Medal honoring David de Sola Pool. Produced by Edith Lemle in 1971 after the passing of Dr. Pool who is depicted on the obverse. The Reverse (pictured here) depicts the congregational seal (adopted in 1797) which reads “The world is supported by three pillars – Truth, Justice and Peace.”
A REVOLUTIONARY HUPPAH

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik

Adapted from a sermon given by Rabbi Soloveichik on February 7, 2015

This is a true story, from Dr. Pool’s annals of our synagogue, which took place during the Revolutionary War, when the British held and occupied New York City. One young Jew by the name of Samuel Lazarus, a Tory supporter of George III who had chosen to stay in New York, was getting married but had no rabbi to preside over his Huppah. My predecessor, Gershom Mendes Seixas, known as “the Patriot rabbi” of the American revolution for his fierce advocacy of the colonists’ cause, who had himself fled before the British captured New York, snuck into the city to perform the wedding ceremony. It must have been a striking scene: a patriot presiding over a Tory Huppah, risking his own life and limb so that a congregant of his, one with whom he politically disagreed, could build a Bayit Neeman BeYisrael, a new faithful home for our people.

Thus did Seixas, hundreds of years ago, demonstrate an extraordinary sense of responsibility for fellow Jews that has always been a hallmark of our congregation. In fact, this obligation that we have for one another is embodied by the very name we traditionally give our faith. It was Judah, in Genesis, who ascerts to his father about his little brother Benjamin “I will be responsible for him, taking on the responsibility of an "arev," the guarantor of his sibling’s safety.” My grandfather, Rabbi Aharon Soloveichik zt”l, once suggested that the deeper significance of identifying ourselves as “Jews,” adherents of a faith named “Judaism,” is that we are all akin to Judah: bound to our brothers and sisters and responsible for one another.

This Lazarus family that Gershom Mendes Seixas helped found several centuries ago produced a famous descendant: Emma Lazarus, whose poem now graces the Statue of Liberty. Thus did the Tory family wedding set the stage for one of the most famous embodiments of American freedom. It is a striking indication of how Providence can be discerned in history; and it is a reminder to all of us that one Jew sacrificing for another can impact our people, and our world, long into the future. This is what our synagogue has always believed; and it is this belief that we will embody long into the future.
When God freed the Israelites from bondage in Egypt, He did not chauffeur them directly to the Promised Land. Instead, their newfound freedom began with a long and disruptive period of transition: a 40-year journey through the wilderness. God knew that this season of wandering and disconnection from their previous routines would allow the Jewish people to create the institutions and pre-conditions for Jewish nationhood: communal prayer in the mishkhan, structures of governance, a system of adjudication, and, of course, taking on the yolk of the heavenly kingdom through the acceptance of the Torah at Sinai.

This time in the wild was a painful transitional phase, with plenty of skeptics, complainers, and even a few outright rebels. Scholars have depicted the people of Israel as miserably scraping by, sustained by a dream of the Promised Land.

I can’t help wondering, though, if this period of disruption had a silver lining for at least some of the Israelites. If you’ve ever been stuck at home during a nighttime power outage, you might know what I mean. On the one hand, you are suddenly deprived of lights, TV, and a host of creature comforts. But on the other hand, you know the disruption is temporary, and it can sometimes be fun or even poignant to play Scrabble in the flickering candle light or tell ghost stories. Plucked out of your routine and cut off from the world, you are forced to go back to basics with your family or community. Such a challenging moment could even be a reminder of the core values that bind you together, from which you derive the greatest satisfaction, and which give your normally busy life a bedrock of meaning.

For me, when the lights come back on and normal life resumes, I feel relieved, but also a little bittersweet, as I try to hold onto my momentary gratitude for those very basic pleasures. I’ve been getting a whiff of such in-between feelings lately, as we are preparing for construction by compressing all the activities of a busy synagogue into the 2 West 70th St building. I know that a better and more beautiful Community House is coming in the not too distant future (although I’ve been told that this dream has been in the works for some 40 years!). But I am equally aware that a long and disruptive period of demolition and construction looms between now and then, and I am bracing for the space limitations, inconvenience, and conflicts that will inevitably come first.

Today, as I write this piece, it all began. Workers came and disconnected the water and heat in the 8 West 70th St building, and two plumbers are enthusiastically reducing our meat kitchen to a tangle of piping and bolts, repurposing it to serve our interim needs. A few hours ago, Levy Auditorium was alive with the games and tumult of our Toddler Program, and just now, after a flurry of furniture reconfiguration, 50-plus PTTS Hebrew School students trooped into the very same room to learn in our makeshift “open school.”

But you know what? I was delighted to see our Hebrew School students. Up until now they had met in second story classrooms far away from my office. Seeing their intent young faces reminded me that what I was looking at was actually the oldest Hebrew school in America. There in Levy Auditorium sat a group of students whose predecessors had been gathering at Shearith Israel before there was even such a thing as a Jewish Day School. Today, enrollment is higher than ever, and I had a fleeting moment of joy that such a tradition was continuing before my very eyes. I also know that throughout this transition, our members will continue to learn at Bet Midrash Mondays, Tuesday Talmud, morning women’s classes, Friday Night Lights, we will rejoice together at life cycle events and kiddushim and most of all, we will worship together at daily minyan in the Little Synagogue and Shabbat and holiday services in our majestic sanctuary. The essence of our community will remain unchanged.

So while we commit ourselves to waiting for a vibrant future and a beautiful Community House that will accommodate our highest ambitions, let’s not let the inconvenience and cramped compromise of the present mark this period of transition. Rather, as we gather for services and celebrate Purim, Pesah, and Shabu’ot this spring, let’s appreciate this phase as a time to focus on essentials. Let’s be impacted by the power of the in-between.
Shirin Kaye on becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Shirin is the daughter Jonathan and Nielufar Kaye and the granddaughter of Judith Kaye.

Our member, Chava Maccaba, on being honored at the National Jewish Outreach Program (NJOP) annual dinner with the Carl and Sylvia Freyer Young Leadership Award.

Raif Melhado and Jessica Cavanagh on the birth of a daughter, Penina Miriam.

Adriel Mesznik and Dr. Liz Heller-Mesznik upon the birth of their son, Elias Mesznik.

Josh Nathan Kazis and Emily Seife on their marriage. Josh is the son of members Sara E. Nathan and Joel D. Kazis and grandson of member Ruth G. Nathan.

Judy and Joel Schreiber upon the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Aaron Schreiber, son of their children, Avram and Tammy Schreiber.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following individuals to the Shearith Israel family:

Aryeh and Elana Bourkoff
Eli and Laurie Bryk
Eric and Yonina Gomberg
Mitchell and Joleen Julis
Thomas Kaplan and DaIne Recanti Kaplan
Aviva Roumani
Rafe and Sharon Sasson
Jack Shlomo

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of our members:

Mitchell Bogen
Rachel El-Hassid, who died at the age of 98 in her home in Jerusalem.

IN APPRECIATION

Thank you to:

Anonymous for sponsoring a Shabbat Afternoon Pirkei Abot Class.

Josh Eisen for sponsoring the spring semester of Bet Midrash.

