



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

2 West 70th Street
New York, NY 10023

SPRING
2015

אביב תשע"ה

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue



Medal honoring David de Sola Pool. Produced by Edith Lemle in 1971 after the passing of Dr. Pool who is depicted on the obverse. The Reverse (pictured here) depicts the congregational seal (adopted in 1797) which reads "The world is supported by three pillars – Truth, Justice and Peace."



The Bulletin

America's First Jewish Congregation

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Pictured on the cover is one of the 'Pineapple' Rimmonim. These bells adorned a Torah scroll at the consecration ceremony of the First Mill Street Synagogue, held on the Seventh Day of Passover in 1730. They are used each year at services on the Seventh Day of Passover in observance of the consecration anniversary.

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

A REVOLUTIONARY HUPPAH

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik

Adapted from a sermon given by Rabbi Soloveichik on February 7, 2015



This is a true story, from Dr. Pool's annals of our synagogue, which took place during the Revolutionary War, when the British held and occupied New York City. One young Jew by the name of Samuel Lazarus, a Tory supporter of George III who had chosen to stay in New York, was getting married but had no rabbi to preside over his *Huppah*. My predecessor, Gershom Mendes Seixas, known as "the Patriot rabbi" of the American revolution for his fierce advocacy of the colonists' cause, who had himself fled before the British captured New York, snuck into the city to perform the wedding ceremony. It must have been a striking scene: a patriot presiding over a Tory *Huppah*, risking his own life and limb so that a congregant of his, one with whom he politically disagreed, could build a *Bayit Neeman BeYisrael*, a new faithful home for our people.

Thus did Seixas, hundreds of years ago, demonstrate an extraordinary sense of responsibility for fellow Jews that has always been a hallmark of our congregation. In fact, this obligation that we have for one another is embodied by the very name we traditionally give our faith. It was Judah, in Genesis, who asserts to his father about his little brother



Gershom Mendes Seixas



Emma Lazarus

Benjamin "I will be responsible for him, taking on the responsibility of an *arev*," the guarantor of his sibling's safety. "My grandfather, Rabbi Aharon Soloveichik zt"l, once suggested that the deeper significance of identifying ourselves as "Jews," adherents of a faith named "Judaism," is that we are all akin to Judah: bound to our brothers and sisters and responsible for one another.

This Lazarus family that Gershom Mendes Seixas helped found several centuries ago produced a famous descendant: Emma Lazarus, whose poem now graces the Statue of Liberty. Thus did the Tory family wedding set the stage for one of the most famous embodiments of American freedom. It is a striking indication of how Providence can be discerned in history; and it is a reminder to all of us that one Jew sacrificing for another can impact our people, and our world, long into the future. This is what our synagogue has always believed; and it is this belief that we will embody long into the future.

Meir Y. Soloveichik

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE POWER OF THE IN-BETWEEN

Barbara Reiss



When God freed the Israelites from bondage in Egypt, He did not chauffer them directly to the Promised Land. Instead, their newfound freedom began with a long and disruptive period of transition: a 40-

year journey through the wilderness. God knew that this season of wandering and disconnection from their previous routines would allow the Jewish people to create the institutions and pre-conditions necessary for Jewish nationhood: communal prayer in the *mishkan*, structures of governance, a system of adjudication, and of course, taking on the yolk of the heavenly kingdom through the acceptance of the Torah at Sinai.

This time in the wild was a painful transitional phase, with plenty of skeptics, complainers, and even a few outright rebels. Scholars have depicted the people of Israel as miserably scraping by, sustained by a dream of the Promised Land.

I can't help wondering, though, if this period of disruption had a silver lining for at least some of the Israelites. If you've ever been stuck at home during a nighttime power outage, you might know what I mean. On the one hand, you are suddenly deprived of lights, TV, and a host of creature comforts. But on the other hand, you know the disruption is temporary, and it can sometimes be fun or even poignant to play Scrabble in the flickering candle light or tell ghost stories. Plucked

out of your routine and cut off from the world, you are forced to go back to basics with your family or community. Such a challenging moment could even be a reminder of the core values that bind you together, from which you derive the greatest satisfaction, and which give your normally busy life a bedrock of meaning.

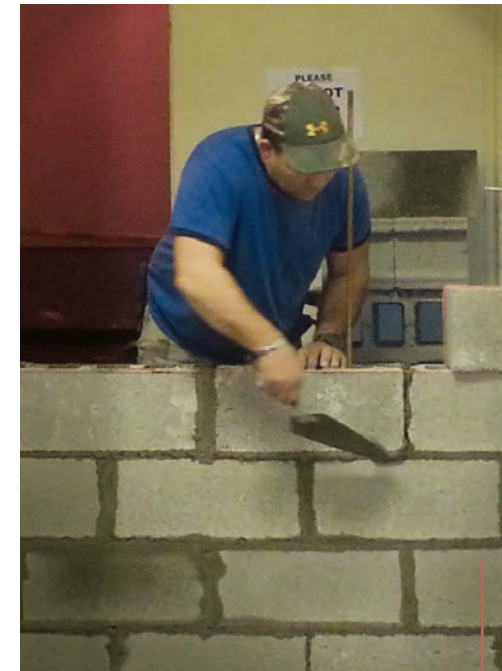
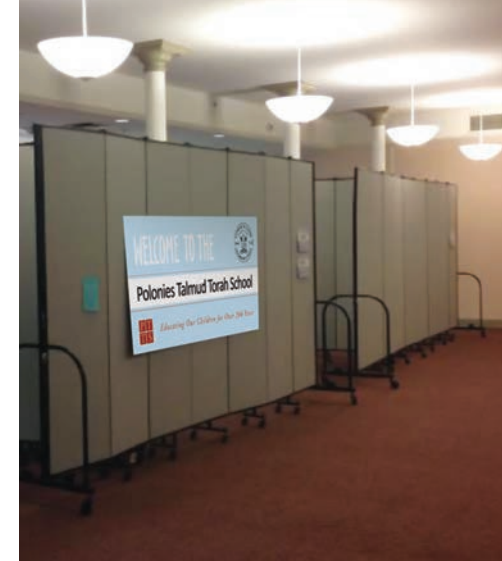
For me, when the lights come back on and normal life resumes, I feel relieved, but also a little bittersweet, as I try to hold onto my momentary gratitude for those very basic pleasures. I've been getting a whiff of such in-between feelings lately, as we are preparing for construction by compressing all the activities of a busy synagogue into the 2 West 70th St building. I know that a better and more beautiful Community House is coming in the not too distant future (although I've been told that this dream has been in the works for some 40 years!). But I am equally aware that a long and disruptive period of demolition and construction looms between now and then, and I am bracing for the space limitations, inconvenience, and conflicts that will inevitably come first.

Today, as I write this piece, it all began. Workers came and disconnected the water and heat in the 8 West 70th St building, and two plumbers are enthusiastically reducing our meat kitchen to a tangle of piping and bolts, repurposing it to serve our interim needs. A few hours ago, Levy Auditorium was alive with the games and tumult of our Toddler Program, and just now, after a

flurried furniture reconfiguration, 50-plus PTTTS Hebrew School students trooped into the very same room to learn in our makeshift "open school."

But you know what? I was delighted to see our Hebrew School students. Up until now they had met in second story classrooms far away from my office. Seeing their intent young faces reminded me that what I was looking at was actually the oldest Hebrew school in America. There in Levy Auditorium sat a group of students whose predecessors had been gathering at Shearith Israel before there was even such a thing as a Jewish Day School. Today, enrollment is higher than ever, and I had a fleeting moment of joy that such a tradition was continuing before my very eyes. I also know that throughout this transition, our members will continue to learn at Bet Midrash Mondays, Tuesday Talmud, morning women's classes, Friday Night Lights, we will rejoice together at life cycle events and *kiddushim* and most of all, we will worship together at daily minyan in the Little Synagogue and Shabbat and holiday services in our majestic sanctuary. The essence of our community will remain unchanged.

So while we commit ourselves to waiting for a vibrant future and a beautiful Community House that will accommodate our highest ambitions, let's not let the inconvenience and cramped compromise of the present mark this period of transition. Rather, as we gather for services and celebrate Purim, Pesah, and Shabu'ot this spring, let's appreciate this phase as a time to focus on essentials. Let's be impacted by the power of the in-between.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS

Mazal Tob to:

Laelah Aaron on becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Laelah is the daughter of Mark and Penny Aaron and the granddaughter of Arthur and Carol Goldberg.

Jeanine Franco Deutsch on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Olivia Ebert. Congratulations to the grandparents Robert and Colette Ebert.

Rose and Henry Edinger on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Avi Herman. Avi is the son of Nehama Edinger and Geoffrey Herman.

Matide and Dani Ferguson on the birth of a son, Chaim Benyamin Yosef.

Shirin Kaye on becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Shirin is the daughter Jonathan and Nielufar Kaye and the granddaughter of Judith Kaye.

Our member, Chava Maccaba, on being honored at the National Jewish Outreach Program (NJOP) annual dinner with the Carl and Sylvia Freyer Young Leadership Award.

Raif Melhado and Jessica Cavanagh on the birth of a daughter, Penina Miriam.

