



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

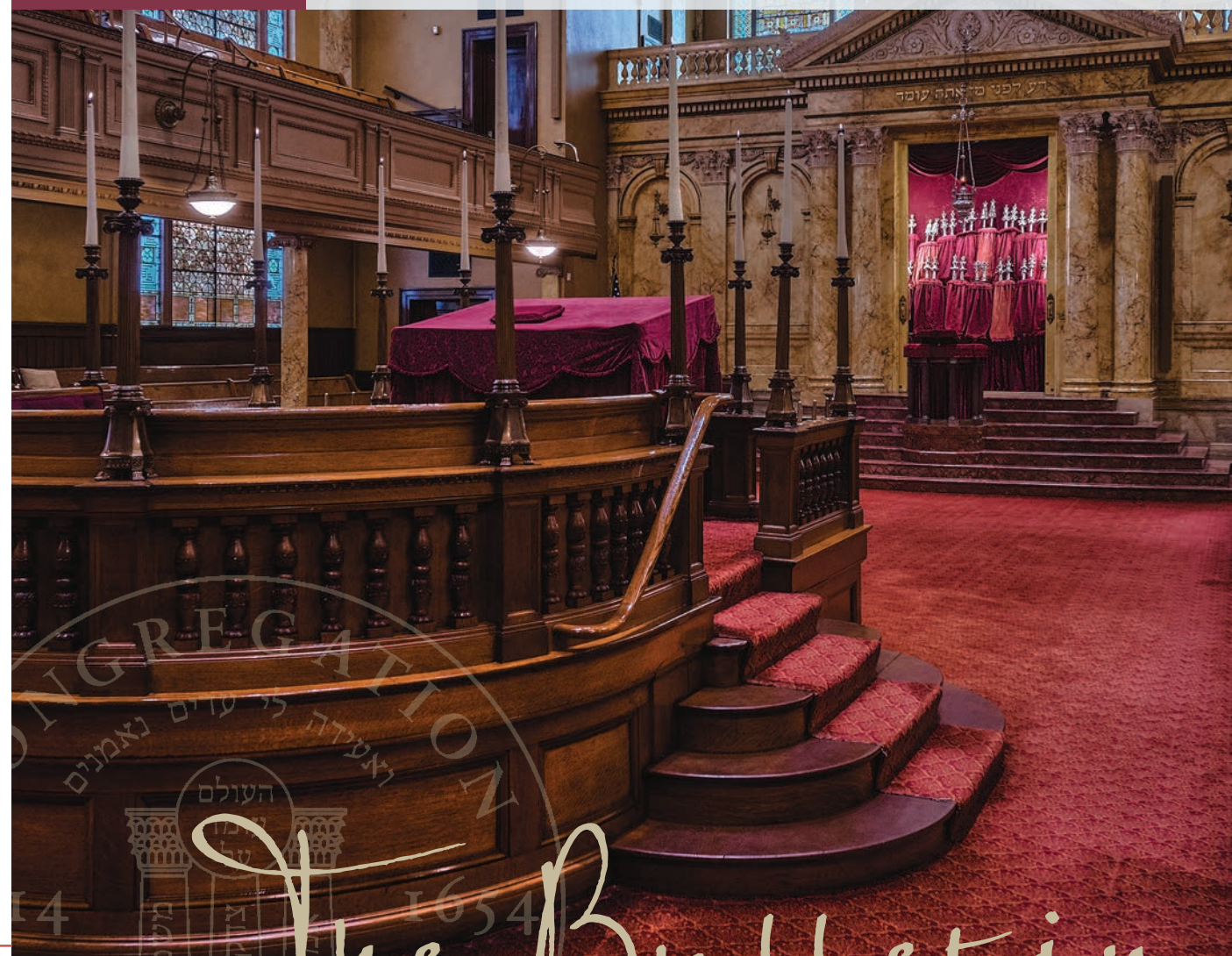
2 West 70th Street  
New York, NY 10023



*Synagogue tradition associates this Hanukkah lamp with the First Mill Street Synagogue of 1730. It is made of beaten brass and is in the style of Hanukkiyot made in Holland toward the end of the 17th or early 18th centuries.*

WINTER  
2014 - 2015  
חורף

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue



*America's First Jewish Congregation*



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## FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

### PRAYER: A TEAM SPORT

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik



Rabbi Jonathan Sacks once recounted how, when he first became Britain's chief rabbi, Dr. George Carey was, at the same time, selected as the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Someone had

discovered that they were both passionate fans of the British soccer team known as Arsenal, and thought it would be wonderful if their first ecumenical moment was sitting together in a private box watching Arsenal take on Manchester United at Highbury Stadium, Arsenal's home field. They received a tremendous reception from the fans as they made it known that though divided by faith, they were united in their team loyalty. Arsenal then went on to lose to Manchester United 6-2, their worst home loss in 62 years. The next day, a national newspaper wrote that "If the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbi between them cannot bring about a win for Arsenal, does this not finally prove that God does not exist!"

In response, Rabbi Sacks went on the BBC and said, "On the contrary, this is the ultimate proof that God does exist; He just roots for Manchester United."

This amusing story is an apt metaphor for the Jewish approach to prayer: it is a team sport. Our *tefillah* before God takes place through a rabbinic liturgy that is uttered not only by ourselves, but by all Israel, all over the world. This does not mean that we are not called to ask God for anything for ourselves; on the contrary, the greatest model of prayer, Hannah, the mother of Shmuel, is seen as the supreme example of passionate pleading before God for a

son; and our sages insisted that we insert our own personal pleas in the relevant blessings of *shemonah esrei*, but we must always, always, couch them as something less self-seeking, as part of our concern for klal yisrael. Suppose someone we love is ill; we ought to ask God for His Almighty intervention, but we begin by asking to heal all of us, *refa'einu Hashem veneirafei*. At that point we are called to insert a personal prayer, reciting the names of those individuals whose healing we seek. And then we return to the concluding blessing, approach the Almighty as the *Rofei Holei Amo Yisrael*, the Divine Healer of Israel, the God who loves not only us, but his people Israel.

This brings us to prayer not only with the people of Israel, but with the members of Shearith Israel. I conclude my reflection with a personal request: to help with the daily minyan, morning and afternoon, whenever you are able. Your attendance can help ensure that another one of our members can say *kaddish*, and hear a hashcaba recited for a loved one. In the process, your very prayer will be more meaningful as well. When we come before God with personal pleas, for our own families, for their health and wellbeing, we must show Him in our actions that we do so not as individuals but as members of His beloved people. After all, if God will judge us of us on our respective merits alone, then we don't have a prayer.

Meir Y. Soloveichik

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARNAS

Louis M. Solomon, Parnas

## *Adapted from a message from October 2014*

This is the third time I've had the privilege of writing the Congregation on behalf of the Board and its officers. Under the tireless efforts and guidance of Rabbi Soloveichik as well as the rest of our Clergy and Staff, we have tried to convey our vision for Shearith Israel's vital and vibrant future. Our priorities include our now familiar six-fold categorization of goals: guarding and transmitting our history and traditions; addressing our youth and young families; growing our membership; maintaining and enhancing our financial health; remaining a deeply caring community; and preserving our uniquely warm and inclusive spirit.

These are all big and important ideals. The Board and its officers remain wholly committed to them.

