

## Be a Sponsor of the *Kiddush* at our “Pulpit Swap” Shabbat NEXT Shabbat, March 10

Help us put our best foot forward and show our Shearith Israel hospitality to Rabbi Levine of the Jewish Center when he treats us to a special lecture after morning services.

### Rabbi Levine’s lecture topic at Shearith Israel: A Revolutionary Tale: The Curious History of the First Hebrew Prayer for a Democratic Government

To join our list of sponsors for the *kiddush*, visit  
[shearithisrael.org/pulpit-swap](http://shearithisrael.org/pulpit-swap).

#### SAVE THE DATE

FROM THE DISTRIBUTOR THAT BROUGHT YOU  
“THE WOMEN’S BALCONY”

*The Film Critics are Calling a “Must-See” and “A Masterpiece”*

## “1945”

**Wednesday, April 11 | 7:00 pm**

In commemoration of Yom Hashoa, we will be holding a special screening of the critically acclaimed film, *1945*.

On a summer day in 1945, after the war has ended, an Orthodox man and his grown son arrive in a small village in Hungary while the villagers prepare for the wedding of the town clerk’s son. The townspeople, in the aftermath of the war, react in various ways—with suspicion, remorse, fear, and cunning. Some expect the worst and behave accordingly. A superb ensemble cast, lustrous black and white cinematography, and historically detailed art direction contribute to this eloquent drama.

Stay tuned for registration.

Our next public tour  
is **Wednesday,**  
**March 14**

**Parnas Office Hours**  
Louis Solomon would be delighted to  
meet with you. Please schedule a visit  
at [parnas@shearithisrael.org](mailto:parnas@shearithisrael.org).

#### DEBAR TORAH: תקופת השנה — THE [SEASONAL] CYCLE OF THE YEAR

—BY HAZZAN RABBI IRA ROHDE—

Towards the end of Parashat Ki-Tissa, in the sixth Aliyah, Exodus 34, there is a review of the similar list of the cycle of the three Pilgrimage festivals, along with Shabbat and laws of firstborns/first-fruits, which we saw earlier in Mishpatim Ex. 23. Since here in the U.S. we now have been seeing the arrival of the Israeli citrus in the markets and, moreover, we are in the month before Passover, I’ve been asked about the harvest season for various Israeli crops. I thought I’d use this opportunity to do some research and try to clarify some questions I’ve always had.

Let me start with the end of the year: “And you shall make yourself a Festival of Shabuot, [of] the first-fruits of the wheat harvest, and the festival of ingathering at the cycling of the year (Ex. 34:22).” The “Festival of Ingathering” refers to the Tishri holidays, primarily Succot, which come out around the time of the Autumnal equinox. Here the term “Festival of Ingathering” חג האסיף is used. Ever since I did my research into “sheaves” of wheat, I’ve become much more aware that even after reaping/cutting down the wheat, the cut stalks were not brought inside right away, the way that mechanized combines operate today. Rather, wheat cut after Shabuot was bundled into upright sheaves and dried outside. Then the sheaves were brought to a “goren,” a threshing-floor, which was also outside. Often this “floor” might be little more than a clearing, although perhaps they could have paved it with bricks or stones. There they piled many sheaves into bigger stacks. After threshing or trampling the dried sheaves, the wheat kernels of grain would fall off the stalks, and stalks and chaff would be removed by further processes. Only from August through Succot would the separated wheat kernels be loaded in donkey-sacks and carried to a granary or home for inside storage during the approaching rainy season. Succot concluded this “Ingathering” process for grains as well as many other fruits and products, such as figs, which were pressed into “cakes” after cutting and also dried outside. Fresh figs were actually cut during the summer, and the Hebrew term for “summer,” Kayitz, probably derives from a term for fig-harvest, but the dried fig-cakes were ingathered later. Dates dry on the tree, of course, and could be cut down off the tree in the Autumn. Grapes might be harvested in July and August, but wine was processed in outside vats and only later was put into jars for inside storage. Although olives might still be picked and processed afterwards for a month or two, Succot generally concluded the harvest year cycle, and that term for “cycle” is perhaps one reason that we make “circuits” around the synagogue on Succot and Simhat Torah. After resting from their labors and rejoicing (it’s possible that workmen like Boaz slept out in the fields in booths or on their threshing-floors for much of the beginning of the grain-harvest; it was only at Succot that their families joined them) they were ready to begin planting barley and other grains around November, to grow their crop during the winter rainy-season. The barley, of course, would start to be cut for the Omer offering on the Second Day of Passover.

Fresh vegetables and fruits were not as important in ancient Israel as dried forms of fruits and legumes. And of course, except for the ethrog, most of the citrus family was brought to Israel much more recently. Citrus fruits grow and ripen very slowly, so fruits harvested a month ago grew from flowers which bloomed last year in the spring. Almond and apricot trees blossom the earliest, starting in time for Tu B’Shevat. Fresh apricots are ready in summer, although they also were traditionally dried. Almonds and pomegranates are usually ready by September or October.

An ancient tablet found in 1908 at Gezer, 20 miles west of Jerusalem, has been deciphered, and seems to be a kind of farmer’s calendar. If deciphered correctly and the time-periods estimated, it would come out as follows: “Two months gathering (September & October), Two months planting (November & December), Two months late sowing (January & February), One month cutting flax (March), One month reaping barley (April), One month reaping and measuring grain/wheat (May), Two months pruning (June & July), One month Fig/Summer Fruit (August).”