Adriel Mesznik and Dr. Liz Heller-Mesznik upon the birth of their son, Elias Mesznik.

Josh Nathan Kazis and Emily Seife on their marriage. Josh is the son of members Sara E. Nathan and Joel D. Kazis and grandson of member Ruth G. Nathan.

Judy and Joel Schreiber upon the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Aaron Schreiber, son of their children, Avram and Tammy Schreiber.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following individuals to the Shearith Israel family:

Aryeh and Elana Bourkoff
Eli and Laurie Bryk
Eric and Yonina Gomberg
Mitchell and Joleen Julis
Thomas Kaplan and Dafne Recanti Kaplan
Aviva Roumani
Rafe and Sharon Sasson
Jack Shlomo

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of our members:

Mitchell Bogen

Rachel El-Hassid, who died at the age of 98 in her home in Jerusalem.

IN APPRECIATION

Thank you to:

Anonymous for sponsoring a Shabbat Afternoon Pirkei Abot Class.

Josh Eisen for sponsoring the spring semester of Bet Midrash.

Yedidya Flaquer for sponsoring a Shabbat Learners' Service kiddush.

Simon Gerson for sponsoring a Tuesday Morning Breakfast.

The Julis Family for sponsoring the 2014-2015 season of Friday Night Lights.

Matthew Kaplan for sponsoring a Tuesday Morning Breakfast.

Lewis Lipsey for sponsoring the Spring Semester of the Shabbat Afternoon Pirkei Abot Class.

The Major, Schwartz and Spievack families for sponsoring a Talmud class in memory of their father and grandfather, Kalman Fulep Z"L.

Bruce Roberts and Joy Saleh Roberts for sponsoring the spring semester of Bet Midrash.

Rudy Stern for contributing to a Shabbat Learner's service Kiddush.

Police Appreciation Sponsors:

Anonymous
Jonathan and Michelle Aufzien
Miriam Davidson
Alan and Judi Eisenman
Faith Fogelman
Robert and Zoya Friedman
Estelle Guzik
Laurent Hasson
Esther and Rabbi Richard Hidary
Lawrence and Ruth Kobrin
Neal and Maud Kozodoy
Erica Markowitz

The Neumark Family
Nicole D Robles
Barbara Herlands Smith
Jonathan and Rachel Sopher
Madelene Towne
Susan Wind
Ealan and Melinda Wingate

Our Kiddush Fund Sponsors and Contributors: Anonymous

Seth Haberman and Jennifer Ash in honor of Simon and Eva Haberman's 60th wedding anniversary.

Chava and Brian Maccaba in honor of the birth of their daughter.

Jacob and Alisa Oslick in honor of the birth of their daughter Fina, the shloshim of Jacob's grandmother, Rose Glick, Z"L, and Alisa's birthday.

Alexander and Muriel Seligson in honor of their son Jacob's reading of the Haftarah.

Youth Recital Sponsors:

Laury Frieber
The Shearith Israel League
Andres and Ronit Lopez
Solomon Family

Matti Friedman Aleppo Codex Event Sponsors:

The Shearith Israel League
Peter and Naomi Neustadter
Ralph Sutton

Our bulletin goes to print one month in advance of delivery. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions.



JEWS FOR GEORGE: AN EXPLORATION OF JUDAISM IN THE AGE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

*Co-sponsored by YU's
Center for the Jewish
Future and YU's Zahava
and Moshael Straus Center
for Torah and Western
Thought*

**Wednesdays April 29, May 6
and May 13th
11:00 am - 12:30 pm**

This three-part course, led by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, will utilize original source documents from the archives of the Congregation to explore Judaism during the American Revolution. Fee \$125 by April 6, after \$150. To register, go to yu.edu/jhistory.

DINNERS & LECTURES

DINNERS

PURIM DINNER

Wednesday Evening, March 4 | Following Megillah reading

Join us for a festive family style dinner after megillah reading. Registration information to follow.

PESAH HAGGADAH

Co-sponsored by JICNY

Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4

Join us as we celebrate Pesah with a community Haggadah (Spanish-Portuguese Seder) on each of the first two nights of Pesah. The first night will be led by Rabbi Shalom Morris and Rabbi Rohde and the second night will be led by Rabbi Hidary and Rabbi Rohde. The spirited and interactive Haggadah is accompanied by explanations of our traditions and melodies. The menu is non-kitniyot and all-inclusive. Vegetarian options are also available. Keep your eyes on our emails and website for registration information.

LECTURES

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

**Wednesday, April 22 | 8:00 pm
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

To celebrate Israel Independence day, Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a special lecture.

YOM YERUSHALAYIM

**Sunday Morning, May 17
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

Following morning services, Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a special shiur in honor of Yom Yerushalayim. Following the shiur, you are welcome to travel with us down to Chatham Square cemetery in Chinatown for our historic Revolutionary War Memorial Service. See page 24.

SHABU'OT PUBLIC LECTURE

**Saturday night, May 23
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

Do not miss Rabbi Soloveichik's public lecture on the first night of Shabu'ot held in our magnificent main sanctuary transformed into a Shabu'ot botanical paradise.

SHABBAT LECTURES

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS: THE MAKING AND MEANING OF SHABBAT

**Fridays Following Evening Services
through March 27
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

During the chillier winter months, stay around for a bit after Friday evening services for an inspiring shiur delivered by Rabbi Soloveichik. There is no better way to transition from the workweek to the aura of Shabbat than experiencing our magnificent Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by Friday Night Lights.

MEANING & MELODY: THE DEPTH AND BEAUTY OF JEWISH PRAYER

**10:00am | Little Synagogue
Rabbi Shalom Morris**

Rabbi Morris will offer "Meaning & Melody" most Shabbat mornings in the Little Synagogue. The shiur is for learners and will consist of brief discussions focusing on prayers and their meanings as well as a review of their melodies. All are welcome.

THE MISUNDERSTOOD MATERPIECE: A NEW APPROACH TO PIRKEI ABOT

**One hour before minhah
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. What's more, the chapters of Abot are joined in a structure that tells the story of the transmission of the Oral Law. We will see how studying the history of the rabbinic figures cited lends 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.

KETER SHEM TOB

After Minhah | Rabbi Hidary

Rabbi Shemtob Gaguine (1884-1953) was Rosh Yeshibah of Judith Montefiore College in Ramsgate and was an accomplished halakhist, ethnographer, author and communal leader. His seven volume classic, Keter Shem Tob, documents and explains the customs and liturgy of the Spanish Portuguese tradition in comparison with other rites. Each week, we explain one aspect of our own siddur and minhag based on Hakham Gaguine's insight.

SHABBAT HAGADOL DERASHA

**Saturday, March 28
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

Following morning services, Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver his annual Shabbat Hagadol Derasha on the topic of "Is Bitter Better? A Culinary and Theological Approach to Maror."



YOETZET HALAKHA Lisa Septimus

We are proud to be a co-sponsor of the Manhattan Yoetzet Halakha Initiative. If you have any questions regarding Taharat Hamishpaha (Family Purity), laws of Niddah or sexuality and women's health, please contact our Yoetzet Halakha, Lisa Septimus in confidence at 917-382-9008 or nycyoetzet@gmail.com.

Lisa Septimus is a graduate of Nishmat's Miriam Glaubach Center's first class of U.S. Yoatzot Halakha Fellows Program. Over the years she has given classes at the Jewish Center in Manhattan, Riverdale Jewish Center, Drisha, Yeshiva University's summer learning program, and Beth Shalom.



WOMEN AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

WOMEN'S SHABBAT SERVICES

March 21 | in celebration of Ashley Ferguson becoming a Bat Mitzvah

May 9 | in celebration of Avigail Friedman becoming a Bat Mitzvah

By and for women, these services are an opportunity for women to lead prayer, read from the Torah and perform the mitzvot associated with the day's services. We welcome the opportunity to celebrate momentous occasions – such as a girl becoming a bat mitzvah or a bride before her wedding – in the context of our service. To participate and for more information, contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde by email: lrohde-csi@yahoo.com.

WOMEN'S CHOIR

We are forming a women's choir which will accompany our occasional Shabbat morning women's service. Women and girls who are interested or for more information, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com.

WOMEN'S MEGILLAT ESTHER READING

Thursday, March 5 | 8:00 am

Join us for the 25th year of the Women's Megillat Esther Reading. Contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com to participate.



SISTERHOOD MISHLOAH MANOT PROJECT

Want to send Mishloah Manot notifications to your friends and fellow congregants? Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to send special Purim greetings and to reach out to our Shearith Israel community and beyond. This project will support both the Sisterhood and the Synagogue's Mishloah Manot project for seniors and the homebound. To participate, please pick up a form from the rack outside Levy Auditorium and return the form with your check to the synagogue office; or go online at ShearithIsrael.org/mishloah to fill out the form and pay by credit card. For more information, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com or Mrs. Carla Schein at scheinc6@gmail.com.

TEEN GIRLS' SHIR HASHIRIM READING

Shabbat, the Eight day of Pesah, Saturday, April 11

The young women in our synagogue, ages 12-18, will read The Song of Songs for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. For information, contact Yehudit Robinson at yehuditrobinson@gmail.com.

