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CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

PROGRAM GUIDE



*America's First Jewish Congregation*

# THE NEXT CHAPTER

Meir Y. Soloveichik, *Rabbi*

*“Part of the privilege of serving as the Rabbi of Shearith Israel is being part of an extraordinary team. Along with the incredible synagogue clergy and staff that you know and love, we are all already benefitting from Rabbi Richard Hidary joining as our Distinguished Rabbinic Fellow. His intellect and warmth will greatly enhance the learning and prayer in which we will engage in the year to come. May it be a year of spiritual and intellectual growth for us all.”*

— MEIR SOLOVEICHIK



***“The past is our heritage, the present our responsibility, the future our challenge. We come to our rendezvous with the future offering our heritage as a legacy for the days to come. This book is dedicated to the future in Shearith Israel. In a profound sense it is dedicated to the men, women, and children who will carry on after us. A hundred years hence, when the congregation turns to the celebration of its quadricentennial, may they find that its fourth century will have been a fulfillment of purpose to which the first three hundred years have been an introduction, and may they know in their hearts then, as we know today, that the past is everlasting.”***

So wrote Dr. Pool 60 years ago, in his preface to “An Old Faith in a New World.” These words, composed by one of my many extraordinary predecessors, reverberate through my mind as I walk in our synagogue’s hallowed halls, and as I catch my breath stepping into our sanctuary. Heeding Pirkei Abot’s admonition that “all of your actions are recorded in a book,” I am ever aware of the privilege and responsibility of serving as Rabbi and Minister to our congregation as we begin a new chapter in our story. This program guide, produced through the amazing efforts of our synagogue staff, embodies how we can write this new chapter in continuity with our ever-present past: preserving,

cherishing and celebrating our matchless minhag, while simultaneously reflecting, as a vibrant, flourishing, Modern Orthodox community, the dazzling intellectual and spiritual diversity of Judaism, the faith that since 1654 has found such a blessed home in the United States of America.

In the nineteenth century, the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow visited an American Jewish cemetery. “The very names recorded here are strange,” he reflected, “Of foreign accent, and of different climes; / Alvares and Rivera interchange / With Abraham and Jacob of old times.” Longfellow then ponders the miraculous endurance of this “Old Faith in a New World,” and intuitively that our secret lies in our joining Jewish memory with our simultaneous faith in the future:

*Pride and humiliation hand in hand.  
Walked with them through the world where’er they went;  
Trampled and beaten were they as the sand,  
And yet unshaken as the continent.*

*For in the background figures vague and vast  
Of patriarchs and of prophets rose sublime,  
And all the great traditions of the Past  
They saw reflected in the coming time.*

As we write the next chapter in the extraordinary book that is Shearith Israel, may we fulfill our obligation to the past by charting a destiny worthy of our history.

# WELCOME MESSAGE

Rabbi Dr. Richard Hidary, *Distinguished Rabbinic Fellow*



Dear Friends,

It is with great excitement and humility that I join the leadership of Congregation Shearith Israel along with Rabbi Soloveichik, with whom I have already become very close. We have hit

the ground running with a summer full of events, a trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a lecture by the futurist Professor David Passig, and other programs and classes.

I was privileged to participate in the most beautiful and inspiring Tisha B'Ab services that I have ever experienced. I have already met so many warm people at Shabbat kiddush, weekday services, and meet and greets and I look forward to getting to know everyone better.

This congregation not only maintains deep and meaningful historic roots but also continues to be a model synagogue leading the Jewish world into the future. Rabbi Marc Angel and Rabbi Hayyim Angel have built this congregation according to the vision of our great Sephardic luminaries

like the Rambam who taught a Judaism of commitment, compassion, inclusiveness and inspiration. I hope to continue in their path and strengthen our community with these values.

This congregation has been uniquely successful in exemplifying the beauty of our liturgy and lore, in instilling Jewish identity and pride, and in also being active in the wider world. I pray that God help us live up to these ideals as we continue to build for the next generation and that our community should go from strength to strength.

Our talented staff has worked hard to put together a remarkable set of programs for this upcoming year. This program guide speaks for itself. I hope you will bring your families and friends, commit to participating in our classes and prayer services, and join the vibrancy and enthusiasm that is Shearith Israel.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year,

—RABBI RICHARD HIDARY

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# TERMINOLOGY

**ARBIT** Evening prayer service

**ACOMPANHAR** To follow a scroll of the Torah in its procession to and from the Ark

**AMIDAH** Standing. The principal prayer of each service, recited standing

**AZHAROTH** Ethical injunctions. A poetic summary of the 613 commandments in the Pentateuch, composed by Solomon ibn Gabirol

**BANCO, BANCA** Seat, bench, reserved in synagogue for the president or vice-president

**BENDIGAMOS** Let us bless. Opening thematic word of a song sung at table after a meal

**BERAKHAH** Blessing

**BET MIDRASH** Study hall

**EKHAH** Book of Lamentations

**ESNOGA** Synagogue

**GAVETA** Box or drawer under a seat for holding prayer books, a prayer shawl, etc.

**GENIZAH** Place of putting away, where outworn scrolls of the Torah and other holy objects are set aside

**HABDALAH** Blessings ending the Sabbath

**HAKAFOT** Circular procession around the Tebah

**HALAKHAH** Jewish law

**HASCABAH** Memorial prayer. The prayer recited in memory of the dead

**HAZZAN** Cantor

**HEHAL** Ark where Torah scrolls are housed

**HESED** Proactive acts of kindness

**HOL HAMOED** Intermediate days of a holiday (e.g. days three to six for Pesah)

**KABBALAT SHABBAT** Service welcoming the Sabbath

**KIPPUR** Day of Atonement

**LEVANTADOR** The one who lifts up the scroll of the Torah

**MEGILLAH** A scroll that opens from one side (e.g. Scroll of Esther)

**MINHAH** Afternoon prayer service

**MINHAG** Custom or set of customs

**MISHLOAH MANOT** Gifts of food traditionally sent on Purim

**MUSAF** Additional prayer service on Sabbath and Festival mornings

**NAHALAH** The anniversary of a relative's death

**PARNAS** President of a congregation

**SEUDAH SHELISHIT** Third meal of the Sabbath

**SHAHARIT** Morning prayer service

**SHIBAH** The seven days of severe mourning following a burial of a close relative

**TAHARAH** The ritual preparation of a corpse for burial

**TEBAH** Reader's desk from which services are led

**YAMIM TOBIM** Holidays including Rosh Hashanah, Kippur, Succot, Shemini Hag Atseret, Simhat Torah, Pesah and Shabuot

# JUDAIC LEARNING

## SUNDAY

### *Jewish Thought through Aggadah*

**Rabbi Richard Hidary**  
**8:40–9:40 am**

This class will delve in the worldview of Hazal as presented in the Talmud and Midrash. We will cover the topics of predestination and fate versus freewill, forgiveness and repentance, suffering and punishment, reward and afterlife, marriage versus learning Torah, the evil inclination and the reasons for the commandments. For each topic we will analyze selected texts from the Talmud and Midrashim in order to survey the range of opinions on each topic as well as appreciate the literary devices and arguments used in making each case. We will also trace the backgrounds of these opinions in Tanakh and in Second Temple literature as well look forward to how some Rishonim dealt with the Talmudic sources.

### *The Book of Beliefs and Opinions: The Unity of God*

**Sjimon den Hollander**  
**9:40–10:40 am**

*The Book of Beliefs and Opinions (Emunot V'Deot)*, was the first serious attempt to synthesize the Jewish tradition with philosophical teachings since Philo (about 900 years earlier). It was written by Saadia Gaon (882–942), the head of the Academy of Sura in Baghdad. This year the class will focus on the subject of the unity of God.

## *Hebrew Classes*

**10:00–11:00 am**

Hebrew courses are \$75 and include a light breakfast. Sessions include 7 classes. Registration required. For questions contact Rabbi Shalom Morris.

**Level I:** Learn the Hebrew alphabet and the basics of Hebrew reading.

**Level II:** Improve reading fluency and begin to focus on comprehension.

**Level III:** Develop Hebrew vocabulary and reading comprehension skills.

## FALL

October 20–December 8  
(except December 1)

## WINTER

February 2–March 30  
(except February 16 and March 16)

## SPRING

May 4–June 22  
(except May 25)

— *continued* —



*Learning happens in classrooms, in batei midrash, and sanctuaries. It also happens in homes, in coffee shops, and on street corners. We learn from teachers and rabbis but we also learn from friends, children, and strangers. We learn as children; we learn as adults. Learning happens in many contexts and all stages of life and levels of Jewish literacy. We offer intellectual opportunities for students of all levels to engage with Jewish texts and topics, with our rabbis, teachers and each other. Our lectures, classes, and study groups are led by exceptional rabbinic scholars and experts who are here to teach us and foster a community of learners.*



## JUDAIC LEARNING *continued*

### MONDAY

#### *Bet Midrash*

7:00–9:00 pm

#### FALL

October 7–November 25

#### WINTER

January 6–March 3  
(except February 17)

#### SPRING

March 17–June 2  
(except April 14, April 21 and May 5)

The Bet Midrash program, under the leadership of Rabbi Richard Hidary, features high-level textual learning in small groups that will encourage active participation and involvement. Rabbi Hidary and other visiting faculty lead discussion groups on a wide range of topics for all ages and levels.

#### *Rambam's Guide of the Perplexed*

Rabbi Richard Hidary

7:00–8:00 pm

A close textual reading of the most important work of Jewish philosophy on topics of prophecy, providence, and the reasons of the commandments. Visit our website or join our email list to view information on other classes, instructors, and new groups.

#### **Updated! *Jewish Rhythms***

Rabbi Shalom Morris

7:15 – 8:15 pm

**Beginning October 7**

The Jewish day, year and life cycle collectively aid in the creation of a holistic and compelling Jewish lifestyle. Explore both the thought that forms the basis of these elements and the practices that bring them to fruition. The course is ideal for those seeking a greater understanding of Judaism, increasing their religious observance or actively pursuing conversion. Newcomers are welcome throughout the year.

#### *Jewish International Connection of NY (JICNY) Learning*

7:00–9:15 pm

Start the work week off with a drink, a bite to eat, new friends, and stimulating Jewish thought with fellow young professionals. Steve Eisenberg shares inspiration from the weekly Torah portion from 7:00–8:15 pm.

Rabbi Shalom Morris joins the group at 8:30 pm to discuss Jewish perspectives on hot topics such as organ donation, land for peace and stem cell research.

\$5 per person includes refreshments and both classes.



## TUESDAY

### *Hellenism and Hebraism: Reading the Rabbis on the Background of Greco-Roman Culture*

**Rabbi Richard Hidary**  
**Midtown Offices at 5:00 pm**

The Talmud and Midrash include thousands of Greek words as well as allusions to Greek mythology, fables, institutions, and ideas. We will study how the Rabbis adopted many Greek ideas they found helpful, adapted others to suit their worldview, and rejected still others as wrong and dangerous. This confrontation between the two great traditions of Biblical Hebraism with Greek Hellenism has had a major impact on both cultures and their after-effects are still felt today.

Please contact Rabbi Hidary for notifications about this class.

### *Shiur: Masekhet Kiddushin and the Jewish Philosophy of Family*

**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**  
**8:00 pm**

This *shiur* will combine both conceptual *lomdut* (analysis) with Jewish philosophy in the study of the Talmudic tractate delineating the laws of Jewish marriage and family life. Sources will include classical commentaries as well as *Family Redeemed*, Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik's philosophical reflections on marriage and the raising of children. This class can be attended both by those with Talmudic background as well as those with less textual experience but with a deep interest in what Jewish thought has to teach us about what it means, for example, to be husband and wife, father, and mother.

