

CHOIR SELECTIONS FOR SHABBAT HANUKKAH

Friday Night (12/7)

V'Shameru (p. 166) | Leon Kramer

This grand setting for *V'Shameru* was composed by our former choirmaster. It is very rarely performed and has not been sung as part of the service in several decades.

Psalm 23 (p. 174) | Leon Hyman

This intricate setting for the 23rd Psalm was composed by our current choirmaster, Leon Hyman, it contains themes from the "*Az Yashir*" melody. It was introduced into our choir's repertory in 2017 and is sung for special occasions.

Shabbat Morning (12/8)

Min HaMetsar (p. 350) | Jacques Fromenthal HaLevy (1799-1862)

This famous but rarely heard piece was composed by the famous French composer HaLevy, best known for his opera "*La Juive*." *Min HaMetsar* was first performed in France in 1820. Formerly sung specially for the Thanksgiving day service, it is now sung annually during Hallel on *Shabbat Hanukkah* at about 9:25 AM.

Misheberakh (p. 208) | Leon Hyman

This setting was also composed by Leon Hyman and introduced into the repertory in 2016.

En Kelohenu (p. 229) | George F. Handel (1685-1759)

This famous melody comes from the chorus "*See the Conquering Hero Comes*" from Handel's popular Oratorio, *Judas Maccabeus* (1746).

Adon Olam (p. 232) | David de Aaron de Sola (1796 -1860)

Minister of Bevis Marks synagogue, London, from 1818-1860. De Sola was known as "Learned Hazzan" and he was also a very gifted musician. This setting for *Adon Olam* is one of his most beloved and well known compositions. He was the grandfather of our minister, Henry Pereira Mendes.

The Choir this week is sponsored by the Lewin family in honor of Leon Hyman and in memory of Milton Lewin, who was chair of the Choir Committee for many years.

Public Tours
Our next public tour is
this 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.

DEBAR TORAH: SEEKING THE UNIFYING PRINCIPLE
— HAZZAN RABBI IRA ROHDE —

The stories about Joseph take up a large part of Genesis and have been described by theologian Gerhard Von Rad as a kind of “wisdom novella.” It is a classic tale, even a parable, of the use of wisdom in leadership. That wisdom largely consists in finding and identifying the underlying principles involved, and seeking a unitary scheme whereby that unifying principle is integrated. It is said that monotheism contributes to rationalism, in that it limits the number of causative agents involved and seeks out a more unitary scheme whereby to explain the chain of causation. And once the chain of causation has been simplified and unified, a simplified, unified and integrated solution can be formulated. That, in fact, is the beauty of what Joseph presents to Pharaoh in his dream interpretation. As Joseph says to Pharaoh, “*It is all one dream: What God is doing He has shown Pharaoh*” (Gen. 41:28). The simplified cause then lends itself to a simplified, remedying “solution.” Indeed, the same word is used for “solution” as for “interpretation” of the dream, implying that once the unifying cause is revealed, the proper solution to remedy it will emerge and be seen.

However, this basic rationality is couched in terms of a parable of Pharaoh’s fears and dreams, as well as in terms of “what God plans to do.” This is a Classic form of prognostication, and it is well that the Torah expresses such prognostications in such a classic form. After all, the imposing of taxation and building of storehouses, infrastructure, and bureaucracy was bound to cause dissension, as it always has, down to our own day and age. Indeed, while some commentators have especially lauded Pharaoh for being willing to place a wise foreigner in charge; in fact, the position in which Pharaoh placed Joseph was, at first, risky and likely to have been far from enviable. Had the Famine Years not come, or had they come sooner or not have had the Years of Plenty beforehand, Joseph would have been faced with recriminations. Pharaoh knew that, and although his offer of power to Joseph seems generous, one can speculate that offering the office to a foreign former-prisoner was a way of making Joseph the “fall guy,” protecting Pharaoh should the prognostication and ambitious plan fail. Years later, the taxation which King Solomon imposed in order to fortify Israel ended up dividing the kingdom. And yet, when it came to taxation imposed by later kings, such as King Hezekiah, or, in later times, the Hasmonians, we find much less protest. Perhaps this was because by that time, facing the Assyrian enemy, the people realized they had no choice. But perhaps also, later Jewish leaders wisely learned to have recourse to the story of Pharaoh’s dreams and Joseph. When we seek to unify our wisdom with the ways of God, not pretending to have found the truth absolutely, but trying to discern and seek God’s ways, God may grant us great wisdom and success. On the other hand, when we seek wisdom through our own devices, through our own complicated machinations and clever calculations, we are likely to find folly, not wisdom.

365th ANNIVERSARY



• 5414 5779 •

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Mikkets-Hanukkah-Rosh Hodesh

December 7-8, 2018

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 155; Haftarah p. 987
Rosh Hodesh: p. 695 | Hanukkah: p. 599
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 200; Haftarah p. 1360
Rosh Hodesh: p. 814 | Hanukkah: p. 696

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:10 pm

EVENING SERVICES | 4:00 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Soloveichik | “The Hanukkah Faux Pas” | 2018-2019 season sponsored by the Julis family.

MORNING SERVICES | Main Sanctuary | 8:10 am

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

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

JUNIOR CONGREGATION WITH A TORAH READING | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

SERMON | Rabbi Soloveichik | “Handel With Care”

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium

HANUKKAH SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | 3:30 pm | Levy Auditorium

EVENING SERVICES | 4:05 pm

HABDALA | 4:55 pm

The final night of Hanukkah is Sunday, December 9.

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 hanukkah at the conclusion of Arbit on each night of Hanukkah.



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

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 by this Thursday, December 13.



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.

Pre-Pay Your 2019-2020 Dues Through December 31

As we approach the end of 2018, and back by popular demand, we are again offering you another way to help the synagogue while potentially improving your own 2018 tax position.

Full, associate, and young members may pre-pay 2019-2020 dues at our current rates. If we receive your payment by December 31, 2018, you will be exempt from any dues increase that may be implemented in the upcoming year.

To pre-pay, go to shearithisrael.org/prepay2019.

DEADLINE: THIS MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

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.

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.



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.)



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome new member **Judith Deich** to our growing Shearith Israel family.

Hazaka u'Berukha to **Jessica Salama** who will be making *aliyah* at the end of this month. Mazal tob to her parents, **Jadranka & Roberto Salama**.

Hanukkah Fest!

THIS 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.

SAVE THE DATE: SHABBAT, JANUARY 19 | Registration coming soon

Shabbat Shira Sing-Along Luncheon

Featuring our talented musical triumvirate:

Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde, Associate Hazzan Rev. Philip L. Sherman, and Shamash, Zachary Edinger

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.

NEW: Parent-Child Learning & Pizza

On 3 Saturday Nights:

Next Shabbat, December 15 | 6:30 pm—*Led by Rabbi Soloveichik*

January 12 | 6:45 pm — *Led by Rabbi Ira Rohde*

February 9 | 7:00 pm — *Led by Z. Edinger*

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.

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.