GIRLS' MEGILLAT RUTH READING

Shabu'ot, Sunday, May 24 | 11:30 am

Following morning services, the girls of our synagogue will recite Megillat Ruth for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary. If your daughter would like to participate, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com.

ONE-ON-ONE TOUR OF THE UWS MIKVAH

If you are interested in learning more about Taharat Hamishpaha, the Laws of Family Purity, please contact Layaliza Soloveichik at layaliza@gmail.com for a private tour of the facilities at the local UWS Mikvah. To maximize confidentiality, these one-on-one tours will take place at times when the Mikvah is closed to the public. Tours of other local Mikvaot are also possible. Women only.





YOUTH PROGRAMMIG

MEGILLAT ESTHER STORY TELLING

Wednesday, March 4 | 6:15 pm

While adults hear the reading of Megillat Esther, children ages 3-10 are treated to a special Purim story telling.

TORAH TOUR OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

With Rabbi Soloveichik

Sunday, March 22 | 12:30 pm

What are the kosher signs for animals and birds? Why are these signs chosen by the Torah? Which animals and birds can be used for the sacrificial service? What is the halakhic difference between horns and antlers? Which animal's horns can be utilized for a shofar? These and many more questions will be addressed in a halakhic tour for families through the exhibits of the American Museum of Natural History, led by aspiring biblical naturalist, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik. The museum has a suggested donation entrance price but you can pay as you wish. Please arrive prepared to pay. Stay tuned for registration information.

WEEKDAY TODDLER PROGRAM

Shearith Israel's popular Toddler Program focuses on learning colors and shapes, creating arts and crafts, singing songs, exploring Jewish holidays, music and more. There is an opportunity for the caregivers to support the children's activities, and there are times when the teacher encourages them to sit on the side and observe while the children manage on their own. The program is held twice a week for children aged 16-34 months with an adult caregiver. We warmly welcome members and non-members to register. For more information and to register, go to shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram or contact Alana Shultz.

SHEARITH ISRAEL'S NEW YOUTH COMMITTEE

Alana Shultz, Program Director

The children of the Synagogue have always been a keen interest of mine and the congregational leadership, but recently we have taken a more organized approach to this growing demographic within our community. As with many other areas of synagogue life, we are calling on lay leaders to step up and innovate, create, share thoughts and help implement them.

We all know that the children are our future. Certainly a synagogue's long-term health is dependent on a flourishing membership consisting of young families. To strengthen our current community, and reach out to prospective members, we have revitalized a Youth Committee to tackle concerns and generate ideas. The committee is being spearheaded by Marc Wiznia and Rivka Shoulson, parents of Netta and Zahava, and Jacob and Alisa Oslick, brand-new parents of Fina.

Thus far, we made several small, but very appreciated changes, such as offering juice boxes and a specially reserved table for our young children during Kiddush. For Hanukkah, we entertained the youngest Shearith Israelites with an interactive puppet

show during Tot Shabbat. In December, we co-hosted, along with JICNY, a young couples and families Shabbat luncheon, and have more planned. And, Rabbi Shalom Morris is now regularly attending Tot Shabbat to sing songs and lead prayers with the toddlers right

after he finishes leading the older children in Junior Congregation.

I invite parents and grandparents who want to see this part of our synagogue life enhanced to join our brainstorming meetings. If you cannot attend a meeting, feel free to email, call, or find me on Shabbat morning to discuss your thoughts. Perhaps you

have an idea for a trip (our next family trip will be to the Museum of Natural History with Rabbi Soloveichik), educational, cultural, Shabbat or holiday program (Purim's coming up), or know the secret to making our youth programming the best on the West Side (we have a lot of friendly competition from our neighbors).

I look forward to you sharing your recommendations, enthusiasm, and time for the benefit of our little ones.

To get involved, contact Alana Shultz.



— continued —

YOUTH ON SHABBAT

TOT SHABBAT

10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Ages 0 – 4

We offer supervised play with our experienced teachers Liz and Shanade every Shabbat and holiday morning. At 11:00 am, the children sing Shabbat songs and Rabbi Shalom Morris comes to share a story from the parashah and teach barachot.

SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY CLUBS

10:00 am – the end of services
Ages 5 – 12

Clubs 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.



JUNIOR CONGREGATION

10:30 am on most weeks
Ages 5 – 12

Junior Congregation is a lively, participatory service for children ages 5 -12. Children learn Shearith Israel's melodies and have opportunities to lead prayers, read Torah, and perform Mitzvot. Regular Shabbat groups still begin at 10 am and continue after Junior Congregation. For more information and to have your child lead a part of the service, contact Rabbi Shalom Morris. Assigned Jr. Congregation dates: March 28 and April 28.

PARASHAT HASHABUA: THE PARTS THEY SKIP IN HIGH SCHOOL

Shabbat afternoons
High School students
Rabbi Richard Hidary

Our high schoolers and their friends meet in the home of Rabbi Hidary to examine texts and themes from the parashah that are often neglected in high school curricula because they are considered difficult, controversial, or for whatever reason not pertinent to young adults.

TEEN MINYAN

By Teens For Teens

A few times a year, our teens lead an entire Shabbat morning services. Participants are trained and prepared to recite and lead prayers according to Shearith Israel's beautiful tradition and dignified standards. To participate, please contact Rabbi Hidary.

THE POLONIES TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL (PTTS)

Hebrew School at Shearith Israel

Ages 3 – 16

Our Hebrew School, the Polonies Talmud Torah School, provides children and teens, ages 3–16, with a substantive Jewish education in a positive and engaging environment. Our educated, trained and enthusiastic staff create an enjoyable and warm learning environment in which children are motivated to learn and grow. Students develop Hebrew language skills (reading, writing and comprehension), learn the major portions of the Tanakh, and gain a deeper understanding of Jewish holiday rituals, Jewish history, and how Jewish ideas inform our values in modern times. All ages meet on Sundays from 10:00 am-12:00 am. Elementary school-aged children also meet on Thursdays from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm. For more information and to enroll, visit shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool or contact our Educational Director and Hebrew School Principal, Rabbi Shalom Morris. Mid-year enrollment is possible.



staying SAFE

In the immediate aftermath of the Paris shootings, we sat down with Mike Zimet, the CEO of Mike Zimet LLC, Shearith Israel's private security firm. Zimet's team has been working hard to keep our congregation safe in this increasingly unsafe world.

in an unsafe world

This spring, we want to spotlight their extremely important work, both to highlight the quality of security at Shearith Israel and to underline what we as a congregation can do to help.

Q: Hello Mike. Can you tell us about your team and what you are doing to keep our congregation safe?

A: I oversee a highly qualified team of security professionals who provide major event security and personal protection to the diplomatic, entertainment, and fashion world. I have been in the business for over 20 years and my company is the only firm in the city trusted by the Israeli Consulate to guard their visiting ambassadors, ministers, and heads of military. We have been onsite at Shearith Israel for almost a year now, providing private security at services, holidays, and major events. In conjunction with the NYPD, we are working hard to keep this congregation safe. The NYPD is here for presence, while we work to actively screen every guest, scanning hands, faces, clothing, and demeanor for the micro-details that can signal a pending problem or attack.

Q: Have the recent attacks on Jewish communities around the world changed the demands of synagogue security?

A. Absolutely. The landscape of terror and security has shifted dramatically in the last few years. Consider the difference between the lone gunman who killed four in an Israeli bank, the organized terrorist shootings in Paris, and the mentally unstable assailant who stabbed the yeshiva student at a Brooklyn synagogue last winter. These days,

it is clear that we must expect and prepare for attacks from a variety of sources, not just from terrorist cells. The enemy has proliferated. Consequently, private security professionals need to be more vigilant than ever before.

Q: How do you train your agents?

A: The only way to counter an attack that could come from any sector or source is to have extremely experienced, highly trained protection agents. I focus on three things that set my agents apart: training, attitude, and concentration to detail. My men have worked with me for many years and are trained to be proactive, to search bags and other items, to ask questions, to notice problems and prevent them before a group or attacker enters a synagogue. This brand of vigilance requires a very different skill set than a traditional police officer or security guard is expected to provide. My men also walk the block before and during events, looking for tinted car windows, a car idling without a driver, anybody who seems unusual or out of place. We take nothing for granted in our effort to provide a full bubble of protection.

Q: How can our members support your security efforts?

A: Consider yourselves an extension of our security efforts—our eyes and ears on the ground. If you see a strange car, a wandering visitor, as if anyone feels off to you, don't hesitate to tell us or the NYPD officer on duty. It may be nothing, and there's no harm in that. We will always take you seriously and investigate anything you report.

MINHAG MATTERS

MINAYIN AYIN

Zachary Edinger, Shamash



In this bulletin we inaugurate a recurring column about the customs of Shearith Israel. Shearith Israel continues to uphold a great many rare and unusual *minhagim*. These include

Spanish and Portuguese liturgical customs and variants, *halakhic minhagim*, and a unique musical heritage. We also maintain many customs and conventions related to dress and comportment reflecting a strong attachment to the aesthetics of our ancestors. Some of these customs are well known, or easily recognized, while others are only known to a few. It is my hope that this column will shed light on our heritage, explain some of our unusual customs, and perhaps, strengthen those *minhagim* that are in danger of disappearing. This article will be about the Spanish and Portuguese pronunciation of the letter *'ayin* (׀).