## WEDNESDAY

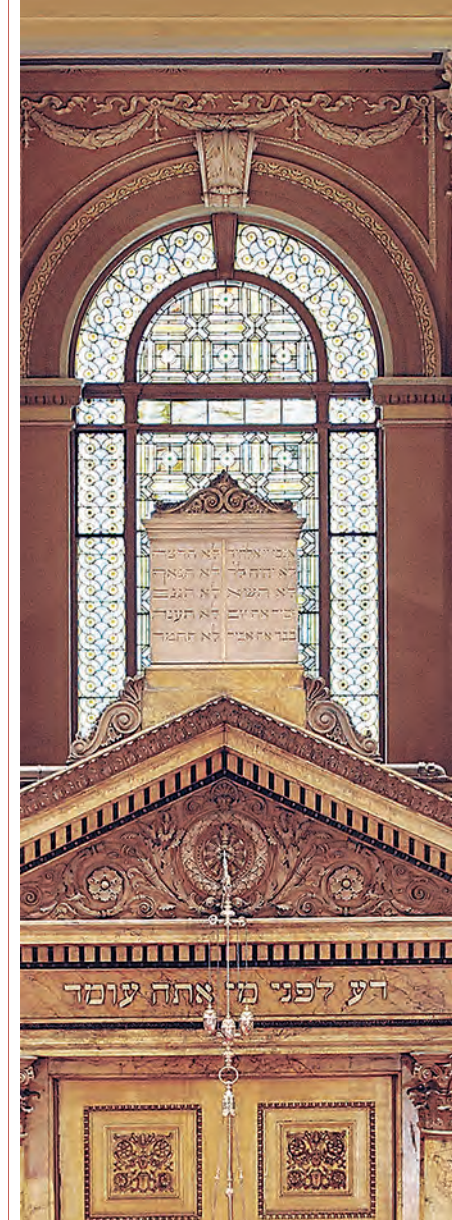
### *Tefillah Skills Workshop*

**Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde**  
**7:00–8:00 pm**

October 2, 9, 16, 23  
November 6, 13, 20

This mini-course is open to adults and older children who want to learn to follow and lead musical parts of the Spanish & Portuguese service. The exact curriculum will be tailored to the students' interests. Hebrew reading ability is prerequisite. The class is held in our beautiful Main Sanctuary and is open to both men and women.

— continued —





Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks



Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter



Leon Wieseltier



Dr. Christine Hayes

## JUDAIC LEARNING *continued*

### SHABBAT LEARNING

From special public seminars delivered by our clergy and world-renowned guest scholars to intimate classes over light kiddushim, we offer a wide variety of learning opportunities on each and every Shabbat. View all our Shabbat learning offerings on page 13.

#### *Shakespeare and Shiur*

Rabbi Soloveichik will present three lectures over the course of the year that will illuminate Jewish and Halakhic themes through an exploration of Shakespeare's plays. See page 14 for details.

#### *The Misunderstood Masterpiece: A New Approach to Pirkei Abot*

##### **Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

Weekly Shabbat afternoon *shiur* re-examining *Pirkei Abot* to discover the unique life story and worldview of its rabbinic sources. See page 16 for details.

### GUEST SCHOLARS

#### *An Evening with Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks*

**Wednesday, October 23**

Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks visits Shearith Israel in a major public event. It is sure to be an unforgettable evening with Jewish Orthodoxy's most prominent public intellectual and one of the most sophisticated voices of faith in the world today. Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks was Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth from 1991 to 2013. Author of 24 books, holding 15 honorary degrees and recognized with numerous awards and prizes, Lord Rabbi Sacks was conferred a Doctor of Divinity by the Archbishop of Canterbury, awarded the Jerusalem Prize in 1995, and knighted by Her Majesty the Queen in 2005.

#### *Rabbi J.J. Schacter*

##### **Date to be announced**

Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter is Professor of Jewish History and Jewish Thought and Senior Scholar at the Center for the Jewish Future at Yeshiva University. Dr. Schacter holds a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages from Harvard University and received rabbinic ordination from Mesivta Torah Vodaath. From 1981-2000, he served as the Rabbi of The Jewish Center in New York City, moving the congregation from 180 to over 600 members over the course of his tenure. He also presently serves as a member of the faculty of The Wexner Foundation and The Wexner Heritage Foundation.



### ***Leon Wieseltier***

#### **Date to be announced**

Leon Wieseltier has been the literary editor of the New Republic since 1983. Wieseltier was born in Brooklyn in 1952. He has attended the Yeshiva of Flatbush, Columbia University, Oxford University, and Harvard University. His books include *Nuclear War, Nuclear Peace* (1983), *Against Identity* (1996) and *Kaddish* (1998)—part-memoir, part-cultural history, in which Wieseltier traces the history of the Jewish prayer for the dead after losing his father. He also translates modern Hebrew poetry into English. In June 2013, he received the Dan David Prize for his “outstanding contribution to humanity” in the field of Ideas, Public Intellectuals and Contemporary Philosophers.

### ***Professor Christine Hayes***

#### **Date to be announced**

Dr. Christine Hayes is Professor of Religious Studies in Classical Judaica at Yale University. She holds a BA from Harvard University and a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. Her first book, entitled *Between the Babylonian and Palestinian Talmuds* (Oxford University Press, 1997) was honored with a Salo Baron prize for a first book in Jewish thought and literature, awarded by the American Academy for Jewish Research (1999). Her second book, *Gentile Impurities and Jewish Identities: Intermarriage and Conversion from the Bible to the Talmud* (Oxford University Press, 2002) was a 2003 National Jewish Book Award finalist. Hayes is currently completing a fifth book, entitled *What's so Divine about Divine Law?*



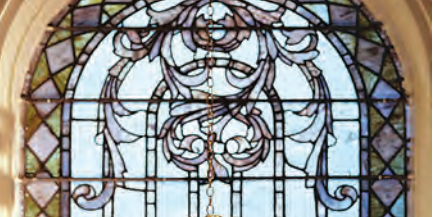
### ***Installation of Our New Rabbi, Meir Y. Soloveichik***

#### **Sunday, November 24**

*Join us for what is certain to be an extraordinary and memorable event: the installation of our new rabbi as the tenth Minister of our congregation since the American Revolution. In Rabbi Soloveichik's honor we look forward to hearing from several esteemed Jewish leaders as well as a keynote address by Rabbi Soloveichik.*

*In 1789 George Washington issued the first Presidential Thanksgiving Day Proclamation, and that year the Hazzan of Shearith Israel, Gershom Mendes Seixas, delivered what was the first Thanksgiving sermon in a synagogue. Thanksgiving is therefore always a special day for our congregation, but this year we will mark the only time in American Jewish history that Thanksgiving will coincide with the celebration of Hanukkah. In honor of this serendipitous occasion, Rabbi Soloveichik will examine the often missed link between these two celebrations, and how Jewish conceptions of Hanukkah actually played a vital role in the original congressional debate regarding the propriety of a national day of Thanksgiving. The lecture will draw on the matchless history of our congregation, as well as sermons and ritual objects from the Independence era of our synagogue. Join as we celebrate Shearith Israel's glorious past and chart a destiny worthy of its history.*

*To discuss major sponsorship opportunities, please contact Barbara Reiss.*



*Daily communal Prayer is the backbone of synagogue life. Weekday services are conducted every morning and evening in our beautiful and historic Little Synagogue. Through their daily use, the furniture and furnishings of this space, many of which date back to 1730, connect us physically with our history and tradition. Attendees of weekday services do not merely help ensure minyan for those reciting kaddish but are enriched by the powerful bonds of friendship formed through communal prayer. Please join us for this important mitzvah.*

## WEEKDAY SERVICES

### MORNING SERVICES (SHAHRIK)

**Monday–Friday, 7:15 am**

**Sunday and National Holidays, 8:00 am**

### AFTERNOON/EVENING SERVICES (MINHAH/ARBIT)

**Sunday–Thursday**

August 25–September 24

Minhah/Arbit, 6:30 pm

September 29–October 10

Minhah/Arbit, 6:15 pm

October 13–October 17

Minhah/Arbit, 6:00 pm

October 20–October 31

Minhah/Arbit, 5:45 pm

November 3–February 27

Arbit only, 6:30 pm

March 2–March 6

Minhah/Arbit, 5:45 pm

March 9–May 29

Minhah/Arbit, 6:30 pm

June 1–July 24

Minhah/Arbit, 6:45 pm

July 27–September 23

Minhah/Arbit, 6:30 pm

### TUESDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS

Join us for breakfast every Tuesday after morning services sponsored by our member Chaim Katzap.

אשרינו שאנו משכימים ומעריבים בבתי כנסיות  
ובתי מדרשות ומייחדים שמך בכל יום תמיד.

*Happy are we when we attend, morning and evenings, at synagogues and study halls, and proclaim the unity of God each day.*

# SHABBAT

## *Services*

### KABBALAT SHABBAT AND SHIUR BY RABBI SOLOVEICHIK AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Shabbat evening is one of the most magical moments at Shearith Israel. As the sun sets, we enter our extraordinary sanctuary in the glow of flickering candle lights surrounding the *tebah*. Rising from our seats with the choir's call, we experience the onset of Shabbat following a tradition of communal song and prayer as old and authentic as that of the Kabbalists of Sixteenth Century Tsfat, yet one that incorporates the special traditions of the Western Sephardic tradition as practiced in America for centuries as well.

We celebrate the essence of Kabbalat Shabbat: the coronation of a Queen, and the wedding between Israel and its bride. Our communal song and prayer are transporting, linking Heaven and Earth, Jewish past, present and future.

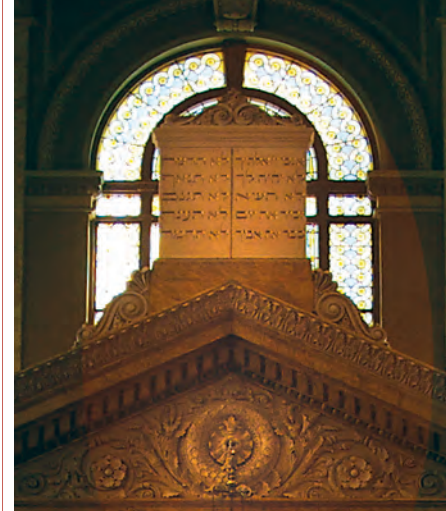
This year, our Friday Evening Services will be followed by a brief talk by Rabbi Soloveichik. These short *shiurim* will reflect on the nature of Shabbat, the beauty and depth of its prayers, and how the larger worldview it embodies has sustained Israel throughout the ages.

Each talk can be attended individually, and will build on each other in a way that will provide added continuity and depth for regular attendees.

We are told by the Talmud that each Jew is accompanied home from synagogue by angels on Shabbat eve; and the meaning, perhaps, is that we are meant to bring the ethereal experience of the Shabbat service back to our own homes.

Our goal this year at Shearith Israel, with an unparalleled setting and service, is to help create this bridge through both *tefillah* and Torah: to greet the Sabbath Queen in God's home, and then thereby to make the Sabbath Queen at home in ours.

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# SHABBAT

## *Services (continued)*

### ***Friday Evening Services (Minhah/Arbit)***

Please visit our website or consult the synagogue bulletin for service times.

### ***Shabbat Morning***

#### **Zemirot, 8:15 am**

(July and August, 8:30 am)

#### **Shahrit, 9:00 am**

(July and August, 9:15 am)

Men interested in reading Zemirot or a Haftarah, please contact Rabbi Ira Rohde.

## LEARNERS' SERVICES

### ***Abridged Learners' Service***

#### **9:45 am–10:45 am in the Little Synagogue**

September 7–August 2  
(Except September 21, October 12, November 30,  
December 21, January 18, February 15, April 19,  
May 24, July 5)

“Eat, Pray, Learn” in an inviting atmosphere geared toward those new to full Shabbat services. This abridged Shabbat morning service, kiddush and study

session is an invigorating beginning to your Shabbat mornings. Learn the prayers, meet friends and gain insight and inspiration with Rabbi Shalom Morris.

### ***Full Learners' Service***

#### **9:45 am–11:30 am in the Little Synagogue**

October 19, December 7, March 8, May 17

On these occasions our Learners' Service is expanded to include an abridged Torah service as well as Musaf and the concluding service. We join afterwards for a social kiddush luncheon in the Elias Room accompanied by explanations of the customs, rituals, songs and prayers of Shabbat meals. \$20 per person.

## SHABBAT MINHAH/ARBIT

Please visit our website or consult the synagogue bulletin for service times.

## SHABBAT YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Children are welcomed on Shabbat with a variety of programs, including child care, Shabbat groups and Junior Congregation. Details of these programs can be found in the Youth Programs section beginning on page 32.

## KIDDUSH FUND

The congregational kiddush is an opportunity for congregants and visitors to socialize and mingle after services, humbly serving an important congregational function. Light kiddushim are held weekly throughout the year. More substantial kiddush luncheons are enjoyed approximately once a month, in honor of special congregational events such as guest scholars, women's and teen services, and other occasions.

Sponsoring a kiddush is a beautiful way to pay tribute to a loved one, celebrate a birthday, anniversary, graduation, a personal accomplishment, or a ritual honor. It is also a great way to foster community—facilitating fellow congregants to catch up with friends, meet new members and guests, and greet synagogue leaders.