Important ideals, however, are brought to life only through concrete initiatives. Accordingly, in this and we hope future interim reports, we intend to address some of the specific projects being pursued to promote and achieve our collective goals. We would also benefit from discussing other possible initiatives in the spirit of open communication – and more importantly because we will need your help and support if they are to succeed.

If you are getting the idea that the Board and its officers 1) sincerely want to hear from you with constructive criticisms and suggestions, and 2) are inviting you to embrace a project in a concrete way to help make it happen, then you are getting it right. If for some reason our repetitious repetition is not speaking to or persuading you, then please find some time to come and talk to me during Parnas office hours or at other times that we can find. As I mentioned during Hatanim Lunch 5775, next year, when we get together to celebrate at Hatanim Lunch 5776, let's have way more pinches than kicks (pinching ourselves at the wonders and miracles of our Congregation, rather than kicking ourselves for not having been enriched by all that is going on in our Synagogue).

## *Our Human and Spiritual Plant*

**Our Daily Minyan.** There is no clearer way to measure our entitlement to call ourselves a Congregation than to ensure that we hold communal morning and evening services every day, without fail. This truth may be inconvenient, but it is undeniable. Rabbi Soloveichik has laid this out as an important goal that we must achieve. We can and must have daily minyan, including for those saying *Kaddish*, or those observing a *Nahalah*, for occasional visitors as well as our daily regulars. Our Clergy will be reaching out to each of our congregational families to ask each of us to commit to just one morning and one evening service a month. If each of us commits to just that, we will never falter – and we will carry the torch of our Congregation's light into posterity.

**Embracing Our New Members.** Over the past year plus, our Congregation has attracted over 50 new members. This is both a blessing – and a blessing. It is a very promising development. In order for this to be the boon it can be, however, we must ensure that each new member experiences the warmth and charm of our community and develops a love for our unique and authentic traditions. In addition to offering a range of activities designed exclusively for our newest members, a special Board committee has been formed to make sure that our new members are paired with one or more congregants who will be looking out for them specifically, making sure they know about our programs and events and will see a familiar face when they come for services or other events. If you can help with this most important project, please let Barbara Reiss know.

**Friday Night Lights – Back and Even Better.** Rabbi Soloveichik's *Friday Night Lights* series is an absolute gem that was introduced last year and offered singular spiritual inspiration to those congregants who attended. This year, *Friday Night Lights* will be enhanced even more. We are offering



a series of periodic Friday night *kiddushim*/social gatherings. Called *Friday Night Lights & Bites*, participants get to mingle and talk with each other and the Clergy while enjoying light fare, special themed cocktails, and, of course, *dibrei torah*.

**Engaging Our Youth.** We can feel proud in all we do to care for, educate, and embrace our youth. We have a beloved toddler program, a reputable junior congregation, lovely Shabbat groups, a vibrant teen group under the guidance of Rabbi Hidary, megillah readings for our girls, and more. But we want to do even more and even better. It cannot be denied and so need not be argued at any length that our youth are our future. We have functioning committees to address the needs and interests of our teens and our 20-30s singles in New York. We need leadership with respect to young couples on the West Side. We want to thank Rabbi Soloveichik, who has undertaken to begin

visiting our college-age children at college. This is a significant endeavor both in terms of Rabbi Soloveichik's time commitment but also in terms of cost. The project is funded by congregants but needs additional sponsors. Especially if you have children or grandchildren in your life, we hope you will invest in our young people.

**Recording Our Stories: The Shearith Israel Oral History Project.** Most members and even visitors notice and marvel at the extent of our diversity, striking even by New York City standards. You need only chat with a fellow congregant to your right or left (after services) to hear a fascinating life story, one that often begins in a fragile or disappearing Jewish community in another part of the world. Many of us are inspired by the idea of a Shearith Israel Oral History Project, and we took our first step by recording the story of the Nathan family at our annual gala this year. We hope to continue collecting and preserving the tapestry of stories that make up Shearith Israel. Our members have the passion, creativity, and ingenuity to create something wonderful and important, so please reach out to us if you would like to be involved.

## *Our Physical Plant*

**Keeping You Informed on the New Building.** Thank you to all who attended our most recent status update meeting for our new building project. Your involvement, reaction, and input is invaluable in this process. We intend to continue these meetings with some regularity. A major construction project will create disruption and inconvenience, but we can prepare ourselves well. With your active involvement, we can find creative ways to continue community-building and togetherness despite the space challenges that the new building will create as it goes up.

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARNAS

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**Repairing Our Little Synagogue.** As mentioned at our Hatanim Lunch 5775, the Little Synagogue is a historical and architectural jewel. It is also the sacred space where our minyan prays each morning and evening. For decades the Sisterhood has dedicated itself to maintaining and upgrading this special space. Let's help them continue to do that. There is some structural damage that has developed, creating some cracks and water seepage on the walls and perhaps more inside the walls. We were delighted to hear George Bulow, this year's Hatan Torah and 5775 Ambassador at Large, announce his desire to support the Sisterhood in raising awareness, interest, and funds for the necessary repairs. Please join George and the Sisterhood in supporting this project and taking part in restoring this precious space.

**Reinforcing Our Tiffany Windows.** Our stained glass windows are indisputably beautiful and priceless. If they were to suffer damage or to break, they would be literally irreplaceable, and we could not forgive ourselves for allowing such a tragedy on our watch. Our architects tell us that we must protect the windows in order to withstand the vibrations associated with our upcoming construction project. Moreover, they tell us that, irrespective of the construction, the windows will need shoring up in the near future. We were again delighted that our Hatan Bereshit and 5775 Ambassador at Large, Elliot Freilich, announced his goal to raise awareness, interest, and funds for this vital and substantial project. We again implore you to take interest and support this effort.

**Preserving and Digitizing Our Archives.** Over the past 360 years, our congregation has accumulated a substantial archive of historical documents and artifacts. Our archives are responsibly stored in a specialized facility, yet much work remains to be done if we are to organize, catalogue, display, and share our historical treasures with visitors and the online community. There has been much talk



about such a project, and in order to transition from talk to action, we must commit ourselves financially to undertake this important project. I have mentioned the 5775 funding of the Fund for the Shearith Israel Archives (FSIA). But the fund will be depleted within a year or so. The project needs human and financial capital so that our wealth of historical material can be maintained as well as shared with visitors, scholars, and the public.

**Additional Initiatives Open For Thought and Discussion.** There are some additional projects on which we are interested in your thoughtful reactions and feedback. Come pay a visit during Parnas hours – or let's find some other convenient time to meet. We are eager to engage with you on these subjects.

With warm wishes and hoping to see you,

Faithfully yours,

## CLAL ISRAEL: A FASCINATING TRIP TO CHINA WITH THE JDC

Alana Shultz, Program Director

*“Wo shi you Tai Ren.”* “I am Jewish” is just one of the many things I learned in China when I joined JDC’s Entwine group to Beijing and Shanghai this past spring, along with CSI member David Shahmoon. JDC – The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is the 100 year old Jewish humanitarian organization dedicated to supporting Jewish communities around the world.

So why China? JDC has had a continuous presence, on and off in China, but reopened its fulltime office there three years ago for the first time since leaving in 1953, after a about a ten-year stint when JDC representatives cared for the 20,000 European Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust. But there is no Jewish community crisis in China today. Rather the JDC’s presence is due to the fact that Judaism is again alive in China thanks to the booming expat scene, making it the only country in the world that has a JDC office to enhance the spiritual and communal lives of the Jewish residents rather than to support a native Jewish community suffering from an aging population, poverty or anti-Semitism. Thus this was no humanitarian mission; it was however, an enlightening look into how a Jewish community consisting of a majority of transitory young adults and families can thrive in China, a country that doesn’t recognize Judaism as a religion.

