



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

2 West 70th Street
New York, NY 10023

WINTER
2019-2020
חורף תש"פ

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue



The Bulletin



365th ANNIVERSARY
5414 5779
CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
Year of Years Celebration

America's First Jewish Congregation

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365th ANNIVERSARY



• 5414

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FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

THE BURNING BUSH AND THE PERPETUAL FLAME

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik



One of the most famous images in the biblical text is of Moses, on Sinai, encountering a shrub that is aflame, but is not consumed. In understanding the story,

most focus on the bush, which seems to defy the fire.

Yet Yale scientist David Gelernter has suggested that the *continuing burning of the flame* is what is actually important: "Those dry thorns should have burned to black dust in an instant. But time has been stretched out, stretched thin, and a moment of instantaneous combustion lasts on and on." The fire represents, from this perspective, the timelessness of the Jewish people itself.

I thought about Gelernter's words recently while praying in our Little Synagogue. In his essay on the Mill Street Synagogue, the first such sanctuary in America, Dr. Pool notes that the lamp and *lulav* that once adorned that edifice remain in our synagogue today: "The ancient tablet of the Ten Commandments surmounting the ark in that chapel where daily service are now held, and the perpetual lamp, link the present synagogue to the Mill Street Synagogue with



a symbolism of the unchanging law and the undying fire which have ever knit the generations of Israel into one."

Unlike any other synagogue in America, this flame has, for the most part, burned largely continuously in America since the 1730s; it reflects the eternal flame of Judaism more profoundly than any other of its kind in this country. In a similar sense, our Hanukkah lamp has been kindled since 1730, and it too commemorates a fire that defied time and lasted on and on. These objects remind us that our congregation truly is the embodiment of Judaism's flame, and the love and loyalty of generations that kept that fire alight.

As Hanukkah approaches, we are inspired by the example of those who have gone before: to be the keepers of Judaism's flame, and to ensure that it continues to illuminate the world in which we live.

Meir Y. Soloveichik



AROUND SHEARITH ISRAEL



ABOVE: Rabbi Soloveichik met with Pope Francis at the Vatican in a delegation led by Rabbi Isaac Sacca of the Sephardic community of Buenos Aires. The delegation included Shearith Israel members Mitchell Presser and his son Daniel ("DJ"), and Shearith Israel trustee David Sable. The delegation gave Pope Francis a beautiful leather-bound Spanish translation of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik's classic *The Lonely Man of Faith*. Rabbi Soloveichik had the opportunity to discuss the book with the Pope.



A. Participants in our Veterans Day weekend Shabbaton to Newport enjoyed a special private tour of The Breakers, built as a summer home of Cornelius Vanderbilt II. For more about the Shabbaton, see pages 14 and 15.

B. During the Three Weeks, Shearith Israel member Naftali Friedman presented his own film, *More Precious Than Pearls*, documenting his father's survival through the Holocaust and the rebuilding of his life in the aftermath.

C. All ages pitched in to help decorate this year's beautiful Elias Room Succah.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARNAS

Louis M. Solomon



I am writing these words after spending a truly memorable weekend (Nov. 8-10), including a Shabbaton, in Newport, Rhode Island, at the Touro Synagogue. Our congregants went to Newport for the weekend as a fitting end to the "*Rimonim* Reunion" celebration that began at Shearith Israel in September of this year. Our three pairs of Myer Myers *Rimonim*, on display and in use at Shearith Israel since September, were brought to Newport and put on display at our Touro Synagogue for the weekend. There, after a beautiful Shabbat with members of both Shearith Israel and Congregation Jeshuat Israel praying, eating, chatting, touring, and enjoying together, we were treated to an extraordinary panel presentation by three experts on Myer Myers and the *Rimonim*.

The confluence of events this weekend left us all with a profound sense. As Rabbi Soloveichik so beautifully weaved together, we observed not only Veterans Day weekend, Shabbat Lekh Lekha (where our forefather Abraham literally picks up and goes forth to create what became Judaism), and the reuniting of the *Rimonim*; we also observed the 81st anniversary of Kristallnacht. There was keen importance of knowing who we are as individuals and more critically as a community, and what we needed to accomplish by way of repairing the estrangement that arose from years of controversy with Congregation Jeshuat

Israel, now behind us. The Shabbaton and weekend was a great success.

In so many overlapping ways, the Shabbaton, the weekend, and our *Year of Years* Campaign, which is entering its final stages, is at bottom a call to

service. Each of us is being called upon to do all we can to ensure our Congregation's future. So many of us have already stepped up. We ask the remainder of the community to do so now. Our community deserves 100% participation in our *Year of Years* Campaign.

We should take pride in, and support, the call to service that each of us undertakes. In that regard, I want to observe that earlier this year Rabbi Soloveichik was called to serve on the United States Secretary of State's "Commission on Unalienable Rights." The Congregation recognizes this appointment, and we appreciate that it is an important undertaking for him personally. Public service by Shearith Israel Clergy and congregants is one of our highest and most time honored pursuits. We are confident that Rabbi Soloveichik will discharge his participation fully in keeping with our highest tradition of public service. In my personal view, his participation is a testament not only to the freedoms and opportunities Jews have in America but to the responsibilities we all bear but few of us are ever asked to discharge — to act in the public sphere as a light unto the nations.

Louis M. Solomon



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following individuals to the Shearith Israel Family:

Sergio Avidan-Alcayde

Shana Lev

Adam Peltz

Riki and Robert Rimberg

Heather and Harris Bulow and their children, Judah, Lila, and Charlotte

CONGRATULATIONS

Mazal Tob to:

Jo Beth Tananbaum and William Abecassis, on the birth of a baby boy, Noah Samuel.

Naomi and Bentsi Cohen on the birth of a grandson, Eli, to Ilana Cohen and Jonathan Platkiewicz.

Daina and Greg Gurevich, on the birth of a baby girl, Sophie Lou (Sheva Leora).

Ruth and Larry Kobrin upon their granddaughter, Livia, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Gregory Levin, upon becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Mazal tob as well to his parents, Yulia Shapiro and Igor Levin.

Elia Mateus-Tique, upon becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Mazal tob as well to his parents, Sharon Lavi Mateus-Tique and Jaime Mateus-Tique.

Jean and Serge Naggar upon their grandson, Ben Naggar, becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Susan and Avery Neumark upon the birth of a boy to their children Elizabeth and Samuel Neumark in Los Angeles. Mazal tob as well to great grandfather, Melvin Neumark, and aunt and uncles Alyse and Joshua Rozenberg, Hillel Neumark, and Jacob Neumark.

Sharon and Rafe Sasson on the birth of a baby boy, Ronnie. Mazal tob as well to big sister Barbara and big brothers Elie and Moshe.

Barbara Herlands Smith upon her granddaughter, Josie Herz, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Serach Soloveichik, upon becoming a Bat Mitzva. Mazal tob as well to her parents, Layaliza and Rabbi Meir Soloveichik.

Aviva and Marvin Sussman on the birth of their first great grandchild, a boy, born to their grandchildren Yael (Sussman) and Ohad Merlin.

Rivka and Marc Wiznia, on the birth of a baby boy, Lev Yedidya.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Hazakim U'berukhim:

Elie Hirschfeld, who was appointed to the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. The Holocaust, followed by 45 years of atheist Communist governments, created a critical need that led to the Commission's establishment in 1985. Furthermore, some Jewish sites have also been affected by a resurgence of anti-Semitism.

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of our members:

David Elias

Ira Lipman

Richard Schulz

Ezra K. Zilkha

BEQUESTS

The congregation expresses its sincere gratitude to:

Bernard Turiel, of blessed memory, for a bequest recently received from his estate.

CONDOLENCES

We extend sincere condolences to:

Alan Eisenman, on the passing of his mother, Carol Eisenman.

