

THE SISTERHOOD

Donate to the Sisterhood's Shabu'ot Decorating Efforts

Looking forward to the botanical splendor in our sanctuary on Shabuot? The Sisterhood makes that happen every year. Please consider making a donation to the Sisterhood in appreciation for all that they do. Go to shearithisrael.org/sisterhood to donate.

Sisterhood's Elsie Adlman Camp Fund

For many years the Sisterhood's Elsie Adlman Camp Fund has helped children and senior citizens, who could otherwise not do so, enjoy a Jewish summer experience outside the City. In this time of great economic need, it is more important than ever to be able to help change their lives for a month... a week... or even a day. Please help us by responding as generously as you can. Go to shearithisrael.org/sisterhood-elsie-adlman-camp-fund to donate.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tob to Ivan and Francesca Berkowitz, on the birth of a granddaughter to their children Adam and Chaya Berkowitz.

Mazal Tob to Ellen and Robert Kapito on the birth of a granddaughter.

Mazal Tob to Zander Lustig on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his parents, Rachel Brody and Segan, Michael Lustig.

Mazal Tob to Rev. Philip and Andrea Sherman upon the marriage of Nina Tova Sherman to Daniel Green of Sydney, Australia. The wedding is being held in Jerusalem.

Thank you to our scotch sponsor this week:
Jonathan de Sola Mendes

Sabato Morais' Praise of Shearith Israel Z. Edinger

This week we celebrate the anniversary of the consecration of our current synagogue building here on 70th street. The building was consecrated on Lag LaOmer, May 19, 1897. One year earlier, on May 20th, 1896, an address was delivered at the laying of the corner stone by the elderly Sabato Morais, minister of our sister synagogue, Mikveh Israel, in Philadelphia. Below are excerpts of that address, it is my hope that they ring as true today as they did back in 1896.

Fellow Israelites, who have so largely assembled upon an occasion of infrequent occurrence: *Jeremiah prophesied in the market places; Huldah in the midst of the women, and Zephaniah in the synagogue and houses of study.* ...Now, brethren, I have never learned through whose inspiration the name which this religious body bears [*Shearith Israel*] was received; but I surmise that the author of it had before his mind the comforting declaration of Zephaniah: "*The remnant of Israel shall not act perversely, nor speak lies, neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth.*"

Suffer me to deliver a plain talk. To me, it is quite indifferent whether the first rallying point of the oldest congregation in North America was Beaver Street or Mill Street, or any other spot in the city, ... What I have felt very eager to ascertain is, whether the congregation most venerable for its age deserves veneration for having maintained an honorable position amidst the largest community of Hebrews in this New World.

...I can say that this Shearith Israel has held aloft with befitting dignity the banner of the Jew. Most notably so, to my satisfaction, it has held up the standard of a genuine worship - a worship for the people by the people, that holy standard which the exiles of Spain and Portugal carried along from the Iberian peninsula and planted wherever they sought a domicile.

In my judgment, the firmness which the New York Shearith Israel has evinced in preserving that inherited heirloom unscathed, sheds thereupon lasting credit. By reason of it, I am emboldened to venture the opinion that Jeremiah would not point to that body, as backsliders; that Huldah might cite the demeanor of the congregation for having *resisted* influences of doubtful advantage, and that Zephaniah might feel disposed to alter his dictum and write: "*This remnant of Israel do not stray away from the ancestral path, nor act disloyally towards the prescribed injunctions of the days of yore.*"

Understand me clearly, my brethren in faith and in synagogue worship. Not simply because I was born and reared in the Sephardic school, have I spoken in this strain. There has been a period, during my unusually protracted service in the house of Israel, when I strenuously advocated a uniform Jewish liturgy among all Hebrew communities, through the length and breadth of this land. I earnestly desired to put an end to divisions of denominationalism. In a series of articles, I outlined a plan which all loyal to the Torah and to the Sages might have adopted. ... [But this plan failed and radical reforms spread, and..] I vowed in my heart of hearts never more ...will I barter away the formulary of prayers... for songs foreign to the synagogue. May my right hand forget her cunning if I so offend Gabirol, Judah Ha-Levi, the Aben Ezras, all that galaxy of Hebrew genius in our horizon during the medieval ages.