Our first stop was Limmud China, where this sense of community was demonstrated in an amazing way. 160 participants from Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Singapore, India, and the Upper West Side (me) spent a

long holiday weekend learning together. The participant-run sessions ranged from a tea ceremony, a mock Indian Jewish wedding and mehendi, krav maga, Jewish philosophy and so much more. Limmud was inter-generational, inter-denominational, incredibly organized and demonstrated the richness of Jewish life and knowledge in China.

The Ohel Rachel Synagogue is a later remnant of the affluent Jewish Iraqi community which had its start in the mid-19th century when Elias David Sassoon settled in Shanghai for business opportunities. Wealthy members of this community are responsible for building some of the most beautiful Art Deco buildings in Shanghai which give the Bund its glamorous appeal.

In the 1890s, Russian Jews escaping the pogroms and poverty of czarist Russia settled in Harbin. This population peaked in the 1920s. Then the late 1930’s and ‘40s brought the WWII refugees. A museum dedicated to their story is housed in the Ohel Moshe Synagogue. Interestingly, of all the Jewish sites we saw and historical tidbits we learned, there was no mention of the Jews of Kaifeng. When I asked our Israeli tour guide about this fabled community of Silk Road traders, she explained that their story is not part of the canon of the Jewish history of China, and therefore not even part of the conversation.

The Jewish community of China today is legendary, not for its myth, but for its richness of communal life. There is a Moishe House in both Beijing and Shanghai which run events; (our group attended their Yom haZikaron and Yom

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## CLAL ISRAEL: A FASCINATING TRIP TO CHINA WITH THE JDC

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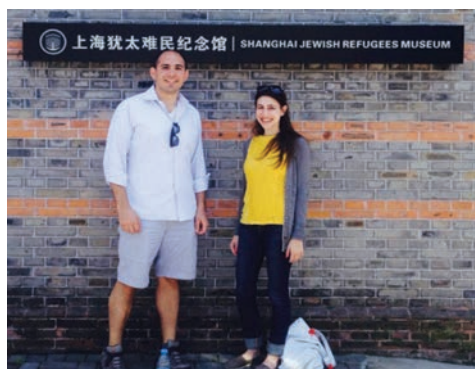
HaAtzmaut ceremony). Multiple Chabad houses provide kosher food, a mikvah and services for the traditional Jews, while Kehillat Beijing and Kehilat Shanghai cater to the liberal Jewish community. The ultra-Orthodox Jews who go to China for *hashgacha* work keep to themselves.

Jews have always traveled for business opportunities. As China becomes an even greater leader in the world economy, more and more Jews will move there. It will be interesting to see how the community changes and how JDC's work will play a part in supporting its organizational structure. One thing that I hope does not change is while anti-

Semitism is once again rampant in Europe and escalating world-wide, the Chinese view of Jews is one of respect. It seemed to us travelers that the Chinese staunchly believe the typical Jewish stereotypes that we are all rich, smart and powerful, but rather than hating us for it, they greatly revere us, hoping to glean some secrets of our success.

Certainly one secret is our love of *Clal Yisrael*, and a desire to support our fellow Jews wherever in the world we are. I

will have the wonderful opportunity to see this in action again when I travel with the JDC to visit the Jewish communities of India in January.



Alana Shultz and David Shahmoon in front of the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum

## CONGRATULATIONS

### *Mazal Tob to:*

George Bulow on being honored as this year's Hatan Torah.

Elliot Freilich on being honored as this year's Hatan Bereshit.

Andre and Margaret Guenoun on the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca, to Michael Hagler, son of Amy and Zalman Hagler of West Hempstead, NY.

Akiva Haberman on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Akiva is the son of Jennifer Ash and Seth Haberman and the grandson of Simon and Eva Haberman.

Jonathan and Rachel Neumark Herlands on the birth of a grandson, James (Meir Osher) Herlands Ludwig to their daughter, Nannette Neumark Herlands and Wesley Ludwig. Mazal Tob also to the great grandparents, Deborah and Melvin Neumark.

Lawrence Lewitinn on his marriage to Robin Monheit. Mazal Tob to Lawrence's parents, Marc and Ondine Lewitinn.

Brian and Chava Maccaba on the birth of a baby girl.

Jacob and Alisa Oslick on the birth of a baby girl.

Melissa Schneider, our Project Manager, upon the publication of her book, *Ugly Wife is a Treasure at Home: True Stories of Love and Marriage in Communist China*.

Judy and Joel Schreiber upon the wedding of their granddaughter, Blima Fein, daughter of their children Tobi and Avromie Fein to Ben Weintraub, son of Judy and Neil Weintraub of St. Louis MO.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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## NEW MEMBERS

*We welcome the following individuals to the Shearith Israel family:*

Jacob and Malka Aaron  
 Leah Albek  
 Lewis and Elaine Dubroff  
 Robert “Naftali” and Zoya Friedman  
 Natalio and Anne Fridman  
 Helen “Hindy” Gidali  
 Ivan Ciment and Karen Heilig  
 Sidney and Wendy Ingber  
 Michael and Barbara Insler  
 Zalmie and Tikva Jacobs  
 Jane and Rueben Leibowitz  
 Richard Linhart and Leora Mogilner  
 Melissa Pearlman  
 Daniel Sayani

## HAZAKIM U’BERUKHIM

Our trustee, Norman Benzaquen, on being honored at the 2014 Center for Educational Innovation-Public Education Association Benefit Dinner.

Congratulations to Rabbi Joseph Dweck upon his installation as Senior Rabbi of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews’ communities of the United Kingdom.

Our member, David Sable, on being honored by The Hebrew Home at Riverdale at their gala at the Waldorf Astoria.

Our Educational Director, Rabbi Shalom Morris, who was awarded the Dedication to Jewish Life Award by Jewish International Connection NY (JICNY), our young leadership partner, at their 10th annual gala.

## IN MEMORIAM

*We mourn the loss of our members:*

Irene Duell. Condolences to her husband and honorary trustee Col. Jonathan de Sola Mendes.

Rachel Ergas. Condolences to her children Yasmine Ergas Groopman, Henry Ergas, and, Jean Ergas and her grandchildren Sofia Ergas Groopman and Daniel Ergas.

Camila Pinto. Condolences to her children Jennifer Pinto Safian and Valery Pinto Barry and her sister Mary Abensur.

Uzi Sasson. Condolences to his wife Iris Sasson (nee Marks) and his children Joseph Sasson, Edith Sasson-Gelman, and Daniel Sasson.

Irving Schachter. Condolences to his wife Hindy Schachter, his daughter Amanda Schachter Levi, and his sister Paula Weinstein.

Mrs. Fani Senbahar. Condolences to her children Vivian Strumza and Izak Senbahar, and her siblings Eti Pinto and Jojo Bahar.

Renee Shenfield.

Myron Smith. Condolences to his wife Barbara Smith (nee Herlands) and his children Raquel Smith Herz, Jeffrey Smith, and Stephen Smith.

## CONDOLENCES

*We extend sincere condolences to*

Maud Kozodoy upon the passing of her father Galway Kinnell.