Melissa Epstein (Jackson) on the passing of her father, Arthur Epstein.

Igor Levin, upon the passing of his stepfather, Vladimir Baranov.

Barbara Lipman, on the passing of her husband, Ira Lipman.

Joshua Sauberman, on the passing of his grandfather, Jack Rosenzweig.

Dana Werner, on the passing of her brother, Jacob Yeffet.

Bequests and Planned Giving

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



— continued —

IN APPRECIATION

Special thanks to:

Our tireless team of **clergy and maintenance staff** who worked throughout the High Holiday season to ensure a smooth and spiritual experience for all.

The Sisterhood, for decorating our spectacular Elias Room Succah, and for sponsoring all the kiddushim and breakfasts throughout Succot.

Our team of **volunteer docents**, who continue to do a wonderful job guiding all our visitors on public and private tours of the Synagogue. Tours this past season were led by: Zachary Edinger, Seth Haberman, Michael Lustig, Barbara Reiss, Rabbi Ira Rohde, Vivienne Roumani, and Arthur Tenenholtz. If you would like to learn more about becoming a docent, please contact Zachary Edinger at zedinger@shearithisrael.org.

Class Sponsors:

The Julis Family, for sponsoring the 2019-2020 season of Friday Night Lights.

Scott Shay, for sponsoring the Fall Semester of Rabbi Soloveichik's Shabbat Afternoon Class, in memory of Chana Razel bat Aharon v'Sara.

Minyan Breakfast Sponsors and Supporters:

Melissa Epstein and Adam Jackson, in memory of Arthur Epstein.

Jonathan Herlands' family, in memory of his brother, James O. Herlands.

The Mateus-Tique family, in honor of Elia Mateus-Tique's Bar-Mitzvah.

Arthur Tenenholtz, in memory of his mother, Hannah Tenenholz.

Joel Tenenholtz, in memory of his mother, Hannah Tenenholz.



Kiddush Fund Sponsors:

Lewis Bateman, in memory of his mother, Caryl Cohn Bateman.

Norman Benzaquen

Faith Fogelman, in memory of her parents, Theodore and Miriam Watkin.

Gideon and Sharona Gordon, in memory of Jordana Kayla and Joshua David.

Barbara Herlands Smith, Jonathan Herlands, and Rachel Neumark Herlands, in memory of Judge William B. Herlands.

Jonathan Herlands' family, in memory of his brother, James O. Herlands.

Gloria and Jeffrey Mosseri and Jean and Serge Naggar, in memory of Joyce and Guido Mosseri and Alan Naggar, and in honor of Jeffrey's reading of the haftarah on the second day of Rosh Hashana.

Tisha B'Ab Lecture Sponsor:

Cindy Trop and Stuart Ellman in memory of Cindy's mother, Yehudit Bat Beilah v'Avraham HaCohen.

Shabbat Teshuba Kiddush:

Sponsors:

Shari and Josh Goldberg

Janegail and Jim Kahn

Jane and Reuben Leibowitz

Juan Mesa-Freydell

Carol and Alan Schechter in memory of the *nahala* of Alan's mother, Yitta b. Yitzchak Shmuel

Esther and Bill Schulder

Co-Sponsors:

Meralee and Sidney Schlusberg

Simhat Torah Dinner Sponsors:

Karen and Jack Daar

Juan Mesa-Freydell

Becky and David Nathan

The Solomon Family

Hatanim Luncheon Sponsors:

Major Sponsors:

Daar Family

Nathan Family

Towne Family

Sponsors:

Lewis Bateman

The Bengualid Goldstein Family

Jennifer Ash and Seth Haberman

Rachel Neumark Herlands and Jonathan Herlands

Michael Katz and Family

Dinah and Andrew Mendes

Joy and Bruce Roberts

Carla and Jonah Schein

The Solomon Family

Oliver Stanton

Supporters:

Alvin Deutsch

Martin Koenig

Juan Mesa-Freydell

Barbara and Guy Reiss

Constance and Philip Shapiro

Susan Wexner

Rivka and Marc Wiznia and Family

Charlotte Triefus and Lloyd Zuckerberg

Do you have a life-cycle event, milestone, or major achievement to share with the community? Send it to Sarah Meira Rosenberg at rosenberg@shearithisrael.org so we can share the news in our handouts and bulletins.



NEW MEMBERS HANUKKAH GATHERING

Hosted by Rabbi and Layaliza Soloveichik

By Invitation

Our community, especially our synagogue leadership, is very eager to get to know each and every new member and to make them feel at home at Shearith Israel. Our Hanukkah gathering at the Soloveichik home has become a wonderful and much anticipated tradition where new members can mingle with each other and our leadership. Guests enjoy an array of traditional and not so traditional treats, hear words of Torah by our rabbi and by his wife, Layaliza, and socialize in a warm and relaxed atmosphere.

PURIM CELEBRATION

Monday, March 9

Megillah reading at 7:15 pm
Children's Programming at 7:00 pm

The reading of *Megillat Esther* begins promptly at 7:15 pm in the Large Synagogue. Children are invited to the Elias Room for a special Purim "infotainment" program just for them. For more information, see page 17.



PURIM DINNER

Monday, March 9
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, led by our CSI Purim Parade Marshals, Liz and Nat. Registration required. Details will be forthcoming at shearithisrael.org/purimdinner5780.

PURIM BREAKFAST

Tuesday, March 11
Following *Megillah* Reading

Immediately following the 8:00 am readings of the *Megillah*, all congregants are welcome to enjoy a festive breakfast. Childcare will be available. The breakfast is free of charge but sponsors and supporters are highly appreciated. Support this event at shearithisrael.org/purimbreakfast5780.

WOMEN'S MEGILLAH READING

Tuesday, March 21 | 8:00 am

Women are encouraged to join our unique Women's *Megillah* Reading, now in its 31st year. For details, see page 20.



Year of Years Capstone Retrospective in Pictures: THE TRAVELS of the TORAH



- A. Madelene and Stan Towne inspect a set of *rimonim* crafted by colonial Jewish silversmith, Myer Myers.
- B. Parnas Louis Solomon was presented with the House of Braganza family crest, by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Braganza.
- C. Past Parnas Peter Neustadter, honorary trustee Norman Benzaquen, and trustee Oliver Stanton lead the ceremonial procession featuring our recently restored centuries-old Samuel Hart Sefer Torah and the Myer Myers "Hayes" *rimonim*.
- D. His Royal Highness the Duke of Braganza reuniting with reuniting with a descendant of the Abarbanel, CSI member, Lewis Barbanel, centuries after their ancestors befriended each other in the 1400s.
- E, F. Many of the hundreds of attendees had the opportunity to interact with the historic Sifrei Torah during the moving rededication ceremony.

COMMUNITY DINNER

*Featuring Rabbi Soloveichik
in Conversation with
Annika Hernroth-Rothstein*

Date TBD

Annika Hernroth-Rothstein is political advisor, pundit, and writer who writes for various national and international magazines and sites, including a syndicated column for *Israel Hayom*, Israel's largest daily newspaper.

Join Rabbi Soloveichik in a discussion of her upcoming project, *"Like Diamonds: A Journey Into the Jewish Diaspora,"* which is meant to be a comprehensive study of the exotic and unexpected Jewish tribes in the diaspora, combined with historical analysis, personal anecdotes, and vibrant photography.

PTTS SHABBATON AND FAMILY BEATBOXING LUNCHEON

*Featuring champion beatboxer,
Mark Martin*

**Shabbat, December 14
Following Morning Services**

Our PTTS Hebrew School students are encouraged to take center stage at Junior Congregation on this special Shabbat, and then warmly welcomed to join the exciting programming we have planned: Mark Martin, Winner of the 2016 American Beatbox Championships, will be joining us for our family luncheon after services.

