

(continued from back panel)  
I see my job in my post as Hazzan of this esteemed congregation as that of the classical musician, to try and keep the congregation singing together in one voice, at one tempo, with one conductor. Strict training such as I have had in learning how to be harmonious and keep pace with others is less common in our society today. There are often cries in the community that multiple voices can and should be heard. It's true, multiple voices can contribute to a greater harmony: There are times when they can and should be heard in proper proportion and relation and given the chance for their solos. But if the Israelites in any generation in any endeavor are to be successful, there must be unison Team Spirit. That is the reason, before they forge ahead into the dangerous desert, they pause for the Cheer of the Sea.

**Celebrate Pesah with Shearith Israel in New York or in Israel**  
Once again, Shearith Israel members will have the opportunity to celebrate Pesah at the Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem. Rabbi Soloveichik will lead our unique Rambam Haggadah (Seder), deliver shiurim, and lead us on special tiyulim. We look forward to getting together with our many Shearith Israel members and alumni who make Israel their home. To register or make inquiries, contact Ariel Tours directly at [arieltours.com/csi](http://arieltours.com/csi).

**Security Enhancements**  
Thanks to a substantial grant awarded to us by the US Dept. of Homeland Security, we have made many improvements to our security procedures and equipment. You may notice new blue emergency levers and strobe lights throughout our facility. These are intended to be highly visible. In the event that the lights are activated, congregants are asked to stay put and listen for instructions by CSI personnel.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
*Mazal Tob* to Gail Propp on the birth of twin grandchildren, Effie Aurora and Ezekiel (Zeke) Propp to Anna and Gedaliah Riesenberg.

**Go, Team! The Cheer of the Sea**  
**Rabbi Ira Rohde, Hazzan**  
I grew up in what used to be considered classic “football country” way Upstate. It seemed as though that town’s entire civic life, and especially the education of its young, revolved around the high school football team, plus a few other sports, the cheerleaders, the band, the orchestra, choirs, and the parental and civic “booster” associations which backed them up. My mother, an educator, used to complain that the entire school administration staff in all the districts around were all coaches! These days, that culture is, mostly, gone. Of course, the towns of Middle America are much poorer these days. But that’s not the only reason school principals today aren’t all men who were former coaches. I was reminded of my nostalgia for that spirit, though, recently on a visit to my son’s state university, on a scale beyond my imagination. The life of the entire city of Gainesville, Florida, so it would seem, revolves around the University of Florida’s sports teams, the Gators. Alligator mascots are displayed everywhere, and I couldn’t resist the urge to get myself a Gator Dad tee, Gator sweatshirt, and even an “It’s Great to be a Jewish Gator” yarmulke from the campus Chabad. Of course, having had Egyptian crocodiles on my mind during these last weeks’ Parashiot about the plagues of Egypt (and particularly the discussion about which animals in the story were, or might have been, crocodiles, snakes, or frogs), I thought about how crocodilians, and team spirit, relate to this Parasha...  
We call it “The Song of the Sea,” but it’s really the “Sea Cheer.” The whole thing is about showing team spirit for God and His newly-emerged People Israel. It is a Thanksgiving for Rescue and Salvation, but it is also a Cheer of Victory. The Nile, the Sea, and their nefarious Sea Creatures, particularly the Croc, were, leaving aside being worshipped, the true “Mascots” of the “Swamp” of Egypt. So the turning back of the sea waters was a symbolic defeat of the Egyptian Mascot. The lines of the Song are full of stock-phrases and epithets used as a cheer to encourage the esprit de corps of the Israelites and their God, who has emerged victorious. It was important that the cheer be taken up by the entire corps of the people in order to whip-up team spirit for the battles ahead, but it was also appropriate that Miriam and the ladies should form their own dancing cheerleaders’ section, to the accompaniment of rhythmic instruments. Although there is no glorification of human heroes, there is glorification of the strength of the Divine Hero, a glorification of the power of Our Side, Our Team.  
It’s often necessary to submerge and sacrifice a lot of individualism to get an entire society to root for the same team. My own perspective is that of a musician and band member, but the same can be said of the sports team or a military troop: A team depends upon especially close coordination of action, action which allows it to act as if it were a single unit, a single voice, a unison, marching to the beat of the same drummer, in a single rhythm. Of course, there are other times when individualism can and should be expressed and is welcome. And the need for unison or harmony doesn’t mean that individuals aren’t necessary: On the contrary, every individual’s maximum effort is necessary to contribute to the team. So the challenge is to motivate each individual to give his or her best and strongest efforts to the team in the most harmonious, rhythmic way, in a way which allows the team to function best in tempo and in unison.  
*(continued on side panel)*



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
**The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue**  
**Shabbat Beshallah-Shirah**  
*January 22-23, 2016*

Hertz Pentateuch: Torah Reading: p. 265; Haftarah: p. 283  
Kaplan Living Torah: Torah Reading: p. 320; Haftarah: p. 1108

**CANDLE LIGHTING** | 4:43 pm  
**MINHAH** | 4:45pm  
**FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS** | following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on “The Greatest Thing Since Un-sliced Bread: A Brief History of Hamotzi” | *2015-2016 Season Sponsored by the Julis Family*  
**ZEMIROT** | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary  
**SHAHARIT (NISHMAT)** | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a talk on “Methuselah: The Incredible Tale of Israel’s Oldest Tree”  
**TOT SHABBAT** | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium  
**YOUTH GROUPS** | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room  
**JR. CONGREGATION** | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue  
**KIDDUSH** | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by the Haberman family in honor of Simon and Eva’s 61st wedding anniversary*

**TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY** | Rabbi Hidary | 3:35 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidary home, 1 W 85th St Apt. 6A | **NO CLASS THIS WEEK**

**SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND SPECIAL SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR** | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic “Snow: A Halakhic Analysis” | 3:35 pm | *The Spring semester is sponsored by Lewis Lipsey*

**MINHAH/ARBIT** | 4:35 pm  
**HABDALAH** | 5:30 pm

**Weekday Service Times**  
Mornings: Sun. 8:00 AM, Monday-Thur. 7:15 AM  
Evenings: Sun., Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 6:30 PM (Arbit only)

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

### Severe Weather Alert:

The forecast indicates snow for this weekend. We are hopeful that it will be moderate and are expecting both PTTTS Hebrew School and our Tu B'Shebat Seder on Sunday to take place as planned.

In the event of cancellations due to weather, we will contact all Seder registrants and Hebrew School families by email. This is also a great time to take advantage of our text message notification service to also receive alerts via texting. Follow instructions provided on our emails to enroll.

### Tu B'Shebat Seder

**This Sunday Night, January 24 | 7:00 pm**  
**For registered Guests**

Join Rabbi Meir Soloveichik for an evening of toasting, eating and learning Torah. Special singing contribution by Rabbi Ira Rohde. Meanwhile, our younger members, under age 12, will enjoy their own holiday repast and activities led by Yona Glass and a special appearance by our in-house fruit juggler, Rabbi Soloveichik.

*Thank you* to our sponsors:

**Wine Sponsor** The Haberman Family

**Seder Sponsor** Josh Eisen

**Youth Supporter** Dr. and Mrs. Norman Javitt

### Women's Service

**Saturday, January 30 | 9:00 am**

By and for women, these services are an opportunity for women to lead prayer, read from the Torah and perform the rituals associated with our services. We welcome the opportunity to celebrate momentous occasions - such as a girl becoming bat mitzvah or a bride before her wedding - in the context of our service. To participate contact [lrohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lrohde-csi@yahoo.com).

### Young Couples and Families Shabbat Luncheon Fiesta Saturday, February 6 Following Morning Services

Young Couples and Families are invited to join Rabbi Soloveichik for this fun Mexican-themed Shabbat luncheon. We've got a great group of young couples and families who enjoy getting together and inviting their friends to experience the best of Shearith Israel. Childcare will be provided. To register, go to [shearithisrael.org/young-couples-and-families-luncheon](http://shearithisrael.org/young-couples-and-families-luncheon) by February 2.

### Communities of Character:

#### A Conversation with David Brooks

**Monday, March 7 | 7:00 pm**

**Temple Emanu-El's Skirball Center: 1 E. 65th St.**  
Shearith Israel, UJA-Federation of New York, and synagogues across Manhattan are pleased to present this community-wide conversation with New York Times op-ed columnist David Brooks about character, moral joy, and what it means to care for one another. Join us for reflections from David Brooks as well as a dialogue facilitated by UJA-Federation CEO, Eric Goldstein. \$18 per person (Your gift represents a charitable contribution to UJA-Federation of New York.) To register, visit [www.ujafedny.org/david-brooks](http://www.ujafedny.org/david-brooks).

### SAVE THE DATE: HerringFest!

#### Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

**Tuesday, March 8 | 7:00 pm**

HerringFest! will take place during Adar, the joyous month associated by our sages with the constellation of "dagim," or fish. Participants will be able to sample a dazzling variety of ways in which the herring can be enjoyed. Featuring a short shiur by Rabbi Soloveichik, HerringFest! is sure to be an unforgettable culinary experience of Shearith Israel's Dutch and Jewish heritage. Stay tuned for details.

## WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For schedule and class details go to:  
[shearithisrael.org/content/judaic-education-and-major-lectures](http://shearithisrael.org/content/judaic-education-and-major-lectures)

### Sunday

- ◇ **The Book of Kings** | Rabbi Hidary | 8:40 am  
No class this week. Spring Semester begins on Feb 7.
- ◇ **Saadia Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions** | Sjimonden Hollander | 9:30 am

### Monday

- Second Temple Jewish History** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:00 pm  
No class this week. Resumes on Feb 8.
- ◇ **Bet Midrash** | Rabbi Hidary, Phil Getz, Dr. Josh Eisen, Rabbi Ira Rohde, Meira Wokenfeld | 8:00 pm  
No class this week. Resumes on Feb 8.

### Tuesday

- ◇ **Rambam's Mishneh Torah** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:45 am  
No class this week. Spring semester begins Feb 2.
- ◇ **Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought- A Class for Women** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am
- ◇ **Talmud Class: Tractate Rosh Hashana and the Philosophy of Jewish Time** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 8:00 pm |  
*Spring semester sponsored by Gregory Bell*

Please consider sponsoring a class. Go to:  
[shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass](http://shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass)

### Parnas Office Hours

Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you.

Please schedule a visit at  
[parnas@shearithisrael.org](mailto:parnas@shearithisrael.org).

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