

Shabbat HaGadol

Shabbat HaGadol, the “The Great Sabbath,” is the designation used for the Sabbath preceding Passover, which is traditionally an occasion for a “great” sage to exhort the congregation concerning the upcoming Passover holiday. The *Haftarah* is taken from Malachi and includes the verse: “Behold, I send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.” At Shearith Israel, this Shabbat is also observed as the anniversary of the consecration of the 2nd Mill St. Synagogue Building, which was completed and officially dedicated just in time for Passover 1818. We commemorate the consecration of our synagogues with a semi-festive service. The Ark is open during much of the service and the Torah scrolls are dressed in festive colors. The beautiful poem *Todot El* (p. 342) is sung before *Nishmat*, and special blessings and memorial prayers are recited before the reading of the Torah.

Choir Rehearsal & Special Performance

Friday, March 23 & Friday, March 30 | 5:15 pm

This Friday and next, our choir is conducting rehearsals in preparation for Passover. They will also rehearse and perform two of Choirmaster Leon Hyman's compositions approved last year for inclusion in our repertoire. The rehearsal takes place at 5:15 PM, one and a quarter hours before the Friday evening service. Among the musical arrangements to be performed this Shabbat will be Leon Hyman's 23rd Psalm on Friday night and his *Misheberakh* before the Torah is taken out on Shabbat morning.

Leon Hyman has been the choirmaster of Shearith Israel since 1955. He has recently been recovering from a torn meniscus and we wish him continued recovery and good health. We hope to see him this Shabbat. When Mr. Hyman is unavailable, our associate choirmaster, **Adam Hyman**, conducts the choir. We welcome your encouragement and support for our choir and hope you will join us next Friday evening and, of course, Shabbat!

Our next public tour
is **Wednesday,**
April 11

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

DEBAR TORAH: REKINDLING THE MENORAH

— JONATHAN WEINSTEIN —

The Torah tells us in the beginning of Parashat Tsav that the Altar should have an everlasting fire burning on it, one that shall not go out. The Talmud in Yoma 45b points out that we have another fire which is constantly burning – the Menorah. The Talmud there teaches us that if the Menorah should happen to go out, we should use the fire from the Altar to rekindle the Menorah. We know there are three core vessels in the Temple: the Menorah, which represents Torah; the Altar, which represents Prayer; and the Table, which represents Generosity.

Why is it that if the Menorah were to go out we have to rekindle it with the fire on the Altar? When it comes to the Menorah, we see the light, which is inspiring. Torah is something which is supposed to inspire us – to ignite and propel us to higher levels. But we know that part of human nature is that inspiration is fleeting and we have moments when we are not so inspired, when we are not ignited – when the Menorah's light has become extinguished. In order to rekindle the light of the Menorah, to get inspired once again, we go to the Altar which had the constant flame of the offerings being sacrificed each and every day. We may not be inspired to give the sacrifices, or not inspired to go pray, but we go and do it anyway.

With the constancy of the sacrifices by doing our service each day even when not inspired, we slowly start to become inspired once again. We rekindle the Menorah. The obligation to always have prayer gives us the opportunity to become ignited once more.

Jonathan Weinstein is a student at Yeshiva University and a member of our ongoing Habruta (Paired Learning) Program with Rabbi Yanetz.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Tsav-HaGadol

March 23-24, 2018

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 429; Haftarah: p. 1005
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 520; Haftarah: p. 1288

CANDLE LIGHTING | 6:53 pm

MINHAH & ARBIT | 6:30 pm | Main Sanctuary

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS: HAGGADAH EDITION | Rabbi Meir

Soloveichik | “Michelangelo and Isaiah Berlin in the Haggadah” |

Sponsored this week by Carol and Alan Schechter in memory of Carol's father, Matisyahu bar Kupel, on the occasion of his nahala. 2017-2018 season sponsored by the Julis family.

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

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

| Fidanque Youth Room

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

JUNIOR CONGREGATION WITH A TORAH READING | Ages 5-12 |

10:30 | Little Synagogue

SHABBAT HAGADOL DERASHA | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

“The Last Passover in the Temple: Pesah: 70 CE”

Sponsored by Debbie and David Sable, in memory of Debbie's father, Ambassador Yehuda Avner, on the occasion of his third nahala.

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Doina and*

Dr. Lawrence Bryskin in memory of Doina's mother, Hermina Levi, on the occasion of her nahala, and in honor of Rabbi Meir Soloveichik.

