

Annual Chatham Square Memorial Service

Chatham Square Cemetery | 55 St. James Place
Memorial Day, Monday, May 28 | 10:30 am

This Memorial Day, join us at our Chatham Square Cemetery, the first Jewish cemetery in the United States, to honor members of our congregation who participated in the Revolutionary War. This unique ceremony includes the participation of a color guard, special presentations and memorial prayers, and the decoration of the graves of Revolutionary War veterans with American flags. Veterans are encouraged to attend in uniform!

This year's ceremony is dedicated to the memory of our past Parnas, Dr. Dennis Freilich, Lt. Commander US Navy, whose participation always enhanced the dignity of this very special event.

To register (and sign up for transportation), visit shearithisrael.org/memorial-day-chatham-square.

We are proud of the patriotic contributions of our members who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and keep an honor roll going back to the American Revolution. We are also proud of our congregants who have participated in the defense of the State of Israel. **Please let us know if you are a veteran of the American Armed Forces or the IDF by emailing zedinger@shearithisrael.org.**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tob to **Rabbi Steven Nemetz** on the birth of a grandson to children Osnat and Ari Nemetz of Toronto.

Mazal Tob to **Gail Propp**, for being chosen as the honoree at Keren Or's Women's Division Gala Spring Luncheon. The Luncheon will be held at Park East Synagogue on Wednesday, May 2. To attend or sponsor, visit tinyurl.com/gailproppgala.

Mazal Tob to **Dr. Nicole Schreiber Agus** upon being honored on May 14 at Nishmat's 28th Anniversary Gala Dinner. Shearith Israel is a proud partner of Nishmat in our Yoetzet Halakha Initiative. To honor Nicole and support Nishmat, visit nishmatgala.org.

Our next public tour
is **Wednesday,**
May 9 at
11:00 AM

Meet with Our Parnas
Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you. Please schedule a visit by email: parnas@shearithisrael.org.

DEBAR TORAH: WHAT CAN SHABBAT TEACH US ABOUT FESTIVALS?

— JONATHAN WEINSTEIN —

In the middle of this week's *parasha*, we find all the festivals being discussed. Starting from Chapter 23, the first few sentences give the introduction to all of the festivals, and then another introduction is given right away at 23:4. The first introduction is peculiar, as it mentions Shabbat. Why does Shabbat need to be mentioned now, and why the double introduction to the festivals? Another apparent issue with our introduction is the double language of Shabbat being a day of *complete* rest—a phrase normally reserved for Kippur.

The Vilna Gaon explains that this first introduction is not talking about Shabbat. Shabbat is a day which *God* made holy; we, the Jewish people, do not proclaim Shabbat as a day of holiness the way it says in our first introduction. Rather the first introduction is indeed an introduction to the festivals, which we are responsible for consecrating, and nothing to do with Shabbat.

One way of reading this introduction is as follows: If we are to look through the *parasha* and count how many days of festivals we have, we find we have 6 days. We have the first day of Passover and the last day of Passover (2), one day of Shabuot (3), Rosh HaShana (4), and then we have the first day of Succot (5) plus Shemini Hag Atsereth for a total of 6 days of festivals. These are in fact the 6 days mentioned in the introduction as days for work—because work that pertains to food is permitted on these days. Then on the seventh day of festivals it has to be a day of complete rest, Kippur.

Why does the Torah do this? To give us a Shabbat-like introduction when it's not really talking about Shabbat?

When it comes to Shabbat and the Festivals, they are very similar days and we tend to approach them in the same way. My Rebbe explained that we should indeed approach Shabbat and the Festivals in a similar way. However, Shabbat has inherited holiness from Hashem, whereas when it comes to the Festivals, we need to declare them holy. The Torah is teaching us that we should take some of that declaration from the Festivals and apply it to Shabbat as well. That we shouldn't just sit back and do nothing, but rather, we should actively endow the day with holiness. And when it comes to the Festivals, how should we make them holy? By modeling the day on Shabbat. We learn from Shabbat how to create holiness for the Festivals.

Jonathan Weinstein is a student at Yeshiva University and a member of our ongoing Habruta (Paired Learning) Program with Rabbi Yanetz.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Emor May 4-5, 2018

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

CANDLE LIGHTING | 7:37 pm

MINHAH & ARBIT | 6:30 pm | Main Sanctuary

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "The Lord of the Sabbath and the Lord of the Rings" | 2017-2018 season sponsored by the Julis family.

