



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Passover 5775

FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER

Eve of the First Day, Friday, April 3rd

Candle Lighting.....7:05 pm
Evening Services (Minhah & Arbit).....7:00 pm
Monday Evening Sunset.....7:23 pm
Begin the First Haggadah at home.....after 7:46 pm
Synagogue Communal Haggadah begins.....8:15 pm

First Day Morning, Saturday, April 4th

Zemirot.....8:15 am
Shahrit.....9:00 am
Tikkun HaTal (Prayer for the Dew) during Musaf.....10:40 am
Sermon by Rabbi Soloveichik & Service Conclusion.....11:25 am
*Kiddush.....following services

SECOND DAY OF PASSOVER

Eve of the Second Day, Saturday, April 4th

Evening Services (Minhah & Arbit).....7:00 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset.....7:24 pm
End of Shabbat & Candle Lighting.....after 8:00 pm
Begin the Second Haggadah at Home.....after 8:00 pm
Synagogue Communal Haggadah begins.....8:15 pm

Second Day Morning, Sunday, April 5th

Zemirot.....8:15 am
Shahrit, Hallel, Musaf & Seminar.....9:00-11:50 am
Rabbi Shalom Morris delivers a seminar following morning services entitled, *“Passover, Portugal and Politics: The Secret to Jewish Survival”*
*Kiddush.....following services

Conclusion of Second Day, Sunday Evening, April 5th

Minhah & Arbit.....7:00 pm
Sunday Evening Sunset.....7:25 pm
Sunday Evening Habdalah.....7:48 pm

INTERMEDIATE WEEKDAYS OF PASSOVER:
HOL HAMOED PESAH

Mon.-Thu. Mornings, April 6th-9th

Shahrit & Musaf.....7:15 am

Mon.-Wed. Evenings, April 6th -8th

Minhah & Arbit.....6:30 pm

SEVENTH DAY OF PASSOVER

Anniversary of Mill Street Synagogue Consecration (1730)

Eve of the Seventh Day, Thursday Evening, April 9th

Erub Tabshilin: When the festival begins on Thursday evening, an Erub, bread and food prepared for the following Sabbath, is set aside prior to the festival before sunset.

Thursday Evening Candle Lighting.....7:11 pm
Thursday Evening Services (Minhah & Arbit).....7:15 pm
Thursday Evening Sunset.....7:29 pm

Seventh Day Morning, Friday, April 10th

Zemirot.....8:15 am
Shahrit.....9:05 am
Torah Reading.....9:50 am
(Featuring reading of the Shirah-Song of the Sea)
Musaf, Sermon by Rabbi Hidary on the topic of *“How to Cut a Deal and Make it Last”*.....10:40-11:45 am
*Kiddush.....Following Services

EIGHTH (FINAL) DAY OF PASSOVER/SHABBAT

Eve of the Eighth Day, Friday Evening, April 10th

Friday Evening/Shabbat Candle Lighting.....before 7:12 pm
Friday Evening Services (Minhah & Arbit).....7:15 pm
Friday Evening Sunset.....7:30 pm

Eighth Day/Shabbat Morning, Saturday, April 11th

Zemirot.....8:15 am
Shahrit.....9:00 am
*Girl’s Reading of Song of Songs.....11:30 am-12:15 pm
*Kiddush.....Following Song of Songs Reading
Saturday Afternoon Class with Rabbi Hidary on the topic of *“Why Did the Sons of Aharon Die?: A Lesson in Leadership and Corruption”*6:15 pm

Conclusion of Eighth Day, Saturday Evening, April 11th

Saturday Evening Minhah & Arbit Services.....7:15 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset.....7:31 pm
End of Shabbat/Conclusion of Pesah Habdalah.....8:08 pm
Do not consume hametz until.....8:38 pm

Yom Tob and Shabbat Childcare and Youth Groups

Tot Shabbat | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium
Youth Groups (ages 5-12) | 10:00 am | Children’s Library
Junior Congregation (ages 5-12) | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

*Thank you to our Pesah sponsors. See back page for details.

PESAH THOUGHTS

An Adaptation of “Maturity Forged in Adversity,” Rabbi Ira Rohde’s Debar Torah for Parashat Shemot

Exodus 1:7 “And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceedingly mighty, and the land was filled with them.” Many such long strings of synonyms for increase in size of the Children of Israel are repeated whenever the experience of Egypt is mentioned in the Bible. In the Torah’s terse style, such atypical wordiness tends to occur when the Torah is “waxing poetic,” in an outburst of lyrical praise, such as here, where it is of Israelite numeric strength and might. But such a lapse into a lyrical tone means that the Torah is trying to alert us to appreciate a qualitative shift. Even the plain meaning of the text says that, more than the increase in the quantitative size, the “Children of Israel” have now become a nation. The Haggadah, in commenting on a parallel string of synonyms in Deuteronomy, brings out nuances in the different terms. The parallel term for “multiplied” or “becoming numerous” is interpreted as indicating “reaching maturity,” as the Song of Songs depicts a girl reaching puberty as an adult woman.



