

(continued from back panel)

Those surprises that emerge from beneath the surface reach our souls because they exist on the same plane. When we learn to allow ourselves to be open to the possibilities of life's stunning path, hope is present and we come to know, beyond simple belief, from the countless precedents of its kind, that the world will not falter and that, while the course it takes to reach its destiny may meander in dubious ways, it will reach its noblest goals.

In this same vein, we, after a great deal of wandering, have come home to our land as a sovereign nation. It has been a long and winding road, but we have returned. Our tikva — our hope — drawing from the Power of Life that lies beneath it all, has brought us there. Knowing this, collapses thousands of years into wonder-filled moments and the span of history rests whole and complete in the depths of the human soul.

**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**

**Surface Tension**

**Rabbi Joseph Dweck**

**Senior Rabbi of the S&P Sephardi Community of the UK**

A veneer can be powerful in drawing our attention away from what lies beneath its surface. As a boy growing up in Los Angeles, one of my favourite places to visit was Universal Studios. At the time, Universal conducted a small tour of their lots on which they had built movie sets and used special effects in order to create amazing visual images on film. One of the most shocking parts of the tour for me the first time I visited occurred when we drove down what looked like a suburban road with houses all along it, only to turn the corner and find that they were not houses at all, but facades. Like most people, I fell for the visual trick because I only looked at the outer presentation and accepted that they were houses because they looked as if they were. It was an experiential lesson that helped me remember that outer layers conceal other hidden realities, and that what is beyond the surface can be quite different from what one might expect it to be.

This week we read of a condition called Sara'at that would manifest on one's skin, essentially, a discolouration of sorts. Sara'at brought with it several meanings and messages that are outlined both in the verses of the parasha and the rabbinic writings. Among these is the lesson I first learned at Universal Studios. The surface, in this case one's skin, only expresses a certain layer of truth. There are other elements of truth that run beneath the surface that might require more than just a look in order to discover them.

When Sara'at erupted on one's skin, it indicated that the thin veneer of the skin concealed underlying elements that had found their way to the surface. It was a reminder to look beyond the exterior and see a deeper reality.

This week's haftara expands on the theme with a story. Elisha, the prophet, prophesied that a heavy famine would end within twenty-four hours and that there would be such an abundance of grain that a bag of fine flour would sell for only a shekel. There were sceptics to this prophecy, because on the surface there was no apparent way for this to happen, but there are undercurrents to reality that drive it in ways we would never anticipate given the perceived circumstances. The prophecy did come to pass in the most unexpected way.

The parasha and haftara teach us that there is more that is at work in the world than we initially perceive. Events occur and have occurred that defy imagination. When seen from a panoramic perspective, the world reveals astonishing twists and turns that quickly become assimilated into matter-of-fact realities. For years the idea that the Berlin Wall could fall was unthinkable. The thought of Communist Russia crumbling was no more than a dream. But it happened, in unexpected ways, as did many such events throughout history.

Life is so much more than what we see and know with our surface perceptions. Beneath it all flows the force of the Creator. It powers Creation and drives it in directions that are so surprising and serendipitous that they cause us to laugh and cry at the unexpected beauty.

(continued on side panel)



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

**The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue**

**Shabbat Tazria-Metsora**

*April 28-29, 2017*

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 460 ; Haftarah p. 477  
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 556 ; Haftarah p. 1160

**CANDLE LIGHTING | 7:31 pm**

**MINHAH | 6:45 pm**

**ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary**

**SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik**

delivers a lecture on the topic "Lincoln, the Jewish Telegrapher, and the Haftarah: An Incredible and Unknown Story from the Civil War"

**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 "The Cistern and the Spring: The Two Greatest Students of Rabbi Yohanan Ben Zakai" | 6:25 pm | Levy Auditorium | *Spring semester is sponsored anonymously in memory of Irma Cardozo*

**MINHAH/ARBIT | 7:25 pm**

**HABDALAH | 8:32 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

**“The Original Version of Hatikva”  
A Special Yom Ha'atzmaut Public Lecture  
Delivered by Rabbi Soloveichik**

**This Monday, May 1, 7:00 PM**

Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a special lecture in honor of Israel's Independence Day.

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**

**This 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).

**Special Lecture Sponsored by The Hebra Hased vaAmet  
Shabbat, May 6 , Following Morning Services**

The Hebra Hased vaAmet is the oldest continuously active Jewish philanthropic organization in New York. Come hear a special seminar by our shamash, Zachariah Edinger, about the Hebra, its fascinating history, and relevance for today. Kiddush luncheon to follow.

**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)

***Learn History. Celebrate History. MAKE History*  
An Early American History Shabbaton  
in Washington DC and Monticello  
Friday, May 5 - Sunday, May 7**

### Program Highlights

Rabbi Soloveichik will give unique lectures throughout Shabbat on:

- From the Huppah to Monticello: The Story of the Jewish Naval Hero Who Saved Monticello
- The Yiddish Letter and the Declaration: The Incredible Story of Jonas Phillips, 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)

**Annual Pre-Memorial Day Service: Honoring Veterans of the  
Revolution and Members of the Armed Forces  
Held at the Chatham Square Cemetery | 55 St. James Place  
Sunday, May 21 | 10:30 am**

Head down to Chatham Square Cemetery in Chinatown to honor members of our congregation who participated in the Revolutionary War. Our historic ceremony and Color Guard is a special Shearith Israel tradition and is open to military veterans, clergy, and members of the community. Join us to place American flags at the graves of our twenty-two veteran congregants. Transportation from and back to Shearith Israel is available. To register and sign up for transportation, go to [shearithisrael.org/chatham-square-service](http://shearithisrael.org/chatham-square-service).

## 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 | **NO CLASS THIS WEEK**

*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)

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 **Judi and Alan Eisenman** on the birth of a granddaughter, Maayan Sarah Chaya, to their children, Liz and Marc Guttman.

*We welcome the following new members to the  
Shearith Israel family:*  
**Ivan Kaufman  
Ira and Barbara Lipman**

Welcome to **B'nai Jehudah's** confirmation class, visiting this Shabbat from Overland Park, Kansas.

## **Morning Minyan Just Got Even Better!**

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).