



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

2 West 70th Street  
New York, NY 10023

WINTER  
2016-2017  
חורף תשע"ז

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue



*February 27, 2017 will mark the 212th consecration anniversary of the congregation's second extant graveyard, the West 11th Street Cemetery, last used in 1829. Help preserve this important piece of our nation's Jewish Heritage. Support our current restoration project at [shearithisrael.org/west-11th-street-cemetery-renewal-project](http://shearithisrael.org/west-11th-street-cemetery-renewal-project).*



The Bulletin

*America's First Jewish Congregation*

# CONTENTS

1. From the Rabbi's Desk
2. Executive Director's Message
3. Announcements
6. Holidays
8. Culture and Enrichment
10. Ronald Stanton Reflection
11. Shabbat Lectures and Dinners
12. Judaic Education
14. Youth at Shearith Israel
16. Women at Shearith Israel
18. Culinary Corner
20. Cemetery Reflection
21. Services
28. Help Make It All Happen
30. Staff and Board
32. Get Involved

## FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

### LUMINANCE IN THE GULAG— AND IN OUR OWN LIVES

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik



The lighting of Hanukkah candles is one of the most powerful images in Judaism, and with Hanukkah approaching, it is appropriate to ponder this ritual's symbolism and significance. In his magnificent memoir, *Fear No Evil*, Natan Sharansky describes his persistence as a “Prisoner of Zion” in a Russian gulag. During the Hanukkah season, he was denied the right to kindle candles in his cell, and went on a hunger strike in response.

Hauled before the Soviet soldier that oversaw the prison, Major Osin, Sharansky explained that he would cease his hunger strike if he were permitted to light his holiday candles in the Major's office. The memoir describes what unfolded next.

*I arranged the candles and went to the coat rack for my hat, explaining to Osin that during the prayer he too must stand with his head covered and at the end say 'Amen.' He put on his major's hat and stood. I lit the candles and recited my own prayer in Hebrew which went something like this: "Blessed are You, God, for allowing me to rejoice on this day holiday of our return to the way of our fathers. Blessed are You, God, for allowing me to light the candles. May You allow me to light candles many times*



*in your city, Jerusalem, with my wife Avital, and my family and friends."*

*I added, "And may the day come when all our enemies, who today are planning our destruction, will stand before us and hear our prayers and say 'Amen'."*

*"Amen," Osin echoed back.*

*Ner Hashem nishmat adam*, we are reminded in Proverbs; the soul of man is the candle of God. It is so easy to take life's most fundamental gifts for granted. Sharansky's sacrifice for a few candles is a potent reminder that in the darkest of times, in the coldest of places, the light of Judaism endured because we never forgot what was truly precious: to observe the Torah with our loved ones, family friends, to “return to the ways of our fathers,” to reflect the light of Jerusalem, and of the Torah, in our own lives. As we light the *neirot* this year, may its luminance remind us of what is most important—and what truly gives light to our lives.

*Meir Y. Soloveichik*



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

## HONORING OUR PAST, EMBRACING PROGRESS

Barbara Reiss



Just weeks ago our congregation enjoyed an elegant and uplifting gala honoring three Shearith Israel “institutions:” past parnas, Peter Neustadter, nearly lifelong member

and retired congregational professional, Arnie Goldfarb, and choirmaster of 60 years, Leon Hyman. Fitting such an occasion, there was much talk about each honoree’s role, and our community’s dedication to preserving our unique and precious traditions. However, there were just as many words devoted, especially in Peter’s and current parnas, Louis Solomon’s remarks, and as manifest in the debut of Leon’s new choral compositions, to the importance of progress and maintaining relevance.

Along those lines, I’m sure you’ve all noticed, that in the name of progress, we have eliminated most all paper mailings, including program and event notices, your invoices, high holiday tickets, and more. Just about the only thing that will continue to be sent via snail mail are these attractive seasonal bulletins which we hope you enjoy perusing, especially over Shabbat. While electronic communications are not perfect (what

is?), they are generally fast, cost-effective, more environmentally friendly, easy to share, and easy to act upon.

And then there is the brave, no longer so new world of social media. If you are not on Facebook or you have not yet “liked” us on our Facebook page, then you have missed out on many interesting and fun posts such as Jon Mendes’ marathon achievement, Rabbi Soloveichik’s standing room only pre-election history lecture, or our online gala photo album featuring photos of many of you and your friends. This 21st century medium is also the very best way for you to learn fascinating historical tidbits about our congregation through our occasional “on this day in history” posts, to access dibrei torah by our clergy, or to connect with members and friends of the S&P communities around the world. To date, we have more than 2,200 Facebook followers from around the world

So while appreciating the irony of this Facebook pitch on our one remaining significant commitment to the paper world, we do urge you to get on Facebook if you have not already, “like” us, and join the conversation.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aviva and Marvin Sussman on the marriage of their granddaughter, Yael Sussman to Ohad Merlin in Israel.

Adele and Ron Tauber on the marriage of their son, Michael to Sarah Bernstein, daughter of Donna and Paul Bernstein of Melville, NY.

Robyn and trustee, Mark Tsesarsky upon the marriage of their daughter, Isabel to Daniel Mael.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

Dr. Martin Fox  
Evelyn Manny and Gross  
Susan Roger and Hertog  
Rebecca and Eitan Kimelman  
Juliana Moche-Levite and Howard Levite  
Jane Shiff and Alan Lubarr  
Sharon Lavi Mateus-Tique  
Peggy Samuels and Lester Schwalb  
Judith and Isaac Sherman  
Alexandra and Chalom Silber  
Andrew Sole  
Dr. Sally Sultan  
Dana and Michael Werner

## CONGRATULATIONS

*Mazal Tob to:*

Daniel Berman on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his parents, Anna Titarchuk and Edward Berman.

Akira Bregman on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his parents, Malaika Amon and Anthony Bregman and to his grandparents Viviane and Gerald Bregman.

Maggie and Andre Guenoun on the birth of a grandson, Colin Judah, to their children, Rebecca and Michael Hagler.

Aaron Sokol on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his parents, Suzy and Joseph Sokol.

## IN MEMORIAM

*We mourn the loss of our members:*

Honorary Trustee, Ronald Stanton (see special tribute on page 10).

— continued —

## CONDOLENCES

### *We extend sincere condolences to:*

Esme Berg, on the passing of her brother, Manuel Jacob Emmanuel.

Andrew Gluck, on the passing of his wife, Denise Gluck.

Emma Gordon Blass on the passing of her father, Joseph Moses Gerald Gordon.

Oliver, Philip and Hedi Stanton, on the passing of their father, and Alexandra, Bradley, and Spencer on the passing of their grandfather, Ronald Stanton.

