UWS Synagogues Present: Koolulum

Thursday, May 21 | 7:00 pm | Ticket Price - $36

The Streicker Center at Temple Emanuel-El | 5th Ave at 65th St.

The break-out Israeli musical phenomenon, Koolulum, has brought together diverse populations across Israel, South Africa and the US, to merge their individual voices into the magic of a single song. Now, for the first time, they are bringing their unique approach to music and community to Manhattan. UJA-Federation of New York and The Streicker Center are pleased to bring this event to Manhattan and Shearith Israel. It is proud to participate as a community partner, bringing together Manhattan synagogues and institutions for a unifying event.

Register at tinyurl.com/koolulum.

DEBAR TORAH

—STEVEN GOTTLIB, BET MIDRASH COORDINATOR—

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose / By Any Other Name would smell as sweet,” said Juliet about her beloved Romeo, arguing that the fact that the name he had carried since birth and which was solely responsible for keeping the young lovers apart was rather meaningless in the grand scheme of things.

Psychology, however, seems to imply that Juliet’s emotional declaration in William Shakespeare’s famous play may not have been scientifically accurate. In 2008, researchers from McGill University as well as the Montreal Neurological Institute concluded that the presentation of an odor with a positive, neutral, or negative sounding name had a profound impact on how people interpreted the smell. On the Biblical level, my teacher Rabbi David Silber has noted that names in the Torah are often descriptions which tell us something about the figure’s inner essence or place in the grand narrative that God has written.

I would like to argue that this extends to the names which we have given to the various Biblical Books as well. Sefer Bereishit is the story of God’s creation of the world and our primary roles within it. Sefer Vayikra writes a lot about what to call things from various types of sacrifices to holidays and more, solidifying our people’s relationship with the mission that God has given us. Sefer Benai Darim includes the various adventures (and misadventures) of the Israelites in the Sinai Desert. Finally, Sefer Devarim is the speech that Moses gave to the people before they were finally able to enter the Promised Land. But what about Sefer Shenemot, the “Book of Names”? That apparently has nothing to do with the Exodus from Egypt or its aftermath, which is the section of the Torah which we prominently celebrate.

I’d like to make a suggestion based on an idea from Shearith Israel’s very own Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik. In a recent lecture, R. Soloveichik spoke about the profound meaning of the Exodus from Egypt and the Plagues that accompanied it. The political aspects of the Exodus reflected in the freeing of Bnei Yisrael were bound up with theology. Each plague that was brought down on the Egyptians was intentional, designed not only to punish them but to fundamentally counter their entire religious life. It was not enough for the Bnei Yisrael to simply be freed from Egyptian slavery. They needed to be freed from the Egyptian ways of life which had confined them to a particular role for so long. Sefer Shenemot, then, is not only about bringing Israel out of Egypt, but with bringing Egypt out of Israel, allowing our people to reclaim our national identity (or “name”) and to begin again as a free entity.

Sefer Shenemot, as R. Soloveichik so eloquently pointed out, is then the book of how we reclaimed our name from those who would attempt to take it away and push us into slavery to foreign ways of life. It is truly the book where the People of Israel establish our name forevermore.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hazakim u’Berukhim to Daisy Braverman and Rabbi Ira Rohde on their recent participation in the International Ladino Day, hosted by the American Sephardi Federation at the Center for Jewish History.

Mazel tov to Jackie & Andrew Klaber on being honored at this year’s Stanton Street Shul Pre-Purim Masquerade Ball, to be held on Sunday, March 8. To honor the Klabers and support the Stanton Street Shul, go to stantonstshul.com.

Mazel tov to Gail Prop on being honored at this year’s Ramaz Annual Dinner, to be held on Sunday, February 23 at the New York Marriott Marquis. To honor Gail and to support Ramaz, please go to ramaz.org/dinner.

Shabbat Shemot

January 17-18, 2020

CONGREGATION SHEarith ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Hertz Penateau: p. 205; Haftarah: p. 229
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 250; Haftarah: p. 1212

CANDLE LIGHTING | 4:37 pm
EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 4:45 pm | Main Sanctuary
ZEVIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHABRIT | 9:15 am
TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Fidique Youth Room
YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room
JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue
SERMON | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | “Maimonides’ Tears”
KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Levy Auditorium | Sponsored by Vicki & Sam Katz in honor of the anniversary of his fiancé, David Siminou.
SHABBAT AFTERNOON CLASS | 3:30 pm | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | “A Political Introduction to Shemot” Levy Auditorium
EVENING SERVICES (MINHA & ARBIT) | 4:30 pm
HARDALA | 5:23 pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is on Monday. Our office will be closed, and Toddler Program will not meet. Sunday class is on hiatus. See below for service changes.

Weekday Service Times

Mornings: Sunday & Monday (MLK Day): 8:00 AM
Monday-Friday: 7:15 AM

EVENINGS: Sunday (Minha & Arbrit): 4:45 PM
Monday-Thursday (Arbit only): 6:30 PM

Public Tours
Our next public tour is Wednesday, February 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.