Following Jr. Congregation, Mark will host a beatbox workshop for the teenagers and children, and he'll also give a talk at the luncheon on the use of beatboxing as a tool for speech therapy.

Register at shearithisrael.org/beatbox-luncheon.

MAJOR LECTURE FROM RABBI SOLOVEICHIK

Wednesday, January 8

Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a major historical lecture on the topic of "From Mitzrayim to Manhattan: What the Metropolitan Museum Teaches Us About the Exodus."

ANNUAL UPPER WEST SIDE SYNAGOGUE BLOOD DRIVE

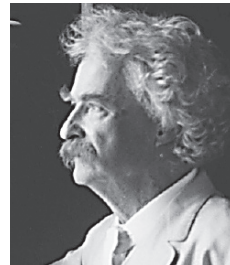
Sunday, January 12, 2020

Once again, Shearith Israel is partnering with Upper West Side Synagogues to help give the gift of life to those who need it. According to the New York Blood Center, January is one of the months when blood donations are most sorely needed, so mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.

MARK TWAIN AND THE HOLY LAND

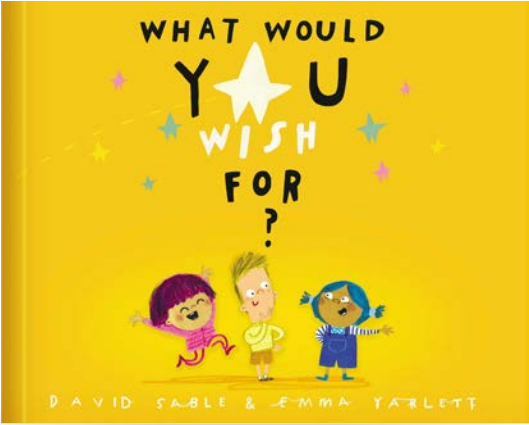
A private tour led by Rabbi Soloveichik

**Sunday, February 2, 2020
11:30 am and 12:30 pm
At the New-York Historical Society**



Mark Twain's memoir of his tour of the Holy Land launched his career; his experiences are particularly fascinating when considered from the perspective of Jewish history and religion. Join Rabbi Meir Soloveichik for a tour on the final day of the New-York Historical Society's exhibit on Twain's trip through the Mediterranean.

Register at shearithisrael.org/nyhs-twain.



YOUNG FAMILIES BOOK LAUNCH SHABBAT LUNCHEON

*With Author and Shearith Israel Trustee,
David Sable*

March TBD | Following Morning Services

Celebrate the launch of David Sable's new children's book with the author at this special Shabbat Luncheon. *What Would You Wish For?* guides readers young and old through an imaginative, inspirational journey to think about how they can change the world for good. The heartfelt and thought-provoking text encourages children to be kind.

Rich, whimsical illustrations from award-winning illustrator Emma Yarlett help girls and boys realize the potential each person has to make the world a more hopeful and more peaceful place. Registration coming soon at shearithisrael.org/sable-luncheon.

David Sable is a Shearith Israel trustee and a great champion of our Friday evening services and *Friday Night Lights*. He is a Senior Advisor at WPP, the world's largest company dedicated to Creative Transformation. Formerly Global CEO of Y&R, David has led and helped unify a number of their global businesses and worked with many of their major clients. He is known for his creativity, content, strategic innovation, and impactful partnerships. This is his first children's book.

CELEBRATING MOROCCAN JEWISH HERITAGE AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Date TBA

Many Moroccan Jews who reached these shores many years ago found the sounds of Shearith Israel to be the most familiar to them, and made Shearith Israel their spiritual home. And from that time until today, we have retained a strong contingent of Moroccan Jewish families and are proud of the unique character they contribute to our community.

This program is one of our many Year of Years, 365th Anniversary celebration events, which showcase the extraordinary diversity of our congregation, throughout its history until today.



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 once a month 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. Go to shearithisrael.org/tours for more information.



JEWISH EDUCATION

THE GUIDE TO DUTIES OF THE HEART

Sundays | 8:45 am
Rabbi Sijmon den Hollander

While *The Guide to the Duties of the Heart* (completed around 1075 CE) is sometimes called the first work of Jewish ethics, it aims to guide us towards a spiritual dedication, taught within a philosophical outlook that has similarities with both Saadia Gaon and Maimonides. Besides philosophical concepts, Bahya ibn Paquda frequently uses stories and concepts from Sufism (Islamic mysticism) to stir in us a spiritual mindfulness and to deepen our love of God.

Rabbi Sijmon den Hollander was born in the Netherlands. He received his Master's degree in Arabic and Islamology from the University of Leiden. After subsequently earning a Bachelor's degree in education, he taught Comparative Religion at Ichthus Teachers' College in Rotterdam. More recently, Rabbi den Hollander received *semikha* from Rabbi Eliyahu Ben Haim and from Yeshiva University. He teaches Jewish literature at Hunter College. In addition, he does research on Islam's perception of Judaism and writes online articles in Arabic explaining Judaism to a Muslim audience.

THE IDEA OF KINGSHIP

Sundays, Beginning February 2
10:00 am | Rabbi David Silber

Tuition is \$275, but FREE for Shearith Israel members

A study of biblical attitudes towards kingship and political power through a study of Megillat Ruth and selections from the Books of Judges and Samuel.

Rabbi David Silber is the Founder and Dean of Drisha Institute for Jewish Education. He received ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. He received the Covenant Award in 2000. He is the author of *A Passover Haggadah: Go Forth and Learn*, published by JPS in 2011, and the newly released *For Such a Time as This: Biblical Reflections in the Book of Esther*, published by Koren Publishing in 2017 (Hebrew).

Shearith Israel members can register for FREE at shearithisrael.org/silber-idea-of-kingship.

MONDAY & TUESDAY LEARNING WITH RABBI SOLOVEICHIK

On Select Mondays and Tuesdays
7:00 pm | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Rabbi Soloveichik delivers major lectures on select Mondays and Tuesdays, with Mondays devoted to history, and Tuesdays focused on Judaic/Torah/Talmud content. Dates will be announced in advance, so keep an eye for announcements in our emails, on our website, and on our Facebook page. If you're not already on the Rabbi's email distribution, sign up at shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists.

OPEN BET MIDRASH

Most Weeknights (Monday-Thursday)
An Hour before Evening Services | Steven Gotlib

On most weeknights, men and women, adults and youth, are invited to learn with university-level and rabbinical students from Yeshiva University in the Elias Room at our "Open Bet Midrash." These students contribute *dibrei torah* regularly to our weekly Shabbat handouts, and give a mini-shiur at the Thursday session each week. The Bet Midrash program is run by Steven Gotlib, and he encourages anyone interested in a *habruta* to reach out to him at stjgot@gmail.com. Take advantage of this unique opportunity, and don't hesitate to contact Steven with any questions. Participants are welcome to stay for evening services and help strengthen our minyan.

TUESDAY MORNING MINYAN BREAKFAST AND SHIUR

Tuesdays | Following Morning Services

The loyal members of our morning minyan know the pleasure of camaraderie and learning that is especially enjoyed every Tuesday morning. All worshippers are welcome to enjoy breakfast and a short shiur by a member of our clergy.

FEASTS AND FASTS: THE FESTIVALS IN JEWISH THOUGHT

A Class for Women

Tuesdays | 9:00 am | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Women 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. This class has its own mailing list—sign up at shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists to get weekly reminders (and occasional cancellations). Sponsorship opportunities are available. To find out more, go to shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS: THE MAKING AND MEANING OF SHABBAT

Fridays | Following Evening Services
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

During the chillier months, when Shabbat starts early and the evenings loom long, congregants are invited to 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 Friday night service followed by *Friday Night Lights*. The 2019-2020 season is sponsored by the Julis family. To sponsor an individual session, go to shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass.

