Shearith Israel Purim “Celebrity” Jeopardy
We thank our three formidable celebrity contestants, our shamash, Z Edinger, hazan, Rev. Phil Sherman and our lifelong, multi-generational congregant, Mark Aaron. All three proved to be formidable contestants, but in the end, our jeopardy champion was Z Edinger after correctly questioning the following jeopardy answer:

THIS CHAPEL IS ONE OF THE ONLY RELIGIOUS EDIFICES DESIGNED BY ITS EPONYMOUS “STARARCHITECT”, WHO WAS ALSO A LEAD DESIGNER OF THE PARK WE FACE TODAY

Do you know the correct jeopardy question? Send it in to slandau@shearthisrael.org by Monday at 11 am to be entered into a drawing to win a fun prize.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tob to Gabriel Lipschutz on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Congratulations to his parents Cecilia Michelon and Eduardo Lipschutz and his grandparents Nora Lipschutz and Samuel and Laura Michelson.

Thank you to Arthur and Joel Tenenholtz for sponsoring our Purim morning breakfast in memory of their father Benjamin

Our “Wellness Offerings”
Rabbi Ira Rohde

A combination of things I’ve read has gotten me to think about what “well-being” is, what the current vogue calls “wellness.” There was the sign in the YMCA touting all of their “wellness” course-offerings, a term I don’t remember being used in gyms twenty years ago. Then there was Rabbi Soloveichik’s class in which he explored the various ways the term “peace-offerings” in this week’s parasha could be translated. The term “shelamim” could be derived from a term for “peace,” but it also could be interpreted as a term for completeness and wholeness. I pointed out that the term for “peace” in the priestly blessing also has an ambiguity of meaning. In the priestly blessing, and in the peace benediction which follows in the Amidah, where it is the final, sealing benediction, “peace” seems defined as if we are asking God to smile upon us, for Him to face us and favor us with His Shining “Countenance.” Then there are our uses of terms like “peace” in greeting each other, and other polite inquiries of “well.” It seems that “peace,” even the non-political kind, is a pretty complicated thing. In the gym, of course, they’ve found that exercise is not enough for good health, and they can’t just tell people to combine it with yoga and meditation classes. So they’ve broadened the terms they use to describe their programs, made themselves more holistic, calling them their “wellness offerings.” And I’m thinking: “Hm, ‘Wellness Offering,’ maybe that’s the term I need to translate ‘zebhat shelamim’ in our parasha (e.g., in Lev. 7:11).” Of course, the Y doesn’t use the term “welfare offerings” that might have some political implications, although the priests in our parashah are clearly receiving handouts. But “wellness” might be just the term to capture the many different strands of meaning encompassed by the terms “shelamim” and “shalom.”

Our term “welfare,” was, in fact, once a word for “faring well,” and our greeting is customarily accompanied by “how do you do.” هدوء

“Wellness,” our experts today say, is often a delicate balance of factors, including health, holistic integrity, as well as outlook, even one’s smile. But the Y doesn’t call their course-offerings “happiness offerings.” Then they would seem like a panacea. “Wellness” is often described over the short-term; “happiness” would imply something more lasting. Our Torah also doesn’t speak that much about a lasting “happiness,” but we do make plenty of inquiries about “shalom,” a basic “wellness.” Lasting “peace” is highly elusive, but a balance of factors allowing one to weather life with strength, some degree of integrity or wholeness, and a basic “wellbeing” is possible. One of the shelamim or “wellness offerings” of the Torah is, of course, the “Todah,” the “thanksgiving acknowledgment” offering. Rashi on our parashah refers to Ps. 108, that those who have been delivered on a sea-voyage, or travelled in the wilderness, or had been kept in prison, or had been sick and were now healed, were all bound to offer thanksgiving, and if it was in the form of a thanksgiving acknowledgment sacrifice, it was to be considered a form of “shelamim,” a “wellness offering.” Developing a sense of appreciation, not necessarily for the greatest happiness, but for the little things along the way that have delivered us from misfortune, is a major step towards cultivating “wellness.”

Candle Lighting | 6:35 pm
Minhah | 6:45 pm
Friday Night Lights | following evening services | Rabbi Soloveichik gives a talk on “Justice Brandeis’ Shabbat Experience” | 2015-2016 Season Sponsored by the Yula Family
Zemirot | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
Shaharit (Nishmat) | 9:30 am | Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a sermon at the conclusion of services on the topic “The Purims of John Quincy Adams”
Tot Shabbat | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Levy Auditorium
Youth Groups | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Fidanque Office
Jr. Congregation | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue
Kiddush Luncheon | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored by Cecilia Michelon and the Shoebly Family in honor of Gabriel’s bar mitzvah
Topics in Jewish Philosophy | Rabbi Hidary | 1:30 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidary home, 1 W 85th St Apt. 6A
Seudah Shelishit and Shabbat Afternoon Shmur | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic “The Most Unusual Aspects of the Hagadah: A Pre-Pesah Shmur” | 5:30 pm | Spring semester sponsored by Lewis Lipsey
Minhah/Arbit | 6:50 pm
Keter Shem ToT | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary
Habdalal | 7:50 pm

