



**Celebrate Our 2015 Graduates**  
**Saturday, June 20**  
**Kiddush following Morning Services**

Let's spread the good news and celebrate the success and accomplishments of all our graduates from pre-school to PhDs! Go online to ensure your graduate is listed on our scroll of honor (for free!) and consider co-sponsoring our graduation kiddush for just \$180 (even if you cannot attend). For listings and sponsorships, visit [shearithisrael.org/graduation](http://shearithisrael.org/graduation).

**Staying Comfortable in the Summer**

During the summer months, we turn on the air-conditioning in the synagogue. We realize that it sometimes gets a little chilly, especially in the women's section. For your convenience, we provide pashmina scarves found in the corridor outside the women's gallery. Thank you for your understanding.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mazal Tob** Rev. Phil Sherman and Andrea Raab on the marriage of Reuven Sherman to Mollie Ray.

**Condolences** to Leon "Muk" Eisenmann on the passing of his mother, Evelyn Eisenmann.

**Welcome to the Shearith Israel Family:**

Alene Schneierson  
 Lawrence Mondschein and Alexandra Corbin

**Hazakut U'Berukhot to our Girls' Megillat Ruth Readers:**

Olalla Levi, Elizabeth Ciment, Matea Frieber, Honor Greenberg, Aimee Hidary, Yaara Kaplan, Simone Lipschutz, Ariella Lopez, Cecilia Roberts, Daniella Roberts, Jenna Roberts, Flora Tauber, Sarah Wagman, Gabriella Yohananoff

Our next public tour is:  
**Tuesday, June 9 at 11:00 am**

**Parnas Office Hours**

Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you.  
 Please schedule a visit at  
[parnas@shearithisrael.org](mailto:parnas@shearithisrael.org).

**The First Forty-Niner**  
**Rabbi Richard Hidary**

A profound and provocative midrash describes the giving of the Torah as follows:

R. Yanai said: The Torah that the Holy One, blessed be

He, gave to Moses was given with forty-nine interpretations in favor of pure and forty-nine interpretations in favor of impure... He [Moses] said to him [God]: How shall it be practiced? He responded, if those who declare impure outnumber then it is impure; if those who purify outnumber then it is pure. R. Abahu said in the name of R. Yohanan: R. Akiva had a distinguished student who knew how to interpret the Torah in forty-nine ways in favor of pure [and forty-nine ways in favor of impure] with each reason being different. They said: That student is a chip off of Mount Sinai (Pesikta Rabbati 21)

This midrash struggles with the fundamental problem that all texts are open to interpretation. God's Word may be the one unified Truth; but since the Torah takes the form of a text, how can we be sure that we have understood it correctly? When various rabbis and readers each present conflicting opinions, are all but one of them simply wrong? The brilliant answer of the midrash is that the Torah, even at its origin contained within it all possible interpretations—seven times seven, the number symbolizing the epitome of completeness and comprehensiveness.

The Talmud (Yerushalmi Sanhedrin 4:1) derives this message from the verse: "The words of the Lord are pure words, silver purged in an earthen crucible, refined seven times sevenfold (שֶׁבַע־עֶתִים)" (Ps 12:7). The process of interpretation is here likened to the process of mining. The student who studies Torah is like a miner who breaks off a piece of rock. The ore contains many useful metals and minerals just as the Torah text is pregnant with many meanings. Argumentation for and against each interpretation is likened to the smelting process of heating up the alloy to separate the elements. Once the various elements separate, the metallurgist can isolate the pure silver just as the sage is best able to pick out the one halakha that he deems should be normative. It is precisely the heated arguments of the sages that breaks apart the various aspects of each law and makes it possible to then isolate one as the view best suited for practice.

Among the forty-niners who settled in California during the Gold Rush in 1849 was the Jewish inventor of denim, Levi Strauss (he actually came in 1853). But the first forty-niner was Moshe Rabbenu who, on the forty-ninth day after leaving Egypt, mined the mountain of Sinai for precious nuggets of Torah that is likened to gold and silver. God gave us the Torah as a gift, but we still must work tirelessly to extract the layers and facets of meaning enshrined in each prophetic word. May we have the same zeal as these early gold miners did as we humbly dedicate ourselves to appreciating the sparks of divine Truth embedded not only in the views we agree with but also in the opposing views, all forty-nine of them.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL  
 The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

**May 22-25, 2015**

**Shabbat Bemidbar and Shabu'ot**

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 568; Haftarah p. 582  
 Kaplan Living Torah: p. 654; Haftarah p. 1182

**SHABBAT SCHEDULE**

CANDLE LIGHTING | 7:54 pm

MINHAH | 6:45 pm

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers a talk entitled: "Megillat Ruth vs. The Princess Bride: A Short Shiur on True Love"

LEARNERS' SERVICE | 9:45 am | Rabbi Morris | *Sponsored by Nicholas Garo and contributor, Yedidya Flaquer.*

TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium

YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Children's Library

JR. CONGREGATION Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little

Synagogue

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium

PARASHAT HASHABUAH: THE PARTS THEY SKIP IN HIGH SCHOOL | Rabbi Hidary | 6:55 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidarys' home, 1 W 85th St Apartment 6A

MINHAH/ARBIT | 7:55 pm

END OF SHABBAT/FESTIVAL CANDLE LIGHTING | 8:54 pm

**Summer Schedule**

Starting Tuesday, May 26, evening services will begin at 6:45 pm.

Starting Friday, May 29, evening services held in the Little Synagogue.

Starting Saturday, June 27, morning services held in Levy Auditorium.

