



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

2 West 70th Street
New York, NY 10023



February 26, 2014 will mark the 45th anniversary of Levi Eshkol's passing. Commemorated on currency for his service as the third Prime Minister of Israel, he is generally considered one of the greatest Israelis of all time.

WINTER
2013-2014
חורף תשע"ד

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue



The Bulletin

America's First Jewish Congregation

1. From the Rabbi's Desk
2. Announcements
6. Dinners & Lectures
8. Weekly Classes
11. Culture & Enrichment
13. Youth Programing
15. Culinary Corner
16. Services
20. Stay in Touch

CONTENTS

Wherever they were in Eastern Europe, in Spain, in Yemen—wherever they were—when they read Torah, they heard the voice of God and they knew we were together.

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik



Recently, I visited Shearith Israel's extraordinary archives, along with your Shamash, Zachariah Edinger. Zachariah, or "Z," as he is popularly known, directed me to the portion of the collection containing

the writings of my predecessor, Gershom Mendes Seixas. Seixas served as Minister of Shearith Israel in the years preceding and following the American Revolution. Known as the "Patriot Rabbi" for his staunch support for the revolutionary cause, Seixas fled New York when the British captured Manhattan, serving during the war as Minister of Mikveh Israel in Philadelphia. In this letter that I read, written to Shearith Israel's Parnas, Seixas discusses the possibility of his returning to New York.

Holding this letter in my hand, this tangible, unique link to our past I was struck by how much we have lost in an age when all correspondence is electronic. In an age in which we no longer communicate primarily with through penmanship, all individuality, effort is lost. An email, no matter from who it might be, is a hastily typed out bunch of bits and bytes in cyberspace, with no personality and no tangible nature. A letter, on the other hand, a letter from someone special, in his or her hand, painstakingly composed, becomes an embodiment of its author, a constant and concrete reminder of the composer. Through a letter the writer continues to speak to us, if we hearken to the letter's words.

It is with this in mind that we can consider a fascinating story in the Talmud. The gemara in Menachot reports that when Moshe ascended Sinai to receive the Torah, he found God sitting like a sofer, a scribe, slowly writing out the Torah, carefully and painstakingly attaching tagim, little lines, on top of the letters, one by one. Moshe asks the Almighty, why he was taking the time and trouble to make such lovely letters. God responds, in the future, there will

be a man named Akiva ben Yosef, who will deduce from every one of these letters, from every one of these tiny tagim, tons of exegetical insights. The Torah, the Talmud is trying to tell us, Torah is his carefully crafted correspondence. Like a letter from a loved one, and therefore, in the future every little line on these letters, will be treasured, and seen as enormously significant. As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks has written, Jews survived millennia in exile because "so long as the Torah was with them, God was with them... Wherever they were in Eastern Europe, in Spain, in Yemen—wherever they were—when they read Torah, they heard the voice of God and they knew we were together. The Torah is not a conventional text at all. It is like a letter from a father to a child." Torah, in Rabbi Sacks' words, is "the world we enter when, through an act of active listening, we hear the voice of God."

Soon after reading Seixas' letter, I was handed by Zechariah something even more incredible: the 1789 Thanksgiving address delivered by Seixas in 1789, the first national Thanksgiving proclaimed by America's first president, painstakingly composed in Seixas' own hand. In the address, Seixas proclaimed the community's gratitude to God for the equality they experienced in this nascent nation, while exhorting his flock to remain loyal to the Torah. As I wrote recently in the Wall Street Journal, as I held the handwritten pages, Jewish generations merged, and in his handwriting I heard the voices of all those who had come before, Jews who remained loyal to God in the New World. They maintained this loyalty because they, so many miles away from most Jews, continued to hear the voice of God in the letter of love that was his Torah. May we merit to hear their voices, exhorting us to follow the voice of God, the voice of the Torah, as they did in Jewish generations past.

Meir Y. Soloveichik



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CONGRATULATIONS

We wish mazal tov to our members and friends:

Jacob Bengualid upon becoming a bar mitzvah. Jacob is the son of Mark and Beth Bengualid and the grandson of Jacob Bengualid.

Josh Berman upon becoming a bar mitzvah. Josh is the son of Sara and David Berman.

Bentsi and Naomi Cohen upon the marriage of their daughter Ilana Cohen and to Dr. Jonathan Platkievicz.

