

(continued from back panel)

Nothing, I think, would be so likely to effect this, as to your sect particularly, as the more careful attention to education, which you recommend, and which, placing its members on the equal and commanding benches of science, will exhibit them as equal objects of respect and favor. I salute you with great respect and esteem.
(Signed) THOMAS JEFFERSON.

**Copy of a letter from John Adams,
Quincy, July 31, 1818.**

Sir, — Accept my best thanks for your polite and obliging favour of the 24th, and especially for the Discourse inclosed. I know not when I have read a more liberal or a more elegant composition. You have not extended your ideas of the right of private judgment and the liberty of conscience, both in religion and philosophy, farther than I do. Mine are limited only by morals and propriety. I have had occasion to be acquainted with several gentlemen of your nation, and to transact business with some of them, whom I found to be men of as liberal minds, as much honor, probity, generosity and good breeding, as any I have known in any sect of religion or philosophy. I wish your nation may be admitted to all the privileges of citizens in every country of the world. This country has done much. I wish it may do more ; and annul every narrow idea in religion, government, and commerce. Let the wits joke; the philosophers sneer! What then? It has pleased the Providence of the "first cause," the universal cause, that Abraham should give religion, not only to Hebrews, but to Christians and Mahometans, the greatest part of the modern civilized world.
(Signed) JOHN ADAMS.

NEW: Pick Up a Copy of our Spring/Summer Bulletin

Learn about the programming and initiatives we have planned for April-August. Members, copies have been mailed to you and should arrive shortly. In the meantime, you can pick up a hard copy at the synagogue.

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

The Second Mill Street Synagogue and the Founding Fathers

By Z. Edinger, Shamash

Shabbat HaGadol is the anniversary of the consecration of Shearith Israel's second synagogue building, the *Second Mill Street Synagogue*. It housed our congregation from April 17, 1818 until April 13, 1833.

At its dedication, Mordecai Manual Noah gave a lengthy address in which he extolled the United States as a beacon of religious freedom: *"[F]or the first time in eighteen centuries, it may be said that the Jew feels he was born equal, and is entitled to equal protection."* It was because of this toleration that, according to Noah, the new synagogue needed to be built. *"From the attractions of light and liberty which our dear country holds forth to the persecuted of all nations, many of our people have emigrated from Europe, and their increasing number made it necessary for their accommodation, that we should enlarge our place of worship."*

Afterwards, Noah sent a copy of his remarks to many of our founding fathers. Below are some of the responses he received:

**Copy of a letter from Thomas Jefferson,
Monticello, May 28th, 1818.**

Sir, — I thank you for the Discourse on the consecration of the Synagogue in your city, with which you have been pleased to favor me. I have read it with pleasure and instruction, having learnt from it some valuable facts in Jewish history which I did not know before. Your sect, by its sufferings, has furnished a remarkable proof of the universal spirit of religious intolerance inherent in every sect, disclaimed by all while feeble, and practised by all when in power. Our laws have applied the only antidote to this vice, protecting our religious, as they do our civil rights, by putting all on an equal footing. But more remains to be done ; for although we are free by the law, we are not so in practice; public opinion erects itself into an Inquisition, and exercises its office with as much fanaticism as fans the flames of an Auto da fe. The prejudice still scowling on your section of our religion, although the elder one, cannot be unfelt by yourselves; it is to be hoped that individual dispositions will, at length, mould themselves to the model of the law, and consider the moral basis on which all our religions rest, as the rallying point which unites them in a common interest ; while the peculiar dogmas branching from it, are the exclusive concern of the respective sects embracing them, and no rightful subject of notice to any other; public opinion, needs reformation on that point, which would have the further happy effect, of doing away the hypocritical maxim of "intus et lubet, foris ut moris." [Latin for "within as pleases, without how maintained" i.e. do as you please in private, but in public behave as is customary.]

(continued on inside panel)



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Tsav-HaGadol

April 7-8, 2017

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

CANDLE LIGHTING | 7:09 pm

MINHAH | 6:45 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS SEASON FINALE | Following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on the topic "The Most Unappreciated Phrase in the Haggadah" | *2016-2017 season sponsored by the Julis Family*

PRE-PESAH DINNER | Following Friday Night Lights | Elias Room | For Registered Guests

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a sermon on the topic "How Do You Spell Elijah?"