THE MISUNDERSTOOD MASTERPIECE: A NEW APPROACH TO PIRKEI ABOT

Shabbat Afternoon, Year-Round
An Hour before Minha
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Pirkei Abot is often understood as a mere series of unrelated ethical adages. In fact, each brief and frequently cited maxim in *Pirkei Abot* actually hints at the extraordinary, and unique, life story and worldview of its rabbinic source. What's more, the chapters of *Abot* are joined in a structure that tells the story of the transmission of the Oral Law. We will see how studying the history of the rabbinic figures cited lends an entirely new understanding to these statements, and how *Abot* represents the diverse response of the rabbis to an age of crisis and transition that was, in many ways, not unlike our own. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To find out more, go to shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass.

RETROSPECTIVE: SHABBATON AT NEWPORT

Madelene Towne

Food, friendship, and finials were on full display when more than forty congregants from Shearith Israel visited our sister congregation, Jeshuat Israel for a Veterans Day weekend Shabbaton at the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island.



Shearith Israel Parnas Louis Solomon and Congregation Jeshuat Israel Co-President Louise Ellen Teitz with the display of *rimonim* at the Touro Synagogue.

Newport is a charming, impeccably maintained historic seaport town, and included in this action-packed weekend were walking tours of Jewish Newport and the Jewish Cemetery, led by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, and a private tour of The Breakers – the spectacular summer “cottage” built by Cornelius Vanderbilt at the end of the nineteenth century.

The Shabbat program opened at the Touro Synagogue with an historically-themed *Friday Night Lights*. Rabbi Soloveichik spoke to the two congregations about the Jewish connection to the Gettysburg Address (“The Watermark in

the Gettysburg Address: A Sabbath Tale”). Not only did two of the final copies of Lincoln’s handwritten address contain the watermark of Jewish printers Philips & Solomons, but Adolphus Simeon Solomons was present when the President sat for his last photograph, a beautiful and soulful portrait, which was taken only a few days before his assassination.

After Rabbi Soloveichik’s talk, Rabbi Marc Mandel conducted Friday night services using the liturgy and Artsroll siddur used each Shabbat by Congregation Jeshuat Israel, and then the two congregations joined together for a delicious Shabbat dinner, one of the first of many meals we shared over the weekend.

On Saturday morning, the synagogue was packed. Using our de Sola Pool siddurim, Shearith Israel’s Ritual Director Zachary Edinger (“Z” as he is affectionately known) led the two congregations in our traditional Western Sephardic Shabbat morning service. Rabbi Soloveichik read from the Torah and gave a sermon on the *parasha* entitled, “*Lekh Lekha*, Chariots of Fire, and the American Jewry.” He explained that the most important words in that *parasha* were not “Go forth,” but rather “Abraham went,” hence showing Jews the need to go out into the world and create their own fate rather than sit by passively. I have it on good authority that our Newport counterparts



Our group gathers outside the Touro Synagogue.



were impressed with Z’s beautiful chanting and Rabbi Soloveichik’s moving sermon.

The service was followed by a joint luncheon in the Newport Historical Society, which had been built in 1730 as a Seventh Day Baptist Church. We were greeted by Ruth Taylor, Executive Director of the Historical Society who gave a talk on the history of Jews in Newport, and we then heard from Rabbi Mandel who spoke on the philanthropy of the Touro family, most likely the earliest Jewish philanthropic family in America.

Not too much later, we reconvened for yet another delicious meal, *Seudah Shelishit*, during which Rabbi Soloveichik spoke about the religious symbolism of the *Rimonim* and their relevance to Kristallnacht, which we were also commemorating that evening (“The *Rimonim*, Kristallnacht’s Anniversary, and Us”).

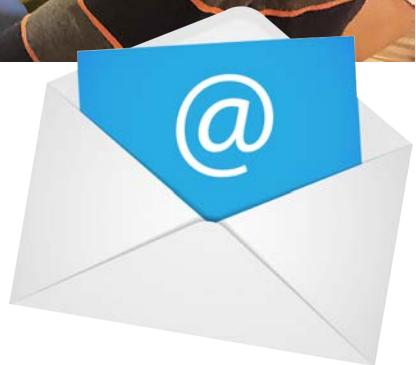
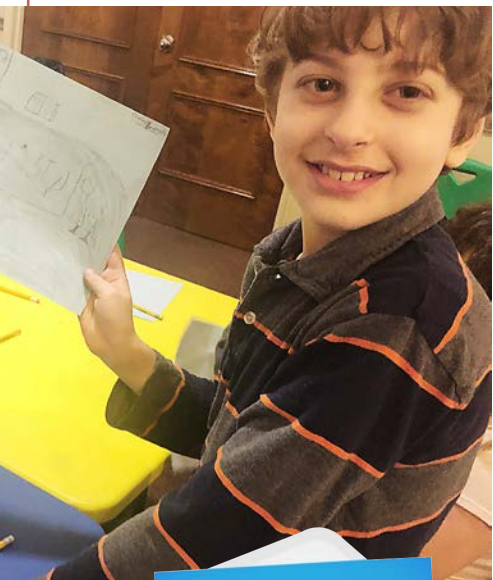
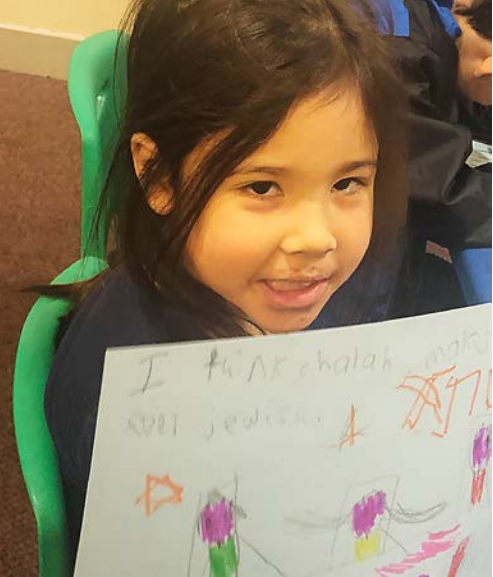
The last joint event of the Shabbaton took place Saturday evening. The two congregations met for evening services led by a member of Congregation Jeshuat Israel, and then witnessed a top-notch panel discussion on the work of famed colonial Jewish silversmith (and Shearith Israel Parnas) Myer Myers, whose historic *Rimonim* were on beautiful display in Touro’s main sanctuary throughout the entire shabbaton.

Curator Holly Snyder of Brown University moderated the panel of three, which consisted of Marietta Cambareri and Simoni Di Nepi, both of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and historian and professor Jonathan Sarna of Brandeis University. The discussion was followed by – what else? – more food, this time a lavish dessert spread. And after the cookies and cakes dwindled, the last strawberry was eaten, and more than a few yawns were shared, we said good-bye to our newfound friends with handshakes and hugs and promises to come back and invitations to them to visit us.

A very special thanks goes to all the people who worked incredibly hard to make this magnificent event flow so seamlessly: Congregation Jeshuat Israel co-presidents, Louise Ellen Teitz and Paul Tobak, and Rabbi Marc Mandel, and from Shearith Israel, Executive Director Barbara Reiss, Ritual Director Zachary Edinger, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, and Parnas Louis Solomon.

To those of you who missed this extraordinary weekend, we can only say: “Next year in Newport.”

Madelene Towne, along with her husband, Shearith Israel trustee, Stan Towne, are devoted, longstanding, and active members of the congregation.



Don't forget to sign up for our weekly youth email updates at shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists!

YOUTH AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

PARENT-CHILD LEARNING

For Elementary School Age Children & Their Parents or Grandparents

Saturday Nights from December 7-February 29
One hour after Habdala

This educational initiative gives parents (or grandparents) the opportunity to study Torah with their children together with Shearith Israel's clergy. After the conclusion of Shabbat, start the week off with inspiring and enriching Torah study and an excellent opportunity to bond with your child. The program is intended for children in elementary school. Pizza and prizes help make this a fun-filled evening of inter-generational learning.

