

### Morning Minyan Just Got Even Better!

Starting this Sunday, April 23, morning minyan participants will be treated to a breakfast of champions (cereal and milk).

Jumpstart your day by nourishing your body and soul and help make this minyan strengthening initiative a success. To sponsor, go to [shearithisrael.org/cereal](http://shearithisrael.org/cereal).



### Shabuot Public Lecture Delivered by Rabbi Soloveichik Tuesday, May 30, 11:00 PM

Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver another intriguing lecture at what has become a prime Shabuot learning destination on the Upper West Side. After the talk, guests are encouraged to enjoy some cheesecake! To sponsor go to [shearithisrael.org/shabuot-public-lecture](http://shearithisrael.org/shabuot-public-lecture)



### Girls Megillat Ruth Reading Wednesday, May 31 | 11:30 am

On the First Day of Shabuot, after musaf, the girls of the synagogue chant the Book of Ruth for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary. Any girl who can read Hebrew and wants to participate should contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at [lirohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lirohde-csi@yahoo.com). Afterwards, the congregation joins together for a Kiddush in their honor. To sponsor the Kiddush, go to [shearithisrael.org/girls-book-ruth-reading](http://shearithisrael.org/girls-book-ruth-reading).

### Parnas Office Hours

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

Our Next Public Tour is:  
Wednesday, May 10 at 11:00 am

### Inaugural Wake-up Call: Public Must Supersede Private Interests Rabbi Ira Rohde

Parashat Shemini begins with the final part of the description of the “inauguration ceremony” of Aaron and his sons as Priests serving in the Mishkan, the Tabernacle. Since the Mishkan had just been completed at the end of the previous book, the Book of Exodus, this is also the inaugural service of the Mishkan itself. At least two Hebrew terms are used to refer to this inauguration: מְלֹאִים, [seven days of] “filling” [their hands], as well as מְשֻׁחָת, the “anointing” of Aaron and his sons as priests. As is usual in the literary style of the Torah, narrative gets interspersed with regulations, both legal and ritual. After the narration of the putting together of the Mishkan at the end of Exodus, the first parasha of the following Book of Leviticus begins with the regulations about various types of sacrifices. The second parasha, which we read before Passover, continues describing more sacrifices, but then returns, with a few more regulatory digressions, to narrating the story of the seven-day installation/investiture/anointing ceremony by which God, through Moses, instructs Aaron and his sons and inaugurates them as Priests.

This week’s Parasha, the third section of the Book of Leviticus, begins: “And it came to pass on the eighth day.” The “eighth” would seem to refer to the day *after* the seven-day inaugural period. But it seems in many ways part of the inauguration itself, if it is not, in fact, the actual culmination. It was finally on this Eighth Day, we are told, that there was a Revelation of the Divine Glory. There were sacrifices before this, but it is on this Eighth Day that “a fire went forth from before the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fats,” leaving the midrash struggling to answer questions about the fire for previous sacrifices. But the main point seems to be that the other sacrifices offered up until now were for the sake of Aaron and his sons, part of purification rituals for them personally in their preparing to take office. The Eighth Day was actually their first day *in public office*, and the sacrifice mentioned here was the first sacrifice offered *in the name of the public*. It is true, the חטאת sacrifice still seems to be connected to Aaron personally, to some extent, but now Aaron’s sacrifice has the capacity to atone for the people as a whole. From now on, Aaron and his sons are a public servants, and whatever they do must reflect their public office. Official duties, we are told in much of the rest of the parasha, must supersede almost everything else in private life and interests. This is why Aaron may not mourn, at least publicly. Intoxication which would render him unfit for his duties at any time while he is in office is also prohibited.

Reflecting upon this, perhaps we could give yet another interpretation for the tragic death of Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu. Perhaps all they wished to do was to offer a personal incense sacrifice. After all, the entire “Inauguration” ceremony heretofore was a combination of private and public interests. Before the Eighth Day, in fact, personal atonement might even have been encouraged. But from the Eighth Day on, it seems, all of their actions had to be in the service of the public. They could no longer serve their private interests, not even their private spiritual interests. The public interest demanded that public duty must supersede, set aside and override all personal interests. Aaron and his sons would not be the first leaders who would have to learn to cope with this painful lesson.



## CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue Shabbat Shemini April 21-22, 2017

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 443 ; Haftarah p. 454  
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 536 ; Haftarah p. 1148

CANDLE LIGHTING | 7:24 pm

MINHAH | 6:45 pm

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a lecture on the topic “The Kosher Fish that Tasted Like Pork: The Story of a Culinary, Halkhic, and Linguistic Adventure”

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

SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic “How Do you Translate Pirkei Abot: A New Introduction to the Most Beloved Tractate” | 6:20 pm | Levy Auditorium | *Spring semester is sponsored anonymously in memory of Irma Cardozo*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 7:20 pm

HABDALAH | 8:22 pm

### Weekday Service Times

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

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Learn History. Celebrate History. MAKE History  
An Early American History Shabbaton  
in Washington DC and Monticello  
Friday, May 5 - Sunday, May 7  
A few spaces remain!