Spanish and Portuguese Hebrew contains several features, including the pronunciation of the letter “bet” and certain rules regarding accented words and the use of the *sheva* or *qamatz* vowels. Far and away the most noticeable of these is the pronunciation of the letter *'ayin* (׀) with an *ng* sound (as in *ring* or *bang*.) This nasal pronunciation of the ׀ is very rare and unusual amongst Jews today. In our synagogue we maintain this traditional pronunciation – heard prominently in words like “*Shemang*” or the phrase “*Ki Lengolam Hasdo*.”

׀ is the 16th letter in the Hebrew alphabet. In academic circles it is usually transliterated with a diacritical symbol ʿ. In Ashkenaz, it is pronounced similarly to the letter *Aleph* – and is generally unvoiced. In the Sephardic and *Mizrahi* world ׀

is most often pronounced similarly to the Arabic, being either a voiced uvular fricative or a voiced pharyngeal fricative (you can hear these different sounds on Wikipedia) which is either a soft or hard guttural sound.

In Spanish and Portuguese Hebrew as well as in Italian Hebrew the *'ayin* is pronounced as a voiced velar nasal [IPA symbol ŋ] that we recognize as our “*ngayin*.” This pronunciation is well attested to in the oral tradition of our synagogue and Spanish & Portuguese communities throughout the world. It is also the traditional Italian and *minhag Rome* pronunciations.

It is impossible to say definitively what the “original” pronunciation of the *'ayin* sounded like; however, we can make some educated guesses. One of the first places to look is how biblical Hebrew words (especially proper nouns) were transliterated in the Septuagint. This can give us at least some idea of how Hebrew was pronounced in the Greek speaking world. In the Septuagint we find two transliterations for the letter *'ayin*. In some cases, like the word ׀, the Septuagint transliterated as Γαζα (Gaza) from which we can see that *'ayin* was pronounced (at least sometimes) with a velar (guttural) G sound. Other examples, however, like ׀ were transliterated as Αμαλήκ (Amalek) showing us that sometimes the *'ayin* was not voiced. That there are two different pronunciations of the letter *'ayin* is not surprising to speakers of Arabic. In Arabic there are two letters *'Ayin* (ع) and *'Ghayin* (غ) representing a soft and hard version of the *'ayin*. Interestingly, Jerome (4th c.) indicates that *'ayin* is a vowel (!) by which we can see that the Ashkenazic unvoiced pronunciation is also quite ancient.

It is hard to know what the *'ayin* indicated by the Septuagint actually sounded like. It is possible that it is akin to the Arabic *'ghayin* but this is not necessarily so, since there are no living speakers of Koine Greek. It is difficult to reconstruct the sound of something from just the way it was transliterated.

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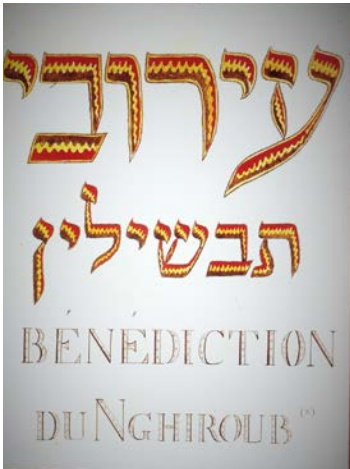
MINHAG MATTERS

MINAYIN AYIN

— continued —

As mentioned, the ‘*ngayin*’ is also traditional in Italian Hebrew. Sources indicating this pronunciation date to the 16th century. Some scholars think that the Spanish and Portuguese community adopted the Italian pronunciation, others believe the opposite, that the Spanish and Portuguese pronunciation influenced the Italian. The sources are such that it is difficult to know conclusively the origin of our pronunciation. It is also likely that the nasal ‘*ayin*’ spread from Italy into Yiddish. Even today, we occasionally here the nasal ‘*ngayin*’ in Yiddish words like “*Yankev / Yankele*” from יעקב and “*Mangseh*” [a variant of the more common “*Maiyseh*”] from מעשה.

In Spanish and Portuguese sources throughout the 19th century we find the letters *ng* or occasionally *gn* used to represent the ץ. In the image below, a French Haggadah from Bordeaux (1813) uses the unusual form *ngh* to represent the ץ.



In James [Joshua] Seixas’ 1830 “Manual [of] Hebrew Grammar” he transliterates ץ as “*gnah’yin*.” In his second edition (1833) he adds a note:

“When ץ ends a syllable it is sounded *ng*; as דע *dang*, not *dagn*.”

For those not already familiar with Spanish and Portuguese Hebrew this instruction is nearly inscrutable. The note actually refers to the fact that ץ, like the letter ח, can accept a *Furtive Patah* (*patah genuvah*), rather than to a different vocalization of the ‘*ayin*’.

The *ng* or *gn* transliteration for ‘*ayin*’ was popular in the nineteenth century, however in earlier periods it is much less common. In the 17th century we find that Spanish and Portuguese Jews in Amsterdam most frequently transliterated ‘*ayin*’ with the letter H. Below is an example from Menasseh ben Israel’s High Holiday prayerbook published in Amsterdam in 1630. His prayerbook is in Spanish with notable Hebrew parts of the service transliterated for the reader. Here we see the שמע:

La Semah.
S Emah Yfrael .A. Elohenu .A. Ehad.
Baruch Sem Kebod Malchuthó Leholam
Vabad.

This transliteration can also be seen in seventeenth century London, in institutional names like the *Mahamad* (מעמד) i.e. board of trustees; and the Society of Heshaim (עץ חיים). Here at Shearith Israel the term *Mahamad* was also used occasionally. In Amsterdam, London, and, New York, the ‘*omer*’ counters used between Passover and Shabu’ot utilize the letter H to represent the word עומר.

H was not the only transliteration used in 17th century Amsterdam. Several other transliterations exist. For example, Baruch Spinoza’s *Compendium grammatices linguæ hebrææ*, (written in Latin and published in 1677) uses the letters hg for ‘*ayin*’.

The H for ‘*ayin*’ appears even earlier in a Spanish prayer book printed in Ferrara in 1552. So some form of H or HG was being used already in the 16th century among the earliest generations of re-Judaizing Marranos. There is a paucity of sources with transliterated Hebrew of the Iberian Peninsula in earlier pre-expulsion periods.

The question we must ask now is what sound is indicated by the H prevalent in the ex-Marrano communities of Italy and Amsterdam? Iberian pronunciations of the letter H differ from English. In Portuguese and in Spanish the letter H is sometimes un-vocalized, sometimes it is a pharyngeal fricative similar to the Hebrew letter Het (ח), and sometimes a nasal nh sound (ך). Because of this a hypothesis arose that the nasal “*ngayin*” was actually a mistake made by re-judaizing ex-marranos who were confused by the transliteration, causing them to use a nasal sound where there should not have been. Alternatively, the use of H for ‘*ayin*’ could indicate that a nasal ‘*ngayin*’ was intended and therefore has its origins in some pre-expulsion time in Spain/Portugal or Italy.

Some evidence of an original Iberian pronunciation of the ‘*ngayin*’ can be found in Arabic sources going back to the Middle Ages. Various Arabic and Coptic sources, dating back

to at least the 11th century, describe a holiday called *al’Ansara* or in Spanish *alhanzara*. This was originally a Christian celebration of the Pentecost (Feast of St. John) which became a Muslim seasonal holiday in North Africa and Andalusia. (*Ansara* is also still today the name for the Pentecost used by the Coptic Church - probably adopted from the Arabic.) Many Muslims adopted al ‘*Ansara*’ as a midsummer holiday celebrated with horseracing and bonfires.

The name al ‘*ansara*’ comes from the Hebrew word עצרת (*Atseret*) which of course begins with an ‘*ayin*’. Here we have a strong example of an Arabic or Arabicized transliteration of the Hebrew letter ‘*ayin*’ that indicates a nasal phoneme similar to the Spanish and Portuguese ‘*ngayin*’. Although not concrete proof, this strongly indicates that our ‘*ngayin*’ today has its roots in medieval Spain, was not adopted from the Italian at a late date, nor was it a mistaken pronunciation made by ex-marranos learning Hebrew.

Today, the use of the traditional S&P ‘*ngayin*’ is in decline. Even in some of our sister congregations the ‘*ngayin*’ has been lost or rarely heard. We can take pride in our pronunciation knowing that our ‘*ngayin*’ is very likely the original Iberian pronunciation of the middle ages.





WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

MODERN ETHICAL ISSUES IN HALAKHA

Sundays | 8:40 am | Rabbi Richard Hidary

The Jewish tradition provides an ethical system which has influenced much of the world throughout its centuries of development. This class will delve into various issues of confronting us in the areas of medical, business, and war ethics and seek guidance from Jewish sources that relate to these matters. Throughout, we will focus on primary sources and survey the various methodologies used by modern posekim and ethicists to interpret and apply these ancient texts to modern contexts.

