One of my favorite ritual objects at Shearith Israel is our hanukiya. Brought over by from Amsterdam, kindled by our community since 1730, it contains centuries of memories and meaning for such a little lamp. It proclaims both literally and symbolically the dedication of Jews to preserving the light of faith brought from the Old World to the New.

To ponder our hanukiya is to be reminded of those with the courage to safeguard the luminous soul of Judaism when it was not easy to do so. Rabbi Jack Sable, father of our trustee David Sable, once suggested that the unsung hero of the Hanukkah story is the unnamed individual who had the foresight and the faith to hide one small flask of oil as the Temple was taken. We tend to focus on Jewish soldiers that captured the Temple, found that last flask, and allowed the Menorah to blaze forth once again; but who had the presence of mind to prepare for that moment in a time of crisis? We readily celebrate when the sacred radiance of Judaism suffuses all one sees; it is an astonishing expression of hope to maintain one’s faith in more difficult times.

In 1730, thousands of miles away from their brethren, our predecessors had the courage to proclaim that Judaism lives in the New World. In this trying year, what a privilege it will be to kindle our sacred lamp and allow the faith of those who have come before to shine again.
A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARNAS
Louis M. Solomon

FINDING CONGREGATIONAL UNITY IN PAVING PARADISE

In our previous Bulletin, I referenced some stories from the end of Tractate Shabbat. I’m drawn to one story in the next Talmudic Tractate that daily learners of the Talmud are now studying, Tractate Eruvin. Tractate Eruvin discusses how households and communities come together by contributing to a common collection of food, thereby unifying themselves and thus enabling activities on Shabbat that would otherwise be prohibited. The Talmud discusses acts to achieve unity in the small unit, say for a family; acts to achieve unity in a larger setting, say in a cluster of adjacent houses; and acts to achieve unity in the broader community. The discussion, both in the Talmud and by subsequent commentators, cannot help but remind us of the fundamental value our religion places on achieving and maintaining unity.

On page 82 of Tractate Eruvin, the Talmud discusses the amount that each person or household needs to contribute to be an integral part of the unified group. The Talmud states that the person or household needs to contribute a “whole” amount, as for example a whole challah. Importantly, one opinion states, the respective sizes of the donations may vary; each just needs to be of whole items.

Most congregants know the hapless story of our efforts to replace our old and failing community house on the lot adjacent to our Synagogue. For years, we had to fight a small subset of our neighbors for the right to build another community facility on the site, a fight that started in City administrative agencies and then spilled into the courts. We won all the many wars including the court litigations, which took years more. The litigations finally ended in 2019.

And then along came COVID-19. In large part due to the brilliance and perseverance of our health care providers, we will weather this pandemic infinitely better than we would otherwise. Still, there has been sad and tragic loss. And this modern plague has had lasting and dislocating economic and fiscal effects on real estate development timing and costs, on real estate prices and values, on just about everything now, will offer flexible uses beyond the current crisis, and will pave the way (so to speak) for what we will do with the property after that.

To make this project happen requires the financial support of congregants and friends. I know I’ve asked you for support before. No doubt special needs will arise again. My plea to you is that, if you haven’t already given, or if you have but are moved by this project, please give a whole amount, whatever that means for you. I don’t mean round numbers. Give an amount that approximates the whole or full value of what our Synagogue, its ministers and programs, its friends and companions, its people of all generations, mean to you. If you do that we will get there. One unified congregation in our paved paradise.

Remember: Stay safe sane and solvent! Happy winter to all.

To learn more, or to donate to this important initiative, please visit shearithisrael.org/paved-paradise.
CONGRATULATIONS

Mazal Tov to:

Esme and Roger Berg upon their grandson, Samuel, becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Samuel is the son of Virginie and Jonathan Berg.

Charlie Bieler, upon becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his parents, Ruth and Philip Bieler.

Laurie and Dr. Eli Bryk, upon the birth of a granddaughter, Nicole Dove (Davida Esther), born to their children, Caroline and Jordan Bryk.

Reuben Frieber upon becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his mother, Laury, and his sister, Matea.

Benjamin Herschman, upon becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations as well to his parents, Laura and Robert Herschman, and grandparents, Dana and Michael Werner.

Ira Kalfus for being honored as this year’s Hatan Maftir at the Jewish Center.

Ruth and Larry Kobrin, upon the marriage of their granddaughter, Yaira, daughter of Michelle and Rabbi Jeffrey Kobrin, to Solomon Weiner, son of Tikvah and Aryeh Weiner of Teaneck.

Jack Linhart, upon becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his parents, Dr. Leora Mogilner and Richard Linhart.

Honorary Trustee, Col. Jonathan de Sola Mendes, upon celebrating his 100th birthday. Muchos anos!

Alyse and Joshua Rozenberg on the birth of a son. Congratulations to the grandparents, Susan and Avery Neumark, and great-grandfather Melvin Neumark.

Martine and Jack Schenker, upon their grandson Max Gabriel Schenker (Moshe Gavriel), becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Barbara and Sassoon Shahmoon, upon the birth of a granddaughter, born to their children, Sarah (Boumendil) and David Shahmoon.

Ruth and Irwin Shapiro, on the marriage of their granddaughter, Rachel Shapiro, daughter of Monica and Sandy Shapiro, to Natan Bienstock, son of Sara and Mark Bienstock.

HAZAKIM U’BERUKHIM

Members with special achievements:

Noah Lang, on completing the United States Marine Corps Officer Candidate School, in Quantico, VA.

The healthcare workers of our community, who have been doing heroic work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our daily morning study group, upon completing Kings I. This small group of dedicated attendees has been slowly and steadily making its way through the Prophets. Keep up the good work and Tizku leMitzvot!

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of our members:

Dr. Richard Amelar
Isaac Cohen

Bequests

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

Special thanks to:

Our indefatigable Parnas, clergy, administrative staff, maintenance workers, Board of Trustees, and volunteers for keeping our community flourishing even through these turbulent times.

