



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

2 West 70th Street
New York, NY 10023



On April 26, 1655, the Jews of Nieuw Amsterdam received formal permission to remain in the New World, marking the beginnings of Shearith Israel and of Jewish Life in the United States.

SPRING
2016
אביב תשע"ו

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue



1654
The Bulletin
SHEARITH ISRAEL
America's First Jewish Congregation

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FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

THE LAST RINGING OF THE LIBERTY BELL

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik

*Adapted from a sermon given by
Rabbi Soloveichik on February 6, 2016*



When did the liberty bell receive its famous crack? The answer appears to be Monday, February 23rd, 1846, when it was rung in honor of Washington's birthday. On February 26,

1846 one Philadelphia paper reported, "The old Independence Bell rang its last clear note on Monday last in honor of the birthday of Washington and now hangs in the great city steeple irreparably cracked and dumb.... It gave out clear notes and loud, and appeared to be in excellent condition until noon, when it received a sort of compound fracture in a zig-zag direction through one of its sides which put it completely out of tune and left it a mere wreck of what it was."

The Liberty Bell has thus not been heard since 1846; or so it would seem. In fact, however, the website of Independence National Park informs us that "there have been several occasions in which the Liberty Bell was struck [with a mallet] and the sound was recorded. One very special occasion was on D-Day, June 6, 1944, when the Liberty Bell was struck by Philadelphia Mayor Bernard Samuel seven times, one time for each of the letters in the word 'Liberty' in a nationwide broadcast to announce the allied invasion of Europe on the beaches of Normandy, France." As we read this story, we realize that there is a deeper



meaning to the fact that the Liberty Bell rang on D-Day when those brave soldiers fought. Then the Liberty Bell was not silent; they acted with honor, and it was through their very actions that they let freedom ring.

Reflecting on this story led me to suggest a possible interpretation of the most celebrated stories in Judaism. Standing at Sinai, Moshe read the Torah to the Jewish people, and they responded, in unison, *kol asher diber Hashem*, all that the Lord has spoken, *naaseh venishma*, which literally means "we shall do and we shall hear." As I understand it, Israel's response is to be interpreted as follows: all the words that were spoken at Sinai *naaseh*: we will obey, we will live the life of Judaism, and when we act accordingly, then, *venishma*, we shall hear, as through our very actions the sound of Sinai will be heard again.

The voice of God can be heard if we act in loyalty to the Torah, and this too can be seen from D-Day. The night before that great assault, General Mathew Ridgeway opened his bible to the book of Joshua. The tale, now unknown,

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

continued

was made famous by President Reagan when he mentioned it on the fiftieth anniversary of D-Day, in his famous "Pointe du Hoc" speech, using words masterfully composed by Peggy Noonan:

Something else helped the men of D-day: their rockhard belief that Providence would have a great hand in the events that would unfold here; that God was an ally in this great cause. And so, the night before the invasion, when Colonel Wolverton asked his parachute troops to kneel with him in prayer he told them: Do not bow your heads, but look up so you can see God and ask His blessing in what we're about to do. Also that night, General Matthew Ridgway on his cot, listening in the darkness for the promise God made to Joshua: "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

Reagan concluded by saying, "Here, in this place where the West held together, let us make a vow to our dead. Let us show them by our actions that we understand what they died for. Let our actions say to them the words for which Matthew Ridgway listened: 'I will not fail thee nor forsake thee.'"

If we act accordingly, then a Liberty Bell, once rung, can be heard generations later; and in an even more profound way, when we live in loyalty to the Torah, then the voice of God that issues from Sinai can echo into eternity. Understood this way, the tale of *na'aseh venishma* is not only a story about our ancestors, but about us. It reflects the fact that whether Sinai's voice continues to ring depends not on our forbearers, but on ourselves. As long as we remain loyal to the principles of that

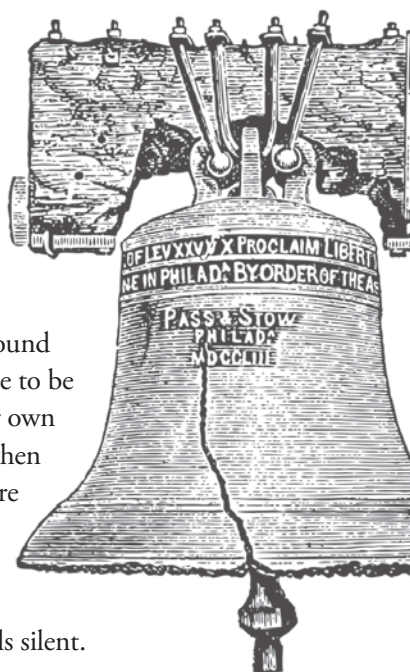
moment, then the sound of Sinai will continue to be heard, but when our own observance ceases; when our *na'aseh* is nowhere to be found, then our *venishma* is no more, and the sound of of Sinai falls silent.

Ten years ago, it was reported that "as the west celebrated the 60th anniversary of D-Day by American- and British-led forces, the people of Normandy dedicated a near-exact, 2,077-pound replica of the bell made with the same alchemy of copper and tin as the original in 1753." That bell was then rung on the cliffs of Normandy:

"Do you hear that? That is a very special sound from the 18th century," said Paul Bergamo, of the Cornille-Havard foundry, which cast the replica bell. "That is the sound Benjamin Franklin heard when he was working on the Constitution of the United States."

Thus did the sound of the Liberty Bell echo over the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc. So too, every time that we study or obey the Torah, we hear the sound of Sinai once again.

Meir Y. Soloveichik



ANNOUNCEMENTS

George and Lucienne Bulow on the birth of a granddaughter, Charlotte Ruth Bulow. Charlotte is the daughter of Harris and Heather Bulow.

Rose and Henry Edinger on their granddaughter, Hadassah Edinger's becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Hadassah is the daughter of Dr. Shlomit and Dr. Benjamin Edinger.

Rose and Henry Edinger on their granddaughter, Zohara Herman's becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Zohara is the daughter of Nehama Edinger and Dr. Geoffrey Herman.

Vivien and Muk Eisenmann on the birth of a granddaughter in Florida to Astrid and Marc Eisenmann.

Yonina and Eric Gomberg upon the birth of a daughter. Congratulations to proud grandmother Gail Propp.

Rachel Neumark Herlands and Jonathan Herlands on the wedding of their son William to Natalia Emanuel.

Arezo and Samuel Jesselson on the birth of a baby boy, Nethaniel Liam.

Sam Neumark upon his marriage to Elizabeth Uretsky. Congratulations to proud parents Susan and Avery Neumark and grandparents Debby and Mel Neumark.

Gail Propp on the birth of twin grandchildren, Effie Aurora and Ezekiel (Zeke) Propp to Anna and Gedaliah Rosenberg.

Debbie and David Sable on the birth of a granddaughter, Goldy Elissa. Goldy is the daughter of Elianna and Yoel Kaye.

Aharon Soloveichik on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to proud parents, Layaliza and Rabbi Meir Soloveichik.

Gabriela Yohananoff on becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Congratulations to proud parents, Daniela Weiss and Avi Yohananoff.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mazal Tob to:

Beth and Marc Bengualid upon the marriage of their daughter, Elana, to Jack E. Harary of Brooklyn. Congratulations to proud grandfather, Henri Bengualid.

Shana and Louis Alexandre Berg on the birth of a son, Solal Asher Emmanuel. Congratulations to proud grandparents, Esme and Roger Berg.

Nathan Blum on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Nathan is the son of Dr. Yossi Blum, the grandson of Debbie Cardozo Smith and the great grandson of Mrs. Irma Cardozo.

— continued —

HAZAKIM U'BERUKHIM

Special Achievements:

Bentsi Cohen for completing Zohar for the third time.

Aharon Soloveichik for completing all six orders of the Mishnah on the occasion of his becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following individuals to the Shearith Israel family:

Shlomit and Chaim Edelstein
Dr. Gary Login
Manuel Vazquez-Senior

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of our members:

Maurice Bendahan. Condolences to his wife, Yvette and his daughter, Miriam.