SAADIA GAON'S EMUNOT VE'DEOT ON REVELATION AND COMMANDMENTS

Sundays | 9:30 am | Sjimón den Hollander

The Book of Beliefs and Opinions (completed 933 CE) was the first systematic presentation and philosophic foundation of the dogmas of Judaism.

MAIMONIDES' GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED ON PROPHECY

Mondays | 7:00 pm | Rabbi Richard Hidary

Maimonides was one of the world's greatest minds and the author of the most significant work of Jewish Philosophy, the Moreh HaNevuhim. This year, we delve into the meaning and means of biblical prophecy. Can anyone become a prophet? What about Bil'am? How was Moses different from all other prophets? How does prophecy work and what are the steps involved in activating it?

YOUNG LEADERSHIP MONDAY NIGHT LEARNING

In partnership with JICNY

Mondays | starts at 7:00 pm

Start the work week off right by joining other young professionals for a drink, a bite to eat, and stimulating classes on Jewish texts. For those in their 20s and 30s. \$5 per person.

Parashah Class: Steve Eisenberg at 7:00 pm.

Parashah Class for Spanish Speakers: Rabbi Nissim Elnecave at 8:30 pm.

HEBRUTA PROGRAM

In Partnership with JICNY

Mondays | 7:15 pm

Hebruta (partnered study) is the backbone of Jewish learning, and our program gives you the chance to explore an area of interest (Bible, Ethics, Law, Talmud...) with a mentor or peer. Join us and take your Jewish engagement to a new level. Led by Rabbi Shalom Morris and Phil Getz. To participate and be paired, contact Rabbi Shalom Morris.

LIVING JEWISH

Mondays | 7:30 pm | Rabbi Shalom Morris

Transform Jewish thought into Jewish action. The Jewish day, year and lifecycle 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. This course is ideal for those seeking a greater understanding of Judaism, wishing to increase their religious observance or actively pursuing conversion. Newcomers are welcome throughout the year.

RAMBAM RULES FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Mondays | 8:30 pm | Rabbi Shalom Morris

Learn about the most influential teachings of Maimondes' monumental Mishneh Torah. This class is for those in their 20s and 30s.

BET MIDRASH

Mondays | 8:00 pm

Each Monday night, we invite the community to immerse themselves in prayer, learning, eating, and discussing together. Beginning with evening services, Bet Midrash attendees are invited to enjoy a delicious dinner, engage in a stimulating class on Jewish philosophy with Rabbi Hidary for a first hour, and then continue studying a choice of varying texts in small breakout groups. For questions, contact Rabbi Richard Hidary.

BREAKOUT GROUPS:

Arvei Pesachim

Meira Wolkenfeld

In this Gemara shiur we will study the tenth chapter of tractate Pesachim, which deals with topics like kiddish, havdalah and the order of the seder. All levels welcome.

Why Did the Roman Empire [almost] Become Jewish

Rabbi Ira Rohde

This semester, we are continuing our study of the multi-volume Praeparatio Evangelica, by the Christian author Eusebius Pamphilus of Caesaria. This text anthologizes all of the arguments against ancient paganism and for belief in Judaism used up to his time, 260-340 C.E. All of these same arguments were needed and used at that time as "preparation" for arguments for belief in Christianity when it became the official religion of the Roman Empire under the Emperor Constantine.

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How was the Talmud created?
An Academic Approach to the Formation of the Talmud
Dr. Josh Eisen

This group will simultaneously introduce students to contemporary ideas about the formation and structure of the Talmud and also study specific texts in their original in order to practice and improve textual skills. The course also explores other facets of Talmud study and legal theory in order to define how the Talmud is studied and the manner in which ideas about its formation inform its study.

Nefesh Ha-Hayyim by Rabbi Hayyim of Volozhin
Phil Getz

Nefesh Ha-Hayyim is the 19th-century work of philosophy, theology and Kabbalah by the founder of the modern yeshiva.

SHULHAN ARUKH

Tuesdays | 7:45 am | Rabbi Richard Hidary

Join us every Tuesday for Minyan, breakfast, and a short class. Each week we will learn a selection of Halakhot from Rabbi Yosef Caro’s 16th century Shulhan Arukh. Yosef Caro (Toledo, Spain 1488 – Safed, Israel 1575) was author of the last great codification of Jewish law. The Shulhan Arukh is still authoritative for all Jews pertaining to their respective communities and to this end, Caro is often referred to as Maran (our teacher).

JEWISH TIME AND THE FESTIVALS: A CLASS FOR WOMEN

Tuesdays | 9:00 am | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Drawing on halakhic, literary, and philosophical texts, we will attempt to examine anew the holidays.

HISTORY OF THE SEPHARDIM, THE SPANISH & PORTUGUESE JEWS

Tuesdays | 6:45 pm | Rabbi Shalom Morris

Many Jews throughout the non-Ashkenazi world have adopted the identity of the Sephardim, the Jews of Spain. The course studies the history (10th - 18th Century) from their Golden Age under Islam to life under Christian rule and their ultimate expulsion and spread throughout the Mediterranean and Atlantic Basin (Western Europe, North America and the Caribbean). The course will focus on their intellectual and cultural achievements, political upheavals, important individuals, community histories, and lasting influence. Includes extensive use of primary sources.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:40 am <i>Modern Ethical Issues in Halakha</i> (Rabbi Hidary)	7:00 pm <i>Maimonides' Guide for the Perplexed on Prophecy</i> (Rabbi Hidary)	7:45 am <i>Shulhan Arukh</i> (Rabbi Hidary)	10:00 am <i>Parashat HaShabua</i> (Esther Hidary)	Following Evening Services <i>Friday Night Lights</i> (Rabbi Soloveichik)	<i>Shabbat Morning Sermon/Seminar</i> (Rabbi Soloveichik/ Rabbi Hidary)
9:30 am <i>Saadia Gaon's Emunot ve'Deot on Revelation and Commandments</i> (Sjimon den Hollander)	7:00 pm <i>YL Monday Night Learning</i> (Steve Eisenberg and Rabbi Nissim Elnecape)	9:00 am <i>Jewish Time and the Festivals: A Class for Women</i> (Rabbi Soloveichik)			10:00 am <i>Meaning and Melody</i> (Rabbi Morris)
	7:15 pm <i>Hebruta Program</i> (Rabbi Morris)	6:45 pm <i>History of the Sephardim, the Spanish & Portuguese Jews</i> (Rabbi Morris)			<i>Parashat HaShabua: The Parts They Skip in High School</i> (Rabbi Hidary)
	7:30 pm <i>Living Jewish</i> (Rabbi Morris)	8:00 pm <i>Talmud Class: Tractate Berakhot and the Philosophy of Jewish</i> (Rabbi Soloveichik)			An hour before Minhah <i>Afternoon Shiur</i> (Rabbi Soloveichik)
	8:00 pm <i>Bet Midrash</i> (Dr. Josh Eisen, Phil Getz, Rabbi Ira Rhode, Meira Wolkenfeld)				Between Minhah and Arbit <i>Keter Shem Tob</i> (Rabbi Hidary)
	8:30 pm <i>Rambam Rules for Young Professionals</i> (Rabbi Morris)				



WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION — continued —

ADULT HEBREW CLASSES
Rabbi Shalom Morris

Build reading comprehension skills in one of these three Hebrew classes for adults. For questions contact Rabbi Shalom Morris. Keep your eyes out for sign up information.

- Level 1: April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 31, June 7, 14
- Level 2: April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3, 10
- Level 3: April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4, 11



TALMUD CLASS: TRACTATE BERAKHOT AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF JEWISH PRAYER
Tuesdays | 8:00 pm | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

C.S. Lewis once wrote: “Let’s now at any rate come clean.” Prayer is irksome. An excuse to omit it is never unwelcome. When it is over, this casts a feeling of relief and holiday over the rest of the day. We are reluctant to begin. We are delighted to finish. While we are at prayer, but not while we are reading a novel or solving a crossword puzzle, any trifle is enough to distract us.” If Lewis is correct, this is because we often fail to appreciate the nature and meaning of Tefillah. Combining Talmudic texts and Jewish philosophical reflections, this shiur elucidates the unique nature and history of Jewish prayers, the extraordinary depth of its liturgy, and the reasons why prayer lies at the heart of Jewish devotional life.

PARASHAT HASHABUA
Wednesdays | 10:00 am | Esther Hidary

This class, held in our historic Elias Room, explores the weekly parashah through an examination of its literary elements and themes. Suitable for learners at all levels.



CULTURE & ENRICHMENT

PRE-PURIM BAKING CLASS

Sponsored by the Shearith Israel League
Thursday, February 26 | 7:00 pm

Come join baker Rivka Mallet to learn how to put a new spin on the traditional “Oznei Haman.” We will learn (and taste) the secrets of making scrumptious Fazuelos, a Sephardic style of Hamantashen. Children and adults are welcome. Cost: \$10 per person, children under 13 are free. For questions, contact Rivka Shoulson at rlsvet@gmail.com. For more information and to register go to: shearithisrael.org/purimbaking. Please sign up by Sunday, February 22

INDIAN COOKING CLASS

In collaboration with JDC Entwine, JICNY, the Shearith Israel League and the Sisterhood
Date TBA

If you love Indian food, you won’t want to miss this class with Shearith Israel member, Fiona Amiel, who grew up in Cochin, India.