For more information, contact Z. Edinger at zedinger@shearithisrael.org. If you're interested in sponsoring a session or the entire program, please contact Barbara Reiss at breiss@shearithisrael.org.

PTTS SHABBATON AND FAMILY BEATBOXING LUNCHEON

Featuring champion beatboxer, Mark Martin

Shabbat, December 14
Following Morning Services

Our PTTS Hebrew School students are encouraged to take center stage at Junior Congregation on this special Shabbat, and then warmly welcomed to join the exciting programming we have planned: Mark Martin, Winner of the 2016 American Beatbox Championships, the 2016 International BeatRhyme Battle, and founder of "We Speak Music," will be joining us for our family luncheon after services.

Following Jr. Congregation, Mark will host a beatbox workshop for the teenagers and children, and he'll also give a talk at the luncheon on the use of beatboxing as a tool for speech therapy.

Register for the luncheon at shearithisrael.org/beatbox-luncheon.

PURIM CELEBRATION

Monday, March 9
Children's Programming meets at 7:00 pm

The reading of *Megillat Esther* begins promptly at 7:15 pm in the Large Synagogue. Children are invited to the Elias Room for their own special Purim "infotainment" program. Nat Bernstein, our energetic Youth Group Leader and Programming Coordinator, has a fun activity in the works, and Liz Rios will be on hand to supervise the younger ones (children under the age of 5 must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver).

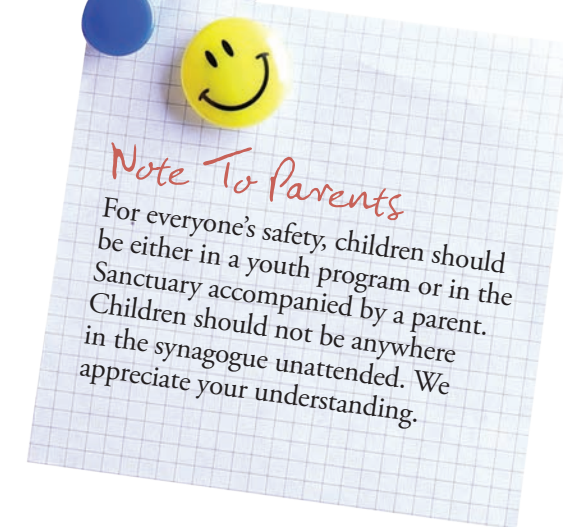
Parents are encouraged to arrive at 7:00 pm, in order to help their children settle in and then make their way to the Large Synagogue in time for *Megillah*.

HEBREW SCHOOL: POLONIES TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL (PTTS)

Thursdays from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm and special programming on select Sundays

Our Hebrew School, led by Principal Yona Glass, provides students with a substantive supplemental 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.

Students are also encouraged to take advantage of the free educational opportunities afforded to them by weekly Junior Congregation on Shabbat, Sunday Brunch & Learns with Rabbi Soloveichik, and Shabbatons. To learn more and enroll your child today, go to shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool.



Note To Parents

For everyone's safety, children should be either in a youth program or in the Sanctuary accompanied by a parent. Children should not be anywhere in the synagogue unattended. We appreciate your understanding.

BRUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI SOLOVEICHIK

For PTTS Students and Their Parents

Sundays | 10:30 am
December 1, February 9, and March 29

Students of PTTS and their parents enjoy a special time with the rabbi. On several Sundays over the course of the year students and their parents start the day together with morning services after which they will proceed to a topical "Brunch and Learn" with Rabbi Soloveichik.

CSI members with elementary school age children are heartily welcome, by registration at shearithisrael.org/brunch-learn-registration.

MITZVOT WORKSHOPS WITH ZACHARY EDINGER

For Elementary School Aged Children

Sundays | 10:00 am
January 5, March 15, and May 3

On select Sundays, our Shamash, Zachary Edinger, leads our PTTS students and CSI youth in an interactive and educational tefillah class. Students learn to sing the melodies of selected prayers from the Shabbat and holiday services as well as learn about the parts of the Torah service, and get trained in the hands-on parts of the service.

For full schedule of workshop dates and registration, visit shearithisrael.org/mitzvot-workshop.



WEEKDAY TODDLER PROGRAM

For children ages 16-34 months.

Mondays and Wednesdays
9:30 am – 11:30 am

Parent or caregiver attendance required.

Shearith Israel's popular Toddler Program with childhood educator extraordinaire, Liz Rios, 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. For more information, go to shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram.

YOUTH ON SHABBAT

TOT SHABBAT

10:00 am – 11:45 am | ages 0 – 4

Our little ones enjoy Tot Shabbat all year round, led by our beloved teachers, Liz and Shanade. Held in our Fidanque Room, independent play, snacks, and circle-time with songs will entertain the toddlers while parents are in services. Parents: please note that children under the age of 2 must be accompanied by an adult. Furthermore, children will only be released to their parent or other pre-authorized adult. Please cooperate with these important policies for the safety of your children and everyone else.

YOUTH GROUPS AND JR. CONGREGATION

September – June

10:00 am until the end of services

Children ages 5 – 12 gather in the Elias Room for a fun curriculum of educational and entertaining activities connected to the parasha of the week and other Jewish themes, created by our Youth Group Leader and Programming Coordinator, Nat Bernstein, and Youth Group Leader, Daniela Bernstein.

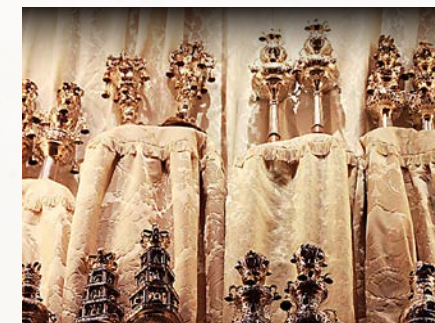
At 10:30 am, the children come together for Junior Congregation, a lively, participatory service in the Little Synagogue, (after which they return to the Elias Room with their group leader until the end of services). For a list of parts your child may lead in Jr. Congregation, contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE SISTERHOOD: STITCH & FIX

Rose Edinger

The Sisterhood of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue has relaunched its historic Sewing Circle.



Torn Torah mantles have been restored to their initial glory.

First established in 1896 to sew and distribute garments to the poor, the Sewing Circle expanded its mission to repair synagogue vestments and textiles including Torah cloaks, Tebah covers, and other synagogue textiles. Members of the Sewing Circle have already begun repairs to our various beautiful vestments.

Are you deft with a needle and thread? Join us at our friendly bi-monthly meetings. Drop in, select an item that needs mending, then stitch and fix. Some items may even be picked up and worked on at home.

Meetings will be held one Sunday and one Tuesday each month, from 10 am–12 pm.

- Sunday Dec. 15 | Tuesday Dec. 17
- Sunday Jan. 5 | Tuesday Jan. 7
- Sunday Feb. 9 | Tuesday Feb. 11

Please join us and stitch yourself into the fabric of our history. For further inquiries, contact Rose Edinger at rgedinger@gmail.com.





WOMEN AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

SISTERHOOD MISHLOAH MANOT PROJECT

Do you want to send Mishloah Manot notifications to your friends and fellow congregants for Purim? Take advantage of a wonderful opportunity to send special Purim greetings and to reach out to our Shearith Israel community and beyond. This project supports the Sisterhood's many important activities in our synagogue. Please stay tuned for more information about how to participate.

WOMEN'S MEGILLAH READING

Tuesday, March 10 | 8:00 am

Congregants and guests are welcome to join the main service for megillah reading. Women are encouraged to join our unique women's reading, now in its 31st year. Novices, no need to feel intimidated; we are happy to train you to read a part, large or small. To sign up for this year's reading, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com.