Friends of CSI Dr. Alan and Mrs. Nita Corre upon the marriage of their grandson Alan Richter to Ms. Elisha Verschleisser.

Eitan Edinger upon becoming a bar mitzvah. Eitan is the grandson of Henry and Rose Edinger.

Shari and Josh Goldberg upon the birth of their son.

Trustee Michael P. Lustig upon being honored by the New York Legal Assistance Group for his help of Hurricane Sandy victims.

Brand Oren Neuwirth upon becoming a bar mitzvah. Brand is the son of Stephen R. Neuwirth and Nataly Ouaknine.

Yehudit and Sam Robinson upon the birth of their daughter Rachel Chaya. Yehudit is a member of the Shearith Israel faculty who assists our teens and bar/bat mitzvah students.

Claire Schweitzer upon becoming a bat mitzvah. Claire is the daughter of Valerie and Ted Schweitzer.

Aviva and Marvin Sussman upon the birth of a granddaughter and Els Bendheim upon the birth of a great-granddaughter, Meirav Rose, born to Amanda and Meir Katz, and upon the birth of a grandson and great-grandson, Phillip Judah, born to Shari and Josh Goldberg.

Friend of CSI Allan Toledano upon the marriage of his son Michael Samuel Toledano to Keren Elise Veisblatt.

Daniel David Valencia upon becoming a bar mitzvah. Daniel is the son of Claudio and Mira Valencia.

Ariel Elizabeth Zbeda upon becoming a bat mitzvah. Ariel is the daughter of Miriam Davidson and Uri Zbeda.

IN APPRECIATION

Thank you to our Kiddush Sponsors and Contributors (from August 10 through November 9):

Anonymous
Norman Benzaquen
Sara and David Berman
George Blumenthal
Bentsi and Naomi Cohen
Yvonne and Daniel Cohen and Family
Dr. Alan and Mrs. Nita Corre
Zachary Edinger
Dr. Dennis and Estelle Freilich
Herlands Family
Joel and Laurel Marcus
Smith Family
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Turiel

Thank you to the Hebra for their sponsorship of the communal cemetery trip in August.

Thank you to the Sisterhood, who year after year, immeasurably enhance Succot at Shearith Israel with their care and beautification of the Elias Room Succah as well as by providing multiple breakfasts and kiddushim.

Thank you to the major sponsors of our Simhat Torah Dinner, Ronen and Fabiola Koren, as well as to the Haberman and Lustig families

for sponsoring our annual ice cream event for yet another year.

Thank you to the generous sponsors of the Hatanim Luncheon honoring Gabriel Goldstein, Hatan Torah, and Alexander Seligson, Hatan Bereshit:

Isaac and Harriet Ainetchi
Anonymous
Jack and Karen Daar
Laury, Reuben and Matea Frieber
The Goldstein/Bengualid Family
Seth Haberman and Jennifer Ash
Simon and Eva G. Haberman
Lloyd Harmetz and Alessandra Rovati
Michael I. Katz
Michael Lustig and Rachel Brody
David J. and Rebecca Nathan
The Neumark Family
Dr. Jonah W. Schein and Carla Salomon Schein
Alexander and Muriel Seligson
Rev. Philip L. and Andrea Sherman
Roy and Karen Simon
The Solomon Family
Ralph J. Sutton
L. Stanton and Madalene Towne

Thank you to the sponsors and contributors of Rabbi Richard Hidary's Investiture:

SPONSORS

Anonymous
Benun Family
Norman Benzaquen
Karen and Jack Daar
Haberman Family
Hidary Family
Safra National Bank
Solomon Family

— continued —

CONTRIBUTORS

Anonymous
 Leon and Laurie Beda
 Bengualid Goldstein Family
 Roger and Esme Berg
 Alvin Deutsch
 Victor E. Didia
 Faith Fogelman
 Laury, Reuben and Matea Frierber
 Rabbi Dr. Ronnie and Rachel Hasson
 Ronny and Toby Hersh
 Kalfus Family
 Michael Katz
 Jeffrey Lang and Leslie Cohen
 David Lerner
 Michael Lustig and Rachel Brody
 Jack and Michelle Maleh
 David Nathan and Rebecca Chaplan
 Rabbi Shalom Morris
 Neumark Family
 Peter and Naomi Neustadter
 Barbara and Guy Reiss
 Rafe and Sharon Sasson
 Carla and Jonah Schein
 Alexander and Muriel Seligson
 Moey Shabot
 Dr. Morris and Linda Shamah
 Karen and Roy Simon
 Lina and Gilles Sion
 Nancy and Sam Sutton
 Ralph Sutton
 Bracha Weissman
 Susan Wind

Thank you to the Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought for their co-sponsorship of the Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks event.