SHEARITH ISRAEL BOOK CLUB

Wednesdays March 11, April 15, and May 13
Location in a private home | Esther Hidary

If you have been looking for a great book to read and crave intellectual literary discussion, join the Shearith Israel book club! Please complete the readings in advanced and come prepared for a deep analysis and conversation.

8:00 pm | March 11:
The Betrayers by David Bezmozgis

8:00 pm | April 15:
East of Eden by John Steinbeck

8:00 pm | May 13:
The Un-Americans by Molly Antopol

ANNUAL MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE IN HONOR OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS

Sunday Morning, May 17 | Chatham Square Cemetery

Following Rabbi Soloveichik’s Yom Yerushalayim shiur, we will head down to Chatham Square Cemetery to honor members of our congregation who participated in the Revolutionary War. Our historic ceremony and Color Guard is a special Shearith Israel tradition that Is open to military veterans, clergy, and members of the community. Join us to place American flags at the graves of our twenty-two veteran congregants. The cemetery, active from 1682-1828, is located at 44 St. James Place, opposite Chatham Square.

ANNUAL SPRING GALA

Date and details to be announced

Each spring we honor a member of our community who has provided a great service to our congregation. This annual fundraiser is a lovely way to support our beloved synagogue while enjoying each other’s company at an elegant and festive gala.

ONGOING CULTURAL CLASSES AND LECTURES

CHAI TEA

Fourth Tuesday of each month and as otherwise announced | 5:30 pm

Chai Tea is our version of High Tea, with a Jewish twist. On the fourth Tuesday of every month, our resident poet, Janet Kirchheimer facilitates a discussion on poetry, prose, or other literary topics. On other occasional Tuesdays, we host guest speakers or unique programs. Chai Tea is always enhanced with light refreshments and tea of course. Participants are encouraged to attend evening services in the Little Synagogue immediately after the program. All are welcome. RSVP to Alana Shultz. Recommended donation: \$10 CSI members; \$12 non-members.

TAI CHI WITH LEWIS PALEIAS

**Thursdays | 11:00 am
Levy Auditorium**

This age-old practice helps increase 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.

Every year, Jews all around the world eat Haroset, the delicious spread which symbolizes the mortar used by the Hebrew slaves in Egypt. Although the classical American Haroset consists of apples, wine and nuts, Jews in other parts of the world bite into a different taste.

Just as our Shearith Israel community comprises people from all different geographical backgrounds and traditions, we thought we would share some Haroset recipes from across the world to bring some cultural diversity to your Passover Haggadah/Seder.

Haroset



CULINARY CORNER

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Aodi Zilkha- Beth Torah catering

Ingredients
2 pounds of dates
Chopped walnuts

Take two pounds of dates soaked in boiling water over night, then blend in a good blender and strain through a fine mesh bag and squeezed till very dry. Simmer the liquid on low till reduced to about a cup (could be a few days) to make it a syrup. Mix in chopped walnuts and it’s ready.

COCHIN, INDIA

Fiona Hallegua – Member of Shearith Israel

Fiona immigrated to the U.S in 1995. The Hallegua family traces their origins to Spain and Syria. Fiorna’s mother’s family can trace their roots to Iraq & Burma. The haroseth is a traditional recipe from Cochin. During Passover the haroseth is used instead of jam on matza & other breakfast dishes

Ingredients
6 pounds dates seeded
Enough water to cover the dates

Boil the dates until very soft. Once cooked, blend the mixture. Using a cheese cloth, strain the liquid. The liquid is then thickened by constantly stirring on medium flame until it reaches a one thread consistency. Once done, let it cool down completely before bottling. If the mixture is too thick you can add more water to thin it down then thicken it over stove top. If too watery you can return to the stove top to thicken. Serve with chopped nuts on top. Note: no sugar is added. The sweetness is all from the dates!

ASHKENAZ HAROSET WITH A TWIST

Pini Ben Ari- Olive Tree Catering

Ingredients

- 5 Granny Smith Apples
- 1 Cup Raisins
- 1 Cup Sweet Red Wine
- ½ Cup Pieces Plum
- ½ Cup Pieces Apricot
- ½ Cup Walnuts
- 5-6 Tablespoon Brown Sugar
- ½ Teaspoon Cinnamon
- Lemon Zest from 1 Lemon
- Honey
- Clove to taste

Peel and core the apples. Soak the raisins in boiling water and juice of ½ lemon. Dice the apricot and plums. Put all ingredients in the food processor and puree, taste.



LIBYAN HAROSET

Taken from Jewish Cooking in America by Joan Nathan

Ingredients

- ¼ cup walnuts
- ¼ cup pecans
- ¼ cup almonds
- ¼ cup hazelnuts
- ½ cup raisins
- 1 cup pitted dates
- 1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 ½ teaspoons allspice
- ½ teaspoon ginger
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg

Combine all ingredients using a mortar and pestle or a food processor. Serve the haroset with romaine lettuce as the bitter herb. Yield: 3 cups.



FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS&BITES

Friday evening, March 6

Join us for a cocktails and hors d'oeuvres following evening services and Friday Night Lights. These holiday-themed social mixers come complete with Hamotzi and Birkat haMazon. On March 6, join us for a special Post Purim Hilkhof of Cocktails event. Registration required at shearithisrael.org/bites.

GAME NIGHT

Saturday night, March 7

Co-sponsored by Caring Connection and the Shearith Israel League

If you enjoy word games like Scrabble to the fast paced frenzy of Banagrams are intrigued by the Mahjong craze or always wanted to challenge other Shearith Israel members to a game of backgammon and emerge victorious, mark your calendar for the evening of March 7 and come ready to play.

HERETICS AND HISTORY: THE RE-TRIAL OF SPINOZA

The grande finale to the 3-part series

Sunday, March 8 | TBD
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

The excommunication of Baruch (Benedict) Spinoza by the Jews of Amsterdam is one of the most

SPECIAL EVENTS

famous events in modern Jewish history. Who was Spinoza and what did he believe? Why were his views seen as so dangerous by Dutch Jews? Was the excommunication justified? In what way is the story of his excommunication relevant to us as Jews today? Join us in our majestic sanctuary for a 21st century re-trial of Spinoza featuring a cast of Rabbis, esteemed judges and attorneys, as well as an appearance by Spinoza himself. Check our emails for exact time, registration details, and sponsorship opportunities.

PASSOVER PACKAGE DELIVERIES WITH DOROT

Sunday, March 22

Prepare for Pesah with a good deed by bringing matzah, gefilte fish, horseradish and other goodies to the homebound elderly. There will be group from our synagogue volunteering with DOROT to deliver pre-Passover packages. For more information, please contact Rabbi Richard Hidary.

BASEBALL OUTING WITH RABBI HIDARY

Sunday, April 26 | 8:05 pm

Take me out to the ball game! Take me out to the crowd! Join Rabbi Hidary at the Yankees vs. Mets game at Yankee Stadium. Don't miss this exciting New York showdown. One lucky participant will win a baseball signed by Rabbi Hidary himself! Register at shearithisrael.org/baseball.

MONTHLY SYNAGOGUE TOURS

Tours of Shearith Israel provide a unique opportunity for visitors and tourists to learn more about America's first Jewish Congregation—Shearith Israel—and view ritual objects dating back to the Colonial period. We are pleased to lead guests through our beautiful space with enlightening facts about our proud history and unique traditions. Individuals and groups are welcome to attend a free, guided tour on the second Tuesday of every month at 11:00 am led by a member of our clergy or a trained docent. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person although any amount is appreciated. Tours generally last 45 minutes.



SERVICES

SHABBAT SERVICES

March 6th -7th

Candle Lighting	5:34 pm
Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....	5:45 pm
Friday Evening Sunset	5:52 pm
Zemirot, led by Joseph A. Solomon	8:15 am
Shahrit & Musaf	9:00-11:45 am
Torah Reading.....	Ki Tissa Exodus 30:11-34:35
Haftarah	Hillel Neumark I Kings 18:20-39
Seudah Shelishit & Class.....	4:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	5:30 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset	5:54 pm
Habdalah.....	6:26 pm

March 13th-14th Shabbat Parah

Candle Lighting	6:42 pm
Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....	6:45 pm
Friday Evening Sunset	7:00 pm
Zemirot, led by Matthew Kaplan.....	8:15 am
Shahrit & Musaf	9:00-11:45 am
Torah Reading.....	Vayaqhel-Pekude-Parah Exodus 35:1-end; Numbers 19:1-22
Haftarah	Rabbi Shalom Morris Ezekiel 36:16-36
Seudah Shelishit & Class.....	5:35 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	6:35 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset	7:01 pm
Habdalah.....	7:35 pm
Shabbat Parah: In preparation for the eating of the Paschal lamb, proper steps were taken to be ritually clean. Hence we add the reading from Numbers 19, the law concerning the ashes of the Red Heifer [Heb. "Parah Adumah"]	

March 20th-21st Rosh Hodesh HaHodesh

Candle Lighting	6:50 pm
Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....	6:45 pm
Friday Evening Sunset	7:08 pm

Zemirot, led by Sjimon Den Hollander. 8:15 am
Shahrit & Musaf9:00-11:45 am
Torah Reading. Vayikra-Rosh Hodesh-Hahodesh
Leviticus 1:1-5:26; Numbers 28:9-15, &
Exodus 12:1-20

Haftarah Daniel Ferguson
Ezekiel 45:18-46:15; Isaiah 66:1 and 66:23
Bat Mitzvah Ashley Ferguson
Seudah Shelishit & Class.....5:45 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....6:45 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset7:09 pm
Habdalah.....7:43 pm
Shabbat Hahodesh derives its name from the special reading of the Torah, Exodus 12:1-20. This is the "portion about the month" referring to the special consecration of Nisan, the month of Passover. In 5775, Shabbat Hahodesh coincides with Rosh Hodesh itself, the "New Moon," the first day of Nisan.