Marvin Diaz-Turcio, a member of our facilities team, on the loss of his sister Lucinda Elisabeth Diaz in El Salvador.

Dr. Ira Kalfus, on the passing of his father, Harry Kalfus.

## IN APPRECIATION

### **Class Sponsors:**

Joe Blank for sponsoring a session of Monday Night Learning in memory of Jakob Blank.

Judy and Marty Grumet and Stanley Brenner for sponsoring a Shabbat afternoon shiur and enhanced seudah shelishit in memory of Dr. Jacob Brenner on the occasion of his first nahala.

The Julis Family for sponsoring the 2016-2017 season of Friday Night Lights.

Lewis Lipsey for sponsoring the fall semester of Rabbi Soloveichik's Pirkei Abot Shabbat afternoon shiur.

Lester Schwalb for sponsoring a Tuesday night Talmud class in memory of Viv's Father Michel Mielmicki (Menachem Mendel Ben Chaim v Esther) and in honor of Jeff's and Peg's birthdays.

### **Breakfast Sponsors:**

#### *Thank you:*

Muriel and Alexander Seligson for their donation to repair our prayer books made in honor of Rabbi Ira Rohde and Z. Edinger.

To our teen helpers for their assistance with Jr. Congregation over the high holidays: Jacob A., Devorah Goldstein, Akiva Haberman, Ariel Haberman, Noah Lang, and Lia Solomon.

### **Kiddush Fund Sponsors:**

Norman Benzaquen

Anna Titarchuk and Edward Berman in honor of Daniel's becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Malaika Amon and Anthony Bregman in honor of Akira's becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Karen and Jack Daar in honor of Rabbi and Mrs. Jeff Berger.

Vivien Eisenmann for sponsoring a break-fast after Tzom Gedalia services in memory of her mother, Chana bat Yosef.

Laury Frieber in honor of Reuben Frieber reading the haftarah.

The Haberman Family in honor of the anniversary of Akiva's bar mitzvah

Maimon Schwarzschild

### **Bequests**

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

The Sisterhood for sponsoring all the kiddushim over Succot in the beautiful Elias Room Succah.

The Soloveichik family in honor of the Cubs winning the World Series.

### **PTTS Scholarship Fund:**

Luiz Carlos Barreto Silva

### **Rembrandt Tour at the Morgan Sponsors:**

Chany and Justin Cohen and Family

Sharon Dane

Chaim and Shlomit Edelstein

Judi and Alan Eisenman

Joyce and David Friedman

Sharon and Michael Goldberg

Ahron Herring

Wendy and Sidney Ingber

Lois and Gerald Kirsh

Alene Schneierson and Morris Krimolovsky

Liliane Marks

The Neumark Family

Gail Propp

The Alan & Carol Schechter Charity fund

The Solomon Family

Marlene and Michael Sperling

Howard David Sterling

### **Young Couples and Families Back to School Luncheon**

#### **Sponsors:**

Stephanie and Roy Kirsh

#### **Supporters:**

Dr. Rivka and Marc Wiznia

The Sherizen Family

### **Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat: Dr. Ronnie Perelis**

Faith Fogelman

### **Shabbat Teshuba Derasha:**

#### **Lecture Sponsorship:**

Debbie and David Sable in memory of David's mother, Elissa Sable on the occasion of her first nahala.

#### **Kiddush Sponsors:**

Debbie and David Sable

Jane and Reuben Leibowitz

#### **Kiddush Supporters:**

Meralee and Sidney Schlusberg

Judith and Joel Schreiber

### **Simhat Torah Dinner:**

The Solomon Family

### **Simhat Torah Ice Cream Extravaganza:**

The Haberman Family

The Lustig Family

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



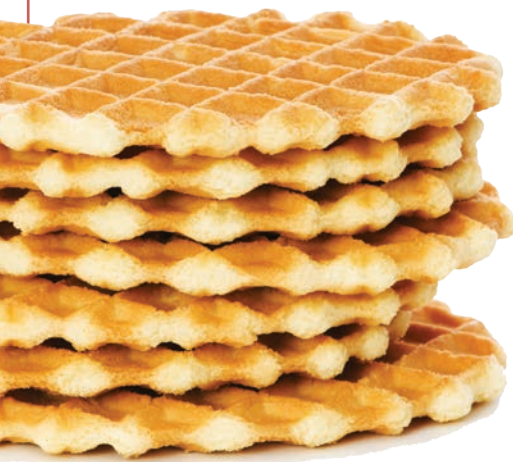
## HANUKKAH 5777

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

*An Intergenerational “Achdut in Action” Program*

**Sunday, December 25 | 7 am departure**

Celebrate the first day of Hanukkah on the slopes of Hunter Mountain. Shearith Israel and the Jewish Center are joining forces for a fun day of skiing and snowboarding. This intergenerational activity is geared towards teens, singles, couples, and families (children age 7 and up), first-timers and black diamond skiers and snowboarders. This trip is all-inclusive (lift tickets, optional rentals, transportation), but it is BYOL (bring your own lunch). Watch for registration details in upcoming emails. Register at [shearithisrael.org/ski](http://shearithisrael.org/ski) by December 8 to avoid “procrastinators’ pricing.”



## HANUKKAH FEST

**Sunday, January 1 | 10:00 am**

Does any other synagogue in New York serve waffles on Hanukkah? Shearith Israel Youth and PTTS celebrate the last day of Hanukkah at a festive celebration filled with waffles and Hanukkah fun!



## PURIM 5777

### PURIM CELEBRATION

**Saturday Night, March 11**  
**Arbit at 7:00 pm**  
**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. Liz Rios will be on hand to supervise but 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. For more information, see page 24.

### PURIM DINNER

**Saturday Night, March 11**  
**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. Registration required. Check [shearithisrael.org/purimdinner](http://shearithisrael.org/purimdinner) for details.

### CONGREGATIONAL AND WOMEN’S MEGILLAT ESTHER READING

**Sunday, March 12 | Following 8:00 am Shahrit**

Congregants and guests are welcome to join the main service for Megillah reading. Women are encouraged to join our unique women’s reading at 8:30 am, now in its 27th year. Novices, no need to feel intimidated, we are happy to train you to read a part. To sign up, all readers, both new and experienced, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at [lirohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lirohde-csi@yahoo.com).



## PURIM BREAKFAST

**Sunday Morning, March 12**

Immediately following the 8:30 am readings of the Megillah, all congregants are welcome to enjoy a festive breakfast. Childcare will be provided throughout the morning. The breakfast is free of charge but sponsors and supporters are highly appreciated. Support this event at [shearithisrael.org/purimbreakfast](http://shearithisrael.org/purimbreakfast).