Valy Enriquez

Judge Judith S. Kaye. Condolences to her children, Luisa, Jonathan, and Gordon Kaye and her brother, Allen Smith.

CONDOLENCES

We extend sincere condolences to:

Jacob (Yakov) Ben-Avi, on the passing of his brother, David Ben-Avi.

Ivan Berkowitz, on the passing of his mother, Margit Berkowitz.

Jonathan Kaye, on the passing of his mother, Judge Judith S. Kaye.

Danielle Lahmani on the passing of her sister, Evelyne Sahar.

Edward Misrahi, on the passing of his father, Henri Misrahi Riquez.

Suzan Ehrman, on the passing of her mother, Ruth Weinman.

IN APPRECIATION

Class Sponsors:

Gregory Bell for sponsoring the Spring semester of Rabbi Soloveichik's Talmud class.

Ariel Bengio for sponsoring a Shabbat afternoon class and seudah shelishit in memory of his grandfather, Henri Misrahi.

Adam Jackson for sponsoring a Monday morning breakfast.

The Julis Family for sponsoring the 2015-2016 season of Friday Night Lights.

Lewis Lipsey for sponsoring the Spring semester of Shabbat afternoon Pirkei Abot class.

Debbie and David Sable for sponsoring a Friday Night Lights lecture in memory of their son, Natan Chaim Sable and David's father, Rabbi Jack Sable, and in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Goldy Elissa, born to Elianna Sable Kaye and Yoel Kaye.

Scott Shay for sponsoring a Shabbat afternoon class.

Kiddush Fund Sponsors:

Deborah Bendheim and family in loving memory of her father, Ralph Bendheim, in commemoration of his Nahala (Yahrzeit).

The Haberman Family in honor of Simon and Eva's 61st wedding Anniversary.

Liliane Marks and family in memory of her husband, Neville Marks

The Neumark Family in honor of the marriage of Sam Neumark to Elizabeth Uretsky.

Rev. Philip and Andrea Rabb Sherman, in honor of Nina's engagement.

The Solomon Family in honor of Lou's birthday.

Bernard Turiel

Kiddush Fund Contributors:

Angela Salas in honor of Sam Cohen's 88th birthday

Intimate Shabbat Dinner for Singles:

John Lewin

Oliver Stanton

Rivka and Marc Wiznia

Eric Goldstein Shabbat

Underwriters

Norman Benzaquen

Oliver Stanton

Bequests

The congregation expresses its sincere gratitude to Rachel El-Hassid, of blessed memory for a bequest recently received from her estate.

Please consider including Shearith Israel in your estate planning. To learn how or for more information, please speak with our executive director, Barbara Reiss.

Sponsors

Debbie and David Sable

The Solomon Family

Supporters

Karen and Jack Daar

Karen and Roy Simon

Contributors

Laury Frieber

Zoya Raynes and Naftali Friedman

Jennifer Ash and Seth Haberman

Rachel Brody and Michael Lustig

Naomi and Peter Neustadter

Deborah and Michael Rapoport

Alene Schneierson

Robyn and Mark Tsesarsky

Hanukkah Guest Lecture— Professor Steven Fine:

Karen and Jack Daar

Mildred Green Shinnar

The Solomon Family

British Invasion Shabbat:

Allan Fried

Evelyn and Manny Gross

Thomas Lowinger

The Neumark Family

Judith and Joel Schreiber

Suchu and Meyer Solny

The Solomon Family

Felicia Warshawsky

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

THE SMALL SYNAOGUE IS BETTER AGAIN

Barbara Reiss

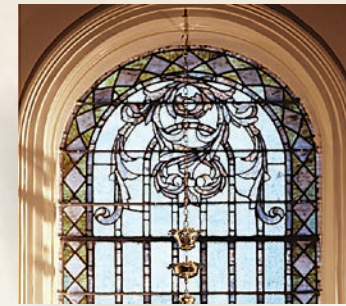


Have you spent time in our Small Synagogue lately? If you attend weekday minyanim, then the answer is clearly yes. Similarly, if you are one of our younger congregants who attends Junior Congregation or a PTTS Hebrew School student, then your services are held in the Small Synagogue as well. And if you are a woman who participates in our women's service, *hakafot* or *Megillah* readings, then you've prayed there too. Even if you enter but once a year on the occasion of a *nahala* (*yahrzeit*), you've depended on the sanctity of this space for the solemnity of your commemoration.

When tour groups visit Shearith Israel, while the Large Synagogue, designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany, may garner the most "oohs" and "ahs," many of our docents linger in the Small Synagogue because that is the space that best tells the story of our congregation. This quaint chapel was designed as a close approximation of our first synagogue building on Mill St. (today's South William Street) in the financial district. Indeed, many of the furnishings of the Small Synagogue are original pieces from that 1730 building as well as the subsequent buildings such as the 1834 Crosby Street synagogue. It is also the *hehal* (ark) in the Small Synagogue that holds

our revolutionary era Torah scrolls, best known because they were desecrated by British soldiers during the US War of Independence. One other unique use of this cherished space is the signing of "the book." Each year, following the annual meeting of the electors, after the new electors are voted in, each newly confirmed elector is invited to inscribe his or her name into the Congregation's original Constitution and By-laws. The signing of the constitution can be a very moving experience. This formality generally takes place at the *Tebah* in the Small Synagogue where this historic book is handled with great care and respect. By signing the constitution, and more so, when done in this room, one is connected, in a very physical and direct way, to the long history of our Congregation.

Many of us, however, who have spent time in the Small Synagogue in recent years, have also noticed, to our dismay, the severe and disfiguring damage to the doorway leading to the Elias Room and to the rear window. The deterioration has been worsening for some years now. And so it is wonderful and sweet that the problem has finally been fixed. Heeding our Parnas' pleas at our 2014 Hatanim Luncheon, the money was raised to restore that beautiful and sacred space. Go see it with your own eyes (and stay for services while you're there). Both



the cosmetic blemishes and the underlying source of the damage have been rectified. This achievement was possible due to the attention and efforts of several individuals including two major donors who financed this important project.

We are delighted that the Small Synagogue has been restored to its dignified state and are encouraged by the knowledge that when we are determined to make our synagogue better, we get it done.

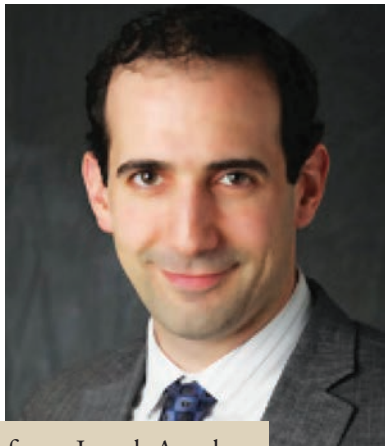
LECTURES



David Brooks



Professor Yaron Harel



Professor Joseph Angel

COMMUNITIES OF CHARACTER: A CONVERSATION WITH DAVID BROOKS

Co-sponsored by UJA Federation

**Monday, March 7 | 7:00 pm | Held at Temple
Emanu-El's Skirball Center: 1 East 65th Street**

Join Shearith Israel, UJA-Federation of New York, and Manhattan synagogues for a community-wide conversation about the bonds that unite us in an increasingly divisive time. David Brooks will share his reflections on character, gratitude, and how we can magnify the best in ourselves and in each other. Mr. Brooks will also engage in dialogue with UJA-Federation CEO Eric Goldstein about finding common ground and fostering collective purpose. \$18 per person (Your gift represents a charitable contribution to UJA-Federation of New York.) To register, visit www.ujafedny.org/david-brooks.

LEARN ABOUT BETH OLAM CEMETERY

Part One of a Three-Part Series

**Wednesday, April 13 | 7:00 pm
Marena Wisniewski**

Marena Wisniewski will describe what she learned and uncovered during her time as our Beth Olam Cemetery intern. You will learn about the history of this unique partnership between three prominent synagogues who share an interesting history, Shearith Israel, Bnai Jeshurun and Shaaray Tefilla. She will also show us some of the architectural and historical gems and will describe efforts on our behalf to lay the groundwork for some much needed restoration work.