So the Israelites reached maturity as a nation with a “marked” national identity, as the Haggadah also points out, in Egypt, in a land which was not their own. This was already happening before they became enslaved, but their enslavement, as well as the process leading to their subsequent establishment as a free people in their own land, intensified that maturation. It was in the “iron furnace” of Egyptian adversity that the Israelite nation came of age. The adversity which tested them developed their strength in extraordinary ways in response. As hard as they worked to fulfill the obligations due (“חֵק”) o their taskmasters in Egypt in bricks was as hard as they would learned to work to “pay their due” to fulfill their obligations under the Law (“חֵק”) to God and their society. It’s interesting that the terms used for Egyptian “slavery” and Divine “service” are intentionally the same, although the former type of labor is described as having a rigor which is crushing or backbreaking. The entire thrust of the Torah’s laws is geared to appreciating the Divine liberation from slavery enough to do the utmost to prevent ever falling into permanent slavery again, save only submission to service of God out of free will. The experience of rampant injustice under slavery would galvanize their will to found a just society upon Divine Law.

For the individual, as well, oftentimes growth which leads to real maturity must be forged in the tests of adversity. Trial and travail is often the crucible in which the will and discipline to forge a strong and free identity is galvanized.

On Pesah we eat **לחם עני**, the “bread of affliction (or impoverishment)” (see Deut 16:3) in memory of

“**עני עמי אשר במצרים** the affliction of my people who are in Egypt” (see Exodus 3:7). But by resolving to always remember that impoverishment or affliction and by intentionally “afflicting ourselves,” eating no hametz but rather the “bread of affliction” as a semi-fasting in self-discipline, like the “affliction” of fasting on Yom Kippur (see Lev. 23:27 “**ועניתם את נפשותיכם** and you shall afflict yourselves”), we create the discipline to be able to freely forge our own mature identity. Or, to look at it another way, the ability to turn the endurance of affliction into conscious self-discipline is the sign of mature strength.

Remember to Count the Omer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Light 7:05pm	4 Light after 8pm
				Search for Leaven Bedikat Hametz	Disposal of Leaven Erev Pesah First Haggadah	1st day of Pesah 2nd Haggadah 1st night of omer
5 Ends 7:48pm	6 Hol Hamoed 3rd night of omer	7 Hol Hamoed 4th night of omer	8 Hol Hamoed 5th night of omer	9 Light 7:11pm	10 Light before 7:12pm	11 Ends 8:08pm
2nd day of Pesah 2nd night of omer				Hol Hamoed 6th night of the omer	7th day Pesah 7th night of the omer	8th day of Pesah 8th night of the Omer

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Yom Haatzmaut at Shearith Israel
Wednesday, April 22
Celebrate Israel Independence Day by joining us for a celebratory Israel themed reception and special lecture by Rabbi Soloveichik in the Main Sanctuary followed by Arbit.

Baseball Outing with Rabbi Richard Hidary
Sunday, April 26 | 8:05 pm | Yankee Stadium
Join Rabbi Hidary at the Yankees vs. Mets game at Yankee Stadium. All ages are welcome. Great seats in section 128 (face value \$175). \$65 members/\$80 non-members. One lucky participant will win a baseball signed by Rabbi Hidary himself!
Register at shearithisrael.org/baseball
This event is generously subsidized by John Lewin.

Jews for George: An Exploration of Judaism in the Age of the American Revolution
Co-sponsored by YU's Center for the Jewish Future and YU's Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought
Wednesdays April 29, May 6, May 13, and May 20
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
This four-part course, led by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, will utilize original source documents from the archives of the Congregation to explore Judaism during the American Revolution. Fee \$150 by April 15, after \$180.
To register, go to yu.edu/jhistory.

Halakhic Dinner led by Rabbi Soloveichik
Tuesday, May 5 | 7:00 pm
Did you know that giraffes are kosher? How about locusts? They are! We'll learn about some far out kosher foods, and we'll eat some too. Goat, venison, bison and squab are just a few of the expected featured ingredients. This unique dining experience is being offered at a significant subsidy and we are seeking sponsors to help make this available to as many members as possible. Deadline April 30. To Register, go to: shearithisrael.org/halakhic-dinner

Girls' Megillat Ruth Reading
First day of Shabuot | Sunday, May 24
The girls of our synagogue recite Megillat Ruth for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. If your daughter would like to participate, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com.
Please consider sponsoring or contributing to a kiddush to follow the reading in honor of our girls.