## SISTERHOOD MISHLOAH MANOT PROJECT

If you want to send Mishloah Manot to your friends and fellow congregants, the Sisterhood is offering you a wonderful opportunity to do so. Please watch for our emails for more information. Your contributions will support the Sisterhood’s projects, including the beautiful congregational Succah and the flowers for Shabuot. For questions, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at [lirohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lirohde-csi@yahoo.com) or Mrs. Carla Schein at [scheinc6@gmail.com](mailto:scheinc6@gmail.com).

## MATANOT LA'EBYONIM

It is one of the essential mitzvot of Purim to give charity to the poor, matanot La'Ebyonim. Your online gift or check made out to the “Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund,” will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik on Purim to those in need. To learn more about the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund, see page 29. To fulfill the mitzvah and donate go to [shearithisrael.org/matanot](http://shearithisrael.org/matanot).





## EXCLUSIVE EXHIBIT TOUR

*The First Jewish American: Freedom And Culture In The New World*

**The New-York Historical Society - 170 Central Park West (At 77th street)**

**Sunday, December 18 | 10:00 am (one hour before the museum opens to the public)**

**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

Building upon the overwhelming enthusiasm of our recent exclusive tour at the Morgan Library and Museum, our congregants have more reason than ever to take interest in this extraordinary exhibit. This exhibit is directly connected to the history of our community and congregation and showcases several important objects from our collection as well as extensive loans from the private collection of our member, Leonard Milberg. And who better to guide us through this exhibit, vividly bringing the history to life, but our own resident historian, Rabbi Soloveichik along with Dr. Debra Schmidt Bach, the curator of the exhibit.

This exclusive opportunity will open early for sponsors and is sure to sell out fast. Follow our emails for registration information so you don't miss out.

## WINE AND CHEESE

**March 15 (NEW DATE)**

Say "Cheese!" In the tradition of our past stand-out "educulinary" events, we are delighted to bring you a special wine and cheese pairing party. We will learn about cheese making from an expert kosher cheese maker, "The Cheese Guy," sample wine and cheese pairings carefully curated, by Carmel/Yatir wineries, and enjoy relevant shiurim by our own Rabbi Meir Soloveichik. To register and sponsor, go to [shearithisrael.org/wine-and-cheese](http://shearithisrael.org/wine-and-cheese).



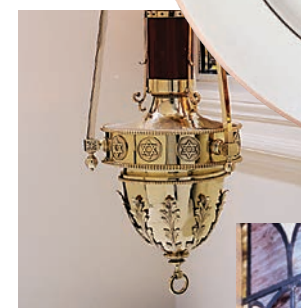
## MONTHLY SYNAGOGUE TOURS

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](http://shearithisrael.org/tours) for more information.

## JEWRY DUTY

"Jewry Duty" is an important effort to bolster minyan attendance and help prevent occasions of missing minyan. Your attendance is especially helpful to the mourners, encouraging to other minyan attendees, and of course, spiritually valuable for each and every one of us. Even if you are unable to attend services regularly, we hope that a small commitment is within everyone's reach.

Congregants living in Manhattan are given an assigned date to attend services; this is your "Jewry Duty." We send you a reminder in advance of your assigned date and we also post the weekly schedule on the Thursday email immediately preceding. If you are unable to attend on your "Summons" date, please don't get upset; we hope you will consider attending whenever it is convenient for you. If you'd like to commit to a different date, we'd appreciate you letting us know by contacting our shamash, Zachary Edinger. Your participation is valuable and we are most thankful for all of you who have participated and encourage all of you to participate whenever you are able.





# RONALD STANTON REFLECTION

David J. Nathan, Honorary Parnas



I know that I speak for each president of Shearith Israel from the last fifty years when I say that none of us could have imagined being Parnas without Ronald Stanton. When we heard that Ronald had died, Peter Neustadter and I exchanged our own private condolences. As Peter put it in his note to me, “no synagogue has ever had a better friend.” For me, as for so many of us, it was a personal loss. My family’s friendship with Ronald’s goes back to Ronald and his mother Hedi’s first days in the United States.

But here I would like to elaborate on what Peter meant about Ronald being the synagogue’s best friend. Nothing concentrated the mind like entering Ronald’s office for a meeting of the Ministerial Committee, which Ronald chaired. Ronald demanded clarity, and his patience was tested if you danced around the facts or avoided the obvious. By the time the meeting was over, you had a goal, a plan to achieve it, and Ronald’s support.

From the founding of our Congregation, we have never had a more generous, consistent, or determined supporter. Remarkably, Ronald’s support was unqualified. Once satisfied with the integrity and soundness of the Board or the Committee’s deliberations, Ronald

never attached strings. He understood that for the Congregation to thrive, resources were needed as well for day-to-day functioning as for our more exciting long-term challenges. There was one exception to the “no-strings” policy: Ronald always conditioned a portion

of his support on shared fundraising support from the community. He understood that we all needed to accept responsibility for the Congregation’s health, including its financial well-being.

Ronald never forgot his experience as a refugee, when he came to this country from Nazi Germany, nor the love with which our synagogue embraced him and his mother. While Ronald’s major gifts and projects around the City are known to all of us, less well known is how, quietly and steadily over the years, he gave support to family after family in our community when they needed it. At Ronald’s insistence, they never knew his identity, for he never wanted to be thanked. He preferred the private satisfaction of returning the kindness shown to him years before.

I will miss Ronald, and our Congregation will miss him. How fortunate we were to have a friend like Ronald.

## YOUNG COUPLES AND FAMILIES “SHANG-CHAI” SHABBAT LUNCHEON

**Saturday, December 24**  
**Following Morning Services**

In honor of the Jewish tradition to eat Chinese food on the eve of December 25th, young couples and families are invited to join the Soloveichik family for a fun and uplifting Chinese themed shabbat luncheon. Stay tuned for registration and sponsorship information.

## TEEN SHABBAT DINNER

**Friday, January 20**  
**Following Friday Night Lights**

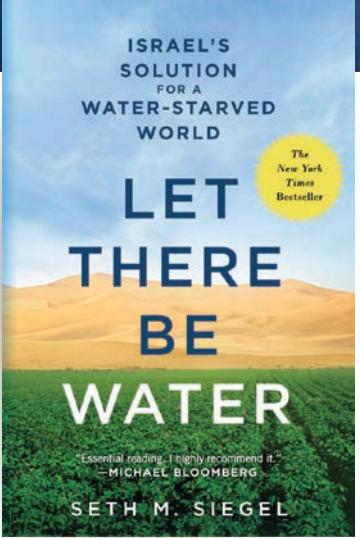
Teens and their families are invited to join the Soloveichik family for an intimate shabbat dinner in the Elias Room following a special youth oriented Friday Night Lights. Teens, if you have great ideas or would like to get involved in planning this dinner, please email [slandau@shearithisrael.org](mailto:slandau@shearithisrael.org).

