

(continued from back panel)

The beauty of our festivals is that they provide us with appointments in time to focus on our personal growth by concentrating on the core principles that matter most in our lives. They are *mikra'ei kodesh* — times that are to be declared sacred and held in reverence so that each member of the nation can engage in this national programme of self-fulfilment. Together with our Creator and our nation, we strive towards perfection.

Over the centuries, these sacred days have moulded us into a thinking, motivated, bold people who, despite the myriad setbacks and profound challenges, have emerged with remarkable fortitude and unmatched perseverance. For this reason, our *mo'adim* are joyous occasions in that they provide us access to life's greatest blessings. They are days that highlight the beauty of humanity's potential and encourage its glory. By celebrating them in this way, they become shining opportunities for us to live our lives to the fullest.

**Notice:** The 217th Annual Meeting of the Hebra Hased vaAmet will take place on Sunday evening, May 21st, at 7:00 PM in the Elias Room.

*Lag LaOmer* occurs this Sunday. “*Lag*” is a Hebrew letter acronym standing for the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the ‘*Omer*’ (the 49 day period between Passover and *Shavu'ot*.) Traditionally, the ‘*Omer*’ period has been a time of mourning associated with the defeat of the Bar Kokhba rebellion in 132 CE, the death of the students of Rabbi Akiba, or alternatively, the destruction of the Jewish communities on the Rhine river during the crusade of 1096. Medieval tradition has held the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the Omer as a minor holiday as a time when these tragedies ceased. Generally, Ashkenazim lift all signs of mourning on the 33<sup>rd</sup> day while Sephardim wait until the 34<sup>th</sup> day (*Lad laOmer*) to conclude this period of mourning.

#### 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).

#### 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, June 14 at 11:00 am**

#### The Seasons of Our Lives

Rabbi Dweck

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

Among the many commandments relating to *kohanim* and offerings in this parasha, it concludes with a full treatment of the festivals that we are commanded to keep. While many of them can be correlated with specific memorable events in our history, there is something deeper about our festivals that defines their purpose. Torah calls these days *mo'adim* meaning times that are set aside for a special purpose. There is something that we are not only meant to celebrate and commemorate on a *mo'ed*, but also something that we are meant to accomplish for ourselves. Each *mo'ed* is an opportunity for achievement in a fundamental area of our humanity. They are times that are meant to be consecrated with conscious intent in order to connect with G-d and engage in personal growth.

Each *mo'ed* mentioned in our parasha touches on another essential element of the human condition that requires our attention and care in order to ensure our success in life. They demand that we awaken and examine our lives and choices on Rosh HaShana, seek atonement on Yom Kippur, find happiness on Succot, achieve freedom on Pesah, and invest in Creation and its meaning on Shavuot. The *mo'adim* are meant to provide us with a pause for thought in our progression through time in order to afford us the opportunity to address these issues and to consider the progress we've made in each. All of the Torah's *mo'adim* include *yamim tovim*, days similar to Shabbat, in which we are commanded to refrain from creative work so that we might communicate with G-d and spend time acting upon these issues.

With each *mo'ed* there are exercises that help us to facilitate and enhance the purpose of the festival. On Rosh HaShana we blow the shofar in order to bring us to attention so that we might examine our choices and their consequences, on Yom Kippur we refrain from our daily human involvements so that we might focus on our souls and our perfection. Succot highlights the transience in life that creates the unique moments that allow our lives meaning and, therefore, bring us genuine happiness. Pesah brings our freedom to the forefront with a national narrative, while Shavuot focuses on our commitment to the Creation through agriculture and our commitment to discover its meaning through Torah.

The *mo'adim* of Israel are much more than holy days on which we are meant to pay tribute to G-d. They are more than the old joke suggests: “They tried to kill us, we were saved, let's eat!”



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

## Shabbat Emor

May 12-13, 2017

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 513 ; Haftarah p. 528  
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 610 ; Haftarah p. 1172

CANDLE LIGHTING | 7:45 pm

MINHAH | 6:45 pm

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a seminar on the topic “Immanuel Kant vs. Rabbi Akiva”

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 Jennifer Ash and Seth Haberman. Scotch Sponsor: the Suckewer family in honor of the 13th anniversary of Daniel's Bar Mitzvah*

SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic “The Caves of Plato and Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai” | 6:40 pm | Levy Auditorium | *Spring semester is sponsored anonymously in memory of Irma Cardozo*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 7:40 pm

HABDALAH | 8:44 pm

#### Weekday Service Times

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

### Carvalho's Journey Film Screening

Followed by a Talk-Back Session with Filmmaker,  
Steve Rivo, Featured Historian, Arlene Hirschfelder,  
Moderated by Sexton, Z. Edinger

This 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 (who is buried in Shearith Israel's Beth Olam cemetery). The

film chronicles his life as a groundbreaking adventurer, portrait painter, and photographer. \$5 members/\$8 non-members in advance. Walk-ins: \$10 per person.

Register at [shearithisrael.org/Carvalho](http://shearithisrael.org/Carvalho)

### 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

If you missed our recent historic visit to Monticello, you can still learn about and honor the Levy family and other Jewish patriots at this unique Shearith Israel event. 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).

### UJA's Fleet Week Pre-Memorial Day Community Program

Wednesday, May 24

Held at The Jewish Center, 131 West 86th St.

#### For Youth: Meet the Marines! Pizza with our Soldiers | 6:00 pm

Prior to the memorial day lecture, youth are invited to join US Color Guards and Soldiers for dinner and a short Q&A. To register, sponsor and for more information please contact [jennandgaby@jewishcenter.org](mailto:jennandgaby@jewishcenter.org).

#### For All: Honoring our Fallen Heroes Lecture | 6:30 pm

Hear from Jewish military leaders, including our own honorary trustee, Col. Jonathan de Sola Mendes and help create care packages for those serving abroad.

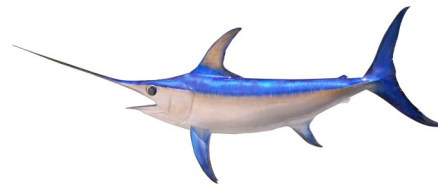
### Shabuot Public Lecture

*Time to Eat Swordfish?*

*A Deep Dive into a Fishy Halakhic Story*

Delivered by Rabbi Soloveichik

Tuesday, May 30, 11:30 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

Still a few small parts left! Volunteer now!

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 (teens included) 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 the their honor. To co-sponsor the Kiddush, go to [shearithisrael.org/girls-book-ruth-reading](http://shearithisrael.org/girls-book-ruth-reading).

### Graduation Kiddush and Scroll of Honor

Shabbat, June 17 | Following Morning Services

Let's spread the good news and celebrate the success and accomplishments of all our graduates from pre-school to PhDs! Go to [shearithisrael.org/graduation](http://shearithisrael.org/graduation) to ensure your graduate is listed on our scroll of honor that will be distributed on that shabbat. But even if you cannot attend, consider co-sponsoring our graduation kiddush for \$180 or just \$36.



## WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

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

*Sunday*

◇ **Saadiyah 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

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

*Condolences to David Vorchheimer on the passing of his father, Fred Vorchheimer.*

### Weekday Toddler Summer 'Camp'

June 20- August 17

Tuesdays and Thursday | 9:30-11:30 am

For children aged 16-33 months.

Includes outdoor play and a wading pool. Adult caregiver presence is

required. Register online at

[shearithisrael.org/summer-toddler-camp](http://shearithisrael.org/summer-toddler-camp).