



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

2 West 70th Street
New York, NY 10023



August 28th will mark the birthday of Hon. Edgar J. Nathan, Jr. (1891-1965) for whom our Liberty Bell Rimonim were commissioned to honor his 70th birthday in 1961. Judge Nathan, a descendant of one of the oldest American Jewish families, was an active civic leader.

SUMMER
2014
קיץ תשע"ד

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue



The Bulletin

America's First Jewish Congregation

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Pictured on the cover is one of two Torah Scrolls desecrated by two British soldiers during the American Revolution. Although unfit for ritual use, these scrolls are a physical reminder of the sacrifices our congregation made during the American revolution.

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik



It was several years ago that a unique headline appeared in the New York Times: "Time Travelers to Meet in the Not Too Distant Future." The story described a conference on time travel being held at MIT. The organizers of this conference, a couple of computer and physics geniuses, had invited a number of prominent scientists to discuss the conceptual aspects of time travel, but with a twist: the convention organizers had extended an open invitation to people from the future with the ability to travel into the past. A roped-off area, we are informed, was to allow "for a landing pad so that materializing time-travel machines would not crash into trees or dormitories." The convention's organizers reasoned that if at some point in the future time travel became possible, then anyone from the future could travel back in time to visit this convention in order to prove to the conference participants that they were not theorizing in vain. One of the organizers commented: "Isn't time travel impossible? We can't know for certain. The ancient Greeks would have thought computers were impossible, and the Phoenicians certainly wouldn't have believed that humans would one day send a spacecraft to the moon and back. We cannot predict the future of science or technology, so we can only make an effort and see if any time travelers come to our convention. And anyway," he told the Times, "if you can spare one Saturday night, there's a very slight chance that this could be the greatest event in human history."

It was an amusing story; but as I reflected, I realized that Jews have been engaging in time travel for much of our existence. After all, the Torah speaks of the powerful covenantal bond between Jews that

transcends time, that breaks the barriers between past and present, that is transgenerational. Because of the link between generations, we experience past events through national memory, as if we experienced it ourselves. Each one of us re-experiences the Exodus from Egypt. We believe that we all attended the declamation of the Decalogue at Sinai. And every summer, we mourn for a Temple that was destroyed millennia ago as if the destruction occurred yesterday. For Jews, writes Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik. "Bygones turn into facts, pale memories into living experiences and archaeological history into a vibrant reality."

This summer, I will experience my first Tisha Be-Ab at Shearith Israel. I have heard from so many, both active members and casual visitors, that our synagogue brings to life ancient events, and endows this day of mourning with such resonant meaning. In truth, if Judaism flourished despite dispersion, it was because of this ability to travel through time, reliving our tragedies and our triumphs, and preserving thereby the memories of these moments long after they occurred. It was Rabbi Soloveitchik who once commented that if the destruction of the Temple did not destroy the Jewish people, it was because Babylonia and Rome, with all of their troops, were unable to touch the ethereal Temple that lived on in Jewish hearts. This summer, as we mourn the Jerusalem that once was, and the many generations that have sacrificed since then, let us, as a community, journey into yesteryear, and make these memories of the past a part of our future.

Meir Y. Soloveichik

AN S&P REUNION IN ISRAEL



This year, we pioneered the first congregational Pesah trip to Israel which proved to be an uplifting and meaningful experience for all. We hosted a fascinating Rambam Seder on the first night of Pesah led by Rabbi Soloveichik. Rabbi Soloveichik also delivered Shiurim attended by hundreds at the Inbal Hotel. For the first time in our tradition, our S&P girls sang Shir Hashirim in Jerusalem. Members, both old friends and newcomers alike, met, reconnected and bonded in a magnificent S&P reunion overlooking the Old City. At the Menachem Begin Center, we attended a brilliant, sold-out event featuring Rabbi Soloveichik on the subject of Begin's roots in Brisk. We even enjoyed trips beyond Jerusalem such as a visit to the Air Force Museum in the Negev.

Our seventh day of Pesah was shared with our sister Spanish & Portuguese congregation Sha'are Ratzon (also known as the Istanbul Synagogue) in Jerusalem. Below is an email correspondence between the Co Parnas-Presidentes of Sha'are Ratzon and our Parnas Louis Solomon.

April 24, 2014

Dear Mr. Solomon,

On behalf of Shaare Ratzon, we would like to record our appreciation and thanks that we were able to welcome you, together with many other members of Shearith Israel, to our services on the

Seventh Day of Pesach. We were very pleased and grateful that Rabbi Soloveichik was also able to join us, and special thanks go to Barbara Reiss, for her invaluable last-minute assistance, despite her other responsibilities in managing this pioneering visit to Jerusalem. We look forward to deepening and strengthening ties between our congregations, including the use of Skype, of course: our thanks for agreeing to host a link to our website. We hope that members of your congregation visiting Jerusalem will feel free to contact us in advance: we will be delighted to welcome you all. Best wishes, Ralph Amelan, Co Parnas-Presidente, Shaare Ratzon Isaac Benabu, Co Parnas-Presidente, Shaare Ratzon Sha'are Ratzon The Spanish and Portuguese Congregation in Israel www.sandpjerusalem.org

April 24, 2014

My Dear Messrs. Amelan and Benabu,

Thank you for your very kind message. Thank you as well for allowing us to participate with you in your services. Every time I describe the beauty of your physical space and your enchanted nusach I smile. Yes definitely let us keep in touch. You are most welcome anytime here.

All the very best, and Shabbat shalom.

Louis M. Solomon

IN OBSERVANCE OF SHABUOT

Shabuot Dinner

Ereb Shabuot, Tuesday, June 3

Join us for a lovely dairy Shabuot Dinner following services (8:15 pm) on Ereb Shabuot. Visit shearithisrael.org/shabuotdinner for details and registration.