Rebecca Chaplan Nathan on the passing of her mother Charmian S. Reading

Jacob Oslick on the passing of his grandmother, Rose Glick.

Cynthia Trop upon the passing of her mother Harriet Sires.

## IN APPRECIATION

*Thank you to:*

The Shearith Israel League for donating new daily, Shabbat, High Holiday, and, festival prayer books to the synagogue. These were donated in memory of Irving Schachter and Esther Goldfarb of blessed memory, and, in honor of Arnie Goldfarb, respectively.

The Shearith Israel League for donating two new festival Torah cloaks in honor of Arnie and Esther (z’l) Goldfarb. Thank you also to Betty Capelluto Emden for her assistance in the creation of these beautiful mantles.

The generous sponsors of our online liturgy project—Mark and Penny Aaron, Joshua de Sola Mendes, and Charlotte Triefus and Lloyd Zuckerberg, Their continued involvement on this project will enable us to have a robust library of our liturgy accessible to all.

The Saleh-Roberts Family in honor of Maurice and Angele Saleh for sponsoring the fall semester of Bet Midrash.

The Haberman Family for sponsoring a shabbat afternoon Pirkei Abot class in honor of their son Akiva’s Bar Mitzvah.

Hatanim Luncheon Sponsors:

Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Rachel Brody and Michael Lustig  
 Karen and Jack Daar  
 The Fine Family  
 Carol and Arthur Goldberg Family  
 Eva G. and Simon Haberman  
 The Libin Family  
 The Neumark Family  
 Carla and Dr. Jonah Schein  
 The Solomon Family  
 Liz and Oliver Stanton

Our High Holiday Kiddush Sponsors and Contributors:

Mark and Penny Aaron  
 The Benzaquen Family  
 Barbara and Guy Reiss in honor of Caring Connection and CSI’s caring community

Our Kiddush Fund Sponsors and Contributors:

Yehouda Avital and Itai Azulay of Sova Catering.  
 Mr. George Blumenthal in memory of his mother Klara Blumenthal.  
 The Board of Trustees in honor of Saul Laniado upon the 79th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah.  
 The Haberman Family in honor of their son Akiva becoming a Bar Mitzvah.  
 Liliane Marks in honor of her grandson Theodore Isaac, born this past May 15, and in memory of her mother, Josephine.  
 Ceki Medina in memory of his mother and in honor of his son’s birthday.  
 Alexander and Muriel Seligson on Shemini Atzeret.

Nina, Reuven, and Elan Sherman in honor of their parents Phil and Andrea Sherman's 20th wedding anniversary.

The Sisterhood during the Sukkot holiday.

Bernard and Lynn Turiel in honor of the 68th reading of his Bar Mitzvah Haftarah.

Teen Kiddush Sponsors:

Marc and Beth Bengualid in honor of the anniversary of Jacob's bar mitzvah.

Simhat Torah Dinner Sponsor:

Anonymous

Simhat Torah Ice Cream Party Sponsors:

The Haberman and Lustig families

Our Simpsons Shabbat Dinner with Mike Reiss:

Pamela Auerbach and Douglas Feith  
Jonathan and Rachel Neumark Herlands  
Ellen and Rob Kapito  
Karin and Jennifer Klein  
Jack and Martine Schenker  
Joel and Judith Schreiber  
The Solomon Family



what's  
happening . in our  
COMMUNITY

## CARING CONNECTION: HESED IN OUR COMMUNITY

**Rabbi Dr. Richard Hidary, Distinguished Rabbinical Fellow**

*Caring Connection* is our grassroots *Hesed* organization created by our community for our community. *Caring Connection* strives to instill a sense of family out of our diverse membership and grow a network of awareness and compassion within our synagogue. We should all feel that we are here for each other in times of celebration and in times of need and anytime we can use a helping hand.

These past few months, our community has celebrated several births as well as mourned a number of losses. Loyaliza Soloveichik, on behalf of *Caring Connection*, has reached out to these families and has arranged home meals to help them during these times when a little extra help can make a big difference.

When guests come in from out of town or when our own members need a place to eat, Rabbi Shalom Morris arranges welcoming Shabbat meals for them within our community. Rabbi Morris also coordinates Shabbatot when members invite other members for meals in order to strengthen our community ties.

In November, *Caring Connection* cosponsored an event with the Edmond J. Safra Synagogue to raise awareness for an Israeli organization Bat Melekh, which provides shelters for religious women who are victims of domestic violence. Thanks you to Esther Hidary for organizing this event.

For December 7, *Caring Connection*, in conjunction with the League, has organized a guided tour of new exhibit at The Jewish Museum on Helena Rubenstein. The exhibit includes something for all ages and interests, including jewelry, fashion, miniature period rooms, African and Oceanic art as well as art masters such as Miro, Matisse and Picasso. This tour meant for old and young alike encourages intergenerational socializing, enrich our children and brighten the lives



of our elders. We ask for teen participants and others to assist with wheelchairs and travel logistics. Thanks to Laury Frieber for planning this trip.

With the sense of community that *Caring Connection* is fostering among our members, we plan to organize, together with the League, a game night right after Purim. So if you enjoy word games, are intrigued by the Mahjong craze or always wanted to share knitting tips, mark your calendar for the evening of March 7. Many thanks to Lina Sion and Jessica Cavanagh-Melhado for organizing this exciting night.

*Caring Connection* wants to ensure that our members find the support they need—whether dealing with an illness or injury, a long-term or permanent disability, the challenges of coming home with a newborn, bereavement, or help bringing someone to synagogue. If you would like to learn more or get involved, please contact me or anyone on the *Caring Connection* team: Vivette Ancona, Vicki Bengualid, Adrienne Salama, Lina Sion, Suzanne Stern. Also, if you know someone who may need assistance, please refer them to us so that we can sensitively and discreetly coordinate care with our volunteers.

## HEBRA HASED VAAMET – A TRIP TO BETH OLAM

This past September, shortly before Rosh Hashanah, a group of about 10 members visited Shearith Israel’s Cemetery (Beth Olam) on Cypress Hills Street in Queens. A short service was held in the historic Vaux chapel during which memorial prayers were read. Following the service, our Shamash led a tour around some of the historic parts of the cemetery stopping at many of our dearly departed members and clergy of both the distant and recent past. There was also time for members to visit privately with their relatives buried in our cemetery. It was a beautiful day and the trip was both meaningful and enjoyable for all who attended. The cemetery trip is sponsored annually by the *Hebra Hased VaAmet* and is just one of the many important ways in which the *Hebra* supports our congregation. To find out more about our cemetery contact Zachary Edinger ([zedinger@shearithisrael.org](mailto:zedinger@shearithisrael.org)) or to see how you can become involved with the *Hebra*, contact Jack Daar ([jdaar@hotmail.com](mailto:jdaar@hotmail.com)).



## THE LEAGUE: A LIVELY FALL SEASON

The Shearith Israel League, a congregational society, is a primary source for the staging of social and cultural events for congregants, friends and the general community. Each year, its members plan and implement various activities for the congregational community.

The first event of the 2014-2015 Season was a new members reception held in the Sukkah on Sunday night, October 12. Eliza de Sola Mendes chaired a wonderful party with food from Noi Due, a fantastic, local Italian Kosher restaurant. It provided a chance for new members to introduce themselves and socialize with synagogue clergy and staff, as well as members of the League’s planning committee.