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

## Shabbat Ki Tissa March 2-3, 2018

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 352; Haftarah: p. 370  
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 440; Haftarah: p. 1130

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:30 pm

MINHAH & ARBIT | 5:30 pm | Main Sanctuary

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | “Purim Torah and the Purim Kiddush: A (Semi)-Serious Analysis “ | *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 | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 | Little Synagogue

LECTURE | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | “Take Two Tablets: The Shattering of the Luchot in Art”

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | 4:25 pm |  
“From Purim Drinking to the Four Cups” | Levy Auditorium

MINHAH & ARBIT | 5:25 pm

HABDALAH | 6:22 pm

#### Weekday Service Times

##### **Mornings:**

Sunday: 8:00 am

Monday-Friday: 7:15 am

##### **Evenings:**

Sunday (Minhah & Arbit): 5:45pm

Monday-Thursday (Minhah & Arbit—**note new time**): 5:45 pm

## Our Spring-Summer Bulletins are Arriving

Members should be receiving their copies in the mail soon; until then, check out the online version at [shearithisrael.org/bulletins-and-guides](http://shearithisrael.org/bulletins-and-guides).

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Hazakot U'Berukhot* to all who participated in this year's Women's *Megillah* Reading, and a special thank you to **Mrs. Lisa Rohde** for coordinating it.

*Thank you* to the **Sisterhood** for organizing and distributing our wonderful *mishloah manot*.

*Thank you* to **Caring Connection** for distributing *mishloah manot* to some of our homebound members.

*Thank you* to **Yona Glass** and **Liz Rios** for creating great Purim spirit for our younger congregants.

*Thank you* to Israel's UN Ambassador **Danny Danon**, his wife **Talie**, and their children for honoring us with their presence at *megillah* reading and HerringFest. Thank you, also, for fighting the good fight on behalf of Israel at the UN.

*Thank you* to all the sponsors of our various Purim festivities.

#### HerringFest: The Purim Edition:

Anonymous

Anonymous

Josh Eisen

Sharon & Michael Goldberg

Halana & Alan Greenberg

Debbie & David Sable

Andrea Raab Sherman & Rev. Philip L Sherman

The Solomon Family

Ruth and Leonard Wisse

#### Annual Purim Breakfast:

Liliane Marks, in honor of her first reading of the *megillah* Arthur Tenenholtz and Joel Tenenholtz, both in memory of their father, Benjamin Tenenholtz.

*We mourn* the loss of our member, **Helen Laniado**.

## Seeking Teen Girls for Annual Shir Hashirim Reading

Eighth Day of Passover, Saturday, April 7

After *musaf* on the last day of Passover, 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.

Full preparation and training provided.  
Newcomers welcome!

For information and to participate, please contact Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde at [irohde@shearithisrael.org](mailto:irohde@shearithisrael.org).

To sponsor the *kiddush* in the girls' honor, go to [shearithisrael.org/teen-girls-shir-hashirim-2018](http://shearithisrael.org/teen-girls-shir-hashirim-2018).



## SAVE THE DATE Upper West Side Celebrates Israel

Tuesday, 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 components, including:

- Street fair with bouncy castles, food tastings, bands, games, and more
- Concert from the Israeli hit group, Yemen Blues
- Cooking demonstration from Gil Hovav, Israel's leading TV chef
- Kosher wine tasting with Haim Amit of Vino Levantino
- Address from Ambassador Dennis Ross
- Screening of the new film, *The Israel Museum*
- Study sessions with Shaare Zedek, Hadar, and Drisha

With such a diverse medley of activities, this festival is sure to be a can't-miss event of the year, so mark your calendars.

DEADLINE TO BE LISTED IN OUR HAGGADAH COMPANION  
TRIBUTE FOLIO: THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 4

Sunday, March 18, 2018

# Passover

and the American Imagination



Close Up View of Hebrew Inscription:  
Proclaim Liberty Throughout All The  
Land Unto All The Inhabitants Thereof  
Leviticus XXV:10

**A Year Of Years Celebration**  
Featuring Rabbi Meir Soloveichik's discussion of the  
greatest Passover stories in American history.

This special symposium will include:

Lectures and discussions with pre-eminent scholars such as Lincoln historian, Harold Holzer	Remarkable Passover stories and lessons of liberty from the American Jewish historical narrative
An exclusive viewing of rarely exhibited archival materials, such as Thomas Jefferson's Letter to Mordecai Manuel Noah of Shearith Israel	A take-home Haggadah Companion custom created by Rabbi Soloveichik, which participants can use to inspire their own Seder this year

A bonus conversation — for luncheon participants only — with Harold Holzer and Rabbi Soloveichik on the making of Steven Spielberg's critically acclaimed film, *Lincoln*

Sunday, March 18, 2018 | Symposium 9 am - 12:30 pm  
Luncheon to follow with a special tribute to Shearith Israel's 5778 *hatanim*  
**Simon Salama-Caro, Hatan Torah**  
**Robert Kapito, Hatan Bereshit**

**Tickets start at \$25. Sponsorships start at \$500.**  
RSVP by March 4: [shearithisrael.org/gala2018](http://shearithisrael.org/gala2018)