Our Daily Minyan-Makers, who have ensured that we maintain continual weekly services during this time. If you’d like to commit to a daily minyan (even one day a week can make a big difference!), contact Rev. Z. Edinger at zedinger@shearithisrael.org.

Friday Night Lights...Now on Thursdays

Sponsors:

Shlomit and Chaim Edelstein, in memory of Edward Feiner,
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Joyce Kendall Friedman
Robyn and Eric Frohmann
Elaine Hochberg
Gerald Hollander
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Shabbat Teshuba Derasha Sponsors:

Nicole and Raanan Agus, in honor of Rabbi Soloveichik
Debbie and David Sable, on the occasion of the nahala of David’s mother, Elissa Sable

Co-Sponsors:

Carol and Alan Schechter, in memory of Alan’s mother, Yitta Bat Zichak Shmuel, on the occasion of her nahala on the second day of Rosh HaShana
The Solomon Family

Contributors:

Ruth and Larry Kobrin
Rebecca and Israel Rivkin, in honor of Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Barbara Herlands Smith

Rabbi Soloveichik’s High Holidays Series:

Nicole and Raanan Agus

Succot and Shemini Atseret Kiddush Sponsors:

The Shearith Israel Sisterhood
Lewis Bateman, in memory of his mother, Caryl Cohn Bateman (Chaya bat Moshe)
Barbara Herlands Smith and Rachel Neumark Herlands and Jonathan Herlands in observance of the nahala of their adored brother, James O. Herlands.
Succah Sponsors:
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Hoshana Rabbah Lecture Sponsors:
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Rabbi Soloveichik's The Art of Torah Series:
Anonymous, in honor of the honorable Dr. Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Suzanne and Norman Javitt, in honor of the birthday of Jonathan Javitt, living in Zichron Yakov, Israel
Jerry Kestenbaum and Family
Laura Rubin, in honor of Rabbi Soloveichik
Jane Shiff, in memory of her father, Nathan Renick OBM, Nissim Shalom b. Pinches Zelig v Shprintza
Martine and Jack Schenker, in memory of Martin's father, Henri Keren (Tzvi Hersh b. Shalom), on the occasion of his upcoming nahala
Martine and Jack Schenker, in honor of Barbara Reiss, for the terrific job she is doing for our congregation

Hatanim Celebration Sponsors:
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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.
THE 5781 HATANIM CELEBRATION: THE VIRTUAL EVENT

“Because of your great kindness, I come into your house and bow down in awe before your holy sanctuary.”

David De Sola Pool, Book of Prayers According to the Custom of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews, Page 1 (English adapted)

On November 1st, Congregation Shearith Israel upheld its longstanding tradition of honoring the new Hatan Torah and Hatan Bereshit, although this year’s hatanim, Dr. Henry Edinger, and Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik, were feted in a new way – in compliance with COVID-19 pandemic regulations- with a virtual event. Our Hatanim, their spouses, and a scant few family members, along with our Parnas, Louis Solomon and Hazan Rabbi Ira Rohde, joined live from the Main Sanctuary, while over 150 individuals and families attended via Zoom.

Louis Solomon paid tribute to the Hatanim and their wives for their “leadership in services” and their “leadership in service”. Rabbi Rohde then regaled our Hatanim with the melodious Tenu Shebaha. Henry shared his journey of how he came to join and love Shearith Israel, thanks go to his wonderful wife, Rose, whose family has served the congregation for generations. Rose shared many great childhood memories in her remarks. And they are both so proud that the tradition is being carried forward by their son, Reverend Zachary Edinger, our dedicated Sexton/Assistant Hazan.

Henry recounted that the prayer quoted above truly expressed his feelings, and while he didn’t always recite this prayer, now as he entered the synagogue for the first time since Purim, it took on new meaning. Rose concurred and exclaimed that the Synagogue “still has its awe, radiance and warmth.”

Rabbi Soloveichik lightheartedly shared his sartorial dilemma for the occasion, should he don the minister’s canons or the hatan’s morning suit. Since, according to Shearith Israel’s Constitution, the role of Hatan supersedes Rabbi, he chose the morning suit, and quipped, “I do feel pretty amazing”. He expounded on two unique moments during the pandemic when he was in the sanctuary – basically alone: his livestreamed lecture on “The Lonely Man of Faith” and the livestreamed recitation of the Kal Nidre on Kippur eve. Both, he said, were quite moving – he might have been alone, but he wasn’t lonely. He expressed gratitude for being part of something larger than oneself – “a covenantal connection”.

Layaliza Soloveichik shared the significance of the roles of Hatan Torah and Hatan Bereshit. Torah represents our faith and tradition, and Bereshit, beginnings, renewal and spiritual rebirth. She said, “Torah is a way to begin anew. We look forward to more new beginnings, and all being back together in Shearith Israel, our spiritual home, soon.”

Lou closed the formal part of the program by expressing his gratitude to all - congregants, clergy, staff and our COVID Working Group - who make our services and programs happen.

The celebration concluded with Zoom participants chiming in with their toasts, congratulations, and blessings, and finally, a voluminous scroll of virtual greetings for our Hatanim. The Congregation expresses our gratitude to all those who generously contributed. Hazakim u’berukhim to Dr. Henry Edinger and Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik!
TU B’SHEBAT

“FANTASTIC FRUITS AND HOW TO COOK THEM”

A Tu B’Shebat Cooking Class with Rabbi Ira Rohde

Wednesday, January 27 | 7:30 pm

In honor of Tu B’Shebat, join Rabbi Ira Rohde and special guests as he rediscovers overlooked and forgotten foods of Ancient Israel. These were formerly staples of the diet in the Holy Land and much of the Mediterranean for thousands of years, but have suffered neglect and are unfamiliar to many in the West. While none of these fruits grows on what is technically classified as a “tree,” they certainly rivaled tree-crops in importance. Hence we have chosen to celebrate them on this agricultural holiday which traditionally salutes the fruits peculiarly native to the Holy Land. Some of these ancient staples have slowly been staging a bit of a comeback as “health-foods” in recent years. We will combine recipe information/demonstration along with background culinary history. We will also add more-familiar Israeli fruits and nuts for dessert.

