



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

2 West 70th Street
New York, NY 10023

WINTER
2017-2018
חורף תשע"ח

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue



The Bulletin



December 15th will mark 71 years since the passing of Maud Nathan. A social activist and a leader in the women's suffrage movement, Nathan founded and served as first President of the Sisterhood of Shearith Israel, established in 1896.

America's First Jewish Congregation

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FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

THE KOSHER PARADE OF 1788: A THANKSGIVING REFLECTION

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik



In 1788 in Philadelphia, a parade was held in celebration of Pennsylvania's ratification of the United States Constitution.

Benjamin Rush, an American founder and signer

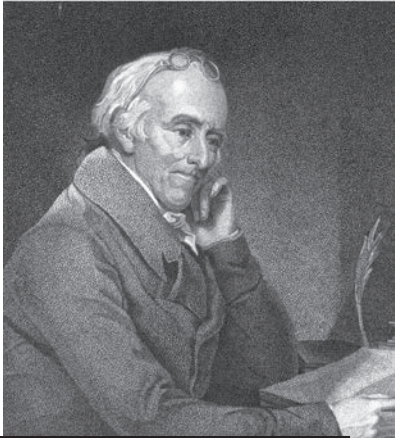
of the Declaration, wrote that he witnessed something remarkable at the procession: "the clergy of the different Christian denominations, with the rabbi of the Jews, walking arm in arm." Rush reflected that this was "a most delightful sight. There could not have been a more happy emblem contrived, of that section of the new Constitution, which opens its powers and offices alike, not only to every sect of Christians, but worthy men of every religion."

Meanwhile, Naphtali Phillips, a member of Philadelphia Mikveh Israel community, was also a witness to the celebration. While he makes no mention of the Jewish and Christian clergy that were there, he does note the following extraordinary occurrence: "The procession then proceeded from about Third Street near Spruce, northward towards Callowhill Street, then wheeled towards Bush Hill, where there was a number of long tables loaded with all kinds of provisions, with a separate table for the Jews, who could not partake of the meals from the other tables; but they had a fill supply of

soused [pickled] salmon, bread and crackers, almonds, raisins, etc." This may have been the first time in Jewish history that kosher catering was provided on behalf of Jews at a largely non-Jewish event. Philadelphia Jewry, in other words, participated in the parade as Americans—and then dined as Jews.

Both of these events—Jewish clergy participating in a public parade, and a separate kosher table at a civic celebration—would have been impossible anywhere in Europe in 1788. Taken in tandem, Rush's and Phillips' remembrances embody the freedom afforded Jews in America, and capture the unique nature of Jewish identity. Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik once wrote that to be a Jew in the world is to embody Abraham's statement about himself to those among whom he lived: "*ger ve-toshav anokhi imachem*, I am a stranger and a neighbor among you." Jews, he continued, are called to contribute as members of any society in which they find themselves. At the same time, rather than leaving one's religious identity at home, a Jew is obligated to bring it with him or her when entering the public square; we are equally obligated by the Torah's laws wherever we find ourselves. In a democracy, he argued, Jews demand the right to be both neighbor and stranger. We seek, he argued, to stand "shoulder to shoulder with mankind...for the

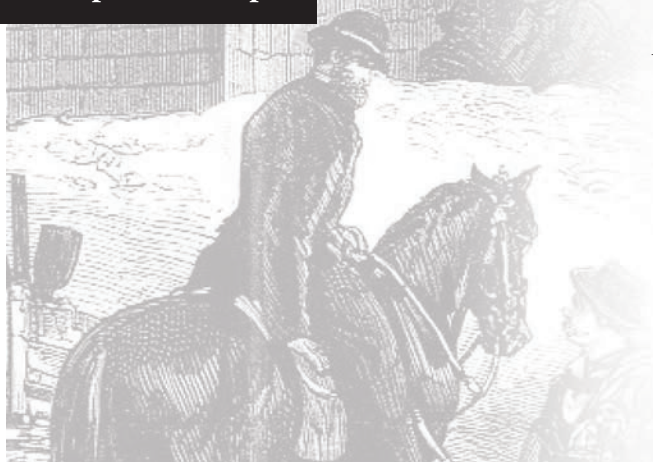
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Benjamin Rush



Naphtali Phillips



View of Colonial Callowhill Street

welfare of all,” while at the same time we demand at all times the right to practice the faith that sometimes sets us apart. In 1788, both of these aspects of our identity were expressed: Jews and Christians—including their clergy—marched “shoulder to shoulder,” expressing their commitment to working together to build a new nation, and then the Jews utilized their freedom to publicly observe the faith of their fathers in consuming a strictly kosher meal.

While Thanksgiving is often associated with the Pilgrim story, the first Thanksgiving in the United States was actually a celebration of the Constitution and its freedoms. Washington’s 1789 Thanksgiving proclamation stressed the obligation of expressing gratitude to God “for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed.” As Jews, America’s freedoms give us ample reason for gratitude, but they obligate us as well: to utilize our liberty to be both *ger ve-toshav*, proud, public observers of the Torah and loyal servants of society. Then we, like Philadelphia’s Jews on that day, can truly be a source of pride to our posterity.

Meir Y. Soloveichik

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARNAS

THE CONGREGATION’S YEAR OF YEARS CAMPAIGN: A PROGRESS REPORT

Louis M. Solomon



Dear Congregants:

I wanted to update the Congregation on the *Year of Years* Campaign that we announced in our Fall 2017 Bulletin. We are pleased that we are making progress on a number of fronts:

First, as we described in the earlier report, our *Year of Years* Campaign will span three years and will include three major annual addresses by Rabbi Soloveichik. The first of these talks is expected to be held in January 2018. Save the Dates should go out shortly.

