Make Your End-Of-Year Gift Today
Now is the time to support Shearith Israel and our special funds (e.g. Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund, Sisterhood, Hebra, etc.) with an end of year gift. These gifts are a crucial part of our budget and enable Shearith Israel to maintain the high standard to which we are all accustomed.
Visit shearthisrael.org/year-end-gifts to select any and all funds you wish to support.
If you have any outstanding balances, now is also a good time to take care of those.

Winter Coat Drive
Now Through December 31
Donate gently used coats for men, women, and children, to keep those in need warm this winter season. We will get them to New York Care.
Drop off in the bin outside Levy Auditorium through December 31. (Tax receipts available upon request.)

CHOIR SELECTIONS THIS WEEK

Friday Night
V’Shemera (p. 166) | Samuel Naumburg (1817-1880)
Hazzan and Choirmaster at the Great Synagogue of Paris.
Psalms 23 (p. 174) | H. Pereira Mendes (1852-1937)
Minister of Shearith Israel from 1877-1937.

Shabbat Morning
Mishberakh (p. 208) | Leon Kramer (1866-1941)
Musician and Composer in Mantua, Italy.
Tehilat (p. 216) | Jonathan Koch (current choirmember)
Mr. Koch is tenor and longtime member of our choir.
Adon Olam (p. 232) | Samuel de Sola (1839-1866)
Minister of Bevis Marks synagogue, London, from 1865-1866.

Coming Next Week:
On Shabbat Hanukkah, the choir will perform special and rarely heard melodies composed by Jacques F. Halévy, George F. Handel, Leon Kramer and Leon Hymon. Generously sponsored in honor of Leon Hymon in memory of Milton Lewin.

PUBLIC TOURS
Our next public tour is Wednesday, December 12, at 11:00 AM.

PARNAS OFFICE HOURS
Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you. Please schedule a visit at parnas@shearithisrael.org.

DEBAR TORAH: PARASHAT VAYESHEB
—RABBI YOSEF YANETZ—
This week, we will read Parashat Vayesheb, which describes the story of Yosef and his brothers. As we know, a main part of the parasha is the sale of Yosef by his brothers.
Interestingly, this story is always read either the Shabbat before Hanukkah, or on Shabbat Hanukkah. For years, I have been trying to answer the question: What is the connection between that story and Hanukkah?
In his commentary, it seems that Rabbi Ovadia Seferno (Italy, 1473-1550) has an interesting insight. The Gemara (Shabbat 24b) tells us that this sale ultimately was the reason that led the Jewish people going down into the long exile in Egypt. The Seferno explains how the hatred the brothers had for Yosef caused this tragic event to occur. This event was the first domino in an enormous chain that altered the course of Jewish history for the worse.
On Hanukkah, we celebrate the great miracle of the victory of the war by the Hasmonaim, who took control over Jerusalem and our Holy Temple. However, in later generations, the descendants of the Hasmonaïn’s dynasty, two brothers, Horkenus and Aristobulus, each wanted to become the next king of Jerusalem. In order to gain the throne, each brother sought the Roman king’s endorsement. The Romans ultimately sided with the older brother. But this event gave the Romans great influence over the Jewish people. Which led to the Romans taking over and destroying the Temple. Again, the fighting between brothers caused exile and destruction both in our parasha and the Hanukkah story.
In contrast to that, we were redeemed from Egypt by two brothers, Moshe and Aharon, who demonstrate great love and zero jealousy among themselves.
Maybe we read this parasha before Hanukkah for the same reason that we always end our tefiot with a request for shalom—to remind us that everything is meaningful without that. To teach ourselves that even though the Hashmonaim won, they lost later because of hatred and fight in the family. A victory without unity will ultimately lead down a long road to destruction.

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue
Shabbat Vayesheb
November 30-December 1, 2018
Hertz Pentateuch: p. 141; Haftarah p. 152
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 182; Haftarah p. 1082

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:11 pm
EVENING SERVICES | 4:15 pm
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Soloveichik | “Give War and Peace A Chance”
This session sponsored by Debbie and David Sable in memory of Rabbi Jack Sable. 2018-2019 season sponsored by the Julius family.

MORNING SERVICES | Main Sanctuary | 8:15 am
TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am
Fidaneq Youth Room
YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am
Fidaneq Youth Room
JUNIOR CONGREGATION | 10:30 am
Little Synagogue
SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | “The Rabbi, the Zionist, and the Christmas Tree”
KIDDUSH | Eliahu Room | Sponsored by Ruthy & Max Beulel and Shira & Joel Jacobson in honor of the upcoming marriage of their children, Yael and Danny.

PRE-HANUKKAH SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | 3:30 pm | Main Sanctuary
EVENING SERVICES | 4:05 pm

HABDALA | 4:56 pm

Hanukkah begins on Sunday evening, December 2.

Weekday Service Times
Mornings: Sunday: 8:00 am | Monday-Friday: 7:15 am
Evenings (Arbit only): Sunday-Thursday: 6:30 pm
Come experience the lighting of our colonial era hanukkiah at the conclusion of Arbi on each night of Hanukkah.