March 27th-28th Shabbat HaGadol

1818 2nd Mill St. Consecration Anniversary
Candle Lighting6:57 pm
Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....6:45 pm
Friday Evening Sunset.....7:15 pm
Zemirot, led by Adam Jackson..... 8:15 am
Shahrit & Musaf9:00-11:45 am
Torah Reading..... Tsav-HaGadol
Leviticus 6:1-8:36
Haftarah Rabbi Meir Y. Soloveichik
Malachi 3:4-24
Seudah Shelishit & Class.....5:50 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....6:50 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset7:16 pm
Habdalah.....7:52 pm
Shabbat HaGadol, the "Sabbath of the Great [One]" is the designation used for the Sabbath just preceding Passover, which was always the occasion for a "great" sage of rank to exhort the assembled congregation concerning the upcoming Passover Festival. At Shearith Israel,

this Shabbat is also observed as the anniversary of the consecration of its 2nd Mill St. Synagogue Building, which was completed and officially dedicated just in time for Passover 1818.

April 17th-18th

Candle Lighting	7:19 pm
Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....	6:45 pm
Friday Evening Sunset	7:37 pm
Zemirot, led by Jacob Daar	8:15 am
Shahrit & Musaf	9:00-11:45 am
Torah Reading.....	Shemini Leviticus 9:1-11:47
Haftarah	Jack Shlomo I Samuel 20:18-42 (Mahar Hodesh)
Seudah Shelishit & Class.....	6:15 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	7:15 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset	7:38 pm
Habdalah.....	8:16 pm

April 24th-25th

Candle Lighting	7:27 pm
Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....	6:45 pm
Friday Evening Sunset	7:45 pm
Zemirot, led by Sjimon den Hollander..	8:15 am
Shahrit & Musaf	9:00-11:45 am
Torah Reading.....	Tazria` -Metsora` Leviticus 12:1-15:33
Haftarah	Leonardo Kaplan II Kings 7:3-20
Bar Mitzvah.....	Leonardo Kaplan
Seudah Shelishit & Class.....	6:20 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	7:20 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset	7:46 pm
Habdalah.....	8:24 pm

May 1st-2nd

Candle Lighting	7:34 pm
Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....	6:45 pm
Friday Evening Sunset	7:52 pm
Zemirot, led by Adam Jackson.....	8:15 am

— continued —

Shahrit & Musaf9:00-11:45 am
 Torah Reading.....Ahare Moth-Kedoshim
 Leviticus 16:1-20:27
 HaftarahJoseph A. Solomon
 Ezekiel 20:2-20
 Seudah Shelishit & Class.....6:30 pm
 Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....7:30 pm
 Saturday Evening Sunset7:53 pm
 Habdalah.....8:33 pm

May 8th-9th

189770th Street Consecration Anniversary
 Candle Lighting7:41 pm
 Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....6:45 pm
 Friday Evening Sunset.....7:59 pm
 Zemirot, led by Sjimon Den Hollander. 8:15 am
 Shahrit & Musaf9:00-11:45 am
 Torah Reading.....Emor
 Leviticus 21:1-24:23
 Haftarah
 Ezekiel 44:15-31
 Bat Mitzvah.....Avigail Friedman
 Seudah Shelishit & Class.....6:35 pm
 Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....7:35 pm
 Saturday Evening Sunset8:01 pm
 Habdalah.....8:41 pm
 The Shabbat after Lag LaOmer is the anniversary
 of the consecration of our current synagogue
 building on 70th St. and Central Park West,
 which was completed and dedicated on
 Lag LaOmer in 1897, in time to open it to
 worshippers for Shabu`ot that year.

May 15th-16th

Candle Lighting7:47 pm
 Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....6:45 pm
 Friday Evening Sunset.....8:05 pm
 Zemirot, led by Joseph A. Solomon.....8:15 am
 Shahrit & Musaf9:00-11:45 am

Torah Reading.....Behar-Behukkothai
 Leviticus 25:1-end
 HaftarahNoah Lang
 Jeremiah 16:19-17:14
 Seudah Shelishit & Class.....6:45 pm
 Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....7:45 pm
 Saturday Evening Sunset8:06 pm
 Habdalah.....8:47 pm

May 22nd-23rd Eve of Shabu`ot Shabbat

Candle Lighting7:54 pm
 Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit6:45 pm
 Friday Evening Sunset.....8:12 pm
 Zemirot, led by Adam Jackson.....8:15 am
 Shahrit & Musaf9:00-11:45 am
 Torah Reading.....Bemidbar
 Numbers 1:1-4:20
 HaftarahIsaac Haberman
 Hosea 2:1-22
 Seudah Shelishit & Class.....6:55 pm
 Shabbat Minhah & Shabu`ot Arbit.....7:55 pm
 Saturday Evening Sunset8:13 pm
 End of Shabbat/Festival Candle Lighting8:54 pm

May 29th-30th

Candle Lighting8:00 pm
 Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....6:45 pm
 Friday Evening Sunset8:18 pm
 Zemirot, led by Matthew Kaplan.....8:15 am
 Shahrit & Musaf9:00-11:45 am
 Torah Reading.....Naso
 Numbers 4:21-7:89
 HaftarahNoam Kaplan
 Judges 13:2-25
 Seudah Shelishit & Class.....6:55 pm
 Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....7:55 pm
 Saturday Evening Sunset8:19 pm
 Habdalah.....9:01 pm

DAILY SERVICES

Mornings (Shabrit):

Sunday & Legal Holidays8:00 am
 Monday-Friday.....7:15 am

Evenings (Minhah & Arbit)

Sunday through Thursday

March 1st through March 5th5:30 pm
 March 8th through May 21st6:30 pm
 May 26th through July 30th6:45 pm

MINOR & LEGAL HOLIDAYS

Rosh Hodesh Nisan (One-Day)

Friday Evening, March 20th
 through Saturday, March 21st

Yom HaShoah

(Holocaust Remembrance Day)
 Wednesday Evening, April 15th
 through Thursday, April 16th

Rosh Hodesh Iyar (Two-Day)

Saturday Evening, April 18th through
 Monday, April 20th

Yom Ha`Atzma`ut

(Israeli Independence Day)
 Wednesday Evening, April 22nd
 through Thursday, April 23rd

Lag La`Omer

Wed. Eve, May 6th through Thur., May 7th

Yom Yerushalaim

(Jerusalem Reunification Day)
 Saturday Evening, May 16th
 through Sunday, May 17th

Rosh Hodesh Sivan (One-Day)

Monday Evening, May 18th
 through Tuesday, May 19th

Memorial Day (Legal Holiday)

The Second Day of Shabu`ot
 Monday, May 25th
 (See Shabu`ot Festival Schedule)

PURIM HOLIDAY SERVICES

Fast of Esther

Wednesday, March 4th

Fast Begins.....5:05 am
 Shahrit Service.....7:15 am
 Eve of Purim
 Wednesday, March 4th
 Minhah (men wear tefillin)5:30 pm
 Sunset5:50 pm
 Arbit (Evening) Service6:00 pm
 End of Fast6:11 pm
 Reading of Megillah6:15 pm
 Late Evening Reading of Megillah8:00 pm

Purim Day

Thursday, March 5th

Shahrit Service.....7:15 am
 Morning Reading of Megillah.....8:00 am
 Women's Megillah Reading.....8:00 am
 Late Morning Reading of Megillah.....11:00 am
 Purim Day Minhah & Arbit Services5:30 pm

Purim Shushan

Friday, March 6th

Shahrit Service..... 7:15 am

The Fast of Esther commemorates the day when the Jews of Persia donned sackcloth and ashes, went without food, and prayed that they be spared the massacre planned for them by Haman. Men don tefillin at the 5:30 service on Wednesday Evening.

Purim commemorates the day when, through the intervention of Mordecai and Queen Esther, the Jews of Persia narrowly escaped being victims of Haman’s evil plot to exterminate them. Instead, “The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor.”

Purim Shushan, the day following Purim, was the actual day of celebration observed in Shushan, the capital of ancient Persia, and is the day Purim is observed in Jerusalem.