Marena Wisniewski earned her Master's Degree in Historic Preservation from Columbia University in addition to a Master's in World History from NYU. She wrote her undergraduate honors thesis on Jewish cemeteries in Poland. For full series details, see page 14.

SHABBAT HAGADOL DERASHA

**Saturday, April 16
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

Following morning services, Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver his annual Shabbat Hagadol *derasha* on the topic "The Most Misunderstood Morsel: A New Approach to Haroset."

YOM HASHOA ANNUAL READING OF THE NAMES

Wednesday, May 4 - Thursday, May 5

For the 17th consecutive year, the Upper West Side community will gather to read the names of those among the 6 million murdered Jews. The reading will begin on Wednesday, May 4, at 10 pm at a synagogue to be determined and continue throughout the night with representatives of Upper West Side congregations and other members of the community. It will resume at 9 am on Thursday, May 5, at the JCC on Amsterdam Avenue at 76th street, ending with the recitation of the *kaddish*. Stay tuned for more information.

YOM HAATZMAUT LECTURE

**Wednesday, May 11 | 8:00 pm
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a special lecture on Wednesday in honor of Israel Independence Day featuring Israeli themed refreshments.

TWO-PART SERIES WITH PROFESSOR YARON HAREL

**Monday, May 9 | 7:00 pm
Jews, Muslims and Christians in Syria in the 19th Century**

**Monday, May 16 | 7:00 pm
From Intrigue to Assassination: Disputes around the
position of the Chief Rabbinate in Aleppo, Damascus and
Baghdad**

Professor Yaron Harel

Professor Yaron Harel is a member of the Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, and the head of the academic committee of the Dahan Center at Bar Ilan University. His research interests are engaged in political, social and cultural history of the Jews in the Middle East. He published twelve books and dozens of articles worldwide. His books won some prestigious awards. His last book, *Zionism in Damascus—Ideology and Activity in the Jewish Community at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century*, was published in London in 2015 by I.B. Tauris Publishers.

JEWS AMONG PERSIANS AND GREEKS: READING ESTHER IN CONTEXT

**Monday, March 21 | 7:00 pm
Bet Midrash Special Guest Speaker: Professor Joseph Angel**

Joseph Angel is a scholar of ancient Judaism with a focus on religion and history in the Second Temple Period. He is the author of *Otherworldly and Eschatological Priesthood in the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Studies in the Texts of the Desert of Judah 86; Leiden: Brill, 2010), which explores the imaginative depictions of angelic and messianic priestly figures in the Dead Sea Scrolls as a reflection of the religious worldview of the Qumran community and broader segments of Second Temple society. His other publications include articles on ancient Jewish magic, the Second Temple of Jerusalem, and Qumran liturgy, as well as commentaries on Second Temple period texts such as the Damascus Document and "New Jerusalem." He is the recipient of research fellowships from the Alexander von Humboldt and Yad Hanadiv/Beracha Foundations.



Leon Wieseltier

PRE-PASSOVER CONVERSATION WITH LEON WIESELTIER: THE HAGGADA AS LITERATURE

Co-sponsored by the Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought

Tuesday, March 29 | 7:00 pm
Rabbi Soloveichik and Leon Wieseltier

Leon Wieseltier returns to Shearith Israel for another engaging discussion with Rabbi Soloveichik about the enduring impact of the haggadah, perhaps the most famous work of Rabbinic literature. Leon Wieseltier is the spring 2016 Visiting Scholar at the Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought. A distinguished editor, writer, critic, and philosopher, Mr. Wieseltier served as the literary editor of *The New Republic* from 1983 to 2014. In 1998 he won the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction for his book, *Kaddish*. He was granted the Guggenheim Fellowship for Humanities for translating Yehuda Amichai's unpublished poems in 2006 and was the 2013 recipient of the Dan David Prize. Currently, Mr. Wieseltier is the Isaiah Berlin Senior Fellow in Culture and Policy at the Brookings Institution as well as a contributing editor and critic at *The Atlantic*. Over the years, he has written for such publications as *Foreign Affairs*, *New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *Dissent*. To register, visit yu.edu/straus.

SPECIAL LECTURE WITH BRITISH CHIEF RABBI EPHRAIM MIRVIS

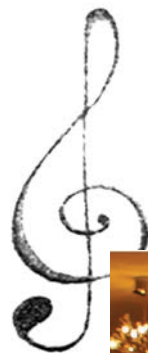
Co-sponsored by the Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought presenting the Allen Mirvis Annual Lecture

Sunday, April 3 | 10:00 am
Chief Rabbi Epharim Mirvis

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis is the 11th Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth. Rabbi Mirvis was Chief Rabbi of Ireland from 1984 to 1992, representing the Jewish community to government, other faith communities and the media. He was also Chairman of the Irish National Council for Soviet Jewry from 1984 – 1992, advocating for the freedom of Soviet Jewry. Rabbi Mirvis has now also assumed the role of Associate President of the Conference of European Rabbis. Previously he was a member of the steering committee of the Conference of European Rabbis. He was appointed to the Chief Rabbi's Cabinet in 1996 and was Chairman of the Rabbinical Council of the United Synagogue from 1999 - 2002.



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis



SECOND ANNUAL INSTRUMENTAL RECITAL FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

Date to be determined
At a Private Home

Are you a pianist? A piper? A cellist? Are you like Vera Violet Vinn, who was very very very awful on her violin? (and thank you Dr. Seuss!) Shearith Israel welcomes all youth and teens—both the children and grandchildren of members—to play an instrument at a music recital to be held in a private home. We supply the uncritical applause and a piano; you supply the musical talent and any other (more portable!) musical instrument. All instruments welcome. If you prefer to perform in an instrumental ensemble with a musical friend, that is welcome as well. Register at shearithisrael.org/recital.

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.

PESAH 5776

CELEBRATE PESAH WITH SHEARITH ISRAEL IN NEW YORK OR IN ISRAEL

Once again, Shearith Israel members will have the opportunity to celebrate Pesah at the Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem. Rabbi Soloveichik will lead our unique Rambam Haggadah (Seder), deliver shiurim, and lead us on special tiyulim. We look forward to getting together with our many Shearith Israel members and alumni who make Israel their home.

HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL EVENTS



PURIM 5776

PURIM CELEBRATION

Wednesday, March 23

***Megillah* reading at 7:30 pm**

Children's Programming at 7:15 pm

The reading of *Megillat Esther* begins promptly at 7:30 pm in the Large Synagogue. Children are invited to the Elias Room for a special program just for them, including a Purim puppet show by the Talking Hands Theatre. Parents are encouraged to arrive at 7:15 pm, in order to help their children settle in and then make their way to the Large Synagogue in time for *Megillah*. For more information, see page 22.

PURIM DINNER

Wednesday, March 23 | Following *Megillah* reading

Immediately following the *Megillah* reading, registered guests are invited to a festive family-style meal in Levy Auditorium. In addition to a tasty dinner, guests will enjoy our annual children's costume parade. Register for our Purim celebration at shearithisrael.org/purimdinner.

PURIM BREAKFAST

Thursday Morning, March 24

Immediately following the 8:00 am readings of the *Megillah*, congregants are welcome to enjoy a festive breakfast. Childcare will be provided throughout the morning. The breakfast is free of charge but sponsors and supporters are highly appreciated. Support this event at shearithisrael.org/purimbreakfast.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE IN HONOR OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS

Part Two of a Three-Part Series

Sunday Morning, May 22

Chatham Square Cemetery | 44 St. James Place

Head down to Chatham Square Cemetery in Chinatown to honor members of our congregation who participated in the Revolutionary War. Our historic ceremony and Color Guard is a special Shearith Israel tradition and is open to military veterans, clergy, and members of the community. Join us to place American flags at the graves of our twenty-two veteran congregants. The cemetery, active from 1682-1828, is located at 44 St. James Place, opposite Chatham Square. See page 15 for full series details.

HERRINGFEST!

***Co-sponsored by the Consulate General
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands***

Tuesday, March 8 | 7:00 pm

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Herring—one of the most celebrated delicacies among the Dutch, and one of the most beloved fish among the Jews—is central to Shearith Israel's story. After all, historians have noted that there is one product that allowed The Netherlands to become a shipping power: herring. No herring, no Dutch East Indies Company; and if there was no Dutch East Indies Company, there would have been no Shearith Israel.