PURIM

SISTERHOOD MISHLOAH MANOT PROJECT

Do you want to send Mishloah Manot to your friends and fellow congregants for Purim? At a time when we miss and appreciate each other more than ever, take advantage of a wonderful opportunity to send special Purim greetings and to reach out to our Shearith Israel community and beyond. There will also be a COVID-safe pickup at the synagogue for those who order packages.

This project supports the Sisterhood’s many important activities in our synagogue. Please stay tuned for more information about how to participate.

MARVELOUS PURIM PASTRY BAKING WITH ALLAYA FLEISCHER

February, Date TBD | On Zoom

In a follow-up to her “Marvelous Hallah Baking Class,” join Shearith Israel’s resident professional baker, Allaya Fleischer of Stuff You Knead, as she teaches us how to make scrumptiously delicious Purim pastries. Advance registration will ensure you get the ingredient list, so that you can shop ahead of time and have the necessary ingredients on hand.
PROGRAMMING NOTE:
Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, this section is subject to change, with some programs and details yet to be finalized based on future developments. However, we have a full slate of programs coming up, and we are certain that our rabbi, clergy, and synagogue societies will continue to offer a wide array of high quality virtual programming throughout this time, as they have commendably and creatively done from the start (see previous section).

For the latest programming updates, we encourage you to follow our newsletter emails. If you have not yet signed up, you may do so at shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists.

GRAND(PARENT)-CHILD LEARNING
3 Sessions | Saturday Nights: December 19, January 9, February 13
Led by Rabbi Soloveichik, Rabbi Rohde, and Rev. Edinger

Spending quality time with grandchildren, once a commonplace joy, has become increasingly difficult, especially in these socially-distanced times. But we’ve also learned how technology can bridge barriers. To that end, this year we especially encourage grandparents to share Torah and family time with their grandchildren during these 3 Saturday night sessions, each led by a different member of our clergy. Parents are of course welcome as well for this multi-generational bonding opportunity, as we pass on our traditions m’dor l’dor.

Stay tuned for registration details.

SUNDAY MATINEE SERIES
Sponsored by the Sisterhood of Congregation Shearith Israel

A series of video presentations including a live Q&A with the filmmakers and artists

Part 2: Sunday, December 20 | 11:00 am | On Zoom
Part 3: Sunday, January 10 | 2:00 pm | On Zoom

Stuck in the house? Tired of Netflix? Looking for some thought-provoking films to enjoy with old friends and new? Each of these specially curated films will explore how we transmit culture, identity and memory now and through time. Part 1 took place in November, but we have 2 more great matinees coming up!

Presentation #2: David Moss’ “Illuminating Souls – A Life in Jewish Art”

David Moss considers himself a “mitzvah beautifier.” He works in diverse media, including calligraphy, illumination, papercuts, sculpture, wood, prints, artist books, architecture, pottery, drama, educational programming, and others. He is responsible for the revival of the hand-illustrated ketubah, created “The Moss Haggadah,” and collaborated on the “Tree of Life Shitender.” His works are exhibited at or in the permanent collections of British Museum, Harvard’s Widener Library, Israel Museum, Library of Congress, among many others and is included in many private collections.

Presentation #3: Vivienne Roumani-Denn’s “Out of Print,” followed by a Q&A with the Director, Shearith Israel member, Vivienne Roumani-Denn

Narrated by Meryl Streep, this film explores our extraordinary transformation as we moved from the preeminence of the written word to the digital age and the profound effect it has had on how we learn and live. The documentary is directed by Vivienne Roumani-Denn and features interviews with Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, former Authors Guild President Scott Turow, the late Ray Bradbury, and other leaders in tech, publishing, libraries, education, and cognitive science.

TED COMET VIRTUAL TAPESTRY TOUR
Date TBD | On Zoom

The Upper West Side apartment of our friend Ted Comet houses a phenomenal and unexpected collection: stunningly evocative tapestries created by his late wife, trauma expert, Dr. Shoshana Comet, illustrating the history of the Jewish people, our trials and tribulations throughout the ages – a true celebration of our survival. We invite you to join Mr. Comet, a sensitive and engaging raconteur, on a virtual tour through these illuminating pieces of handmade art.

Stay tuned for details.
SPECIAL EVENTS

PAINT NIGHT

with Rena Maryles

Saturday Night, January 16 | On Zoom

Join us for a virtual night of colorful creativity with professional artist and art instructor Rena Maryles, who has been painting and teaching for over 25 years. Her commissioned pieces have sold to clients across the US and Israel. Her works can be viewed on her Instagram page, @renaspalette.

Paint Night will enable all participants to work on one specific painting with Rena’s guidance on technique and flair, and Rena encourages her pupils to embrace their own style and make the painting their own. You will leave with a work of art you can truly take pride in!

This event will require advance registration and fee ($30 for members, $35 for non-members), which includes pre-packed kits from Rena with all necessary materials (which will be available for pickup at the synagogue). Follow our emails for upcoming details.

TORAHS THROUGH TIME

Presented by our Segen, Michael Lustig

Wednesday, January 13 | 2:00 pm
On Zoom

The Torah is at the heart of our tradition. Over our centuries-long history, we have accumulated 49 Torah scrolls, each with its own unique story. Collectively, these scrolls bear witness to the long history and the diverse origins of our congregants who hail from communities all over the Ashkenazi and Sephardi world, and the growth of the Jewish community in North America. Our Sefarim are living memorials to Jewish communities destroyed by persecution and Holocaust, and they are evidence of the rebirth of our people in the modern State of Israel. They testify to our origins in the Portuguese community in Amsterdam and our strong connection there throughout our 365+ year history.