Second, since announcing the Campaign, we have successfully recruited around 25 wonderful congregants, representing a diverse cross-section of our community, who will form the core planning group for the Campaign’s efforts to secure 100% participation from the Congregation. It is vitally important that every single member of our Congregation, irrespective of one’s financial means, invests, to the best of his or her ability, in our synagogue’s financial stability, sharing in our communal responsibility to preserve our storied history and traditions and preserve our important legacy for future generations.

Special thanks to Trustee-Segan Michael Katz and to Ari Sherizen for taking the lead in trying to get the group organized. It is not too late to

lend your energy and experience and to join this planning and action group. If you have the interest and time, please contact Michael at MKatz@fksklaw.com or Ari at ari.sherizen@gmail.com (or email me directly at Parnas@ShearithIsrael.org).

Third, in our initial announcement, we had described wanting to recruit 23 “Sustaining Families”, major donors who will undertake anchor gifts of \$500,000 or more to sustain our Congregation and the incredibly important tasks ahead of us. I am delighted to report that as of this writing we have already received pledges from four of our trustees/congregants to make that enormously generous commitment. We are looking for 19 more families, and we will get them, I confidently believe. If you and your family have been blessed with the wealth to afford becoming a Sustaining Family, please contact the Rabbi or me.

We look forward to a successful campaign. Each and everyone one of us should do all we can to participate, reassured in the knowledge that we have each done our part to secure our Congregation’s important place in the next 365 years of Jewish life in America.

All the best to everyone,

Louis M. Solomon



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS

Mazal Tob to:

Bess Castagnello and Simcha Fern, upon their marriage.

Arnie Goldfarb, on the birth of a great-granddaughter.

Honor Greenberg, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Congratulations to her parents, Janine Soleymani and Bruce Greenberg.

Jackie Carter and Andrew Klaber, upon their marriage.

Ariela Lopez on becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Congratulations to her parents, Ronit Cohen and Andres Lopez, and to her grandparents, Bentsi and Naomi Cohen.

Benjamin Neuwirth, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his parents, Nataly and Stephen Neuwirth.

Anna and Dov Zigler, on the birth of a son, Solomon Benjamin.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Hazakim U'berukhim:

Zoya Raynes and Robert Friedman for being named the honorees of the JCRC-NY's Winter Benefit Reception, to take place on December 4 at the Jewish Museum.

Scott Shay, on the publication of his article *Reading The Book Of Jonah — Through The Eyes Of Schrödinger* in The Forward.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following individuals to the Shearith Israel Family:

Hadassah Levinson and her son, Richard Strauss

Ruth and Edward Lukashok

Claude Sasson

Lu Steinberg and Michael Schulder

Esther and William Schulder

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of our members:

Honorary Parnas, Dr. Dennis B. Freilich

Charles De La Fuente

E. Jeanette Sion

Cecile Zilkha

CONDOLENCES

We extend sincere condolences to:

Carole Baker, on the passing of her father, Eugene Baker.

Julia Cohen, on the passing of her mother, Naima Moalem.

Estelle Freilich on the passing of her husband, Dr. Dennis Freilich, and to Benjamin, David, Elliot, and Jonathan Freilich, on the passing of their father.

Sidney Ingber, on the passing of his brother, Joseph Sholom Ingber.

Ruth Kobrin, on the passing of her brother, Stephen L. Freedman.

Neal Kozodoy, on the passing of his mother, Marion S. Kozodoy.

Laurent Nahon, on the passing of his father, Louis Nahon.

L. Gilles Sion, on the passing of his mother, E. Jeanette Sion.

Oliver Stanton, on the passing of his mother, Ruth Schloss Stanton.

Ezra Zilkha, on the passing of his wife, Cecile Zilkha.

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.

IN APPRECIATION

Class Sponsors:

The Bengio and Misrahi families, for sponsoring a Friday Night Lights lecture.

Laury Frieber, for sponsoring a shabbat afternoon class, in memory of her father, Arthur A. Frieber.

The Julis family, for sponsoring the Fall semester of Friday Night Lights.

Carol and Alan Schechter, for sponsoring the Fall semester of Rabbi Soloveichik's Tuesday Evening Talmud Class.

Scott Shay, for sponsoring the Fall semester of Rabbi Soloveichik's Shabbat Afternoon Class, in memory of Chana Razel bat Aaron v'Sarah.

Barbara Herlands Smith, for sponsoring a Tuesday Morning Women's Class, in memory of her beloved husband, Myron Smith.

Minyan Breakfast Sponsors:

Ainetchi family

Arthur and Joel Tenenholtz, in memory of their mother, Hannah Tenenholtz.

Kiddush Fund Sponsors:

Karen and Jack Daar, in honor of Rabbi Jeffrey Berger and Michie Yana's visit.

Janine Soleymani and Bruce Greenberg, in honor of Honor's Bat Mitzvah.

Leslie Cohen and Jeffrey Lang, in honor of the anniversary of Noah's Bar Mitzvah.

The Sisterhood for decorating the Succah and for sponsoring Kiddush and breakfast throughout the Succot holiday.

Jeffrey Smith, Raquel Smith, and Stephen Smith in memory of their father, Myron Smith.

Kiddush Fund Contributors:

Ainetchi family, in memory of Isaac's mother, Marcelle, on the occasion of her sheloshim.

Aufzien family, in honor of Jacob reading the Haftarah.

Francine Alfandary and Laurent Nahon, in memory of his father, Louis, on the occasion of his sheloshim.

Mrs. Lisa Rohde, in honor of Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde's birthday.

Rev. Philip Sherman, in memory of his father, Paul H. Sherman.

Scotch and Arak Sponsors:

Simon Gerson



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

Shabbat Teshubah Derasha:

Lecture Sponsorship:

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

Kiddush Sponsors:

Nicole and Raanan Agus

Carol and Arthur Goldberg, on the occasion of their anniversary.

Carol and Alan Schechter, in memory of Alan's mother, Yitta bat Yitzhak Shmuel.