In celebration, we at Shearith Israel will be holding a HerringFest! where all participants will be able to sample a dazzling variety of ways in which the herring can be enjoyed. HerringFest! will take place during Adar, the joyous month associated by our sages with the constellation of "dagim," or fish. Featuring a short shiur by Rabbi Soloveichik, HerringFest! is sure to be an unforgettable culinary experience of Shearith Israel's Dutch and Jewish heritage.

BANANAGRAMS TOURNAMENT

Saturday Night, April 2 | 8:00 pm

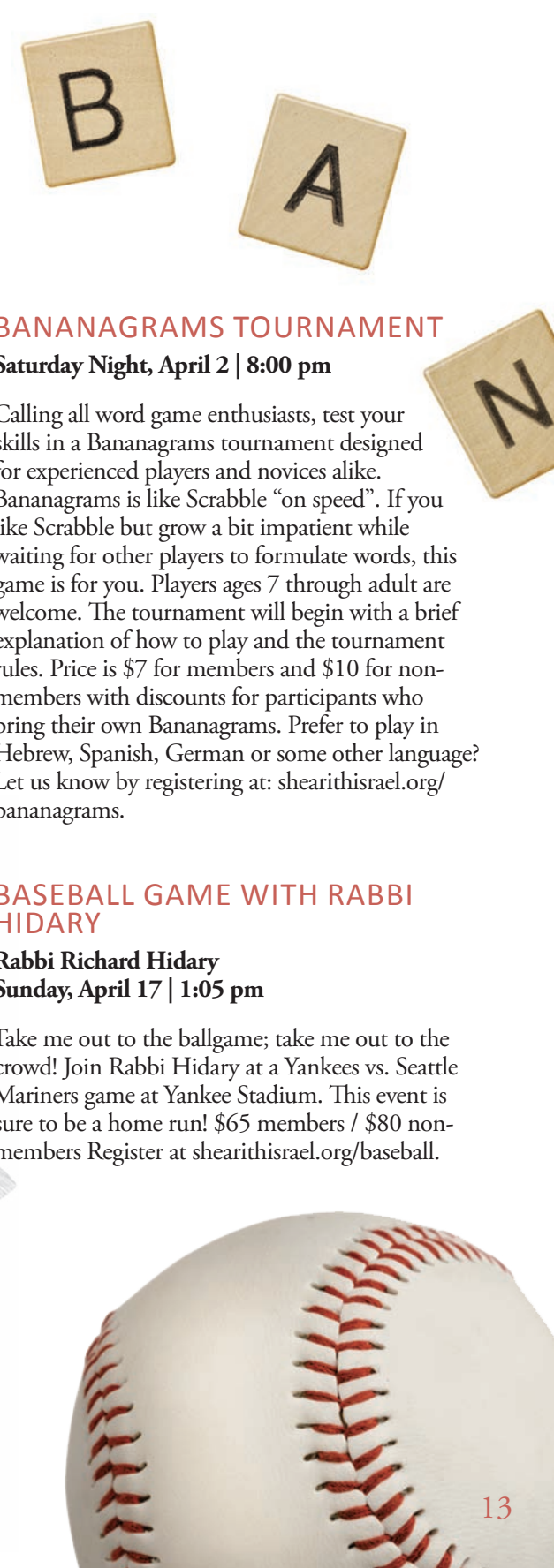
Calling all word game enthusiasts, test your skills in a Bananagrams tournament designed for experienced players and novices alike. Bananagrams is like Scrabble "on speed". If you like Scrabble but grow a bit impatient while waiting for other players to formulate words, this game is for you. Players ages 7 through adult are welcome. The tournament will begin with a brief explanation of how to play and the tournament rules. Price is \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members with discounts for participants who bring their own Bananagrams. Prefer to play in Hebrew, Spanish, German or some other language? Let us know by registering at: shearithisrael.org/bananagrams.

BASEBALL GAME WITH RABBI HIDARY

Rabbi Richard Hidary

Sunday, April 17 | 1:05 pm

Take me out to the ballgame; take me out to the crowd! Join Rabbi Hidary at a Yankees vs. Seattle Mariners game at Yankee Stadium. This event is sure to be a home run! \$65 members / \$80 non-members Register at shearithisrael.org/baseball.



SHEARITH ISRAEL'S CEMETERIES FROM 1682 TO TODAY

A Three-Part Experiential Cemetery Series



LEARN

Wednesday, April 13 | 7:00 pm | Levy Auditorium

Marena Wisniewski will describe what she learned and uncovered during her time as our Beth Olam Cemetery intern. You will learn about the history of this unique partnership between three prominent synagogues who share an interesting history, Shearith Israel, Bnai Jeshurun and Shaaray Tefilla. She will also show us some of the architectural and historical gems and will describe efforts on our behalf to lay the groundwork for some much needed restoration work

Marena Wisniewski earned her Master's Degree in Historic Preservation from Columbia University in addition to a Master's in World History from NYU. She wrote her undergraduate honors thesis on Jewish cemeteries in Poland.

OBSERVE

Sunday, May 22

Chatham Square Cemetery 44 St. James Place

Each year, a week before Memorial Day, Shearith Israel holds a ceremony at our historic Chatham Square Cemetery which dates back to 1683. This cemetery is the resting place of the earliest generations of our Congregation—the people who laid the foundations for Jewish life in North America. Among those buried in this cemetery are eighteen congregants who fought in the American Revolution. Adults and children alike, some who come year after year, are moved by this solemn event which includes prayers chanted by our clergy, the placement of US flags by the graves of those who served in the Revolutionary War, and a dignified color guard ceremony. For more information, see page 13.

DO GOOD

Sunday in Early Fall, 2016, before High Holidays
Beth Olam cemetery

In recent years, during the month of *Elul*, The *Hebra Hased Va'Amet* has sponsored a communal visit to Beth Olam cemetery for those wishing to visit our cemetery. This opportunity for a traditional cemetery visit is accompanied by a guided tour of the grounds by our Sexton, Z Edinger, who will draw our attention to several important historical figures including Emma Lazarus, Benjamin Cardozo and the first Jewish naval commodore, Uriah Philips Levy as well as many of our ministers and *hazzanim* who are buried here such as Jacques Judah Lyons, Henry Pereira Mendes, David de Sola Pool, Louis C. Gerstein, and, Abraham Lopes Cardozo of blessed memory.

This year we, with the support of Caring Connection and the *Hebra*, invite adults and children to join us at the cemetery for an important *hesed* activity focused on some much needed clean-up of the grounds.

Free transportation from the Synagogue will be provided.



A EULOGY FOR JUDGE JUDITH KAYE

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik

*Based on a eulogy delivered by Rabbi Soloveichik
at Judge Kaye's funeral*

In a speech soon after she became the Chief Judge of New York's Court of Appeals, Judge Kaye described how she had recently received a letter from a prison inmate. The letter began with a striking salutation: "Dear Mother of Justice." Judge Kaye loved that invented honorific; and she added that while no one had yet addressed her that way in court; when and if somebody did, "I will look kindly on that." It is this phrase, "mother of justice," that has inspired my own brief reflection on Judge Kaye's life and legacy.

When I first became the rabbi and minister of Judge Kaye's congregation, I knew of her as the woman who had for so many years been the face of New York's judicial system, an "only in America" saga of achievement: a Jewish girl from Monticello, New York, a child of immigrants, who went on to become one of the most respected legal figures in the land. And as America's oldest Jewish congregation, we proudly included her in the pantheon of extraordinary public servants affiliated with our synagogue. This pantheon included, to Judge Kaye's great pride, Justice Benjamin Cardozo, her predecessor as Chief Judge on the Court of Appeals, whose desk Judge Kaye used every day in her judicial chambers. While I cherish my memories of Judge Kaye, my most memorable one occurred almost exactly one year ago today, when our congregation celebrated the bat mitzvah of her granddaughter. Throughout that Shabbat I saw, not just an extraordinarily accomplished jurist, but also a grandmother resplendent with pride, a woman luminous with joy and with love.