Join us for an interactive presentation of three of these historic Sifrei Torah. Participation is limited to 20. Follow our emails for registration details.

YOETZET HALAKHA

Events TBD

As part of a consortium of local synagogues that retains a Yoetzet Halakha, our Yoetzet, Shifty Friedman is available to answer any questions regarding Taharat Hamishpachah (Jewish Family Law) laws of Niddah, sexuality, and women’s health. Shearith Israel contributes several thousand dollars each year to provide this confidential service. You can donate to support this important initiative, or contact Shifty in confidence at nycyoetzet@gmail.com

THE GUIDE TO DUTIES OF THE HEART

Sundays | 8:45 am
Rabbi Sjimon den Hollander

Via Zoom | To receive the link, email Rabbi den Hollander at sjimon@flatironre.com

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

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

DAILY ZOOM: BOOK OF KINGS

Sunday – Thursday Mornings
Rev. Z. Edinger and Rabbi Ira Rohde

Via Zoom | To receive the link, email Z. at zedinger@shearithisrael.org

The loyal members of our morning learning group have continued to meet on Zoom and cover ground as they work their way through the Prophets. All are welcome; just contact Z. Edinger.
TODDLER ZOOM WITH LIZ
Mondays and Wednesdays on Zoom | 10:00 am
Liz continues to be our toddler educator and entertainer extraordinaire in virtual format, mesmerizing our tots with stories, games, songs, show and tell, and more. Follow our emails to sign up.

THE ART OF TORAH: THE PARASHA AND THE WORLD’S GREATEST PAINTINGS
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | Weekly Conference Call
This class is free, but make sure to register at shearithisrael.org/art-of-torah
Rabbi Soloveichik’s new series is not your ordinary parasha class, but rather a guided weekly tour through the most iconic biblical art, as seen through his eyes and expertise.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Visit shearithisrael.org/art-of-torah:
Session Sponsor | $360
Session sponsors will be mentioned on the date of the session of their choice, and are listed on that week’s source sheet, as well as our seasonal bulletin.
Season Sponsor (until Pesah) | $3600
Season Sponsors will be listed on the source sheet each week (and in the Bulletin), and they will be invited to join Rabbi Soloveichik for a private biblical art tour at the Met.

WEEKLY DEBAR TORAH
Rabbi Ira Rohde | Wednesday | 7:00 pm
On Zoom | Refer to our emails for the link
Every Wednesday evening, Rabbi Ira delivers a debar torah on the weekly parasha. The written text of the debar torah is distributed in our Thursday newsletter.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS... NOW ON THURSDAYS
2020-2021 season sponsored by the Julis-Rabinowitz family
Thursdays | 7:30 pm | Via Conference Call
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
More time at home (and sadly, less time at Synagogue) has enabled many more of us to enjoy Friday Night Lights beyond the “season.” Rabbi Soloveichik has masterfully continued his beloved Friday Night Lights lectures nonstop, via conference call, for hundreds of listeners each week. Now that Fridays have grown shorter, these wonderful talks will take place on Thursday nights, transitioning us into a Shabbat mindset even earlier.
Don’t forget to register at shearithisrael.org/fnl-thursdays!

NEW SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
We are offering new ways for our listeners to show their appreciation to Rabbi Soloveichik and our Congregation:
SESSION SPONSOR | $250
Select the session(s) you wish to sponsor and if you like, dedicate the session(s) in honor or in memory of someone special. Session sponsors are announced at the beginning of the lecture, and are listed on that session’s source sheet, our website, and in the upcoming seasonal Bulletin.
CONTRIBUTOR | $100
Make a one-time contribution (as often as you like!). Contributors will be listed on our website and in the upcoming seasonal Bulletin.
1-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION | $18 a month
Show your commitment with a convenient monthly subscription. Pay for the entire year or set up automatic monthly payments. Subscribers will also be listed on our website and in the upcoming seasonal bulletin.
Visit the webpage to register, sponsor, contribute, or subscribe.

VIRTUAL HABDALA SERVICE
Saturday Night | Rev. Z. Edinger
On Zoom | Refer to our emails for the link and time
You are invited to join in while Z. Edinger recites Habadala according to the S&P nusakh for his family. Habadala should be recited individually in one’s own home, but please join us if you wish to feel a part of this communal activity. These prayers will be recited slowly for any who wish to recite it together and learn our nusakh.

VIRTUAL HASHCABA SERVICE AND MISHEBERAKH FOR THE ILL
Friday | Rev. Z. Edinger
On Zoom | Refer to our emails for the link and time
Our Shamash, Rev. Zachariah Edinger, will recite Haskabot (memorial prayers) for those who had a nahala this past week. We will also offer prayers for those who are ill. These prayers will be recited in the Main Sanctuary and will last about 5-10 minutes.
If you would like to add the name of someone who is ill, or would like more information, please email Z Edinger at zedinger@shearithisrael.org.

— continued —
WELCOMING A NEIGHBOR:
MANHATTAN DAY SCHOOL and SHEARITH ISRAEL

Bonnie Barest
Deputy Executive Director

“Teach Your Children Well”*
ושננתם לבניך

V’shinantam l’venekha... As we recite the Sh’ma twice daily, we recall the importance of “teaching our children again and again the words of the Torah.”

This very unusual fall, as Manhattan Day School was faced with a shortage of the expanded space requirements needed to accommodate all of their students with proper social distancing in their W. 75th Street building, Congregation Shearith Israel’s Board of Trustees unanimously and enthusiastically responded in the affirmative to Head of School, Ms. Raizi Chechik to open our doors to MDS’ middle schoolers. We embraced our responsibility to be a good community partner and help make this mitzvah a reality.

We welcomed MDS’ 7th and 8th graders to hold classes throughout our building. Adrienne Mittan, Executive Director, made sure the classrooms were set up as COVID-safe spaces, overseeing the delivery of HEPA filters, school desks with shields, whiteboards (to avoid paper) and hand sanitizing dispensers (with special thanks to our great facilities team, John Quinones, Miguel Santiago, and Olivo Lopez for their assistance).