Thank you to last year's readers: Vicki Bengualid, Beth Goldman, Annette Gourgey, Ruthie Israeli, Janet Kirchheimer, Marjorie Lehman, Julia Levi, Lilliane Marks, Liz Ninyo, Lisa Rohde, Lina Sion, Lia Solomon, Layaliza Soloveichik, and Julie Walpert.

WOMEN'S SHABBAT SERVICES

On select Shabbat mornings

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.

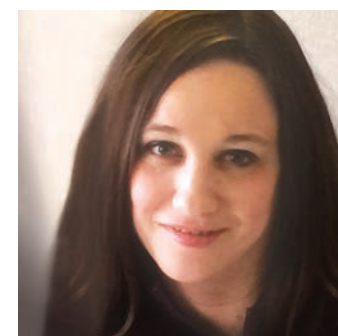
YOETZET HALAKHA

Shearith Israel is a co-sponsor of the Manhattan Yoetzet Halakha Initiative. If you have any questions regarding Taharat Hamishpaha (Family Purity) or the laws of Niddah, please contact our Yoetzet Halakha, Shiffy Friedman, in confidence at nycyoetzet@gmail.com.

Shiffy Friedman has been serving as a Yoetzet Halakha in Manhattan since 2017. She graduated from Nishmat's Miriam Glaubach Center's U.S. Yoatzot Halakha Fellows Program in 2015. She has been counseling women in the area of women's health and halakha, both through her role as Yoetzet Halakha in Westchester County and through teaching brides and couples before marriage. Shiffy has taught at SAR Academy and currently teaches at Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School. She received her B.A. in Judaic Studies from Stern College and a dual M.A. in Education and Jewish Studies from New York University. Prior to that, she spent a year studying in Israel at the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women in Migdal Oz. She and her husband, Rabbi Noam Friedman, live with their two children, Avital and Adir, in Morningside Heights, where they serve as the OU-JLIC couple at Columbia/Barnard Hillel.



Shiffy Friedman



Layaliza Soloveichik

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.

To learn more about women's involvement at Shearith Israel, visit: shearithisrael.org/women.

This pareve dish is great for many occasions: as an appetizer with a meat or dairy meal, as part of a meze plate, or as a potluck contribution.



Dolmas

by Francine Alfandary-Nahon

Although Francine Alfandary and Laurent Nahon met on the Upper West Side, their family ties go back many centuries. Both families are Spanish Jews who chose to leave the Iberian Peninsula when the Alhambra Decree was issued. Francine's family settled in the Ottoman Empire, while the Nahons landed in North Africa. Both families made their way to Paris after World War II, where they worshipped together at Temple Buffault (Shearith Israel's sister synagogue). In August 2019, the Alfandary-Nahon family returned to Spain to sign their Spanish citizenship papers.

Both Francine and Laurent grew up eating signature Sephardic dishes: couscous and shakshuka for Laurent, stuffed vegetables and borekas for Francine. Here is Francine's go-to recipe for stuffed grape leaves (dolmas).

CULINARY CORNER



Ingredients:

- 1 16-ounce jar of grape leaves (we use Roland's, available at Fairway)
- 1 cup basmati or other long-grain rice
- 2-3 cups vegetable broth*
- ½ cup chopped Italian parsley
- ½ cup pine nuts
- 2-3 large or 5-6 small lemons, juiced
- Olive oil, salt and pepper
- Baking pan

*We save our vegetable scraps, such as carrot peels, celery bottoms, onion peels, parsley stems, and tomato cores, in a bag in the freezer. Periodically we dump the scraps in a pot of water, add salt, and simmer for a few hours. We strain out the vegetable scraps. The resulting broth is flavorful and fresh.

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350.

To make the rice: saute the rice in a liberal slug of olive oil. Once the grains are transparent, add two cups vegetable broth, bring to a boil, and then simmer until cooked thorough.

While the rice is cooking, rinse the grape leaves under running water to remove the brine. Set aside the larger leaves. Use the smaller leaves to line your baking pan.

Squeeze the lemons in a citrus juicer. Mix the lemon juice with one-half cup of olive oil.

When the rice is cooked, mix in the parsley and pine nuts. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Stuffing the dolmas: lay a grape leave on your work surface. Add a spoonful of rice mixture to the center. Roll up to make a cigar shape.

Place the dolmas tightly in the baking pan. When the pan is full, pour the lemon juice/olive oil mixture over the dolmas. If necessary, add vegetable broth to cover.

Bake in a 350 oven for about 45 minutes.

Serve warm or cold. If serving as part of a meze plate, we include accompaniments such as:

- Chunks of feta or kashari cheese
- Olives
- Boutargue (bottarga)
- Borekas
- Sliced radishes, fennel or other raw vegetables

To drink: raki; lemonade with fresh mint

If you would like to submit a recipe for a future bulletin, or a review of a kosher cookbook or restaurant, either in NYC or around the world, send it to Tikva Ostrega at tikvaostrega@gmail.com. In addition to the recipe or review, please include a short backstory describing yourself and the food's significance to you.



HESED

CARING CONNECTION

Caring Connection, our Congregation’s *hesed* network, trains community members as sensitive volunteers, enabling them to proactively help others through times of need, one of Judaism’s greatest *mitzvot*. This vital assistance greatly aids the individual, and also strengthens and unifies our community, enhancing our sense of responsibility for one another. This group of volunteers responds to a variety of situations, both in times of difficulty, such as illness or mourning, and times of joy, such as the exciting and often overwhelming challenges accompanying the arrival of a new baby.

Our volunteers coordinate meals to those in need; arrange visits and phone calls to the elderly, homebound, and recuperating; and even provide transport or wheelchair assistance to those who wish to attend synagogue services or events. Caring Connection also facilitates and organizes important communal conversations, raising awareness on mental health issues, such as our recent “Smash the Stigma” panel on suicide and depression.

If you know someone who might need assistance, or if you would like to volunteer or help with events, please email caringconnection@shearithisrael.org.

When Caring Connection lacks the expertise or resources to provide appropriate assistance, they do their best to direct people to other congregational and communal organizations.



MEALS FOR MOURNERS AND NEW PARENTS

Shearith Israel’s Caring Connection provides meals for members and their families after the birth of a child, and the *Hebra Hased Va’Amet* provides mourners and their family with their *shiba* meals.

If you would like to sponsor a meal, we offer several options and easy ways for you to do so. Simply go to shearithisrael.org/hesed-meals and select the meal type you would like to sponsor. The family will be notified of your generous gesture. Please be assured that our Caring Connection and *Hebra* volunteers are in touch with the affected families and will ensure that their specific needs (quantities, dietary restrictions, etc.) will be considered. Any surplus sponsorships will be used to ensure that all of our members are provided meals in their times of need.

If you would prefer to cook and deliver your own home-cooked meals, or place food orders on your own rather than participate in Caring Connection’s fund, please contact Layaliza Soloveichik at layaliza@gmail.com beforehand. Layaliza is our congregation’s volunteer coordinator for meals for new parents, and she makes every effort to ensure that the family’s preferences and requests are accommodated and that duplication of efforts are avoided.