## SHABBAT TU B’SHEBAT SEDER AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION

*Featuring New York Times Best Selling Author:*  
*Seth (Yossi) Siegel*

**Friday Night, February 10**  
**Following Friday Night Lights**  
**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

It was on the hills of 17th century Galilee that the Sephardic mystics first began celebrating a Tu B’shebat Seder celebrating the various fruits of Eretz Yisrael and blessing God over four different types of wine. As they celebrated, they taught Torah about the holy land thereby strengthening the bonds between them and the heritage of their forefathers. Join Rabbi Meir Soloveichik and Yossi Siegel for a special evening featuring both the seder as well as a public discussion of Yossi Siegel’s New York Times bestselling book, *Let There Be Water: Israel’s Solution for a Water-Starved World*. Register at [shearithisrael.org/tu-b’shebat-seder](http://shearithisrael.org/tu-b’shebat-seder).



SHABBAT DINNERS AND LUNCHEONS



## BALFOUR DECLARATION SERIES

### On select Shabbat mornings

In 2017, Jews will mark 100 years since the Balfour declaration, of the seminal documents in the history of Zionism. This lecture series will examine the Jews- in Britain, America and the holy land, that helped bring this declaration about, and what their stories can teach us about Zionism and political activism today.

## EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SHEARITH ISRAEL:

### *A monthly Q & A*

**Select Wednesdays**  
**Following evening services**  
**Z. Edinger**

Given by our shamash, Z. Edinger, this class will meet once a month and be based on questions YOU submit. Intended for the beginner and experienced synagogue goer alike, this class will answer your questions about Shearith Israel's liturgy, history and minhag. Attendees are encouraged to submit their questions or topics of interest in advance.

# JUDAIC EDUCATION

[shearithisrael.org/education](http://shearithisrael.org/education)

## SAADIAH GAON'S BOOK OF BELIEFS AND OPINIONS

**Sundays | 8:45 am**  
**Sjimon den Hollander**

The Book of Beliefs and Opinions (completed 933 CE) was the first systematic presentation and philosophic foundation of the dogmas of Judaism.

Sjimon den Hollander grew up in the Netherlands, where he earned a Master's degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies at Leiden University. He has taught courses on Judaism, Christianity, Islam, language and philosophy. Currently Mr. den Hollander is enrolled in Yeshiva University's rabbinical program. He is also involved in an Arabic website, [www.aslalyahud.org](http://www.aslalyahud.org), that provides information on Judaism.

## MONDAY NIGHT LEARNING

**Select Mondays | 7:00 pm**  
**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

Join Rabbi Soloveichik for a number of series on special themes on select Mondays. Topics to be announced. To receive email notifications of when classes will meet and their topics enroll at [shearithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists](http://shearithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists).

## 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 worshipers are welcome to enjoy breakfast and a short shiur by Rabbi Soloveichik or another member of our ministerial team. Sponsored by Chaim Katzap.



## FEASTS AND FASTS: THE FESTIVALS IN JEWISH THOUGHT

### *A Class for Women*

**Tuesdays | 9:00 am**  
**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

Throughout the year, we meet on Tuesday mornings to examine anew the rituals of the Jewish holiday or fast that is approaching, challenge our assumptions, and emerge with a deeper understanding of the rituals that we have been performing our entire lives. Breakfast is served. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To find out more, go to [shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass](http://shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass).

## TALMUD CLASS: TRACTATE SANHEDRIN AND JEWISH POLITICAL THOUGHT

**Tuesdays | 7:00 pm**  
**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

These shiurim will examine the Talmudic discussions of subjects that pertain to Jewish political thought including: the Jewish judiciary known as the Sanhedrin, the virtues and perils of the monarchy, and the nature of rabbinic authority. We will ponder what these texts can teach us about Jewish political thought today as well as how its values may be applied to the modern Jewish polity known as the state of Israel. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Learn more at [shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass](http://shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass).

## FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS: THE MAKING AND MEANING OF SHABBAT

**Fridays | Following Evening Services**  
**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

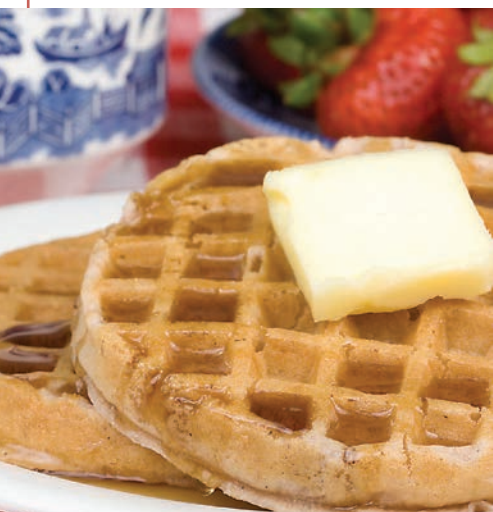
As Shabbat begins earlier and the nights grow longer, stay around for a bit after Friday evening services for an inspiring shiur delivered by Rabbi Soloveichik. There is no better way to transition from the workweek to the aura of Shabbat than experiencing our magnificent Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by Friday Night Lights. The 2016-2017 season is sponsored by the Julis family. To sponsor an individual session, go to [shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass](http://shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass).

## THE MISUNDERSTOOD MASTERPIECE: A NEW APPROACH TO PIRKEI ABOT

**Shabbat Afternoon**  
**One Hour Before Minhah**  
**Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**

Pirkei Abot is often understood as a mere series of unrelated ethical adages. In fact, each brief and much cited maxim in Pirkei Abot actually hints at the extraordinary, and unique, life story and worldview of its rabbinic source. 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. Accompanied by seudah shelishit. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To find out more, go to [shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass](http://shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass).





# YOUTH AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

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

**An Intergenerational “Achdut in Action” Program**  
Sunday, December 25 | 7:00 am departure

Celebrate the first day of Hanukkah on the slopes of Hunter Mountain. Shearith Israel and the Jewish Center are joining forces for a fun day of skiing and snowboarding. This intergenerational activity is geared towards teens, singles, couples, and families (children age 7 and up), first-timers and black diamond skiers and snowboarders. For more information, see page 6.