Central Park West at 70th Street, New York City • www.shearthisrael.org
REMEMBERING BAGHDAD—
Between the Tigris and the Hudson:
Celebrating Iraqi Jewish Heritage at Shearith Israel
Special interview with Mr. Ezra Zilka, and a panel
discussion featuring Professor Carole Basri, Mr. David
Dangoor, and Mr. David Lavipour
Sunday, December 16 | 7:00 pm
Join us for an unforgettable evening to hear about Jewish life in
the cultured, progressive, and cosmopolitan city of Baghdad
before WWII, the tragedy of the Farhud and the
unprecedented IDF Airlift operation Ezra & Nebenjah.
Hear first-hand accounts of life in Baghdad from Jews who
lived through it and about how this ancient community still
survives in Israel and America today.
Includes a screening of the short film, “What We Left Behind”
by Professor Henry Green.
Light refreshments with special Iraqi delicacies will be served.
This event is FREE, thanks to our generous sponsors.
Registration required at shearithisrael.org/baghdad.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
Hazakim u’Berakhim to all of our (nearly 300!) Thanksgiving
Pack-A-Thon volunteers and supporters, who helped pack 3000
packages of food and winter apparel for New Yorkers in need, and
raised $18,103, surpassing our $18,000 goal.
Thank you!
Thank you to the anonymous sponsor for last week’s kiddush,
in honor of the visit of Rabbi Richard & Esther Hidayar.
Thank you to the anonymous sponsor of a Minyan Breakfast this week.
We mourn the passing of our member, Agnes Dellal.
Condolences to her son, William Dellal, and her entire family.

From Recife to New York:
A Shabbat Dinner with Today’s Conversos of Brazil
LEd BY RABBI MEIR SOLOVEICHIK
Friday, December 14 | Following Evening Services &
Friday Night Lights
Share a memorable Shabbat dinner with descendants of Brazil’s
Conversos, “Zera Yisrael” who are joining us from Recife, Brazil—365 years after Shearith Israel’s 23 founders — and
their champion, former Member of Knesset,
Rabbi Haim Amsalem.
Learn about their Jewish journey over an elegant Friday night
dinner (and come back to mingle with them over kiddush
on Shabbat morning).
Introductory remarks by our member, Sam Katz.
To register or sponsor, visit shearithisrael.org/conversos.

This program, which showcases the unique history of our congregation and its connections
to current events, is one of our many Year of
Years, 365th Anniversary celebration events.

SAVE THE DATE
Shabbat Shira Sing-Along Luncheon
Featuring our talented musical triumvirate:
Hazzan Rabbi Ira Rohde, Associate Hazzan Rev. Philip L.
Sherman, and Shamas, Zachary Edinger
Shabbat, January 19, 2019
Have you ever wished you were more familiar with Shearith
Israel’s unique liturgy and melodies? Do you ever have the urge
to sing along with the Shearith Israel choir (or belt it out at
your own home)? At this special Shabbat luncheon, join the
uplifting voices of our clergy in discussing, learning, and
singing classic Shearith Israel tunes in a laid-back,
cozy atmosphere.
All ages are sure to enjoy what will undoubtedly be a
chart-topping hit.
Stay tuned for registration and sponsorship details.

YOUTH AT SHEARIH ISRAEL
Brunch & Learn with Rabbi Soloveichik
For Elementary School Aged Children
Sundays, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
THIS Sunday, December 2 | February 3 | March 10
On several Sundays over the course of the year, children and their
parents start the day together with morning services after which
they will proceed to a topical “Brunch and Learn” with Rabbi
Soloveichik.
Register at shearithisrael.org/brunch-learn.

Hanukkah Fest!
Sunday, December 9 | 10:30 am | Free and open to all
Please join CSI youth and PTTS for fun and
educational Hanukkah festivities! Kids will
enjoy art projects, songs, and of course,
Shearith Israel’s unique and delicious
Hanukkah tradition of homemade waffles.
No registration required.

NEW: Parent-Child Learning & Pizza
On 3 Saturday Nights:
December 15 | 6:30 pm—Led by Rabbi Soloveichik
January 12 | 6:45 pm || February 9 | 7:00 pm
For Elementary School Aged Children & Their Parents or Grandparents
This new initiative gives parents (or grandparents) the opportunity to study
Torah with their children together with Shearith Israel’s clergy. Pizza and prizes
help make this a fun-filled evening of inter-generational learning.
Register for the December 15 session (only $5 per person) at
shearithisrael.org/parent-child-learning.

Mitzvot Workshops with Shamas, Z. Edinger
For All Elementary School Aged Children
Select Sunday Mornings at 10:00 am
Sunday, December 23 | Sunday, March 3 | Sunday, April 14
These Mitzvot Workshops are a wonderful opportunity for our
elementary school age youth - both boys and girls - to learn to sing
the melodies of selected prayers from the Shabbat and
holiday services as well as learn about the parts of the Torah
service, and receive training in the hands-on parts of the service.
Sign up for December 23 (it’s FREE) at
shearithisrael.org/mitzvot-workshop.

NO ANNIVERSARY
5418 - 5779
5779 – 5418
Commemorating the 365th Year of Torah Celebration