
S&P Central Newsletter - February 2017 / 5777

1 message

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February 2017 / 5777

Dear Friends,

Boas vindas! Bienvenida! Bienvenue! Benvenuto! Shalom shalom! Following are some items we hope you will enjoy reading in advance of the Purim holiday.

Wishing you a Purim Alegre!

S&P Centralwww.sandpcentral.org

NEWS[Amsterdam](#)**Archive of the Portuguese Community of Amsterdam Now Online**



A large archive of the Portuguese Jewish Community of Amsterdam has been digitized and made available online, through the website of the Amsterdam municipal archive. The materials cover the period 1582-1968, and include manuscripts and printed documents from synagogues, schools, mutual-aid societies, and social organizations as well as family papers. More info here: <https://archieff.amsterdam/uitleg/introductie/index.nl.html>

London

Bevis Marks Looks to Launch Beit Midrash

Rabbi Shalom Morris of Bevis Marks Synagogue has launched a campaign to reestablish a Judaica library and Bet HaMidrash at the synagogue. He notes that “Bevis Marks is renowned for its historic synagogue, and its authentic S&P services. It is time that it is also known as a place of Torah and Jewish continuity. We already offer a variety of shiurim and lectures, and we are now ready for a Bet HaMidrash.” To read more about this effort, please see here:

<https://shalommorris.com/2017/01/07/vayigash-goshen-and-the-sp/>

Palermo

City of Palermo to Get First Synagogue in 500 Years

The Roman Catholic Church is ceding to Jewish ownership part of a church and monastery built atop the ruins of a medieval synagogue. The move is a gesture of reconciliation some 500 years after the expulsion of Jews from Sicily. The church will also finance renovations for a synagogue and Jewish heritage center there. At the special ceremony were Shavei emissary Rabbi Pierpaolo Pinhas Puntarello and Palermo Archbishop Corrado Lorefice among others. Read more here:

<http://www.jta.org/2017/01/09/news-opinion/world/palermo-sicily-to-get-first-synagogue-in-500-years>

Facebook

New Facebook Group Launched for Portuguese Speakers

For Facebook users, a new group has been formed by Rabbi Natan Peres of the Esnoga in Amsterdam: Liturgia e Costumes dos Judeus Portugueses. The purpose of this group will be to share the customs and liturgy of Portuguese Jewry among Portuguese speakers. You can find it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/761201550682741/>

RECENT EVENTS

Montreal

The Spanish Hosts “TuBiShabbat” Dinner Under the Stars



In early February, the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue’s youth committee organized a festive Shabbat meal under the stars to celebrate Tu Bi’Shvat. The dinner is part of various initiatives aimed at welcoming new members and developing deeper bonds in the congregation. The meal featured dishes inspired by the seven fruits of

Israel. For more on events at the synagogue, please see here:

<http://thespanish.org/holiday-calendar/>

New York

Congregation Shearith Israel Receives Parnas of Bevis Marks

In early January, Congregation Shearith Israel in New York was pleased to welcome Lawrence Kilshaw, Parnas of Bevis Marks Synagogue in London. Rabbi Meir Soloveichik greeted him with words of welcome at Kiddush following services. The two sister congregations share a rich and intertwined history, including many melodies in common.

Philadelphia

Mikveh Israel Hosts Scholars on Jewish Life in Spain and Afterward

In January, Dr. Arnold Franklin gave a talk at Congregation Mikveh Israel, examining the "Golden Age" of Spain's Jewish community. Franklin, a professor of history at Queens College, will also participate as a scholar in a study tour to Spain this June, examining the rich art and culture that Jews shared with their neighbors there.

In February, Dr. Claude Dov Stuczynski, a professor of History at Bar-Ilan University and visiting fellow at U. of Pennsylvania, delivered a lecture on the writings of Samuel Usque, a Portuguese marrano Jewish author who settled in Ferrara in the 1500s. More on other Mikveh Israel events here:

<http://www.mikvehisrael.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bordeaux

Community to Host Concert by the Jewish Choir of France



On March 26, the [Grande Synagogue de Bordeaux](http://www.synagogue-bordeaux.com) will host the Jewish Choir of France under the direction of Hector Sabo and featuring Cantor Raphaël Cohen and baritone Mickaël Guedj as well as the synagogue's own well-regarded choir. The singers will be accompanied by the Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine. For more info, email

acig33@gmail.com or see: www.synagogue-bordeaux.com.

Lisbon

University Launches Series on Portuguese Jews at Home and in the Diaspora

In March, the University of Lisbon launches a new lecture series on "The Jews in Portugal and in the Diaspora." Below is the schedule of topics and speakers. For more information, contact: Dir. José Alberto Rodrigues da Silva Tavim at tavim40@hotmail.com.

- March 9 / Illuminated Hebrew Manuscripts in the Iberian Peninsula (13th-15th centuries).
Speaker: Tiago Moita, Institute of Art History, U. of Lisbon.
- April 6 / The Languages of Portuguese Jews in Portugal and in Exile. Speaker: Peter Nahon, Sorbonne, Paris.
- May 11 / The Portuguese in Hamburg - methodologies and problems in the investigation of a community. Speaker: Hugo Martins, U. of Lisbon.
- May 25 / Portuguese Jews of the Antilles in the archives of His Majesty. Speaker: Ana Leitão, Center of Linguistics, U. of Lisbon.