Shabu'ot Schedule Inside



## SHABU'OT SCHEDULE

### FIRST NIGHT OF SHABU'OT Saturday Evening, May 23rd

Minhah & Arbit..... 7:55 pm  
End of Shabbat/Candle Lighting.....after 8:54 pm  
Rabbi Soloveichik's Shabuot Lecture..... 11:30 pm

## Jews and Booze: A Halathic Tale of Godfathers and God-fearers In the Age of Prohibition

### FIRST DAY OF SHABU'OT Anniversary of Crosby Street Synagogue (1834) Sunday Morning, May 24th

Zemiroth.....8:15 am  
Shahrit.....9:00 am  
Debar Torah by Rabbi Soloveichik  
Assigned Jr. Congregation in Little Synagogue.....10:30 am  
Girls' Reading of the Book of Ruth.....11:30-12:30 am  
Kiddush | *Sponsors: Laury Frieber, Tauber Family, Wagman Family, Supporters: Blass Family, Debby and Melvin Neumark, Contributors: Kaplan family, Daniela Weiss and Avi Yohanoff*

### SECOND NIGHT OF SHABU'OT Sunday Evening, May 24th

Azharot Reading Part 1 .....7:30 pm  
Evening Services (Minhah & Arbit).....8:00 pm  
Candle Lighting .....after 8:40 pm

### SECOND DAY OF SHABU'OT Monday Morning, May 25th, Memorial Day

Zemiroth.....8:15 am  
Shahrit.....9:00 am  
Seminar by Rabbi Hidary on the topic "From Precepts to Poetry: the Art of Counting the Commandments"  
Cheesecake Kiddush.....following services  
Azharot Reading Part 2.....7:30 pm  
Minhah & Arbit.....8:00 pm  
Monday Evening Festival Habdalah .....after 8:41 pm

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

### Alhambra Sephardic Music Ensemble Concert Thursday, June 4 | 8:00 pm | Levy Auditorium

The Shearith Israel League is organizing and sponsoring an evening of Judeo-Spanish songs from Spain, Turkey (Salonica, Istanbul), Egypt, the Greek Isles, Jerusalem and the Balkans. Isabelle Ganz, mezzo soprano, will direct a group of singers and performers on the oud, dumbek and other traditional instruments. Refreshments will be served. While the concert is free, you may make a voluntary donation to the League at [sileague.org](http://sileague.org).

### "From Slave to Merchant Princess: The Remarkable Journey of Sarah Brandon Moses."

A Multi-Media Presentation | Tuesday, June 9 | 7:15-8:15 pm  
Dr Laura A. Leibman, professor of English and Humanities at Reed college and author of *Messianism, Secrecy, and Mysticism: A New Interpretation of Early American Jewish Life*, winner of the 2012 National Jewish Book Award, shares her most recent research into slavery in early American Jewish life and how it impacted the personal lives of our community's early families.

### Shearith Israel Book Club

**NEW DATE: Wednesday, June 10 | 8:00 pm**  
Held in a private home | Esther Hidary

Join us for the last meeting of the year. Now there is no excuse not to start reading "The UnAmericans" by Molly Antopol. RSVP to [ehidary@gmail.com](mailto:ehidary@gmail.com).

### End of the Year Picnic

**Saturday, June 13 | Following Shabbat Services**

Join us for our annual Family Shabbat Picnic Lunch in Central Park. Bring a sheet to sit on, appropriate clothing, and we'll provide the food. There will be activities with "Roll Joel" for the children, Liz and Shanade will play with the toddlers and Rabbi Soloveichik will lead a class for the parents. As long as the sun is shining, we'll be outside otherwise, we'll bring the party indoors. RSVP at [shearithisrael.org/picnic](http://shearithisrael.org/picnic).

### Pay Tribute to Rabbi Ira Rohde for 25 Years of Devoted Service as our Hazzan

**Saturday, June 20 | Following Morning Services**  
Join us for a special tribute to Rabbi Rohde and a Kiddush luncheon in his honor. Go to [shearithisrael.org/irarohde25](http://shearithisrael.org/irarohde25) to be added to the list of sponsors and contributors.

### Weekday Toddler Summer 'Camp' June 23rd - August 20th

**Tuesdays and Thursday | 9:30-11:30 am**

For children aged 16-33 months.

Includes outdoor play and a wading pool. Adult caregiver presence is required. Register online at

[shearithisrael.org/content/summer-toddler-program-2015](http://shearithisrael.org/content/summer-toddler-program-2015)

## WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

View all our spring classes at [shearithisrael.org/education](http://shearithisrael.org/education)

### Sunday

- ◇ **Sephardic Responsa on Contemporary Issues** | Rabbi Hidary | 8:40 am NO CLASS THIS WEEK
- ◇ **Saadia Gaon's Emunot ve'Deot on Revelation and Commandments** | Sijmon den Hollander | 9:30 am NO CLASS THIS WEEK

### Monday

- ◇ **YL Monday Night Learning \*** | 7:00 pm NO CLASS THIS WEEK
- ◇ **Hebruta Program\*** | 7:15 pm NO CLASS THIS WEEK
- ◇ **Living Jewish** | Rabbi Morris | 7:30 pm NO CLASS THIS WEEK

*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
- ◇ **History of the Sephardim, the Spanish & Portuguese Jews** | Rabbi Morris | 7:00pm - 7:30 pm

### Wednesday

- ◇ **Parashat Hashabua** | Esther Hidary | 10:00 am

### Hebrew classes

*Level 1: Sundays 10:00 am - 11:00 am*

To sign up: [shearithisrael.org/hebrewclasses](http://shearithisrael.org/hebrewclasses)