On October 14, the League co-sponsored a family adventure with the synagogue. We had an afternoon of foraging in Central Park with “Wildman” Steve Brill. League planning committee member Rivka Shoulson welcomed participants.

On October 23, former League President Lucienne Carasso Bulow gave a fascinating talk on her newly released memoir about her life in and ultimate exit from Alexandria, Egypt. The lecture drew a large appreciative crowd, some of whom were also Egyptian émigrés who had been forced to flee Egypt following the Suez Canal Crisis of 1956. Lucienne showed wonderfully evocative slides of the main synagogue in Alexandria and of the leisure spots where Jews gathered before 1956. Rabbi Richard Hidary introduced the talk.

Finally, on November 8, the League hosted a screening of the critically acclaimed Israeli film, *Shalosh Imahot* (Three Mothers). This poignant film poignantly depicted an Alexandrian Jewish family who emigrated to Israel when their fortunes dramatically turned after King Farouk was overthrown. The film, along with delicious pastries by Mansoura, was enjoyed by over 60 viewers.



We are proud to have a strong, vibrant community of women dedicated to engaging and well-rounded programming. We offer courses just for women, taught by Rabbi Soloveichik and Esther Hidary on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, respectively, services by and for women on special Shabbatot and holidays, and committees such as the Women's Action Committee dedicated to women's programming and issues within the community. We are also a proud sponsor of our Manhattan Yoetzet Halakha, Lisa Septimus, as part of an initiative to provide a supportive environment and informed resource for Taharat Mishpakha and Mikvah. Most recently, we were a part of a community discussion on women and the Mikvah experience, featuring our own Layaliza Solveichik..

### WOMEN'S SHABBAT SERVICES

**Saturday, January 31 | beginning with Nishmat at 9:15 am**

**Come to pray and celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of Shirin Kaye.**

By and for women, these services are an opportunity for women to lead prayer, read from the Torah and perform the mitzvot associated with our services. We welcome the opportunity to celebrate momentous occasions - such as a girl becoming bat mitzvah or a bride before her wedding - in the context of our service. To participate and for more information about Women's Services at Shearith Israel, contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at [lirohde-cis@yahoo.com](mailto:lirohde-cis@yahoo.com). Services are held in the Little Synagogue.

### SAVE THE DATE! WOMEN'S MEGILLAH READING

**Thursday, March 5 | 7:45 am**

On the morning of Purim, the women of the synagogue conduct a parallel women's Megillah reading in the Little Synagogue. Over the years, many women have participated in this reading, and several girls have celebrated becoming Bat Mitzvah at the Purim women's Megillah reading. Contact Mrs Lisa Rohde at [lirohde-cis@yahoo.com](mailto:lirohde-cis@yahoo.com) to participate and for more information.

### SISTERHOOD MISHLOAH MANOT PROJECT

**Deadline TBA**

Purim is Wednesday/Thursday, March 4th and 5th. Once again, the Sisterhood is offering you the opportunity to send Mishloah Manot quickly and easily to members of our congregation and support the Sisterhood at the same time. Please pick up a form in the rack outside the Levy Auditorium, and fill out and return the form with your check; or go online at [shearithisrael.org/mishloah](http://shearithisrael.org/mishloah) to fill out the form and pay by credit card. Your friends will then receive a package of Purim "goodies." It is a wonderful opportunity to send special Purim gifts and to reach out to our Shearith Israel community. For information, contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde ([lirohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lirohde-csi@yahoo.com)) or Mrs. Carla Schein.

### HANUKKAH PARTY

**Sunday December 21, 10:30 am - 12 pm**

Shearith Israel Youth Department and PTTS invite our children aged 3 - 12 for a festive program.

### WEEKDAY TODDLER PROGRAM

**For aged 16 - 34 months; caregiver attendance required**

**January 5 - June 8**

**Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 - 11:30 am**

Shearith Israel's popular Toddler Program is held twice a week for children aged 16 - 34 months with an adult caregiver. The program focuses on learning colors and shapes, creating arts and crafts, singing songs, exploring Jewish holidays, music and more. There is an opportunity for the caregivers to support the children's activities, and there are times when the teacher encourages them to sit on the side and observe while the children manage on their own.

We have a one-day option but we strongly recommend two days, which gives more continuity to the program; it allows the child to be more aware of themes that continue for several sessions and also to see familiar faces on a regular basis. We warmly welcome members and non-members to register.

### SPRING 2015: JANUARY 5 - JUNE 8\*

**2 Days:** Member: \$2240      Non-Member: \$2680

**1 Day:** Member: \$1260      Non-Member: \$1490

\*No class: 1/19 MLK Day; 2/16 Presidents Day; 4/6-8 Passover; 5/25 Memorial Day. Note: There are two less Monday classes, so if you choose to come once weekly on Mondays, you can join for any two Wednesdays during the semester if you pre-arrange with the teacher.

To enroll your child or learn more, contact Alana Shultz at [ashultz@shearithisrael.org](mailto:ashultz@shearithisrael.org) or visit [shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram](http://shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram).



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## JEWISH PHILOSOPHY: THE PARTS THEY SKIP IN HIGH SCHOOL

### *A Class for High School Students with Rabbi Hidary*

Every Shabbat an hour before Minhah held at Rabbi Hidary's home

## WINTER TEEN MINYAN

### *Shabbat, January 24 Held in the Little Synagogue*

Approximately twice a year, our teens lead an entire Shabbat morning service—by teens for teens.

## MARCH MINHAG MADNESS

Coming up in March is Minhag Madness! Over the next few months recordings for all of the prayers will be made available on our website (thanks to some generous sponsors and hard work in the office) so that everyone has the opportunity to prepare. Then, on Sunday mornings in March, our clergy will be available to test our children and track their progress. Everyone will be given a parts chart, which indicates points and prizes available. This contest will challenge our children to master the prayers and melodies of our community, including synagogue and home holiday rituals such as Hanukkah lighting, Birkat Hamazon and the Haggadah. Get ready for March Minhag Madness!



# behind the SCENES

Behind every great synagogue is a greater woman, right? Well, we have more than one here at Shearith Israel! We'd like you to meet the five staffers you should know, but might not have met just yet.



**Deborah Bendheim:** I'm our new Office Assistant. I'm only here a few hours per week but during that time I help out with the data entry, research, and special projects that keep our office running. Outside of work, I can be found volunteering at the National Jewish Outreach Program (NJOP), taking long walks along the river with my cute puppy (well he is 7 years old), reading a good autobiography, or flipping through the Wall Street Journal.



**Maria Caputo:** I'm our Office Manager. I keep our office stocked, organize dozens of guided synagogue tours per year, support congregants, coordinate celebrations and events, handle book sales, and when I'm not running around, I answer our phone. You usually come to me to plan the many details of your life cycle events. When I'm not in the office, I'm usually spending time with my children, doing private volunteer work, discovering new culinary goodies, assisting at my daughter's school, and otherwise managing the hectic life of a mother of three.



**Diana Landau:** I'm our Executive Assistant, and if a task involves our databases or other technological tools, chances are I have my hands in it. I set up our pesky event registration forms, manage RSVPs (sometimes even beyond the official deadline!), handle the complex chess game we call high holiday seating and create source sheets galore for our rabbis' classes and lectures. You've probably called me about an event registration or an online payment. When I'm not at work, I'm usually exploring the world with friends, trying the latest kosher hotspot, or scouting locations for my next photo shoot ([www.dianalandau.com](http://www.dianalandau.com)).