Shabuot Public Address: The Top 10 Media Mistakes About Judaism

Ereb Shabuot, Tuesday, June 3

Main Sanctuary at 11:15 pm

Delivered by Rabbi Soloveichik

SPECIAL SERIES FOR THE THREE WEEKS

From Destruction to Rebuilding: Lessons from the First and Second Commonwealths to the Modern State of Israel

The First State: Contravening the Covenant

Wednesday, July 16

Rabbi Richard Hidary

The Second State: Baseless Hatred and Its Political, Social, and Religious Ramifications

Wednesday, July 23

Rabbi Richard Hidary

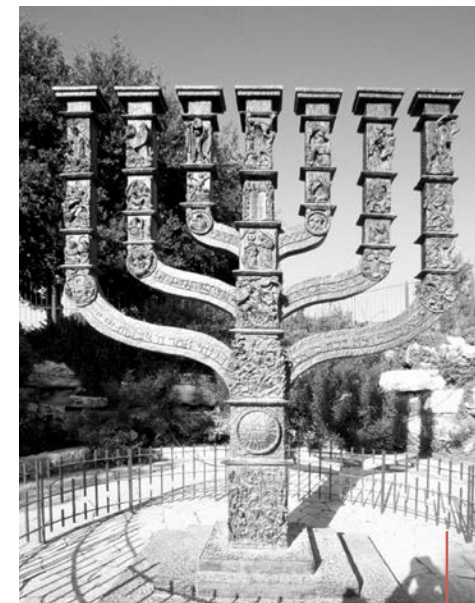
The Third State: What Can We Learn from History for the Flourishing of Modern Israel and Judaism

Wednesday, July 30

Professor Lawrence H. Schiffman

Lawrence H. Schiffman is the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education at Yeshiva University. He was formerly the Chair of New York University's Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies,

— continued —



For the most up-to-date information, consult our website and weekly emails.

where he served as Ethel and Irvin A. Edelman Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies. He was also a member of NYU's Center for Ancient Studies and Center for Near Eastern Studies. He is a past president of the Association for Jewish Studies.

To sponsor this exciting series and guest scholar, please email Executive Director Barbara Reiss at breiss@shearithisrael.org or 212-873-0300 x215.

TISHA B'AB LECTURE

The Many Tisha B'Abs of Don Isaac Abrabanel

**Delivered by Rabbi Soloveichik
Ereb Tisha B'Ab, Monday, August 5
Following the evening reading of Eikhah**

Read more about our deeply moving Tisha B'Ab services on page 16.



SHABBAT

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

**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Shabbatot in July**

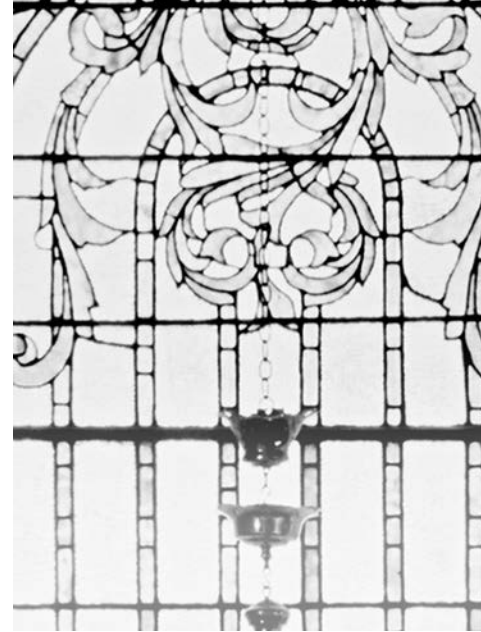
**One hour before Minhah
accompanied by Seudah Shelishit**

Pirkei Abot is often understood as a mere series of unrelated ethical adages. In fact, each brief and much-cited maxim in Pirkei Abot actually hints at the extraordinary, and unique, life story and worldview of its rabbinic source, and the chapters of Abot are joined together in a structure that actually tells the story of the transmission of the Oral Law. We will see how studying the history of the rabbinic figures cited lend an entirely new understanding to these statements, and how Abot represents the diverse response of the rabbis to an age of crisis and transition that was, in many ways, not unlike our own.

Learners' Service

**Led by Rabbi Shalom Morris
9:45 – 10:45 am in the Little
Synagogue
Shabbatot, No class on July 5**

'Eat, Pray, Learn' in an inviting atmosphere geared toward those new to full Shabbat services. This abridged Shabbat morning service, Kiddush and study session is an invigorating beginning to your Shabbat mornings.



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS

We wish Mazal Tob to:

Rabbi Hayyim and Maxine Angel upon the birth of a baby boy. Congratulations to the proud grandparents, Rabbi Marc and Gilda Angel.

Charles Bensoussan and Melanie Ouanounou upon the birth of a baby boy, Eliyahu Rephael.

Lucienne C. Bulow upon her induction to the Hunter College Hall of Fame. Lucienne is the first woman in the world to become a maritime arbitrator and is a Commissioner of Pilots for the State of New York.

Aliza Freilich upon becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Aliza is the daughter of Drs. Stephanie and Jonathan Freilich, granddaughter of Estelle and Dr. Dennis Freilich, and niece of Helen and Elliot Freilich and Phyllis and Benjamin Freilich.

Eric and Allaya Fleischer upon the birth of a baby girl.

Yaara Pniel Kaplan upon becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Yaara is the daughter of Matthew Kaplan and Yael Cycowicz.

Ronen and Fabiola Korin upon the birth of a baby boy, Yaakov.

Bracha Malkin and Yotam Allon upon the birth of a baby boy.

Gustave Rieu upon the birth of a grandson, Alexander Gabriel.