## HANUKKAH FEST

**Sunday, January 1 | 10:00 am**

Does any other synagogue in New York serve waffles on Hanukkah? Shearith Israel Youth and PTTS celebrate the last day of Hanukkah at a festive celebration filled with waffles and Hanukkah fun!

## WEEKDAY TODDLER PROGRAM

**Spring 2017: January 4th – June 6th**  
Mondays and Wednesdays | 9:30 am – 11:30 am

**For children ages 16-34 months.**

**Parent or caregiver attendance required.**

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

## POLONIES TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL (PTTS)

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

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

**For students 3 - 16 years of age**

Under the oversight of Yona Glass, along with our talented teachers, our Hebrew School provides students with a substantive Jewish education in a positive and engaging environment. Students develop Hebrew language skills (reading, writing and comprehension); learn the major portions of the Tanakh, Jewish holiday rituals, Jewish history and how Jewish ideas inform our values in modern times. To learn more and enroll your child, go to [shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool](http://shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool).

## PTTS BRUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI SOLOVEICHIK

**Parent-child learning for 5th - 8th graders**

**Sundays, 10:00 am -12:00 pm**  
December 11, February 5, April 23

PTTS families, this year we are launching a new initiative for our middle school students and their parents. Over the course of the year, 5th through 8th grade students and their parents will start the day together with morning services after which they will proceed to a topical “brunch and learn” with Rabbi Soloveichik. These sessions will be held on Sunday mornings during regularly scheduled PTTS time. Reminders will be sent out in advance of each session but mark your calendars now and get ready for a fun learning experience with your kid.

## YOUTH ON SHABBAT

### TOT SHABBAT

**10:00 am – 12:30 pm | ages 0 – 4**

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

### YOUTH GROUPS AND JR. CONGREGATION

**September – June**  
**10:00 am until the end of services**

Children ages 5 – 12 gather with Rachel Schaulewicz, for fun activities connected to the parasha of the week and other Jewish themes as well as raffles and prizes. At 10:30 am, the children are escorted to the Little Synagogue for Jr. Congregation, a lively participatory service.







# WOMEN AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

## WOMEN'S MEGILLAT ESTHER READING

**Sunday, March 12 | 8:00 am**

Women are encouraged to join our unique women's reading, now in its 27th year. Novices, no need to feel intimidated, we are happy to train you to read a part. To sign up, all readers, both new and experienced, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at [lrohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lrohde-csi@yahoo.com).

## SISTERHOOD MISHLOAH MANOT PROJECT

If you want to send Mishloah Manot to your friends and fellow congregants, the Sisterhood is offering you a wonderful opportunity to do so. Please watch for our emails for more information. Your contributions will support the Sisterhood's projects, including the beautiful congregational Succah and the flowers for Shabuot. For questions, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at [lrohde-csi@yahoo.com](mailto:lrohde-csi@yahoo.com) or Mrs. Carla Schein at [scheinc6@gmail.com](mailto:scheinc6@gmail.com).

## WOMEN'S SHABBAT SERVICES

**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 [lrohdecsi@yahoo.com](mailto:lrohdecsi@yahoo.com).

## YOETZET HALAKHA

We are proud to be a co-sponsor of the Manhattan Yoetzet Halakha Initiative. If you have any questions regarding Taharat Hamishpaha (Family Purity), laws of Niddah or sexuality and women's health, please contact our new Yoetzet Halakha, Ilana Gadish in confidence at [nycyoetzet@gmail.com](mailto:nycyoetzet@gmail.com). Ilana Gadish serves as the Yoetzet Halakha for a number of synagogues in Manhattan, and is a graduate of Nishmat's U.S. Yoatzot Halakha Fellows program. Ilana also teaches Talmud and Tanakh at the Ramaz Upper School. Ilana received her M.A. in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation at the Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies (GPATS) at Stern College for Women, where she also received her B.A. with a major in Judaic Studies and a minor in Biology. She spent a year studying at Midreshet Lindenbaum in Jerusalem, as well as two summers at the Drisha Institute. Ilana currently lives on the Upper West Side with her husband Moshe Peters and their baby girl.

## 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](mailto: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.



Ilana Gadish



Layaliza Soloveichik



Among the many wonderful and delicious dishes my mother-in-law, Sima has prepared over the years, this Shabbat fish dish, has been one of the family favorites.

Every Shabbat meal in the Ben-Avi family begins with this spicy fish dish. Sima's mother in-law was an amazing cook. Of course, she followed the Sephardic tradition always serving varied dishes with lots of wonderful spices. Hope you will enjoy!

## Moroccan Fish for Shabbat

By Joanne Ben-Avi



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

### Ingredients

- 4 boneless fish filets (halibut, snapper)
- 1-2 onions chopped
- 2 or 3 garlic cloves chopped
- 1 red pepper cut into thin strips
- 2-3 carrots cut in slices
- 1-2 dried red chili peppers (according to taste)
- Bunch fresh cilantro chopped
- 1/4 tsp turmeric
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- Heaping tbsp paprika
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 1/2 cup boiling water

### Directions

Saute onion, carrots, red pepper and chili peppers in a wide deep skillet in olive oil (use just enough oil to coat pan) until soft.

Add fresh garlic, cover and continue cooking.

Pour boiling water into pan. Sprinkle paprika, turmeric, salt and pepper.

Cut fish filets in few pieces.

When boiling add fish filets to pan covered.

Add cilantro or parsley. Cook on low flame for 20 minutes.

Enjoy!



## HESED

### CARING CONNECTION

Caring Connection, our Congregation's *hesed* network, was founded in order to provide organized assistance to members of our community. We respond to a variety of situations, for example, in times of difficulty, illness or mourning, or for the exciting and often overwhelming challenges accompanying the arrival of a new baby. Caring Connection facilitates and trains community members as sensitive volunteers to proactively help others through times of need, one of Judaism's greatest mitzvot. Not only does this vital assistance greatly aid the individual, it also strengthens and unifies our community and enhances our sense of responsibility for one another. If you know someone who might need assistance, in any form, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact [caringconnection@shearithisrael.org](mailto:caringconnection@shearithisrael.org).

### MATANOT LA' EBYONIM

It is one of the essential mitzvot of Purim to give charity to the poor, matanot La' Ebyonim. Your online gift or check made out to the "Rabbi's Discretionary Fund," will be distributed by Rabbi Soloveichik on Purim to those in need. To learn more about the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, see page 7. To fulfill the mitzvah and donate go to [shearithisrael.org/matanot](http://shearithisrael.org/matanot).



# CEMETERY TOUR HIGHLIGHTS HISTORIC TIES OF THREE CONGREGATIONS

Joshua de Sola Mendes

Congregation Shearith Israel has long been a model of comity between Sephardim and Ashkenazim and between orthodoxy and other denominations – and that was nowhere better on display than in a recent pre-High Holiday tour of the synagogue’s Beth Olam cemetery in Queens, led by our Shamash Zachariah Edinger.