DAILY SERVICES

Mornings:

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

Evenings, Sundays:

December 1st - 29th, Minhah & Arbit 4:15 pm
January 5th & 12th, Minhah & Arbit 4:30 pm
January 19th & 26th, Minhah & Arbit 4:45 pm
February 2nd & 9th, Minhah & Arbit 5:00 pm
February 16th & 23rd, Minhah & Arbit 5:15 pm
March 1st, Minhah & Arbit 5:30 pm
March 8th - June 1st, Minhah & Arbit 6:30 pm

Evenings, Monday-Thursday:

Dec. 2nd-February 27th, Arbit Only 6:30 pm
March 2nd-Mar. 5th, Minhah & Arbit 5:30 pm
March 9th-June 4th, Minhah & Arbit 6:30 pm

SERVICES

SHABBAT SERVICES

December 6th-7th

Candles (18 min. before sunset) 4:10 pm
Friday Evening Services 4:15 pm
Saturday Morning Services 8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot Jacob Daar
Parashat Vayetse Genesis 28:10-32:3
Haftarah Hosea 11:7-12:12
Class 3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit 4:05 pm
Saturday Sunset 4:28 pm
Habdalah 4:55 pm

December 13th-14th

Candles (18 min. before sunset) 4:11 pm
Friday Evening Services 4:15 pm
Saturday Morning Services 8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot Matthew Kaplan
Parashat Vayishlah Genesis 32:4-36:43
Haftarah Book of Obadiah
Class 3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit 4:05 pm
Saturday Sunset 4:29 pm
Habdalah 4:55 pm

December 20th-21st

Candles (18 min. before sunset) 4:13 pm
Friday Evening Services 4:15 pm
Saturday Morning Services 8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot Sjimom Den Hollander
Parashat Vayesheb Genesis 37:1-40:23
Haftarah Amos 2:6-3:8 Jacob Z. Neumark
Class 3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit 4:05 pm
Saturday Sunset 4:31 pm
Habdalah 4:58 pm

— continued —

December 27th-28th

Shabbat Rosh Hodesh-Hanukkah
6 Hanukkah Candles & Eve of Shabbat
Candles (18 min. before sunset).....4:17 pm
Friday Evening Services.....4:15 pm
Friday Sunset.....4:35 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....8:10-11:45 am
ZemirotAdam F. Jackson
Parashat Mikkets-Rosh Hodesh-Hanukkah
Gen 41:1-44:17; Num 28:9-15&Num 7:42-47
HaftarahSteven Gotlib
Zachariah 2:14-4:7;
Isaiah 6:1&23; I Samuel 20:18&42
Class3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....4:10 pm
Saturday Sunset4:36 pm
Habdalah & 7 Hanukkah Candles5:02 pm

January 3rd-4th

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....4:22 pm
Friday Evening Services.....4:30 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....8:15-11:45 am
ZemirotJoseph A. Solomon
Parashat Vayiggash.....Genesis 44:18-47:27
Haftarah Ezekiel 37:15-28Jacob Z Neumark
Class3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....4:15 pm
Saturday Sunset4:41 pm
Habdalah.....5:08 pm

January 10th-11th

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....4:29 pm
Friday Evening Services.....4:30 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....8:15-11:45 am
ZemirotMatthew Kaplan
Parashat VayhiGenesis 47:28-end
Haftarah I Kings 2:1-12.....Reuben Frieber
Bat Mitzvah.....Matea Frieber
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....4:25 pm
Saturday Sunset4:48 pm
Habdalah.....5:15 pm

January 17th-18th

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....4:37 pm
Friday Evening Services.....4:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....8:15-11:45 am
ZemirotJoseph A. Solomon
Parashat Shemoth.....Exodus 1:1-6:1
Haftarah Jeremiah 1:1-2:3.....Aaron Nathan
Class3:30 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....4:30 pm
Saturday Sunset4:56 pm
Habdalah.....5:23 pm

January 24th-25th

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....4:45 pm
Friday Evening Services.....4:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....8:15-11:45 am
ZemirotJacob Daar
Parashat Vaera.....Exodus 6:2-9:35
Haftarah Ezekiel 28:25-29:21Samuel Katz
Class3:40 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....4:40 pm
Saturday Sunset5:04 pm
Habdalah.....5:32 pm

January 31st-February 1st

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....4:54 pm
Friday Evening Services.....5:00 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....8:15-11:45 am
ZemirotAdam F. Jackson
Parashat Bo.....Exodus 10:1-13:16
Haftarah Jeremiah 46:13-28
Class3:50 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....4:50 pm
Saturday Sunset5:13 pm
Habdalah.....5:42 pm

February 7th-8th

Shabbat Shirah

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....5:02 pm
Friday Evening Services.....5:00 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....8:15-11:45 am
ZemirotZachary S. Edinger
Parashat Beshallah-Shirah.....Exodus 13:17-17:16
(Reading of the “Shirah”- Song of the Red Sea)
Haftarah Judges 5:1-31Louis Alexandre Berg
Class4:00 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....5:00 pm
Saturday Sunset5:22 pm
Habdalah.....5:51 pm
Shabbat Shirah takes its name from the “Song (Heb. ‘Shirah’) of the Sea,” chanted in the middle of the narrative of the crossing of the Red Sea, the text of the Parashat Beshallah Torah Reading.

February 14th-15th

Shabbat Yithro

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....5:11 pm
Friday Evening Services.....5:15 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....8:15-11:45 am
ZemirotSjimon Den Hollander
Parashat YithroExodus 18:1-20:23
(Reading of the Ten Commandments)
Haftarah Isaiah 6:1-13Joseph A. Solomon
Class4:05 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....5:05 pm
Saturday Sunset5:30 pm
Habdalah.....6:00 pm
Shabbat Yithro’s Torah reading begins with the story of Moses being joined by his father-in-law Jethro (Heb. “Yithro”) after the defeat of the Egyptians at the Red Sea, and is noteworthy for the encampment at the foot of Sinai and the Ten Commandments, which follow.

February 21st-22nd

Shabbat Shekalim

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....5:19 pm
Friday Evening Services.....5:30 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....8:15-11:45 am
ZemirotMatthew Kaplan
Parashat Mishpatim-Shekalim
Exodus 21:1-24:18 & 30:11-16
Haftarah
II Kings 11:17-12:17 & I Samuel 18 & 42
Class4:15 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....5:15 pm
Saturday Sunset5:38 pm
Habdalah.....6:10 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 before Passover with additional Torah readings and special haftarot.

February 28th-29th

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....5:27 pm
Friday Evening Services.....5:30 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....8:15-11:45 am
ZemirotJacob Daar
Parashat Terumah.....Exodus 25:1-27:19
Haftarah I Kings 5:26-6:13.....Adam F. Jackson
Class4:25 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....5:25 pm
Saturday Sunset5:47 pm
Habdalah.....6:18 pm

March 6th-7th

Shabbat Zakhor/Mi Khamokha

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	5:35 pm
Friday Evening Services	5:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Sjimon Den Hollander
Parashat Tetsavveh-Zakhor	
Exodus 27:20-30:10&Deuteronomy 25:17-19	
Haftarah I Samuel 15:1-34	Mark Aaron
Class	4:30 pm
Saturday Afternoon Minhah & Arbit	5:30 pm
Saturday Sunset	5:54 pm
Habdalah.....	6:27 pm

Shabbat Zakhor/Mi Khamokha, is the Sabbath preceding Purim. Judah HaLevy’s poem, “Mi Khamokha” is read Saturday at 9:00 am. Deut. 25:17-19, beginning “Zakhor ‘Remember [Amalek],’” is added to the regular Parashah reading. Haman was presumed a descendant of the tribe of Amalek, the first “annihilators” of Israel. **Move Clocks Ahead Saturday Night!**

ZAKHOR READING

Shabbat, March 7
During Junior Congregation
Little Synagogue

We want everyone to be able to fulfill their obligation of hearing *Zakhor* and for no one to miss it on account of childcare or other issues. Slightly after the regular Torah reading, during Junior Congregation, we will hold a second reading of *Zakhor*, recited by a post-Bar Mitzvah boy in the Little Synagogue for children, parents, and all others.