Weekday Service Times
Morning: Sunday: 8:00 AM; Mon-Fri: 7:15 AM
Evenings: Sunday – Thursday: 6:30 PM (Minhah & Arbit)
UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Freedom, Slavery, and God: The Many Faces of the Haggadah
A Discussion Between
Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik and Leon Wieseltier
This Tuesday, March 29, 2016 | 7:00 pm
(Following 6:30 pm services)
No work of rabbinical literature has spoken to so many Jews in so many ways as the Haggadah.
What are its secrets?
Free and open to the public. RSVP requested at strauscenter@yu.edu

British Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis Visits Shearith Israel

Is There a Future for Jews in Europe?
Saturday, April 2
Deadline: This Monday, March 28
Sign up for and sponsor this luncheon with Rabbi Mirvis and Rabbi Soloveichik as they discuss the future of European Jewry. Register at shearithisrael.org/chief-rabbi-luncheon

The Ultimate 21st Century Rabbi: A Leader Who is There for All Four Sons
Sunday, April 3 | 10:00 am
Attend the Rabbi Allen Mirvis Annual Lecture co-sponsored by Shearith Israel and the Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought. Free and open to the public.
RSVP requested at strauscenter@yu.edu.

Everyday You Never Knew About Beth Olam Cemetery
Part 1 of a 3 Part Experiential Cemetery Series
Wednesday, April 13 | 7:00 pm
Join us and our Beth Olam Partners, Bnai Jeshurun and Shaaray Tefila, for an informative and moving event. Marena Wisniewski will describe what she learned and uncovered during her time as our Beth Olam Cemetery intern. You will learn about the history of this unique partnership between three prominent synagogues who share an interesting history, Shearith Israel, Bnai Jeshurun and Shaaray Tefila. She will also show us some of the architectural and historical gems and will describe efforts on our behalf to lay the groundwork for some much needed restoration work. The event will be punctuated with a remembrance of those members of our three communities who died this past year.

Teen Girls Shir Hashirim Reading
Saturday, April 30 | Eighth Day of Pesah
After Musaf on the Eighth day of Pesah, the teen girls of the synagogue will read The Song of Songs in the Main Sanctuary for the congregation following morning services in New York and in Israel. Please contact Yehudit at ychuditrobinson@gmail.com, if you are available to participate.

Baseball Game with Rabbi Hiday
Sunday, April 17 | 1:05 pm | Yankee Stadium
This event is generously subsidized by John Lewis
Take me out to the ball game! Take me out to the crowd! Join Rabbi Hiday at the Yankees vs. Seattle Mariners game at Yankee Stadium. This event’s sure to be a home run! All ages are welcome. Great seats in section 217. $65 members/$80 non-members.
Register at shearithisrael.org/baseball

Weekday Judaic Education
For details go to: shearithisrael.org/judaic-education

Sunday
◊ The Book of Kings | Rabbi Hiday | 8:40 am
◊ Saadia Gaon’s Book of Beliefs and Opinions | Sijmon den Hollander | 9:30 am

Monday
◊ Second Temple Jewish History | Rabbi Hiday | 7:00 pm
◊ Bet Midrash | Rabbi Hiday, Phil Gerz, Dr. Josh Eisen, Rabbi Ira Rohde, Meira Wokenfeld | 8:00 pm

Tuesday
◊ Rambam’s Mishneh Torah | Rabbi Hiday | 7:45 am
◊ Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought - A Class for Women | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am
◊ Talmud Class: Tractate Rosh Hashana and the Philosophy of Jewish Time | Rabbi Soloveichik | 8:00 pm | Spring semester sponsored by Gregory Bell | NO CLASS THIS WEEK

Basketball Game with Rabbi Hiday
Sunday, April 24 | 1:05 pm | Yankee Stadium
This event is generously subsidized by John Lewis
Take me out to the ball game! Take me out to the crowd! Join Rabbi Hiday at the Yankees vs. Seattle Mariners game at Yankee Stadium. This event’s sure to be a home run! All ages are welcome. Great seats in section 217. $65 members/$80 non-members.
Register at shearithisrael.org/baseball

Don’t let us go dry.
Be a scotch or arak sponsor. To sponsor or contribute go to shearithisrael.org/scotch-and-arak-sponsorships

Please consider sponsoring a class. Go to: shearithisrael.org/sponsoraclass

Parnas Office Hours
Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you. Please schedule a visit at parnas@shearithisrael.org.

Our next public tour is: Wednesday, April 13 at 11:00 am

Kurt Weill: The Idealist Composer Who Created Illuminating Music Out of a Dark Time
A Shearith Israel Lecture by composer Joelle Wallach
Wednesday Evening, April 6, 2016 at 8 PM
Admission free. Light refreshments served.