

PESAH 5777

Teen Girls Shir Hashirim Reading Saturday, April 15 | Fifth Day of Pesah

After musaf, the teen girls of our synagogue, are invited to take part in our unique tradition as they read The Song of Songs for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. Full preparation and training provided. Newcomers welcome! For information, and to participate, please contact Yehudit Robinson at yehuditrobinson@gmail.com. To sponsor the Kiddush in the girls' honor go to shearithisrael.org/teen-girls-shir-hashirim-2017

Sale of Hametz

If you would like to appoint Rabbi Meir Soloveichik as agent to sell your Hametz before Pesah, please fill out the form at shearithisrael.org/hametz before Thursday, April 9 at 9 am.

Maot Hittim

In the opening paragraph of the Haggadah, we read: "All who are hungry, let them come and eat." As part of experiencing freedom ourselves, we must also ensure that our fellow Jews have the means to celebrate freedom too. *Maot Hittim* is a special Passover fund, originally intended to provide the poor with matzah. Make an online donation by filling out the form at shearithisrael.org/maothittim or by making out a check exactly to "Congregation Shearith Israel—Rabbi's Discretionary Fund" with "Maot Hittim" in the memo.

Pre-Pesah Dinner

Friday, April 7 | Following Evening Services

Following evening services ease your Pesah preparations and join us for a lovely buffet dinner. Preferred pricing for members. Register at shearithisrael.org/pre-pesah-shabbat-dinner.

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, May 10 at 11:00 am
No tour in April due to Pesah

Debar Torah

Rabbi Harris Guedalia

The Rambam writes in his Book of the Commandments, (command 6), that we must associate with Torah scholars and be close to them. He then quotes the sentence "to Him do we cling" (Deut., 10, 20). But is it possible to cling to God? God is a consuming fire! He answers "whoever associates with Torah scholars is judged to cling to God."

Moshe, in our parasha, was in a unique situation. He actually had the opportunity to cling to God. He was physically close to God. According to Rashi he was even touched by the hand of God. It was this touching that led to him having horns of fire. (Exodus 34, 29)

What do you do when you radiate the spirit of the Almighty? Do you hide it or do you show it? Ibn Ezra writes that when Moshe spoke the words of God light would appear. When he finished, the light would disappear. It was then that he wore the cloth. The light shone as testimony to the truth of his words. Rashi says Moshe placed a cloth over his face to cover the special light. This light could damage people. The cloth was removed only when Moshe by himself associated with the Torah.

Closeness to the spirit of the Torah can also be an elevating experience. I remember years ago when Dr. David de Sola Pool, minister of the congregation, would stand on the Tebeh after Friday night services and greet the congregation. Often he was asked "how are you?" He would answer "the better for seeing you." I noticed in reality that it was the congregant who was better for seeing Dr. Pool. Truly, associating with Torah sages, and being close to the spirit of Torah, elevates the soul and is a wonderful experience.

A Note About Our Weekly Dibrei Torah

Our Debar Torah this week is written by **Rabbi Harris Guedalia**. In addition to our Shearith Israel cast of writers, we like to expose you to guest Debar Torah contributors from other Spanish and Portuguese communities around the world. Thank you Rabbi Guedalia for this week's Debar Torah!



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Ki Tissa-Parah

March 17-18, 2017

Hertz Pentateuch: Ki Tissa p. 352, Parah p. 652 ; Haftarah p. 999
Kaplan Living Torah: Ki Tissa p. 440, Parah p. 756 ; Haftarah p. 1278

CANDLE LIGHTING | 6:47 pm

MINHAH | 6:45 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS: HAGGADAH EDITION | Following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on the topic "Tom Sawyer and Rabbeinu Tam: A New Approach to the Four Sons" | *2016-2017 season sponsored by the Julis Family*

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a shiur on the topic "Rabbi Akiva and the Oxford Comma: A Ki Tissa Tale of Logic and Love"

TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium

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

JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue
KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Connie Shapiro in honor of Phil's upcoming marriage to Gail Hankin*

SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND PRE-PESAH AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic "A Misunderstood Minhag: The Ten Plagues and the Drops of Wine" | 5:40 pm | Levy Auditorium | *Spring semester is sponsored anonymously in memory of Irma Cardozo*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 6:40 pm

HABDALAH | 7:40 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings: Sunday: 8:00 AM, Monday-Friday: 7:15 AM,
Evenings (Minhah & Arbit): Sunday– Wednesday: 6:30 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Wine and Cheese:

A Pre-Pesah Educulinary Event with Rabbi Soloveichik
Wednesday, March 29 | 7:00 pm



Say "Cheese!" In the tradition of our past stand-out "educulinary" events, we are delighted to bring you a spirited and educational wine and cheese pairing party. We will sample a spectrum of wines carefully paired with a wide range of goat, sheep, and cow cheeses. We will learn about the biblical sources and Israeli history of wine production by Israel's pioneer vintner, **Yacov ben Dor of Yatir wineries**, learn about quality kosher cheese making from, "**The Cheese Guy**", **Brent Delman**, hear about the amazing gastronomical advances in Israel's wine and cheese culture, all moderated and peppered with Torah and halakha by our own **Rabbi Soloveichik**. Register at shearithisrael.org/wine_and_cheese. Wines and kosher for Passover cheeses will be offered for purchase. 20% of your purchase will be donated to the synagogue.

Announcing a Very Special Shabbaton
Learn History. Celebrate History. MAKE History
in Washington DC and Monticello
Friday, May 5 - Sunday, May 7

Join this truly once in a lifetime opportunity to make history with Rabbi Soloveichik as we conduct the first ever *hashcabah* (memorial service) for Rachel Phillips Levy, Shearith Israel forebear, and the only Jew buried on the grounds of Monticello. Spaces are highly limited. For details, terms, and registration go to shearithisrael.org/Monticello.



**Taking a Deeper Dive: The Sephardic & Ashkenazic
Berakhot Dilemma Rooted in Mikvah Immersion**
Ilana Gadish, Yoetzet Halakha
This Monday, March 20 | 7:00 pm

Explore the halakhic origins of the great debate on when to make blessings-- before or after mitzvot. This dilemma originates in the blessing for mikvah immersion, and we will see how the divergence of customs developed-- one that remains even in the modern era.

**Everything You Ever Wanted to Know
About Shearith Israel: A Monthly Q & A with Z. Edinger**
This Thursday, March 23 | 7:00 pm

Intended for both new members and "old-timers," beginners and advanced students, this class will be based on topics suggested by you! If you've ever had a question about our congregation's history, liturgy, music, or, customs - this is the class for you. Please submit your questions to zedinger@shearithisrael.org and he will prepare a class to satisfy you!

NEW: Pick Up a Copy of CSI's Guide for the Perplexed
Ever find yourself sitting in our services and wondering about one of our unique customs? Check out our attractive and user-friendly new "Guide for the Perplexed: A Newcomer's Primer for Congregation Shearith Israel." Hard copies available at the synagogue.

West Side Hatzoloh Fundraiser
Monday, March 20

You never know when you might need West Side Hatzoloh, but they may save your life and West Side Hatzoloh needs us now. Support them by supporting their 32nd anniversary dinner at WestSideHatzoloh.org

Shearith Israel is a Proud Sponsor of
American Sephardi Federation's
New York Sephardic Film Festival
March 30– April 6, 2017
Nysephardicfilmfestival.org



WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

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

Sunday

◇ **Saadiyah Gaon's Book of Beliefs and Opinions** | Sjimon den Hollander | 8:45 am |

Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday

◇ ***Habruta* (Paired) Learning** | 5:15 pm - 7:15 pm | Before and after evening services, Rabbi Chaim Yanetz and rabbinical students from YU are available in the Elias Room to study in *habruta* with congregants of all ages.

Tuesday

◇ **Minyan Class and Breakfast** | Following Morning Services | Sponsored by Chaim Katzap

◇ **Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought - A Class for Women** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am | *Spring semester is sponsored anonymously in memory of Debby Neumark*

◇ **Talmud Class: Tractate Sanhedrin** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 7pm

Wednesday

◇ **Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Shearith Israel: A Monthly Q & A** | Z. Edinger | 7:00 pm | On select Wednesdays | Next class will be on THURSDAY, March 23 at 7pm | Email questions to zedinger@shearithisrael.org.

To sponsor a single class or an entire semester,
go to shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass
To find out when your favorite class is held, canceled or
for special topics, go to
shearithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tob to **Constance Shapiro** on the upcoming marriage of her son Philip Shapiro to Gail Hankin. Phil is the son of Constance Shapiro and the late Robert Shapiro, A'H. The wedding will take place this Sunday in Tarrytown, NY.

We Mourn the Loss of our Member **Frederic S. Nathan**.
Condolences to his wife Fran Nathan, and his children,
Jean Nathan, Fred Nathan, Jr. and Bill Nathan.