Second Mill Street Synagogue
Z. Edinger, Shamash

Each year on Shabbat HaGadol Shearith Israel celebrates the anniversary of the consecration of its second synagogue building, the Second Mill Street Synagogue. It housed our congregation from April 17, 1818 until April 13, 1833. By 1818, the original Mill Street Synagogue was too small to accommodate the growing Jewish community. A decision was made to build a larger synagogue on the same site - the second Mill Street Synagogue. It provided one hundred sixty-seven seats for men and one hundred thirty-three seats for women. The new synagogue was built of brick and stone with a surface of Roman cement. 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 space intervening between the schoolhouse and the synagogue, so that in general the space would not be covered in, and when each year the congregational sukkah was built there the sukkah’s roof could be open to the heavens. There was some discussion as to whether the women’s gallery in the rebuilt synagogue should be open or be closed by a lattice. The final decision was that it should be made of “handsome planked 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: “Flor the first time in eighteen centuries, it may be said that the Jew feels he was born equal, and is 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 emigrants have evacuated 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 only a relatively short fifteen year period, by the 1830’s most of the Jews of New York lived in what we now call Greenwich Village, too far to walk down to lower Manhattan on Shabbat. As a result, the congregation decided to move to new quarters on Crosby Street in 1835.

Shearith Israel commemorates the consecration of our synagogues 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 Todot El (p. 342) is sung before Nishmat, and special blessings and memorial prayers are recited before the reading of the Torah.

In this spirit, reproduced below is a resolution of the Board of Trustees enacted in 1818:

That the very liberal offerings made toward the building of the new Shool by Messrs. NAPHTALI JUDAH, HARMON HENDRICKS & ABRAHAM TOU- RO entitle them to the lasting gratitude of the Congregation and in order to transmit to posterity the knowledge of so much liberality. RESOLVED: That during the lives of NAPHTALI JUDAH, HARMON HENDRICKS & ABRAHAM TOU- RO, a Mishbeachah be made for them separately by the Hazzan on the eve of every Kippur and also on the anniversary of the dedication of the New Shool before the

(Continued on side panel)
UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Yankees vs. Mariners Game with Rabbi Hiday
This Sunday, April 17 | 1:05 pm | Yankee Stadium
This event is generously subsidized by John Lewis.
We will still have a few tickets left for this Sunday’s game and the forecast calls for PERFECT weather. All ages welcome. Enjoy great seats in section 217 and discounted prices. $65 members/$80 non-members. Register at shearithisrael.org/baseball
AND email rhiday@shearithisrael.org to let Rabbi Hiday know you’ll be joining the group.

UWS Yom Hashoa Annual Reading of the Names
Wednesday, May 4 10:00 pm – Thursday, May 5 9:00 am
For the 17th consecutive year, the Upper West Side community will gather to read the names of those among the 6 million murdered Jews. The reading will begin on Wednesday, May 4, at 10 pm at Congregation Rodeph Sholom and continue throughout the night with representatives of Upper West Side congregations and other members of the community. It will resume at 9 am on Thursday, May 5, at the JCC on Amsterdam Avenue at 76th street, ending with the recitation of kaddish. Shearith Israel members (and other insomniacs) are encouraged to attend at 2:20-2:40 am when we will be invited to publicly recite.

Special Yom Hashoa Lecture by Rabbi Soloveichik
Shabbat Afternoon, May 7 | 6:45 pm
Co-sponsored by the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands with promotional support by the Anne Frank Center and the New Amsterdam History Center
Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, is commemorated throughout the Jewish world and beyond. Often untold, however, is the story of the Dutch Jewish community during World War II, a community almost entirely wiped out in the Holocaust. Given our congregation’s special connection with Amsterdam, we seek to share this story with Manhattan Jews. We look forward to again hosting Dutch Consul General, Rob de Vos, at this important lecture.

PREPARE FOR PESAH 5776

Looking for a Communal Seder?
We will not be hosting our communal haggadot (seders) this year. If you are looking to attend a communal seder or hold your own family/group seder in the neighborhood, West Side Institutional Synagogue will be hosting seders on both nights. For more information, go to http://wsiisny.org/event/pesach-seders-at-wsiis.html
To find additional communal seders, please go to ujafederation.org/passover/find-a-seder or contact J-1-1, UJA-Federation of New York’s Information and Referral Center, at 877.852.6951 or j11@ujafedny.org.

Please remember to remove hametz from your drawers in the synagogue. Thank you.

Donate for Maot Hittim
In the opening paragraph of the Haggadah, we read: “All who are hungry, let them come and eat.” As part of experiencing freedom ourselves, we must also ensure that our fellow Jews have the means to celebrate freedom too. Maot Hittim is a special Passover fund, originally intended to provide the poor with matzah. Donate online at shearithisrael.org/maothittim or send a check made out to the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund (indicate “maot hittim” in the memo field) to help those in need in a discreet, dignified way.

Sale of Hametz
If you would like to appoint Rabbi Richard Hiday as agent to sell your Hametz before Pesah, please fill out the online form at shearithisrael.org/hametz before Thursday, April 21 at 5:00 pm. Please contact Rabbi Hiday at rhiday@shearithisrael.org if you have specific questions regarding the sale of Hametz.

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

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

Sunday
◊ The Book of Kings | Rabbi Hiday | 8:40 am NO CLASS
THIS WEEK
◊ Saadia Gaon’s Book of Beliefs and Opinions | Sjimon den Hollander | 9:30 am AT 8:40 AM THIS WEEK

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 RESUMES AFTER PESAH
◊ Talmud Class: Tractate Rosh Hashana and the Philosophy of Jewish Time | Rabbi Soloveichik | 8:00 pm | Spring semester sponsored by Gregory Bell. RESUMES AFTER PESAH

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 semester or a class. Go to: shearithisrael.org/sponsorclass

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, May 11 at 11:00 am