Alyse and Joshua Rozenberg upon the birth of a baby boy, Sean Alexander. Mazal tob also to the proud grandparents, Susan and Avery Neumark, great grandparents, Debby and Melvin Neumark and uncle and aunt, Rachel and Jonathan Herlands.

Emma Vorchheimer upon becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Emma is the daughter of Rachel and Dr. David Vorchheimer, and sister of Hannah, Joshua and Ethan.

Benjamin Warschawski and Heather Johnson upon the birth of a baby boy, Samuel Casper.

IN APPRECIATION

Thank you to:

Fiona Hallegua Amiel for sponsoring a Bet Midrash class in memory of her grandfather, Shabedai Samuel Koder

Ann Fridman for sponsoring the Tuesday Talmud Shiur's Pesah series

Laury Frieber and Rachel Brody and Michael Lustig for sponsoring an Intimate Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi Soloveichik

The Sisterhood for co-sponsoring the new carpet in the Levy Auditorium. A special thank-you to Betty Capelluto Emden for her time and expertise

The Purim Céilidh celebration sponsors:

Chava and Brian Maccaba for underwriting our celebration in honor of the Irish Jewish Museum in Dublin

The Irish Jewish Museum in Dublin for co-sponsoring this event

Eva G. and Simon Haberman

Seth and Jennifer Haberman

Brian and Chava Maccaba

Elisheva Rothstein and Ira Kalfus

The Rebibo Family

Karen and Roy Simon

The Solomon Family

The sponsors of the Pre-Pesah Shabbat Dinner:

Ben, Aline, Jonah and Samuel Cohen

Eva G. and Simon Haberman

Judith and Joel Schreiber

The Solomon Family

The sponsors of the Shabbat Dinner featuring Professor Christine Hayes:

Anonymous

Edward Kerson and Ellen Odoner

Roy and Karen Simon

The Solomon Family

Ralph J. Sutton

Our Kiddush Fund sponsors and contributors:

SPONSORS

The Beispe! Family in memory of Semah Franco.

Norman Benzaquen in memory of his grandfather, Maimon Yehuda Olivar.

The Family of Irma Cardozo, the Sisterhood, and the Board of Trustees in honor of Irma Cardozo's birthday.

Joan E. Childs and the family of Philip and Lillian Cooperman in honor of Dr. Avram Cooperman's 75th birthday.

Leslie Cohen and Jeffrey Lang in honor of their son Gabriel's Bar Mitzvah.

Carol and Arthur Goldberg

Lori Jacobowitz and Faith Fogelman in memory of the Jacobowitz family of Boro Park

Liz and Jak Ninyo in honor of their son Jared's Bar Mitzvah

The Shearith Israel Trustees in memory of Mona Oppenheim

LEARNERS' KIDDUSH SPONSORS

Aline Cohen in honor of Sammy's birthday

Yedidya Flaquer in celebration of his internship at Time Magazine

Kevin Padilla and Joyce Cho in appreciation of Shearith Israel

CONTRIBUTORS

Anonymous in honor of Irma Cardozo's birthday

Four anonymous donors in memory of Dr. Arthur Spier, former Principal of PTTS

Jonathan de Sola Mendes and Family in memory of Mary Ellen Mendes

Gita Rebecca Friedman in memory of her grandmother Gita and her great-grandmother Rebecca

Donald and Joan Green in honor of the Seixas, Nathan, and Solomons families

Claudette Chayah Hayle in honor of her mother Ruth

Richard and Roslyn Mateles

David and Carole Solis-Cohen in memory of Virginia Rosalie Solis-Cohen

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following individuals to the Shearith Israel family:

Charles Bensoussan and Melanie Ouanounou

Gregory Gliner

Roni and Jessica Jesselson

Alan and Deborah Kestenbaum

Brian and Chava Maccaba

Mitchell and Lauren Presser

Marshall and Judith Siegel

Isaac and Frieda Schlesinger

David and Rachel Vorchheimer

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of our members:

Liza Abraham. Mrs. Abraham was the wife of our former trustee and Toke'a, Joe Abraham, z"l. Condolences to her children, David and Hannah.

Dr. Rene Jahiel. Condolences to his wife Deborah Jahiel and his children Abigail Lutze, Richard Jahiel, and Beth Jahiel.

Stuart Marks, Honorary Trustee. Condolences to his children Deborah, Elizabeth, and David Marks.

Mrs. Anne Okin. Mrs. Okin was the wife of the late Judge Lou Okin. Condolences to her children Steven Okin and Elizabeth Okin Ninyo.

Mr. Herman Schwarz. Condolences to his son Paul Schwarz.

CONDOLENCES

We extend sincere condolences to:

Estelle Freilich upon the passing of her sister Miriam Lubarr

Rev. Salomon L. Vaz Dias on the passing of his cousin, Salomon D. Vas Dias, in Israel



JUDAIC EDUCATION

MONDAYS

Guide of the Perplexed

Rabbi Richard Hidary
Monday evenings, Time TBD

A close textual reading of the most important work of Jewish philosophy on topics of prophecy, providence, and the reasons of the commandments.

Sephardic Neighbors

Rabbi Shalom Morris
Mondays in July at 7:15-8:15 pm

The history of Sephardic Jewry can be more fully understood in context of the diverse group of people with whom they lived. This summer mini-series will introduce Rabbi Morris' course for next year entitled, *The History of Spanish Portuguese Jewry*. Subjects in order of the first week of July to the last: Christianity, Islam, Karaism, and Ashkenaz.

Young Leadership Monday Night Learning

In conjunction with the Jewish International Connection of New York (JICNY)

For those in their 20s and 30s. \$5 per person.
Parasha Class with Steve Eisenberg at 7:00 pm
Parasha Class for Spanish Speakers with Rabbi Nissim Elnecave at 8:30 pm

TUESDAYS

Masekhet Kiddushin and the Jewish Philosophy of Family

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Tuesdays in July at 8:00 pm

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

KIDDUSH SPONSORS

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 a time for fellow congregants to catch up with friends, meet new members and guests, and greet synagogue leaders.