Yedidya Flaquer for sponsoring a Shabbat Learners’ Service kiddush.

Simon Gerson for sponsoring a Tuesday Morning Breakfast.

The Julis Family for sponsoring the 2014-2015 season of Friday Night Lights.

Matthew Kaplan for sponsoring a Tuesday Morning Breakfast.

Lewis Lipsey for sponsoring the Spring Semester of the Shabbat Afternoon Pirkei Abot Class.

The Major, Schwartz and Spievack families for sponsoring a Talmud class in memory of their father and grandfather, Kalman Fulep Z”L.

Rudy Stern for contributing to a Shabbat Learner’s service Kiddush.

Police Appreciation Sponsors:

Anonymous
Jonathan and Michelle Aufzien
Miriam Davidson
Alan and Judi Eisenman
Faith Fogelman
Robert and Zoya Friedman
Estelle Gutzik
Laurent Hasson
Esther and Rabbi Richard Hidary
Lawrence and Ruth Kobrin
Neal and Maud Kozodoy
Erica Markowitz

The Neumark Family
Nicole D Robles
Barbara Herlands Smith
Jonathan and Rachel Sopher
Madeleine Towne
Susan Wind
Ealan and Melinda Wingate

Our Kiddush Fund Sponsors and Contributors:

Anonymous

Seth Haberman and Jennifer Ash in honor of Simon and Eva Haberman’s 60th wedding anniversary:

Chava and Brian Maccaba in honor of the birth of their daughter.

Jacob and Alisa Odlick in honor of the birth of their daughter Fina, the shloshim of Jacob’s grandmother, Rose Glick, Z”L, and Alisa’s birthday.

Alexander and Muriel Seligson in honor of their son Jacob’s reading of the Haftarah.

Youth Recital Sponsors:

Laury Frieber
The Shearith Israel League
Andres and Ronit Lopez
Solomon Family

Matti Friedman Aleppo Codex Event

Sponsors:

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

PURIM DINNER
Wednesday Evening, March 4 | Following Megillah reading
Join us for a festive family style dinner after megillah reading. Registration information to follow.

PESAH HAGGADAH
Co-sponsored by JICNY
Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4
Join us as we celebrate Pesah with a community Haggadah (Spanish-Portuguese Seder) on each of the first two nights of Pesah. The first night will be led by Rabbi Shalom Morris and Rabbi Rohde and the second night will be led by Rabbi Hidary and Rabbi Rohde. The spirited and interactive Haggadah is accompanied by explanations of our traditions and melodies. The menu is non-kitniyot and all-inclusive. Vegetarian options are also available. Keep your eyes on our emails and website for registration information.

LECTURES

YOM HA’ATZMAUT
Wednesday, April 22 | 8:00 pm
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
To celebrate Israel Independence day, Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a special lecture.

YOM YERUSHALAYIM
Sunday Morning, May 17
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Following morning services, Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a special shiur in honor of Yom Yerushalayim. Following the shiur, you are welcome to travel with us down to Chatham Square cemetery in Chinatown for our historic Revolutionary War Memorial Service. See page 24.

SHABBAT HAGADOL DERASHA
Saturday, March 28
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Following morning services, Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver his annual Shabbat Hagadol Derasha on the topic of “Is Bitter Better? A Culinary and Theological Approach to Maror.”

LENTS & LECTURES

JEWISH OF 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 and May 13th
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
This three-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 $125 by April 6, after $150. To register, go to yu.edu/jhistory.

SHABBAT LECTURES

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS: THE MAKING AND MEANING OF SHABBAT
Fridays Following Evening Services through March 27
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
During the chillier winter months, 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.

MEANING & MELODY: THE DEPTH AND BEAUTY OF JEWISH PRAYER
10:00am | Little Synagogue
Rabbi Shalom Morris
Rabbi Morris will offer “Meaning & Melody” most Shabbat mornings in the Little Synagogue. The shiur is for learners and will consist of brief discussions focusing on prayers and their meanings as well as a review of their melodies. All are welcome.

THE MISUNDERSTOOD MATERPIECE: A NEW APPROACH TO PIRKEI ABOT
One hour before minnah
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Pirkei Abot is often understood as a mere series of unrelated ethical adages. In fact, each brief and much-cited maxim in Pirkei Abot actually hints at the extraordinary, and unique, life story and worldview of its rabbinic source. What’s more, the chapters of Abot are joined in a structure that tells the story of the transmission of the Oral Law. We will see how studying the history of the rabbinic figures cited lends an entirely new understanding to these statements, and how Abot represents the diverse response of the rabbis to an age of crisis and transition that was, in many ways, not unlike our own.

KETER SHEM TOB
After Minnah | Rabbi Hidary
Rabbi Shemtob Gaguine (1884-1953) was Rosh Yeshibah of Judith Montefiore College in Ramsgate and was an accomplished halakhist, ethnographer, author and communal leader. His seven volume classic, Keter Shem Tov, documents and explains the customs and liturgy of the Spanish Portuguese tradition in comparison with other rites. Each week, we explain one aspect of our own siddur and minhag based on Hakham Gaguine’s insight.

THE MARRIED MOTHER'S DEVOTION
Katerina Nairn's memoir of how she made her transition from a single mother to a married mother.

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WOMEN'S SHABBAT SERVICES
March 21 | in celebration of Ashley Ferguson becoming a Bat Mitzvah
May 9 | in celebration of Avigail Friedman becoming a Bat Mitzvah

By and for women, these services are an opportunity for women to lead prayer, read from the Torah and perform the mitzvot 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 by email: lirohde-csi@yahoo.com.

WOMEN’S CHOIR
We are forming a women’s choir which will accompany our occasional Shabbat morning women’s service. Women and girls who are interested or for more information, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com.

WOMEN’S MEGILLAT ESTHER READING
Thursday, March 5 | 8:00 am
Join us for the 25th year of the Women’s Megillat Esther Reading. Contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com to participate.

SISTERHOOD MISHLOAH MANOT PROJECT
Want to send Mishloah Manot notifications to your friends and fellow congregants? Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to send special Purim greetings and to reach out to our Shearith Israel community and beyond. This project will support both the Sisterhood and the Synagogue’s Mishloah Manot project for seniors and the homebound. To participate, please pick up a form from the rack outside Levy Auditorium and return the form with your check to the synagogue office; or go online at Shearithisrael.org/mishloah to fill out the form and pay by credit card. For more information, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com or Mrs. Carla Schein at scheinc6@gmail.com.

TEEN GIRLS’ SHIR HASHIRIM READING
Shabbat, the Eighth day of Pesah, Saturday, April 11
The young women in our synagogue, ages 12-18, will read The Song of Songs for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. For information, contact Yehudit Robinson at yehuditrobinson@gmail.com.

GIRLS’ MEGILLAT RUTH READING
Shabu’ot, Sunday, May 24 | 11:30 am
Following morning services, the girls of our synagogue will recite Megillat Ruth for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary. If your daughter would like to participate, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com.

ONE-ON-ONE TOUR OF THE UWS MIKVAH
If you are interested in learning more about Taharat Hamishpaha, the Laws of Family Purity, please contact Layaliza Soloveichik at layaliza@gmail.com 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.