Thank you to the volunteers of the Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks event:

Sarah Appel
 Marissa Garfinkel
 Elliot Greene
 Rachael Neumark Herlands
 Janet Kirchheimer
 Vanessa Miller
 Ben Motola
 Eric Olm
 Howard Shultz
 Sabina Shultz

Thank you to the sponsors of the repair of our West 70th Street flagpoles:

Anonymous
 Ernest Grunebaum
 The Shearith Israel League

Thank you to the Shearith Israel Sisterhood, under the leadership of Irma Lopes Cardozo and Carla Salomon Schein for purchasing a beautiful new tebah cover and mehitza for our High Holiday parallel services. Thanks also to Betty Capelluto Emden for her time and talent.

A special thanks to the children of the late Dr. Betzalel Levy, may his memory be blessed, Geula Levi-Freeman, Jordana Levi, and Samuel Levi, for the use of funds donated in memory of their father for the purchase of a new, top-of-the-line portable oven. Such donations of funds for the equipping of our kitchen greatly facilitate catering for now and for the future as our building and kitchen in particular enter a period of transition.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following individuals to the Shearith Israel family:

Paul Bernstein and Lisa Marie Capelouto
 Matide and Daniel Ferguson
 Sidney Gerson
 Joseph Gottlieb
 Estelle Guzik
 Ellen and Robert Kapito
 Murray Orbuch
 Joel Pelofsky
 Aryeh and Raquel Rubin
 Susan Wexner

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of our members:

Mrs. Rita Angel. Condolences to her husband, Joshua Angel, and children Nicole Angel Wachter and Spencer Angel.

Dr. Martin Finkel. Condolences to his children Dr. Richard Finkel and Mr. Lawrence Finkel and his siblings Paul Finkel and Blanche Moses.

Joyce Mosseri. Condolences to her children Jean Naggat, Jeffrey Mosseri, and Susan Danon.

CONDOLENCES

We extend sincere condolences to:

Carole Baker upon the loss of her mother.

Lori Fein Ramirez upon the loss of her brother, Richard G. Fein.

Our honorary trustee Eva Haberman and Michael Ochs upon the loss of their brother Dr. Abraham Daniel Ochs.

Herman Schwarz upon the loss of his sister, Ita Kaiser.

Gabriella Styler upon the loss of her sister Staphany Clarice Della Russo.



DINNERS & LECTURES

INTIMATE SHABBAT DINNERS IN THE ELIAS ROOM

A special opportunity for our full members

Over the course of the year, the rabbis of Shearith Israel will occasionally host Shabbat dinners for small groups of members. These intimate gatherings, set in our atmospheric Elias Room, in the company of friends, old and new, will allow us to enjoy the beauty of Shabbat, delicious food, the fascinating life stories of our diverse members and Torah insights by our rabbis.

Visit shearithisrael.org/shabbatinelias to indicate your interest and availability. Full members only.

After indicating your interest, members will receive their formal invitation approximately one to two weeks prior to a scheduled dinner.

Please note: In order to ensure the intimate nature of these dinners, we may not be able to accommodate all requests at this time but we hope to extend this opportunity to accommodate all members who express interest.

ONGOING SERIES

Shakespeare and Shiur: Hamlet and Halakha: a Tale of Murder, Mystery and Talmudic Law

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Shabbat, December 14

Join us for second installment of this lecture series illuminating Jewish themes through an exploration of Shakespeare's plays. This exciting lecture will take place immediately following morning services.

Pre-Tu B'Shebat Dinner and Lecture

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Shabbat Shirah, Friday, January 10
Services begin at 4:30 pm

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

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

Shabbat Dinner with The Simpsons **Writer Mike Reiss**

Friday, January 31
Services begin at 5:00 pm

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

The History and Afterlife of Jewish Lawyers

Rabbi Richard Hidary
Following morning services
Shabbat, January 28 and
Shabbat, February 8

Join us on the lower level of the Main Sanctuary as Rabbi Richard Hidary delivers these fascinating public seminars.