On September 8, 2020, the first day of school, Rabbi Rosenfeld, Head of the Middle School, rolled out the red carpet (literally!) for the students. Jason, the MDS security guard, was there to ensure everyone is well protected (and continues to be there everyday). Students were thrilled to be back in school (how often do you hear that?) and their parents, even more so. Reuben and Matea Frieber, two of our congregants, were especially excited to be attending school in their own synagogue. The boys took over Levy Auditorium and girls moved into Fidanque, our youth space. Even our sacred sanctuary is now used every school day as a safe and inspiring space for Judaic study. Rabbis and teachers found new ways to work with the students, and thanks to MDS IT professional, Elisha Hus, the WiFi was upgraded to allow everyone to efficiently use their iPads.

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Our historic building is providing a great community service when otherwise, and sadly, remaining substantially underutilized during the weekdays. And those of us who do spend time in the building love hearing the halls filled with the sounds of tefillot and children’s laughter.

We’re so proud to be doing our part to ensure a vibrant future for students of Torah, and are very appreciative of Ms. Chechik’s expression of gratitude: “May the Torah learned by our students in your sanctuary be a source of blessing for your entire congregation.”

*“Teach Your Children Well” by Crosby, Stills & Nash. 1969 hit song
**HESED**

IN TIMES OF CORONA

**CARING CONNECTION**

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

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

During these past months, Caring Connection has been instrumental in providing emotional and practical support to those in our community, from check-in calls to grocery shopping for those who are high-risk or under quarantine. If you would like to support their COVID-19 work with a donation, please do so at shearithisrael.org/support-cc.

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

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

**MEALS FOR MOURNERS AND NEW PARENTS**

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

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

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

**GONDHI AFGHAN MEATBALLS**

by Malka Aaron

Malka Aaron was born in Israel. Her husband, Jacob, was born in Afghanistan, and they have been married for 55 years. They have three accomplished daughters, Gila, Tina, and Jessica, and five grandchildren, four boys and one girl. They arrived in America shortly after they married, and lived in Jamaica Estates, Queens. Along with a few families from Afghanistan, they started their own synagogue, Anshi Sholom, which held services in a basement, before moving into a house and ultimately its own building. Jacob was president of that synagogue for five years; it was an exciting experience! The Aarons moved to the West Side several years ago to be closer to their grandchildren, and joined Shearith Israel, which they now consider to be their second home.

Using skinless dark-meat, this marinated chicken is healthy, easy to prepare, and simply delicious. And pairing with tri-color quinoa creates a meal that is light yet very satisfying.

**CULINARY CORNER**

**Ingredients:**

Mix together:

- one pound ground meat
- one pound ground chicken breast
- one shredded cauliflower
- one cup of sushi rice
- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
- 1/2 cup of breadcrumbs

**In a separate dish combine:**

- 1 cup marinara sauce
- 1 bag frozen peas
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
- Juice from 1 lemon
- 2 cups of water

**Instructions**

Place the sauce and peas mixture on the bottom of a baking dish.

Form meatballs from the meat mixture and place the balls on top of the peas and sauce.

(Optional: add potatoes and carrots)

Cover the dish and bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 hours. Enjoy!

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

December 4th-5th
Candles (18 min. before sunset).............. 4:10 pm
Friday Evening Service.......................... 4:15 pm
Saturday Morning Service.................... Times To Be Decided
Parashat Vayishlah .............................. Genesis 32:4-36:43
Haftarah: Book of Obadiah
Saturday Mincha & Arbit.......................... 4:10 pm
Saturday Sunset ................................... 4:28 pm
Habdalah............................................. 4:55 pm

December 11th-12th Shabbat Hanukkah
Light 2 Hanukkah Candles & Eve of Shabbat
Candles (18 min. before sunset).............. 4:10 pm
Friday Evening Service.......................... 4:15 pm
Saturday Morning Service.................... Times To Be Decided
Parashat Vayesheb-Hanukkah
Haftarah: Zachariah 2:14-4:7
Saturday Mincha & Arbit.......................... 4:10 pm
Saturday Sunset ................................... 4:29 pm
Habdalah & 3 Hanukkah Candles.............. 4:55 pm

December 18th-19th
Candles (18 min. before sunset).............. 4:12 pm
Friday Evening Service.......................... 4:15 pm
Saturday Morning Service.................... Times To Be Decided
Parashat Mikkers ................................. Genesis 41:1-44:17
Haftarah: I Kings 3:15-4:1
Mincha & Arbit.................................... 4:15 pm
Saturday Sunset ................................... 4:31 pm
Habdalah............................................. 4:57 pm

December 25th-26th
Friday Eve Dec. 25th End of Fast of Tebeth
Mincha (with tefillin) & Shabbat Arbit......... 4:00 pm
Eve of Shabbat Candle Lighting................ 4:16 pm
End of Fast at Sunset............................ 4:54 pm

Shabbat Morning Saturday, December 26th
Saturday Morning Service.................... Times To Be Decided
Parashat Vayigash ................................. Genesis 44:18-47:27
Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28
Saturday Mincha & Arbit.......................... 4:20 pm
Saturday Sunset ................................... 4:35 pm
Habdalah............................................. 5:01 pm

January 1st-2nd
Candles (18 min. before sunset).............. 4:21 pm
Friday Evening Services......................... 4:30 pm
Saturday Morning Service..................... Times To Be Decided
Parashat Vayhi ...................................... Genesis 47:28-end
Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12
Saturday Mincha & Arbit.......................... 4:25 pm
Saturday Sunset ................................... 4:40 pm
Habdalah............................................. 5:07 pm