That particular Sabbath was known to Jews all over the world as *Shabbat Shirah*, the Sabbath of Song, a name so appropriate because the Bat Mitzvah's name, Shirin, is derived from the word for song, and also because Judge Kaye loved music. Indeed, it was in part the unique musical traditions of our synagogue that drew her and her husband Stephen into our community.

I realize now, however, that that Sabbath was especially fitting for another reason as well. The haftara that day was a portion from the book of Judges, a chapter known as *shirat Deborah*, the song of Deborah. Deborah was renowned as the one judge in the book of Judges, in the entire bible, who was a woman. "*U-Deborah, ishah nebiah, hi Shoftah et Yisrael ba-et habi*: Deborah, a prophet, judged Israel in those days." Yet there is another description of this great woman. In her own exultant song, Deborah describes the arc of her life by adding *ad shekamti* Deborah, I Deborah, arose, *eim be-Yisrael*, a mother in Israel. This is a very different description of herself. We are, then, presented with two distinct appellations: a "judge of Israel," and "a mother in Israel." A judge is first and foremost about law; a mother is first and foremost about love.

These two—law and love—came together in Judge Kaye, who loved the name "mother of justice." Judge Kaye focused a great deal on justice, not only in her judicial decisions but also in striving to make our state's justice system run in a way that was more respected, because a people's respect for the justice system is essential to a democracy. At the same time,

for us in the synagogue, and for so many others blessed by her friendship, she was wife, mother, beloved fellow congregant and friend. And her warmth was celebrated by her colleagues as well, so that Indiana's Supreme Court Chief Justice once hailed her as "a chief among chiefs," someone who brought people together, who among her peers was not only respected but loved.

In a tribute she once composed to Justice Cardozo, Judge Kaye argued that the most enlightening description of Cardozo's years as Chief Judge on the Court of Appeals is also the most touching: it is the words of farewell that his colleague, Judge Cuthbert W. Pound, spoke on March 3, 1932, when Cardozo left Albany for Washington and for the United States Supreme Court. Reading Judge Pound's speech, Judge Kaye noted, we feel as if the emotion leaps off the page. Part of Pound's address ran as follows: "The bar knows with what earnestness of consideration, firmness of grasp, and force and grace of utterance you have made your power felt; with what evenness, courtesy and calmness you have presided over the sessions of the court. Only your associates can know the tender relations which have existed among us...we shall miss not only the great chief judge whose wisdom and understanding have added glory to the judicial office but also the true man who has blessed us with the light of his friendship..."

And so we too bid farewell to a beloved Chief Judge, and we mourn and we miss not only, to paraphrase Judge Pound, a beloved Chief Judge, but also the woman who has blessed us with



the light of her love and her friendship. In my sermon one year ago on the "Sabbath of Song," I noted that law lies at the center of Judaism, and law is all about words: reading, writing, interpreting. At the same time, I suggested then, the music of faith is significant, and forms a large part of our synagogue's heritage. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks put it this way: "There is an inner connection between music and the spirit. When language aspires to the transcendent, and the soul longs to break free of the gravitational pull of the earth, it modulates into song. Words are the language of the mind. Music is the language of the soul."

We today remember Judge Kaye's mind and her soul, we remember the law and we remember the love. If Deborah was called a "judge in Israel" and "a mother in Israel," Judith Kaye was for us a "judge in Shearith Israel" and "a mother in Shearith Israel." This coming Sabbath will be in one sense a Sabbath of sadness, with Judge Kaye's children in the midst of mourning for their mother. But it will also I think, be a Sabbath of song; a Sabbath of gratitude for the music that was Judge Kaye's life. *Tehei nishmata tzerura bi-tzror ha-hayyim*: May Judge Kaye's soul be bound up in the bonds of eternal life, and may she achieve immortality in the hearts of all those touched by the light of her life here on earth.

THE FUTURE FACE OF ISRAEL: ETHIOPIAN SHABBAT DINNER

Co-sponsored by Chassida Shmella Ethiopian Jewish Community and by Beit Hatfutsot - The Museum of the Jewish People

Friday Night, March 11 | Following evening services



Photo: Michael Lustig

Operation Moses and Operation Solomon were two massive and miraculous emigrations of Ethiopian Jews to Israel in our time. Learn more about the adaptation and achievements of this last remnant of the Jewish people with a photography exhibit courtesy of Beit Hatfutsot and through this traditional Ethiopian meal, as the generations of Ethiopian Jews celebrate and share stories of their own personal miracles as productive citizens of the Jewish state. Dinner is followed by lectures and Q & A with our speakers, former MK Deputy Speaker Pnina Tamano-Shata and Professor Ephraim Isaac.

Pnina Tamano-Shata, was the first female Ethiopian-born Knesset member, having served from 2013 to 2015. She arrived in Israel with her family at age three as part of Operation Moses. They spent their first few years in an absorption facility and eventually moved to Petah Tikva, where she still lives with her husband and two children. In 2007 Pnina completed her law studies at Ono Academic College, where she was also the deputy chairman of the Ethiopian Student Union. After graduation she became a political correspondent for Israel's Channel One. She then joined the Yesh Atid party in 2013 advocating for social equality and affordable housing and soon became a Knesset member. She still works with the prime minister as an advocate and public representative in the special ministerial committee on Ethiopian issues.

Professor Ephraim Isaac is the Director of the Institute of Semitic Studies in Princeton and the Chair of the Board of the Ethiopian Peace and Development Center. Born in Ethiopia, Dr. Isaac holds a B Div. (Harvard Divinity School, '63); a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages (Harvard University, '69); a D.H.L. (Honorary, John Jay/CUNY, '93); and a Litt. D. (Honorary, Addis Ababa University, 2004). He is a founder and the first Professor of the Afro-American Studies Department at Harvard University. In recognition of his merits, the "Ephraim Isaac Prize for Excellence in African Languages" is given to a Harvard graduate who writes the best essay in African Studies.

To learn more about them and to register, go to shearithisrael.org/ethiopianshabbat.



JUDAIC EDUCATION

WEEKDAY CLASSES

THE BOOK OF KINGS

Sundays | 8:40 am – 9:30 am
Rabbi Richard Hidary

We will analyze the biblical Book of Kings using recent archeological findings and literary approaches that can help us bring this ancient drama to life.

SAADIA GAON'S BOOK OF BELIEFS AND OPINIONS

Sundays | 9:30 am
Sjimon Den Hollander

Every Sunday at 9:30 am. The Book of Beliefs and Opinions (completed 933 CE) was the first systematic presentation and philosophic foundation of the dogmas of Judaism.

BET MIDRASH

Mondays | 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Each Monday night, we invite the community to immerse themselves in prayer, learning, eating, and discussion together. Beginning with evening services, Bet Midrash attendees are invited to enjoy a delicious dinner, engage in a stimulating class with Rabbi Hidary for the first hour, and then continue studying a choice of varying texts in small breakout groups. For questions, contact Rabbi Richard Hidary. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To find out more, go to shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass.

SECOND TEMPLE JEWISH HISTORY

Mondays | 7:00 pm | Rabbi Richard Hidary

Using primary sources, we will reconstruct the history of the Jews during the Second Temple, a period that witnessed the development of many aspects of Judaism as we know it today, such as the holidays of Purim and Hanukkah, the fast days, the canonization of *Tanakh*, and set the stage for the rise of Christianity and the Rabbis. But this period is also interesting for the variety of forms of Judaism and groups of Jews that did not gain hegemony: Samaritans, Hellenists, Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, and the Dead Sea sect, among others. Each of these groups had to respond to and find a way to survive revolts and exiles, strong influences from foreign cultures, and internal strife while at the same time remaining committed to monotheism and the Biblical tradition. Why were some of these groups more successful than others? How is this period relevant for understanding our own identities and for evaluating the current state of Judaism and its future prospects?

BREAKOUT GROUPS:

Mondays | 8:00 pm

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

Phil Getz—*Nefesh Ha-Hayyim* by Rabbi Hayyim of Volozhin

Rabbi Ira Rohde—The thoughts of the late Leo Straus (September 20, 1899 – October 18, 1973), and his students, the ‘Straussians,’ German-Jewish expatriate founder of an influential school of American conservative thought

Meira Wolkenfeld—Stories of the Babylonian Talmud

RAMBAM’S MISHNEH TORAH

Tuesdays | 7:45 am | Rabbi Richard Hidary

Start your day with *minyán*, breakfast, and a few insights from Maimonides’ complete code of Jewish law and thought.