### *Kiddush Sponsorship Opportunities:*

Light cold kiddush	\$400
Light warm kiddush	\$1,000
Kiddush luncheon	\$2,000

### *Please Accept Our Appreciation with Special Recognition*

Kiddush Sponsors are recognized in the Shabbat Handout (print and electronic) and our beautiful quarterly bulletins. Multiple sponsors are encouraged for any given kiddush, this helps provide for kiddushim throughout the year, even on weeks when there is no sponsor. Contributions at lower amounts are welcome in addition to the sponsorship levels. These donors will be recognized as Kiddush Fund Contributors in the Shabbat Handout (print and electronic) and The Bulletin.



# SHABBAT

## *Special Lectures*

### FRIDAY NIGHT POST-ARBIT TALKS

During the colder months, when the evenings are long, join our rabbi for inspiration and stimulation before returning home for Shabbat dinner. Join our email list or consult our website for up-to-date information.

### SHABBAT SEMINARS BY OUR CLERGY

Shearith Israel is blessed with a stellar clergy who bring depth of knowledge and passion on a wide variety of topics. In addition to our regular Shabbat sermons delivered before Musaf, our rabbis occasionally deliver a public seminar immediately following Morning Services on the lower level of the Main Sanctuary. These special lectures are typically followed by a kiddush luncheon. See page 12 to learn about supporting our Kiddush Fund.

We are excited to present a preview of some of the topics to be presented this year (dates provided when available; check weekly emails and website for up-to-date information):

### ***The History and Afterlife of Jewish Lawyers (a two-part series)***

**Rabbi Richard Hidary**

*Part 1—Roman Lawyers and Rabbinic Layers in the Talmudic Halakhah*

*Part 2—Why are there Lawyers in Heaven: Aggadot of the Divine Court*

### ***Sephardim, Ashkenazim and The Halakhic History of the Turkey***

**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**  
**Saturday, November 23**

This pre-Thanksgiving lecture is delivered in anticipation of our Thanksgiving celebrations at Shearith Israel and with our families.

### ***Hobbit and Hebrews: The Biblical Writing of JRR Tolkien***

**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**  
**Saturday, December 21**

This lecture will get us in the mood for a Motzei Shabbat screening with discussion of *The Hobbit* at Shearith Israel, one installation in our “Faith and Film” series.



## ***Shakespeare and Shiur***

**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

(A seminar Series to be held on Shabbatot throughout the year.)

Rabbi Soloveichik will present three lectures over the course of the year that will illuminate Jewish or halakhic themes through an exploration of Shakespeare's plays.

## **Shabbat Dinner and Lecture Series Launch**

**November 8:** *What if Shylock Went to Bet Din? The Merchant of Venice Revisited*

**(Date to be announced)** *Hamlet and Halakha: a Tale of Murder, Mystery and Talmudic Law*

## **Shabbat *Zakhor***

**March 15:** *Two Bands of Brother: Henry V vs. The Jews of Shushan*

## ***Echoes of the Expulsion: The Creation of a Sephardic Diaspora and its Lasting Influence on Jewish Life***

**Rabbi Shalom Morris**

A series to include topics such as the following:

*Yakuta the 16th Century Agunah and Her Relevance to Rabbinic Autonomy and the Agunah Problem*

*Mysticism, Messianism, Hassidut and Halakhah: The Imprint of Sephardic Jewry*

## ***Proclaim Repentance Throughout the Land: The Original Message of the Liberty Shofar***

**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**  
**Shabbat, September 7**

On the Shabbat before Kippur, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik will deliver Shearith Israel's first annual Shabbat Teshubah *derasha*, or address. This year's topic is *Proclaim Repentance Throughout the Land: The Original Message of the Liberty Shofar*. The biblical exhortation "Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land" is emblazoned on the liberty bell in the Philadelphia, as well as on the "Liberty Bell *rimonim*" that adorn a Torah in Shearith Israel. **Read more about it in the sidebar.**



## ***Read More:*** ***First Annual Shabbat Teshubah Derasha***

### ***The Liberty Shofar***

The original call of liberty to which the Bible refers was not the ringing of a bell but the blast of a shofar, sounded on Kippur in celebration of the Jubilee year. It is in memory of this "Liberty Horn" that the shofar is sounded at the conclusion of Kippur every year today. The Shubah *derasha* will examine the message of this original Kippur proclamation of liberty, how this Jubilee verse so originally impacted America, and how the link between liberty and repentance allows us a better understanding of what it means for a free people to do teshubah, or meaningful and lasting repentance.

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***Introducing Rabbi Richard Hidary as our Inaugural Distinguished Rabbinic Fellow***

*Establishing the position of Distinguished Rabbinic Fellow highlights our congregation's commitment to high-quality scholarship, teaching and community leadership. The fellow is a full member of Shearith Israel's clergy, involved in all aspects of congregational life. Rabbi Richard Hidary personifies the qualities we imagined in developing this position. He is an accomplished academic with a strong desire to be involved in synagogue life and communal leadership. Please join us in welcoming Rabbi Hidary. Help us build the endowment for this prestigious position; please contact Barbara Reiss to learn more.*

## SHABBAT

### *Special Lectures (continued)*

#### INAUGURATION AND INVESTITURE SHABBAT

##### *The Life and Teachings of Rabbi Dr. Maurice Gaguine*

**Rabbi Richard Hidary**  
**Shabbat, October 19**

In celebration of Rabbi Richard Hidary joining Shearith Israel as our inaugural Distinguished Rabbinic Fellow, we are proud to invite the community to a special investiture event. Rabbi Hidary will present a lecture on *The Life and Teachings of Rabbi Dr. Maurice Gaguine*. Rabbi Gaguine (1919–1990), Rabbi Hidary's great uncle, was the rabbi of the Spanish and Portuguese Withington Hebrew Congregation in Manchester for 44 years. Rabbi Gaguine descended from a long line of rabbis and represents, for Rabbi Hidary, the ideal Sephardic model of a Hakham. An inventor, a freemason, and a chaplain, Rabbi Gaguine earned a doctorate from Manchester University writing on the pseudepigraphic Testaments of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In this seminar, Rabbi Hidary will analyze some of his sermons, Halakhic writings, and scholarly contributions on the background of his own times and his lasting contribution. Following the seminar, congregants are invited to join us for a celebratory kiddush luncheon. To discuss major sponsorship opportunities, contact Barbara Reiss.

#### SHABBAT HAGADOL DERASHA

##### *Hillel's Sandwich, A Culinary and Theological Analysis*

**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**  
**Shabbat, April 12, following morning services**

#### CONSECRATION COMMEMORATIONS

In addition to celebrating the consecration of each of our synagogues with special prayers and festive melodies, Rabbi Soloveichik delivers special public seminars relating to the periods in history for each synagogue building.

Shabbat Nitzabim, August 31, 2013  
19th St. Synagogue (1860)

Shabbat Hagadol, April 12, 2014  
Second Mill Street Synagogue (1817)

Seventh Day of Pesah, Monday, April 15, 2014  
First Mill Street Synagogue (1730)

Shabbat following Lag La'Omer, May 24, 2014  
70th St. Synagogue (1897)

First Day Shabuot, Wednesday, June 4, 2014  
Crosby St. Synagogue (1834)

## GUEST LECTURERS

On some Shabbatot, we host world-renown scholars who present their thoughts and ideas to our community at Friday evening dinners, after morning services, or Shabbat afternoon class. To view a preview of this year's guest lecturers, see page 7.

## SHABBAT LUNCH AND LEARNS

Nourish your body and mind with a light kiddush luncheon supplemented with thoughtful Talmud Torah and discussion with Rabbi Richard Hidary or Rabbi Shalom Morris. Approximately once a month, a rabbi will offer a unique, culinary-cerebral experience to those who seek a respite from the main kiddush. If you are interested in sponsoring a Shabbat Lunch and Learn, please contact Barbara Reiss.

## WEEKLY SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR

***The Misunderstood Masterpiece: A New Approach to Pirkei Abot***

**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

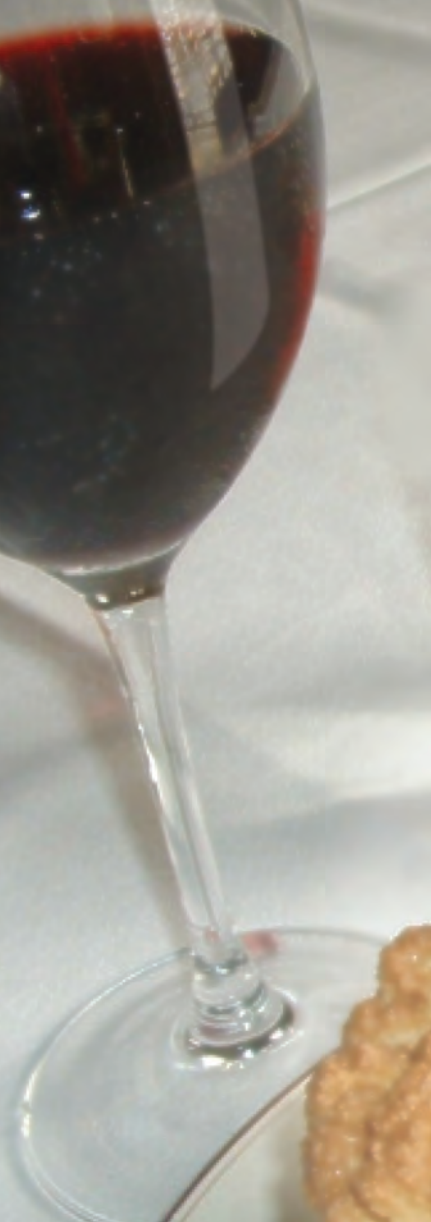
*Pirkei Abot* is often understood as a mere series of unrelated ethical adages. In fact, each brief and much-cited maxim in *Pirkei Abot* actually hints at the

extraordinary, and unique, life story and worldview of its rabbinic source, and the chapters of *Abot* are joined together in a structure that actually tells the story of the transmission of the Oral Law. We will see how studying the history of the rabbinic figures cited lend an entirely new understanding to these statements, and how *Abot* represents the diverse response of the rabbis to an age of crisis and transition that was, in many ways, not unlike our own.

## SHABBATON WITH OUR SISTER SPANISH & PORTUGUESE COMMUNITIES

These special weekend events are opportunities for our congregation to join with a sister community for a Shabbat of unity, learning, and strengthening our traditions. Join our email list and visit our website to learn what we have prepared for this year.





# SHABBAT

## *Community Dinners*

### ***Intimate Shabbat Dinners in the Elias Room***

Approximately once a month, the rabbis of Shearith Israel will host a Shabbat dinner for small groups of members. Occasionally, these will be geared toward families with young children or toward our college-age members. These intimate gatherings, set in our atmospheric Elias Room, in the company of friends, old and new, will allow us to enjoy the beauty of Shabbat, delicious food, the fascinating life stories of our diverse members and Torah insights by our rabbis.

Specific dates and registration details will be promoted through our emails, website and bulletins.

### ***Shakespeare and Shiur Launch Dinner***

**Friday Evening, November 8**

Join us for the launch of Rabbi Soloveichik's three-part lecture series *Shakespeare and Shiur*. Following an elegant Shabbat dinner, the Rabbi will present *What if Shylock Went to Bet Din? The Merchant of Venice Revisted*. See the full series listing on page 14.

### ***Pre-Tu B'Shebat Dinner***

**Friday Evening, February 10**

Enjoy a Shabbat dinner with a Tu B'Shebat-themed menu followed by a lecture by Rabbi Soloveichik entitled, *The*

*Giving Tree: Profound or Pernicious? A Religious Reflection on the Most Beloved Children's Book of Our Age.*

### ***Mix and Match Dinners at Private Homes***

**Friday Evening, March 7**

Begin the evening with services at Shearith Israel and then enjoy Shabbat dinner with friends, new and old. Members welcome each other in their homes for dinner, conversation and connection. These intimate dinners enable us to further integrate our beautifully diverse community and strengthen our connections with one another. For members only. Registration details to follow.

### ***Shabbat Dinner with The Simpson's writer Mike Reiss***

**Date to be announced**

Mike Reiss has won four Emmys and a Peabody Award during his 25 years writing for *The Simpsons*. In conversation with Rabbi Soloveichik, Reiss will discuss Jewish themes, characters, writers and actors that left their indelible mark on America's favorite animated family. You don't have to love *The Simpsons*, or have even seen the series to enjoy this funny, fast-paced talk on Jewish humor and American pop culture.