SHABBAT AFTERNOON PRE-PESAH SHIUR | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik |

5:45 pm | “It Happened At Midnight” | Levy Auditorium

MINHAH & ARBIT | 6:45 pm

HABDALAH | 7:47 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

Sunday: 8:00 am

Monday-Friday: 7:15 am

Evenings:

Sunday-Thursday (Minhah & Arbit): 6:30 pm

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

PESAH AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Sale of Hametz

Congregants are welcome to appoint Rabbi Soloveichik to sell their *hametz* in advance of Passover. A convenient online form is available until **Thursday, March 29**.

Visit shearithisrael.org/hametz to submit online.

Maot Hittim

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. Your online gift or check made out to the "Rabbi's Discretionary Fund" (indicate "*maot hittim*" in the memo) will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik right before Pesah.

To donate, please visit shearithisrael.org/maothittim.

Sponsor the Kiddush in Honor of Our Teen Girl Readers of Shir HaShirim Eighth Day of Pesah, Shabbat, April 7

After *musaf* on the last day of Pesah, the teen girls of our synagogue take part in our unique tradition as they read The Song of Songs for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services.

To sponsor the *kiddush* in the girls' honor, go to shearithisrael.org/teen-girls-shir-hashirim-2018.

COMING UP



THE SISTERHOOD PRESENTS Jr. Book Group

For children ages 11-14

First Meeting: Shabbat, April 21
4:30 pm

Come join with friends as we discuss the newly released book *Hunger* by Donna Jo Napoli. Read the book and share your thoughts, questions, and impressions.

To register, email Rose Edinger at rgedinger@gmail.com.

Calling Women and Girls for The Book of Ruth

The women's reading of the Book of Ruth still has openings for Shabuot. Contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com for details and to sign up.

Sponsor Our Kiddush for Visiting Scholar Professor Laura Arnold Leibman

Shabbat, April 21 | Following Morning Services
Monday, April 30 | 7:00 pm

We are delighted to welcome Professor Laura Arnold Leibman, who will deliver two historical lectures. The Shabbat lecture will be on the topic of "Jews and Voting in Early America: The Fight for Civil Rights," and her mid-week lecture will be on "Sephardic Country Houses."

Laura Arnold Leibman is Professor of English and Humanities at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. Her work focuses on religion and the daily lives of women and children in early America, and uses everyday objects to help bring their stories back to life.

For more information or to sponsor the *kiddush* following the Shabbat lecture, visit shearithisrael.org/leibman.

Upper West Side Annual Reading of The Names Yom HaShoa

Wednesday, April 11 at 10 PM - Thursday April 12 at 6 PM
Society for the Advancement of Judaism, 15 West 86th Street followed by
The Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Ave
Every year for the past two decades, the Upper West Side has come together to commemorate Yom HaShoa with a joint reading of the names of those who perished.

Please consider joining this meaningful memorial and lending your support to **Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde**, who will be taking Shearith Israel's shift and reading the names from 3:20 AM to 3:40 AM on April 12.

Upper West Side Celebrates Israel Sunday, April 15 | Symphony Space (2537 Broadway at 95th Street)

Join Shearith Israel and the entire Upper West Side Jewish community in celebrating Israel's 70th Yom Ha'atzmaut! This massive festival will have both indoor and outdoor activities for all ages. This festival is sure to be a can't-miss event of the year, so mark your calendars.

IN REVIEW:

Passover and the American Imagination



Rabbi Meir Soloveichik in conversation with Lincoln

Our *Passover and the American Imagination* Symposium and Luncheon was a marvelous success, and a wonderful *Year of Years* celebration! We packed the pews for three stimulating sessions, followed by a warm community luncheon honoring our 5778 *hatanim*, **Simon Salama-Caro** and **Robert Kapito**.

Once more, a heartfelt thank you to all our generous donors, attendees, and volunteers who contributed to the success of this ambitious intellectual and fundraising event.

REGISTER NOW:

FROM THE DISTRIBUTOR THAT BROUGHT YOU "THE WOMEN'S BALCONY"

"1945"

Wednesday, April 11 | 7:00 pm

With Opening Remarks from Our Member, **Ivan Berkowitz**

In commemoration of Yom HaShoa, we will be holding a special screening of the critically acclaimed film, *1945*. A superb ensemble cast, lustrous black and white cinematography, and historically detailed art direction contribute to this eloquent drama.

Get tickets in advance—\$5-\$8 online, \$10 at the door.

Visit shearithisrael.org/1945 for registration and tickets.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tob to **Suzanne & Jacob Doft** upon their son, Joey, becoming a Bar Mitzvah, and to grandparents **Arlene & Avrom Doft**.

Mazal Tob to **Robyn Price Stonehill & David Stonehill** upon their daughter, Jordana, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.