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 WITH TORAH READING | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by the Feder family in honor of the 65th anniversary of Barry Feder's Bar Mitzvah*

SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND PRE-PESAH AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic "Rambam's Haggadah Revisited" | 6:05 pm | Levy Auditorium | *Spring semester is sponsored anonymously in memory of Irma Cardozo*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 7:05 pm

HABDALAH | 8:05 pm

Sunday and Weekday Hol HaMoed Service Times

Mornings: Sunday: 8:00 AM, Thursday-Friday: 7:15 AM

Evenings (Minhah & Arbit): Sunday, Thursday: 6:30 PM

See Passover handout for more info.

PESAH 5777

Help Us Go 100% *Hametz* Free

Please remove all hametz from your drawers in the synagogue before Passover. Thank you for your cooperation.

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 Sunday, April 9 at 9 am.

Maot Hittim

Maot Hittim is a special Passover fund, originally intended to provide the poor with matzah. A \$100 contribution will enable us to pay for someone in need to attend a communal haggadah (seder). Make an online donation of any amount by filling out the form at shearithisrael.org/maothittm or by making out a check exactly to “Congregation Shearith Israel—Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund” with “Maot Hittim” in the memo.

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

After musaf, 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-2017

Pesah Kiddush Sponsors Wanted

We are still seeking sponsors and contributors for our kiddushim over Pesah. Please contact Barbara Reiss at breiss@shearithisrael.org if you are interested.

PASSOVER PREPARATIONS

Search for Hametz, Sunday Evening, April 9 | after 7:29 PM

Fast of First Born, Monday Morning, April 10

Fast Begins (dawn) | 4:59 AM

Morning Service & Siyyum by Pin Tan Soloveichik | 7:15 AM

Finish Eating Hametz | by 10:46 AM

Dispose of Remaining Hametz | by 11:51 AM

PASSOVER FIRST DAYS SCHEDULE

PASSOVER: DAY 1

Monday Evening, April 10
Candle Lighting | 7:12 PM
Evening Services | 7:15 PM
Haggadah (Seder) | after 7:54 PM

Tuesday Morning, April 11
Morning Services | 8:15 AM
Tikkun HaTal | 10:40 AM
Sermon | 11:25 AM
Kiddush | *Sponsored by the Haberman Family*

PASSOVER: DAY 2

Tuesday Evening, April 11
Evening Services | 7:15 PM
Candles, Haggadah, Omer | after 7:56 PM

Wednesday Morning, April 12
Morning Services 8:15 AM
Shahrit, Hallel, Sermon, Musaf | 9-11:50 AM
Kiddush | *Sponsored by Rae and Paul Beispel*
Minhah & Arbit | 7:15 PM
Count Omer and Habdalah | 7:57 PM

NO Tot Shabbat, Youth Groups, or Jr. Congregation on the first days

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Learn History. Celebrate History. MAKE History A Very Special Shabbaton 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. Deeply discounted rates at the Park Hyatt Hotel last until, next Friday, April 14.



Mark Your Calendars for Great Events this Spring

- **Monday, May 1, 7:00 pm**—Yom Haatzmaut Lecture
- **Wednesday, May 3. 7:00 pm**—*Treasures of the Caribbean* Book Launch Event
- **Wednesday. May 17, 7:00 pm**— *Carvalho’s Journey* Film Screening
- **Sunday, May 21, 10:30 am**—Chatham Square Memorial Service
- **Wednesday, May 24, 7:00 pm**—”Achdut in Action” Fleet Week Event

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For details go to: 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. | ***NO SESSION THIS MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY***

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* | ***NO CLASS THIS WEEK***
- ◇ **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. | Next Class April 26

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 to select which emails you’d like to receive.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hazak U'barukh to our member, **Scott Shay**, whose essay, "If You Only Read One Chapter of the Bible, Read This" was published in last week's Forward.