

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 16
REMEMBERING BAGHDAD—

Between the Tigris and the Hudson:
The Iraqi Jewish Community and Shearith Israel

Featuring presentations by Professor Carole Basri, and members
David Dangoor, David Lavipour, and Ezra Zilkha

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 firsthand accounts of life in Baghdad from Jews who lived through it and about how this ancient community still survives in Israel and America today. Stay tuned for registration details.

If your family has Iraqi heritage, we would like to include you in a special booklet being prepared for this event.

For more information contact Z. Edinger
at zedinger@shearithisrael.org.

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



CHOIR SELECTIONS THIS WEEK

Friday Night (11/9)

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

Hazzan and Choirmaster at the Great Synagogue of Paris.

Psalms 23 (p. 174) | Leon Kramer (1866-1941)

Choirmaster of Shearith Israel—1886-1941.

Shabbat Morning (11/10)

Misheberakh (p. 208) | Salomone Rossi (~1570-1630)

Musician and Composer in Mantua, Italy.

Yehi Hasdekha (p.215) | Leon Hyman

Mr. Hyman has been the choirmaster of Shearith Israel since 1955.

Ubnuho Yomar (p.218) | H. Pereira Mendes (1852-1937)

Minister of Shearith Israel from 1877-1937.

Public Tours

Our next public tour is
Wednesday, November 14, at
11:00 AM

Parnas Office Hours

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

DEBAR TORAH: GIVE, AND GIVE AGAIN

— JONATHAN WEINSTEIN —

One of the most famous episodes of this week's *parasha* is the blessing that Isaac gave to his son Jacob. In the blessing, Isaac says "And may G-d give you of the dew of the heavens and of the fatness of the earth, and abundant grain and wine" (27:28). Rashi is bothered by the "And" at the start of this pasuk, since this is the beginning of the blessing. Therefore, Rashi explains that Isaac is saying to Jacob, "May G-d give, and give again".

One may ask on Rashi's interpretation: why not give everything all at once? Why give and give again? Wouldn't it make more sense to give all the goodness at the same time?

There are two answers I would like to share in order to answer this question on Rashi.

The first answer that seems reasonable is: Giving a gift to someone as a onetime occurrence would be a nice thing, but there would be no lasting connection between the giver and the receiver. The connection would start and end with the gift. On the other hand, if a person gives a gift and then continues again and again, the receiver knows to stay connected to the giver, and thus the relationship will never end. Maybe that element is critical for us, so Yitzchak gave a *Berakha* that G-d will give and give to Jacob, and keeps giving to him, so that he will keep accepting and being thankful of G-d's goodness, creating a relationship with Him.

The second answer I would like to quote illustrates its point through a parable: There was once a very wealthy king who had only one son, who faced a great danger. It happened that a simple tailor saved the son's life. The king wanted to show gratitude to the tailor, and asked him what he would like as his reward. The tailor had a very interesting response: he asked that each time he brings a sack to the king, the king would kindly fill it with threads. The king was confused by the request but granted the tailor's wish. The next day the tailor came to the king with a sack and the king filled it with threads. The tailor went home with the threads and made for himself another sack. The next day he went to the king with two sacks! So the king filled both sacks with threads. Again the tailor went home with the threads and was able to make five sacks, which he brought to the king. On and on it went with the tailor having more and more.

What did the tailor do? He took his gift from the king and used it as a foundation to make a greater gift. The *Berakha* that Isaac gave to Jacob was that he will take each blessing from G-d and use it as a foundation to keep becoming a greater and greater *Berakha*, never stopping in his growth. That could be the deeper meaning to Rashi's interpretation May G-d give, and give again—this kind of *Beracha* by definition will never end.

Jonathan Weinstein attends Yeshiva University and is a student of Shearith Israel's Open Bet Midrash program.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue
Shabbat Toledoth
November 9-10, 2018

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 93; Haftarah p. 948
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 116; Haftarah p. 1070

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:25 pm

EVENING SERVICES | 4:30 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Soloveichik | "The Art of Blessing" |
2018-2019 season sponsored by the Julis family.

SHABBAT DINNER WITH SCOTT SHAY & RABBI SOLOVEICHIK | for
registered guests | Levy Auditorium

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 | Elias Room

JUNIOR CONGREGATION | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

LECTURE | Rabbi Soloveichik | "When Columbia's Graduation Was in
Hebrew: The Story of a Speech and the Future of the Modern Academy"

This lecture is part of Rabbi Soloveichik's Year of Years series

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

SHABBAT AFTERNOON CLASS | Rabbi Soloveichik | 3:30 pm | "Hillel's
Sandwich and Jacob's Stew: A Reflection on Food and Faith" | Levy
Auditorium | Sponsored by Laury Frieber, in memory of her father, Arthur
Frieber.