# HOLIDAYS

## PRE-ROSH HASHANAH CLASSES

### ***Making Ourselves Available to Forgive***

Rabbi Richard Hidary  
Wednesday, August 28  
8:00 pm

### ***In Praise of Puns: The Symbolic Foods of Rosh Hashanah***

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
Shabbat, August 31  
Following Morning Services

### ***The Great Gatsby and Rosh Hashanah: Can We Really Change?***

Rabbi Shalom Morris  
Tuesday, September 3  
7:00 pm

## THE EVE OF ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, September 4  
Morning Selihot, 6:30 am  
Evening Services (Minhah/Arbit), 7:00 pm  
Candle Lighting, 7:05 pm  
Erub Tabshilin, before sunset, 7:23 pm

## ROSH HASHANAH

Thursday, September 5–Friday, September 6  
Morning services, 7:45 am  
Candle Lighting on Thursday after 7:45 pm  
Evening Services (Minhah/Arbit), 7:00 pm

## SHABBAT TESHUBAH

Friday, September 6–Saturday, September 7  
Candle Lighting on Friday before 7:02 pm  
Friday Evening Services (Rosh Hashanah Minhah/Ereb Shabbat Arbit), 7:00 pm  
Saturday Morning services, 8:15 am

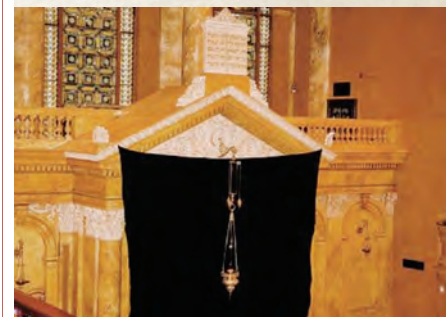
Before we complete Morning Services, Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a major address to the community as we prepare for the holiest day of the year. This year's topic is *Proclaim Repentance Throughout the Land: The Original Message of the Liberty Shofar*. See a full description of the address on page 14.

Saturday Evening Class, 5:45 pm  
Rabbi Soloveichik will teach the class focusing our spiritual preparedness for Kippur.  
Saturday Evening Services (Minhah/Arbit), 6:45 pm  
Saturday Evening Habdalah, after 7:54 pm

## FAST OF GEDALIAH

Sunday, September 8  
Fast begins, 5:06 am  
Morning services, 8:00 am  
Minhah/Arbit, 6:15 pm  
Fast ends, 7:40 pm

On minor fast days (those other than Tisha B'Ab), it is our custom for men to wear tallit and tefillin at Morning and Afternoon Services.



*From Rosh Hashanah when the Torah scrolls are draped in white to Tisha B'Ab when black cloth obscures the beauty of the sanctuary, our minhag enhances the experience of the holidays.*

— continued —



## HOLIDAYS *continued*

### PRE-KIPPUR CLASSES

#### *Is Forgiving Essential to Repenting?*

Rabbi Shalom Morris  
Monday, September 9  
7:00 pm

#### *Three Conceptions of Sin, Three Paths to Atonement*

Rabbi Richard Hidary  
Tuesday, September 10  
8:00 pm

### THE EVE OF KIPPUR

Friday, September 13  
Morning Selihot, 6:30 am  
Minhah, 1:30 pm  
Eve of Shabbat & Eve of Kippur Candle Lighting, at  
or before 6:50 pm  
Kal Nidre & Eve of Kippur/Shabbat Service (Arbit),  
6:45 pm

### KIPPUR DAY

Shabbat Day, Saturday, September 14  
Zemirot, 8:30 am; Shahrit, 9:30 am  
Learners' Service, 11:00 am–12:00 pm

This abridged Kippur service includes highlights of the Kippur day service, accompanied by explanations and discussion. Learners' service is free of charge and Hebrew transliteration is provided.

Musaf, 12:55 pm; Minhah, 3:30 pm  
Sermon and Neilah, 6:15 pm  
Shofar, Motzaei Kippur/Shabbat Arbit, and Habdalah,  
after 7:42 pm

### PARALLEL SERVICES FOR ROSH HASHANAH AND KIPPUR

First and Second Day of Rosh Hashanah, Thursday  
and Friday, September 5 and 6, 9:00 am  
Eve of Kippur, Friday Evening, September 13, 6:45  
pm (Kal Nidre & Arbit)  
Kippur Saturday Night Sermon & Concluding Service  
(Neilah), 6:15 pm  
Levy Auditorium

This year, with two new rabbis, we are enhancing and expanding our Parallel Services. These services are uniquely geared toward individuals and families who prefer more commentary interspersed in their prayer or are seeking a way to make the High Holiday services more accessible. Seat holders in the Main Sanctuary are also welcome in the Levy Auditorium for these more casual services. Associate Hazzan Philip Sherman leads prayer with Rabbi Richard Hidary, Rabbi Shalom Morris and Mr. Sijmon den Hollander providing explanations and commentary on Day 1 and on Day 2 Hazzan Ira Rohde leads services with Rabbi Meir Soloveichik and Rabbi Morris providing insights. Associate Members automatically receive tickets for the Parallel Services. Non-members contact Diana Landau in advance of the holidays for tickets.



## PRE-SUCCOT

### ***Pre-Succot Class: Succot and the Apocalypse: The Role of Succot in the End of Days***

Rabbi Shalom Morris

Monday, September 16

7:00 pm

### ***Sisterhood Succah Decorating***

Monday, September 16, 4:00 pm–9:00 pm

Tuesday, September 17, 8:00 am–2:00 pm

The Sisterhood's maintenance and decoration of the Congregation's Elias Room succah have undoubtedly made it one of the most beautiful in New York City. Teens and adults are invited to help decorate in preparation for the Succot Festival. To participate, contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde. Financial contributions to the Sisterhood are also welcomed to defray the costs of the florist, decoration, service costs, as well as food of the eight kiddushim and four communal breakfasts held there this year. To make a contribution to the Sisterhood Succah Fund or to sponsor of succah kiddush or breakfast, contact Rabbi Ira Rohde.

### ***Youth Succah Decorating***

Tuesday, September 17

3:30–6:00 pm

Join us for arts and crafts projects for all ages that will adorn and beautify Shearith Israel's succah. Bring your enthusiasm and creativity; we will supply the materials and pizza. Teen and parent volunteers needed. \$5 suggested donation. RSVP to Alana Shultz.

## SUCCOT

Wednesday Evening, September 18–Friday, September 20

Candle Lighting on Wednesday, 6:42 pm

Erub Tabshilin, Wednesday Evening before sunset, 7:00 pm

Candle Lighting on Thursday, after 7:20 pm

Thursday and Friday Morning Services, 8:15 am

Wednesday and Thursday Minhah/Arbit, 6:30 pm

## SHABBAT HOL HAMOED SUCCOT

Friday Evening, September 20–Saturday, September 21

Candle Lighting on Friday, before 6:38 pm

Friday Evening Services (Yom Tob Minhah/Shabbat Hol HaMoed Arbit), 6:30 pm

Saturday Morning services, 8:15 am

Saturday Evening Class, 5:30 pm

Rabbi Soloveichik will teach the class in our beautiful succah on the mysterious minhag of Hashaanot.

Saturday Evening Services (Minhah/Arbit), 6:30 pm

Saturday Evening Habdalah, after 7:29 pm

## HOL HAMOED SUCCOT

Sunday, September 22–Tuesday, September 24

Services follow weekday regular schedules:

Sunday morning, 8:00 am

— *continued* —

# HOLIDAYS *continued*

## ***A Healthy Start to the New Year Family Event***

Sunday, September 22, 12:00 pm in the succah

Participants will meet for a light workout in our beautiful succah and then create lunch together from seasonal ingredients that are grown right here in New York. While eating, the group will explore Jewish teachings about leading a healthy lifestyle (*shemirat haguf*). This Succot celebration is organized in collaboration with Camp Zeke, a new Jewish summer camp where 7 to 17 year olds become fitter, faster, and stronger while eating local, organic foods and cooking gourmet meals.

Monday and Tuesday mornings, 7:15 am

Sunday–Tuesday evenings (Minhah/Arbit), 6:30 pm

## **HOSHAANA RABBAH (LAST DAY OF HOL HAMOED)**

Tuesday Evening, September 24–Wednesday, September 25

Tuesday Evening Mishmarah–Tikkun, 8:30–10:00 pm

Enjoy this Spanish and Portuguese learning tradition in the succah enhanced with freshly prepared sushi. Both the *shiur* and the sushi will be lovingly prepared and presented by Rabbi Soloveichik.

Wednesday Morning Services, 6:30 am

## **SHEMINI HAG ATSERET AND SIMCHAT TORAH**

Wednesday Evening, September 25–Friday, September 27

Wednesday Evening Candle Lighting, 6:30pm

Erub Tabshilin, Wednesday Evening before sunset, 6:48 pm

Thursday Evening Candle Lighting, after 7:03 pm

Wednesday Evening Minhah/Arbit, 6:30 pm

Thursday & Friday Morning services, 8:15 am

Thursday Evening Minhah/Arbit, 6:30 pm followed by Hakafof, 7:15 pm

Women's Hakafof in the Little Synagogue, 7:15 pm

Ice cream party to follow Hakafof. Sponsored annually by the Lustig and Haberman families.

Friday Evening Services (Yom Tob Minhah/Eve of Shabbat Arbit), 6:30 pm

Simhat Torah concludes with the onset of Shabbat at sunset, 6:44 pm

## **SHABBAT BERESHIT (SHABBAT HATANIM)**

Friday Evening, September 27–Saturday, September 28

Candle Lighting on Friday, before 6:26 pm

Friday Evening Services (Yom Tob Minhah/Eve of Shabbat Arbit), 6:30 pm

Friday Evening Sunset, 6:44 pm

Saturday Morning services, 8:15 am

Luncheon and Celebration in honor of our Hatanim, 11:45 am

Following Morning Service, we honor our **Hatan Torah, Gabriel Goldstein** and our **Hatan Bereshit, Alexander Seligson**, with a lovely luncheon and lively toasts.

Saturday Evening Class, 5:15 pm

Saturday Evening Services (Minhah/Arbit), 6:15 pm

Saturday Evening Habdalah, after 7:16 pm

## PRE-THANKSGIVING

### ***Sephardim, Ashkenazim and the Halakhic History of the Turkey***

Saturday, November 23  
Following Morning Services  
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

This pre-Thanksgiving seminar delivered by Rabbi Soloveichik will prepare us for our Thanksgiving celebrations at Shearith Israel and with our families.

## HANUKKAH

### ***Installation of our New Rabbi, Meir Y. Soloveichik***

Sunday, November 24  
Time to be announced

Join us for what is certain to be an extraordinary and memorable event: the installation of our new rabbi as the tenth Minister of our congregation since the American Revolution. In Rabbi Soloveichik's honor we look forward to hearing from several esteemed Jewish leaders as well as a keynote address, *Thanksgiving: America's Hanukkah*, by Rabbi Soloveichik. See page 8 for full installation description.

Wednesday Evening, November 27 – Thursday, December 5  
Eve of the First Day of Hanukkah, Wednesday Evening, November 27  
Lighting of First Candle (at home), Wednesday Evening after  
Sunset, 4:31 pm  
Wednesday Evening Services at Synagogue (Arbit only), 6:30 pm

## THANKSGIVING

First Day of Hanukkah, Thursday, November 28  
Hanukkah and Thanksgiving Morning Services, 7:45 am  
Parade viewing and hot chocolate for younger members, 8:30 am  
Special address by Rabbi Soloveichik and a holiday-related class,  
following Morning Services

We observe Thanksgiving with the addition of sections of Hallel during Shahrit and the omission of Tahanunim. As the first night of Hanukkah falls on Thanksgiving this year, our service will be beautifully enhanced with the recitation of full Hallel. This special concurrence of two significant holidays warrants enhanced programming. In addition to our Morning Services, led by our Hazzanim and accompanied by our ethereal choir, Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a special address and holiday related class while our younger members enjoy unparalleled views of the Parade from our Portico on Central Park West. Our annual tradition of hot chocolate and pastries will be enhanced this year in honor of Hanukkah with the Dutch Spanish and Portuguese Hanukkah culinary tradition of eating waffles. Wafele, Belgian waffles in Dutch/Flemish, are a characteristic form of the pancake or doughnut fried in oil which is made for Hanukkah in most Jewish traditions. The Dutch Jews from whom we descend chose this form because of its availability and because wafele in Hebrew was taken to refer to the miracle “and wonder” of this holiday.

