Bananagrams Tournament Saturday Night, April 2 | 8:30 pm

Calling all word game enthusiasts, test your skills in a Bananagrams tournament designed for experienced players and novices alike. Bananagrams is like Scrabble "on speed". If you like Scrabble but grow impatient while waiting for other players to formulate words, this game is for you. Players ages 7 through adult are welcome and will be grouped accordingly. The tournament will begin with a brief explanation of how to play and the tournament rules. Price is \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members with discounts for participants who bring their own Bananagrams. Prefer to play in Hebrew, Spanish, German or some other language? With enough interest, we'll offer that too! Register at shearithisrael.org/banangrams.

British Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis Visits Shearith Israel It is with great honor that we look forward to hosting the chief Rabbi of the UK, Ephraim Mirvis, for a Shabbat Luncheon and a major public address on Sunday.

Is There a Future for Jews in Europe? Saturday, April 2 Sign up for and sponsor this luncheon with Rabbi Mirvis and Rabbi Soloveichik as they discuss the future of European Jewry. Register at shearithisrael.org/chief-rabbi-luncheon

Major Public Lecture with British Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis Sunday, April 3 | 10:00 am Attend the Rabbi Allen Mirvis Annual Lecture co-sponsored by Shearith Israel and the Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought. Free and open to the public. To register email strauscenter@yu.edu.

Teen Girls Shir Hashirim Reading Saturday, April 30 | Eighth Day of Pesah After Musaf on the Eighth day of Pesah, the teen girls of the synagogue will read The Song of Songs in the Main Sanctuary for the congregation following morning services in New York and in Israel. Please contact Yehudit at yehuditrobinson@gmail.com, if you are available to participate. All post-bat-mitzvah teen girls are welcome to participate in this beautiful and meaningful program.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences to Rivka Shoulson (Wiznia) on the recent passing of both her grandmothers, Selma Halper and Bertha Shoulson.

BE STRONG AND OF GOOD COURAGE הַזַּק וְנַתְחַזַּק -חַזְקוּ וְיַאֲמֵץ לְבַבְכָם כָּל הַמְיַחֵלִים לַה' Z. Edinger

This week's *parashah* describes the accounting of funds donated for the creation of the Tabernacle, it's manufacture, and finally its completion. With this the Book of Exodus concludes.

In the Spanish and Portuguese tradition, the concluding verses of each of the Five Books of the Torah are read in a special cantillation knowns as the "*High Na'um*." This special cantillation is used to indicate important parts of the Torah – such as the Song of the Sea and the Ten Commandments. The use of the *High Na'um* for these final verses indicates to the Congregation that something special is being read.

When the Reader reaches the final verse the congregation stands and immediately following the conclusion of the last word – the congregation says:

ְחַזַק וְנִתְחַזַּק -חִזְקוּ וְיַאֲמֵץ לְבַבְכֶם כָּל הַמְיַחֲלִים לַה'

Be Strong and let us be Strengthened - Be strong, and let your heart take courage, All ye that hope for the LORD.

This phrase is actually an amalgamation of two different verses. The first two words עוֹק וְנָתְחוֹק come from II Samuel (10:12) when Joab is giving words of encouragement before battle. The second part of the phrase comes from the conclusion of Psalm 31.

The Spanish & Portuguese custom is slightly different than what is heard in Ashkenazic synagogues where the congregation recites the words "*Hazaq Hazaq veNi-Hazeq*"¹ at the conclusion of each book of the Pentateuch.

What is the source for this custom? An early source for saying *Hazaq* after a Torah reading is from the *Sefer haManhig* (R' Abraham b Natan of Lunel, Provence, 12th c.) who writes that: "*The Custom in France and Provence was for all who read from the Torah -when they conclude - the Hazan would say aloud to them: "Hazaq!"*² But this refers to the conclusion of each portion and not specifically to the completion of a Book of the Pentateuch. ³

Commenting on the above, the *Abudarham* (Spain 13th c.) says that the custom in Spain was to say *Hazaq* after the conclusion of <u>each book</u>, not each portion. He wonders if perhaps this is what the *Manhig* actually meant! ⁴

The Abudarham is the earliest reference to our custom of saying *Hazaq* upon the completion of each book of the Pentateuch. But why are we doing so? An explanation is given by R' Moshe Mintz that similarly to the recitation of the "*Hadran*" at the completion of a tractate of Talmud – hoping that we will return to study it again – so too upon the completion of a book of the Pentateuch we say "*Hazaq*" – i.e. 'take strength' in that we have finished this book of the Torah, and 'be strengthened' that we will return to it again.

¹ More correctly *veNitHazaq* – with either a *patah* or a *qamats* but not a *tsere*.

³ It is however likely related to our custom to say Hazaq uBarukh to those who have been called to the Torah.

ובספרד לא נהגו לאומרו אלא כשמסיימין כל ספר וספר מחומשי התורה <u>ואולי סוברים למסיים בתורה מן הספר ממש</u> <u>קאמר</u>.