YOETZET HALAKHA
Lisa Septimus
We are proud to be a co-sponsor of the Manhattan Yoetzet Halakha Initiative. If you have any questions regarding Taharat Hamishpaha (Family Purity), laws of Niddah or sexuality and women’s health, please contact our Yoetzet Halakha, Lisa Septimus in confidence at 917-382-9008 or nyyoetzet@gmail.com.

Lisa Septimus is a graduate of Nishmat’s Miriam Glazebach Center’s first class of U.S. Yoatzot Halakha Fellows Program. Over the years she has given classes at the Jewish Center in Manhattan, Riverdale Jewish Center, Drisha, Yeshiva University’s summer learning program, and Beth Shalom.
MEGILLAT ESTHER STORY TELLING
Wednesday, March 4 | 6:15 pm
While adults hear the reading of Megillat Esther, children ages 3-10 are treated to a special Purim story telling.

TORAH TOUR OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
With Rabbi Soloveichik
Sunday, March 22 | 12:30 pm
What are the kosher signs for animals and birds? Why are these signs chosen by the Torah? Which animals and birds can be used for the sacrificial service? What is the halakhic difference between horns and antlers? Which animal’s horns can be utilized for a shofar? These and many more questions will be addressed in a halakhic tour for families through the exhibits of the American Museum of Natural History, led by aspiring biblical naturalist, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik. The museum has a suggested donation entrance price but you can pay as you wish. Please arrive prepared to pay. Stay tuned for registration information.

WEEKDAY TODDLER PROGRAM
Shearith Israel’s popular Toddler Program focuses on learning colors and shapes, creating arts and crafts, singing songs, exploring Jewish holidays, music and more. There is an opportunity for the caregivers to support the children’s activities, and there are times when the teacher encourages them to sit on the side and observe while the children manage on their own. The program is held twice a week for children aged 16-34 months with an adult caregiver. We warmly welcome members and non-members to register. For more information and to register, go to shearithisrael.org/toddlerprogram or contact Alana Shultz.

SHEARITH ISRAEL’S NEW YOUTH COMMITTEE
Alana Shultz, Program Director
The children of the Synagogue have always been a keen interest of mine and the congregational leadership, but recently we have taken a more organized approach to this growing demographic within our community. As with many other areas of synagogue life, we are calling on lay leaders to step up and innovate, create, share thoughts and help implement them.

We all know that the children are our future. Certainly a synagogue’s long-term health is dependent on a flourishing membership consisting of young families. To strengthen our current community, and reach out to prospective members, we have revitalized a Youth Committee to tackle concerns and generate ideas. The committee is being spearheaded by Marc Wiznia and Rivka Shoulson, parents of Netta and Zahava, and Jacob and Alisa Oldick, brand-new parents of Fina.

Thus far, we made several small, but very appreciated changes, such as offering juice boxes and a specially reserved table for our young children during Kiddush. For Hanukkah, we entertained the youngest Shearith Israelites with an interactive puppet show during Tot Shabbat. In December, we co-hosted, along with JICNY, a young couples and families Shabbat luncheon, and have more planned. And, Rabbi Shalom Morris is now regularly attending Tot Shabbat to sing songs and lead prayers with the toddlers right after he finishes leading the older children in Junior Congregation.

I invite parents and grandparents who want to see this part of our synagogue life enhanced to join our brainstorming meetings. If you cannot attend a meeting, feel free to email, call, or find me on Shabbat morning to discuss your thoughts. Perhaps you have an idea for a trip (our next family trip will be to the Museum of Natural History with Rabbi Soloveichik), educational, cultural, Shabbat or holiday program (Purim’s coming up), or know the secret to making our youth programming the best on the West Side (we have a lot of friendly competition from our neighbors).

I look forward to you sharing your recommendations, enthusiasm, and time for the benefit of our little ones.

To get involved, contact Alana Shultz.
YOUTH ON SHABBAT

TOT SHABBAT
10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Ages 0 – 4

We offer supervised play with our experienced teachers Liz and Shanade every Shabbat and holiday morning. At 11:00 am, the children sing Shabbat songs and Rabbi Shalom Morris comes to share a story from the parashah and teach barachot.

SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY CLUBS
10:00 am – the end of services
Ages 5 – 12

Clubs gather before and after junior congregation with our experienced and engaging leaders for fun activities connected to the Parashah of the week and other Jewish themes.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION
10:30 am on most weeks
Ages 5 – 12

Junior Congregation is a lively, participatory service for children ages 5–12. Children learn Shearith Israel’s melodies and have opportunities to lead prayers, read Torah, and perform Mitzvot. Regular Shabbat groups still begin at 10 am and continue after Junior Congregation. For more information and to have your child lead a part of the service, contact Rabbi Shalom Morris. Assigned Jr. Congregation dates: March 28 and April 28.

PARASHAT HASHABUA: THE PARTS THEY SKIP IN HIGH SCHOOL
Shabbat afternoons
High School students
Rabbi Richard Hidary

Our high schoolers and their friends meet in the home of Rabbi Hidary to examine texts and themes from the parashah that are often neglected in high school curricula because they are considered difficult, controversial, or for whatever reason not pertinent to young adults.

TEEN MINYAN
By Teens For Teens

A few times a year, our teens lead an entire Shabbat morning services. Participants are trained and prepared to recite and lead prayers according to Shearith Israel’s beautiful tradition and dignified standards. To participate, please contact Rabbi Hidary.

THE POLONIES TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL (PTTS)
Hebrew School at Shearith Israel
Ages 3 – 16

Our Hebrew School, the Polonies Talmud Torah School, provides children and teens, ages 3–16, with a substantive Jewish education in a positive and engaging environment. Our educated, trained and enthusiastic staff create an enjoyable and warm learning environment in which children are motivated to learn and grow. Students develop Hebrew language skills (reading, writing and comprehension), learn the major portions of the Tanakh, and gain a deeper understanding of Jewish holiday rituals, Jewish history, and how Jewish ideas inform our values in modern times. All ages meet on Sundays from 10:00 am–12:00 am. Elementary school-aged children also meet on Thursdays from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm. For more information and to enroll, visit shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool or contact our Educational Director and Hebrew School Principal, Rabbi Shalom Morris. Mid-year enrollment is possible.
This spring, we want to spotlight their extremely important work, both to highlight the quality of security at Shearith Israel and to underline what we as a congregation can do to help.

Q: Hello Mike. Can you tell us about your team and what you are doing to keep our congregation safe?

A: I oversee a highly qualified team of security professionals who provide major event security and personal protection to the diplomatic, entertainment, and fashion world. I have been in the business for over 20 years and my company is the only firm in the city trusted by the Israeli Consulate to guard their visiting ambassadors, ministers, and heads of military. We have been onsite at Shearith Israel for almost a year now, providing private security at services, holidays, and major events. In conjunction with the NYPD, we are working hard to keep this congregation safe. The NYPD is here for presence, while we work to keep our congregation safe in this increasingly unsafe world.

Q: How do you train your agents?