Part 1—Roman Lawyers and Rabbinic Lawyers in the Talmudic Halakhah
Shabbat, January 25

Part 2—Why are there Lawyers in Heaven: Aggadot of the Divine Court
Shabbat, February 8

Shabbat Dinner and Conversation with Professor Christine Hayes

Friday, February 28
Services begin at 5:30 pm

Immediately following services, Professor Hayes will deliver a lecture entitled *We're no Angels: Perfectionism in Rabbinic Judaism*. Beginning with the Talmudic phrase "The Torah was not given to Ministering Angels" this lecture explores radically diverse ancient Jewish conceptions of the nature of human perfection and whether or not humans can be, or should aspire to be, like angels. Following the lecture will be a conversation and Q&A led by Rabbi Richard Hidary.

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



WEEKLY CLASSES

SUNDAY

Jewish Thought through Aggadah

Rabbi Richard Hidary
8:40-9:40 am

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

The Book of Beliefs and Opinions: The Unity of God

Sjimon den Hollander
9:40 – 10:40 am

No class on December 22, January 5, January 12,
January 19, January 26, February 16, February 23

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

Hebrew Classes

Winter Session: February 2 – March 30
10:00 am – 11:00 am

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

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

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

Level III: Develop Hebrew vocabulary and reading comprehension skills.

MONDAY

Bet Midrash

Winter Session: January 6 – March 3
(except February 17)
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

The Bet Midrash program featured high-level textual learning in small groups that encourages active participation and involvement. Rabbi Hidary and other visiting faculty lead discussion groups on a wide range of topics for all ages and levels. Light dinner served.

Visit our website or join our email list to view information on classes and new groups.

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 by visiting shearithisrael.org/sponsoraclass.

Rambam's Guide of the Perplexed

Rabbi Richard Hidary
7:00 – 8:00 pm

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

Please contact Rabbi Hidary for notifications about this class.

Jewish Rhythm: The Jewish Day, Year and Lifecycle

Rabbi Shalom Morris
7:15 – 8:15 pm

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

Jewish International Connection of NY (JICNY) Learning

7:00 – 9:15 pm

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

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

\$5 per person includes refreshments and both classes.

— continued —

TUESDAY

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

Rabbi Richard Hidary
Midtown Offices

5:00 pm

Final class meets on Tuesday, December 31

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

Shiur: Masekhet Kiddushin and the Jewish Philosophy of Family

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
8:00 pm

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

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 our Tuesday evening Talmud *shiur* by visiting shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass.

THURSDAY

Tai Chi

Lewis Paleias

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

This ancient practice helps balance, strength, circulation, mindfulness and more. Tai Chi is a wonderful form of exercise for all ages, especially seniors. Our teacher offers individual attention and adapts the class based on the group. \$10 per class or \$50 paid in advance for 6 classes. No refunds. Walk-ins and beginners welcome.

SHABBAT

The Misunderstood Masterpiece: A New Approach to Pirkei Abot

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
1 hour before minhah

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.



Sephardic Music Festival

Tuesday, December 3
7:15 pm

Celebrate Hanukkah with our annual Sephardic Music Festival featuring Tavche Gravche, Hazzan George Mordecai, and Hazzan Victor Esses. Join us for an evening of music from the Jewish liturgical traditions of the Sephardic world as well as songs from the Ladino repertoire. This diverse and dynamic group of performers crosses over between materials of Balkan, Mediterranean, and Iraqi origin. Buy your tickets today at shearithisrael.org/sephardicmusicfestival.

CULTURE & ENRICHMENT

Faith and Film Series

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

THE HOBBIT (2012)

December 2013. Date to be announced via our emails and website.

Seminar following morning services

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

Please note that we will not be screening this particular film but rather hosting a seminar on the writing of JRR Tolkien.

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

GROUNDHOG DAY (1993)

Saturday, January 11
7:00 pm

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

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

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS (1966)

Saturday, February 8
7:00 pm

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

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

Schussing and Shiur: A Shearith Israel Ski and Snowboard Trip

Wednesday, December 25

First-timers and black diamond skiers and snowboarders alike! Hit the slopes for a day at Hunter Mountain with Rabbi Richard Hidary. Bring your own lunch to enjoy in the company of friends. Transportation provided. All levels and ages welcome. Minimum number of registrants required in order for the trip to be finalized. Pricing and details to follow.