Kiddush Sponsorship Opportunities:

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

Contributions at lower amounts are welcome in addition to the sponsorship levels. Both sponsors and contributors will be recognized in the Shabbat Handout (print and electronic) and The Bulletin.

To sponsor a Kiddush, contact Alana Shultz at ashultz@shearithisrael.org or 212-873-0300 x209.

EDUCATION SPONSORS

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 evening Talmud shiur, Hebrew courses, Learners' Service, or Shabbat afternoon class.

Visit shearithisrael.org/sponsor a class to support these important educational opportunities.

Bet Midrash (with light dinner)
Class: \$180 | Semester: \$1800

Talmud Shiur (with sushi)
Class: \$180 | Semester: \$1800

Hebrew courses (for all 3 levels with light breakfast)
Class: \$100 | Semester: \$500

Learners' Service (with light Kiddush)
Shabbat: \$50 | Semester: \$500

Shabbat Afternoon Class (with Seudah Shelishit)
Class: \$100 | Semester: \$1000



RABBIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

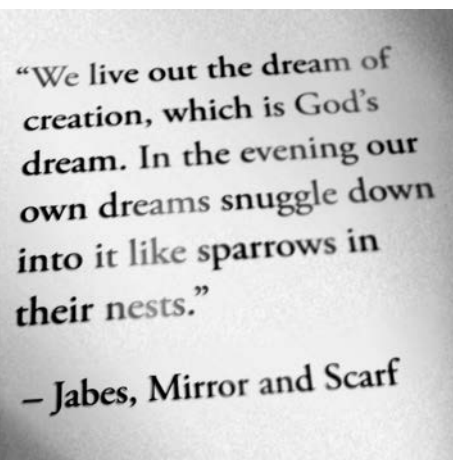
The Rabbis' Discretionary Fund is a charitable arm of our congregation. These funds are never directed towards our operating or programming costs, but are rather distributed by our rabbi to members in need—with their dignity and confidentiality preserved—and communities in crisis.

Visit shearithisrael.org/discretionaryfund to donate.

All contributions are fully tax deductible.



Edmond Jabes Photo: Bracha L. Ertinger



CULTURE & ENRICHMENT

RE-READING THE CLASSICS: THE SUBLIME AND THE SURREAL

The Poetry of Edmond Jabes

The fourth and final installment of our book club this year, led by Esther Hidary
Thursday, June 12
8:00 pm

We will cover the poetry of Edmond Jabes (1912-1991) for our last meeting of the season. Jabes was born in Egypt, fled to Paris when the Egyptian Jews were expelled and became one of the leading French writers after WWII. The readings to prepare will be relatively short so that we can focus on a careful analysis of these important texts and appreciate what they can tell us about life, existence, and the meaning of it all. RSVP at shearithisrael.org/bookclub.

LITERARY LUNCH

Janet R. Kirchheimer
Thursdays, June 12, July 10 in the Elias Room
12:15 pm–1:45 pm

Join our monthly gatherings where we read and discuss a variety of works from across the ages and around the world. Led by Shearith Israel's own poet and member, Janet R. Kirchheimer, each independent session is accompanied by a catered lunch and stimulating conversation. \$10 per session. RSVP to Alana Shultz.

TAI CHI

Lewis Paleias
Thursdays in the Levy auditorium
11:00 am

This age-old practice help 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.



Artwork courtesy of Tamar Messer

GIRLS' MEGILLAT RUTH READING

First day of Shabuot, June 4

The girls of our synagogue, ages 6–12, recite Megillat Ruth for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. Read more on page 15.

WOMEN'S SERVICE PREPARATION

While Women's Services will not meet over the summer months, why not use the summer break to learn something new for our Fall services? To participate, contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde lirohde-csi@yahoo.com.

YOETZET HALAKHA

We are proud to be a co-sponsor of the Manhattan Yoetzet Halacha Initiative in order to make this essential service available to the Jewish community of Manhattan.

If you have any questions regarding Taharat Hamishpakha (Jewish Family Law) laws of Niddah, sexuality and women's health, please contact our new Yoetzet Halakha, Lisa Septimus, 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 Halacha 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



YOUTH PROGRAMMING

GIRLS' MEGILLAT RUTH READING

First day of Shabuot, June 4

The girls of our synagogue, ages 6–12, recite Megillat Ruth for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. Read more on page 15.

GRADUATION KIDDUSH

Shabbat, June 7

Following morning services

Join us in celebrating the success and accomplishments of all our graduates. Co-sponsor our graduation Kiddush Luncheon and list a mazal tob for your loved one in our scroll of honor by June 4. Visit shearithisrael.org/graduation.

ASSIGNED JUNIOR CONGREGATION

Shabbat, June 14

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

BIBLICAL TOUR OF THE CENTRAL PARK ZOO

Sunday, June 15

Explore the wonder of wildlife through a Jewish lens with Rabbi Meir Soloveichik. A Sunday outing for the young and young-at-heart. Check our emails and website for details.

SUMMER WEEKDAY TODDLER PROGRAM

**Tuesdays and Wednesdays,
June 17 – August 19**

9:30 am–11:30 am

For children aged 16–33 months. Adult caregiver presence is required.

The Shearith Israel Toddler Program has been serving the community since the summer of 1999. Our large space allows children to move around freely. It gives them the opportunity to run and jump and a place to be together with other children on a regular basis. We have small wading pools outside in our “beach” when the weather is hot. There is time for play, craft projects, exercises, saying Berakhot (blessings), snack, stories, 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.