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## HOLIDAYS *continued*

### Youth Hanukkah Party

Join the Shearith Israel Youth Department for a musical Hanukkah Party directly following the Thanksgiving Day Parade viewing.

Eve of the Second Day of Hanukkah, Thursday Evening, November 28

Lighting of Second Candle (at home), Thursday Evening after Sunset, 4:30 pm

Thursday Evening Services at Synagogue (Arbit only), 6:30 pm

### ASARAH B'TEBET (TENTH OF TEBET)

Friday, December 13

Fast begins, 5:43 am; Morning services, 7:15 am; Minhah/Arbit, 3:45 pm; Fast ends, 4:29 pm

On minor fast days (those other than Tisha B'Ab), it is our custom for men to wear *tallit* and *tefillin* at Morning and Afternoon Services.

### TU B'SHEBAT

Wednesday evening, January 15 - Thursday, January 16

#### *Tu B'Shebat Dinner and Lecture*

Shabbat Shirah, Friday evening, January 10

Enjoy a Shabbat dinner with a Tu B'Shebat-themed menu followed by a lecture by Rabbi Soloveichik entitled, *The Giving Tree: Profound or Pernicious? A Religious Reflection on the Most Beloved Children's Book of Our Age.*

### TAANIT ESTHER (FAST OF ESTHER)

Thursday, March 13

Fast begins, 5:50 am; Morning services, 7:15 am; Minhah/Arbit, 6:15 pm; Fast ends, 7:22 pm

On minor fast days (those other than Tisha B'Ab), it is our custom for men to wear *tallit* and *tefillin* at morning and afternoon services

### PURIM

#### *Pre-Purim Party*

Sunday Afternoon, March 9, 12:30 pm

Bring yourself, your smile and your creativity to a costume-making, arts-and-crafts-creating, *mishloah manot*-giving and merry-making event. All ages. \$5 per child. RSVP to Alana Shultz.

Saturday Evening, March 15-Sunday March 16

Eve of Purim, Saturday, Evening, March 15

Shabbat Zachor Saturday Afternoon Minhah, 6:45 pm

Saturday Evening Motzaei Shabbat/Ereb Purim Arbit, 8:00 pm

Habdalah/End of Shabbat, 7:37 pm

Evening Megillah Reading, 8:15 pm

Late Evening Megillah Reading, 9:45 pm

Please note, it is our minhag not to use noisemakers or to stamp our feet during the Megillah reading out of respect for the sanctity of the Synagogue.

Eve of Purim Children's Program for ages 5–10 in the Levy Auditorium begins at 8:00 pm.

A festive Purim dinner with entertainment for all ages will follow at 9:00 pm. Advance registration is necessary for the dinner. To RSVP contact Diana Landau.

Purim Day, Sunday, March 16  
Sunday Morning Services, 8:00 am, followed by Morning Megillah Reading at 8:30 am in the Main Sanctuary  
Women's Morning Megillah Reading, 8:30 am in the Little Synagogue

Join us for the 24th year of the Women's Megillah Reading at Shearith Israel. To participate, contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde.  
Brunch at 9:15 am on Sunday followed by Mishloah Manot deliveries to seniors and homebound members. Volunteers are needed to help with the deliveries. Contact Alana Shultz.  
Late Morning Megillah Reading, 11:00 am in the Little Synagogue  
Purim Day Minhah/Arbit, Sunday, March 16, 6:30 pm  
End of Purim Day, 7:26 pm

### SHABBAT HAGADOL

Friday Evening, April 11 – Shabbat, April 12  
Following Morning Services on Shabbat Hagadol, which is also the consecration anniversary of our Second Mill Street Synagogue, Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a public seminar entitled *Hillel's Sandwich, A Culinary and Theological Analysis*.

### PESAH (PASSOVER)

Monday Evening, April 14 – Tuesday, April 22  
Eve of the First Day of Passover  
Sunday Evening, April 13–Monday, April 14  
Search for *hametz*  
Sunday Evening after Sunset, 7:33 pm  
Monday, April 14  
Fast of the First Born  
Fast begins, 4:53 am  
Morning services, 7:15 am, followed by a *siyyum* and a light breakfast  
Stop eating *hametz* by 10:44 am  
Dispose of any remaining *hametz* by 11:50 am  
First and Second Days of Pesah  
Monday Evening, April 14–Wednesday, April 16  
Monday Evening Candle Lighting, 7:16 pm  
Begin the Haggadah at home sometime after 7:59 pm

### PESAH HAGGADAH

8:30 pm  
Join us as we celebrate the first night of Pesah with a community Haggadah (Spanish-Portuguese Seder) led by Rabbi Shalom Morris and Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde. This spirited and interactive Haggadah is accompanied by explanations of our traditions and melodies. Co-sponsored by JICNY.

Tuesday Evening Candle Lighting, after 8:00 pm  
Morning Services, 8:15 am  
Evening Services (Minhah/Arbit), Monday–Wednesday, 7:15 pm

# HOLIDAYS *continued*

## HOL HAMOED PESAH

Thursday, April 17–Sunday, April 20  
Services follow regular weekday and Shabbat schedules.

## SHABBAT HOL HAMOED PESAH

Friday, April 18–Saturday, April 19  
Candle Lighting on Friday, before 7:21 pm  
Friday Evening Services (Hol HaMoed Minhah/Shabbat Hol HaMoed Arbit), 7:15 pm  
Saturday Morning services, 8:15 am  
Song of Songs Reading, Saturday, April 19, 11:30 am

The teen girls of our synagogue will read *Shir HaShirim* in the Main Sanctuary for the congregation on Saturday after Musaf, to be followed by a celebratory kiddush.

Seventh and Eighth Days of Pesah  
Sunday Evening, April 20–Tuesday, April 22  
Candle Lighting, Sunday, 7:23 pm; Monday, after 8:07 pm  
Minhah/Arbit, 7:30 pm  
Morning services, 8:15 am

## YOM HASHOAH (HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY)

Sunday evening, April 27–Monday, April 28

## YOM HAATSMAUT (ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY)

Monday evening, May 5–Tuesday, May 6  
Tuesday Morning services, 7:15 am, with full Hallel and a *berakhah* in Shahrit to mark the religious significance of the founding of the State of Israel.

Minhah/Arbit, 6:30 pm

## LAG LA'OMER

Saturday Evening, May 17–Sunday 18

## ANNUAL MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE FOR REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS

Sunday, May 18, 10:30 am  
Held at the Chatham Square Cemetery  
Halakhic Tour of the Central Park Zoo with Rabbi Soloveichik  
Sunday afternoon, May 18

## LAG LA'OMER CONCERT

Sunday, May 18, 7:30 pm

## YOM YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM REUNIFICATION DAY)

Tuesday evening, May 27–Wednesday, May 28  
Tuesday Evening Minhah/Arbit, 6:30 pm  
Tuesday Evening at 7:30 pm, Hazzan Ira Rohde will present a special concert program.  
Morning services, 7:15 am, with full Hallel and *berakhot*, marking the religious significance of Jerusalem's reunification in 1967.  
Wednesday Morning Shahrit (with Hallel), 7:15 am

## SHABUOT

Tuesday Evening, June 3–Thursday, June 5

Beautiful floral arrangements, generously provided by Shearith Israel's Sisterhood, adorn the raised sections of the synagogue, the platform of the Tebah (Reader's Desk) and the steps to the Hekhal (Ark).

Candle Lighting, Tuesday, 8:04 pm; Wednesday, after 8:50 pm  
Morning services, 8:15 am  
Azharot of Ibn Gabirol, Wednesday and Thursday, 7:30 pm  
Evening Services (Minhah/Arbit), Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 8:00 pm



### ***Megillat Ruth Reading***

Wednesday, June 4

The girls of our synagogue recite *Megillat Ruth* for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after the conclusion of Musaf at 11:30 am. All are invited to the reading and to an expanded dairy kiddush afterward.

### ***Shabuot Siyyum Torah***

Thursday, June 5

11:15 am following Musaf

In celebration of Shabuot, we are conducting a community-wide Siyyum Torah. Individuals and families are invited to register for one of the 54 *parshiyot* (Torah portions) to complete by the second day of Shabuot, June 5. The *parashah* may be read in any language. The *siyyum* is followed by a celebratory kiddush. Advance preparation is required. Details to follow.

### **SHIBA ASAR B'TAMMUZ (SEVENTEENTH OF TAMMUZ)**

Tuesday, July 15

Fast begins 3:54 am and ends 8:54 pm

Morning services, 7:15 am Minhah/Arbit, 7:30 pm

The fast commemorates the breach of the walls of Jerusalem, three weeks before the Second Temple was destroyed.

On minor fast days (those other than Tisha B'Ab), it is our custom for men to wear *tallit* and *tefillin* at morning and afternoon services

### **TISHA B'AB (NINTH OF AB)**

Monday evening, August 4–Tuesday, August 5

Eve of the Fast, Monday Evening, August 4

Minhah, 5:30 pm

Fast begins, 8:09 pm

Arbit, 8:30 pm, followed by the reading of *Ekhah* and *Kinot*

Tuesday, August 5

Morning services, 6:30 am

Minhah/Arbit, 7:00 pm

Fast ends, 8:34 pm

With the Main Sanctuary darkened and draped in black, hundreds gather for the solemn reading of *Ekhah*. The melodies and surroundings convey the deep sense of loss the Jewish people continue to feel for the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem and other tragedies that befell the Jewish people.

During the daytime of Tisha B'Ab, men wear *tallit* and *tefillin* at the Minhah service only.



## CULTURE AND ENRICHMENT

### ***Early American Jewish History and Identity through Portraiture***

**Sunday, September 15  
2:00 pm–4:00 pm**

Join us for a session with historian and genealogist David M. Kleiman to rediscover early American Jewish history. We will explore the use of graphic symbols and messages, subject research, artist biographies, creative media, materials, provenance, and even framing to explore the lives of American Jews living in the 18th and 19th centuries. This is a Jewish Genealogical Society program and is supported by The George Washington Institute for Religious Freedom (sponsors of the Loeb Jewish Portrait Database at the American Jewish Historical Society) and co-sponsored with The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society.

### ***Dorot Deliveries***

**Sunday, September 15: Succot Package Delivery**

**Sunday, April 6: Pesah Package Delivery**

In preparation for Succot and Pesah, join us as we deliver holiday food packages to seniors living on the Upper West Side. To participate, please contact Alana Shultz.

### ***Moments in the NYC Jewish Experience Exhibit Opening***

**Tuesday, September 17  
6:00–7:30 pm**

At the NYC Municipal Archives, lobby of 31 Chambers Street

The NYC Department of Records and the Manhattan Jewish Historical Initiative invite you to attend the opening of this fascinating exhibit co-sponsored by Shearith Israel. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by Wednesday, September 10 to [visitorcenter@records.nyc.gov](mailto:visitorcenter@records.nyc.gov) or 212-788-8609.

### ***A Healthy Start to the New Year Family Event***

**Sunday, September 22  
12:00 pm in the succah**

Participants will meet for a light workout in our beautiful succah and then create lunch together from seasonal ingredients that are grown right here in New York. While eating, the group will explore Jewish teachings about leading a healthy lifestyle (*shmirat haguf*).

### ***A Greek Sephardic Evening***

**Sunday, September 29**

Join us for an evening of traditional Greek Jewish food, art, and music by the renowned musicians the Meraklides. Sponsored by the Shearith Israel League with the American Friends of the Jewish Museum of Greece. RSVP to [hischachter@cs.com](mailto:hischachter@cs.com).

***Wyatt Gallery's Photography  
of the Caribbean Jewish  
Cemeteries***

**Wednesday, October 2  
7:00 pm**

For over five years, acclaimed photographer and Fulbright Fellow Wyatt Gallery has been documenting Sephardic historical sites of the Caribbean. Many of these precious sites are in danger of extinction as the Caribbean Sephardic communities dwindle. Through these majestic photographs, Mr. Gallery takes us into the four remaining synagogues with sand covered floors, the cemeteries from the 1600 and 1700's, as well as through the harrowing journey of how the Jews escaped persecution and created a flourishing community in the Caribbean and what is now the United States. Mr. Gallery will be giving our congregation the first preview of his beautiful fine-art photographs from his upcoming book *Jewish Treasures of The Caribbean*.

***Jewish Joint Distribution  
Committee (JDC) Symposium -  
International Hot Spots***

**Tuesday, October 15  
11:00 am–7:30 pm**

JDC works with Jewish communities and people in need in over 70 countries, and is witness to some of the most compelling global changes of our time. Hear Jewish voices from countries in crisis, learn about meaningful humanitarian ideas and innovations, and help make a lasting difference. Rabbi Soloveichik will be a featured presenter among other distinguished experts. For full program details, visit: [jdc.org/ambassadors2013](http://jdc.org/ambassadors2013).