FEASTS AND FASTS: THE FESTIVALS IN JEWISH THOUGHT

A Class for Women

Tuesdays | 9:00 am | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Throughout the year, we meet on Tuesday mornings to examine anew the rituals of the Jewish holiday or fast that is approaching, challenge our assumptions, and emerge with a deeper understanding of the rituals that we have been performing our entire lives. Breakfast is served. For sponsorship opportunities, please visit shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass.

TALMUD CLASS: TRACTATE ROSH HASHANA AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF JEWISH TIME

Tuesdays | 8:00 pm | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch reported in an essay that he once embarked on a lengthy trip only to discover that his luggage, containing all of his Torah tracts, had been misplaced. He now had nothing to read for his entire journey. Reaching into his pocket, he discovered a *luakh*, a Jewish calendar. He spent the trip pondering how the way Judaism approaches time actually tells us everything it believes about human nature, our relationship with God, and with each other. These weekly *shiurim* will engage in a similar endeavor, emerging therefrom with a better understanding of the calendar that has preserved the Jews for millennia, and of the diverse sacred and secular times that create the very rhythm of our lives.

Spring semester sponsored by Gregory Bell.

SHABBAT LECTURES

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS: THE MAKING AND MEANING OF SHABBAT

Fridays Following Evening Services Until Passover | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

As Shabbat begins earlier, and the nights grow longer, 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.

2015-2016 season sponsored by the Julis Family.

THE MISUNDERSTOOD MASTERPIECE: A NEW APPROACH TO PIRKEI ABOT

**Shabbat Day | One Hour Before Minhah
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

Pirkei Abot is often understood as a 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 of 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. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To find out more, go to shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass.

Spring semester sponsored by Lewis Lipsey.

KETER SHEM TOB

Following Shabbat 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.

MEGILLAT ESTHER PUPPET SHOW

Wednesday, March 23 | 7:30 pm
Arrive early at 7:15 pm

We welcome all children to The Talking Hands Theatre puppet show during the reading of the *Megillah*. Anna Sobel and her cast of Purim characters will entertain the children with an interactive Purim puppet show featuring big, colorful, Carnivale-inspired puppets. The audience is invited to sing, dance, learn a Middle Eastern rhythm, play Haman says, and get to know the characters of the Purim story. Liz and Shenade oversee childcare for the younger children (children below two years old must be accompanied by their own caregiver) and Yona will be supervising the older kids.



MATZAH BAKING

Thursday, April 14
Offered during 2 sessions: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
or 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

CSI Youth is invited to join PTTS as we experience the popular Model Matzah Bakery, with Rabbi Yisroel Fried of Chabad of the West Side. Matzah baking is a hands-on educational experience that gives each child the chance to make his or her own Matzah, as our ancestors did over 3,300 years ago and have continued to do every year since.

BASEBALL GAME WITH RABBI HIDARY

Sunday, April 17

Take me out to the ballgame; take me out to the crowd! Join Rabbi Hidary at a baseball game at Yankee Stadium. This event is sure to be a home run! Register at shearithisrael.org/baseball. For more information, see page 13.

WEEKDAY TODDLER PROGRAM

January 4 - June 6 | Mondays and Wednesdays | 9:30 am - 11:30 am
For children ages 16 - 34 months. Parent or caregiver attendance required.

Shearith Israel's popular Toddler Program is held twice a week for children aged 16-34 months with an adult caregiver. The program focuses on learning colors and shapes, creating arts and crafts, singing songs, exploring Jewish holidays, music and more. To enroll your child, go to shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram.

REGISTER FOR OUR SUMMER TODDLER CAMP

June 21 - August 18
Tuesdays and Thursdays | 9:30 - 11:30 am

For children ages 16 - 34 months. Parent or caregiver attendance required.

Our spacious social hall gives the toddlers the room they need to run and jump while enjoying the company of other children on a regular basis. When the temperatures rise, our toddlers enjoy small outdoor wading pools on our "beach." There is time for play, craft projects, exercises, saying *Berakhot* (blessings), snack, stories, music and more. Go to shearithisrael.org/toddler-summer-camp to register.



HEBREW SCHOOL: POLONIES TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL (PTTS)

All ages meet Sundays 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Elementary school-aged children also meet on Thursdays from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

For students 3 - 16 years of age

Our Hebrew School provides students with a substantive Jewish education in a positive and engaging environment. Students develop Hebrew language skills (reading, writing and comprehension), learn the major portions of the Tanakh, Jewish holiday rituals, Jewish history and how Jewish ideas inform our values in modern times. To learn more, go to shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool.



YOUTH ON SHABBAT

TOT SHABBAT

10:00 am - 12:30 pm | ages 0 - 4

Our little ones enjoy Tot Shabbat all year round, led by our beloved teachers, Liz and Shanade. Independent play, snacks, and circle-time with songs will entertain the toddlers while parents are in services. Please note that children under the age of two must be accompanied by an adult.

YOUTH GROUPS AND JR. CONGREGATION

September - June
10:00 am until the end of services

Children ages 5 - 12 gather with our dynamic duo, Shayna Stein and Gideon Schon, for fun activities connected to the parashah of the week and other Jewish themes as well as raffle and prizes. Then at 10:30 am, the children come together for Junior Congregation, a lively, participatory service in the Little Synagogue. For Jr. Congregation parts assignments, contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com.

TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY

For High School Students

Shabbat Afternoons | Rabbi Richard Hidary

Each Shabbat afternoon, our teens gather at the home of Rabbi Hidary to discuss relevant topics of Jewish philosophy, contemporary issues, and analysis of Torah texts.

WOMEN'S MEGILLAT ESTHER READING

Thursday, March 24 | 8:00 am

Join us for the 26th year of the Women's *Megillat Esther* Reading. Contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com to participate.

SISTERHOOD MISHLOAH MANOT PROJECT

Want to send *Mishloah Manot* 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 the Sisterhood. Please follow our emails for more information. For questions, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com or Mrs. Carla Schein at scheinc6@gmail.com.

TEEN GIRLS' SHIR HASHIRIM READING

Shabbat, The Eighth Day of Pesah, Saturday, April 30

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

WOMEN'S SHABBAT SERVICES

On Select Shabbatot

By and for women, these services are an opportunity for women to lead prayer, read from the Torah and perform the rituals 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 at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com. For dates of meetings, sign up for our email list on our website.

YOETZET HALAKHA

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*, please contact our new *Yoetzet Halakha*, Ilana Gadish in confidence at nycyoetzet@gmail.com.

Ilana Gadish serves as the *Yoetzet Halakha* for a number of synagogues in Manhattan, and is a graduate of Nishmat's U.S. *Yoatzot Halakha* Fellows program. Ilana also teaches Talmud and *Tanakh* at the Ramaz Upper School. Ilana received her M.A. in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation at the Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies (GPATS) at Stern College for Women, where she also received her B.A. with a major in Judaic Studies and a minor in Biology. She spent a year studying at Midreshet Lindenbaum in Jerusalem, as well as two summers at the Drisha Institute. Ilana currently lives on the Upper West Side with her husband Moshe Peters.

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.



This layered casserole consists of a savory meat filling sandwiched between two layers of egg-soaked softened matzas.



CULINARY CORNER

Megina

By Geula Levi Freeman

Geula Levi Freeman is the daughter of Dr. Bezalel Levi, who was a devoted and a longtime member of Shearith Israel. Dr. Bezalel Levi was born in Turkey. Mrs. Rebeka Levi, Geula's mother, was born in Bulgaria. Geula was born in Israel and immigrated to the United States with her family in 1961. She has one son named Jonathan. Geula is retired from working as a rehab therapist in psychiatry. She spends much of her time going to the opera and the ballet. She also takes advantage of the many classes offered at Shearith Israel.