There is a one-day option but we strongly recommend two days which gives more continuity to the program; it allows the child to be more aware of themes that continue for several sessions and also to see familiar faces on a regular basis. For questions and to enroll, contact Alana Shultz.

Register for the 2014-2015 school year!

THE SHEARITH ISRAEL HEBREW SCHOOL: POLONIES TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL (PTTS)

For students aged 3 – 16 years old

All ages meet on Sundays from
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

For more information and to enroll, visit
shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEBREW SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Rabbi Shalom Morris



I first realized how much can be accomplished at Hebrew School when I became principal of our 'Polonies Talmud Torah School' five years ago. I saw that when schools challenge their

students academically and avoid repetition, children remained engaged. I've therefore created a program of study that builds from year to year.

Hebrew is, of course, essential. It is the key to accessing a meaningful engagement with Jewish life. Since reading can be taught in a year (as I soon discovered), schools then have years more to also teach Hebrew script (reading and writing), vocabulary, grammar and other comprehension skills, enabling students to also engage in the study of Jewish texts.

Beyond Hebrew, we also see it as our goal to provide children with a well-rounded Jewish education. The challenge is that while there are a number of quality Hebrew School text books for when covering subjects such as Genesis or the Holidays, that is not the case when moving past them. We've therefore had to create our own materials for when studying the post-Exodus portions of the Torah and beyond throughout Jewish history. Instead of reading the Bible verse by verse, we focus on the major stories, so that we can zero-in on the main issues at hand, get the big picture, ask the important questions, and learn valuable lessons.

The study of Judaism through the prism of history helps children place their religious understanding in a context that they can understand and to which they can relate. Our older students also read relevant

works of literature to help them personalize the subjects being studied.

Our school returns to the Holidays annually, but with great care, so that each year something new is being taught. While our younger students may focus on ritual objects, older students will focus on the meaning and messages of the holidays, special prayers, Biblical sources, Talmudic teachings, etc. Over the course of a student's studies they will also become familiar with the Jewish life-cycle, Jewish ethics, Israeli culture, and much more.

As students are provided with a substantive and well-rounded Jewish education, it is then that it becomes relevant to introduce meaningful experiential elements. Doing so is vital to ensuring that their education is not simply academic, but instead becomes a part of their lives. We therefore begin Sunday mornings with communal Tefillah in our Small Synagogue. We also include school celebrations to go along with Succot, Hanukkah, and Purim, as well as a model Seder (Haggadah) before Pesah, and the singing of songs like Hatikvah. When possible we also add class trips to relevant exhibits at New York's world-class museums (Jewish and general). Families are also encouraged to become involved in synagogue life, such as by attending our weekly Shabbat Junior Congregation. These experiences allow children to engage with Judaism in a manner altogether different than what is possible in the classroom alone. However, it is the strong foundation built in the classroom that makes it possible for these experiences to be meaningful and impactful to them.

Adapted from Rabbi Morris' blog, shalommorris.com, where he writes on matters of Sephardic and Jewish interests.

SHABUOT AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

June 3–5, 2014

In celebration of both the harvesting of the first fruits as well as the giving of the Torah at Sinai, our synagogue is transformed into a botanical sanctuary with a breathtaking array of flowers and plants. There is no more beautiful place to celebrate Shabuot than amongst colorful and fragrant blooms that fill our majestic synagogue and complement our festive pastel Torah mantels.

Our morning services are followed by a special recitation of the Book of Ruth by the pre-Bat Mitzvah girls of the congregation. In accordance with our Western Sephardic tradition, our afternoon service is preceded by the recitation of Solomon Ibn Gabirol's Azharot, which poetically lists the commandments.

On the second day of Shabuot, we hold a community-wide Siyyum Torah, followed by a celebratory Kiddush Luncheon. Fifty-four families or individuals of our congregation read the 54 parshiyot, respectively, in a communal celebration of the giving of the Torah. To sponsor this joyous Kiddush Luncheon, contact Alana at ashultz@shearithisrael.org.

This year, begin Shabuot with a celebratory evening of community and scholarship! Join us for a lovely dairy dinner following evening services (8:15 pm) on Ereb Shabuot, Tuesday, June 3. Visit shearithisrael.org/shabuotdinner for details and registration.

The dinner will be followed by a special public address at 11:15 pm by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, entitled, *The Top 10 Media Mistakes About Judaism* in the Main Sanctuary at 11:15 pm.

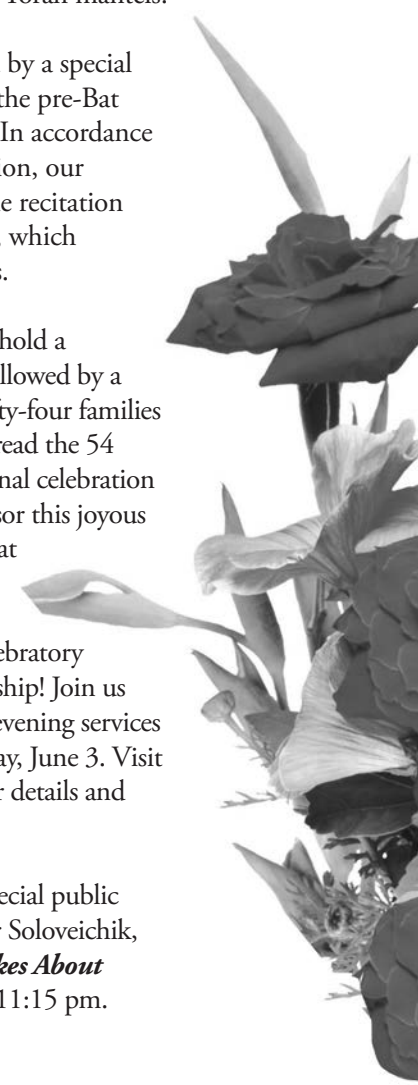
For service schedule, see page 22.

