Revealing Ruth with Shira Hecht-Koller
Thursday May 29 & Wednesday June 5 at 11:00 am
Shearith Israel is proud to partner with Drisha once again for a pre-Shabbat mini-series. We will study the book of Ruth with an eye toward literary nuance and character development. By comparing the narrative with other biblical narratives as well as Talmudic passages, renowned educator, Shira Hecht-Koller, will explore questions of identity and community and their implications for contemporary life.
For registration details and to request a Shearith Israel member discount code, visit shearithisrael.org/drisha-ruth.

**Week In Review**
Last week, Shearith Israel hosted Sheikh Mohammad Al-Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League and former Minister of Justice of Saudi Arabia. Together with Executive Director, Barbara Reis, Esme Berg, Karen Daar, and Gabe Goldstein, as well as our friends from the American Sephardi Federation, Z. Edinger led a fascinating tour of our synagogue explaining our history, traditions, values, and community. The Sheikh has just spoken at the Responsible Leaders World Summit about respect for all religions and had signed a memorandum with the AJC agreeing to join them on a trip to Auschwitz in 2020.

On Sunday, even the weather couldn’t thwart our efforts to clean up our historic Chatham Square Cemetery. We had a great turnout by enthusiastic, hard-working congregants and friends and expect to repeat this effort next year.

On Monday, Rabbi Soloveichik sat down with famed historian Andrew Roberts for an in-depth conversation on Winston Churchill, the man and the myth.

And last night, on the cusp of Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha’asmat, a crowd of hundreds came to learn about Egyptian Jewish Heritage at Shearith Israel at one of our Year of Years celebrations. Guests were treated with fascinating stories, two curated exhibits, scholarly talks, a video presentation, prayer and Torah, middle eastern delicacies, and a beautiful commemorative booklet.

**Community Announcements**
We mourn the loss of our former trustee, Norman Skydell.

**Two Paths to Holiness — Asher Shanabrook**
This week we read Parshat Kodshinim, a parasha known for its centrality in the Torah. This centrality is both literal, as we have reached the halfway point in the Hamash and conceptual. We find the most basic demand of the Torah in the opening words of the parasha: “You shall be holy” (Vayikra 19:2). Further evidence of our parasha’s centrality is found in a famous statement of Rabbi Akiva. In Masechet Nedairim 30b, Rabbi Akiva tells us that a pasuk found in this parasha “You shall love your fellow as yourself,” (19:18) is the central rule of the Torah. What is the connection between the two themes, to be holy and love one’s fellow? Even before the command of “You shall be holy,” our parasha starts off with Hashem telling Moshe to “tell all the community of Israel.” Bartannah writes that the reason that this parashat was addressed specifically to “all the community” is because it imperative to have the entire body of the Jewish people present for the teaching of these laws, because upon them the rest of the Torah hangs. The remainder of our parasha has a diversity of halachot, ranging from agricultural laws, prohibitions regarding idolatry, to regulations of sexual immorality, reminiscent of last week’s parasha. Apparently, being holy entails the keeping of all of these complex and ritualistic practices. Seemlessly sprinkled into the broad array of halachot in the parasha are several pesukim that deal with how one man treats another. In between a law regarding eating invalidated sacrifices and swearing falsely in God’s name, we learn to leave the edge of your field and the fallen grapes of your vineyard for the poor and the stranger, and not to treat others falsely (19:8-16). Immediately after being commanded not to follow spirits and to guard the Shabbat, we are instructed to respect the elderly, and to treat the stranger that resides with us as we would treat ourselves (19: 31-34). One message is clear. There is an intimate connection between fulfilling ritualistic dictates and ethical imperatives. Both are needed to be holy. Sforno explains on the last pesuk of the fourth aliya, “You shall guard all of my laws and all of my rules, and you shall do them. I am the L-rd” (19:37) that by practicing both the inconceivable ritual laws and social practice, we will understand their value and gain insight. Practicing the halachot in our parasha, and the level of understanding and insight that comes with it, is what it means to be holy. This is why the central pesuk of “You shall love your fellow as yourself” was put in our parasha. Rabbi Akiva wanted to point out that in Parashat Kodshinim we have the model by which we reach the ideal state of holiness. We should all merit to keep the laws bein Adam l’Mashoom and bein Adam l’Hasoro, and have the utmost love for God and each other.
Asher Shanabrook is a rabbinical student at Yeshiva University’s Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, and a participant in our ongoing Open Bet Midrash program.

CANDLE LIGHTING | 7:43 pm
EVENING SERVICES | 6:45 pm

**Morning Services** | Main Sanctuary | 8:15 am
TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Fidaneque Youth Room
YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room
JUNIOR CONGREGATION | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue
SERMON | Rabbi Soloveichik
KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored by Sharon Schechter & Rafe Saxon in honor of Elie reading his first haftarah.