Symbolizing that harmony, the tour was organized in conjunction with Shearith Israel’s cemetery partners, Congregation B’nai Jeshurun and Temple Shaaray Tefilla. The event began with a special “Geniza” service to bury ritual objects from the respective synagogues. This was led by Rolando Matalon, Rabbi of Bnai Jeshurun and by our hazzan, Rabbi Ira Rohde.

Attendees from all three congregations then listened attentively as Zachariah Edinger, together with Robert Kanter of BJ, led a tour of the grounds, describing the lives and achievements of some of its notable residents. Among them: Israel Bear Kursheedt, born in Germany and a student of Natan Adler, he was “assuredly the most learned Jew in America in the early decades of the country,” said Shamash Edinger. He also symbolized the ties between communities, marrying the daughter of Gershom Mendes Seixas of Shearith Israel, serving as president of our congregation, and later becoming one of the founding members of B’nai Jeshurun.

Other notable stops on the tour included: Uriah P. Levy, the first Jewish commodore of the U.S. Navy who was instrumental in banning the flogging of sailors, the poet Emma Lazarus, the exquisite Arnheim mausoleum (Bnai Jeshurun), and the grave of movie producer Sam Spiegel.



We also visited Three Civil War era ministers, with opposing views during the Civil War: Rev. Samuel Isaacs of Shaaray Tefila (anti-slavery); Rabbi Morris Raphall of Bnai Jeshurun (pro-slavery); And, Rev. Jacques Judah Lyons, minister of Shearith Israel (pro-Union but conspicuously silent on the topic of slavery).

The morning ended with memorial prayers in the “metaher house,” the small chapel designed by Calvert Vaux, co-architect of Central Park.

The September 11 tour was the last of a special three-part series about our historic cemeteries. On April 13, historian Marena Wisniewski described what she learned in her recent research of the cemetery and talked as well about the unique partnership and historical ties among the three synagogues. She also discussed some of the cemetery’s architectural and historical gems and efforts to be undertaken for much-needed restoration work.

Part Two of the series took place May 22 with the annual visit to our Chatham Square Cemetery, Shearith Israel’s first burial ground, in what today is Chinatown. The ceremony, honoring members of our congregation who participated in the Revolutionary War, was punctuated by a special color guard. In attendance were military veterans, clergy, and members of the community who placed American flags at the graves of our 22 veteran congregants. The cemetery was active from 1682 until 1823.

For more information on all our cemeteries, please see: [shearithisrael.org/cemeteries](http://shearithisrael.org/cemeteries)



## SERVICES

### SHABBAT SERVICES

<b>December 2nd-3rd</b>	
Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	4:11 pm
Friday Evening Services.....	4:15 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot .....	Joseph A. Solomon
Parashat Toledoth .....	Genesis 25:19-28:9
Haftarah Malachi 1:1-2:7	
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	4:05 pm
Saturday Sunset .....	4:29 pm
Habdalah.....	4:55 pm

<b>December 9th-10th</b>	
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 .....	Bernard Turiel
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	4:05 pm
Saturday Sunset .....	4:28 pm
Habdalah.....	4:55 pm

<b>December 16th-17th</b>	
Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	4:12 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 .....	Elliot Freilich
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	4:05 pm
Saturday Sunset .....	4:30 pm
Habdalah.....	4:56 pm

### DAILY SERVICES

<b>Mornings:</b>	
<b>Sundays</b> Shahrit.....	8:00 am
<b>Monday-Friday</b> Shahrit.....	7:15 am
<b>Evenings, Sunday-Thursday:</b>	
<b>Nov. 6th-Feb. 16th</b> , Arbit Only.....	6:30 pm
<b>Feb. 19th-Mar. 8th</b> , Minhah & Arbit.....	5:30 pm
<b>Mar. 12th-May 29th</b> , Minhah & Arbit.....	6:30 pm



December 23rd-24th

Shabbat before Hanukkah

Shabbat Candles (18 min. bef. sunset)	4:15 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:15 pm
Saturday Morning Services	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Adam F. Jackson
Parashat Vayesheb	Genesis 37:1-40:23
Haftarah Amos 2:6-3:8	Jacob Z. Neumark
Seuda Shelishit & Class	3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit	4:10 pm
Saturday Sunset	4:33 pm
Habdalah & 1st Hanukkah Candle	5:00 pm

December 30th-31st

Shabbat during Hanukkah

Light 7 Hanukkah Candles & Eve of Shabbat	
Candles (18 min. before sunset)	4:20 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:15 pm
Sunset	4:38 pm
Saturday Morning Services	8:10-11:45 am
Zemirot	Sjimon Den Hollander
Parashat Mikkets-Hanukkah	
Gen 41:1-44:17 & Num 7:48-53	
Haftarah Zachariah 2:14-4:7	Jacob P. Seligson
Seuda Shelishit & Class	3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit	4:15 pm
Saturday Sunset	4:39 pm
Habdalah & 8 Hanukkah Candles	5:05 pm

January 6th-7th

Candles (18 min. before sunset)	4:26 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:30 pm
Saturday Morning Services	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Avery E. Neumark
Parashat Vayiggash	Genesis 44:18-47:27
Haftarah Ezekiel 37:15-28	Samuel E Neumark
Seuda Shelishit & Class	3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit	4:20 pm
Saturday Sunset	4:45 pm
Habdalah	5:12 pm

January 13th-14th

Candles (18 min. before sunset)	4:33 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:30 pm
Saturday Morning Services	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Matthew Kaplan
Parashat Vayhi	Genesis 47:28-end
Haftarah I Kings 2:1-12	
Seuda Shelishit & Class	3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit	4:30 pm
Saturday Sunset	4:52 pm
Habdalah	5:19 pm

January 20th-21st

Candles (18 min. before sunset)	4:41 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Joseph A. Solomon
Parashat Shemoth	Exodus 1:1-6:1
Haftarah Jeremiah 1:1-2:3	Elie Sasson
Seuda Shelishit & Class	3:35 pm
Minhah & Arbit	4:35 pm
Saturday Sunset	5:00 pm
Habdalah	5:28 pm

January 27th-28th

Shabbat Rosh Hodesh

Candles (18 min. before sunset)	4:50 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Jacob Daar
Parashat Vaera-Rosh Hodesh	
Exodus 6:2-9:35 & Numbers 28:9-15	
Haftarah	Isaiah 66:1-24
Seuda Shelishit & Class	3:45 pm
Minhah & Arbit	4:45 pm
Saturday Sunset	5:09 pm
Habdalah	5:37 pm