Screening and Discussion of “Children of the Inquisition”

Wednesday, February 26
7:00 pm

Join us for a screening of clips from the upcoming film, *Children of the Inquisition*. The film follows a group of descendants of Jews persecuted during the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions, each on a quest to determine and embrace their distant Sephardic Jewish roots. A discussion with filmmaker Joe Lovett led by Rabbi Shalom Morris will follow.

Tuesday Morning Run

Before Morning Services

Join our Hazzan, Rabbi Ira Rohde and other serious runners in the congregation on a weekly run through Central Park prior to Tuesday morning minyan and breakfast. Contact Rabbi Ira Rohde for details.

Tuesday Morning Minyan and Katzap Breakfast

Minyan 7:15 am
Breakfast 7:50 am

Sponsored annually by our member, Chaim Katzap, our morning *minyan* crew has been meeting for a weekly breakfast on Tuesdays. All morning *minyan* attendees are welcome. Contact Rabbi Ira Rohde if you would like to sponsor a *minyan* breakfast in honor of a special occasion.

Literary Lunch

Monthly on Thursdays December 19,
January 16, February 13
12:15 pm–1:45 pm
Janet R. Kirchheimer

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

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

WEEKDAY TODDLER PROGRAM

Tuesdays and Wednesdays

9:30 am–11:30 am

For children aged 16–33 months

Adult caregiver presence is required

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

Spring Session begins January 6. (No class on January 20 for MLK, Jr. Day or February 17 for Presidents Day).

THE SHEARITH ISRAEL HEBREW SCHOOL

Polonies Talmud Torah School (PTTS)

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 students aged 3 – 16 years old

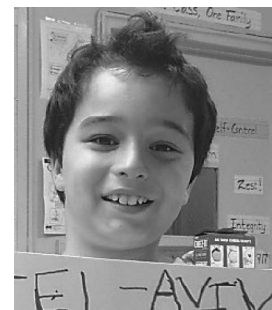
For more information and to enroll, visit shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool. You may also contact our Educational Director and Hebrew School Principal, Rabbi Shalom Morris.

SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY CLUBS

From 10:00 am until the end of services

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

— continued —



There is a new, yet familiar face at Junior Congregation. Samuel Neumark has been an active member at Shearith Israel for over 20 years and was an early pioneer in helping launch the first Junior Congregation service. Sam recently graduated from the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, with a B.S. in Finance. Now back in New York, Sam wished to get involved in our youth programming to foster a love of Shearith Israel just as he experienced growing up in our congregation. Sam is the adult leader at Junior Congregation, while Rabbi Shalom Morris oversees the administration and parts distribution during the week. We are excited by the energy, leadership and enthusiasm that Sam brings to his role, and we look forward to learning from his years of experience and knowledge of our community and minhag. Sam will work closely with our assistant coordinator Mrs. Lisa Rohde, our exceptional teen leaders, Tova Goldstein, Ali Haberman and Jack Jerusalmi as well as with our wonderful and numerous prefects and junior prefects.

ASSIGNED JUNIOR CONGREGATION

Shabbat, December 14, January 4, February 22

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

SHIR FUN: A MUSICAL HEBREW IMMERSION PROGRAM

Winter Session begins January 9

Thursdays

10:15 am – 11:00 am

For children 10 months – 3 years of age

Leveraging the positive effects on the brain of musical enrichment and cultural pride, the Shir Fun program immerses children in using musical instruments, and a specially designed curriculum which includes original songs, movement-based activities, holiday celebrations and personal interactions. Contact Alana Shultz at ashultz@shearithisrael.org to register.



CULINARY CORNER

This edition’s Culinary Corner features Shearith Israel member Fiona Amiel.

Fiona Amiel’s family traces their origins to Spain, Syria, and Iraq. For over 200 years, however, the Amiel family resided in India. A traditional community until today, the Jews of Cochin, India (located in present-day Kerala) enjoyed relatively peaceful lives and did not experience significant difficulties in retaining their religion, social and cultural traditions. The haggim at the Paradesi Synagogue of Cochin (constructed in 1568) are quite distinctive and reflective of its Sephardic roots and South Indian surroundings. For example, in honor of Shemini Hag Atseret, a special ark is constructed for the Torah scrolls and then adorned with a gold embroidered silk parokhet. Since the independence of both Israel and India, the majority of Jews emigrated to Israel and the United States. In 1995, Fiona immigrated to the United States and has been a member of Shearith Israel ever since.