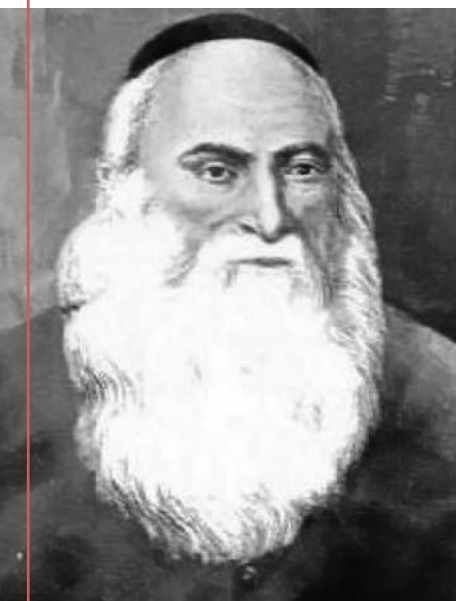
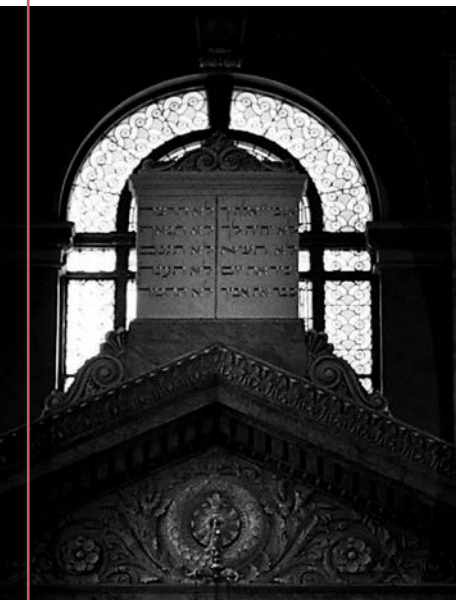
SERVICES

The Book of Ruth is traditionally read on Shabuot, 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, and his wife, Lisa Rohde, well in advance of the festival. The girls will read their portions at the end of Wednesday 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, which 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 Wednesday evening at 7:30, just before Minhah, and the second part, which enumerates the 365 negative Commandments, is read on Thursday evening at 7:30 before Minhah. The poem is chanted by the men and boys of the congregation to the Spanish & Portuguese traditional Shabuot melody in a round-robin style, with each participant leading two lines.





SERVICES

— continued —

TISHA B'AB AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

August 4–5, 2014

Tisha B'Ab, the most solemn day of the Jewish calendar, commemorates the destruction of both the First and Second Temples in ancient Jerusalem. Over the years, this day has also come to remind us of other historic tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people.

For Tisha B'Ab, the Reader's Desk and Holy Ark are draped in black. The evening and morning services are conducted from a special table—also draped in black—rather than from the Reader's Desk. The synagogue lights are dimmed, so that congregants follow services with small flashlights. The melodies of Tisha B'Ab are somber and deeply moving.

The afternoon service on the day of Tisha B'Ab takes on an optimistic air. We focus on Isaiah's words of consolation to the Jewish people: Nahamu nahamu ami, be comforted, be comforted My people. The Almighty has promised that Israel will be consoled and redeemed. The service closes with a crescendo of biblical verses, sung by the Hazzan and Congregation that speak of the restoration of Jerusalem and the redemption of the people of Israel. The fast day which had begun so somberly is now transformed by thoughts of consolation and redemption.

This year, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik will deliver a public lecture entitled, *The Many Tisha B'Abs of Don Isaac Abrabanel*, following the reading of Eikhah on Ereb Tisha B'Ab.



SHABBAT SERVICES

June 6th-7th

Candle Lighting*	8:06 pm
Friday Evening Sunset	8:24 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services	8:15 am
Zemirot	Joseph A. Solomon
Torah Reading	Behaalotekha Numbers 8:1-12:16
Haftarah	Jacob P. Seligson Zachariah 2:14-4:7
Seudah Shelishit & Class	7:00 pm
Saturday Evening Services	8:00 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset	8:24 pm
Habdalah	9:07 pm

June 13th-14th

Candle Lighting*	8:10 pm
Friday Evening Sunset	8:28 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services	8:15 am
Zemirot	Raif Melhado
Torah Reading	Shelah Lekha Numbers 13:1-15:41
Haftarah	Steven Beispel Joshua 2:1-24
Seudah Shelishit & Class	7:00 pm
Saturday Evening Services	8:00 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset	8:28 pm
Habdalah	9:10 pm

June 20th-21st

Candle Lighting*	8:12 pm
Friday Evening Sunset	8:30 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services	8:30 am
Zemirot	Sjimon Den Hollander

— continued —

*Those praying with the congregation should light before services.

Torah Reading.....Korah
Numbers 16:1-18:32 and
Haftarah
I Samuel 11:14-12:22
Seudah Shelishit & Class.....7:00 pm
Saturday Evening Services8:00 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset8:30 pm
Habdalah.....9:12 pm

June 27th-28th Shabbat Rosh Hodesh

Candle Lighting*8:13 pm
Friday Evening Sunset.....8:31 pm
Friday Evening Services6:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:30 am
ZemirotAdam Jackson
Torah Reading.....Hukkath-Rosh Hodesh
Numbers 19:1-22:1 and
Numbers 28:9-15
HaftarahIsaac Haberman
Isaiah 66:1-24 and
I Samuel 20:18 and 42
Seudah Shelishit & Class.....7:00 pm
Saturday Evening Services8:00 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset8:31 pm
Habdalah.....9:13 pm