January 8th-9th
Candles (18 min. before sunset).............. 4:28 pm
Friday Evening Services......................... 4:30 pm
Saturday Morning Service..................... Times To Be Decided
Parashat Shemoth ................................. Exodus 1:1-6:1
Haftarah: Jeremiah 1:1-2:5
Mincha & Arbit.................................... 4:30 pm
Saturday Sunset ................................... 4:47 pm
Habdalah............................................. 5:14 pm

January 15th-16th
Candles (18 min. before sunset).............. 4:35 pm
Friday Evening Services......................... 4:45 pm
Saturday Morning Service..................... Times To Be Decided
Parashat Vaera ...................................... Exodus 6:2-9:35
Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21
Mincha & Arbit.................................... 4:40 pm
Saturday Sunset ................................... 4:55 pm
Habdalah............................................. 5:22 pm

January 22nd-23rd
Candles (18 min. before sunset).............. 4:44 pm
Friday Evening Services......................... 4:45 pm
Saturday Morning Service..................... Times To Be Decided
Parashat Bo......................................... Exodus 10:1-13:6
Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28
Saturday Mincha & Arbit.......................... 4:45 pm
Saturday Sunset ................................... 5:03 pm
Habdalah............................................. 5:31 pm

January 29th-30th Shabbat Shirah
Candles (18 min. before sunset).............. 4:52 pm
Friday Evening Services......................... 5:00 pm
Saturday Morning Service..................... Times To Be Decided
Parashat Beshallah-Shirah ........................ Exodus 13:17-17:16
(Reading of the Shirah - Song of the Red Sea)
Haftarah: Judges 5:1-31
Mincha & Arbit.................................... 4:55 pm
Saturday Sunset ................................... 5:11 pm
Habdalah............................................. 5:40 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 5th-6th Shabbat Yithro
Candles (18 min. before sunset).............. 5:01 pm
Friday Evening Services......................... 5:00 pm
Saturday Morning Service..................... Times To Be Decided
Parashat Yithro..................................... Exodus 18:1-20:23
(Reading of the Ten Commandments)
Haftarah: Isaias 6:1-13
Saturday Mincha & Arbit.......................... 5:05 pm
Saturday Sunset ................................... 5:16 pm
Habdalah............................................. 5:49 pm
Shabbat Yithro’s Torah reading begins with the story of Moses being joined by his father-in-law Jerho (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 12th-13th
Shabbat Shelakim – 2nd Day Rosh Hodesh
Candles (18 min. before sunset)……….. 5:18 pm
Friday Evening Services………….. 5:15 pm
Saturday Morning Service………….. Times To Be Decided
Parashat Mishpatim-Shelakim-Rosh Hodesh
Haftarah ………… II Kings 11:17-12:17; Isaiah 66:1 & 23
Minhah & Arbit……………………… 5:15 pm
Saturday Sunset…………………….. 5:29 pm
Habdalah……………………………. 5:59 pm
Shabbat Shelakim: 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 haftarah which are scheduled in preparation for Passover.

February 26th-27th Shabbat Purim Shushan Purim Mussullah Jerusalem Triple Purim
Eve of Shabbat Candle Lighting…………………. 5:26 pm
Sunset & End of Purim………………………….. 5:44 pm
Purim Minhah & Friday Eve Arbit…………………. 5:30 pm
Saturday Morning Service………….. Times To Be Decided
Parashat Tetsaveh…………………. Exodus 27:20-30:10
Haftarah: Ezekiel 43:10-27
Minhah & Arbit……………………… 5:30 pm
Saturday Sunset…………………….. 5:45 pm
Habdalah……………………………. 6:17 pm
(See Purim Services for Notes & Explanation)

Shabbat Purim 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 Pesah. In 5781, Shabbat Purim occurs the day before Rosh Hodesh itself, so we add two verses from the Maharat Haftarah.

March 5th-6th Shabbat Parah
Candles (18 min. before sunset)……….. 5:34 pm
Friday Evening Services………….. 5:45 pm
Saturday Morning Service………….. Times To Be Decided
Parashat Ki Tissa-Parah
Exodus 30:11-34:35; Numbers 19:1-22
Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16-36
Minhah & Arbit……………………… 5:35 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset………….. 5:53 pm
Habdalah……………………………. 6:26 pm
Shabbat Parah: Ritual cleanliness was required preparation for the obligatory Paschal lamb sacrifice. Hence, in the month before Passover, we publicly read Numbers Ch. 19, the law concerning the ashes of the Red Heifer (Heb. Parah Adumah).

March 12th-13th Shabbat HaHodesh
Candles (18 min. before sunset)……….. 5:42 pm
Friday Evening Services………….. 5:45 pm
Saturday Morning Service………….. Times To Be Decided
Parashat Vaayiqhel-Peque: HaHodesh
Exodus 35-end & Exodus 12:1-20
Haftarah:
Ezekiel 45:18-46:15; I Samuel 20:18 & 42
Saturday Minhah/Rosh Hodesh Arbit………….. 5:45 pm
Saturday Sunset…………………….. 6:01 pm
Habdalah……………………………. 6:34 pm
Move the Clock Ahead Saturday Night!

Shabbat HaHodesh falls on the Eve of Passover, and there are special rules for Shabbat and Passover observances, so refer to the Passover Festival Schedule for full instructions.
SERVICES

4th Morning of Hanukkah
Monday Morning, December 14th
Shahir, Hallel, Torah Reading..................7:15 am

5th Morning of Hanukkah
Monday Evening, December 14th
Light 5 Candles After Sunset....................4:29 pm
Evening Service (Arbit only)....................6:30 pm

5th Evening: 5 Hanukkah Candles

Wednesday, December 16th
7th Evening: 7 Hanukkah Candles & Light 7 Candles After Sunset

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

6th Morning: 6 Hanukkah Candles & 4th Morning of Hanukkah
Eve of Rosh Hodesh Tebet (One-Day) Tuesday Evening, December 15th

Light 6 Candles After Sunset....................4:29 pm

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

6th Morning of Hanukkah & 7th Evening: 7 Hanukkah Candles
Rosh Hodesh Tebet (One-Day)