**Melissa Schneider:** I'm our Project Manager, and I help with grant-writing, event-planning, and special projects here at Shearith Israel. You might have worked with me if you supported our 360th anniversary gala, or help out with our archives or historic preservation projects. When I'm not at the synagogue, I'm usually drinking snob coffee, helping couples build great relationships in my therapy practice ([www.luvwise.com](http://www.luvwise.com)), or giving a reading from my new book, *The Ugly Wife Is A Treasure At Home: True Stories Of Love and Marriage From Communist China*.



**Ruth Yasky:** I'm our Financial Associate, and I handle all things financial at the synagogue. You might have called me to make a donation or a payment, or to clear up a question about your account. In my spare time, I teach Adult CPR and also enjoy travelling to exotic locations for scuba diving.



## PSALMS AND SPIRITUALITY

**Rabbi Richard Hidary**  
Sundays | 8:40 am

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

**Sjimon den Hollander**  
Sundays | 9:30 am

## HEBREW CLASSES

Sundays | 10 am

## CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW

Sundays | 11:15 am

## MAIMONIDES' GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED ON PROPHECY

**Rabbi Richard Hidary**  
Mondays | 7 pm

## HEBRUTA PROGRAM LED BY PHIL GETZ AND RABBI MORRIS

*In partnership with JICNY*  
Mondays | 7:15 pm

## LIVING JEWISH

**Rabbi Shalom Morris**  
Mondays | 7:30 pm

For those interested in increasing their observance or actively pursuing conversion.



## BET MIDRASH

Mondays | 8 - 9 pm

Bet Midrash will be on hiatus from 12/29 through 1/19 and will resume on 1/26.

Meira Wolkenfeld: Pirkei Abot in Historical Perspective

Rabbi Ira Rohde: Why Did Rome Become Jewish?

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

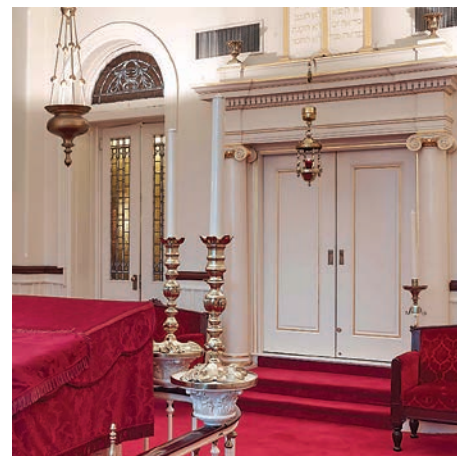
Phil Getz: Nefesh Ha-Hayyim by Rabbi Hayyim of Volozhin

## RAMBAM RULES FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

**Rabbi Morris**  
Mondays | 8:30 pm

## SHULHAN ARUKH

**Rabbi Hidary**  
Tuesdays | 7:45 am



## JEWISH TIME: THE FESTIVALS IN HALAKHA AND JEWISH THOUGHT—A CLASS FOR WOMEN

**Rabbi Soloveichik**  
Tuesdays | 9 am

## TALMUD CLASS: TRACTATE BERAKHOT AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF JEWISH PRAYER

**Rabbi Soloveichik**  
Tuesdays | 8 pm

## PARASHAT HASHABUA—A CLASS FOR WOMEN

**Esther Hidary**  
Wednesdays | 10 am

## HISTORY OF THE SEPHARDIM, THE SPANISH & PORTUGUESE JEWS

**Rabbi Shalom Morris**  
Thursdays | 6:45 - 7:30 pm

## SEUDAH SHELISHIT AND AFTERNOON SHIUR

*Pirkei Abot: The Misunderstood Masterpiece*  
**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**  
Every Shabbat an hour before Minhah

## KETER SHEM TOB

**Rabbi Richard Hidary**  
Every Shabbat with Minhah/Arbit

*To read more about our robust educational offerings, visit [shearithisrael.org/education](http://shearithisrael.org/education).*

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## HELENA RUBENSTEIN EXHIBIT AT THE JEWISH MUSEUM

*A Caring Connection and League event for all ages*

**Sunday, December 7  
10:00 am sharp to 11:15 am**

Please join us on for an opportunity to socialize and learn at an inter-generational guided tour of this new and much talked about exhibit at the Jewish Museum on Helena Rubenstein, the cosmetics magnate who was an eclectic art collector. The exhibit will include something for all ages and interests, including jewelry, fashion, miniature period rooms, African and Oceanic art as well as art masters such as Miro, Matisse and Picasso and will be led by an educator who is experienced in leading mixed-age groups.

Registration required. Space is limited.

## FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS&BITES

Approximately once a month, join us for a cocktails and hors d'oeuvres following evening services and Friday Night Lights.

These holiday-themed social gatherings come complete with Hamotsi and Birkat haMazon. The series will culminate in an (extra) festive community dinner on Hilkhof of cocktails in March. Stay tuned for details. Sponsorship opportunities available. Registration required. Visit [shearithisrael.org/bites](http://shearithisrael.org/bites) to register.

SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING  
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS + BITES:

*12/19: Vodka and Latka for Hanukkah*

*1/30: The Wines and Fruit of Tu B'Shebat*

*2/20: Celebrate George Washington with Apple Cider*

## HERETICS AND HISTORY

*An original, new series led by Rabbi Soloveichik*

**Shabbat Hanukkah, Saturday night, December 20:** *Pablo Christiani vs. Ramban: The Jewish-Christian Disputations*

**Major Event, Sunday, March 1:** *Re-Trial of Spinoza*  
Join us for a real re-trial of Baruch Spinoza featuring distinguished jurists and Rabbi Soloveichik.

RSVP today at [shearithisrael.org/heretics](http://shearithisrael.org/heretics).

## A SHEARITH ISRAEL AND JEWISH CENTER SKI AND SNOWBOARD TRIP

**Thursday, December 25 | 7 am**

First-timers and black diamond skiers and snowboarders alike! Hit the slopes for a day at Hunter Mountain with Rabbi Richard Hidary. All levels and ages welcome. This trip is all inclusive (lift tickets, optional rentals, transportation, quality time with Rabbi Hidary), but it is BYOL (bring your own lunch). Watch for registration details in upcoming emails.

## THE CONTINUING MYSTERIES OF THE ALEPPO CODEX

**January 31, Saturday evening**

Matti Friedman author of *The Aleppo Codex: A True Story of Obsession, Faith, and the Pursuit of an Ancient Bible* will give a presentation with Rabbi Hidary. Rabbi Hidary will also deliver introductory seminar on the Aleppo Codex on Shabbat January 18 in the morning.

## "CHAI" TEA

It's almost like High Tea, but better. Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:15 pm, we invite you for a social gathering, light refreshments, and a special program. Once a month, Janet Kirchheimer, our Poetry Shmooze, will continue to facilitate a discussion on poetry, prose and other writings, while the other session each month will be a surprise topic and guest. All are welcome. CSI members: \$10; non-members \$12. RSVP [ashultz@shearithisrael.org](mailto:ashultz@shearithisrael.org)

**December 9:** Melissa Schneider, LMSW CSI's Program Manager will speak on her newly published book, *The Ugly Wife Is a Treasure at Home: True Stories of Love and Marriage in Communist China*, written while she lived in China. She'll speak about matchmaking traditions in China and changing relationship trends.