July 4th-5th

Candle Lighting*8:13 pm
Friday Evening Sunset.....8:31 pm
Friday Evening Services6:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:30 am
ZemirotJack Daar
Torah Reading.....Balak
Numbers 22:2-25:9
HaftarahJesse Epstein
Micah 5:6-6:8
Seudah Shelishit & Class.....7:00 pm

Saturday Evening Services8:00 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset8:31 pm
Habdalah.....9:13 pm

July 11th-12th

Candle Lighting*8:11 pm
Friday Evening Sunset8:29 pm
Friday Evening Services6:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:30 am
ZemirotAdam Jackson
Torah Reading.....Pinehas
Numbers 25:10-30:1
HaftarahRaif Melhado
I Kings 18-46-19:21
Seudah Shelishit & Class.....7:00 pm
Saturday Evening Services8:00 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset8:28 pm
Habdalah.....9:10 pm

July 18th-19th Shabbat Dibre

Candle Lighting*8:07 pm
Friday Evening Sunset8:25 pm
Friday Evening Services6:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:30 am
ZemirotZachary Edinger
Torah Reading.....Mattoth-Dibre
Numbers 30:1-32:42
HaftarahJacob Daar
Jeremiah 1:1-2:3
Seudah Shelishit & Class.....7:00 pm
Saturday Evening Services8:00 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset8:24 pm
Habdalah.....9:06 pm

NOTE ABOUT THE SHABBATOT PRECEDING
THE FAST OF AB: The three weeks between the
Fast of the 17th of Tammuz and the Fast of the
9th of Ab are a traditional period of contrition

and mourning, and prophetic passages of
reproof and ominous foreboding are read as
the Haftarah readings on the three intervening
Sabbaths. Sephardic custom is to refer to these
Sabbaths by the opening words of the particular
Haftarah read on that day. Shabbat Dibre is the
first of these three, and refers to the opening
passage of the Book of Jeremiah, the most
famous of the “prophets of doom.” Although
this passage is also chanted at one other time
during the year, on this occasion this passage as
well as the two following are chanted in a dirge
of lament, although each of the three passages
ends on a note of comfort.

July 25th-26th Shabbat Shimu

Candle Lighting*8:01 pm
Friday Evening Sunset.....8:19 pm
Friday Evening Services6:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:30 am
ZemirotRaif Melhado
Torah Reading.....Maseh-Shimu
Numbers 33:1-end
HaftarahCharles Gourgey
Jeremiah 2:4-28 and 4:1-2
Seudah Shelishit & Class.....6:45 pm
Saturday Evening Services7:45 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset8:18 pm
Habdalah.....9:00 pm

NOTE ABOUT THE SHABBATOT
PRECEDING THE FAST OF AB: Shabbat Shimu
continues the theme of reproof and foreboding
impending doom with a reading from the
second chapter of Jeremiah.

August 1st-2nd Shabbat Hazon

Candle Lighting*7:55 pm
Friday Evening Sunset8:13 pm
Friday Evening Services6:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:30 am
ZemirotJacob Daar
Torah Reading.....Debarim-Hazon
Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22
HaftarahRabbi Ira Rohde
Isaiah 1:1-27
Seudah Shelishit & Class.....6:45 pm
Saturday Evening Services7:45 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset8:11 pm
Habdalah.....8:52 pm

NOTE ABOUT THE SHABBATOT
PRECEDING THE FAST OF AB: Shabbat
Hazon refers to the opening “vision” of the Book
of Isaiah, parallel to the opening prophetic vision
of the book of Jeremiah which was read during
the preceding two weeks. This last of the three
haftarot which immediately precedes the Fast
of Ab is often read by the hazzan or some other
scholar who is “well-versed in lamentation,” as it
is at Congregation Shearith Israel.

— continued —

*Those praying with the congregation should light before services.

August 8th-9th

Shabbat Nahamu

Candle Lighting*	7:46 pm
Friday Evening Sunset	8:04 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services	8:30 am
Zemirot	Raif Melhado
Torah Reading	Vaethanan-Nahamu
Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11	
Haftarah	
Isaiah 40:1-26	
Seudah Shelishit & Class	6:30 pm
Saturday Evening Services	7:30 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset	8:03 pm
Habdalah	8:43 pm

NOTES ABOUT THE SHABBATOT
 FOLLOWING THE FAST OF AB: The Fast of the 9th of Ab is followed by seven Sabbaths at which special Haftarat of Consolation from the end of the Book of Isaiah are chanted. Only the first of the seven, immediately following Tisha BeAb, is referred to popularly as Shabbat Nahamu, referring to Isaiah Chapter 40’s famous opening words “Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people.”

August 15th-16th

Candle Lighting*	7:36 pm
Friday Evening Sunset	7:54 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services	8:30 am
Zemirot	Adam Jackson
Torah Reading	Ekeb
Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25	
Haftarah	
Isaiah 49:14-51:3	
Seudah Shelishit & Class	6:30 pm
Saturday Evening Services	7:30 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset	7:53 pm
Habdalah	8:32 pm

August 22nd-23rd

Candle Lighting*	7:26 pm
Friday Evening Sunset	7:44 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services	8:30 am
Zemirot	Sjimon Den Hollander
Torah Reading	Reeh
Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17	
Haftarah	Zachary Edinger
Isaiah 54:11-55:5	
Seudah Shelishit & Class	6:15 pm
Saturday Evening Services	7:15 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset	7:42 pm
Habdalah	8:21 pm

August 29th-30th

Candle Lighting*	7:15 pm
Friday Evening Sunset	7:33 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services	8:30 am
Zemirot	Adam Jackson
Torah Reading	Shofetim
Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9	
Haftarah	Charles Gourgey
Isaiah 51:12-52:12	
Seudah Shelishit & Class	6:00 pm
Saturday Evening Services	7:00 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset	7:31 pm
Habdalah	8:09 pm