Annual Pre-Memorial Day Service: Honoring Veterans of the Revolution and Members of the Armed Forces
Sunday Morning, May 17 | Chatham Square Cemetery
Following Rabbi Soloviechik's Yom Yerushalayim shiur, we head down to the Chatham Square Cemetery to honor veterans of the US Armed Forces including members of our congregation who participated in the Revolutionary War. This special service is open to all members of the community (veterans are encouraged to attend in their dress uniforms.) Join us as we place American flags at the graves of 22 veterans of the Revolution. The cemetery, active from 1682-1828, is located at 44 St. James Place, opposite Chatham Square.

"Hidden Heritage: The Secret Jews of Portugal"
A Heritage Trip in Collaboration with Ohr Torah Stone
June 22 - 29, 2015
Rabbi Morris, together with Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, retrace the footsteps of Portugal's Jews on a 500-year journey of persecution, hiding and return. Rabbi Morris will infuse the trip with the connections between our community and Portugal, as well as S&P traditions and melodies. To view the itinerary and to sign up, go to ots.org.il/hidden-heritage-trip

Community Announcements

Thank you
Pesah Kiddush Sponsors
Day 1: Sponsors: Norman Benzaquen in memory of Maimun Olivar. The Julis family in memory of Maurice R. Julis.

Day 2: Sponsored by Paul & Rae Beispel in memory of Semah Franco and of Gabriel Aaron Franco.

Kiddush is also sponsored in honor of Liz Hauser a new member of the Jewish people and our community

and also in honor of Maurine McCabe a new member of the Jewish people and our community

Sponsors: Jack and Karen Daar, The Haberman Family, The Solomon Family
With contributions from:
Rabbi Meir and Layaliza Soloveichik, Rabbi Richard and Esther Hidary, Rabbi Shalom Morris, Rose & Henry Edinger, Z. Edinger, Joshua de Sola Mendes, The Bengualid-Goldstein Family, Alana Shultz

Day 7: Kiddush sponsored by the Sisterhood in Memory of Mona Oppenheim

Day 8: **Shir Hashirim Sponsors**
Clifford and Minna Felig for sponsoring the Shir Hashirim reading in honor of The Solomon Family
Kiddush
Patron: Diana Newman and Isaac Corre
Sponsor: Banin family
Contributor: Anonymous

***Hazakot U'berukhot** to our Shir Hashirim Readers:*
Isabelle Banin, Elizabeth Corre, Yaara Kaplan, Julia Levi and Gabriella Yohananoﬀ
Special Thanks to Yehudit Robinson for preparing the girls for this occasion

***Mazal Tob** to Elana Bengualid upon her engagement to Jack Harary. Congratulations to her parents Beth and Marc Bengualid.*
***Welcome new members:** Morton Denn and Vivienne Roumani Denn.*
***We extend sincere condolences to:** Joyce Saleh Roberts upon the passing of her father, Maurice Albert Saleh.*

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION
View all our Spring Classes at shearithisrael.org/education
Most Classes resume after Pesah (details below)

- Sunday*
- ◇ Psalms and Spirituality | Rabbi Hidary | 8:40 am
 - ◇ Saadia Gaon's Emunot ve'Deot on Revelation and Commandments | Sjimon den Hollander | 9:30 am
- Monday*
- ◇ Maimonides' Guide for the Perplexed on Prophecy | Rabbi Hidary | 7:00 pm
 - ◇ YL Monday Night Learning * | 7:00 pm
 - ◇ Hebruta Program* | 7:15 pm
 - ◇ Living Jewish | Rabbi Morris | 7:30 pm
 - ◇ Bet Midrash | 8:00 pm
- Spring semester sponsored by Josh Eisen and Bruce Roberts and Joy Saleh Roberts*
- ◇ Rambam Rules for Young Professionals | Rabbi Morris | 8:30 pm
- *In partnership with JICNY*

- Tuesday*
- ◇ Shulhan Arukh | Rabbi Hidary | 7:45 am (Meets on Pesah)
 - ◇ Jewish Time: The Festivals in Halakha and Jewish Thought- A Class for Women | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am
 - ◇ History of the Sephardim, the Spanish & Portuguese Jews | Rabbi Morris | 6:45 - 7:30 pm
 - ◇ Talmud Class: Tractate Berakhot and the Philosophy of Jewish Prayer | Rabbi Soloveichik | 8:00 pm
- Wednesday*
- ◇ Parashat Hashabua | Esther Hidary | 10:00 am

Sign up for the next semester of Hebrew classes!
Starts the week of April 26
7 sessions for just \$100!
Level 1: Sundays 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Level 2: Wednesdays 6:45 - 7:45 pm
Level 3: Thursdays 6:45 - 7:45 pm
To sign up: shearithisrael.org/hebrewclasses