The Cochin Jews include South Indian spices and flavors such as coriander, turmeric, coconut, and chilies in their cuisine. The daily diet consists of fish and vegetable and rice flour dishes. Chicken is generally served only for Shabbat. This Shabbat hamim, traditionally slow-cooked in a brick oven, is prepared for Shabbat afternoon or festivals.



The Paradesi Synagogue of Cochin, India

COCHIN HAMIM

1 chicken skinned and cut into 8 pieces

1 cup raw rice

2 large onions (sliced)

3 large tomatoes (chopped)

1 tsp. turmeric powder

1 can of coconut milk

3-4 cups water

Olive oil

Salt to taste

Heat olive oil on stovetop.

Add sliced onions and sauté until golden brown.

Add turmeric and tomatoes. Fry until tomatoes are pulpy.

Add the coconut milk and one cup of water and salt.

Once boiling, add chicken. Cover and cook for 15 minutes.

Then add the rice and enough water to cook on a slow fire until almost done.

Transfer this into a crock pot and add enough water to cover the chicken and rice.

Set the crock pot on low for 6 hours. After 6 hours, the rice should be semi-thick and the chicken falling off the bone. Add water if the consistency is too thick when ready to serve.



SERVICES

SHABBAT SERVICES

Nov 29-30 Shabbat Hanukkah

Shabbat & 4 Hanukkah Candles	4:12 pm
Sunset	4:30 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:00 pm
Shabbat Morning Services	8:15 am
Zemirot	Zachary S. Edinger
Torah Reading	Mikkets-Hanukkah Genesis 41:1-44:17 and Numbers 7:24-29
Haftarah	Jacob Seligson Zachariah 2:14-4:7
Saturday Class	3:15 pm
Saturday Minhah/Arbit	4:00 pm
Habdalah & 5 Hanukkah Candles	4:57 pm

Dec 6-7

Candle Lighting	4:11 pm
Sunset	4:29 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:15 pm
Shabbat Morning Services	8:15 am
Zemirot	Adam Jackson
Torah Reading	Vayiggash Genesis 44:18-47:27
Haftarah	Samuel E. Neumark Ezekiel 37:15-28
Saturday Class	3:15 pm
Saturday Minhah/Arbit	4:00 pm
Habdalah	4:55 pm

Dec 13-14

Candle Lighting	4:11 pm
Sunset (& End of Fast)	4:29 pm
Friday Evening Services	3:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services	8:15 am
Zemirot	Sjimon Den Hollander
Torah Reading	Vayhee Genesis 47:28-end
Haftarah	Alvin Deutsch I Kings 2:1-12
Class	3:15 pm
Minhah/Arbit	4:00 pm
Habdalah	4:56 pm

Dec 20-21

Candle Lighting	4:14 pm
Sunset	4:32 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:15 pm
Shabbat Morning Services	8:15 am
Zemirot	Jack Daar
Torah Reading	Shemoth Exodus 1:1-6:1
Haftarah	Noam Kaplan Jeremiah 1:1-2:3
Saturday Class	3:15 pm
Saturday Minhah/Arbit	4:00 pm
Habdalah	4:58 pm

Dec 27-28

Candle Lighting	4:18 pm
Sunset	4:36 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:15 pm
Shabbat Morning Services	8:15 am
Zemirot	Zachariah Edinger
Torah Reading	Vaera Exodus 6:2-9:35
Haftarah	Jack Daar Ezekiel 28:25-29:21
Saturday Class	3:15 pm
Saturday Minhah/Arbit	4:00 pm
Habdalah	5:03 pm

Jan 3-4

Candle Lighting	4:23 pm
Sunset	4:41 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:30 pm
Shabbat Morning Services	8:15 am
Zemirot	Sjimon Den Hollander
Torah Reading	Bo Exodus 10:1-13:16
Haftarah	Elliot Freilich Jeremiah 46:13-28
Saturday Class	3:15 pm
Saturday Minhah/Arbit	4:15 pm
Habdalah	5:09 pm