A: The only way to counter an attack that could come from any sector or source is to have extremely experienced, highly trained protection agents. I focus on three things that set my agents apart: training, attitude, and concentration to detail. My men have worked with me for many years and are trained to be proactive, to search bags and other items, to ask questions, to notice problems and prevent them before a group or attacker enters a synagogue. This brand of vigilance requires a very different skill set than a traditional police officer or security guard is expected to provide. My men also walk the block before and during events, looking for tinted car windows, a car idling without a driver, anybody who seems unusual or out of place. We take nothing for granted in our effort to provide a full bubble of protection.

Q: How can our members support your security efforts?

A: Consider yourselves an extension of our efforts—our eyes and ears on the ground. If you see a strange car, a wandering visitor, as if she seems unusual or out of place. We take nothing for granted in our effort to provide a full bubble of protection.

Staying Safe in an Unsafe World

In the immediate aftermath of the Paris shootings, we sat down with Mike Zimet, the CEO of Mike Zimet LLC, Shearith Israel’s private security firm. Zimet’s team has been working hard to keep our congregation safe in this increasingly unsafe world.

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MINHAG MATTERS

MINAYIN AYIN

Zachary Edinger, Shamash

In this bulletin we inaugurate a recurring column about the customs of Shearith Israel. Shearith Israel continues to uphold a great many rare and unusual minhagim. These include Spanish and Portuguese liturgical customs and variants, halakhic minhagim, and a unique musical heritage. We also maintain many customs and conventions related to dress and comportment reflecting a strong attachment to the aesthetics of our ancestors. Some of these customs are well known, or easily recognized, while others are only known to a few. It is my hope that this column will shed light on our heritage, explain some of our unusual customs, and perhaps, strengthen those minhagim that are in danger of disappearing. This article will be about the Spanish and Portuguese pronunciation of the letter 'ayin (ע).

Spanish and Portuguese Hebrew contains several features, including the pronunciation of the letter “bet” and certain rules regarding accented words and the use of the shva or qamatz vowels. Far away the most noticeable of these is the pronunciation of the letter ‘ayin (ע) with an ng sound (as in ring or bang.) This nasal pronunciation of the ‘ayin is very rare and unusual amongst Jews today. In our synagogue we maintain this traditional pronunciation – heard prominently in words like “Shemany” or the phrase “Ki Longoatom Hashem.”

In the Greek speaking world. In the Septuagint we find two transliterations for the letter ‘ayin (ע).

Spanish and Hebrew: “ayin (ע)”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transliteration</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘ayin (ע)</td>
<td>ng sound</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Spanish</th>
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<tr>
<td>ayin</td>
<td>ngayin</td>
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In the English speaking world. In the King James version of the Bible we transliterate the ‘ayin with the letter “y.”

Ayin is most often pronounced similarly to the Arabic, being either a voiced uvular fricative or a voiced pharyngeal fricative (you can hear these different sounds on Wikipedia) which is either a soft or hard guttural sound.

In Spanish and Portuguese Hebrew as well as in Italian Hebrew the ‘ayin is pronounced as a voiced velar nasal [IPA symbol ŋ] that we recognize as our “ngayin.” This pronunciation is well attested to in the oral tradition of our synagogue and Spanish & Portuguese communities throughout the world. It is also the traditional Italian and minhag Romé pronunciations.

It is impossible to say definitively what the “original” pronunciation of the ‘ayin sounded like; however, we can make some educated guesses. One of the first places to look is how biblical Hebrew words (especially proper nouns) were transliterated in the Septuagint. This can give us at least some idea of how Hebrew was pronounced in the Greek speaking world. In the Septuagint we find two transliterations for the letter ‘ayin (ע). In some cases, like the word נפש, the Septuagint transliterated as פְּסָח (Pessach) from which we can see that ‘ayin was pronounced (at least sometimes) with a velar (guttural) G sound. Other examples, however, like בִּלְעַם were transliterated as בִּלְעַמ (Bileam) showing us that sometimes the ‘ayin was not voiced. That there are two different pronunciations of the letter ‘ayin is not surprising to speakers of Arabic. In Arabic there are two letters (אאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאאأ

It is hard to know what the ‘ayin indicated by the Septuagint actually sounded like. It is possible that it is akin to the Arabic ‘ghayn but this is not necessarily so, since there are no living speakers of Koine Greek. It is difficult to reconstruct the sound of something from just the way it was transliterated.

— continued —
In James [Joshua] Seixas’ 1830 “Manual of Hebrew Grammar” he transliterates " as "gnayin." In his second edition (1833) he adds a note:

“When ends a syllable it is sounded ng as /dang/ not /dang/.”

For those not already familiar with Spanish and Portuguese Hebrew this instruction is nearly inscrutable. The note actually refers to the fact that y, like the letter n, can accept a Fortis Patah (patah genuvah), rather than to a different vocalization of the ‘ayin.

The ng or gn transliteration for ‘ayin was popular in the nineteenth century; however in earlier periods it is much less common. In the 17th century we find that Spanish and Portuguese Jews in Amsterdam most frequently transliterated ‘ayin with the letter H. Below is an example from Menasseh ben Israel’s High Holiday prayerbook published in Amsterdam in 1630. His prayerbook is in Spanish with notable Hebrew learning.

This transliteration can also be seen in seventeenth century London, in institutional names like the Mahamad (מאהמד) i.e. board of trustees; and the Society of Heshaim (השומר). Here at Shearith Israel the term Mahamad was also used occasionally. In Amsterdam, London, and New York, the ‘amer counters used between Passover and Shabu’ot utilize the letter H to represent the word רומת.

H was not the only transliteration used in 17th century Amsterdam. Several other transliterations exist. For example, Baruch Spinoza’s Compendium grammaticas lingue hebrae, (written in Latin and published in 1677) uses the letters hg for ‘ayin.

The H for ‘ayin appears even earlier in a Spanish prayer book printed in Ferrara in 1552. So some form of H or HG was being used already in the 16th century among the earliest generations of re-Judaizing Marranos. There is a paucity of sources with transliterated Hebrew of the Iberian Peninsula in earlier pre-expulsion periods.

The question we must ask now is what sound is indicated by the H prevalent in the ex-Marrano communities of Italy and Amsterdam? Iberian pronunciations of the letter H differ from English. In Portuguese and in Spanish the letter H is sometimes un-vocalized, sometimes it is a pharyngeal fricative similar to the Hebrew letter Het (ח), and sometimes a nasal nh sound (ɲ). Because of this a hypothesis arose that the nasal “ngayin” was actually a mistake made by re-Judaizing ex-marranos who were confused by the transliteration, causing them to use a nasal sound where there should not have been. Alternatively, the use of H for ‘ayin could indicate that a nasal ‘ngayin was intended and therefore has its origins in some pre-expulsion time in Spain/Portugal or Italy.