Ingredients

2 lbs. lean ground beef chuck
3 large onions, diced
2 Tbsp vegetable oil
1 tsp salt
1/4 tsp pepper
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
8 eggs, separated and beaten
6 matzahs

Directions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.

In a large skillet, brown meat and onion in oil. Add salt, pepper, and parsley. Cook 1 additional minute.

Remove from heat. Add 4 beaten eggs and blend well. Set aside.

Grease 9 x 13 x 3 inch pan. Soak 3 matzahs in warm water until just softened. Don't let them fall apart!

Soak softened matzahs in 2 beaten eggs until eggs are absorbed. Line bottom of pan with matzahs.

Spoon meat mixture over matzahs, spreading evenly. Soak remaining 3 matzahs in warm water until soft, then dip in 2 remaining eggs until absorbed. Place over meat filling.

Bake for 45 minutes.

Serve hot.

If you would like to submit a recipe for a future bulletin, send it to Tikva Ostrega at tikvaostrega@gmail.com. In addition to the recipe, please include a short back-story describing the origins of the dish and why it is special to you.



BETH OLAM CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

Sunday in Early Fall, 2016, before High Holidays

This year we, with the support of Caring Connection and the *Hebra Hased Va'Emet*, invite adults and children to join us at the cemetery for an important *hesed* activity focused on some much needed clean-up of the grounds.

Free transportation from the Synagogue will be provided. For more information, see page 15 .

CARING CONNECTION

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. If you know someone who might need assistance, in any form, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Rabbi Richard Hidary.

MATAONOT L'EBYONIM

It is one of the mitzvot of Purim to give charity to the poor, matanot l'evyonim. Your online gift or check made out to the "Rabbi's Discretionary Fund," will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik on Purim to those in need. Go to shearithisrael.org/matanot to donate.

MAOT HITTIM

In the opening paragraph of the Haggadah, we read: "All who are hungry, let them come and eat." As part of experiencing freedom ourselves, we must also ensure that our fellow Jews have the means to celebrate freedom too. *Maot Hittim* is a special Passover fund, originally intended to provide the poor with matzah. Your online gift or check made out to the "Rabbi's Discretionary Fund" (indicate "maot hittim" in the memo) will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik right before Pesach. Go to shearithisrael.org/maothittim to donate.

SHARING MORE THAN HISTORY:

A THANKSGIVING PACK-A-THON REFLECTION

Rev. Michael S. Bos



In 1628, a group of Dutch settlers held their first worship service in the loft of a mill on the tip of Manhattan. Today, this congregation is known as The Collegiate Church and is the oldest Protestant church in North America. West End Collegiate Church is one of four Collegiate congregations in Manhattan that shares in this history. It is remarkable that twenty-six years later a service was held in that same loft, resulting in the formation of Shearith Israel, the oldest Jewish congregation in North America. Even more remarkable is that these two congregations are now neighbors on the Upper West Side.

When we were contacted by Zachary Edinger and Barbara Reiss about the possibility of joining the Thanksgiving Pack-a-Thon, it was this shared history that motivated us to say “yes.” The idea of cooperating on this project resonated with so many of our members that we quickly had to close registration, lest we have too many people. This is not a problem we often encounter in congregational life!

What we discovered in the experience is that we share much more than history. We learned that your congregation is committed to helping the most vulnerable around us. We experienced an intergenerational emphasis where small children worked next to senior citizens. This made organizing the process a little messier but so much more meaningful. Most importantly, we joined together with people of faith who believe that together we can make a difference in our community. These things, together with your hospitality, made the people of West End feel at home at Shearith Israel.

It is easy to live in religious silos, tend to the needs of our members, and gauge the health of our congregations by the strength of our internal programs. But experiences like the Pack-a-Thon remind us that we do not simply exist in a neighborhood; we exist for our neighborhood. By joining together it turned our focus outward. We made friends with people we normally pass by on the street, and we were able to do more for our community by cooperating with one another.

Our congregations share a rich history in New York City. My hope is that the rekindling of our relationship continues to grow and become an impactful presence on the Upper West Side and beyond.

Rev. Michael S. Bos is Senior Minister of West End Collegiate Church on 77th and West End Ave.



SERVICES

SHABBAT SERVICES

March 4th-5th

Shabbat Shekalim

- Candles (18 min. before sunset).....5:33 pm
- Friday Evening Services.....5:30 pm
- Saturday Morning Services..... 8:15-11:45 am
- Zemirot Sjimon Den Hollander
- Parashat Vayaqhel-Shekalim
Exodus 35:1-38:20 & 30:11-16
- Haftarah Abraham N. Cohen
II Kings 11:17-12:17
- Benei Mitzvah
Jacob N. Cohen & Abraham N. Cohen

- Seuda Shelishit & Class.....4:25 pm
- Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....5:25 pm
- Saturday Sunset5:52 pm
- Habdalah.....6:25 pm

Shabbat Shekalim: During Temple times the payment of a poll tax of half a shekel by every Jew was called for on the first day of the twelfth month (Adar). Exodus 30:11-16 was added as a reminder on the Sabbath preceding. This is the first of four Sabbaths with additional Torah readings and special haftarot which are scheduled in preparation for Passover.

March 11th-12th

- Candles (18 min. before sunset).....5:41 pm
- Friday Evening Services.....5:45 pm
- Saturday Morning Services..... 8:15-11:45 am
- ZemirotAdam F. Jackson
- Parashat Pekude.....Exodus 38:21-end
- Haftarah I Kings 7:40-50.....Steven A. Okin
- Seuda Shelishit & Class.....4:35 pm
- Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....5:35 pm
- Saturday Sunset6:00 pm
- Habdalah.....6:33 pm

DAILY SERVICES

Mornings:

- Sundays** Shahrit..... 8:00 am
- Monday-Friday** Shahrit.....7:15 am

Evenings, Sunday-Thursday:

- Nov. 1st-Feb. 18th**, Arbit Only.....6:30 pm
- Feb. 21st-Mar. 3rd**, Minhah & Arbit5:30 pm
- Mar. 6th-Mar. 10th**, Minhah & Arbit.....5:45 pm
- Mar. 13th-May 26th**, Minhah & Arbit.....6:30 pm
- May 29th-July 28th**, Minhah & Arbit6:45 pm

March 18th-19th

Shabbat Zakhor

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	6:48 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Joseph A. Solomon
Parashat Vayikra-Zakhor	

Leviticus 1:1-5:26 & Deuteronomy 25:17-19	
Haftarah I Samuel 15:1-34	Joel Maxman
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	5:40 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	6:40 pm
Saturday Sunset	7:07 pm
Habdalah.....	7:42 pm

Shabbat Zakhor/Mi Khamokha, is the Sabbath preceding Purim. We read Deut. 25:17-19, which begins with the word “Zakhor”-”Remember [Amalek].” Haman, because of his wicked designs to exterminate the Jewish people, was thought to be a spiritual descendant of Amalek, the first presumed “annihilators” of the Israelites. Sephardic congregations everywhere mark the occasion with the reading of Yehuda Halevy’s poem, “Mi Khamokha,” which will take place at the beginning of the Shahrit Service at 9:00 am.

March 25th-26th

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	6:56 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Matthew Kaplan
Parashat Tsav	Leviticus 6:1-8:36
Haftarah	

Jeremiah 7:21-8:3 & 9:22-23	
Bar Mitzvah.....	Gabriel Lipschutz
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	5:50 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	6:50 pm
Saturday Sunset	7:15 pm
Habdalah.....	7:50 pm

April 1st-2nd

Shabbat Parah

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	7:03 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Joseph A. Solomon
Parashat Shemini-Parah	

Leviticus 9:1-11:47 & Numbers 19:1-22	
Haftarah	Benjamin Warschawski
Ezekiel 36:16-36	
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	5:55 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....	6:55 pm
Saturday Sunset	7:22 pm
Habdalah.....	7:58 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”]

April 8th-9th

Shabbat Rosh Hodesh-Hahodesh

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	7:11 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Jacob Daar
Parashat Tazria-Rosh Hodesh-Hahodesh	
Lev. 12:1-13:59, Num. 28:9-15 & Ex. 12:1-20	
Haftarah	Joseph A. Solomon

Ezekiel 45:18-46:15, Isaiah 66:1 & 23	
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	6:05 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....	7:05 pm
Saturday Sunset	7:30 pm
Habdalah.....	8:07 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 5776, **Shabbat Hahodesh** coincides with **Rosh Hodesh** itself, the “New Moon,” the first day of Nisan.