February 3rd-4th

Candles (18 min. before sunset)	4:58 pm
Friday Evening Services	5:00 pm
Saturday Morning Services	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Adam F. Jackson
Parashat Bo	Exodus 10:1-13:16
Haftarah Jeremiah 46:13-28	Alexander Freilich
Bar Mitzvah	Alexander Freilich
Seuda Shelishit & Class	3:50 pm
Minhah & Arbit	4:50 pm
Saturday Sunset	5:18 pm
Habdalah	5:47 pm

February 10th-11th

Shabbat Shirah, Tu BiShebat

Candles (18 min. before sunset)	5:07 pm
Friday Evening Services	5:15 pm
Saturday Morning Services	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Zachary S. Edinger
Parashat Beshallah-Shirah	Exodus 13:17-17:16
(Reading of the "Shirah" - Song of the Red Sea)	
Haftarah Judges 5:1-31	Louis Alexandre Berg
Seuda Shelishit & Class	4:00 pm
Minhah & Arbit	5:00 pm
Saturday Sunset	5:26 pm
Habdalah	5:56 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 17th-18th

Shabbat Yithro

Candles (18 min. before sunset)	5:15 pm
Friday Evening Services	5:15 pm
Saturday Morning Services	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Sjimon Den Hollander
Parashat Yithro	Exodus 18:1-20:23
(Reading of the Ten Commandments)	
Haftarah Isaiah 6:1-13	Avi Friedman
Seuda Shelishit & Class	4:10 pm
Minhah & Arbit	5:10 pm
Saturday Sunset	5:35 pm
Habdalah	6:05 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 24th-25th

Shabbat Shekalim

Candles (18 min. before sunset)	5:24 pm
Friday Evening Services	5:30 pm
Saturday Morning Services	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Matthew Kaplan
Parashat Mishpatim-Shekalim	
Exodus 21:1-24:18 & 30:11-16	
Haftarah	Abraham N. Cohen
II Kings 11:17-12:17	
Seuda Shelishit & Class	4:15 pm
Minhah & Arbit	5:15 pm
Saturday Sunset	5:43 pm
Habdalah	6:14 pm
Shabbat Shekalim:	During Temple times the payment of a poll tax of half a shekel by every Jew was called for on the first day of the twelfth month (Adar). Exodus 30:11-16 was added as a reminder on the Sabbath preceding. This is the first of four Sabbaths with additional Torah readings and special haftarot which are scheduled in preparation for Passover.

March 3rd-4th

Candles (18 min. before sunset)	5:32 pm
Friday Evening Services	5:30 pm
Saturday Morning Services	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Jacob Daar
Parashat Terumah	Exodus 25:1-27:19
Haftarah I Kings 5:26-6:13	Adam F. Jackson
Seuda Shelishit & Class	4:25 pm
Minhah & Arbit	5:25 pm
Saturday Sunset	5:51 pm
Habdalah	6:23 pm

March 10th-11th

Shabbat Zakhor, Eve of Purim

Candles (18 min. before sunset)	5:39 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
Seuda Shelishit & Class	4:40 pm
Saturday Afternoon Minhah	5:40 pm
Saturday Sunset	5:59 pm
Habdalah	6:07 pm
Purim/Motzaei Shabbat Arbit	7:00 pm
Reading of Megillah	7:15 pm

Move Clocks One Hour Ahead Tonight!

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," because Haman was presumed a descendant of the tribe of Amalek, the first "annihilators" of Israel. This year, Saturday evening is the Eve of Purim. Hence, there will be an hour break from 6:00, the end of Saturday Evening Minhah, until the 7:00 pm beginning of Arbit, with the Megillah reading commencing at about 7:15 pm. Sunday Morning, March 12th, Purim Services begin at 8:00 am, Daylight Savings Time, so don't forget to change the clock!

March 17th-18th

Shabbat Parah

Candles (18 min. before sunset)	6:47 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 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	
Seuda Shelishit & Class	5:40 pm
Minhah & Arbit	6:40 pm
Saturday Sunset	7:06 pm
Habdalah	7:40 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 24th-25th

Shabbat HaHodesh

Candles (18 min. before sunset)	6:55 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Joseph A. Solomon
Parashat Vayaqhel-Pequde-HaHodesh	Exodus 35:1-40:38 & 12:1-20
Haftarah	Benjamin Warschawski
Ezekiel 45:18-46:15	
Seuda Shelishit & Class	5:50 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit	6:50 pm
Saturday Sunset	7:14 pm
Habdalah	7:49 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 31st-April 1st

Candles (18 min. before sunset)	7:02 pm
Friday Evening Services	6:45 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
Seuda Shelishit & Class	5:55 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit	6:55 pm
Saturday Sunset	7:21 pm
Habdalah	7:57 pm

MINOR HOLIDAYS

Hanukkah Holiday

Saturday Evening, December. 24th & Sunday, December 25th through Sunday, January 1st:

Habdalah & 1 Hanukkah Candle (Eve of Hanukkah)

Saturday Evening, December 24th

See *Shabbat before Hanukkah* in Shabbat

Section for Full Schedule of Services

Candles Lit After Nightfall (three stars) ..... 5:00 pm

1st Morning of Hanukkah

Sunday Morning, December 25th

Shahrit, Hallel, Torah Reading..... 8:00 am

2nd Evening: 2 Hanukkah Candles

Sunday Evening, December 25th

Candles Lit After Sunset.....4:34 pm

Evening Service (Arbit only) .....6:30 pm

Legal Holiday, 2nd Morning of Hanukkah

Monday Morning, December 26th

Shahrit, Hallel, Torah Reading..... 8:00 am

3rd Evening: 3 Hanukkah Candles

Monday Evening, December 26th

Candles Lit After Sunset.....4:35 pm

Evening Service (Arbit only) .....6:30 pm

3rd Morning of Hanukkah

Tuesday Morning, December 27th

Shahrit, Hallel, Torah Reading..... 7:15 am

4th Evening: 4 Hanukkah Candles

Tuesday Evening, December 27th

Candles Lit After Sunset.....4:35 pm

Evening Service (Arbit only) .....6:30 pm

4th Morning of Hanukkah

Wednesday Morning, December 28th

Shahrit, Hallel, Torah Reading..... 7:15 am

5th Evening: 5 Hanukkah Candles

Wednesday Evening, December 28th

Candles Lit After Sunset.....4:35 pm

Evening Service (Arbit only) .....6:30 pm

5th Morning of Hanukkah

Thursday Morning, December 29th

Shahrit, Hallel, Torah Reading..... 7:15 am

6th Evening: 6 Hanukkah Candles & Eve of Rosh Hodesh Tebeth (One-Day)