Some evidence of an original Iberian pronunciation of the ‘ngayin can be found in Arabic sources going back to the Middle Ages. Various Arabic and Coptic sources, dating back to at least the 11th century, describe a holiday called al’Ansara or in Spanish al’Ansara. This was originally a Christian celebration of the Pentecost (Feast of St. John) which became a Muslim seasonal holiday in North Africa and Andalusia. (‘Ansara is also still today the name for the Peninsula used by the Coptic Church - probably adopted from the Arabic.) Many Muslims adopted al ‘Ansara as a midsummer holiday celebrated with horseracing and bonfires.

The name al ‘ansara comes from the Hebrew word נורא (Anwar) which of course begins with an ‘ayin. Here we have a strong example of an Arabic or Arabicized transliteration of the Hebrew letter ‘ayin that indicates a nasal phoneme similar to the Spanish and Portuguese ‘ngayin. Although not concrete proof, this strongly indicates that our ‘ngayin today has its roots in medieval Spain, not adopted from the Italian at a late date, nor was it a mistaken pronunciation made by ex-marranos learning Hebrew.

Today, the use of the traditional S&P ‘ngayin is in decline. Even in some of our sister congregations the ‘ngayin has been lost or rarely heard. We can take pride in our pronunciation knowing that our ‘ngayin is very likely the original Iberian pronunciation of the middle ages.
MODERN ETHICAL ISSUES IN HALAKHA
Sundays | 8:40 am | Rabbi Richard Hidary
The Jewish tradition provides an ethical system which has influenced much of the world throughout its centuries of development. This class will delve into various issues of confronting us in the areas of medical, business, and war ethics and seek guidance from Jewish sources that relate to these matters. Throughout, we will focus on primary sources and survey the various methodologies used by modern poskim and ethicists to interpret and apply these ancient texts to modern contexts.

SAADIA GAON’S EMUNOT VE’DEOT ON REVELATION AND COMMANDMENTS
Sundays | 9:30 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.

MAIMONIDES’ GUIDE FOR THE PERFLEXED ON PROPHECY
Mondays | 7:00 pm | Rabbi Richard Hidary
Maimonides was one of the world’s greatest minds and the author of the most significant work of Jewish Philosophy, the Moreh HaNevuhim. This year, we delve into the meaning and means of biblical prophecy. Can anyone become a prophet? What about Bil’am? How was Moses different from all other prophets? How does prophecy work and what are the steps involved in activating it?

YOUNG LEADERSHIP MONDAY NIGHT LEARNING
In partnership with JICNY
Mondays | starts at 7:00 pm
Start the work week off right by joining other young professionals for a drink, a bite to eat, and stimulating classes on Jewish texts. For those in their 20s and 30s. $5 per person.
Parashah Class: Steve Eisenberg at 7:00 pm.
Parashah Class for Spanish Speakers: Rabbi Nissim Elneve at 8:30 pm.

HEBRUTA PROGRAM
In Partnership with JICNY
Mondays | 7:15 pm
Hebruta (partnered study) is the backbone of Jewish learning, and our program gives you the chance to explore an area of interest (Bible, Ethics, Law, Talmud…) with a mentor or peer. Join us and take your Jewish engagement to a new level. Led by Rabbi Shalom Morris and Phil Getz. To participate and be paired, contact Rabbi Shalom Morris.

LIVING JEWISH
Mondays | 7:30 pm | Rabbi Shalom Morris
Transform Jewish thought into Jewish action. The Jewish day, year and lifecycle collectively aid in the creation of a holistic and compelling Jewish lifestyle. Explore both the thought that forms the basis of these elements and the practices that bring them to fruition. This course is ideal for those seeking a greater understanding of Judaism, wishing to increase their religious observance or actively pursuing conversion. Newcomers are welcome throughout the year.

RAMBAM RULES FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
Mondays | 8:30 pm | Rabbi Shalom Morris
Learn about the most influential teachings of Maimonides’ monumental Mishneh Torah. This class is for those in their 20s and 30s.

BET MIDRASH
Mondays | 8:00 pm
Each Monday night, we invite the community to immerse themselves in prayer, learning, eating, and discussing together. Beginning with evening services, Bet Midrash attendees are invited to enjoy a delicious dinner, engage in a stimulating class on Jewish philosophy with Rabbi Hidary for a first hour, and then continue studying a choice of varying texts in small breakout groups. For questions, contact Rabbi Richard Hidary.

BREAKOUT GROUPS:
Arvei Pesahim
Meira Wolkenfeld
In this Gemara shiur we will study the tenth chapter of tractate Pesahim, which deals with topics like kiddish, havdalah and the order of the seder. All levels welcome.

Why Did the Roman Empire [almost] Become Jewish
Rabbi Ira Rohde
This semester, we are continuing our study of the multi-volume Praeparatio Evangelica, by the Christian author Eusebius Pamphilus of Caesaria. This text anthologizes all of the arguments against ancient paganism and for belief in Judaism used up to his time, 260-340 C.E. All of these same arguments were needed and used at that time as “preparation” for arguments for belief in Christianity when it became the official religion of the Roman Empire under the Emperor Constantine.
How was the Talmud created? An Academic Approach to the Formation of the Talmud
Dr. Josh Eisen
This group will simultaneously introduce students to contemporary ideas about the formation and structure of the Talmud and also study specific texts in their original in order to practice and improve textual skills. The course also explores other facets of Talmud study and legal theory in order to define how the Talmud is studied and the manner in which ideas about its formation inform its study.

Nefesh Ha-Hayyim by Rabbi Hayyim of Volozhin
Phil Getz
Nefesh Ha-Hayyim is the 19th-century work of philosophy, theology and Kabbalah by the founder of the modern yeshiva.

SHULHAN ARUKH
Tuesdays | 7:45 am | Rabbi Richard Hidary
Join us every Tuesday for Minyan, breakfast, and a short class. Each week we will learn a selection of Halakhot from Rabbi Yosef Caro’s 16th century Shulhan Arukh. Yosef Caro (Toledo, Spain 1488 – Safed, Israel 1575) was author of the last great codification of Jewish law. The Shulhan Arukh is still authoritative for all Jews pertaining to their respective communities and to this end, Caro is often referred to as Maran (our teacher).

JEWISH TIME AND THE FESTIVALS: A CLASS FOR WOMEN
Tuesdays | 9:00 am | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Drawing on halakhic, literary, and philosophical texts, we will attempt to examine anew the holidays.

HISTORY OF THE SEPHARDIM, THE SPANISH & PORTUGUESE JEWS
Tuesdays | 6:45 pm | Rabbi Shalom Morris
Many Jews throughout the non-Ashkenazi world have adopted the identity of the Sephardim, the Jews of Spain. The course studies the history (10th - 18th Century) from their Golden Age under Islam to life under Christian rule and their ultimate expulsion and spread throughout the Mediterranean and Atlantic Basin (Western Europe, North America and the Caribbean). The course will focus on their intellectual and cultural achievements, political upheavals, important individuals, community histories, and lasting influence. Includes extensive use of primary sources.
TALMUD CLASS: TRACTATE BERAKHOT AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF JEWISH PRAYER
Tuesdays | 8:00 pm | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

C.S. Lewis once wrote: “Let’s now at any rate come clean.” Prayer is irksome. An excuse to omit it is never unwelcome. When it is over, this casts a feeling of relief and holiday over the rest of the day. We are reluctant to begin. We are delighted to finish. While we are at prayer, but not while we are reading a novel or solving a crossword puzzle, any trifle is enough to distract us.” If Lewis is correct, this is because we often fail to appreciate the nature and meaning of Tefillah. Combining Talmudic texts and Jewish philosophical reflections, this shiur elucidates the unique nature and history of Jewish prayers, the extraordinary depth of its liturgy, and the reasons why prayer lies at the heart of Jewish devotional life.