EVENING SERVICES | 4:15 pm

HABDALA | 5:11 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

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

Evenings (Arbit only):

Sunday-Thursday: 6:30 pm

THANKSGIVING AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

ONLY 2 WEEKS AWAY!

Fourth Annual Thanksgiving Pack-A-Thon

Thursday, November 23, 9:30 am

Levy Auditorium

On Thanksgiving morning, after Rabbi Soloveichik's special Thanksgiving address, registered volunteers from Shearith Israel, the Jewish Center, the West End Collegiate Church, the Church of Latter-day Saints, and Drisha will pack thousands of packages of food and winter apparel that will be distributed to New Yorkers in need by the Met Council on Poverty.

Last year, we raised over \$18,000. Like last year, every dollar you donate to this initiative will be TRIPLED through the generosity of an anonymous matching grant.



To sign up or support this event, visit shearithisrael.org/packathon2018.

Would You Like To Co-Sponsor Our Thanksgiving Festivities?
Visit shearithisrael.org/thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Parade Viewing

This Year, Pre-Registration is Required, but still free for Shearith Israel Youth (and pre-registered Pack-A-Thon Volunteers)

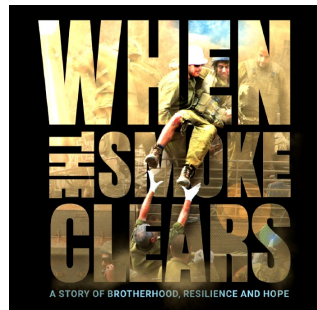
Our Portico provides one of the best Thanksgiving Parade views in the city. In an effort to ensure an orderly, secure, and enjoyable experience for the kids, we ask that you pre-register. **Note: no adults are admitted unless your small child needs you.**

Registration is FREE for CSI Members (and for pre-registered Pack-A-Thon volunteers); \$5 per person in advance for all others, including guests of members. Special thanks to our volunteer congregants who will be helping manage the crowd and make this a safe and memorable experience for all.

To register your child(ren) for the Portico Parade Viewing, visit shearithisrael.org/parade.

THIS SATURDAY NIGHT

Film Screening in Honor of Veterans Day: *When the Smoke Clears*



THIS Saturday Night,
November 10 | 6:30 pm

With introductory remarks from Eldad Neumeier, a former IDF and U.S. Service member, and spokesperson for Kosher Troops

This gripping film tells the true stories of young Israeli soldiers, Gil, Ofer, and Elad, whose injuries leave them fighting for the strength to live. Making breakthroughs and finding meaning by reaching out to those in need, they discover that what didn't kill them really did make them stronger.

Online registration is closed, but walk-ins are welcome for \$10. *Kosher Troops* helps provide kosher food and holiday packages for Jewish servicemen and women in the United States Armed services. For more information, visit kosher troops.com.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO BE INSPIRED

Friday Night Lights

Friday Evenings | Following Evening Services

As Shabbat begins earlier and the nights grow longer, we invite you and your guests to stay around for a bit after Friday evening services for an inspiring public shiur delivered by Rabbi Soloveichik. All are welcome, members and non-members alike. There's no better way to transition from the workweek to Shabbat!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tob to **Roy & Stephanie Kirsh** on the birth of a baby boy, Theodore.

Hazak u'Barukh to **Rev. Salomon vaz Dias**, who was Scholar in Residence at Tempio Rabbi Ovadia Da Bertinoro, the S&P (Livorno) synagogue of Ramat Gan, Israel.

SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 14

From Recife to New York:

A Shabbat Dinner with Today's Conversos of Brazil

Former Member of Knesset, Rabbi Haim Amsaelem, has been working for years with the descendants of Brazil's Conversos — also called “Zera Yisrael” — helping them to reconnect with their Jewish roots. He, along with several of these individuals who will be traveling from Recife, Brazil (1654 years after our original 23 founders!), will tell us about their Jewish journey.

Introductory remarks will be given by our member,
Sam Katz.

Stay tuned for registration and sponsorship opportunities.



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

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 Age 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 or sponsor at
shearithisrael.org/parent-child-learning.