

**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. Registration and pricing details to follow.

Hanukkah at Shearith Israel

During the Hallel, our choir sings a special setting of "Min HaMets-er" by the composer Jacques Fromental Halévy. Jacques-François-Fromental-Élie Halévy (1799-1862), was a famous French operatic composer, born in Paris, son of a Sephardic cantor, Élie Halfon Halévy, who was the secretary of the Jewish Community of Paris. Hallel is sung about 9:30 AM, for more information and to hear this piece go to shearithisrael.org/hanukkahliturgy.

**Sign up for the Shearith Israel Toddler Program
Spring Semester Begins January 4**

Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30-11:30am

For ages 16 - 34 months ~ caregiver attendance required

Toddlers learn colors and shapes, create arts and crafts, sing songs, explore Jewish holidays and music and enjoy special visits by Rabbi Ira Rohde. Spaces are limited. 1 or 2 day options. Register now at shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome new members to the Shearith Israel Family:

Shlomit and Chaim Edelman
Manuel Vazquez-Senior

Condolences to

Ivan Berkowitz, on the passing of his mother, Margit Berkowitz.

Jacob (Yakov) Ben-Avi, on the passing of his brother,
David Ben-Avi.

Edward Misrahi, on the passing of his father,
Henri Misrahi Riquez.

Separation of Synagogue and State
Rabbi Richard Hidary

Alexander Yannai was the great grandson of Matityahu and the Hasmonean High Priest from 103-76 BCE. Here is a bronze *perutah* coin of his that reads, “יהונתן הכהן הגדול” יehonatan the High Priest and the Council of the Jews,” on one side and has a pair of cornucopia with a pomegranate in the center on the other side.



Yannai was successful in greatly expanding the borders of Israel but was also infamous for killing tens of thousands of Pharisees and other Jews in civil wars. The Pharisees were particularly bothered that he declared himself king as well as high priest. Here is coin that reads “King Alexander” in Greek around an anchor on one side, and on the other, “יהונתן המלך,” within the spokes of a star diadem.



The controversy surrounding the shift from being just high priest, as reflected in the first coin, to claiming the monarchy as well, as shown in the second coin, becomes apparent in yet a third coin. This *perutah* originally read King Yannai, as in the second coin, but was then overstruck to read Yehonatan the High Priest, as in the second coin. Apparently, Yannai's usurping of the title king was so offensive that people would not tolerate that title on their coins. One can still see remnants of the original stamp on this overstruck coin.



The Torah envisions a separation of spiritual leadership from temporal power in its ideal governing structure. The former was reserved by the Levites and priests while kingship was the exclusive inheritance of the tribe of Judah. Nachmanides writes that because the Hasmoneans, who were priests, illegally usurped the title of king as well, they were punished and lost their dynasty within a mere one hundred years.

Hanukah has appropriately become one of the most popular holidays across the religious spectrum both in American and in Israel. We celebrate hope and light even in the face of persecution and darkness, and we assert our right for religious freedom and political independence so that we can fulfill our destiny to be a light unto the nations. The downfall of the Hasmoneans, however, also serves as a reminder of the importance of the Torah's vision to separate religion from politics. As we witness the ever-growing miracle of the State of Israel in its 67th year, we pray that God grant wisdom to both its political representatives and its spiritual lights to ensure a long and prosperous future for our nation. Hag Urim Sameah!



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Mikkets-Rosh Hodesh-Hanukkah

December 11-12, 2015

Hertz Pentateuch:

Mikkets: p. 155 Rosh Hodesh: p. 695 ch.28 v. 9-15 Hanukkah: p. 599 ch. 7 v. 42-47 Haftarah: p. 987 also p. 944, v.1, p.947, v.23, p.948, v.18 and p. 950, v.42

Kaplan Living Torah:

Mikkets: p. 200 Rosh Hodesh: p. 814 ch.28 v. 9-15 Hanukkah: p. 696 ch. 7 v. 42-47 Haftarah: p. 1360 also p.1266, v.1, p. 1268, v.23, p. 1262, v. 18 and p. 1264, v. 42

HANUKKAH (NIGHT 6) AND SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING | before 4:10 pm

MINHAH | 4:00 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on “The Wrinkle in Time of Shabbat Hanukkah” *Sponsored by the Julis Family*

ZEMIROT | 8:10 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Following services Rabbi

Soloveichik will deliver a sermon on “Hannah Senesh's Hanukkah”

TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium

YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room

JR. CONGREGATION WITH TORAH READING | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY | Rabbi Hidary | 3:30 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidary home at 1 W 85th St Apartment 6A