PARASHAT HASHABUA
Wednesdays | 10:00 am | Esther Hidary

This class, held in our historic Elias Room, explores the weekly parashah through an examination of its literary elements and themes. Suitable for learners at all levels.
ANNUAL MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE IN HONOR OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS

Sunday Morning, May 17 | Chatham Square Cemetery

Following Rabbi Soloveichik’s Yom Yerushalayim shiur, we will head down to Chatham Square Cemetery to honor members of our congregation who participated in the Revolutionary War. Our historic ceremony and Color Guard is a special Shearith Israel tradition that is open to military veterans, clergy, and members of the community. Join us to place American flags at the graves of our twenty-two veteran congregants. The cemetery, active from 1682-1828, is located at 44 St. James Place, opposite Chatham Square.

ANNUAL SPRING GALA

Date and details to be announced

Each spring we honor a member of our community who has provided a great service to our congregation. This annual fundraiser is a lovely way to support our beloved synagogue while enjoying each other’s company at an elegant and festive gala.

ONGOING CULTURAL CLASSES AND LECTURES

CHAI TEA

Fourth Tuesday of each month and as otherwise announced | 5:30 pm

Chai Tea is our version of High Tea, with a Jewish twist. On the fourth Tuesday of every month, our resident poet, Janet Kirchheimer facilitates a discussion on poetry, prose, or other literary topics. On other occasional Tuesdays, we host guest speakers or unique programs. Chai Tea is always enhanced with light refreshments and tea of course. Participants are encouraged to attend evening services in the Little Synagogue immediately after the program. All are welcome. RSVP to Alana Shultz. Recommended donation: $10 CSI members; $12 non-members.

TAI CHI WITH LEWIS PALEIAS

Thursdays | 11:00 am | Levy Auditorium

This age-old practice helps increase balance, strength, circulation, mindfulness and more. Tai Chi is a wonderful form of exercise for all ages, especially seniors. Lewis offers individual attention and adapts the class based on the group. $10 per class or $50 for 6 classes. Walk-ins and beginners are welcome.

Every year, Jews all around the world eat Haroset, the delicious spread which symbolizes the mortar used by the Hebrew slaves in Egypt. Although the classical American Haroset consists of apples, wine and nuts, Jews in other parts of the world bite into a different taste. Just as our Shearith Israel community comprises people from all different geographical backgrounds and traditions, we thought we would share some Haroset recipes from across the world to bring some cultural diversity to your Passover Haggadah/Seder.

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Aodi Zilka- Beth Torah catering

Ingredients
2 pounds of dates
Chopped walnuts

Take two pounds of dates soaked in boiling water over night, then blend in a good blender and strain through a fine mesh bag and squeezed till very dry. Simmer the liquid on low till reduced to about a cup (could be a few days) to make it a syrup. Mix in chopped walnuts and it’s ready.

COCHIN, INDIA

Fiona Hallegua – Member of Shearith Israel

Fiona immigrated to the U.S in 1995. The Hallegua family traces their origins to Spain and Syria. Fiona’s mother’s family can trace their roots to Iraq & Burma. The haroseth is a traditional recipe from Cochin. During Passover the haroseth is used instead of jam on matza & other breakfast dishes

Ingredients
6 pounds dates seeded
Enough water to cover the dates

Boil the dates until very soft. Once cooked, blend the mixture. Using a cheese cloth, strain the liquid. The liquid is then thickened by constantly stirring on medium flame until it reaches a one thread consistency. Once done, let it cool down completely before bottling. If the mixture is too thick you can add more water to thin it down then thicken it over stove top. If too watery you can return to the stove top to thicken. Serve with chopped nuts on top. Note: no sugar is added. The sweetness is all from the dates!

CULINARY CORNER

Haroset

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ASHKENAZ HAROSET WITH
A TWIST
Pini Ben Ari- Olive Tree Catering

Ingredients

5 Granny Smith Apples
1 Cup Raisins
1 Cup Sweet Red Wine
½ Cup Pieces Plum
½ Cup Pieces Apricot
½ Cup Walnuts
5-6 Tablespoon Brown Sugar
1 Lemon Zest from 1 Lemon
Honey

Peel and core the apples. Soak the raisins in boiling water and juice of ½ lemon. Dice the apricot and plums. Put all ingredients in the food processor and puree, taste.

LIBYAN HAROSET

Taken from Jewish Cooking in America by Joan Nathan

Ingredients

¼ cup walnuts
¼ cup pecans
¼ cup almonds
¼ cup hazelnuts
½ cup raisins
1 cup pitted dates
1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon
1 ½ teaspoons allspice
½ teaspoon ginger
1 teaspoon nutmeg

Combine all ingredients using a mortar and pestle or a food processor. Serve the haroset with romaine lettuce as the bitter herb. Yield: 3 cups.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS&BITES

Friday evening, March 6

Join us for a cocktails and hors d’oeuvres following evening services and Friday Night Lights. These holiday-themed social mixers come complete with Hamotzi and Birkat haMazon. On March 6, join us for a special Post Purim Hilkhot of Cocktails event. Registration required at shearithisrael.org/bites.

GAME NIGHT

Saturday night, March 7

Co-sponsored by Caring Connection and the Shearith Israel League

If you enjoy word games like Scrabble to the fast paced frenzy of Bananagrams are intrigued by the Mahjong craze or always wanted to challenge other Shearith Israel members to a game of backgammon and emerge victorious, mark your calendar for the evening of March 7 and come ready to play.

HERETICS AND HISTORY:
THE RE-TRIAL OF SPINOZA

The grande finale to the 3-part series

Sunday, March 8 | TBD
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

The excommunication of Baruch (Benedict) Spinoza by the Jews of Amsterdam is one of the most famous events in modern Jewish history. Who was Spinoza and what did he believe? Why were his views seen as so dangerous by Dutch Jews? Was the excommunication justified? In what way is the story of his excommunication relevant to us as Jews today? Join us in our majestic sanctuary for a 21st century re-trial of Spinoza featuring a cast of Rabbis, esteemed judges and attorneys, as well as an appearance by Spinoza himself. Check our emails for exact time, registration details, and sponsorship opportunities.

PASSOVER PACKAGE DELIVERIES
WITH DOROT

Sunday, March 22

Prepare for Pesah with a good deed by bringing matzah, gefilte fish, horseradish and other goodies to the homebound elderly. There will be group from our synagogue volunteering with DOROT to deliver pre-Passover packages. For more information, please contact Rabbi Richard Hidary.