Kiddush Co-Sponsors:

Anonymous

Ruth and Edward Lukashok

Kiddush Contributors:

Meralee and Sidney Schlusberg

Simhat Torah Dinner:

Anonymous

Gillian and Simon Salama-Caro

Jennifer Ash and Seth Haberman

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.



Brass Hanukkah (before 1730)



HOLIDAYS

HANUKKAH LECTURE

Tuesday, December 12 | 7:00 pm
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a major address illuminating the themes of Hanukkah.

NEW MEMBERS HANUKKAH GATHERING

Hosted by Rabbi and Layalza Soloveichik

Wednesday, December 13
By Invitation

Our community, especially our synagogue leadership, is very eager to get to know each and every new member and to make them feel at home at Shearith Israel. Several times throughout the year, sometimes on Shabbat, sometimes mid-week, we host gatherings, sometimes at the synagogue, sometimes in private homes, where new members can mingle with each other and our leadership. Our Hanukkah gathering at the Soloveichik home has become a wonderful and much anticipated tradition. Guests enjoy an array of traditional and modern takes on latkes and other treats, hear words of Torah by our rabbi and his impressive wife, and socialize in a warm and relaxed atmosphere.

HANUKKAH FEST

Sunday, December 17

Shearith Israel Youth and PTTS celebrate on the fifth day of Hanukkah with a festive celebration. For more information, see page 13.

PRE-TU B'SHEBAT YOUNG FAMILIES/ YOUNG COUPLES LUNCHEON

Shabbat, January 27
Following Morning Services

Young couples and families are invited to join the Soloveichik family for a fun and uplifting *Tu B'Shebat*-themed shabbat luncheon. Stay tuned for registration and sponsorship information.

TU B'SHEBAT SHIUR

Tuesday, January 30 | 7:00 pm
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Rabbi Soloveichik's Tuesday night shiur will be dedicated to the themes of *Tu B'Shebat*. Sushi will not be served this week, but tasty *Tu B'Shebat* treats will.

SISTERHOOD MISHLOAH MANOT PROJECT

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

PURIM DINNER AND CELEBRATION

Wednesday, February 28

Megillah reading at 6:15 pm

Children's Programming at 6:00 pm

**Dinner for registered guests following
Megillah reading**

The reading of Megillat Esther begins promptly at 6:15 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 6:00 pm, in order to help their children settle in and then make their way to the Large Synagogue in time for Megillah.

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/purimdinner5778 for details.

PURIM BREAKFAST

Thursday, March 1
Following Megillah Reading

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

SHABBAT LUNCHEON: THE JEWISH FRIENDS AND CLIENTS OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON

*A Conversation between Rabbi Soloveichik
and Historian Andrew Porwancher*

Saturday, December 9
Following Morning Services
For Registered Guests

This extraordinary event will reveal incredible, little known details about Alexander Hamilton's relationships with Jews in New York, mostly members of Shearith Israel. We will discuss fascinating court cases in which Alexander Hamilton represented Jews, and the story of Jews at Columbia College, Hamilton's alma mater. Questions to be addressed include: How friendly was Alexander Hamilton with New York's Jews? How did his Jewish friends help form his own views about the future of the United States? Most tantalizingly, what do these relationships tell us about Jewish links in Hamilton's own past?

Andrew Porwancher is the author of the forthcoming book, *The Jewish Founding Father: The Secret Life of Alexander Hamilton*, to be published by Harvard University Press. He is a visiting scholar at the Yeshiva University Straus Center's Program on Early America and the Jews.

SHEARITH ISRAEL AND JEWISH CENTER SKI AND SNOWBOARD TRIP

Monday, December 25

Shearith Israel and the Jewish Center are joining forces again this year 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, black diamond skiers, and snowboarders. This trip is all-inclusive (lift tickets, optional rentals, transportation) but it is BYOL (bring your own lunch). Keep an eye on your emails for registration details.



SPECIAL EVENTS



Andrew Porwancher



PULPIT SWAP SHABBAT WITH RABBI LEVINE OF THE JEWISH CENTER

Shabbat, March 10

As it turns out, both Shearith Israel and The Jewish Center, our peer synagogue on the Upper West Side, are looking forward to milestone anniversaries. The Jewish Center is about to celebrate its Centennial anniversary and Shearith Israel is preparing to celebrate our 365th, our Year of Years.

In the spirit of friendship and mutual respect, we have decided to share our riches with each other. And what is each of our greatest resource? Our rabbis, of course, both of whom share a love and deep knowledge of American Jewish history.

Rabbis Levine and Soloveichik will “swap” synagogues on this shabbat, enjoying the warmth of their peer *kehillot* and each treating us to a special lecture after morning services.



Rabbi Yosie Levine

HERRINGFEST 2.0:

Now With More Herring!

Date TBA | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Herring—one of the most celebrated delicacies among the Dutch, and one of the most beloved fish among the Jews—is central to Shearith Israel’s story. After all, historians have noted that there is one product that allowed The Netherlands to become a shipping power: herring. No herring, then no Dutch West India Company; and if there was no Dutch West India Company, there would have been no Shearith Israel.

Building on the success of our previous Herringfest!, Shearith Israel will be holding a HerringFest 2.0!—with a new selection of herring and new herring-related Torah tidbits by our rabbi, and herring fanatic, Rabbi Soloveichik. HerringFest 2.0! will take place during Adar, the joyous month associated by our sages with the constellation of “dagim,” or Pisces, and is sure to be an unforgettable culinary experience of Shearith Israel’s Dutch and Jewish heritage. To register or to sponsor this tasty event, go to shearithisrael.org/herringfest2.

MONTHLY SYNAGOGUE TOURS

Tours of Shearith Israel provide a unique opportunity for visitors and tourists to learn more about America’s first Jewish Congregation—Shearith Israel—and view ritual objects dating back to the Colonial period. We are pleased to lead guests through our beautiful space with enlightening facts about our proud history and unique traditions.

