Community Announcements

Mazal Tov to Ashley Ferguson on becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Congratulations to her parents Daniel and Madite Ferguson.

Mazal Tov to Andre and Maggie Guenoun on the marriage of their daughter Rebecca Guenoun to Michael Hagler. Michael is the son of Amy and Zalman Hagler and a great-nephew of Dr. Norman Lamm.

Mazal Tov to Emma Sage Stonehill on becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Congratulations to her parents, Robyn Price Stonehill and David Stonehill.

Hakaz U’barukh to Trustee, Michael Lustig for being honored by Columbia-Bound Hillev with their Seccas Award to be held on May 14. For information or to register email alison@hillel.columbia.edu.

Hazakim U’barukhim to Rabbi Meir and Layalza Soloveichik for being honored by Nishmat at their 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner which will be held on May 17. For information or to register email dinner@afnishmat.org.

We extend sincere condolences to Debbie Sable upon the passing of her father, Ambassador Yehuda Avner.

First Days of Pesach Schedule at a Glance

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

Friday, April 3rd
East of First Born begins at home.............................. 5:13 am
Morning Service and study for the First Born.................. 7:15 am
Stop eating hametz by......................................... 10:52 am
Dispose of hametz by........................................... 11:56 am

FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER

Eve of the First Day, Friday, April 3rd
Candle Lighting.................................................. 7:05 pm
Evening Services (Minhah & Arvit).............................. 7:00 pm
Begin the First Haggadah at home............................... after 7:46 pm
First Day Morning, Saturday, April 4th
Zemirot............................................................. 8:15 am
Shahrit............................................................. 9:00 am

SECOND DAY OF PASSOVER

Eve of the Second Day, Saturday, April 4th
Evening Services (Minhah & Arvit).............................. 7:00 pm
End of Shabbat & Candle Lighting............................. after 8:00 pm
Second Day Morning, Sunday, April 5th
Zemirot............................................................. 8:15 am
Shahrit............................................................. 9:00 am
Minhah & Arvit............................................... 7:00 pm
Sunday Evening Habdalah...................................... 7:48 pm

Reminder to please clean out your drawers in the main sanctuary before Pesah.

Consecration of The Second Mill Street Synagogue

Zechairah Edinger
Shabbat haGadol is the anniversary of the consecration of the Second Mill Street Synagogue which housed our congregation from April 17, 1818 until April 13, 1833. By 1818, the 18th century Mill Street Synagogue was too small to accommodate the growing Jewish community. A larger synagogue was built on the same site which we refer to as the second Mill Street Synagogue. It provided one hundred sixty-seven seats for men and one hundred thirty-three seats for women. The women’s gallery was reached by a covered passageway from the upper story of the adjoining brick schoolhouse on the north. This passageway was built as a narrow bridge over the intervening space between the buildings, in order not to dislocate the sukkah which was built between these two buildings each year. There was some discussion as to whether the front of the women’s gallery in the rebuilt synagogue should remain open or be closed by a lattice. The final decision was that it should open with a “handsome planned turned mahogany banister.”

At its dedication, Mordecai Manual Noah gave a dedicatory address in which he extolled the United States as a haven for Jews: “For the first time in eighteen centuries, it may be said that the Jews feel he has been born equal, and it entitled to equal protection.” It was because of this toleration that, according to Noah, the new synagogue needed to be built. “From the attractions of light and liberty which our dear country holds forth to the persecuted of all nations, many of our people have emigrated from Europe, and their increasing number made it necessary for their accommodation, that we should enlarge our place of worship.”

The synagogue was in use for a relatively short fifteen year period, for by the 1830’s most of the Jews of New York lived in what we now call Greenwich Village, too far to walk to lower Manhattan every Shabbat. As a result, in 1833 the congregation decided to move to new quarters on Crosby Street.

Shearith Israel commemorates the consecration of our synagogue buildings with a semi-festive service. The Ark is opened during much of the service and the Torah scrolls are dressed in festive colors. The beautiful poem Todah Eil (p. 342) is sung before Nishmat, and special blessings and memorial prayers are recited before the reading of the Torah. Memorial prayers are recited for Naphshi Judah, Harmon Hendricks, and, Abraham Touro who provided major funding build the Second Mill Street Synagogue.

Some remnants of the Second Mill Street Synagogue still exist today. The Perpetual Lamps (Phar Ten) hanging from the ceiling in the small Synagogue was made by J. and A. Seegers in New York City and has been in nearly continuous use since 1818. Another item, much less visible, is the marble plaque of the Ten Commandments which were a gift of Naphshi Judah made specifically for the Second Mill Street Synagogue to replace the old wooden tablets from 1730 (now in the small synagogue.) Today, these marble tablets hang, mostly unseen, in the choir loft – embedded directly behind the Ten Commandments of the Main Sanctuary.