Thursday Evening, December 29th

Candles Lit After Sunset.....4:35 pm

Evening Service (Arbit only) .....6:30 pm

6th Morning of Hanukkah & Rosh Hodesh Tebeth (One-Day)

Friday Morning, December 30th

Shahrit, Hallel, Torah Reading, Musaf..... 7:15 am

7th Evening: 7 Hanukkah Candles & Eve of Shabbat during Hanukkah

Friday Evening, December 30th

Friday Evening Services.....4:15 pm

Light 7 Hanukkah Candles & Eve of Shabbat

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....before 4:20 pm

7th Morning of Hanukkah & Shabbat During Hanukkah Daytime

Saturday Morning, December 31st

Parashat Mikkets-Hanukkah..... 8:15-11:45 am

See *Shabbat during Hanukkah* in Shabbat

Section for Full Schedule of Services



*Habdalah & 8 Hanukkah Candles on  
Motza'e Shabbat, Eve of 8th Day;  
Secular New Year's Eve*

**Saturday Evening, December 31st**

Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....4:15 pm  
Saturday Sunset .....4:39 pm  
Habdalah & 8 Hanukkah Candles .....after 5:05 pm  
See *Shabbat during Hanukkah* in Shabbat  
Section for Full Schedule of Services

***Eighth (Last) Morning of Hanukkah;  
Secular New Years Day***

**Sunday Morning, January 1st, 2017**

Shahrit, Hallel, Torah Reading..... 8:00 am  
Post-Hanukkah Evening, Arbit only.....6:30 pm

**Monday after Secular New Year  
Legal Holiday**

**Monday Morning, January 2nd, 2017**

Morning Shahrit..... 8:00 am

**Fast of (Tenth of) Tebeth  
(`Asarah beTebeth)**

**Sunday, January 8th**

Dawn (Fast Begins) ..... 5:53 am  
Sunrise ..... 7:20 am  
Morning Service ..... 8:00 am  
Evening Minhah & Arbit.....4:00 pm  
Sunset .....4:46 pm  
End of Fast ..... 5:04 pm

**Martin Luther King Legal Holiday**

**Monday, January 16th**

Morning Service..... 8:00 am

**Shabbat Rosh Hodesh Shebat  
(One-Day)**

**Friday Evening, January 27th, through**

**Saturday, January 28th**

Fri. & Sat. Services follow Shabbat Schedule

**Hamisha Asar (Tu) BiShebat  
& Shabbat Shirah**

**Friday Evening, February 10th through**

**Saturday, February 11th**

Fri. & Sat. Services follow Shabbat Schedule

**Presidents' Day Legal Holiday**

**Monday, February 20th**

Morning Service ..... 8:00 am  
Minhah & Arbit.....5:30 pm

**Rosh Hodesh Adar (Two-Day)**

**Saturday Evening, February 25th through**

**Sunday & Monday, Feb. 26th & 27th**

Shabbat Minhah/Rosh Hodesh Arbit .....5:15 pm  
Sunday Shahrit, Hallel, Torah, Musaf ..... 8:00 am  
Sunday & Monday Minhah & Arbit.....5:30 pm  
Monday Shahrit, Hallel, Torah, Musaf ..... 7:15 am

**PURIM HOLIDAY  
Fast of Esther (Observed)**

**Thursday, March 9th**

Dawn (Fast Begins) ..... 4:56 am  
Sunrise .....6:17 am  
Morning Service (Shahrit)..... 7:15 am  
Minhah (men wear tefillin) .....5:30 pm  
Sunset .....5:56 pm  
Arbit (Evening) Service .....6:18 pm

**Eve of Purim**

**Saturday Evening, March 11th**

**(See Shabbat Services Schedule)**

Shabbat Minhah.....5:40 pm  
Saturday Sunset .....5:59 pm  
Habdalah.....6:07 pm  
Purim/Motzaei Shabbat Arbit .....7:00 pm  
Reading of Megillah, followed by dinner .....7:15 pm  
Late Reading of Megillah .....9:00 pm

**Move Clocks One Hour Ahead Tonight!**

**Purim Day**

**Sunday, March 12th**

**Times Are DST (Daylight Savings Time)**

Morning Shahrit..... 8:00 am DST  
Morning Megillah Reading & Breakfast ..... 8:30 am  
Women's Megillah Reading..... 8:30 am  
Late Morning Megillah Reading..... 11:00 am  
Purim Day Minhah & Arbit Services .....6:30 pm  
Sunset .....7:00 pm  
End of Purim Day.....7:21 pm

**Purim Shushan**

**Monday, March 13th**

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

**The Fast of Esther** commemorates the day when the  
Jews of Persia donned sackcloth and ashes, went without  
food, and prayed that they be spared the massacre  
planned for them by Haman. Men don tefillin at the  
5:30 service. Usually observed on the day before Purim,  
this year it is advanced to the previous Thursday because  
the Eve of Purim falls on Shabbat.

**Purim** commemorates the day when, through the  
intervention of Mordecai and Queen Esther, the Jews  
of Persia escaped being victims of Haman's evil plot to  
exterminate them.

**Purim Shushan**, the day following Purim, is the day  
Purim was celebrated in Shushan, the capital of ancient  
Persia, and in Jerusalem.

**Rosh Hodesh Nisan (One-Day)**

**Mon. Eve, March 27th-Tuesday, March 28th**

(For Services see Daily Schedule)

# 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 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.

## 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. To sponsor or contribute go to [shearithisrael.org/scotch-and-arak-sponsorships](http://shearithisrael.org/scotch-and-arak-sponsorships).

## 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 for 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.

*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 AND BOARD

**Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik** Rabbi  
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**Rabbi Dr. Marc D. Angel** Rabbi Emeritus  
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**Barbara Reiss** Executive Director  
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**Rabbi Ira Rohde** Hazzan  
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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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 Michael Katz, Segan  
 Michael P. Lustig, Segan  
 Dr. Victoria R. Bengualid  
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 Karen Daar  
 David E.R. Dangoor  
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 David J. Nathan, Honorary Parnas  
 Peter Neustadter, Honorary Parnas  
 L. Gilles Sion  
 Oliver Stanton  
 Mark Tsesarsky

Michael Goldberg, Clerk  
 Raphael Sasson, Treasurer

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Lifecycle and Pastoral Matters  
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Funeral Arrangements  
**Zachary S. Edinger** 212-873-0300 x216  
 917-584-3787

Taharat Hamishpakha (Jewish Family Law)  
**Ilana Gadish**, 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](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/shearithisrael.nyc)