PASSOVER FESTIVAL

*Friday Evening, April 3rd-
Saturday, April 11th*

PREPARATIONS

Thursday Evening, April 2nd

Search for Leaven at night on Thursday (after sunset, 7:21 pm)

Friday, April 3rd

Fast of First Born begins (Dawn) 5:13 am
 Sunrise..... 6:37 am
 Morning Service and siyyum
 for the First Born..... 7:15 am
 Stop eating hametz by..... 10:52 am
 Dispose of any remaining hametz by..... 11:56 am

First Two Days of Yom Tob Pesah

FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER

Eve of the First Day, Friday, April 3rd

Candle Lighting7:05 pm
 Evening Services (Minhah & Arbit).....7:00 pm
 Monday Evening Sunset7:23 pm
 Begin the First Haggadah at home.after 7:46 pm
 Synagogue Communal Haggadah begins ..8:15 pm

First Day Morning, Saturday, April 4th

Zemirot 8:15 am
 Shahrit 9:00 am
 Tikkun HaTal
 (Prayer for the Dew) inserted in Musaf 10:40 am
 Sermon & Service Conclusion 11:25-11:50 am

SECOND DAY OF PASSOVER

Eve of the Second Day, Saturday, April 4th

Evening Services (Minhah & Arbit).....7:00 pm
 Saturday Evening Sunset7:24 pm
 End of Shabbat &
 Candle Lightingafter 8:00 pm
 Begin the Second Haggadah
 at Homeafter 8:00 pm
 Synagogue Communal
 Haggadah begins8:15 pm

Second Day Morning, Sunday, April 5th

Zemirot 8:15 am
 Shahrit, Hallel, Sermon,
 & Musaf9:00-11:50 am

**Conclusion of Second Day, Sunday Evening,
April 5th**

Minhah & Arbit.....7:00 pm
 Sunday Evening Sunset7:25 pm
 Sunday Evening Habdalah7:48 pm

Intermediate Weekdays of Passover

HOL HAMOED PESAH

Mon.-Thu. Mornings, April 6th-9th,
 Shahrit & Musaf 7:15 am
 Mon.-Wed. Evenings, April 6th -8th,
 Minhah & Arbit.....6:30 pm

Final Two Days of Yom Tob Pesah

SEVENTH DAY OF PESAH (PASSOVER)

Anniversary of Mill Street Synagogue
 Consecration (1730)

Eve of the Seventh Day, Thursday Evening, April 9th

Erub Tabshilin: When the festival begins on Thursday evening, an Erub, bread and food prepared for the following Sabbath, is set aside prior to the festival before sunset. See Prayers for the Festivals, by David de Sola Pool, p. 1.

Thursday Evening Candle Lighting7:11 pm
 Thursday Evening Services
 (Minhah & Arbit)7:15 pm
 Thursday Evening Sunset7:29 pm

Seventh Day Morning, Friday, April 10th

Zemirot 8:15 am
 Shahrit..... 9:05 am
 Torah Reading..... 9:50 am
 (Featuring reading of the Shirah-Song of the Sea)
 Musaf, Sermon, and Service
 Conclusion 10:40-11:45 am

**EIGHTH (FINAL) DAY OF
PESAH/SHABBAT**

**Eve of the Eighth Day, Friday Evening,
April 10th**

Friday Evening/Eve of Shabbat
 Candle Lightingbefore 7:12 pm

Friday Evening Services
 (Minhah & Arbit)7:15 pm
 Friday Evening Sunset7:30 pm

**Eighth Day/Shabbat Morning,
Saturday, April 11th**

Zemirot 8:15 am
 Shahrit 9:00 am
 Reading of Song of Songs.... 11:30 am-12:15 pm
 Saturday Afternoon Class.....6:15 pm

**Conclusion of Eighth Day of Pesah, Saturday
Evening, April 11th**

Saturday Evening Minhah & Arbit
 Services7:15 pm
 Saturday Evening Sunset7:31 pm
 End of Shabbat/Conclusion of
 Pesah Habdalah8:08 pm
 Do not Consume hametz.....until ½ hour after
 Habdalah, 8:38 pm

SHABU`OT FESTIVAL
(FEAST OF WEEKS)

*Saturday Evening, May 23rd-
Monday, May 25th*

PREPARATIONS

EVE OF SHABU`OT SHABBAT

Friday Evening, May 22nd-Saturday, May 23rd
 (See Shabbat Services)

EVE OF FIRST DAY OF SHABU`OT

Saturday Evening, May 23rd

Shabbat Afternoon Seuda Shelishit &
 Class6:55 pm
 Evening Services (Shabbat Minhah &
 Festival Arbit)7:55 pm
 Saturday Evening Sunset8:13 pm

End of Shabbat/Festival Candle Lighting.....after 8:54 pm
Mishmarah-Tikkun:
Late Night Rabbi’s Study Session.....9:00 pm

FIRST DAY OF SHABU`OT

Anniversary of Crosby Street Synagogue (1834)

Sunday Morning, May 24th

Zemirot 8:15 am
Shahrit & Hallel..... 9:00 am
Torah Reading
(The Ten Commandments)..... 9:50 am
Exodus 19:1-20:23
Haftarah, Musaf, Sermon &
Service Conclusion..... 10:25-11:25 am
Girls’ Reading of the Book
of Ruth 11:30-12:30 am

EVE OF SECOND DAY OF SHABU`OT

Sunday Evening, May 24th

Reading of Intro & First Part of
Azharot7:30 pm
Evening Services (Minhah & Arbit).....8:00 pm
Sunday Evening Sunset8:13 pm
Candle Lightingafter 8:40 pm

SECOND DAY OF SHABU`OT

Monday Morning, May 25th, Memorial Day Legal Holiday

Zemirot 8:15 am
Shahrit, Hallel, Torah, Sermon, &
Musaf.....9:00-11:50 am

Conclusion of Second Day, Monday Evening, May 25th

Reading of Second Part of
Azharot Poem.....7:30 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....8:00 pm
Monday Evening Sunset8:14 pm
Monday Evening Festival Habdalah8:41 pm
The Book of Ruth is traditionally read on Shabu`ot, since it deals with both the Israeli wheat harvest at this time of year, which this festival marks, as well as acceptance of the Torah, in this case by Ruth as a faithful convert. The younger girls of the congregation who take part are pre-assigned a few verses each, which they carefully rehearse, learning to chant them according to the congregation’s unique traditional cantillation system for the Book of Ruth. Girls wishing to take part, or their parents, should please contact Rabbi Ira Rohde, the Hazan, well in advance of the festival. The girls will read their portions at the end of Sunday Morning Services at 11:30 am.
Azharot (“Admonitions”) is the name given to the poem by Shelomo Ibn Gabirol with introduction by David Ibn Eleazar Pekudah. It enumerates all 613 Commandments of the Torah in rhymed verse. The introduction and the first part, which lists the 248 positive Commandments, is read on Sunday evening at 7:30, before Minhah. The second part, which enumerates the 365 negative Commandments, is read on Monday evening at 7:30 before Minhah. The poem is chanted by the men and boys of the congregation to the Spanish & Portuguese traditional Shabu`ot melody in a round-robin style, with each participant leading two lines at a time.



The generosity of our members and friends enables us to continue to honor our past, strengthen our community and pass on our traditions for the next chapter of Jewish and American history. We have many opportunities to contribute in fulfilling our mission as a synagogue.

GENERAL DONATIONS

General donations honor our past with dignity through the preservation of our historic spaces including our main sanctuary and small synagogue, three historic cemeteries in Lower Manhattan and our active cemetery in Cyprus Hills, Queens. These donations ensure a strong future through engaging educational programs with rigorous ritual and liturgical training for youth including PTTS, our Toddler Programs, Junior Congregation, and special opportunities for girls. And perhaps most importantly, general donations uphold and celebrate our minhag and liturgical traditions through dedicated clergy members, our sublime choir, Shabbat, and holiday services.

KIDDUSH FUND

The congregational Kiddush is an opportunity for congregants and visitors to socialize and mingle after services, humbly serving an important congregational function. 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.

help make it all HAPPEN

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund is a charitable arm of our congregation. These funds are designated by our rabbis for members in need and communities in crisis. This year, our funds have assisted a number of members as well as communities in Southern Israel during the Gaza crisis and families of the Har Nof terrorist victims.

CLASS AND EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Help us strengthen educational initiatives at Shearith Israel by supporting a warm and inviting atmosphere to learn, debate, and grow together as a community. Sponsor food and refreshments for a class or semester of Bet Midrash, Tuesday morning women’s class, Tuesday evening Talmud Shiur, Hebrew courses, Learners’ Service, or Shabbat afternoon class. Or, contribute to sponsor an event, such as academic symposiums, lectures, and discussions with Jewish scholars from around the world and maintain our synagogue as a leader in contemporary Jewish dialogue.

CARING CONNECTION

Financial contributions support efforts in proactively providing organized assistance to members of our community through times of need, one of Judaism’s greatest Mitzvot. Caring Connection raises the funds needed to defray the costs of all it does. 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 give and learn more, visit shearithisrael.org/giving. Thank you for enabling the continuation and strengthening of our congregation’s mission and legacy.



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