Wednesday Morning, December 16th
Shahir, Hallel, Torah Readings, Musaf.........7:15 am

7th Evening: 7 Hanukkah Candles
Wednesday Evening, December 16th
Light 7 Candles After Sunset....................4:30 pm

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

7th Morning of Hanukkah
Thursday Morning, December 17th
Shahir, Hallel, Torah Reading...................7:15 am

7th Evening: 8 Hanukkah Candles
Thursday Evening, December 17th
Candles Lit After Sunset.........................4:30 pm

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

8th Morning of Hanukkah
Friday Morning, December 18th
Shahir, Hallel, Torah Reading...................7:15 am

Hanukkah commemorates the Jewish re-consecration of the Second Temple by the Hasmonean Maccabees after its desecration under the Seleucid Greek King Antiochus Epiphanes. On the eve of each day, 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 (One-Day):
The 6th Day of Hanukkah
Tuesday Evening, December 15th through Wednesday, December 16th
(See Hanukkah Schedule)

Fast of (Tenth of) Tebeth
(‘Asarah beTebeth) and the December 25th Legal Holiday
on the Eve of Shabbat

Friday Morning, December 25th
Dawn (Fast Begins)................................5:50 am
Sunrise...........................................7:18 am
Morning Service..................................8:00 am
Friday Eve, Eve of Shabbat, December 25th
Minhah (with tefillin) & Shabbat Arbit...........4:00 pm
Eve of Shabbat Candle Lighting....................4:16 pm
End of Fast at Sunset............................4:34 pm

The Tenth of Tebeth 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. When it falls on the Eve of Shabbat, the fast ends at sunset, 4:34.

Secular New Year Legal Holiday
Friday January 1st
Morning Service (Shahrit).......................8:00 am

Rosh Hodesh Shevat (One-Day)
Wednesday Evening, January 13th, through Thursday, January 14th
Services follow Daily Schedule

Martin Luther King Legal Holiday
Monday, January 18th
Morning Service................................8:00 am

Hamisha Asar (Tu) BiShabbat
Wednesday Evening, January 27th through Thursday, January 28th
Services follow Daily Schedule

Rosh Hodesh Adar (Two-Day)
Thursday Evening, February 11th through Friday & Saturday, February 12th & 13th
Thursday, Arbit only..............................6:30 pm
Friday Morning Shahrir, Musaf, Hallel...........7:15 am
Friday & Saturday Minhah & Arbit..............5:15 pm
Saturday Morning Inside Service..............9:00-11:00 am
See Full Shabbat Schedule in Shabbat Listings

Purim

Presidents’ Day Legal Holiday
Monday, February 15th
Morning Service................................8:00 am
Evening Service (Arbit only)....................6:30 pm

PURIM HOLIDAY

Fast of Esther
Thursday, February 25th
Dawn (Fast Begins)...............................5:14 am
Sunrise...........................................6:35 am
Morning Service (Shahrit)......................7:15 am
Eve of Purim
Thursday, February 25th
Minhah (men wear tefillin).......................5:30 pm
Sunset...........................................5:45 pm
Arbit (Evening) Service.........................5:45 pm
Reading of Megillah............................6:00 pm
End of Fast.....................................6:03 pm
Late Evening Reading of Megillah.............8:00 pm

Purim Daytime

Friday, February 26th
Morning Shahrir.................................7:15 am
Morning Megillah Reading.....................7:45 am
Late Morning Megillah Reading...............11:00 am
Eve of Shabbat Candle Lighting.............5:26 pm
Sunset & End of Purim.........................5:44 pm
Friday Evening Service.........................5:30 pm

Purim Shushan
Shabbat, Saturday, February 27th
Saturday Morning Inside Service.............9:00-11:00 am
(Full Saturday Schedule in Shabbat Listings)

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. Jerusalem, Hebron, and in other walled cities. This year, Purim Shushan falls on Friday, so in Jerusalem some of its observances are spread out over a three-day period.

Jerusalem’s Purim Meshullash ("Three-Day Purim") occurs when Purim falls on Friday and Purim Shushan is Saturday, and hence even the following Sunday is included in some of the festivities.

Rosh Hodesh Nisan (One-Day)
Sat. Eve, Mar. 13th & Sunday, March 14th
(Saturday Eve listed under Shabbat HaHodesh)
Sunday Morn Shahrir, Musaf...................8:00 am D.S.T.
Sunday Evening Minha & Arbit..............6:30 pm

FESTIVALS: PASSOVER FESTIVAL

Preparations
Fast of First Born
Thursday Morning, March 25th
Fast of First Born begins (Dawn)...............5:28 am
Sunrise...........................................6:51 am
Shahrir & siyum for the First Born...........7:15 am

Thursday Evening, March 25th
Minha & Arbit Services.........................6:30 pm