Individuals and groups are welcome to attend a free guided tour once a month led by a member of our clergy or a trained docent. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person, although any amount is appreciated. Tours generally last 45 minutes. Go to shearithisrael.org/tours for more information.



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, that provides information on Judaism.

HABRUTA (PAIRED LEARNING)

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays
5:15 - 7:15 pm

Men and women, adults and youth, are invited to join Rabbi Yosef Chaim Yanetz and rabbinical students from Yeshiva University in the Elias Room for *habruta* (paired learning) and minyan. Take advantage of this unique opportunity.

JUDAIC EDUCATION

TUESDAY MORNING MINYAN BREAKFAST AND SHIUR

Tuesdays | Following Morning Services

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

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.

AN OLD-FASHIONED HEBREW COURSE: AN OVERVIEW OF HEBREW GRAMMAR

Based Upon The Historic “Hebrew Grammar For The Use Of Beginners” By James (Joshua) Seixas

**Thursdays, through January 4
7:15 pm | Rabbi Ira Rohde**

They don’t teach things the way they used to anymore! For an antiquarian take on studying Hebrew, in the classic way it was taught in America, largely to non-Jewish Bible students, but also to American Jews in our very congregation as well, nearly 200 years ago, Hazzan Ira Rohde will conduct a special 12-week Overview of Hebrew Grammar, using as a textbook the historic Manual: Hebrew Grammar for the Use of Beginners (Andover, MA, 1833) by James (a.k.a. Joshua) Seixas. James Seixas (1802-1874) was one of the many children of our notable minister, Hazan Gershom Mendes Seixas. It will be an old-fashioned type of course, taught via an old-fashioned methodology, in a historic institution, by an old-fashioned artisan practitioner. As Hazzan Rohde exhorts, in the Hebrew cohortative: הבה נלמדה-נא עברית — “Come let us, pritheee, learn Hebrew!”

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 2017-2018 season is sponsored by the Julis family. To sponsor an individual session, go to shearithisrael.org/sponsoraclass.

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 frequently cited maxim in Pirkei Abot actually hints at the extraordinary, and unique, life story and worldview of its rabbinic source. What’s more, the chapters of Abot are joined in a structure that tells the story of the transmission of the Oral Law. We will see how studying the history of the rabbinic figures cited lends an entirely new understanding to these statements, and how Abot represents the diverse response of the rabbis to an age of crisis and transition that was, in many ways, not unlike our own. Accompanied by seudah shelishit. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To find out more, go to shearithisrael.org/sponsoraclass.

HANUKKAH FEST

Sunday, December 17

Does any other synagogue in New York serve waffles on Hanukkah? Shearith Israel Youth and PTTS celebrate on the fifth day of Hanukkah with a festive celebration filled with home-made waffles, music, and Hanukkah fun!

SHEARITH ISRAEL AND JEWISH CENTER SKI AND SNOWBOARD TRIP

Monday, December 25

Shearith Israel and the Jewish Center are joining forces again 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, black diamond skiers, and snowboarders. For more information, see page 9.

PURIM CELEBRATION

Wednesday, February 28 | Arrive early at 6:00 pm

The reading of *Megillat Esther* begins promptly at 6:15 pm in the Large Synagogue. Children are invited to the Elias Room for a special Purim “infotainment” program just for them. Past years have included puppet shows and singalongs. Liz Rios and Yona Glass will be on hand to supervise but children under the age of 5 must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. For more information, see page 8.

SAVE THE DATES

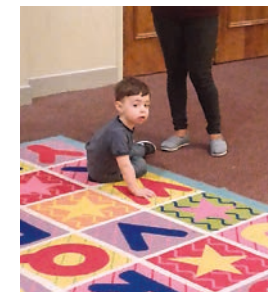
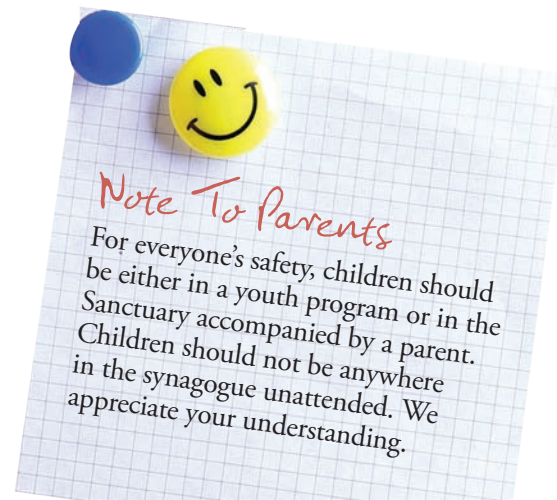
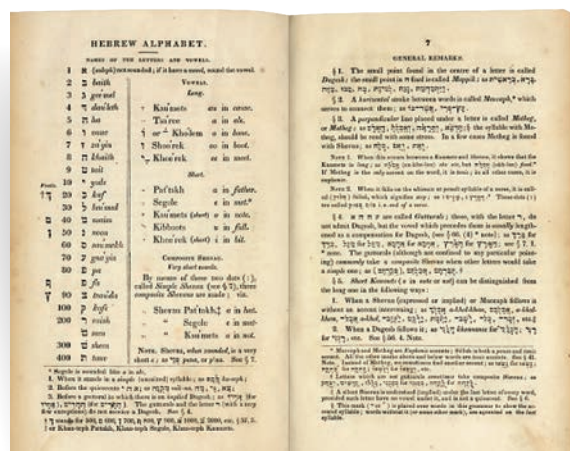
PTTS BRUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI SOLOVEICHIK

For 5th - 8th Graders and Their Parents

**Sundays, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
February 4, April 22**

PTTS middle school students and all PTTS parents enjoy special time with the rabbi. On several Sundays over the course of the year, 5th-8th grade students and all PTTS parents start the day together with morning services after which they will proceed to a topical “Brunch and Learn” with Rabbi Soloveichik. These sessions are held on Sunday mornings during regularly scheduled PTTS time. Mark your calendars now and get ready for a fun learning experience with your kids.