Jan 10-11

Shabbat Shirah

Candle Lighting	4:30 pm
Sunset	4:48 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:30 pm
Shabbat Morning Service	8:15 am
Zemirot	Rev. Salomon L. Vaz Dias
Torah Reading	Beshallah Exodus 13:17-17:16 (Reading of the Shirah-Crossing the Red Sea)
Haftarah	Louis Alexandre Berg Judges 5:1-31
Saturday Class	3:15 pm
Saturday Minhah/Arbit	4:15 pm
Habdalah	5:16 pm

Jan 17-18

Shabbat Yithro

Candle Lighting	4:38 pm
Sunset	4:56 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services	8:15 am
Zemirot	Adam Jackson
Torah Reading	Yithro Exodus 18:1-20:23 (Reading of the Ten Commandments)
Haftarah	Jack Daar Isaiah 6:1-13
Bat Mitzvah	Claire Schweitzer
Bat Mitzvah	Ariel Elizabeth Zbeda
Saturday Class	3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah/Arbit	4:30 pm
Habdalah	5:24 pm

— continued —

Jan 24-25

Candle Lighting	4:46 pm
Sunset	5:04 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:45 pm
Shabbat Morning Services.....	8:15 am
Zemirot	Jack Daar
Torah Reading.....	Mishpatim Exodus 21:1-24:18
Haftarah	Joseph A. Solomon Jeremiah 34:8-22 and 33:25-26
Saturday Class	3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah/Arbit.....	4:30 pm
Habdalah.....	5:33 pm

Jan 31-Feb 1 Shabbat Rosh Hodesh

Candle Lighting	4:55 pm
Sunset	5:13 pm
Friday Evening Services	5:00 pm
Shabbat Morning Services.....	8:15 am
Zemirot	Sjimon Den Hollander
Torah Reading....	Terumah-Rosh Hodesh Exodus 25:1-27:19 and Numbers 28:9-15
Haftarah	Alexander Haberman Isaiah 66:1-24
Saturday Class	3:45 pm
Saturday Minhah/Arbit	4:45 pm
Habdalah.....	5:42 pm

Feb 7-8

Candle Lighting	5:03 pm
Sunset	5:21 pm
Friday Evening Services	5:00 pm
Shabbat Morning Services.....	8:15 am
Zemirot	Adam Jackson
Torah Reading.....	Tetsavveh Exodus 27:20-30:10
Haftarah	Ezekiel 43:10-27
Saturday Class	3:45 pm
Saturday Minhah/Arbit.....	4:45 pm
Habdalah.....	5:52 pm

Feb 14-15

Candle Lighting	5:12 pm
Sunset	5:21 pm
Friday Evening Services	5:15 pm
Shabbat Morning Services.....	8:15 am
Zemirot	Jack Daar
Torah Reading.....	Ki Tissa Exodus 30:11-34:35
Haftarah	Hillel D. Neumark I Kings 18:20-39
Saturday Class	4:00 pm
Saturday Minhah/Arbit.....	5:00 pm
Habdalah.....	6:01 pm

Feb 21-22

Candle Lighting	5:20 pm
Sunset	5:38 pm
Friday Evening	5:30 pm
Shabbat Morning	8:15 am
Zemirot	Avery E. Neumark
Torah Reading.....	Vayaqhel Exodus 35:1-38:20
Haftarah	Jesse Epstein I Kings 7:13-26
Class	4:15 pm
Minhah/Arbit.....	5:15 pm
Habdalah.....	6:10 pm

Feb 28-Mar 1 Shabbat Shekalim

Candle Lighting	5:28 pm
Sunset	5:46 pm
Friday Evening	5:30 pm
Shabbat Morning	8:15 am
Zemirot	Sjimon Den Hollander
Torah Reading.....	Pekude-Shekalim Exodus 38:21 - end and Exodus 30:11-16
Haftarah	Steven A. Okin II Kings 11:17-12:17, I Samuel 20:18 and 20:42
Class	4:15 pm
Minhah/Arbit.....	5:15 pm
Habdalah.....	6:19 pm

DAILY SERVICES

Mornings(Shahrit):	
Sunday.....	8:00 am
Monday-Friday.....	7:15 am
Evenings (Arbit only)	6:30 pm

MINOR HOLIDAYS

(Follow Daily Service Schedule unless otherwise indicated)