March 13th-14th

Shabbat Parah

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	6:43 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:30 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Avery E. Neumark
Parashat Ki Tissa-Parah	Hillel D. Neumark
Exodus 30:11-34:35 & Numbers 19:1-22	
Haftarah	Steven A. Okin
Ezekiel 36:16-36	
Class	5:35 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....	6:35 pm
Saturday Sunset	7:02 pm
Habdalah.....	7:36 pm

Shabbat Parah: In preparation for the eating of the Paschal lamb, proper steps were taken to be ritually clean. Hence we add the reading from Numbers 19, the law concerning the ashes of the Red Heifer [Heb. “Parah Adumah”].

March 20th-21st

Shabbat HaHodesh

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	6:51 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:30 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	
Parashat Vayaqhel-Pequde-HaHodesh	
Exodus 35:1-40:38 & 12:1-20	
Haftarah, Ezekiel 45:18-46:1	David Cohen
Class	5:45 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	6:45 pm
Saturday Sunset	7:10 pm
Habdalah.....	7:44 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.

March 27th-28th

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	6:58 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:30 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Jacob Daar
Parashat Vayikra	Leviticus 1:1-5:26
Haftarah Isaiah 43:21-44:23	Joel Maxman
Class	5:50 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	6:50 pm
Saturday Sunset	7:17 pm
Habdalah.....	7:53 pm

MINOR HOLIDAYS

Hanukkah Holiday (Eight Days)

Sun. Eve, Dec. 22nd & Mon., Dec.23rd through Monday, Dec. 30th:

Sunday-Thursday

Services Follow Sunday & Weekday Schedule

Sunday Mornings (Shahrit, Hallel)	8:00 am
Mon.-Fri. Mornings (Shahrit, Hallel)	7:15 am
Sunday Evenings (Minhah & Arbit)	4:15 pm
Monday-Friday Evenings (Arbit Only)	6:30 pm

Weekday Hanukkah Candle Lighting

Sunday-Thursday	After Sunset:
Sunset Sun. & Mon. Dec, 22 & 23	4:32 pm
Sunset Tuesday, December 24	4:33 pm
Sunset Wed. & Thu., Dec. 25 & 26	4:35 pm
Sunset Sunday, December 29.....	4:36 pm

Rosh Hodesh Tebeth (Two-Day) and Sixth & Seventh Days of Hanukkah

Friday Evening, December 27th through Saturday and Sunday, December 28th & 29th: Services Follow Shabbat & Sunday Schedules

Rosh Hodesh Hanukkah Candle Lighting

Friday: 6 Hanukkah+Shabbat Candles	4:17 pm
Sat.: Habdalah+7 Hanukkah Candles.....	5:02 pm

Fast of Tebeth

Tuesday, January 7th

Dawn (Fast Begins)	5:53 am
Morning Service	7:15 am
Sunrise	7:20 am
Minhah & Arbit.....	4:00 pm
Sunset	4:44 pm
End of Fast	5:04 pm

Year-End & New Year Legal Holidays

Wednesdays: December 25th/January 1st

Morning Service	8:00 am
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Martin Luther King Legal Holiday

Monday, January 20th

Morning Service	8:00 am
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Rosh Hodesh Shebat (One-Day)

Sunday Evening, January 26th through Monday, January 27th

Hamisha Asar (Tu) BiShebat

Sunday Evening , February 8th through Monday, February 9th

Presidents’ Day Legal Holiday

Monday, February 17th

Morning Service	8:00 am
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Rosh Hodesh Adar (Two-Day)

Monday Evening, February 24th through Tuesday & Wednesday, Feb. 25th & 26th

PURIM HOLIDAY

Fast of Esther

Monday, March 9th

Dawn (Fast Begins)	5:56 am
Sunrise	7:16 am
Morning Service (Shahrit).....	7:15 am

PURIM HOLIDAY (Cont'd) Eve of Purim

Monday Evening, March 9th

Minhah (men wear tefillin)	6:30 pm
Monday Sunset	6:57 pm
Arbit (Evening) Service	7:00 pm
Reading of Megillah	7:15 pm
End of Fast	7:18 pm
Late Reading of Megillah	9:00 pm

Purim Day

Tuesday, March 10th

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
Tuesday Sunset	6:58 pm
End of Day	7:19 pm

Purim Shushan

Wednesday, March 11th

Morning (Shahrit) Service.....	7:15 am
Evening (Minhah & Arbit) Services.....	6:30 pm

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 6:30 service on Monday 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.

Rosh Hodesh Nisan (One-Day)

Mon. Eve, March 27th-Tuesday, March 28th
(For Services see Daily Schedule)

STAY CONNECTED

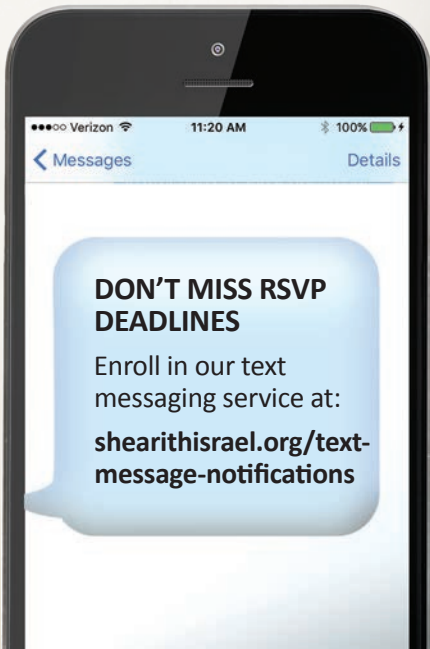
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SHEARITH ISRAEL TERMINOLOGY COMPANION

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

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

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

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

EKHAH Book of Lamentations

ESNOGA Synagogue

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

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

HABDALA Blessings ending the Sabbath

HAGGADAH Ritual Passover meal (known in other circles as the *seder*) as well as the book used to guide the meal

HALAKHA Jewish law

HASHCABA Memorial prayer. The prayer recited in memory of the dead

HEHAL Ark where Torah scrolls are housed

KIPPUR (not "Yom" Kippur) Day of Atonement

LEVANTADOR The one who lifts up the scroll of the Torah

MINHAG Custom or set of customs

NAHALA The anniversary of a relative's death

PARNAS President of a congregation

SHIBA The seven days of severe mourning following a burial of a close relative

TAHARAH The ritual preparation of a corpse for burial

TEBAH Reader's desk from which services are led

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



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.

SPONSOR SCOTCH AND ARAK

In addition to our weekly Kiddush sponsors and contributors we are now also accepting sponsors for the scotch and arak that we make available each week.

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 who have hit hard times as well as important causes such as the Houston Jewish Community recovering from flooding, the Food Bank for NYC, and worthy institutions in Israel.

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 a class, Monday Night Learning, minyan breakfast, Tuesday morning women's class, Tuesday evening Talmud shiur, 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, including delivering meals to mourners and new parents. Not only does this vital assistance greatly aid the individual or family, it also strengthens and unifies our community and enhances our sense of responsibility for one another.

BEQUESTS

Please consider including Shearith Israel in your estate planning. For more information, please speak with our Executive Director, Barbara Reiss.

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.

Giving is easy and feels good too. Visit shearithisrael.org/giving.

Thank you for enabling the continuation and strengthening of our congregation's mission and legacy.





STAFF AND BOARD

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Taharat Hamishpakha (Jewish Family Law)
Shiffy Friedman, Yoetzet Halakha
nycyoetzet@gmail.com, 646-598-1080

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES

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.



GET INVOLVED



We hope to see you soon! Here are a few great ways to stay connected and get more involved at Shearith Israel:

- Come to an event: Our full events calendar is available online
- Join our email list: Get weekly invites to our events and classes
- Take a class
- Make a donation
- Become a member
- Work with youth
- Help host or organize an event
- Join a committee
- Sponsor a kiddush
- Support our historic preservation projects
- Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/shearithisrael.nyc