Schedule is subject to change. Watch for email reminders or schedule changes in advance of each date.



WEEKDAY TODDLER PROGRAM

Register now for the Spring Semester—starts Wednesday, January 3

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. For more information or to enroll your child, visit shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram.

HEBREW SCHOOL: POLONIES TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL (PTTS)

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

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

For students 3 - 16 years of age

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, visit shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool.



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. Parents: please note that children under the age of 2 must be accompanied by an adult. Furthermore, children will only be released to their parent or other pre-authorized adult. Please cooperate with these important policies for the safety of your children and everyone else.

YOUTH GROUPS AND JR. CONGREGATION

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

Children ages 5 - 12 gather with our capable and nurturing leader, Rachel Schaulewicz, for fun activities connected to the parashah of the week and other Jewish themes as well as raffle and prizes. Then at 10:30 am, the children come together for Junior Congregation, a lively, participatory service in the Little Synagogue. For a list of parts your child may lead in Jr. Congregation, contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com.



Don't forget to sign up for our weekly youth email updates! Scan this code for details.

WOMEN AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

WOMEN'S MEGILLAH READING

Thursday, March 1 | 8:00 am

Congregants and guests are welcome to join the main service for *megillah* reading. Women are encouraged to join our unique women's reading, now in its 29th 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.

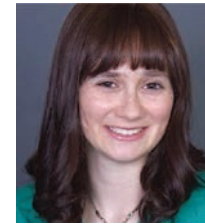
WOMEN'S SHABBAT SERVICES

On select Shabbatot

By and for women, these services are an opportunity for women to lead prayer, read from the Torah and perform the rituals associated with the day's services. We welcome the opportunity to celebrate momentous occasions—such as a girl becoming a Bat Mitzvah or a bride before her wedding—in the context of our service. To participate and for more information, contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com. For dates of meetings, sign up for our email list on our website.



YOETZET HALAKHA



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

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

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 Layalza Soloveichik at layaliza@gmail.com for a private tour of the facilities at the local UWS *Mikvah*. To maximize confidentiality, these one-on-one tours will take place at times when the *Mikvah* is closed to the public. Tours of other local *mikvaot* are also possible. Women only.

REMEMBERING DENNIS FREILICH, Z”L

Elliot Freilich



In 1944, at the age of ten, Dr. Dennis Freilich's parents brought him to a wedding held at Shearith Israel. Inspired by its elaborate history, dignified worship, and warm community, Dennis, and his beloved wife Estelle, became active members of Shearith Israel when they moved to Manhattan in 1966. The Shearith Israel community welcomed the Freilich family, and Dennis devoted himself to the Congregation. Dennis joined the Board of Trustees in 1974. He served in various leadership positions over the years including the roles of Segan, Parnas, and Honorary Parnas. Dennis also served as Ba'al Tokeah (Shofar Blower) at Shearith Israel for many years. Dennis instilled within each of his four children an everlasting love for Shearith Israel and its community.

As the oldest Jewish congregation in North America, founded in 1654, Shearith Israel gave Dennis the opportunity to not only be a proud Jew, but specifically to be a proud American Jew. He saw himself as a direct descendant, at least in spirit, of those first American Jews, and he made it his duty to help preserve their enduring traditions.

As a young man, Dennis joined the United States Navy. He became an officer, and eventually a Navy physician. He was proud of his service to his country and he found special meaning in attending Shearith Israel's annual Memorial Day service at the Synagogue's Chatham Square Cemetery—the

oldest Jewish Cemetery in the United States. As is the tradition at Shearith Israel, members who served in the US armed forces wear their uniforms to pay homage to the Congregation's Revolutionary War Veterans at the memorial event. Dennis wore his "Navy Dress Whites" every year at this event with extreme pride, honoring both the United States as well as Shearith Israel.

In addition to Shearith Israel, Dr. Freilich adored life. He loved being a physician, and was one of the pioneers in the field of retina surgery. He loved to learn and read about the world. He loved to travel. He loved spending time with his family and friends. He loved art and music. Above all else, Dennis loved treating all people with whom he met throughout the world with the utmost respect.

Dr. Dennis B. Freilich inspired, nurtured, and presided over Shearith Israel for over 50 years. He left an enduring mark on the institution, and his dedication to Shearith Israel is a model for future generations. He will be sorely missed by our community. May his memory serve as a source of strength for Shearith Israel and for all of Klal Yisrael.

Elliot Freilich and his brothers Benjamin, David, and Jonathan, grew up in Shearith Israel. Continuing in his father's tradition, Elliot has served as Ba'al Tokeah for many years, as Clerk on our board from 2011 to 2013, and was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees in 2016.

CARING CONNECTION

Caring Connection, our Congregation's *hesed* network, was founded in order to provide organized assistance to members of our community. The group of volunteers responds 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, please email caringconnection@shearithisrael.org and we will sensitively and discreetly coordinate with our volunteer team. If Caring Connection lacks the expertise or resources to provide appropriate assistance, we are pleased to coordinate with other congregational and communal organizations and to offer a directory of social services, so as to ensure that members of our community are able to access the support systems that best care for their needs.

Caring Connection is made up of dedicated volunteers who provide Shearith Israel community members with valuable support.

We are looking to expand our circle of individuals with a passion for helping others. We seek volunteers to organize, spearhead, and participate in each of the following activities:

- Visits and telephone calls to elderly and homebound members of our community.
- Visits to members of our community who are ill or recuperating.
- Meal delivery during times of need, such as illness, mourning or after the birth of a child.
- Transport and wheelchair assistance for members who wish to attend synagogue services or events.