— continued —
Passover Preparations (cont’d)
Search for Hametz (Leaven)
Thursday, March 25th
At night on Thursday .......... (after sunset, 7:14 pm)
Friday Morning & Daytime
Friday, March 26th
Morning Shabbat Service .......... 7:15 am
Friday, March 26th Daytime: Dispose of/sell all
Hametz except that to be eaten on Shabbat
Eve of Shabbat HaGadol Services
Friday Evening, March 26th
Candles (18 min. before sunset) .. 6:57 pm
Friday Evening Services ............... 6:45 pm
Shabbat HaGadol Morning Services
1818 -2nd Mill St. Consecration Anniversary
Saturday Morning, March 27th
Saturday Morning Service .......... Times To be Decided
Parashat Tsiy HaGadol ................. Leviticus 6:1-8:36
Haftarah ...................................... Malachi 3:4-24
Morning Hametz (Leaven) Removal
Saturday Morning, March 27th
Stop eating hametz by .................... 10:57 am
Dispose of any remaining hametz by ...... 11:59 am
End of Shabbat HaGadol &
Eve of Passover
Saturday Evening, March 27th
Shabbat Minhah & Passover Arbi ... 7:00 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset .................. 7:17 pm
Shabbat Ends & Candle Lighting .... after 7:51 pm
First Haggada (Seder) at home ........ after 7:51 pm
First Day Morning, Sunday, March 28th
Sunday Morning Service .......... Times To be Decided
Tikkun HaTal ............................... inserted in Musaf 10:00 am
Second Day of Passover
Evening Services (Minhah & Arbi) .......... 7:00 pm
Sunday Eveningson Sunset .................. 7:17 pm
Candle Lighting/ Omer Counting .. after 7:40 pm
Second Haggada (Seder) at home ........ after 7:40 pm
Second Day Morning, Monday, March 29th
Monday Morning Service .......... Times To be Decided
2nd Day Conclusion, Mon. Eve, March 29th
Evening Services: Minhah & Arbi .... 7:00 pm
Monday Evening Sunset .................. 7:18 pm
Monday Evening Habdalah .............. 7:41 pm
Intermediate Weekdays of Passover
HOL HAMOED PESAH
Tues.–Fri. Mornings, March 30th–April 2nd
Shahrit, Hallel, & Musaf Services .......... 7:15 am
Tues.–Thur. Evenings, March 30th–April 1st
Minhah & Arbi Services ................. 6:30 pm
Seventh & Eighth Days of Passover
FINAL TWO DAYS OF YOM TOB PESAH
Shabbat, the Seventh Day of Pesach
1730-1st Mill St. Consecration Anniversary
Eve of the Seventh Day & Eve of Shabbat
Friday Evening, April 2nd
Shabbat Eve/Festival Candle Lighting ........ 7:04 pm
Friday Evening Minhah & Arbi ............ 7:00 pm
Friday Evening Sunset .................. 7:22 pm
7th Day/Shabbat Morn, Saturday, April 3rd
Saturday Morning Service .......... Times To be Decided
Torah Reading ................................ 9:30 am
(Features reading of the Shirah-Song of the Sea)
Reading of Shir HaShirim ............... 10:45 -11:30 am
Eighth Day of Pesach
Eve of the 8th Day, Saturday Eve, April 3rd
Saturday Evening Minhah & Arbi .......... 7:00 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset .................. 7:23 pm
Shabbat Ends & Candle Lighting ........ after 7:59 pm
Eighth Day Morning, Sunday, April 4th
Sunday Morning Service .......... Times To be Decided
8th Day Conclusion, Sunday, April 4th
Shabbat Evening Minha & Arbi .......... 7:10 pm
Shabbat Evening Sunset .................. 7:24 pm
8th Day/Shabbat Concluding Habdalah ... 7:48 pm
Do not consume hametz until
½ hour after Habdalah .................... 8:18 pm
The generosity of our members and friends enables us to continue to honor our past, strengthen our community and pass on our traditions for the next chapter of Jewish and American history. We have many opportunities to contribute in fulfilling our mission as a synagogue.

GENERAL DONATIONS

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

PAVED PARADISE

COVID-19 has prompted us to use outdoor spaces as much as possible. As such, we are constructing a safe and accessible tented outdoor space for holding socially-distant prayers services, classes, and other gatherings. Adjacent to our synagogue, this space will provide for our needs during the pandemic and offer flexible community uses that can last several years even when the pandemic is behind us. We are seeking to raise a minimum of $250,000. Whether you have used our outdoor spaces, hope to, or want to ensure that others can, visit shearithisrael.org/paved-paradise to support this critical project.

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund is a charitable arm of our congregation. These funds are designated by our rabbi for members in need, communities in crisis, and important causes nearby and in Israel. A special Coronavirus Relief Fund has been formed as part of the overall Discretionary Fund, and can be donated to directly at shearithisrael.org/covid-hesed.

CLASS AND EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Even more than before the pandemic, with the benefit of virtual technology, Shearith Israel has firmly established itself around the globe as a go-to destination for intellectual and spiritual stimulation. Help ensure our depth and reach by sponsoring a virtual class, a lecture series, Morning Zoom Learning, or sponsor, contribute, and subscribe to Friday Night Lights...Now on Thursdays.

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, and grocery shopping for those in quarantine. 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 – and more than ever – we are a caring community and that means that providing emotional and logistical support to members in times of need cannot depend on our clergy alone but requires the care and involvement of many whether through our Caring Connection hesed committee or our Hebra. Getting involved is how you make it happen and how you forge meaningful connections at your synagogue.

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

Thank you for enabling the continuation and strengthening of our congregation’s mission and legacy.
The ancient tree stood in the yard,
Its leaves a withered gray,
Its arms bare of flowers that had
Been there—but yesterday.

The winds, the storms, the wintry nights,
All pained its every hour—
It seemed to tremble in each storm,
To sigh in every shower.

And yet—though wracked with hurt and cold,
It seemed to knowing eyes,
That though its roots were deep in earth,
Its branches sought the skies.

It was a tragic sight to see—
Those limbs encased in snow,
Still reaching high toward distant sky,
Its trunk so bent—so low!

Through darkened storms, this prayer-like tree
Remained in prayerful pose,
As if it heard a hopeful word
In every wind that rose.

And there this tree unheeded stood,
Receiving not a glance,
Until one day in warm sunlight
Of spring—quite by chance—

I saw a sight that stirred my soul.
A scene of priceless worth,
The ancient tree had found its life
Renewed upon this earth.

Its arms were filled with fragrant leaves
That filled its new grown bowers,
And lingering in each fingertip,
Were myriads of flowers.

And thus each year, the ancient tree
Gives birth to life anew,
Although at times its hours on earth
Seem destined to be few.

And many men have gathered here
To reap her wondrous flowers,
That yearly come to show how life
Endures the tragic hours.

Joel M. Schreiber is a long-time member of Shearith Israel. This poem was originally written over 45 years ago, when his mother was about to undergo open-heart surgery, and we republish it here as a reminder of the renewal and hope yet to come.