September 5th-6th

Candle Lighting*	7:04 pm
Friday Evening Sunset	7:22 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services	8:15 am
Zemirot	Joseph A. Solomon
Torah Reading	Ki Tetse
Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19	
Haftarah	
Isaiah 54:1-10	
Seudah Shelishit & Class	5:45 pm
Saturday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset	7:20 pm
Habdalah	7:57 pm

MINOR HOLIDAYS

Rosh Hodesh Tammuz: Two-Day

Friday Evening June 27th through
 Saturday & Sunday, June 28th & 29th

American Independence Day

Friday, July 4th
 Shahrit 8:00 am
 Eve of Shabbat Minhah/Arbit 6:45 pm

Fast of Tammuz

Tuesday, July 15th
 Dawn (Fast Begins) 3:54 am
 Morning Service 7:15 am
 Minhah/Arbit 7:30 pm
 Sunset 8:27 pm
 End of Fast 8:54 pm
 The Fast of Tammuz commemorates the breach of the city walls of Jerusalem, as well as the destruction of the first tablets of the Ten Commandments following the sin of the Golden Calf.

*Those praying with the congregation should light before services.

Rosh Hodesh Ab: One Day

Sunday Evening, July 27th
 & Monday, July 28th

Fast of (the Ninth of) Ab

(Tish`a BeAb)
 Eve of the Fast, Monday, August 4th
 Minhah Service 5:30 pm
 Sunset (cease eating) 8:09 pm
 Evening Service (Arbit) 8:30 pm
 Tish`a BeAb Day, Tuesday, August 5th
 Morning Service 6:30 am
 Minhah/Arbit 7:00 pm
 Sunset (cease eating) 8:08 pm
 End of Fast 8:34 pm
 The Fast of the Ninth of Ab, three weeks after the Fast of Tammuz, commemorates the breaching of the Temple Mount fortifications and the dates of destruction of both the First and Second Temples.

Rosh Hodesh Elul: Two-Day

Monday Evening August 25th through
 Tuesday and Wednesday, August 26th & 27th

Labor Day Legal Holiday

Monday, September 1st
 Shahrit 8:00 am
 Minhah/Arbit 6:30 pm

SHABUOT FESTIVAL SERVICES

Tuesday Evening, June 3rd-Thursday, June 5th

FIRST DAY OF SHABUOT

Tuesday, June 3rd – Eve of First Day

Candle Lighting	8:04 pm
Tuesday Evening Sunset	8:22 pm
Shabuot Eve Services (Minhah/Arbit)....	8:00 pm

Wednesday, June 4th - First Day

Morning Services.....	8:15 am
Torah Reading.....	Reading of the Ten Commandments
Reading of the Book of Ruth	11:30 am
Bat Mitzvah.....	Yaara Pniel Kaplan

SECOND DAY OF SHABUOT

Wednesday, June 4th - Eve of Second Day

Candle Lighting	8:50 pm
Wednesday Evening Sunset.....	8:22 pm
Azharot	7:30 pm
Eve of the Second	
Day Services (Minhah/Arbit)	8:00 pm

Thursday, June 5th - Second Day

Morning Service	8:15 am
Siyyum HaTorah	
Following Services	after 11:30 am
Thursday Evening Sunset	8:23 pm
Azharot	7:30 pm
Thursday Evening End of Shabuot Services (Minhah/Arbit)	8:00 pm
Thursday Evening Sunset	8:23 pm
Habdalah.....	8:51 pm

DAILY SERVICES

Mornings (Shabrit):

Sunday.....	8:00 am
Monday-Friday.....	7:15 am

Evenings (Minhah & Arbit)

June 1st- June 2nd.....	6:30 pm
June 8th - July 24th.....	6:45 pm
July 27th - September 23rd.....	6:30 pm

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5775/2014 FALL PREVIEW

Rosh Hashanah

Wed. Eve. Sep. 24th through Thu. & Fri., Sep. 25th & 26th

Shabbat Teshubah

Fri. Eve. Sep. 26th through Sat. Sep. 27th

Yom Kippur

Fri. Eve. Oct. 3rd through Sat., Oct. 4th

First Two Days of Succot

Wed. Eve. Oct. 8th through Thu. & Fri., Oct. 9th & 10th

Shabbat Hol HaMoed Succot

Fri. Eve. Oct. 10th through Sat. Oct. 11th

Shemini Hag Atseret

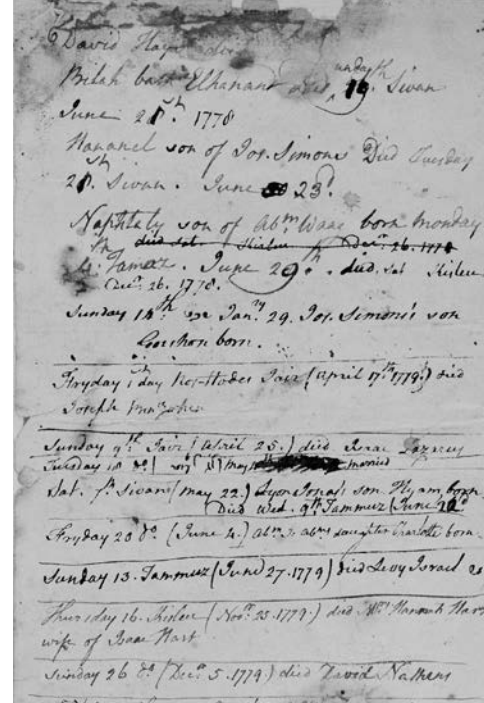
Wed. Eve. Oct. 15th through Thu. Oct. 16th

Simhat Torah

Thu. Eve. Oct. 16th through Fri., Oct. 17th

Shabbat Bereshit (Shabbat Hatanim)

Fri. Eve. Oct. 17th through Sat. Oct. 18th



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