UPPER WEST SIDE BLOOD DRIVE

The Esther Goldfarb Memorial Blood Drive presented by Caring Connection and The League

January 7, 2018 | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
The Jewish Center, 131 W 86 St

Kick off the new year by giving the gift of life—be a blood donor. This year, to maximize our impact, we are partnering with numerous congregations on the Upper West Side, so far including: Lincoln Square Synagogue, The Jewish Center, Young Israel of the Upper West Side, and Congregation Shaare Zedek.

MEALS FOR MOURNERS AND NEW PARENTS

Shearith Israel's Caring Connection provides meals for members and their families after the birth of a child or in times of mourning. Similarly, the Hebra Hased Va'Amet provides mourners and their family with their first meal upon returning home from the burial as they commence *shiva*.

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

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

Kichery

by Julia Moalem Cohen

My kids love Iraqi food, so I practice a lot with it. I am going to share with you one easy recipe called kichery—also spelled “kitchari,” “khichri,” or “khichdi”—which normally was cooked on Thursday before Shabbat. Kichery, a hearty rice stew, is easy and quick, and it is also the only Iraqi dish that I know of that has garlic in it. If you ask any typical Iraqi person if they like garlic, the answer will always be, “Nooo!!!”



CULINARY CORNER

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 stick of butter (you can substitute 3 tablespoons of olive oil)
- 3 cloves garlic
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 1/2 cups basmati rice (rinsed well)
- 1 cup red lentils (rinsed well)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons of cumin
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 4 cups of water



PROCEDURE:

Sauté the garlic, butter, and cumin.

Add the tomato paste, sauté for a few minutes, then add the rice, lentils, salt, and water.

Bring it to boil, and let it cook until all the water gets absorbed.

Reduce the heat to very low, mix the rice and cover the pot until the rice is soft (about 15 to 20 minutes).

Typically, we prepare a side dish of mixed yogurt with sour cream and chopped pieces of cucumber. You can also serve the kichery with fried eggs.

Enjoy!

If you would like to submit a recipe for a future bulletin, send it to Tikva Ostrega at 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.



SERVICES

SHABBAT SERVICES

December 1st-2nd

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	4:11 pm
Friday Evening Services.....	4:15 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Matthew Kaplan
Parashat Vayishlah	Genesis 32:4-36:43
Haftarah Book of Obadiah	Elliot Freilich
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	4:05 pm
Saturday Sunset	4:29 pm
Habdalah.....	4:56 pm

December 8th-9th

Shabbat before Hanukkah

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	4:10 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.....	4:05 pm
Saturday Sunset	4:28 pm
Habdalah.....	4:55 pm

December 15th-16th

Shabbat during Hanukkah

Light 4 Hanukkah Candles & Eve of Shabbat	
Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	4:11 pm
Friday Evening Services.....	4:00 pm
Sunset	4:29 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Sjimon Den Hollander
Parashat Mikkets-Hanukkah	
Gen 41:1-44:17 & Num. 7:30-35	
Haftarah Zachariah 2:14-4:7	Jacob P. Seligson
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	4:05 pm
Saturday Sunset	4:30 pm
Habdalah & 5 Hanukkah Candles	4:56 pm

DAILY SERVICES

Mornings:

Sundays Shahrit.....	8:00 am
Monday-Friday Shahrit.....	7:15 am

Evenings, Sunday-Thursday:

Nov. 5th-Mar. 1st, Arbit Only	6:30 pm
March 4th-8th, Minhah & Arbit.....	5:45 pm

— continued —

December 22nd-23rd

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	4:14 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:30 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Jacob Daar
Parashat Vayiggash.....	Genesis 44:18-47:27
Haftarah Ezekiel 37:15-28	Samuel E Neumark
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	4:10 pm
Saturday Sunset	4:33 pm
Habdalah.....	4:59 pm

December 29th-30th

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	4:19 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:30 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Avery E. Neumark
Parashat Vayhi	Genesis 47:28-end
Haftarah I Kings 2:1-12	Avery E. Neumark
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	3:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	4:15 pm
Saturday Sunset	4:38 pm
Habdalah.....	5:04 pm

January 5th-6th

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	4:25 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:30 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Matthew Kaplan
Parashat Shemoth.....	Exodus 1:1-6:1
Haftarah Jeremiah 1:1-2:3.....	Raphael Sasson
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	3:30 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....	4:20 pm
Saturday Sunset	4:44 pm
Habdalah.....	5:10 pm

January 12th-13th

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	4:32 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:30 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Adam F. Jackson
Parashat Vaera.....	Exodus 6:2-9:35
Haftarah Ezekiel 28:25-29:21	
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	3:30 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....	4:25 pm
Saturday Sunset	4:51 pm
Habdalah.....	5:18 pm

January 19th-20th

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	4:40 pm
Friday Evening Services	4:45 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Sjimon Den Hollander
Parashat Bo.....	Exodus 10:1-13:6
Haftarah Jeremiah 46:13-28	Alexander Freilich
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	3:35 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	4:35 pm
Saturday Sunset	4:59 pm
Habdalah.....	5:26 pm

January 26th-27th

Shabbat Shirah

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	4:48 pm
Friday Evening Services	5:00 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Salomon L. Vaz Dias
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.....	3:40 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....	4:40 pm
Saturday Sunset	5:07 pm
Habdalah.....	5:36 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 2nd-3rd

Shabbat Yithro

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	4:57 pm
Friday Evening Services	5:00 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Jacob Daar
Parashat Yithro	Exodus 18:1-20:23
(Reading of the Ten Commandments)	
Haftarah Isaiah 6:1-13	
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	3:55 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....	4:55 pm
Saturday Sunset	5:16 pm
Habdalah.....	5:45 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 9th-10th

Shabbat Shekalim

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	5:05 pm
Friday Evening Services	5:15 pm
Saturday Morning Services.....	8:15-11:45 am
Zemirot	Matthew Kaplan
Parashat Mishpatim-Shekalim	
Exodus 21:1-24:18 & 30:11-16	
Haftarah	David L. Cohen
II Kings 11:17-12:17	
Seuda Shelishit & Class.....	4:00 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....	5:00 pm
Saturday Sunset	5:25 pm
Habdalah.....	5:54 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.