CONGREGATION SHEARETH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Tsv-haGadol

March 27-28, 2015

CANDLE LIGHTING | 6:57 pm

MINHAY | 6:45 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS SEASON FINALE | following services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on: “The Lonely Man in Madrid: Reflections on a Remarkable Trip” | 2014-2015 season sponsored by the Jills family

PRE-PESAH SHABBAT DINNER | following Friday Night Lights | Levy Auditorium | For registered guests | Sponsored by Eli and Monique Benun, Jack and Martine Schenker, and the Solomon family

ZEMIRIY | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

SHAHARIT (NISMASHT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik delivers his Shabbat haGadol Derasha entitled: “Is Bitter Better? A Culinary and Theological Approach to Maror.”

MEANING AND MELODY | 10:00 am | Rabbi Morris on the topic of “The Haggadah and Ha Lakhma Anya” | Little Synagogue

TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 1:00 pm | Levy Auditorium

Featuring Rabbi Morris at 11:00 am

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

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

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | Kiddush Sponsors: Dina and Larry Berklin in honor of Rabbi Soloveichik and in memory of her mother, Hermiena Levy. Alan and Carol Schechter in memory of her father, Matiayahu bar Kneophel. Kiddush Fund Contributor: Jonathan de Sola Mendes in memory of his wife, Mary Ellen.

PARASHAT HASHABAHE | THE PATHS THEY SKIP IN HIGH SCHOOL | Rabbi Hidary | 5:40 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidary’s home, 1 W 85th St Apartment 6A

SEUDAH SHELIHIT & PESAH SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | 5:30 pm

Spring Semester Sponsored by Lewis Lipsey

MINHAY | 6:15 pm

KETER SHEM TOV | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary

HARDBALAH | 7:32 pm

The Shabbat preceding Passover is called Shabbat HaGadol, i.e. the “Great Sabbath.” A special haftarah from Malachi is read. Rabbis would exhort their congregations on this Shabbat concerning the Passover Festival. At Shearith Israel, this is also the anniversary of the consecration of the Second Mill Street Synagogue.
Pesah at Shearith Israel

Sale of Hametz
Appoint Rabbi Richard Hidary as your agent. Please fill out the online form before Thursday, April 2 at 5:00 pm at shearithisrael.org/hametz. Please contact Rabbi Hidary at rhiday@shearithisrael.org if you have specific questions.

Donate for Maot Hittim
Make a donation for Maot Hittim to help those in need in a discreet, dignified way. Your contribution will be sent to the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund for distribution overseen by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik. Go to shearithisrael.org/maohtittim to donate.

Pesah Haggadah (Seders)
Co-sponsored by JICNY
Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4 | 8:15 pm
Join us as we celebrate Pesach with a community Haggadah (Spanish-Portuguese Seder) on each of the first two nights of Pesah led by Rabbi Shalom Morris and Hazan Rabbi Iris Rohde. Each spirited and interactive Haggadah is accompanied by explanations of our traditions and melodies. Deadline: March 29. To register or to sponsor a meal for a congregant in need, go to shearithisrael.org/haggadot.

Girls’ Shir Hashirim Reading
Shabbat, Eighth Day of Pesah, Saturday, April 11
The young women of our congregation read the Song of Songs for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. To co-sponsor this kiddush, contact ashultz@shearithisrael.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Our next public tour is: Tuesday, April 14 at 11:00 am

Shearith Israel Book Club
8:00pm | Wednesdays April 15, and May 13
Location in a private home | Esther Hidary
Join the Shearith Israel book club! RSVP to chiday@gmail.com and start reading! The next book is “East of Eden” by John Steinbeck.

"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 Sephardi traditions and melodies. To view the itinerary and to sign up, go to ots.org/ill(hidden-heritage-trip)/

Baseball Game with Rabbi 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 Lewis.

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 Michael 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/history.

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 squash are just a few of the expected featured ingredients. This unique dinner 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

Women’s Megillah Ruth Reading
First day of Shabuot | Sunday, May 24
The girls of our synagogue recite Megillah Ruth for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. If your daughter would like to participate, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com. Sponsorship opportunities available.

Weekday Judaic Education
View all our spring classes at shearithisrael.org/education

Sunday
♦ Psalms and Spirituality | Rabbi Hidary | 8:40 am
♦ Saadia Gaon’s Emunot ve’Deot on Revelation and Commandments | Simion 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
♦ Hebraica 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 Jews Saleh Roberts
♦ Rabbanim Rules for Young Professionals | Rabbi Morris | 8:30 pm
♦ In partnership with JICNY

Tuesday
♦ Shulhan Arukh | Rabbi Hidary | 7:45 am
♦ 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 RESUMES AFTER PESAH
♦ 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