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

TOT SHABBAT WITH LIZ AND SHANADE | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am
| Fidanque Youth Room

YOUTH GROUPS WITH RACHEL | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room

JUNIOR CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 | Little Synagogue

LECTURE | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | "The Extraordinary, Unappreciated Origins of the Israeli Flag"

Second in a Three-Part Series on *Israel At 70*

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

SHABBAT AFTERNOON PIRKEI ABOT SHIUR | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

| 6:30 pm "Rabbi Yaakov's Stairway to Heaven" | Levy Auditorium

MINHAH & ARBIT | 7:30 pm

HABDALAH | 8:36 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

Sunday: 8:00 am

Monday-Friday: 7:15 am

Evenings:

Sunday-Thursday (Minhah & Arbit): 6:30 pm

Israel At 70

A 3-Part Lecture Series

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

PART TWO: This Shabbat Morning, May 5

“The Extraordinary, Unappreciated Origins
of the Israeli Flag”

The final installment of this series will be Rabbi Soloveichik’s

Shabuot Public Lecture

Saturday Night, May 19 | 11:00 pm

After the talk, guests are encouraged to enjoy some
cheesecake!

Visit shearithisrael.org/shabuot-public-lecture to sponsor
this culminating lecture:

Sponsor: \$180 • Contributor: \$36

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: THURSDAY, MAY 31

Don't forget to sign me up!

Shearith Israel Toddler

Summer Camp

June 19-August 16

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30-11:30am

1 AND 2 DAY OPTIONS AVAILABLE,

PLUS OUR NEW 50-MINUTE MINI-SESSION OPTION

For ages 16-34 months | Caregiver attendance required

Join our wonderfully fun and educational Toddler Summer
Camp, held in the new Fidanque Youth Room, with pool time
on our Portico. Led by the marvelous Liz Rios.

To learn more and apply, visit [shearithisrael.org/
toddlerprogram](http://shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram).



RESCHEDULED:

Laura Arnold Leibman Lecture

Monday, May 14 | 7:00 pm

The midweek lecture from our Visiting Scholar, Dr. Laura
Arnold Leibman, has been rescheduled for Monday, May 14.

The topic is *Sephardic Country Houses*.

Professor Leibman will introduce people to the entrancing world
of Jewish country houses with elegant examples of the beautiful
Jewish country houses built along the Vecht River in Holland.

2018 Graduation Kiddush

Shabbat, June 23 | Following Morning Services

Let's spread the good news and celebrate the success and
accomplishments of all our graduates from pre-school to PhDs!

Visit shearithisrael.org/graduation to ensure that we can
properly list and congratulate your graduate(s). Even if you cannot
attend, consider co-sponsoring our graduation kiddush for
\$180 or just \$36.

SUBWAY STATION CLOSURE

May-October 2018

Starting May 7, the 72nd Street station on the B/C line (including our 70th
Street entrance) will be closed in both directions for renovations. The stations
will reopen in October.

During these station closures, please consider the following alternatives:

- Use the nearby B/C stations at 81st and 59th Streets.
- Use the M7 and M11 buses on Columbus Avenue.
- Use the nearby 1/2/3 station on Broadway and 72nd

To learn more, please visit mta.info or call 511.

Book Talk: Aryeh Green, author of the newly released
My Israel Trail: Finding Peace in the Promised Land

Wednesday, May 23 | 7:00 PM

After his devastating divorce, which rocked his world and
confounded his deeply-held optimism, Aryeh Green's goal was to
get his life back on track. His hike along The Israel National Trail
(*Shvil Yisrael*) enabled the discovery of a number of universal
truths for living based on Jewish tradition.

Accompanied by photos and videos.

Consecration Shabbat

This Shabbat is the anniversary of the consecration of our
present synagogue building here on 70th Street. The building
was consecrated on Lag L'Omer - May 19, 1897. We
commemorate the consecration of our synagogues with a
semi-festive service. The Ark is open during much of the
service and the Torah scrolls are dressed in festive colors.
The beautiful poem *Todot El* (p. 342) is sung before *Nishmat*,
and special blessings and memorial prayers are recited before
the reading of the Torah.

SAVE THE DATE

Young Couples and Families Picnic on the Portico

Shabbat, June 9 | Following Morning Services

Who wants to worry about the weather getting in the way of
their picnic lunch? Not us! This year's end-of-year picnic will
be held at the synagogue, where we can enjoy our protected,
park-facing Portico as well as the Elias Room. Fun for the kids
and a rabbi's lecture for the adults will keep everyone happy
while we all enjoy a picnic-inspired menu.

Registration coming soon.

SHEARITH ISRAEL IS A PROUD CO-SPONSOR OF

Happier Together:

A CommUnity Conversation with Tal Ben-Shahar
at The Temple Emanu-El Streicker Center, 10 East 66th St
Tuesday, June 12 | 7:00 PM

Tal Ben-Shahar will share his unique insights into the
importance of happiness and positivity within our communi-
ties as well as his experiences living in both America and Israel.

Tal Ben-Shahar teaches positive psychology at Harvard, and
has also authored several books, including New York Times
Bestseller *Happier*.

To register, visit shearithisrael.org/happier.