**December 23:** Janet Kirchheimer – a literary discussion

**January 13:** Mystery guest, to be announced

**January 27:** Janet Kirchheimer

**February 10:** Mystery guest, to be announced

**February 24:** Janet Kirchheimer

## HALAKHIC SHABBAT DINNER

**Friday evening after services, February 20**

Did you know that giraffes are kosher? Did you know that locusts are kosher? They are! Rabbi Soloveichik will entertain and enlighten with a special lecture over Shabbat dinner. We'll learn about some far out there kosher foods, and we'll eat a few of them too. Come hungry and adventurous.

## PUBLIC SYNAGOGUE TOURS

**Every second Tuesday of the month | 11 am**

Guests learn about our proud history and traditions while being guided through our beautiful space. Each tour lasts approximately 45 minutes and is led by a clergy member or qualified docent. Encourage your friends and guests to see what all the buzz is about!

## HESED

### COAT DRIVE FOR NEW YORK CARES

*Sponsored by the League*

**Through December 8**

Warm, new and gently-used coats for children and adults are needed. Bring your coats to our 8 West 70th St lobby.

### THE 2014 ESTHER GOLDFARB MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE

*Donate Blood and Save a Life*

Sunday, December, 7 from 10 am- 4 pm

In cooperation with the New York Blood Center, and in partnership with West End Synagogue.





# SERVICES

## MINOR AND LEGAL HOLIDAYS

### ***Hanukkah Holiday (Eight Days)***

Tue. Eve, Dec. 16th through Wed., Dec. 24th

Kindling of first Hanukkah light

Tuesday Evening, December 16th

After Sunset ..... 4:30 pm

Hanukkah commemorates the Jewish reconsecration of the Second Temple by the Hasmonean Maccabees after its desecration, along with the forced imposition of Hellenistic practices and suppression of native Jewish ones, under the Seleucid Greek King Antiochus Epiphanes. On the eve of each of the days, an ascending number of candles are lit, in commemoration of the miracle of the single ritually-pure cruse of oil which sufficed to light the Temple's candelabrum for eight days.

### ***Two-Day Rosh Hodesh Tebet:***

The Sixth and Seventh Days of Hanukkah

Sunday Evening December 21st through

Monday & Tuesday, December 22nd & 23rd

### ***December 25th Legal Holiday***

Thursday, December 25th

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

### ***Tenth of Tebet (‘Asarah BeTebet) Fast/***

### ***Secular New Year Legal Holiday***

Thursday, January 1st

Dawn (Fast Begins) ..... 5:52 am

Sunrise ..... 7:20 am

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

Minhah (men wear tefillin) & Arbit ..... 4:00 pm

Sunset ..... 4:39 pm

End of Fast ..... 4:59 pm

The Tenth of Tebet Fast commemorates the besieging of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, which led to the city's capture, the destruction of the First Temple, and the Babylonian Exile.

### ***Martin Luther King Jr. Legal Holiday***

Monday, January 19th

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

### ***One-Day Rosh Hodesh Shebat***

Tuesday Evening, January 20th

through Wednesday, January 21st

### ***Hamisha Asar BiShebat (Tu BiShebat)***

Tuesday Evening, February 3rd

through Wednesday, February 4th

### ***Presidents' Day Legal Holiday***

Monday, February 16th

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

### ***Two-Day Rosh Hodesh Adar***

Wednesday Evening, February 18th through

Thursday & Friday, February 19th & 20th

## SHABBAT SERVICES

### ***December 5th - 6th***

Candle Lighting ..... 4:10 pm

Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit ..... 4:15 pm

Friday Sunset ..... 4:28 pm

Zemirot, led by Sjimón den Hollander.. 8:15 am

Shahrit & Musaf ..... 9:00-11:45 am

Torah Reading..... Vayishlah

Haftarah ..... Elliot J. Freilich

Bat Mitzvah ..... Kira Berman

Seudah Shelishit & Class..... 3:30 pm

Saturday Minhah & Arbit..... 4:05 pm

Saturday Evening Sunset ..... 4:28 pm

Habdalah..... 4:55 pm

### ***December 12th - 13th***

Candle Lighting ..... 4:11 pm

Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit..... 4:15 pm

Friday Evening Sunset ..... 4:29 pm

Zemirot, led by Joseph A. Solomon..... 8:15 am

Shahrit & Musaf ..... 9:00-11:45 am

Torah Reading..... Vayesheb

Haftarah ..... Jacob Z. Neumark

Seudah Shelishit & Class..... 3:30 pm

Saturday Minhah & Arbit..... 4:05 pm

Saturday Evening Sunset ..... 4:29 pm

Habdalah..... 4:55 pm

### ***December 19th - 20th Shabbat Hanukkah***

Candle Lighting ..... 4:13 pm

Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit..... 4:00 pm

Friday Evening Sunset..... 4:31 pm

Zemirot, led by Adam Jackson..... 8:15 am

Shahrit & Musaf ..... 9:00-11:45 am

Torah Reading..... Mikkets-Hanukkah

Haftarah ..... Jacob Seligson

Seudah Shelishit & Class..... 3:30 pm

Saturday Minhah & Arbit..... 4:10 pm

Saturday Evening Sunset ..... 4:31 pm

Habdalah..... 4:57 pm

### ***December 26th - 27th***

Candle Lighting ..... 4:16 pm

Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit..... 4:15 pm

Friday Evening Sunset..... 4:34 pm

Zemirot ..... 8:15 am

Shahrit & Musaf ..... 9:00-11:45 am

Torah Reading..... Vayiggash

Haftarah ..... Samuel Neumark

Seudah Shelishit & Class..... 3:30 pm

Saturday Minhah & Arbit..... 4:10 pm

Saturday Evening Sunset ..... 4:35 pm

Habdalah..... 5:01 pm

### ***January 2nd - 3rd***

Candle Lighting ..... 4:22 pm

Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit..... 4:30 pm

Friday Evening Sunset..... 4:40 pm

Zemirot, led by Sjimón den Hollander.. 8:15 am

Shahrit & Musaf ..... 9:00-11:45 am

Torah Reading..... Vayhi

Haftarah ..... Vayesheb

Seudah Shelishit & Class..... 3:30 pm

Saturday Minhah & Arbit..... 4:15 pm

Saturday Evening Sunset ..... 4:41 pm

Habdalah..... 5:07 pm

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## January 9th - 10th

Candle Lighting .....4:28 pm  
 Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....4:30 pm  
 Friday Evening Sunset.....4:46 pm  
 Zemirot, led by Adam Jackson..... 8:15 am  
 Shahrit & Musaf .....9:00-11:45 am  
 Torah Reading..... Shemoth  
 Haftarah ..... Jacob Aufzien  
 Seudah Shelishit & Class.....3:30 pm  
 Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....4:20 pm  
 Saturday Evening Sunset .....4:47 pm  
 Habdalah.....5:14 pm

## January 16th - 17th

Candle Lighting .....4:36 pm  
 Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....4:45 pm  
 Friday Evening Sunset.....4:54 pm  
 Zemirot, led by Zachariah S. Edinger .... 8:15 am  
 Shahrit & Musaf .....9:00-11:45 am  
 Torah Reading..... Vaera  
 Haftarah .....Joseph A. Solomon  
 Seudah Shelishit & Class.....3:30 pm  
 Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....4:30 pm  
 Saturday Evening Sunset .....4:55 pm  
 Habdalah.....5:22 pm