***Lower East Side Good Eats  
Meets the Upper West Side***

**Wednesday, October 30  
7:00 pm**

Author Mark Russ Federman, former owner of the famed and still family owned appetizing store Russ & Daughters, will speak about his book, *Russ & Daughters:*

*Reflections and Recipes from the House that Herring Built*. He will be interviewed by Jane Ziegelman, director of the culinary program at the Tenement Museum and author of *97 Orchard: An Edible History of Five Immigrant Families*. Both books will be available for purchase.

***The Nation by the River with  
Author Gabe Galambos***

**Wednesday, November 6  
7:00 pm**

Gabe Galambos will read from his book *The Nation by the River* about a boy, Michael Costa, who discovers that he is part of a community of Crypto-Jews in modern day New England. He will also present his research on the conversos of the Azores Islands.

— continued —



**FEATURED EVENT**

***An Evening with  
Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks***

**Wednesday, October 23  
Time to be announced**

*Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks will visit Shearith Israel in a major public event. It is sure to be an unforgettable evening with Jewish Orthodoxy's most prominent public intellectual and one of the most sophisticated voices of faith in the world today. Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks has been Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth from 1991 to 2013. Author of 24 books, holding 15 honorary degrees, and recognized with numerous awards and prizes, the Chief Rabbi was conferred a Doctor of Divinity by the Archbishop of Canterbury, awarded the Jerusalem Prize in 1995 and knighted by Her Majesty the Queen in 2005.*





## CULTURE AND ENRICHMENT *continued*

### ***Sephardic Music Festival***

**Tuesday, December 3  
7:30 pm**

Celebrate Hanukkah with our annual Sephardic Music Festival. Enjoy Sephardic songs and Middle Eastern rhythms performed by world-renown musicians in our breathtaking Main Sanctuary.

### ***Annual Esther Goldfarb Blood Drive and Hessed Day***

**Date to be announced**

“Whosoever saves a single life, saves an entire universe” (Mishnah, Sanhedrin 4:5). One donation of your blood can save up to three lives. Together with the New York Blood Center, the Shearith Israel League is sponsoring our annual blood drive. This year, the drive will be accompanied by hessed opportunities for all ages. Please visit our website or consult the synagogue bulletin for details.

### ***Jewish Life in Brazil: Coming 360°***

**Spring 2014**

American Jewry began when 23 Jews arrived in New Amsterdam in 1654 from Recife, Brazil. To mark this momentous anniversary Shearith Israel will host a multi-faceted program exploring Brazilian Jewish life. We will be hosting a Brazilian Jewish Film Festival, a lecture about Jewish life in Brazil—past and present, Brazilian themed music, food, and much more. Supported by the Brazilian Consulate Culture Department.

### ***Kiddush with Cachaca: Jewish Roots and Revival in the Backlands of Brazil* Film Screening In partnership with the Brazilian Film Festival**

**Spring 2014**

A documentary film about the controversial emergence of self-professed *marranos* in Northeastern Brazil. *Marrano* was an Inquisition-era slur for Jews who were forced to convert to Catholicism. Today in Brazil

a growing movement is seeking to reclaim and redeem the *marrano* identity, and return from the church to the synagogue. *Kiddush with Cachaca* follows their difficult path. Talk with the director Jeremy Siefer to follow.

### ***Annual Memorial Observance for Revolutionary War Veterans***

**Sunday, May 18  
10:30 am**

Held at the Chatham Square Cemetery

We honor our members who participated in the Revolutionary War with a ceremony and a Color Guard. The ceremony is attended by military veterans, clergy and members of the community. Join us to place American flags at the graves of the 22 congregants who participated in the Revolutionary War. This cemetery was in use from 1682–1828 and is located at 55 St. James Place, opposite Chatham Square. This year our annual memorial takes on special significance because it coincides with Lag La’Omer, one of the traditional days for visiting the graves of our righteous forbears.

### ***Lag La'Omer Concert***

**Sunday, May 18**  
**7:30 pm**

Lag La'Omer, towards the conclusion of the Omer period leading up to Shabuot and marking the end of its penitential season, is a day for special festivities. Join us for a festive concert and traditional strawberry shortcake reception as we celebrate among other things the 114th birthday of our 70th Street Building.

### ***Community Young Leadership and Cocktail Reception—Music of the Jewish Diaspora***

**Wednesday, May 21**  
**7:30 pm**

Back by popular demand for its third year, the Salome Chamber Orchestra performs compositions by Jewish composers from around the world in our majestic sanctuary. CSI Young Leadership hosts this philanthropic and celebratory evening in conjunction with other Jewish young leadership organizations.

### ***Authors Phyllis Chesler and Lucette Lagnado in Conversation***

#### **Date to be announced**

Phyllis Chesler and Lucette Lagnado join us for a riveting conversation on Phyllis's new memoir, *An American Bride in Kabul*, the Jews of Islamic countries and women's rights around the world.

### ***Faith and Film Series***

Enjoy fun and intellectually stimulating Saturday movie nights hosted by Rabbi Soloveichik, theologian and resident film aficionado. Adults and teens can enjoy powerful films (and popcorn) followed by an exploration of the tests of faith that the central figures navigate.

#### **Film 1: *Chariot of Fire* (1981)**

The fact-based story of two athletes in the 1924 Olympics: Eric Liddell, a devout Scottish Christian who runs for the glory of God, and Harold Abrahams, a Jew who runs to overcome prejudice.

Discussion Theme: *Chariots of Fire: Athleticism and the Soul*

#### **Film 2: *The Hobbit* (2012)**

A younger and more reluctant Hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, sets out on an unexpected journey to the Lonely Mountain with a spirited group of dwarves to reclaim their stolen mountain home from a dragon named Smaug.

Discussion Theme: *Hobbits and Hebrews: The Biblical Writing of JRR Tolkien*

#### **Film 3: *A Man for All Seasons* (1966)**

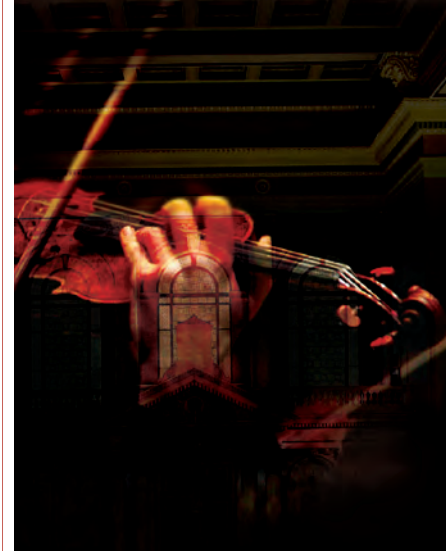
The story of Thomas More, who stood up to King Henry VIII when the King rejected the Roman Catholic Church to obtain a divorce and remarriage.

Discussion Theme: *A Man for All Seasons and the Nature of Belief*

#### **Film 4: *Groundhog Day* (1993)**

A weatherman finds himself in a time loop, repeating the same day again and again. After indulging in hedonism and numerous suicide attempts, he begins to re-examine his life and priorities.

Discussion Theme: *Groundhog Day and the Jewish Concept of Time*





## CULTURE AND ENRICHMENT *continued*

### ONGOING CULTURAL CLASSES AND LECTURES

#### *Literary Lunch*

**Thursdays, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 19, January 16, February 13, March 20, April 10, May 15, June 12, July 10**

**12:15 pm–1:45 pm**

**Janet R. Kirchheimer**

Join our monthly gatherings where we read and discuss a variety of works (fiction, nonfiction, memoir, personal essay, poetry) from across the ages and around the world. Led by Shearith Israel's own poet and member, Janet R. Kirchheimer, each lunch is an independent session and is accompanied by a delicious lunch and stimulating conversation. Meets in the Elias Room. \$10 per session.

#### *Tai Chi*

**Thursdays**

**11:00 am**

**Lewis Paleias**

This age-old practice helps balance, strength, circulation, mindfulness and more. Tai Chi is a wonderful form of exercise for all ages, especially seniors. Lewis offers individual attention and adapts the class based on the group. \$10 per class or \$50 for 6 classes. Walk-ins and beginners are welcome.





# YOUTH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

## YOUNGEST CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

### *Weekday Toddler Program*

**Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays**

**9:30 am–11:30 am**

**For children aged 16–33 months**

**Adult caregiver presence is required.**

Shearith Israel's popular Toddler Program is held three times a week. The program focuses on learning colors and shapes, creating arts and crafts, singing songs, exploring Jewish holidays, music, and more. To enroll your child or learn more, contact Alana Shultz. Space is limited.

**Full-Year Enrollment:** September 9, 2013–June 9, 2014

3 Days: Full Members \$5250, Others \$6350

2 Days: Full Members \$3765, Others \$4500

1 Day: Full Members \$2015, Others \$2385

**Fall Session:** September 9–December 18, 2013

3 Days: Full Members \$2340, Others \$2835

2 Days: Full Members \$1680, Others \$2010

1 Day: Full Members \$900, Others \$1065

**Spring Session:** January 6–June 9, 2014

(No class: 1/20 MLK Day; 2/17 Presidents Day;

4/15–4/23 Pesah; 5/26 Memorial Day; 6/4 Shabuot)

3 Days: Full Members \$3120, Others: \$3780

2 Days: Full Members \$2240, Others: \$2680

1 Day: Full Members \$1200, Others: \$1420

**Summer Session:** To be announced

### *Shir Fun with Dafna Israel-Kotok: A Musical Hebrew Immersion Program*

**Thursdays**

**10:15 am–11:00 am**

**For children aged 10 months–3 years**

**Adult caregiver presence is required.**

Leveraging the positive effects on the brain of musical enrichment and cultural pride, the *Shir Fun* program immerses children in using musical instruments, and a specially designed curriculum which includes original songs, movement-based activities, holiday celebrations and personal interactions. The *Shir Fun* experience is shared with the children and their parents and/or caretakers and is a true celebration of music and community.

**Fall Session:** October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, November 7, 14, 21

\$200 for full members and children enrolled in the Shearith Israel Toddler Program; \$225 for others

## PRE-B'NEI/B'NOT MITZVAH PROGRAMMING

### *Shabbat/Holiday Clubs*

**September to June from 10:00 am until the end of services**

Children, ages 5–12, gather before and after Junior Congregation with our experienced and engaging leaders for fun activities connected to the parashah of the week and other Jewish themes.







## YOUTH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES *continued*

### *Assigned Junior Congregation*

September 5 (Rosh Hashanah),  
September 28, October 26, November  
23, December 14, January 4, February  
22, March 15, April 5, May 4, May 31,  
June 14

Junior Congregation is a lively, participatory service for children ages 5–12. While prayer is always a part of youth groups, this more formal youth service takes place on select weeks. Children learn Shearith Israel's melodies and have opportunities to lead prayers, read Torah and perform *mitzvot*. Regular Shabbat groups still begin at 10:00 am and continue at the conclusion of Junior Congregation. For more information and to have your child lead a part of the service contact Rabbi Shalom Morris.

### *Girls' Megillat Ruth Reading*

**Wednesday, June 4**

On the First Day of Shabuot, the girls of our synagogue, ages 6–12, recite *Megillat Ruth* for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services at 11:30 am. If your daughter would like to participate, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at [lrohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lrohde-csi@yahoo.com).

### HEBREW SCHOOL AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

#### *Polonies Talmud Torah School (PTTS)*

For students aged 3–16 years old  
September 8–June 8

**All ages meet on Sundays from 10:00 am–12:00 pm. Elementary school-aged children also meet on Thursdays from 4:00 - 6:00 pm.**

Annual tuition is \$650 for full members and \$1250 for others. Financial aid is available. Special 2013–2014 member rate for former Lincoln Square Hebrew School students.

Under the direction of Rabbi Shalom Morris, clear educational goals and a well structured, multi-faceted curriculum guide our teaching staff and ensure pedagogic excellence. We follow a developmental model so that students strengthen their command of the Hebrew language and Jewish texts every year without repeating previous studies. As a result, children feel continuously challenged and motivated to learn.

Over the course of a student's education, he or she will learn the major portions of Tanakh, Jewish history, Jewish holiday rituals and the meaning behind them, and how Jewish ideas inform our values in modern times. Building the skills necessary to access Jewish texts and understand their heritage enables children to become a part of the ongoing Jewish dialogue as equals. Students are taught not only to read Hebrew and learn prayers, but also to utilize their language skills in real-world contexts with Modern Hebrew.