HANUKKAH HOLIDAY

Wednesday Evening November 27th through Thursday, December 5th	
Kindling of first Hanukkah light	
Wednesday Evening, November 27th	
Thanksgiving Morning, First Day of Hanukkah	
Thursday, November 28th	
Morning Service.....	7:45 am
Parade Viewing and Hot Chocolate.....	8:30 am

TWO-DAY ROSH HODESH TEBET

The Sixth & Seventh Days of Hanukkah
Monday Evening Dec. 2nd through Tuesday &
Wednesday, December 3rd & December 4th

FAST OF TEBET

Friday, December 13th	
Dawn (Fast Begins)	5:43 am
Sunrise.....	7:12 am
Morning Service.....	7:15 am
Evening Minhah & Arbit.....	3:45 pm
Friday Candle Lighting	4:11 pm
Sunset	4:29 pm
End of Fast	4:29 pm

SECULAR YEAR-END LEGAL HOLIDAYS

Wednesday, December 25th & Wed., January 1st	
Shahrit.....	8:00 am
Evenings (Arbit)	6:30 pm

ONE-DAY ROSH HODESH SHEBAT

Wednesday Evening, January 1st through
Thursday, January 2nd

HAMISHA ASAR B’SHEBAT (TU B’SHEBAT)

Wednesday Evening, January 15th through
Thursday, January 16th

TWO-DAYS ROSH HODESH ADAR RISHON

Thursday Evening, January 30th, through Friday
and Saturday, January 31st and February 1st

PRESIDENTS’ DAY LEGAL HOLIDAY

Monday, February 17th
Morning Service..... 8:00 am



STAY IN TOUCH

STAFF

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik Rabbi
msoloveichik@shearithisrael.org, 212-873-0300 x206

Rabbi Dr. Richard Hidary Distinguished Rabbinic Fellow
rhidary@shearithisrael.org, 212-873-0300 x239

Rabbi Dr. Marc D. Angel Rabbi Emeritus
mangel@shearithisrael.org, 212-873-0300 x205

Barbara Reiss Executive Director
breiss@shearithisrael.org, 212-873-0300 x215

Rabbi Ira Rohde Hazzan
irohde@shearithisrael.org, 212-873-0300 x217

Reverend Philip L. Sherman Associate Hazzan
cantorsherman@gmail.com

Rabbi Shalom Morris Educational Director
smorris@shearithisrael.org, 212-873-0300 x208

Alana Shultz Program Director
ashultz@shearithisrael.org, 212-873-0300 x209

Zachary S. Edinger Shamash
zedinger@shearithisrael.org, 212-873-0300 x216

Maria Caputo Office Manager
mcaputo@shearithisrael.org, 212-873-0300 x230

Maia Kane Communications Associate
mkane@shearithisrael.org, 212-873-0300 x225

Diana Landau Communications Associate
dlandau@shearithisrael.org, 212-873-0300 x221

John Quinones Facilities Manager
jquinones@shearithisrael.org, 212-873-0300 x223

Ruth Yasky Financial Associate
ryasky@shearithisrael.org, 212-873-0300 x228

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David J. Nathan, Parnas
Michael Katz, Segan
Louis M. Solomon, Segan
Peter Neustadter, Honorary Parnas
Harriet Ainetchi
Dr. Victoria R. Bengualid
Norman S. Benzaquen
Esmé E. Berg
Karen Daar
Seth Haberman
Michael P. Lustig
Avery E. Neumark
L. Gilles Sion
Oliver Stanton
Ralph J. Sutton

Joshua de Sola Mendes, Clerk
Jeffrey Lang, Treasurer

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Edgar J. Nathan, 3rd z"l, Honorary Parnas
Dr. Dennis B. Freilich
Honorary Parnas
Alvin Deutsch
Honorary Parnas
Dr. Edgar Altchek
Paul J. Beispel
Henri Bengualid
Arthur A. Goldberg
Eva G. Haberman
Saul Laniado
Stuart Marks
Jonathan de Sola Mendes
Edward Misrahi
Jack Rudin
Ronald P. Stanton
Roy J. Zuckerberg

GENERAL INQUIRIES

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

Lifecycle and Pastoral Matters
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik 212-873-0300 x206
Rabbi Richard Hidary 212-873-0300 x239

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

Hebrew School
Rabbi Shalom Morris 212-873-0300 x208

Toddler Program
Alana Shultz 212-873-0300 x209