Central Park West at 70th Street, New York City • www.shearithisrael.org
Early Bird Deadline: THIS MONDAY, JANUARY 20

A Community Dinner featuring
Rabbi Meir Soloveichik in Conversation with Professor Yaacob Dweck
Friday night, February 7 | Following Evening Services
and Friday Night Lights
Join Rabbi Soloveichik and Princeton Professor Yaacob Dweck, as they discuss Professor Dweck’s new book:

Dissident Rabbi: The Life of Jacob Sasportas.
The book, recently released by Princeton Press, tells the story of Jacob Sasportas, the Sephardic rabbi who spent the final years of his life as the spiritual leader of the Amsterdam Jewish communi-
ty. He alone challenged Sabbetai Zevi’s improbable messianic
claims and warned his fellow Jews that their Messiah was not the
answer to their prayers.
To register or sponsor, visit shearithisrael.org/
sasportas-dinner.

Parent-Child Learning & Pizza
Saturday Nights bi-weekly | One hour after Habdala
Next session will be next week, January 28
For Elementary School Age Children & Their Parents or Grandparents
This educational initiative gives parents (or grandparents) the
opportunity to study Torah with their children in a fun interactive
setting led by Shearith Israel’s clergy and talented volunteers. Pizza and
prizes help make this a fun-filled evening of inter-generational learning.
The program is free, but please register for each session you will
be attending at shearithisrael.org/pclearning so that we can
know how many to expect!

Shearith Israel & Other Upper West Side Synagogues Present:
Mental Health First Aid Training
Sunday, February 9 | 10:00 am-6:00 pm
At Lincoln Square Synagogue, 180 Amsterdam Ave
Mental Health First Aid training provides proven practices that
will help you recognize the early signs and symptoms of mental illness and
substance misuse. You will learn how to listen without judgment, and
respond to and help someone in distress until they can get the profes-
sional care they may need. Certificate of completion will be presented to
participants.
This event is FREE, but space is limited to 60 participants,
so sign up today! To register, visit shearithisrael.org/mental-health-training.

Waiting List Only
Mark Twain In the Holy Land
Sunday, February 2 | 11:30 am & 12:30 pm
New York Historical Society
This event is currently sold out, but if you would like to be added
to the waitlist, contact Sarah Gross at sgross@shearithisrael.org.

A Shabbat Dinner with Hazzan Jonathan Garcia
Friday Night, February 21 | Following 5:30 pm evening services
and Friday Night Lights
Come for an intimate Shabbat dinner, featuring the wonderful musical
talents of Rabbi Ira Rohde, Z. Edinger, and our young guest Hazzan,
Jonathan Garcia, who will be joining us from London, along with his
new bride, Micol Bedarida Garcia. Both of our newlyweds have
deep roots and lineage in Hazzanu traditions, going back generations.
Together with our clergy, Hazzan Garcia, who regularly leads services
at Lauderdale Road Synagogue and occasionally at Bevis Marks, will
create a beautiful, music-filled atmosphere for this relaxed dinner,
including melodies from the London S&H tradition.
He will be returning on Shabbat morning to lead Mussaf and give a short
seminar on the history of the London musical tradition.
To register or sponsor the dinner, visit shearithisrael.org/
garcia-dinner.

Space is Limited—Register Today!
Tambourine Workshop
Sunday, March 1 | 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Firm Registration Deadline: Sunday, January 26
Women and teenage girls are invited to a multi-faceted and inspiration-
al tambourine workshop. Connect with Miriam the Prophetess and
the righteous women who left Egypt together with her. Plant seeds of cour-
age and faith as we adorn our instruments! Rejoice with friends and
neighbors as we celebrate our precious sisterhood!
Miriam Liebermann, MSW, author, community activist, and
inspirational speaker, will conduct the workshop and then lead a song
and dance.
Artistic talent is not necessary! Stencils will be provided.
Charge for Admission: $25 for adult women, $20 for teen girls
Register at shearithisrael.org/tambourine.

Rescheduled: Teen Bowling & Pizza
Sunday, January 26 | 6:00 pm
Bowlmor Times Square, 222 W. 44th St
Shearith Israel teens are invited to bring their friends for a fun
night of bowling and pizza at Bowlmor Lanes. Just $20 includes
bowling, shoe rental, pizza and unlimited beverages. If you are
interested in this or future outings, contact Francine Alfandary
(falfandary@yahoo.com).
To register, visit shearithisrael.org/teen-bowling.

Rabbi Soloveichik’s Upcoming Major Lectures

Mark Your Calendars and Watch Your Emails
Following Evening Services
- Monday, February 10: Special History Lecture
- Tuesday, March 3: Major Pre-Purim Shii

More Jewish Education 5780

- Friday Night Lights | Rabbi Soloveichik
  Friday Nights | Following Evening Services
- Shabbat Afternoon Class | Rabbi Soloveichik
  Shabbat Afternoons | One hour before Minha (but never earlier than 3:30 pm)
- The Guide to the Duties of the Heart | Rabbi Sjimon den Hollander
  Sunday Mornings | 8:45 am | On hiatus until February 16
- The Idea of Kingship | Rabbi David Silver
  Sunday Mornings | 10:00 am | Begins February 2 | $250 cost, but FREE for Shearith Israel members |
  Registration details at shearithisrael.org/idea-kingship
- Tuesday Morning Women’s Class | Rabbi Soloveichik
  Tuesdays | 9:00 am | Sign up for weekly reminders at
  shearithisrael.org/join-our-email-lists
- Bet Midrash | led by Steven Gotlib
  Monday-Thursday | One hour before evening services