BASEBALL OUTING WITH RABBI HIDARY

Sunday, April 26 | 8:05 pm

Take me out to the ball game! Take me out to the crowd! Join Rabbi Hidary at the Yankees vs. Mets game at Yankee Stadium. Don’t miss this exciting New York showdown. One lucky participant will win a baseball signed by Rabbi Hidary himself! Register at shearithisrael.org/baseball.

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 on the second Tuesday of every month at 11:00 am 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.
This Shabbat is also observed as the anniversary of the consecration of its 2nd Mill St. Synagogue Building, which was completed and officially dedicated just in time for Passover 1818.

April 17th-18th
Candle Lighting..........................7:19 pm
Friday Evening Minah & Arbit.........6:45 pm
Friday Evening Sunset..................7:37 pm
Zemirot, led by Jacob Daar............8:15 am
Shahrit & Musaf.........................9:00-11:45 am
Torah Reading..........................Shemini
Leviticus 9:1-11:47
Haftarah.................................Jack Shlomo
1 Samuel 20:18-42 (Mahar Hodesh)
Seudah Shelishit & Class..............6:15 pm
Saturday Minah & Arbit...............7:15 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset..............7:38 pm
Habdalah................................8:16 pm

April 24th-25th
Candle Lighting..........................7:27 pm
Friday Evening Minah & Arbit.........6:45 pm
Friday Evening Sunset..................7:45 pm
Zemirot, led by Sjimon den Hollander...8:15 am
Shahrit & Musaf.........................9:00-11:45 am
Torah Reading..........................Tetzra-Metsora
Leviticus 12:1-15:33
Haftarah.................................Leonardo Kaplan
Il Kings 7:3-20
Bar Mitzvah..............................Leonardo Kaplan
Seudah Shlishit & Class................6:20 pm
Saturday Minah & Arbit................7:20 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset..............7:46 pm
Habdalah................................8:24 pm

May 1st-2nd
Candle Lighting..........................7:34 pm
Friday Evening Minah & Arbit.........6:45 pm
Friday Evening Sunset..................7:52 pm
Zemirot, led by Adam Jackson.........8:15 am

— continued —
SERVICES

Shahrit & Musaf .........................9:00-11:45 am
Torah Reading ..................Shabbat Moth-Kedoshim
Leviticus 16:1-20:27
Haftarah ..........................Joseph A. Solomon
Ezekiel 20:2-20
Seudah Shelishit & Class.............6:30 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.........7:30 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset ..........7:53 pm
Habdalah................................8:33 pm

May 8th-9th
1897........70th Street Consecration Anniversary
Candle Lighting........................7:41 pm
Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....6:45 pm
Friday Evening Sunset..............7:59 pm
Zemirot, led by Shmuel Ben Holland. 8:15 am
Shahrit & Musaf.....................9:00-11:45 am
Torah Reading..........................Emor
Leviticus 21:1-24:23
Haftarah...................................
Ezekiel 44:15-31
Bat Mitzvah..........................Avigail Friedman
Seudah Shelishit & Class..........6:35 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.........7:35 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset..........8:01 pm
Habdalah................................8:41 pm
The Shabbat after Lag La’omer is the anniversary of the consecration of our current synagogue building on 70th St. and Central Park West, which was completed and dedicated on Lag La’omer in 1897, in time to open it to worshippers for Shabu’ot that year.

May 15th-16th
Candle Lighting........................7:47 pm
Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....6:45 pm
Friday Evening Sunset..............8:05 pm
Zemirot, led by Joseph A. Solomon 8:15 am
Shahrit & Musaf.....................9:00-11:45 am
Torah Reading..................Behar Behukkothai
Leviticus 25:1-end
Haftarah.............................Noah Lang
Jeremiah 16:19-17:14
Seudah Shelishit & Class.........6:45 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.........7:45 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset..........8:06 pm
Habdalah................................8:47 pm

May 22nd-23rd Eve of Shabu’ot Shabbat
Candle Lighting........................7:54 pm
Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....6:45 pm
Friday Evening Sunset..............8:12 pm
Zemirot, led by Adam Jackson.......8:15 am
Shahrit & Musaf.....................9:00-11:45 am
Torah Reading..........................Bemidbar
Leviticus 16:1-24
Haftarah..............................Isaac Haberman
Hosea 2:1-22
Seudah Shelishit & Class.........6:55 pm
Shabbat Minhah & Shabu’ot Arbit...7:55 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset..........8:13 pm
End of Shabbat/Festival Candle Lighting 8:54 pm

May 29th-30th
Candle Lighting........................8:00 pm
Friday Evening Minhah & Arbit.....6:45 pm
Friday Evening Sunset..............8:18 pm
Zemirot, led by Matthew Kaplan......8:15 am
Shahrit & Musaf.....................9:00-11:45 am
Torah Reading..........................Naso
Numbers 4:20-7:89
Haftarah..............................Noam Kaplan
Judges 13:2-25
Seudah Shelishit & Class.........6:55 pm
Saturday Minhah & Arbit.........7:55 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset..........8:19 pm
Habdalah................................9:01 pm

DAILY SERVICES

Mornings (Shabrit):
Sunday & Legal Holidays ................8:00 am
Monday-Friday..........................7:15 am

Evenings (Minhah & Arbit):
Sunday through Thursday
March 1st through March 5th ..........5:30 pm
March 8th through May 21st ............6:30 pm
May 26th through July 30th ..........6:45 pm

MINOR & LEGAL HOLIDAYS

Rosh Hodesh Nisan (One-Day):
Friday Evening, March 20th through Saturday, March 21st

Yom Ha’Shoah:
(Holocaust Remembrance Day)
Wednesday Evening, April 15th through Thursday, April 16th

Rosh Hodesh Iyar (Two-Day):
Saturday Evening, April 18th through Monday, April 20th

Yom Ha’Atzma’ut:
(Israeli Independence Day)
Wednesday Evening, April 22nd through Thursday, April 23rd

Lag Ba’Omer:
Wed. Eve, May 6th through Thur., May 7th

Yom Yerushalaim:
(Jerusalem Reunification Day)
Saturday Evening, May 16th through Sunday, May 17th

Rosh Hodesh Sivan (One-Day):
Monday Evening, May 18th through Tuesday, May 19th

Memorial Day (Legal Holiday)
The Second Day of Shabu’ot
Monday, May 25th
(See Shabu’ot Festival Schedule)

PURIM HOLIDAY SERVICES

Fast of Esther:
Wednesday, March 4th
Fast Begins........................................5:05 am
Shahrit Service.................................7:15 am
Eve of Purim
Wednesday, March 4th
Minhah (men wear tefillin)...............5:30 pm
Sunset.............................................5:50 pm
Arbit (Evening) Service .................6:00 pm
End of Fast.................................6:11 pm
Reading of Megillah.......................6:15 pm
Late Evening Reading of Megillah......8:00 pm

Purim Day:
Thursday, March 5th
Shahrit Service.................................7:15 am
Morning Reading of Megillah...........8:00 am
Women’s Megillah Reading.............8:45 am
Late Morning Reading of Megillah......11:00 am
Purim Day Minhah & Arbit Services ...5:30 pm

— continued —
Purim Shushan

Friday, March 6th
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 on the 5:30 service on Wednesday Evening.