**Shabbat Afternoon Shiur** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 6:35 PM | “The Death and Life of Rabbi Judah HaNasi” | Levy Auditorium
EVENING SERVICES | 7:35 pm
HABDALA | 8:42 pm

**Weekday Service Times**
Mornings:
Sunday: 8:00 am | Monday-Friday: 7:15 am
Evenings:
Sunday-Thursday (Minha & Arvit): 6:30 pm

Mother’s Day is on Sunday — Happy Mother’s Day!
Menahem Begin: Lessons from a Rich Legacy of Leadership
with Rabbi Meir Soloveichik & Senator Joseph Lieberman
Sunday, May 19 | 7:00 pm
Forty years after the signing of the Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt, there is no better time to recognize Menachem Begin’s legacy of security, democracy, liberty and inclusivity. Begin, the man, was a brilliant, tough, humble and proud Jew who never compromised when the dignity and survival of Israel and the Jewish people were at stake. Begin, the leader, transformed Israel.

Join Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik and Senator Joseph Lieberman as they analyze Menachem Begin’s philosophy, actions, and lessons they hold for us today.

For registration and sponsorships, visit shearithisrael.org/begin.

Day Trip to Touro with Rabbi Soloveichik
July 4 | Departing at 7:00 am
Already 50% pre-sold. Remaining spaces available to sponsors only, beginning this Monday, May 13.
Join Rabbi Soloveichik for an all-day field trip to Newport, Rhode Island, home of our historic sister synagogue, the Touro Synagogue.
Highlights of this full-day excursion will include:
• preparatory talks on the bus by Rabbi Soloveichik
• walking tour of Jewish Newport, led by Rabbi Soloveichik
• costumed reading of the Declaration of Independence from the balcony of the Old Colony House as they did in 1776
• memorial service (hashcabalh) at the cemetery, led by Rabbi Soloveichik
• light lunch and dinner, hosted by Congregation Jeshuat Israel
• major historical lecture delivered by Rabbi Soloveichik, at the Touro Synagogue
If you wish to join as a “1776 sponsor,” register on Monday, May 13 at shearithisrael.org/touro-trip.

Chatham Square Cemetery Memorial Event
Honoring the Patriotic Service rendered by our Members
Sunday, May 19 | 10:30 am
Chatham Square Cemetery | 55 St James Place
Please join us for our annual Memorial Service to honor members of our congregation and to decorate the graves of 19 veterans of the American Revolution. This year’s ceremony includes special presentations by Colonel Jonathan de Sola Mendes, USMC, Retired, and by Lieutenant Arthur Goldberg, USN, Retired. This truly special ceremony features the participation of a color guard and field music and is both enjoyable and moving.
Register at shearithisrael.org/chatham-memorial-2019.
Transportation is available but space is limited.

This program is one of our many Year of Years, 365th Anniversary events, showcasing the extraordinary historical roots and uniquely American history of our congregation and community.

Young Couples and Families Year-End "Celebrate Israel" Picnic
Shabbat, June 1 | Following Morning Services
Featured Speaker: Hai Piasetsky
Chairied by Zaya Raynes and Rivka Wiznia
School is ending and the Celebrate Israel Parade is coming! Join our young families the Shabbat before the parade to celebrate Israel with this Israel-themed Juncheon. Our third PTTS Shabbaton will be happening this same Shabbat, so don’t pass up this chance to mingle!
For registration and sponsorships, visit shearithisrael.org/israel-picnic.

DON’T LET YOUR GRADUATE GO UNNOTICED!
2019 Graduate Scroll of Honor & Graduation Kiddush
Shabbat, June 15 | Following Morning Services
Let’s spread the good news and celebrate the success and accomplishments of all our graduates from preschool to PhDs!
Visit shearithisrael.org/graduation19 by June 13 to ensure that we can properly list and congratulate your graduate(s) in our 2019 Scroll of Honor.
Even if you cannot attend, please send us listing information for your graduates, and consider co-sponsoring our graduation kiddush for $180 or just $36.

AN IMPORTANT CARING CONNECTION PROGRAM
SMASH THE STIGMA:
A Jewish Communal Conversation on Suicide and Depression
Tuesday, May 14 | 7:00 pm
In addition to Rabbi Simhka Weintraub, LCSW, who will address clinical signs and resources, we have two exceptional panelists, Shannee Markovitz and Ruth Roth, who will candidly share their first-hand encounters with suicide, and how they turned their personal tragedies into activism. Moderated by Nathan Romano, the president of NAMI National Alliance on Mental Illness.
To register and/or to support our Caring Connection, visit shearithisrael.org/awareness.

Host Committee: Dr. Victoria Bengualid, Zaya Raynes, Suzanne Stern
Community Partners: Anshe Chesed, B’haiyit, B’nai Jeshurun, Darkehei Noam, Drisha, the Jewish Board, Jewish Center, Manhattan Day School, Ohab Zedek, Rambam Ohad, Rodeph Sholom, West Side Institutional Synagogue

Public Tours
Our next public tour is Wednesday, June 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.