For more information and to enroll, visit [shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool](http://shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool). You may also contact our Educational Director Rabbi Shalom Morris.

## TEEN PROGRAMMING

### *Biannual Teen Services*

**Shabbat, November 16 and May 10**

Our teenage boys lead parts of the Shabbat morning service in the Main Sanctuary for the entire congregation. Participants are trained and prepared to recite and lead prayers according to Shearith Israel's beautiful tradition and dignified standards. To participate, please contact Yehudit Robinson, [yehudit.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:yehudit.robinson@gmail.com).

### *Teen Girls' Shir Hashirim Reading*

**Shabbat Hol HaMoed Pesah, April 19**

On the morning of Shabbat Hol HaMoed Pesah, the teen girls of our synagogue ages 12–18 read The Song of Songs in the Main Sanctuary for the congregation after services. To participate, please contact Yehudit Robinson at [yehudit.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:yehudit.robinson@gmail.com).

### *Junior Congregation Leadership Group*

Teenage leaders organize and run services while “tween prefects” serve as mentors and helpers for younger participants. For more information, contact Rabbi Shalom Morris.

### *NCSY*

NCSY, the international youth movement of the Orthodox Union, is an organization that offers Jewish teens an opportunity to build a strong connection to their Jewish roots through inspiration and leadership skills. Shearith Israel is proud to be part of the Upper West Side chapter of NCSY. 8th–12th graders are welcome to join weekly learning opportunities, monthly Shabbat dinners and more.

## SPECIAL EVENTS FOR YOUTH OF ALL AGES

### *Youth Succah Decorating*

**Tuesday, September 17  
3:30–6:00 pm**

Join us for arts and crafts projects for all ages that will adorn and beautify Shearith Israel's succah. Bring your enthusiasm and creativity; we will supply the materials and pizza. Teen and parent volunteers needed. \$5 suggested donation. To participate, please RSVP to Alana Shultz.

### *A Healthy Start to the New Year Family Event*

**Sunday, September 22  
12:00 pm in the Elias Room**

Participants will meet for a light workout in our beautiful succah and then create lunch together from seasonal ingredients that are grown right here in New York. While eating, the group will explore Jewish teachings about leading a healthy lifestyle (*shemirat haguf*).

This Succot celebration is organized in collaboration with Camp Zeke, a new Jewish summer camp where 7–17 year olds become fitter, faster, and stronger while eating local, organic foods and cooking gourmet meals.

### *Hanukkah Youth Party*

**Thanksgiving Morning, Thursday,  
Sunday, November 28  
10:30 am**

Following the Thanksgiving parade viewing on the Portico, join CSI Youth for a Hanukkah party with fun activities for children of all ages.

### *Pre-Purim Party*

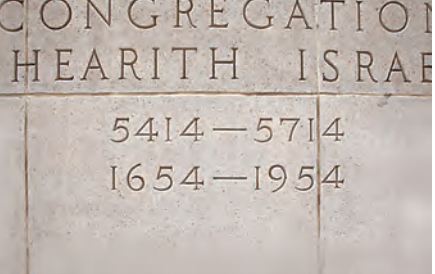
**Sunday Afternoon, March 9  
12:30 pm**

Bring yourself, your smile and your creativity to a costume-making, arts-and-crafts-creating, Mishloah Manot-giving and merry-making event. All ages. \$5 per child. RSVP to Alana Shultz.

### *Lag La'Omer: Halakhic Tour of the Central Park Zoo*

**Sunday, May 18**

Explore the wonder of wildlife through Jewish lenses with Rabbi Meir Soloveichik. A Sunday outing for the young and young-at-heart.



## COMMUNITY

### CSI YOUNG LEADERSHIP

Shearith Israel has a dynamic group of young families, couples and singles. CSI Young Leadership, is designed to help these members connect with each other and feel at home at Shearith Israel. To get involved with Young Leadership, contact Alana Shultz.

Shearith Israel is delighted to partner with JICNY, Jewish International Connection of NY, as part of our programming team and young leadership outreach initiative. Over the years we have worked closely with JICNY, hosting Shabbat meals and cultural events with its community of international Jews in their 20s and 30s.

Shared programs include Monday night learning as part of our Bet Midrash series, Israel advocacy programming, young couples' events, concerts, films and Shabbat meals. Please note, some events are open to the entire congregation, while others are limited to those in their 20s and 30s.

### SOCIETIES

Shearith Israel has several communal organizations and societies through which members can meet each other and pursue community service projects, as well as social and educational opportunities.

#### *The Hebra Hesed Va-Amet*

Founded in 1802, *Hebra Hesed Va-Amet* is the oldest continuing Jewish philanthropic organization in New York City. The *Hebra* provides dignified burials for indigent congregants and contributes to the maintenance of Shearith Israel's cemeteries. Members of the *Hebra Kadisha*, integral to the *Hebra Hesed Va-Amet*, perform *rehitza* for synagogue members. The *Hebra* provides the Mourners' Meal after funerals and, with Caring Connection, provides support for mourners during *shibah*. In recent years, the *Hebra* has also been organizing a congregational visit to our cemetery in Cypruss Hills Queens enabling us to fulfill the *Elul* tradition of visiting the graves

of relatives and loved ones while enjoying the beautiful surroundings and learning about our notable predecessors. To get involved with *Hebra Hesed Va-Amet*, please contact Jack Daar at [jdaar@hotmail.com](mailto:jdaar@hotmail.com).

To work with the *Hebra Kadisha*, contact Avery Neumark at [aneumark@rssmcpa.com](mailto:aneumark@rssmcpa.com) or Rose Guedalia Edinger at [rgedinger@gmail.com](mailto:rgedinger@gmail.com).

#### *The Sisterhood*

Founded in 1896, the Sisterhood has a number of communal responsibilities, including the decoration and running of our renowned succah and beautification of the Main Sanctuary with floral arrangements and greenery during Shabuot. It is also responsible for maintenance of the Little Synagogue and the Torah mantles. The Sisterhood also supports many charitable organizations in New York and Israel.

To get involved, contact Irma Lopes Cardozo or Carla Salomon Schein at [scheinc@ujafedny.org](mailto:scheinc@ujafedny.org).

### *The Shearith Israel League*

The Shearith Israel League, founded in 1919, is the “social arm” of the Synagogue and sponsors events throughout the year. These events include public lectures, concerts, tennis parties and dinners, and are offered at a discounted rate to League members.

As an added benefit to being involved in League activities, members have the opportunity to meet fellow congregants in a social setting where lifetime friendships can be formed. Eager for new members and leaders, the Shearith Israel League invites all who might be interested to attend one of our warm and welcoming meetings or events.

For information, please contact George Bulow at [george.bulow@verizon.net](mailto:george.bulow@verizon.net).

### *1654 Society*

Whether they live down the street or across the globe, many people are fascinated by Shearith Israel’s unique place in history as America’s first Jewish Congregation. 1654 Society members help ensure the maintenance of our landmark synagogue, historic cemeteries, priceless artifacts, archives and more. See page 39 for more information.

### *HESED*

#### *Caring Connection*

As a congregation, committed to the wellbeing of all of our members and to our general community, we are proud to offer support through Caring Connection and other communal efforts. Caring Connection, our Congregation’s *hesed* network, was founded in order to provide organized assistance to members of our community. We respond to a variety of situations, for example, in times of difficulty, illness or mourning, or for the exciting and often overwhelming challenges accompanying the arrival of a new baby. Caring Connection facilitates and trains community members as sensitive volunteers to proactively help others through times of need, one of Judaism’s greatest *mitzvot*. Not only does this vital assistance greatly aid the individual, it also strengthens and unifies our community and enhances our sense of responsibility for one another. To learn more, visit [shearithisrael.org/caringconnection](http://shearithisrael.org/caringconnection). To volunteer, contact Rabbi Shalom Morris.



### *JICNY EVENTS AT A GLANCE*

#### *Monday Night Learning*

Mondays 7:00 pm–9:15 pm  
See page 5 for details.

#### *Syrian Refugees Event*

October 8, 7:00 pm

#### *Speed Networking*

October 17, 6:30 pm

#### *Shabbat Dinner*

October 18

#### *Couples Lunch*

October 19

#### *Hospitality Shabbat*

November 1

#### *Shabbat Dinner*

November 22

#### *Networking & Breakfast in the Succah*

September 24, 7:30 am

#### *Shabbat Dinner*

December 6

#### *Israel Advocacy Event*

December 11, 7:00 pm

#### *Shabbat Dinner*

December 13

#### *Couples Lunch*

December 7

#### *Shabbat Dinner*

January 17

#### *Speed Networking*

March 5, 6:15pm

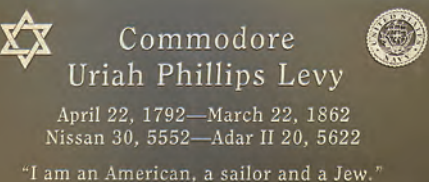
#### *Couples Lunch*

March 8

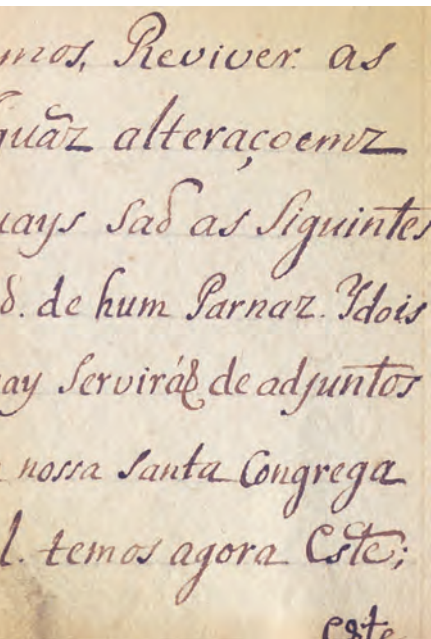
#### *Israel Advocacy Event*

March 12, 7:00 pm





## HISTORY



Founded in 1654, Congregation Shearith Israel, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, was the first Jewish congregation established in North America. Its founders were 23 Jews, mostly of Spanish and Portuguese origin, who had been living in Recife, Brazil. Members of Shearith Israel struggled for and won religious and civil freedoms for Jews. As the only Jewish congregation in New York City until 1825, Shearith Israel was the center of Jewish life, providing a place of worship and learning as well as social and humanitarian services for the Jewish community.

An integral part of civic life in New York City and its Jewish community, Shearith Israel's members founded and remain active in many leading institutions including Mount Sinai Hospital, the New York Stock Exchange, Montefiore Hospital, the Lexington School for the Deaf, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the Sephardic Studies Program of Yeshiva University and many more.

Notable members include Uriah Phillips Levy, the first Jew to be promoted to Commodore in the United States Navy, who purchased and restored Thomas Jefferson's Monticello estate and bequeathed it to the American people; Emma Lazarus, whose words adorn the base of the Statue of Liberty; Maude Nathan, suffragist and social reformer; Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Nathan Cardozo; and Alice Davis Menken, a social worker who founded Shearith Israel's Sisterhood in 1896 and helped establish "Settlement Houses" for Jewish immigrants in the Lower East Side.

### *Consecration Anniversaries*

In its first decades, Shearith Israel worshiped in private homes and rented quarters. The congregation built its first synagogue on Mill Street in 1730. As the congregation and the city grew, Shearith Israel moved to larger quarters.

Each year, we remember the consecration of each of our synagogues by celebrating with special prayers and festive melodies. The Sifrei Torah are dressed in festive cloaks and the Hehal remains open for much of the service. This year, Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a special public lecture on each of the consecration anniversaries.

Shabbat Nitzabim, August 31, 2013  
19th St. Synagogue (1860)

Shabbat Hagadol, April 12, 2014  
Second Mill Street Synagogue (1817)

Seventh Day of Pesah, Monday, April 15, 2014  
First Mill Street Synagogue (1730)

Shabbat following Lag La'Omer, May 24, 2014  
70th St. Synagogue (1897)

First Day Shabuot, Wednesday, June 4, 2014  
Crosby St. Synagogue (1834)

# MEMBERSHIP

Shearith Israel's history is a legacy for our future. Join Shearith Israel, experience all that we have to offer and help make our future as inspiring as our past. Membership dues and other donations support Shearith Israel's programs and services.

