

## Make Your End-Of-Year Gift Today

Now is the time to support Shearith Israel and our special funds (e.g. Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Sisterhood, Hebra, etc.) with an end of year gift. These gifts are a crucial part of our budget and enable Shearith Israel to maintain the high standard to which we are all accustomed.



Visit [shearithisrael.org/year-end-gifts](http://shearithisrael.org/year-end-gifts) to select any and all funds you wish to support.

If you have any outstanding balances, now is also a good time to take care of those.

## Winter Coat Drive

Now Through December 31

Donate gently used coats for men, women, and children, to keep those in need warm this winter season. We will get them to *New York Cares*.

Drop off in the bin outside Levy Auditorium through December 31. (Tax receipts available upon request.)



## CHOIR SELECTIONS THIS WEEK

### Friday Night

*V'Shameru* (p. 166) | *Samuel Naumberg* (1817-1880)

Hazzan and Choirmaster at the Great Synagogue of Paris.

*Psalm 23* (p. 174) | *H. Pereira Mendes* (1852-1937)

Minister of Shearith Israel from 1877-1937.

### Shabbat Morning

*Misheberakh* (p. 208) | *Leon Kramer* (1866-1941)

Musician and Composer in Mantua, Italy.

*Tehilat* (p. 216) | *Jonathan Koch* (current choirmember)

Mr. Koch is tenor and longtime member of our choir.

*Adon Olam* (p. 232) | *Samuel de Sola* (1839-1866)

Minister of Bevis Marks synagogue, London, from 1863-1866.

**Coming Next Week:** On Shabbat Hanukkah, the choir will perform special and rarely heard melodies composed by Jacques F. HaLevy, George F. Handel, Leon Kramer and Leon Hyman. *Generously sponsored in honor of Leon Hyman and in memory of Milton Lewin.*

### Public Tours

Our next public tour is  
**Wednesday, December 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](mailto:parnas@shearithisrael.org).

## DEBAR TORAH: PARASHAT VAYESHEB

— RABBI YOSEF YANETZ —

This week, we will read Parashat Vayesheb, which describes the story of Yosef and his brothers. As we know, a main part of the *parasha* is the sale of Yosef by his brothers.

Interestingly, this story is always read either the Shabbat before Hanukkah, or on Shabbat Hanukkah. For years, I have been trying to answer the question: What is the connection between that story and Hanukkah?

In his commentary, it seems that Rabbi Ovadia Seforno (Italy, 1473-1550) has an interesting insight. The Gemara (Shabbat 24) tells us that this sale ultimately was the reason that led the Jewish people going down into the long exile in Egypt. The Seforno explains how the hatred the brothers had for Yosef caused this tragic event to occur. This event was the first domino in an enormous chain that altered the course of Jewish history for the worse.

On Hanukkah, we celebrate the great miracle of the victory of the war by the Hashmonaim, who took control over Jerusalem and our Holy Temple. However, in later generations, the descendants of the Hashmonaim's dynasty, two brothers, Horkenus and Aristobulus, each wanted to become the next king of Jerusalem. In order to gain the throne, each brother sought the Roman king's endorsement. The Romans ultimately sided with the older brother. But this event gave the Romans great influence over the Jewish people. Which led to the Romans taking over and destroying the Temple. Again, the fighting between brothers caused exile and destruction both in our *parasha* and the Hanukkah story.

In contrast to that, we were redeemed from Egypt by two brothers, Moshe and Aharon, who demonstrate great love and zero jealousy among themselves.

Maybe we read this *parasha* before Hanukkah for the same reason that we always end our *tefilot* with a request for *shalom* — to remind us that everything is meaningless without that. To teach ourselves that even though the Hashmonaim won, they lost later because of hatred and fight in the family. A victory without unity will ultimately lead down a long road to destruction.



• 5414 • 5779 •

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

*Year of Years Celebration*

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

## Shabbat Vayesheb

*November 30-December 1, 2018*

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 141; Haftarah p. 152  
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 182; Haftarah p. 1082

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:11 pm

EVENING SERVICES | 4:15 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Soloveichik | "Give War and Peace A Chance" | *This session sponsored by Debbie and David Sable in memory of Rabbi Jack Sable. 2018-2019 season sponsored by the Julis family.*

MORNING SERVICES | Main Sanctuary | 8:15 am

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

YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | [Fidanque Youth Room](#)

JUNIOR CONGREGATION | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | "The Rabbi, the Zionist, and the Christmas Tree"

KIDDUSH | [Elias Room](#) | *Sponsored by Ruthy & Max Benoliel and Shira & Joel Jacobs in honor of the upcoming marriage of their children, Yael and Danny.*

PRE-HANUKKAH SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | 3:30 pm | [Main Sanctuary](#)

EVENING SERVICES | 4:05 pm

HABDALA | 4:56 pm

*Hanukkah begins on Sunday evening, December 2.*

### Weekday Service Times

#### Mornings:

Sunday: 8:00 am | Monday-Friday: 7:15 am

#### Evenings (Arbit only):

Sunday-Thursday: 6:30 pm

*Come experience the lighting of our colonial era hanukkiyah at the conclusion of Arbit on each night of Hanukkah.*



## REMEMBERING BAGHDAD—

### Between the Tigris and the Hudson: Celebrating Iraqi Jewish Heritage at Shearith Israel

*Special interview with Mr. Ezra Zilkha, and a panel discussion featuring Professor Carole Basri, Mr. David Dangoor, and Mr. David Lavipour*

Sunday, December 16 | 7:00 pm

Join us for an unforgettable evening to hear about Jewish life in the cultured, progressive, and cosmopolitan city of Baghdad before WWII, the tragedy of the Farhud and the unprecedented IDF Airlift operation *Ezra & Nehemiah*. Hear first-hand accounts of life in Baghdad from Jews who lived through it and about how this ancient community still survives in Israel and America today.