Program Highlights

Rabbi Soloveichik will give unique lectures throughout Shabbat on:

- Uriah Phillips Levy, The Jewish Naval Hero Who Saved Monticello
- Jonas Phillips, the Incredible Story of the First Truly American Jew
- Thomas Jefferson and the Jews

Rabbi Soloveichik will lead art tours at the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery.

Our visit to Monticello, Jefferson's historic house and plantation, will include guided house tours, exploration of the grounds, and an exclusive conversation between Rabbi Soloveichik and Jon Meacham, Pulitzer prize winning author of *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power*.

Our trip concludes with a visit to the gravesite of Rachel Phillips Levy where Rabbi Soloveichik will lead -- for the first time in nearly two centuries-- a memorial service for the Phillips family and for all the Jewish patriots in our country's history.

For full itinerary, terms, and to register, go to [shearithisrael.org/monticello](http://shearithisrael.org/monticello)



Mark Your Calendars for more upcoming events

- **Sunday, May 21, 10:30 am**—Chatham Square Memorial Service
- **Wednesday, May 24, 7:00 pm**—"Achdut in Action" Fleet Week Event

Yom Hashoa Annual Reading of the Names  
Monday, April 23 | Begins at 10 pm (Our slot: 2:40 - 3:00 am)  
Held at West End Synagogue

For the 18th consecutive year, the UWS community will gather to read the names of those among the 6 million murdered Jews. Rabbi Ira Rohde will lead our delegation during our slot from 2:40 - 3 am.

Yom Ha`atzmaut Public Lecture  
Delivered by Rabbi Soloveichik  
Monday, May 1, 7:00 PM

Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a special lecture in honor of Israel Independence Day featuring Israeli-themed refreshments. To sponsor, go to [shearithisrael.org/yom-haatzmaut-lecture](http://shearithisrael.org/yom-haatzmaut-lecture)



Jewish Treasures of the Caribbean by Wyatt Gallery  
A Book Launch Event  
Wednesday, May 3 | 7:00 pm

Photographer, Wyatt Gallery's newly released book *Jewish Treasures of the Caribbean: The Legacy of Judaism in the New World* highlights the history of the first Jewish communities in the New World, including Congregation Shearith Israel. To learn more, go to [shearithisrael.org/jewish-treasures/caribbean](http://shearithisrael.org/jewish-treasures/caribbean).

Carvalho's Journey Film Screening  
Followed by a Talk-Back Session with Filmmaker, Steve Rivo,  
Featured Historian, Arlene Hirschfelder,  
Moderated by Sexton, Z. Edinger  
Wednesday, May 17, 7:00 pm

Screened in the 2016 NY Jewish Film Festival to critical acclaim, Carvalho's Journey tells the amazing story of Solomon Nunes Carvalho (1815-1897), an observant Sephardic Jew of Portuguese descent. Born in Charleston, SC, Carvalho later moved to Philadelphia, as well as New York City (and is buried in our cemetery). The film chronicles his life as a groundbreaking adventurer, portrait painter, and photographer. \$5 members/\$8 non-members. Register at [shearithisrael.org/Carvalho](http://shearithisrael.org/Carvalho)

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For details go to: [shearithisrael.org/judaic-education](http://shearithisrael.org/judaic-education)

Sunday

- ◇ **Saadiah 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 | Email questions to [zedinger@shearithisrael.org](mailto:zedinger@shearithisrael.org). | [Next class this week: April 26](#)

To sponsor a single class or an entire semester, go to [shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass](http://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](http://shearithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists) to select which emails you'd like to receive.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Mazal Tob* to Debra Aboodi and Steve Sasson on the birth of a baby boy. Congratulations to grandparents, Deena & Nissim Aboodi and aunt and uncle, Rafe and Sharon Sasson.

*Condolences* to Dr. Meryl Jaffe (Hurwich), on the passing of her father, Lloyd W. Jaffe.

Meals for Mourners and New Parents

Shearith Israel's Caring Connection provides meals for members and their families after the birth of a child or in times of mourning. Similarly, the Hebra Hased Va'Amet provides mourners and their family with their first meal upon returning home from the burial as they commence shiba. To learn more or if you would like to sponsor a meal, simply go to [shearithisrael.org/caring-connection-meals](http://shearithisrael.org/caring-connection-meals) and select the meal type you would like to sponsor. The family will be notified of your generous gesture.