitch Julis, in memory of Paul Singer’s mother, Stella Singer. 2019-2020 season sponsored by the Julis family.*

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAH RIT | 9:15 am
TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room
YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room
JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue
SERMON | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | “Maimonides’ Tears”
KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Vicki & Sam Katz in honor of the aufruf of Jennifer’s fiancé, David Simins.*

SHABBAT AFTERNOON CLASS | 3:30 pm | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | “A Political Introduction to Shemoth” | Levy Auditorium
EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 4:30 pm
HABDALA | 5:23 pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is on Monday. Our office will be closed, and Toddler Program will not meet. Sunday class is on hiatus. See below for service changes.

Weekday Service Times	
Mornings: Sunday & Monday (MLK Day): 8:00 AM Monday-Friday: 7:15 AM	
Evenings: Sunday (Minha & Arbit): 4:45 PM Monday-Thursday (Arbit only): 6:30 PM	
Public Tours Our next public tour is Wednesday, February 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 .

Central Park West at 70th Street, New York City • www.shearithisrael.org

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE: THIS MONDAY, JANUARY 20

A Community Dinner featuring

**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik in Conversation with
Professor Yaacob Dweck**

**Friday night, February 7 | Following Evening Services
and *Friday Night Lights***

Join Rabbi Soloveichik and Princeton Professor Yaacob Dweck, as they discuss Professor Dweck's new book:

Dissident Rabbi: The Life of Jacob Sasportas.

The book, recently released by Princeton Press, tells the story of Jacob Sasportas, the Sephardic rabbi who spent the final years of his life as the spiritual leader of the Amsterdam Jewish community. He alone challenged Sabbetai Zevi's improbable messianic claims and warned his fellow Jews that their Messiah was not the answer to their prayers.

To register or sponsor, visit shearithisrael.org/sasportas-dinner.

Parent-Child Learning & Pizza

Saturday Nights bi-weekly | One hour after Habdala

Next session will be next week, January 28

For Elementary School Age Children & Their Parents or Grandparents

This educational initiative gives parents (or grandparents) the opportunity to study Torah with their children in a fun interactive setting led by Shearith Israel's clergy and talented volunteers. Pizza and prizes help make this a fun-filled evening of inter-generational learning. The program is free, but please register for each session you will be attending at shearithisrael.org/pclearning so that we can know how many to expect!

SHEARITH ISRAEL & OTHER UPPER WEST SIDE SYNAGOGUES PRESENT:

Mental Health First Aid Training

Sunday, February 9 | 10:00 am-6:00 pm

At Lincoln Square Synagogue, 180 Amsterdam Ave

Mental Health First Aid training provides proven practices that will help you recognize the early signs and symptoms of mental illness and substance misuse. You will learn how to listen without judgment, and respond to and help someone in distress until they can get the professional care they may need. Certificate of completion will be presented to participants.

This event is FREE, but space is limited to 60 participants, so sign up today! To register, visit shearithisrael.org/mental-health-training.

A Shabbat Dinner with Hazzan Jonathan Garcia

**Friday Night, February 21 | Following 5:30 pm evening services
and *Friday Night Lights***

Come for an intimate Shabbat dinner, featuring the wonderful musical talents of Rabbi Ira Rohde, Z. Edinger, and our young guest Hazzan, Jonathan Garcia, who will be joining us from London, along with his new bride, Micol Bedarida Garcia. Both of our newlywed guests have deep roots and lineage in *Hazzanut* traditions, going back generations.

Together with our clergy, Hazzan Garcia, who regularly leads services at Lauderdale Road Synagogue and occasionally at Bevis Marks, will create a beautiful, music-filled atmosphere for this relaxed dinner, including melodies from the London S&P tradition.

He will be returning on Shabbat morning to lead Musaf and give a short seminar on the history of the London musical tradition.

To register or sponsor the dinner, visit shearithisrael.org/garcia-dinner.

WAIT-LIST ONLY

Mark Twain In the Holy Land

Sunday, February 2 | 11:30 am & 12:30 pm

New-York Historical Society

This event is currently sold out, but if you would like to be added to the waitlist, contact Sarah Gross at sgross@shearithisrael.org.

SPACE IS LIMITED—REGISTER TODAY!

Tambourine Workshop

Sunday, March 1 | 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Firm Registration Deadline: Sunday, January 26

Women and teenage girls are invited to a multi-faceted and inspirational tambourine workshop. Connect with Miriam the Prophetess and the righteous women who left Egypt together with her. Plant seeds of courage and faith as we adorn our instruments! Rejoice with friends and neighbors as we celebrate our precious sisterhood!

Miriam Liebermann, MSW, author, community activist, and inspirational speaker, will conduct the workshop and then lead a song and dance.

Artistic talent is not necessary! Stencils will be provided.

Charge for Admission: \$25 for adult women, \$20 for teen girls

Register at shearithisrael.org/tambourine.

RESCHEDULED: Teen Bowling & Pizza

Sunday, January 26 | 6:00 pm

Bowlmor Times Square, 222 W. 44th St

Shearith Israel teens are invited to bring their friends for a fun night of bowling and pizza at Bowlmor Lanes. Just \$20 includes bowling, shoe rental, pizza and unlimited beverages. If you are interested in this or future outings, contact **Francine Alfandary** (falfandary@yahoo.com).

To register, visit shearithisrael.org/teen-bowling.

RABBI SOLOVEHICK'S UPCOMING MAJOR LECTURES

Mark Your Calendars and Watch Your Emails

Following Evening Services

- ♦ **Monday, February 10:** Special History Lecture
- ♦ **Tuesday, March 3:** Major Pre-Purim Shiur

MORE JEWISH EDUCATION 5780

- ⇒ **Friday Night Lights | Rabbi Soloveichik**
Friday Nights | Following Evening Services
- ⇒ **Shabbat Afternoon Class | Rabbi Soloveichik**
Shabbat Afternoons | One hour before Minha (*but never earlier than 3:30 pm*)
- ⇒ **The Guide to the Duties of the Heart | Rabbi Sjimon den Hollander**
Sunday Mornings | 8:45 am | *On hiatus until February 16*
- ⇒ **The Idea of Kingship | Rabbi David Silber**
Sunday Mornings | 10:00 am | *Begins February 2 | \$250 cost, but FREE for Shearith Israel members* | Registration details at shearithisrael.org/idea-kingship
- ⇒ **Tuesday Morning Women's Class | Rabbi Soloveichik**
Tuesdays | 9:00 am | *Sign up for weekly reminders at shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists*
- ⇒ **Bet Midrash | led by Steven Gotlib**
Monday-Thursday | One hour before evening services