I cherish the conviction that you, members of the Shearith Israel, share my resolve. The prominence of the locality in which you lay to-day the foundation stone of a future synagogue, will not lure you into seductive schemes. You will prefer what recalls a splendid origin, a pious ancestry, to the fascination of dazzling innovations - the offspring of an all-conquering passion to imitate and attract Gentilism.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Behar May 27-28, 2016

Hertz Pentateuch: Torah Reading: p. 531; Haftarah: p. 539
Kaplan Living Torah: Torah Reading: p. 630; Haftarah: p. 1174

CANDLE LIGHTING | 7:59 pm

MINHAH | 6:45 pm

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Hidary will deliver a sermon on the topic "Jefferson, Jubilee, and the Original Game of Monopoly"

TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium

YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | NO YOUTH GROUPS THIS WEEK

JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY | Esther Hidary | 6:55 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidary home, 1 W 85th St Apt. 6A | NO CLASS THIS WEEK

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Hidary on the topic, "“Not in Heaven”: The Unexpurgated Story" | 6:55 pm | *Spring semester sponsored by Lewis Lipsey*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 7:55 pm

KETER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary

HABDALAH | 8:59 pm

70th Street Consecration Anniversary

The Shabbat after Lag LaOmer is the anniversary of the consecration of our current synagogue building on 70th street and CPW, which was completed and dedicated on Lag LaOmer in 1897, in time to open it to worshippers for Shabuot that year.

Our office will be closed this Monday, May 30th for Memorial Day. PTTs will NOT meet on Sunday. Rabbi Hidary's Sunday class will NOT meet. The toddler program will NOT meet on Monday.

Weekday Service Times

Morning: Sunday: 8:00 AM; Mon (Memorial Day) - 8:00 AM

Tues-Fri.: 7:15 AM

Evenings: Sunday – Thursday: 6:45 PM (Minhah & Arbit) (**new time**)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Calling all Veterans!

Shearith Israel is honored by our members’ long history of military service – going back to the Revolutionary War! We are currently updating our “honor roll” of veterans for our congregational records. If you or a family member are a veteran or are currently serving in: the United States Armed Services, the IDF, or other military organizations, we would like to know. Please contact Zachary Edinger at zedinger@shearithisrael.org. Additionally, if you are interested in learning about Shearith Israel’s revival of the “Sephardic Post” of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, please contact zedinger@shearithisrael.org.

Register now for PTTTS Hebrew School

Early bird pricing ends this Wednesday June 1

Polonies Talmud Torah School, provides children and teens, ages 3-16, with a substantive Jewish education in a positive and engaging environment. Register at shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool

Yom Yerushalayim at Shearith Israel

Sunday Morning, June 5 | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Following 8:00 am morning services, Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a special shiur in honor of Yom Yerushalayim.

Graduation Kiddush and Scroll of Honor

Saturday, June 11

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/graduation2016 by Wednesday, June 8 to ensure your graduate is listed on our scroll of honor. Even if you cannot attend, consider co-sponsoring our graduation kiddush for \$180 or just \$36.

Shabu`ot Public Lecture

When Jews Owned Slaves: An Often Untold Tale of History, Ritual and Jewish Law

Saturday Night, June 11 | 11:30 pm

Join us for what has become a popular Shabu`ot night tradition for the greater UWS and UES community. After the talk, guests are invited to mingle over cheesecake. Please consider sponsoring this lecture. Go to shearithisrael.org/shabuot-public-lecture.

Girls’ Megillat Ruth Reading

First day of Shabuot | Sunday, June 12

The girls of our synagogue recite Megillat Ruth for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. We hope you will attend and support our girls. We are seeking additional sponsors and contributors for the kiddush in honor of our girls. For more information, and to sponsor go to shearithisrael.org/girls-book-ruth-reading

Save the Date:

Indoor Picnic for Young Couples and Families

Saturday, July 2, 2016 | Following Morning Services

If you liked our young couples and families Mexican Fiesta, you’ll love this event! And if you missed our Mexican Fiesta, you’ll be sure to want to attend our indoor picnic. To join the committee and get involved in the planning, email slandau@shearithisrael.org.

Contribute to the PTTTS Hebrew School

Scholarship Fund

We offer many scholarships to ensure that all qualified applicants can receive a Jewish education. Please consider sponsoring a student for an academic year or semester or contributing to our Hebrew school scholarship fund with a tax deductible contribution of any amount. Go to shearithisrael.org/hebrew-school-scholarship-fund

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For details go to: shearithisrael.org/judaic-education

Tuesday

- ◇ **Rambam’s Mishneh Torah** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:45 am
- ◇ **Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought- A Class for Women** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am
- ◇ **Talmud Class: Tractate Rosh Hashana and the Philosophy of Jewish Time** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 8:00 pm | *Spring semester sponsored by Gregory Bell.*

Sunday

- ◇ **The Book of Kings** | Rabbi Hidary | 8:40 am | NO CLAS THIS WEEK
- ◇ **Saadia Gaon’s Book of Beliefs and Opinions** | Sjimon den Hollander | 9:30 am | AT 8:40 am THIS WEEK

Don't let us go dry.

Be a scotch or arak sponsor. To sponsor or contribute go to shearithisrael.org/scotch-and-arak-sponsorships

Please consider sponsoring a semester or a class. Go to: shearithisrael.org/sponsoraclass

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, June 15 at 11:00 am