Includes a screening of the short film, "What We Left Behind" by Professor Henry Green.

Light refreshments with special Iraqi delicacies will be served.

This event is FREE, thanks to our generous sponsors.

Registration required at [shearithisrael.org/baghdad](http://shearithisrael.org/baghdad).



*This program, which showcases the extraordinary diversity of our congregation throughout its history until today, is one of our many Year of Years, 365<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration events.*

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hazakim u'Berukhim to all of our (nearly 300!) Thanksgiving Pack-A-Thon volunteers and supporters, who helped pack 3000 packages of food and winter apparel for New Yorkers in need, and raised **\$18,103**, surpassing our \$18,000 goal.

Thank you!

Thank you to the anonymous sponsor for last week's kiddush, in honor of the visit of Rabbi Richard & Esther Hidary.

Thank you to the anonymous sponsor of a Minyan Breakfast this week.

We mourn the passing of our member, **Agnes Dellal**.  
Condolences to her son, **William Dellal**, and her entire family.

## From Recife to New York:

A Shabbat Dinner with Today's Conversos of Brazil

LED BY RABBI MEIR SOLOVEICHIK

Friday, December 14 | Following Evening Services &  
Friday Night Lights

Share a memorable Shabbat dinner with descendants of Brazil's Conversos, "Zera Yisrael" who are joining us from Recife, Brazil — 365 years after Shearith Israel's 23 founders — and their champion, former Member of Knesset, Rabbi Haim Amsalem.

Learn about their Jewish journey over an elegant Friday night dinner (and come back to mingle with them over *kiddush* on Shabbat morning).

Introductory remarks by our member, **Sam Katz**.

To register or sponsor, visit  
[shearithisrael.org/conversos](http://shearithisrael.org/conversos).

*This program, which showcases the unique history of our congregation and its connections to current events, is one of our many Year of Years, 365<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration events.*



## SAVE THE DATE

### Shabbat Shira Sing-Along Luncheon

*Featuring our talented musical triumvirate:  
Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde, Associate Hazzan Rev. Philip L. Sherman, and Shamash, Zachary Edinger*

Shabbat, January 19, 2019

Have you ever wished you were more familiar with Shearith Israel's unique liturgy and melodies? Do you ever have the urge to sing along with the Shearith Israel choir (or belt it out at your own home)? At this special Shabbat luncheon, join the uplifting voices of our clergy in discussing, learning, and singing classic Shearith Israel tunes in a laid-back, cozy atmosphere.

All ages are sure to enjoy what will undoubtedly be a chart-topping hit.

Stay tuned for registration and sponsorship details.

## YOUTH AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

### Brunch & Learn with Rabbi Soloveichik

For Elementary School Aged Children

Sundays, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

THIS Sunday, December 2 | February 3 | March 10

On several Sundays over the course of the year, children and their parents start the day together with morning services after which they will proceed to a topical "Brunch and Learn" with Rabbi Soloveichik.

Register at [shearithisrael.org/brunch-learn](http://shearithisrael.org/brunch-learn).

### Hanukkah Fest!

Sunday, December 9 | 10:30 am | Free and open to all



Please join CSI youth and PTTs for fun and educational Hanukkah festivities! Kids will enjoy art projects, songs, and of course, Shearith Israel's unique and delicious Hanukkah tradition of homemade waffles. No registration required.

### NEW: Parent-Child Learning & Pizza

On 3 Saturday Nights:

December 15 | 6:30 pm—Led by Rabbi Soloveichik

January 12 | 6:45 pm || February 9 | 7:00 pm

For Elementary School Aged Children & Their Parents or Grandparents

This new initiative gives parents (or grandparents) the opportunity to study Torah with their children together with Shearith Israel's clergy. Pizza and prizes help make this a fun-filled evening of inter-generational learning.

Register for the December 15 session (only \$5 per person) at [shearithisrael.org/parent-child-learning](http://shearithisrael.org/parent-child-learning).

### Mitzvot Workshops with Shamash, Z. Edinger

For All Elementary School Aged Children

Select Sunday Mornings at 10:00 am

Sunday, December 23 | Sunday, March 3 | Sunday, April 14

These Mitzvot Workshops are a wonderful opportunity for our elementary school age youth - both boys and girls - to learn to sing the melodies of selected prayers from the Shabbat and holiday services as well as learn about the parts of the Torah service, and receive training in the hands-on parts of the service.

Sign up for December 23 (it's FREE!) at [shearithisrael.org/mitzvot-workshop](http://shearithisrael.org/mitzvot-workshop).