Purim commemorates the day when, through the intervention of Mordecai and Queen Esther, the Jews of Persia narrowly escaped being victims of Haman’s evil plot to exterminate them. Instead, “The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor.”

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

PASSOVER FESTIVAL

Friday Evening, April 3rd-Saturday, April 11th

PREPARATIONS

Thursday Evening, April 2nd
Search for Leaven at night on Thursday (after sunset, 7:21 pm)

Friday, April 3rd
Fast of First Born begins (Dawn)........... 5:13 am
Sunrise........................................... 6:37 am
Morning Service and siyyum
for the First Born.............................. 7:15 am
Stop eating hametz by......................... 10:52 am
Dispose of any remaining hametz by...... 11:56 am

First Two Days of Yom Tob Pesah

FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER

Eve of the First Day, Friday, April 3rd
Candle Lighting................................ 7:05 pm
Evening Services (Minhah & Arizot)...... 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
Zemiroth........................................... 8:15 am
Shahrit............................................. 9:00 am
Tikkun Ha’Tfilah
(Prayer for the Dew) inserted in Musaf 10:40 am
Sermon & Service Conclusion ....... 11:25-11:50 am

SECOND DAY OF PASSOVER

Eve of the Second Day, Saturday, April 4th
Evening Services (Minhah & Arizot)...... 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
Zemiroth........................................... 8:15 am
Shahrit, Hallel, Sermon,
& Musaf........................................... 9:00-11:50 am

Conclusion of Second Day, Sunday Evening,
April 5th
Minhah & Arizot............................... 7:00 pm
Sunday Evening, Sunset............... 7:25 pm
Sunday Evening, Habdalah............. 7:48 pm

Intermediate Weekdays of Passover

HOL HAMOEDE PESAH

Mon.-Thur. Mornings, April 6th-9th,
Shahrit & Musaf............................. 7:15 am
Mon.-Wed. Evenings, April 6th -8th,
Minhah & Arizot......................... 6:30 pm

Final Two Days of Yom Tob Pesah

SEVENTH DAY OF PESAH (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. See Prayers for
the Festivals, by David de Sola Pool, p. 1.
Thursday Evening Candle Lighting........ 7:11 pm
Thursday Evening Services
(Minhah & Arizot)......................... 7:15 pm
Thursday Evening Sunset............... 7:29 pm

Seventh Day Morning, Friday, April 10th
Zemiroth........................................... 8:15 am
Shahrit............................................. 9:05 am
Torah Reading............................... 9:50 am
(Featuring reading of the Shirah-Song of the Sea)
Musaf, Sermon, and Service
Conclusion ................................. 10:40-11:45 am

EIGHTH (FINAL) DAY OF
PESAH/SHABBAT

Eve of the Eighth Day, Friday Evening,
April 10th
Friday Evening/Eve of Shabbat
Candle Lighting............................. before 7:12 pm
Friday Evening Services
(Minhah & Arizot)............................ 7:15 pm
Friday Evening Sunset................... 7:30 pm

Eighth Day/Shabbat Morning,
Saturday, April 11th
Zemiroth........................................... 8:15 am
Shahrit............................................. 9:05 am
Reading of Song of Songs..11:30 am-12:15 pm
Saturday Afternoon Class............... 6:15 pm

Conclusion of Eighth Day of Pesah, Saturday Evening,
April 11th
Saturday Evening Minhah & Arizot
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 ½ hour after
Habdalah, 8:38 pm

SHABU`OT FESTIVAL

(FEAST OF WEEKS)

Saturday, May 23rd-Monday, May 25th

PREPARATIONS

EVE OF SHABU’OT SHABBAT

Friday Evening, May 22nd-Saturday, May 23rd
(See Shabbat Services)

EVE OF FIRST DAY OF SHABU’OT

Saturday Evening, May 23rd
Shabbat Afternoon Seuda Shelishit &
Class ........................................... 6:55 pm
Evening Services (Shabbat Minhah &
Festival Arizot)............................. 7:55 pm
Saturday Evening Sunset.............. 8:13 pm
SERVICES

End of Shabbat/Festival Candle Lighting...........................................after 8:54 pm
Mishmarah-Tikkun:
Late Night Rabbi’s Study Session ..........9:00 pm

FIRST DAY OF SHABU’OT
Anniversary of Crosby Street Synagogue (1834)
Sunday Morning, May 24th
Zemirot ............................................8:15 am
Shahrit & Hallel..................................9:00 am
Torah Reading
(The Ten Commandments)......................9:50 am
Exodus 19:1-20:23
Haftarah, Musaf, Sermon &
Service Conclusion..................10:25-11:25 am
Girls’ Reading of the Book
of Ruth...........................................11:30-12:30 am

EVE OF SECOND DAY OF SHABU’ OT
Sunday Evening, May 24th
Reading of Intro & First Part of
Azharot ............................................7:30 pm
Evening Services (Minhah & Arbit).......8:00 pm
Sunday Evening Sunset ..................8:13 pm
Candle Lighting,...............................after 8:40 pm

SECOND DAY OF SHABU’ OT
Monday Morning, May 25th, Memorial Day
Legal Holiday
Zemirot .............................................8:15 am
Shahrit, Hallel, Torah, Sermon, &
Musaf........................................9:00-11:50 am

Conclusion of Second Day, Monday Evening,
May 25th
Reading of Second Part of
Azharot Poem.................................7:30 pm
Minhah & Arbit..............................8:00 pm
Monday Evening Sunset..................8:14 pm
Monday Evening Festival Habdalah ......8:41 pm

The Book of Ruth is traditionally read on
Shabu’ot, since it deals with both the Israeli wheat
harvest at this time of year, which this festival
marks, as well as acceptance of the Torah, in this
case by Ruth as a faithful convert. The younger
girls of the congregation who take part are pre-
assigned a few verses each, which they carefully
rehearse, learning to chant them according to
the congregation’s unique traditional cantillation
system for the Book of Ruth. Girls wishing
to take part, or their parents, should please contact
Rabbi Ira Rohde, the Hazan, well in advance of the
festival. The girls will read their portions at the end
of Sunday Morning Services at 11:30 am.

Azharot (“Admonitions”) is the name given to
the poem by Shelomo Ibn Gabirol with introduction
by David Ibn Eleazar Pekudah. It enumerates
all 613 Commandments of the Torah in rhymed
verse. The introduction and the first part, which
lists the 248 positive Commandments, is read
on Sunday evening at 7:30, before Minhah. The
second part, which enumerates the 365 negative
Commandments, is read on Monday evening at
7:30 before Minhah. The poem is chanted by the
men and boys of the congregation to the Spanish
& Portuguese traditional Shabu’ot melody in a
round-robin style, with each participant leading
two lines at a time.

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 PTT’s, our Toddlers Programs,
Junior Congregation, and special opportunities
for girls. And perhaps most importantly, general
donations uphold and celebrate our minhag and
liturgical traditions through dedicated clergy
members, our sublime choir, Shabbat, and
holiday services.

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

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

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

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

To give and learn more, visit shearithisrael.org/giving. Thank you
for enabling the continuation and
strengthening of our congregation’s
mission and legacy.
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