SPECIAL HANUKKAH SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic “The Most Fascinating Hanukkah Song” | 3:30 pm
The fall semester is sponsored by Lewis Lipsey

MINHAH/ARBIT | 4:05 pm

KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 4:55 pm

HANUKKAH CANDLE LIGHTING (NIGHT 7) | after *habdalah*

Weekday Service Times

Mornings: Sundays 8:00 AM, Mon-Thur. 7:15 AM;
Evenings: Sunday - Thursday: 6:30 PM (Arbit only)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

PTTS and CSI Youth Hanukkah Fest
Sunday Morning, December 13
10:00 am -12:00 pm

While many Jews celebrate Hanukkah by eating potato latkes, deep fried in oil in remembrance of the miracle of the oil, here at Shearith Israel we honor the tradition of Amsterdam by eating vaffele (waffles) because God made a "miracle and wonder" (Hebrew: "nes va-fe'le") during these days. And after all, everyone loves a good waffle! Please join PTTS and CSI youth for Hanukkah festivities, including an olive press demonstration, art projects using sand and foil, a musical performance by PTTS students and of course, delicious waffles.

Save the Date: Tu B'Shebat Seder
Sunday Night, January 24

Adults and teens, join Rabbi Meir Soloveichik for an evening of toasting, eating and learning Torah. Special singing contribution by Rabbi Ira Rohde. Meanwhile, our younger members will enjoy their own holiday repast and activities led by Yona Glass and a special appearance by our in-house fruit juggler, Rabbi Soloveichik. Registration information to follow.

In the Footsteps of Eliezer ben Alantansi:
The Early Printing-House in Hajar (Spain) and
its Traces in the Sephardic Diaspora
Guest Lecturer: Dr. Lucía Conte
Tuesday, December 15 | 7:00pm

Lucía Conte holds a Ph.D. in Medieval History from Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. Her recent research has focused on Jewish Medieval and Early Modern History in the Crown of Aragon, specifically, early Hebrew incunabula printed in Sefarad and the diaspora of these books after the Expulsion of the Jews from Spain. Dr. Conte is a member of the Society for Sephardic Studies and the Association for Jewish Studies and is a lecturer at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, in Barcelona, where she teaches Medieval History, Jewish History of Spain and Jewish Heritage recovery.

Thanksgiving Pack-a-thon

Thank you to the 130+ adult and youth volunteers, our partners at the West End Collegiate Church and the Food Bank for New York City for making our Pack-a-thon a success. There is still time to make a tax deductible donation to the Food Bank for New York City in support of our project.
Go to shearithisrael.org/pack-a-thon.

Enroll in CSI's Text Messaging Notification Service

Many of our members and friends enjoy attending our special programs and events such as community meals, public lectures, etc. However, we know how busy you are and how easy it is to overlook an email or registration deadline; we want to help make it easier for you. We have set up a special text message service that can remind you when RSVP deadlines are approaching. We can also alert you of synagogue schedule changes, weather emergencies, security incidents or last minute class cancellations. To subscribe to our service, check our weekly emails for specific instructions. Please be assured, we will only text you for those alerts you have selected and will only use this on an as-needed basis.

Winter Coat Drive

November 22-December 20

Warm coats for men, women and children are needed.
Place in the box outside Levy Auditorium.
*Sponsored by the Shearith Israel League
In cooperation with New York Cares.*

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 mitzvot 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.

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For schedule and class details go to:

shearithisrael.org/content/judaic-education-and-major-lectures

Sunday

- ◇ **The Book of Kings** | Rabbi Hidary | 8:40 am NO CLASS THIS WEEK
- ◇ **Saadia Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions** | Sjimon den Hollander | 9:30 am ← AT 8:40 am THIS WEEK

Monday

- ◇ **Second Temple Jewish History** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:00 pm TAUGHT BY DR. MORRIS SHAMAH THIS WEEK
- ◇ **Bet Midrash** | Rabbi Hidary, Phil Getz, Dr. Josh Eisen, Rabbi Ira Rohde, Meira Wokenfeld | 8:00 pm
Fall semester sponsored by Josh Eisen.
Fall semester ends Dec 21. Spring Semester begins Feb 8.

Tuesday

- ◇ **Rambam's Mishneh Torah** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:45 am
- ◇ **Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought- A Class for Women** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am CLASS RESUMES IN JANUARY
- ◇ **Talmud Class: Tractate Rosh Hashana and the Philosophy of Jewish Time** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 8:00 pm CLASS RESUMES IN JANUARY

To be notified of class schedule changes by text, enroll in our text notification service. See full description inside.

Please consider sponsoring a class. Go to:
shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass

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

Our next public tour is:
Tuesday, January 12 at 11:00 am