April 15th-16th

Shabbat HaGadol

1818 -2nd Mill St.Consecration Anniversary	
Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	7:18 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Sjimon Den Hollander
Parashat Metzora-HaGadol.....	Lev. 14:1-15:33
Haftarah	Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Malachi 3:4-24	
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	6:10 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....	7:10 pm
Saturday Sunset	7:37 pm
Habdalah.....	8:15 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.

May 6th-7th

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	7:40 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Adam F. Jackson
Parashat Ahare Moth.....	Lev. 16:1-18:30
Haftarah I Samuel 20:18-42	Rafael Lipschutz
Benei Mitzvah	

Jesse Lipschutz & Rafael Lipschutz	
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	6:35 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....	7:35 pm
Saturday Sunset	7:59 pm
Habdalah.....	8:39 pm

May 13th-14th

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	7:46 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Jacob Daar
Parashat Kedoshim.....	Lev. 19:1-20:27
Haftarah Ezekiel 20:2-20	David Hidary
Bar Mitzvah.....	David Hidary
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	6:40 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....	7:40 pm
Saturday Sunset	8:05 pm
Habdalah.....	8:46 pm

May 20th-21st

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	7:53 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Matthew Kaplan
Parashat Emor	Lev. 21:1-24:23
Haftarah Ezekiel 44:15-31	Laurent Nahon
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	6:45 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....	7:45 pm
Saturday Sunset	8:11 pm
Habdalah.....	8:53 pm

May 27th-28th Consecration Shabbat 1897-70th Street Consecration Anniversary

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	7:59 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Avery E. Neumark
Parashat Behar	Lev. 25:1-26:2
Haftarah Jeremiah 32:6-27	George Bulow
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	6:55 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....	7:55 pm
Saturday Sunset	8:18 pm
Habdalah.....	8:59 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 Shabuot that year.

MINOR HOLIDAYS

- Rosh Hodesh Adar II (Two-Day)

Wednesday Evening, March 9th through Thursday & Friday, Feb. 10th & 11th

Rosh Hodesh Nisan (One-Day)

Shabbat Rosh Hodesh- HaHodesh Friday Evening, April 8th through Saturday, April 9th

(For Services see Shabbat Schedule)

Yom HaShoah

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Wednesday Evening, May 4th through Thursday, May 5th

Rosh Hodesh Iyar (Two-Day)

Saturday Evening, May 7th through Sunday & Monday, May 8th & 9th

Yom Ha`Atzma`ut

Israeli Independence Day (Observed)

Wednesday Evening, May 11th through Thursday, May 12th

Lag La`Omer

Wednesday Evening, May 25th through Thursday, May 26th

Memorial Day Legal Holiday

Monday, May 30th

Morning Service (Shahrit)..... 8:00 am

PURIM HOLIDAY

- Fast of Esther

Wednesday, March 23rd

Dawn (Fast Begins)5:32 am

Sunrise.....6:53 am

Morning Service (Shahrit).....7:15 am

Eve of Purim

Wednesday Evening, March 23rd

Minhah (men wear tefillin) 6:45 pm

Sunset 7:12 pm

Arbit (Evening) Service 7:15 pm

Reading of Megillah 7:30 pm

End of Fast 7:34 pm

Late Reading of Megillah 9:00 pm

Purim Day

Thursday, March 24th

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 Services 6:30 pm

Sunset 7:13 pm

End of Day 7:35 pm

Purim Shushan

Friday, March 25th

Morning (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 6:45 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

- PESAH, HAG HAMATZOT

Friday Eve, April 22nd - Saturday, April 30th

Preparations

Search for Leaven

Thursday Evening, April 21st

At night on Thursday (after sunset, 7:42 pm)

Fast of First Born

Friday Morning, April 22nd

Fast of First Born begins (Dawn)4:37 am

Sunrise 6:06 am

Shahrit & *siyyum* for the First Born 7:15 am

Stop eating *hametz* by..... 10:38 am

Dispose of any remaining *hametz* by..... 11:46 am

First & Second Days of Passover

FIRST TWO DAYS OF YOM TOB PESAH

First Day of Passover

Eve of the First Day, Friday Eve, April 22nd

Candle Lighting7:25 pm

Evening Services (Minhah & Arbit).....7:15 pm

Friday Evening Sunset.....7:43 pm

Begin the First Haggadah..... after 8:08 pm

First Day Morning, Saturday, April 23rd

Zemiroth 8:15 am

Shahrit..... 9:00 am

Tikkun HaTal..... 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 23rd

Evening Services (Minhah & Arbit).....7:15 pm

Saturday Evening Sunset7:44 pm

Shabbat Ends & Candle Lighting..... after 8:23 pm

Begin the Second Haggadah after 8:23 pm

Second Day Morning, Sunday, April 24th

Zemiroth 8:15 am

Shahrit, Hallel, Sermon, Musaf..... 9:00-11:50 am

Second Day Conclusion, Sunday, April 24th

Minhah & Arbit.....7:30 pm

Sunday Evening Sunset7:45 pm

Sunday Evening Habdalah8:10 pm

Intermediate Weekdays of Passover

HOL HAMOED PESAH

- Mon.-Thu. Mornings, April 25th-28th

Shahrit & Musaf 7:15 am

Mon.-Wed. Evenings, April 25th-27th

Minhah & Arbit.....6:30 pm

Seventh & Eighth Days of Passover

FINAL TWO DAYS OF YOM TOB PESAH

Seventh Day of Passover

Synagogue Consecration Anniversary

Mill Street Synagogue (1730)

Eve of the 7th Day, Thursday Eve, April 28th

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 Lighting 7:32 pm

Thursday Evening Minhah & Arbit..... 7:30 pm

Thursday Evening Sunset 7:50 pm

7th Day Morning, Friday, April 29th

Zemiroth 8:15 am

Shahrit..... 9:05 am

Torah Reading 9:50 am

Featuring reading of the Shirah-Song of the Sea

Musaf, Sermon, Conclusion..... 10:40-11:45 am

Shabbat, The Eighth Day of Passover

Eve of the 8th Day, Friday Eve, April 29th

Shabbat/Festival Candle Lightingby 7:33 pm

Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit..... 7:30 pm

Friday Evening Sunset 7:51 pm

8th Day/Shabbat Morn, Saturday, April 30th

Zemiroth 8:15 am

Shahrit..... 9:00 am

Reading of Song of Songs..... 11:30 am-12:15 pm

Saturday Afternoon Class 6:30 pm

8th Day Conclusion, Saturday, April 30th

Saturday Evening Minhah & Arbit..... 7:30 pm

Saturday Evening Sunset 7:52 pm

8th Day/Shabbat Concluding Habdalah 8:31 pm

Do not consume *hametz* until

½ hour after Habdalah..... 9:01 pm



HELP MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN

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.

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 past year, our funds have assisted a number of members as well as communities in Nepal recovering from the earthquake, and the Houston Jewish Community recovering from flooding.

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.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME AND TALENT

Shearith Israel belongs to its devoted members and our vitality depends on our participation and involvement. Our most successful programs and activities are those that are organized with the help of capable volunteers who bring creativity, good cheer and friends. We have a variety of committees and societies, such as our Sisterhood and Young Leadership for you to contribute ideas and energy. We also benefit from the talents and expertise of lay leaders who can help us in important projects such as historic cemetery restoration, archival upgrades, real estate projects and facilities needs, and so much more. And of course, at our core, we are a caring community and that means that providing emotional and logistical support to members in times of need cannot depend on our clergy alone but requires the care and involvement of many whether through our Caring Connection hesed committee or our Hebra. Getting involved is how you make it happen and how you forge meaningful connections at your synagogue.

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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Interested in becoming a member or curious to learn more about our membership options? Executive Director, Barbara Reiss, would be delighted to speak with you. Information and applications are also available online at shearithisrael.org/membership.