## January 23rd - 24th

Candle Lighting .....4:44 pm  
 Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....4:45 pm  
 Friday Evening Sunset.....5:02 pm  
 Zemirot, led by Adam Jackson..... 8:15 am  
 Shahrit & Musaf .....9:00-11:45 am  
 Torah Reading..... Bo  
 Haftarah ..... Jared Lang  
 Seudah Shelishit & Class.....3:35 pm  
 Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....4:35 pm  
 Saturday Evening Sunset .....5:03 pm  
 Habdalah.....5:31 pm

## January 30th - 31st Shabbat Shirah

Candle Lighting .....4:53 pm  
 Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....5:00 pm  
 Friday Evening Sunset .....5:11 pm  
 Zemirot, led by Salomon L. Vaz Dias .... 8:15 am  
 Shahrit & Musaf .....9:00-11:45 am  
 Torah Reading..... Beshallah-Shirah  
 (Reading of the “Shirah” - Song of the Sea)  
 Haftarah ..... Jonathan M. Kaye  
 Bat Mitzvah ..... Shirin Kaye  
 Seudah Shelishit & Class.....3:45 pm  
 Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....4:45 pm  
 Saturday Evening Sunset .....5:12 pm  
 Habdalah.....5:41 pm  
 Shabbat Shirah takes its name from the “Song (Heb. “Shirah”) of the Sea which is chanted in the middle of the narrative of the crossing of the Red Sea, the text read in the Parashat Beshallah Torah Reading.

## February 6th - 7th Shabbat Yithro

Candle Lighting .....5:01 pm  
 Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....5:00 pm  
 Friday Evening Sunset .....5:19 pm  
 Zemirot, led by Zachary S. Edinger ..... 8:15 am  
 Shahrit & Musaf .....9:00-11:45 am  
 Torah Reading..... Yithro  
 (Reading of the Ten Commandments)  
 Haftarah ..... Mark M. Aaron  
 Bat Mitzvah ..... Laela Miriam Aaron  
 Seudah Shelishit & Class.....3:55 pm  
 Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....4:55 pm  
 Saturday Evening Sunset .....5:21 pm  
 Habdalah.....5:50 pm  
 Shabbat Yithro is considered noteworthy because the Decalogue, the Ten Commandments, is read in the middle of its weekly Torah Reading. The parashah 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 concludes as the Israelites are encamped in the Sinai Desert at the foot of Mt. Sinai.

## February 13th - 14th Shabbat Shekalim

Candle Lighting .....5:10 pm  
 Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....5:15 pm  
 Friday Evening Sunset .....5:28 pm  
 Zemirot, led by Adam Jackson..... 8:15 am  
 Shahrit & Musaf .....9:00-11:45 am  
 Torah Reading..... Mishpatim-Shekalim  
 Haftarah ..... Steven A. Okin  
 Seudah Shelishit & Class.....4:00 pm  
 Saturday Minhah & Arbith.....5:00 pm  
 Saturday Evening Sunset .....5:29 pm  
 Habdalah.....5:59 pm  
 Shabbat Shekalim: During Temple times the payment of a poll tax of half a shekel by every Jew was called for on the first day of the twelfth month (Adar). Exodus 30:11-16 was added as a reminder on the Sabbath preceding. This is the first of four Sabbaths with additional Torah readings and special haftarot which must be scheduled in preparation for Passover.

## February 20th - 21st

Candle Lighting .....5:18 pm  
 Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....5:30 pm  
 Friday Evening Sunset .....5:36 pm  
 Zemirot ..... 8:15 am  
 Shahrit & Musaf .....9:00-11:45 am  
 Torah Reading..... Terumah  
 Haftarah ..... Alexander Freilich  
 Seudah Shelishit & Class.....4:10 pm  
 Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....5:10 pm  
 Saturday Evening Sunset .....5:38 pm  
 Habdalah.....6:08 pm

## February 27th - 28th Shabbat Zakhor

Candle Lighting .....5:27 pm  
 Friday Evening .....5:30 pm  
 Friday Evening Sunset .....5:45 pm  
 Zemirot, led by Zachary S. Edinger ..... 8:15 am  
 Shahrit & Musaf .....9:00-11:45 am  
 Torah Reading..... Tetsavveh-Zakhor

Haftarah ..... Mark M. Aaron  
 Seudah Shelishit & Class.....4:20 pm  
 Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....5:20 pm  
 Saturday Evening Sunset .....5:46 pm  
 Habdalah.....6:18 pm  
 Shabbat Zakhor/Mi Khamokha, is the Sabbath preceding Purim. We read Deut. 25:17-19, which begins with the word “Zakhor” “Remember [Amalek].” Haman, because of his wicked designs to exterminate the Jewish people, was thought to be a spiritual descendant of Amalek, the first presumed “annihilators” of the Israelites. Sephardic congregations everywhere mark the occasion with the reading of Yehuda Halevy’s poem, “Mi Khamokha,” which will take place at the beginning of the Shahrit Service at 9:00 am.

## DAILY SERVICES

### Mornings (Shahrit):

Sunday & Legal Holidays ..... 8:00 am  
 Monday-Friday..... 7:15 am

### Evenings (Arbit Only through March 2nd)

Sunday-Thursday .....6:30 pm







*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 Cypress Hills, Queens. These donations ensure a strong future through engaging educational programs with rigorous ritual and liturgical training for youth including PTTS, our Toddler Programs, Junior Congregation, and special opportunities for girls. And perhaps most importantly, general donations uphold and celebrate our minhag and liturgical traditions through dedicated clergy members, our sublime choir, Shabbat, and holiday services.



### KIDDUSH FUND

The congregational Kiddush is an opportunity for congregants and visitors to socialize and mingle after services, humbly serving an important congregational function. Sponsoring a kiddush is a beautiful way to pay tribute to a loved one, celebrate a birthday, anniversary, graduation, a personal accomplishment, or a ritual honor. It is also a great way to foster community—facilitating fellow congregants to catch up with friends, meet new members and guests, and greet synagogue leaders.

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

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

### CLASS AND EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

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

### CARING CONNECTION

Financial contributions support efforts in proactively providing organized assistance to members of our community through times of need, one of Judaism's greatest Mitzvot. Caring Connection raises the funds needed to defray the costs of all it does. Not only does this vital assistance greatly aid the individual, it also strengthens and unifies our community and enhances our sense of responsibility for one another.

*To give and learn more, visit [shearithisrael.org/giving](http://shearithisrael.org/giving). Thank you for enabling the continuation and strengthening of our congregation's mission and legacy.*





# 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

**Leon Hyman** Choirmaster

**Adam Hyman** Associate Choirmaster

**Rabbi Shalom Morris** Education 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

**Sarah Sue Landau** Communications Associate  
slandau@shearithisrael.org, 212-873-0300 x225

**Diana Landau** Executive Assistant  
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

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Saul Laniado  
Stuart Marks z"l  
Jonathan de Sola Mendes  
Edward Misrahi  
Jack Rudin  
Ronald P. Stanton  
Roy J. Zuckerberg

## GENERAL INQUIRIES

**T:** 212-873-0300 | **F:** 815-301-3820  
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 x20

Taharat Hamishpakha (Jewish Family Law)  
**Lisa Septimus**, Yoetzet Halakha  
917-382-9008 or nycyoetzet@gmail.com