Congregation shearith israel

Shabbat Pekude March 11-12, 2016

Hertz Pentateuch: Torah Reading: p. 385; Haftarah: 382 Kaplan Living Torah: Torah Reading: p. 480; Haftarah: p. 1134

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:41 pm

MINHAH 5:45 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik givesa talk on "From Michelangelo to Chagall: Artists and the Face of Moses" |2015-2016 Season Sponsored by the Julis FamilyETHIOPIAN SHABBAT DINNER | Levy Auditorium | For Registered Guests

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Hidary will deliver a seminar on "Pharisees and Phonies: A Comparative History of Hypocrisy" TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Fidanque Office JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY | Rabbi Hidary | 4:35 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidary home, 1 W 85th St Apt. 6A

SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic "In Vino Veritas: A (Somewhat) Sober Purim Reflection" | 4:35 pm | *Spring semester sponsored by Lewis Lipsey*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 5:35 pm KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary HABDALAH | 6:33 pm

Daylight Savings Time Reminder Don't forget to "spring forward" an hour at 2:00 am this Sunday.

<u>Weekday Service Times</u> Morning: Sunday: 8:00 AM; Mon-Fri.: 7:15 AM Evenings: Sunday – Thursday: **6:30 PM** (Minhah & Arbit)

מה שנהגו בצרפת ופרובינצא לכל הקוראין בתורה כשמםיימין שאומר להם ההזן בקול רם חזק מצאתי סמך לדבר בב״ר לא ימוש ספר התורה הזה מפיך אין אומרים חזק אלא למי שתופס החפץ בידו מלמד שהיה הספר תורה בחיקו של יחושע ואומר לו חקב״ח חזק ואמץ, מכאן למסיים בתורה אומר לו חזק"

PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Jews Among Persians and Greeks: Reading Esther in Context Monday, March 21 | 7:00 pm Bet Midrash Special Guest Speaker: Professor Joseph Angel Joseph Angel is a scholar of ancient Judaism with a focus on religion and history in the Second Temple Period. He is the recipient of research fellowships from the Alexander von Humboldt and Yad Hanadiv/Beracha Foundations.

Purim Dinner Wednesday, March 23 Following 6:45 pm services (Megillah reading at 7:30 pm) Registered guests are invited to a festive family-style meal in Levy Auditorium. In addition to a tasty dinner, guests will enjoy our annual children's costume parade. Register at shearithisrael.org/purimdinner by Sunday, March 20.

Women's Megillah Reading Thursday, March 24 | 8:00 am Celebrate 26 years of women reading the Megillah on Purim morning at Shearith Israel. Contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com for more information.

Sisterhood Mishloah Manot Project If you participated in the Sisterhood's Mishloah Manot Project and requested a package (not a card) your package will be available for pickup at the Synagogue on Wednesday, March 23rd and Thursday, March 24th. For questions, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com or Mrs. Carla Schein at scheinc6@gmail.com.

Matanot L'Ebyonim

It is one of the core mitzvot of Purim to give charity to the poor, Matanot L'Ebyonim. Your online gift or check made out to the "Rabbi's Discretionary Fund," (memo: "Matanot L'ebyonim") will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik on Purim to those in need. Go to **shearithisrael.org/matanot** to donate. Purim Breakfast Thursday, March 24 | Following 8:00 am Megillah Readings Immediately following the 8:00 am readings of the Megillah, congregants are welcome to enjoy a festive breakfast. Childcare will be provided throughout the morning. The breakfast is free of charge but sponsors and supporters are highly appreciated. Support this event at shearithisrael.org/purim-breakfast.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

The Other Shearith Israel, South of the Sahara THIS Saturday, March 12 | 8:00 pm | Levy Auditorium Sponsored by the Shearith Israel League Learn about Shearith Israel's least known secret, a "daughter congregation" in the village of Putti, Uganda. Members of this African Jewish community call themselves Kahal Kadosh She'erit Yisra'el and use our prayer books. Shearith Israel member, Sjimon Den Hollander, will talk about his involvement with this unusual group, his trip to Uganda, and his close cooperation with rabbis Shlomo Riskin, Ari Greenspan, Ari Zivitofsky and others. We expect to host two members of the community who are currently in the United States, and to hear a few of their special melodies, straight from Putti's unique liturgical tradition. Finally, we hope to hear a Jewish Ugandan musician, Rachman Nachman, perform his reggae style songs with a Jewish twist. Admission: \$10 per person (cash or check at the door). All proceeds go to Putti Village Assistance Organization. Light refreshments served.

Freedom, Slavery, and God: The Many Faces of the Haggadah A Discussion Between Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik and Leon Wieseltier Tuesday, March 29, 2016 | 7:00 pm (Following 6:30 pm services) No work of rabbinical literature has spoken to so many Jews in so many ways as the Haggadah. What are its secrets? Free and open to the public. To register email strauscenter@yu.edu

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For details go to: shearithisrael.org/judaic-education

Sunday

- The Book of Kings | Rabbi Hidary | 8:40 am
- Saadia Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions |
 Sjimon den Hollander | 9:30 am

Monday

- Second Temple Jewish History | Rabbi Hidary | 7:00 pm
- Bet Midrash | Rabbi Hidary, Phil Getz, Dr. Josh Eisen, Rabbi Ira Rohde, Meira Wokenfeld | 8:00 pm *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
- Talmud Class: Tractate Rosh Hashana and the Philosophy of Jewish Time | Rabbi Soloveichik | 8:00 pm | Spring semester sponsored by Gregory Bell.

Don't let our stock run out. Be a scotch or arak sponsor. To sponsor or contribute go to shearithisrael.org/scotch-and-arak-sponsorships

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

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: Wednesday, April 13 at 11:00 am