February 16th-17th

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	5:14 pm
Friday Evening Services	5:15 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.....	4:10 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....	5:10 pm
Saturday Sunset	5:33 pm
Habdalah.....	6:04 pm

February 23rd-24th

Shabbat Zakhor

Candles (18 min. before sunset).....	5:22 pm
Friday Evening Services	5:30 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.....	4:15 pm
Minhah & Arbit.....	5:15 pm
Saturday Sunset	5:41 pm
Habdalah.....	6:13 pm

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

Zakhor Reading | Shabbat, February 24
During Junior Congregation | Small Synagogue

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

MINOR HOLIDAYS

Hanukkah Holiday

Tuesday Evening, December 12th & Wednesday, December 13th through Wednesday, December 20th:

1st Evening: 1 Hanukkah Candle (Eve of Hanukkah)

Tuesday Evening, December 12th

Candles Lit After Sunset.....4:29 pm
Evening Service (Arbit only)6:30 pm

1st Morning of Hanukkah

Wednesday Morning, December 13th

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

2nd Evening: 2 Hanukkah Candles

Wednesday Evening, December 13th

Candles Lit After Sunset.....4:29 pm
Evening Service (Arbit only)6:30 pm

2nd Morning of Hanukkah

Thursday Morning, December 14th

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

3rd Evening: 3 Hanukkah Candles

Thursday Evening, December 14th

Candles Lit After Sunset.....4:29 pm
Evening Service (Arbit only)6:30 pm

3rd Morning of Hanukkah

Friday Morning, December 15th

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

4th Evening: 4 Hanukkah Candles & Eve of Shabbat during Hanukkah

Friday Evening, December 15th

Evening Services (Minhah & Arbit).....4:00 pm
Light 4 Hanukkah Candles & Eve of Shabbat
Candles (18 min. before sunset).....by 4:11 pm
Sunset4:29 pm

4th Morning of Hanukkah & Shabbat During Hanukkah Daytime

Saturday Morning, December 16th

Parashat Mikkets8:15-11:45 am
See **Shabbat during Hanukkah** in Shabbat
Section for Full Schedule of Services

Habdalah & 5 Hanukkah Candles on Motza'e Shabbat, 5th Evening

Saturday Evening, December 16th

Saturday Minhah & Arbit.....4:05 pm
Saturday Sunset4:30 pm
Habdalah & 5 Hanukkah Candlesafter 4:56 pm
See **Shabbat during Hanukkah** in Shabbat
Section for Full Schedule of Services

5th Morning of Hanukkah

Sunday Morning, December 17th

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

6th Evening: 6 Hanukkah Candles & Eve of Rosh Hodesh Tebet (Two-Day)

Sunday Evening, December 17th

Candles Lit After Sunset.....4:30 pm
Evening Service (Arbit only)6:30 pm

6th Morning of Hanukkah & First Day Rosh Hodesh Tebet (Two-Day)

Monday Morning, December 18th

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

7th Evening: 7 Hanukkah Candles; Eve of Second Day Rosh Hodesh Tebet

Monday Evening, December 18th

Candles Lit After Sunset.....4:30 pm
Evening Service (Arbit only)6:30 pm

7th Morning of Hanukkah & Morning of Second Day Rosh Hodesh Tebet

Tuesday Morning, December 19th

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

8th (Final) Evening: 8 Hanukkah Candles

Tuesday Evening, December 19th

Candles Lit After Sunset.....4:31 pm
Evening Service (Arbit only)6:30 pm

8th (Final) Morning of Hanukkah

Wednesday Morning, December 20th

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

Hanukkah commemorates the Jewish re-consecration 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.

Rosh Hodesh Tebet (Two-Day):

The 6th & 7th Days of Hanukkah

Sunday Evening, December 17th through Monday & Tuesday, December 18th & 19th
(See Hanukkah Schedule)

December 25th Legal Holiday

Monday, December 25th

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

Fast of (Tenth of) Tebeth (Asarah beTebeth)

Thursday, December 28th

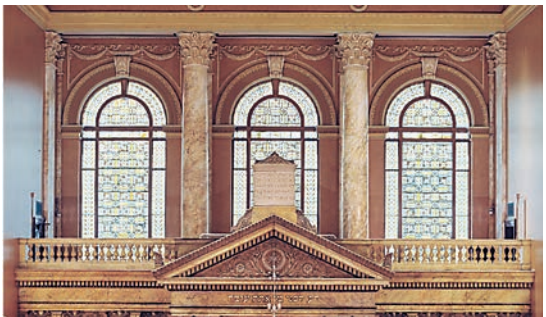
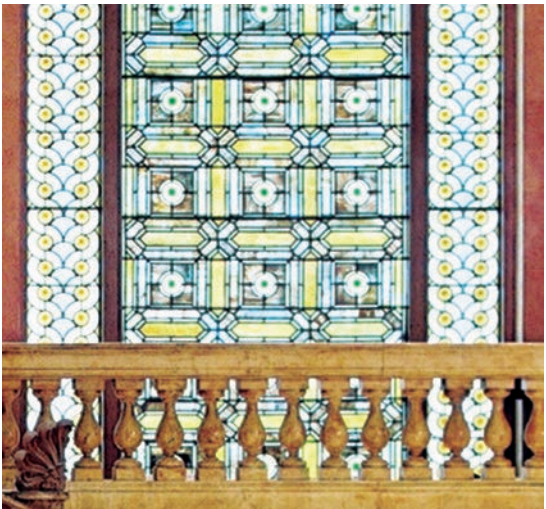
Dawn (Fast Begins) 5:51 am
Sunrise 7:19 am
Morning Service 7:15 am
Evening Minhah (with tefillin) & Arbit.....4:00 pm
Sunset4:36 pm
End of Fast4:56 pm

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.