## WHAT MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES

- Warm, diverse, international community
- Pastoral and communal support during lifecycle events and in times of need
- Access to our beautiful sanctuary for all the joyous occasions in your life
- Admission to High Holidays services
- Extraordinary learning opportunities for all ages and levels
- Dynamic opportunities for women to participate in services
- Vibrant Hebrew school and Youth programming
- Fair share dues system which ensures no one will be turned away based on financial considerations.

## MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

### *Full Membership*

Full members consider Shearith Israel their spiritual home and want to participate, enjoy and support their synagogue to the best of their ability. Full Membership includes seating in the Main Sanctuary for Rosh Hashanah and Kippur as well as burial rights in our cemetery. Our full members also enjoy special rates for rental of our facilities, our Hebrew School, and our Toddler Program. Full membership is \$1900 for individuals and \$2625 for couples and families. An introductory first year membership is available for new members: \$1000 for individuals and \$1500 for families.

### *Student Membership*

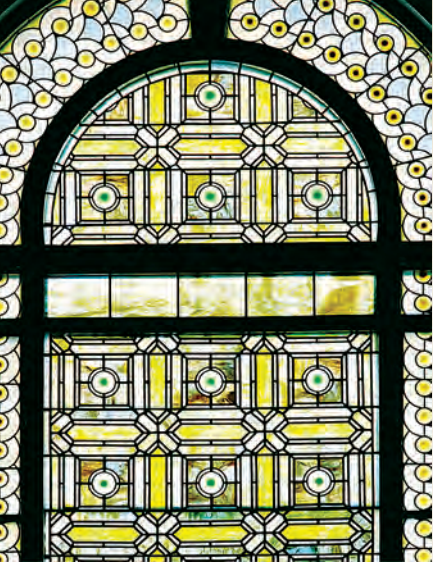
Student membership is geared towards parents who would like their children to be assigned a seat in our Main Sanctuary. Student membership is \$250 per child.

### *Young People's Membership* (up to age 30)

Young People's Membership is identical to our Full Membership and is offered to Individuals or where the older spouse is up to age 30. Young Family \$1000, Young Individual \$750.

— continued —





## MEMBERSHIP *continued*

### ***Associate Membership***

Many of Congregation Shearith Israel's friends live far from New York City or are active members of other synagogues, but wish to be a part of our community as well. Associate Membership is available at \$800 for individuals and \$1200 for families and includes seating in the Parallel Service for Rosh Hashanah and Kippur.

To become a member or learn more, please contact Executive Director Barbara Reiss or visit [shearithisrael.org/membership](http://shearithisrael.org/membership).

### ***1654 Society Major Gifts***

With two major restoration projects underway, the rehabilitation and beautification of our West 11th Street Historic Cemetery and the reinforcement of our priceless Tiffany windows, there is no better time to be a steward of America's Jewish legacy. To learn more, contact Executive Director Barbara Reiss.

### ***1654 Society***

Whether they live down the street or across the globe, many people are fascinated by Shearith Israel's unique place in history as America's first Jewish Congregation. 1654 Society members help ensure the maintenance of our landmark synagogue, historic cemeteries, priceless artifacts, archives and more. The 1654 Society also sponsors tours, lectures and other programming that focuses on Shearith Israel's history.

Members receive our quarterly bulletin and annual program guide.

### **1654 Membership Categories**

\$55 | Friend

\$100 | Contributing Friend

\$250 | Patron

Major Gifts | See sidebar





# PROFILES

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF

### ***Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik, Rabbi***

Meir Soloveichik is a leading Jewish thinker, theologian, and public intellectual. He obtained his Rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University and holds a Ph.D. from Princeton in Religion. He is currently (and will continue to serve as) the Director of the Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought at Yeshiva University. Before joining Shearith Israel, Rabbi Soloveichik served as Associate Rabbi at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun in New York City. Rabbi Soloveichik exemplifies the intellectual vibrancy, energy, and worldliness of Modern Orthodoxy. He is staunchly committed to strong outreach, community building, and higher Jewish education for both men and women, all of which he intends to make or retain as central parts of the Congregation's activities going forward.

### ***Rabbi Dr. Richard Hidary, Distinguished Rabbinic Fellow***

Rabbi Hidary is formerly the Assistant Rabbi at the Sephardic Synagogue in Brooklyn, where he served for eight years under the mentorship of Rabbi Moshe Shamah. He is also an Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies at Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University. He is best known as a sensitive and committed communal leader and for his outstanding scholarship in the areas of Talmud and Second Temple-era Jewish History. He is the author of *Dispute for the Sake of Heaven: Legal Pluralism in the Talmud* (Brown, 2010). Rabbi Hidary studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion and Yeshiva University, and received his rabbinic ordination from the Israeli Chief Rabbinate at the Shehebar Sephardic Center in Jerusalem. He earned his Ph.D. in Hebrew and Judaic Studies from New York University.

### ***Rabbi Dr. Marc D. Angel, Rabbi Emeritus***

Rabbi Angel began serving Shearith Israel in 1969. He currently directs the institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals ([www.jewishideas.org](http://www.jewishideas.org)), which fosters an intellectually vibrant, compassionate and inclusive Orthodox Judaism. The author and editor of 27 books, he is co-founder of the International Rabbinic Fellowship, a worldwide association of Modern Orthodox rabbis.

### ***Barbara Reiss, Executive Director***

Barbara received her BA at Barnard College, a Master's Degree in Economics from the London School of Economics (LSE) and Master's in Social Work from Columbia University. Prior to joining Shearith Israel as Executive Director in the Spring of 2012, Barbara served as President of Corporate Family Network (CFN), a highly regarded human resources consultancy. She is also the Immediate Past President of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), New York Region, where she has served on the board for over 13 years.

### ***Rabbi Ira L. Rohde, Hazzan***

Rabbi Rohde has served as Hazzan of Congregation Shearith Israel since 1990. He received Rabbinic Ordination and a Cantorial diploma from Yeshiva University and pursued Jewish, music and general studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University.

### ***Reverend Philip L. Sherman, Associate Hazzan***

Reverend Sherman served as Hazzan from 1985 until 1990 and returned to Shearith Israel as Associate Hazzan in 2004. He is a certified mohel and graduate of the Columbia University/Jewish Theological Seminary Joint Program.

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## PROFILES *continued*

### ***Rabbi Shalom Morris, Educational Director***

Rabbi Morris received his Rabbinic Ordination, M.A. in Jewish History and B.A. in Economics from Yeshiva University. He is a Ph.D. candidate at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies in Early Modern Jewish History with a focus on New World and Sephardic studies. Prior to coming to Shearith Israel in 2009, Rabbi Morris served as Assistant Rabbi at Lincoln Square Synagogue.

### ***Alana Shultz, Program Director***

Ms. Shultz has been Program Director since 2004. She received her Master's degree in Jewish Studies, focusing on Jewish Art and Material Culture, from the Jewish Theological Seminary and her BA in Art History from Rutgers University.

### ***Zachariah Edinger, Shamash***

Mr. Edinger is a graduate of Fordham Law School and Queens College (CUNY). Prior to becoming Shamash, he was an Administrative Hearing Officer for the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Zachary grew up in Shearith Israel and is the grandson of the late Judah Guedalia, who was Sexton of our congregation for 40 years. In fact, Zachary is now the fourth member of the Guedalia family to serve Shearith Israel as Shamash.

### ***Leon Hyman, Choirmaster***

Leading the choir since 1955, Mr. Hyman is Professor Emeritus of Montclair State University where he served on the conducting faculty. He taught conducting and conducted ensembles at Teachers College, Columbia University and the Juilliard School. Mr. Hyman is the music director/conductor of the New Philharmonic of New Jersey (Morristown), which he cofounded in 1978.

## FACULTY

***Irma Cardozo*** is the wife of our former beloved Hazzan, Rev. Abraham “Bram” Cardozo z”l, the author of her memoir, *As I Lived It*, and a teacher to many members of our community on Shearith Israel and Spanish-Portuguese history, tradition, customs, standards and lore.

***Sjimon den Hollander*** grew up in the Netherlands, where he earned a Master's degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies at Leiden University. He has taught courses on Judaism, Christianity, Islam, language and philosophy. Currently Mr. den Hollander is enrolled in Yeshiva University's rabbinical program. He is also involved in an Arabic website, [www.aslalYahud.org](http://www.aslalYahud.org), that provides information on Judaism.

***Janet R. Kirchheimer*** is a poet and the author of *How to Spot One of Us*. Her work has appeared in a variety of publications, including Atlanta Review, Potomac Review, Limestone, Connecticut Review, Kalliope, Common Ground Review and on beliefnet.com. Ms. Kirchheimer is a teaching Fellow at Clal, the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership and is a popular speaker.

***Lewis Paleias*** has been studying and teaching Chinese martial arts for more than 35 years. He has designed programs for hospitals to improve the balance and health of seniors.

***Liz Rios*** is Head Teacher of Congregation Shearith Israel's Toddler Program. She has a teacher's aide diploma and a Child Day Care Management diploma from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Ms. Rios has worked at the synagogue since 1975.

***Yehudit Robinson*** helps bar/bat mitzvah and teen students. She is the director of Media at Manhattan Day School and has a Master's degree in English from New York University.

***Lisa Rohde*** came to Shearith Israel in 1991. Mrs. Rohde teaches our liturgy and traditions in her work with the Junior Congregation and Women's Services. She is a graduate of Brandeis University.

# COMMUNAL RESOURCES

## HATZALAH (MEDICAL EMERGENCIES)

212-230-1000

## ERUB OF MANHATTAN

Visit [www.shearithisrael.org/communityresources](http://www.shearithisrael.org/communityresources) for a map.

## MIKVEH

236 W. 74 Street (Broadway and West End Avenues) 212-579-2011  
419 E. 77 Street (1st and York Avenues) 212-359-2020

## SHEARITH ISRAEL CARING CONNECTION

Caring Connection offers bikur holim, telephone visiting, referrals, meals and other help in difficult times. To reach Caring Connection, contact Rabbi Shalom Morris at 212-873-0300 x208.

## CONNECT TO CARE

Assistance for people experiencing financial difficulties, especially those newly in need who may be hesitant to ask for assistance. [www.ujafedny.org/connect-to-care](http://www.ujafedny.org/connect-to-care) or call 212-399-2685.

## HEBREW FREE LOAN SOCIETY

Interest-free loans to help families and individuals achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency. [www.hfls.org](http://www.hfls.org) or 212-687-0188

## DOROT

Social services for seniors and Kosher Meals on Wheels can be requested at 212-769-2850.

## CITY MEALS ON WHEELS

Additional kosher meal information is available at 212-687-1234.

## JEWISH BOARD OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICE

A comprehensive network of mental health and social services. [www.jbfcs.org](http://www.jbfcs.org) or 212-582-9100

## THE SHIRA RUSKAY CENTER

Support for families coping with life-threatening illness or loss. [www.shiraruskay.org](http://www.shiraruskay.org) or 212-632-4608

## SEPHARDIC BIKUR HOLIM

Mental health counseling, bikur holim, debt counseling, doctor referral services and other Jewish social services are available by calling 718-787-1100. The organization is based in Brooklyn.

## JEWISH FUNERAL HOMES

*Plaza Memorial Chapel, Manhattan* 212-769-4400

*Riverside Memorial Chapel, Manhattan* 212-362-6600

*Parkside Funeral Home, Queens* 718-896-9000

Parkside is the only funeral home we are listing outside of Manhattan because of its cost-saving Levaya prix fixe Orthodox funeral “package” sponsored and negotiated by the Orthodox Union for the sake of the budget-conscious. To take advantage of the special pricing, ask specifically for the Orthodox Union Levaya Program when contacting Parkside. Ask Parkside for the terms of the package; no changes to the terms of the package are allowed.

## *Hebrew Free Burial Association*

The Association assures that every Jew, regardless of financial means, receives a dignified, traditional Jewish funeral and burial. [info@hebrewfreeburial.org](mailto:info@hebrewfreeburial.org) or 212-239-1662.

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue  
2 West 70th Street, New York, NY 10023

## GENERAL INQUIRIES

T: 212-873-0300 | F: 212-724-6165  
info@shearithisrael.org  
www.shearithisrael.org

### *Lifecycle and Pastoral Matters*

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik 212-873-0300 x206  
Rabbi Richard Hidary 212-873-0300 x239

### *Funeral Arrangements*

Zachary S. Edinger 212-873-0300 x216  
917-584-3787

### *Hebrew School*

Rabbi Shalom Morris 212-873-0300 x208

### *Toddler Program*

Alana Shultz 212-873-0300 x209

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