Secular New Year Legal Holiday

Monday January 1st

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



— continued —

Martin Luther King Legal Holiday

Monday, January 15th

Morning Service..... 8:00 am

Rosh Hodesh Shebat (One-Day)

Tuesday Evening, January 16th, through

Wednesday, January 17th

Services follow Daily Schedule

Hamisha Asar (Tu) BiShebat

Tuesday Evening, January 30th through

Wednesday, January 31st

Services follow Daily Schedule

Rosh Hodesh Adar (Two-Day)

Wednesday Evening, February 14th through

Thursday & Friday, February 15th & 16th

Wednesday & Thursday, Arbit only..... 6:30 pm

Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit..... 5:15 pm

Thursday & Friday Mornings 7:15 am

Presidents' Day Legal Holiday

Monday, February 19th

Morning Service..... 8:00 am

Evening Service (Arbit only) 6:30 pm

PURIM HOLIDAY

Fast of Esther

Wednesday, February 28th

Dawn (Fast Begins) 5:10 am

Sunrise 6:31 am

Morning Service (Shahrit) 7:15 am

Eve of Purim

Wednesday, February 28th

Minhah (men wear tefillin) 5:15 pm

Sunset 5:46 pm

Arbit (Evening) Service 6:00 pm

End of Fast 6:07 pm

Reading of Megillah 6:15 pm

Late Evening Reading of Megillah 8:00 pm

Purim Daytime

Thursday, March 1st

Morning Shahrit..... 7:15 am

Morning Megillah Reading & breakfast 8:00 am

Women's Megillah Reading..... 8:00 am

Late Morning Megillah Reading..... 11:00 am

Sunset 5:47 pm

End of Purim Day..... 6:08 pm

Post-Purim Service (Arbit only) 6:30 pm

Purim Shushan

Friday, March 2nd

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 5:15 service.

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.

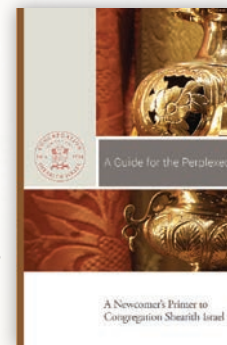
Purim Shushan, the day following Purim, is the day Purim was celebrated in Shushan, the capital of ancient Persia, and in Jerusalem.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

We are thrilled with the number of new members and guests who have been joining us for services, classes, special lectures, and events over the past few years. In order to make our beautiful but distinctive customs that we are so proud of, as accessible and welcoming to all, we have recently released two attractive, user-friendly publications. Pick up a hard copy at the synagogue and access them on our website anytime at shearithisrael.org/content/bulletins-and-program-guide.

A Guide For The Perplexed: A Newcomer's Primer To Congregation Shearith Israel (2nd Edition)

Whether you are a first time visitor, a new member, or even a regular attendee of our extraordinary services, most congregants enjoy a deeper appreciation of our service unique minhag, culture, customs, and liturgy. This booklet, conceived in a user-friendly Q&A format, was created in the hopes that you will become an active and confident participant in our service in whatever way most suits you.



Friday Night Services: A Guide To Congregation Shearith Israel's Unique Customs (1st Edition)

Surely one of the highlights of our service is our Friday night *Kabbalat Shabbat*, capped by Rabbi Soloveichik's Friday Night Lights talks. Many have told us how beautiful and inspiring these services are, but wish they had a deeper understanding of our service, liturgy, music, and customs.



This guide is intended to help make our Friday Night Service more accessible and less intimidating. Our hope is that when the discomfort of not knowing what to expect is removed, you will be free to enjoy, participate, and be uplifted by what surrounds you. If you have any further questions, please let us know. Your input may even help us when we issue the second edition of this guide!

STAY INFORMED

CONNECT WITH US

Don't Miss an Update

Sign up for any or all of our email lists! Visit shearithisrael.org/join-our-mailing-lists—or scan the QR code with your phone to be directed to our signup options.



Share on Facebook



Have you attended a Shearith Israel tour, lecture, or event that you loved? Leave a post on our Facebook page so that others can share your enthusiasm!

To learn about upcoming events and fascinating historical Shearith Israel tidbits, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/shearithisrael.nyc.

Text Message Reminders

Get RSVP reminders at shearithisrael.org/text-message-notifications.





HELP MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN

The generosity of our members and friends enables us to continue to honor our past, strengthen our community and pass on our traditions for the next chapter of Jewish and American history. We have many opportunities to contribute in fulfilling our mission as a synagogue.

GENERAL DONATIONS

General donations honor our past with dignity through the preservation of our historic spaces including our main sanctuary and small synagogue, three historic cemeteries in Lower Manhattan and our active cemetery in Cyprus Hills, Queens. These donations ensure a strong future through engaging educational programs with rigorous ritual and liturgical training for youth including PTTS, our Toddler Programs, Junior Congregation, and special opportunities for girls. And perhaps most importantly, general donations uphold and celebrate our minhag and liturgical traditions through dedicated clergy members, our sublime choir, Shabbat, and holiday services.

KIDDUSH FUND

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

SPONSOR SCOTCH AND ARAK

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

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund is a charitable arm of our congregation. These funds are designated by our rabbis for members in need and communities in crisis. This past year, our funds have assisted a number of members who have hit hard times as well as important causes such as the Houston Jewish Community recovering from flooding, the Food Bank for NYC and worthy institutions in Israel.

CLASS AND EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Help us strengthen educational initiatives at Shearith Israel by supporting a warm and inviting atmosphere to learn, debate, and grow together as a community. Sponsor 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.

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





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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.