Ramsgate

Rabbi Goldstein to Give Talk on Diaries of Lady Judith Montefiore

On Thursday evening, March 16, Rabbi Dr. Andrew Goldstein will give a talk on the recently discovered, unpublished 1816-1818 journals of Lady Judith Montefiore. For more information, see <http://www.ramsgatetown.org/things-to-do/ramsgate-events.aspx> or contact Kate Hamlyn at klhamlyn@aol.com.

HISTORY

Book: *Isra Isle* by Nava Semel, translated from Hebrew by Jessica Cohen Mandel (Vilar Press)

This “alternate-history” novel, recently translated into English, depicts Ararat, a Jewish refuge proposed for an upstate New York island in the 19th century. Ararat was the idea of Mordecai Manuel Noah, a proto-Zionist and one of the most noted American Jews of his time. He was closely connected to the Spanish and Portuguese congregations of his day, especially New York’s Shearith Israel, where he was a great-grandson of former hazzan David Mendes Machado. For a review of the book, please see here: http://forward.com/culture/360377/finding-a-jewish-homeland-just-northwest-of-buffalo/?utm_source=Email%20Article&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Email%20Article

Book: *Jewish Treasures of the Caribbean* by Wyatt Gallery (Schiffer Publishing)



This large-size photo book documents the legacy of Judaism in the New World as seen through the oldest synagogues and cemeteries in the Western Hemisphere. Mostly in the Caribbean, these communities were founded by Jews who fled Spain and Portugal, first migrating to Amsterdam and later crossing the Atlantic in search for places where they could freely worship. The book depicts the still-standing, beautiful synagogues of Curacao, St.

Thomas, Jamaica and elsewhere. More on the book here:

<http://www.jewishtreasuresofthecaribbean.com>

MELODIES

Parashat Beshallah and Parashat Yitro

The past two weeks' Torah readings contain some of the most dramatic scenes in the early national life of the Jewish people. In Parashat Beshallah, we read *Shirat ha-Yam* (Song of the Sea) and the following week in Parashat Yitro we read the *'Aseret ha-Dibberot* (Ten Commandments). The S&P tradition distinguishes these readings with special te'amim (musical notes). Below are recordings of these two distinctive sections:

Shirat ha-Yam – fourth aliyah of Parashat Beshallah

Sung by Rabbi Ira Rohde, Hazzan of Congregation Shearith Israel, New York

<http://www.shearithisrael.org/content/beshallah-fourth-aliyah>

'Aseret ha-Dibberot – sixth aliyah of Parashat Yitro

Sung by Rabbi Rohde

<http://www.shearithisrael.org/content/yithro-sixth-aliyah>

Shirat ha-Yam, which begins with the words “*Az Yashir*,” is also a familiar part of the daily, Sabbath, and holiday *Shaharit* liturgy, with its own distinctive and beloved tune that is also used for Baruch Haba in Hallel and for Bendigamos. Below are three local variants, from Amsterdam, Bordeaux, and London.

Az Yashir liturgical tune, Amsterdam tradition

Sung by the late Rev. Abraham Lopes Cardozo (1914-2006), a native of Amsterdam, and later Hazzan of Congregation Shearith Israel

<http://old.piyut.org.il/tradition/2051.html?currPerformance=2689>

Az Yashir liturgical tune, Bordeaux tradition

Sung by Hazzan Adolphe Attia

<http://old.piyut.org.il/tradition/2052.html?currPerformance=2687>

Az Yashir liturgical tune, London tradition

Historical recording, 1950s

http://www.londonsephardimusic.org/files/Music/Shabbat/8_WS1_AzYashirMoshe.mp3

RECIPES

Debla

Purim offers a great opportunity to explore some wonderful recipes in the wider Sephardic world. The one below comes from Vivienne Roumani-Denn, a former executive director of the American Sephardi Federation. She learned this and other recipes from her mother while growing up in the Jewish



community of Libya. She later documented the tragic demise of that community in [“The Last Jews of Libya,”](#) a 2007 film narrated by Isabella Rosellini, and in numerous oral histories. But her memories of watching her mother cook remain happy and vivid as she describes here:

“As a small child in Benghazi, I was fascinated to watch my mother forming these strips of dough into their shape (flowrette-like). Each strip had to be fried separately as it was twisted around the fork, gently forcing the dough at the lower prong to stay in the oil for just the requisite amount of time to turn it into a light tan color. In the final rolling, the dough strip tip that was still raw had to meet and attach to the rest of the already fried dough just before it gets fried or the shape would fall apart. The perfect Debla was light tan, crispy and not chewy, especially after adding the syrup. The size of the fork, the temperature of

the oil, the amount of time each rolling of the strip had to remain in the oil seemed like a meticulously executed scientific project, repeated for each strip.”

Ingredients:

Debla

- 5 eggs
- 1 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 1/2 to 3 cups flour
- oil for deep-frying

Syrup

- 2 cups sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon orange-flower water
- 1/8 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

Debla

- Beat eggs; add the baking soda and 2 1/2 cups flour to prepare a firm dough. If too sticky, add more flour. Sprinkle flour over a board for rolling.
- Separate dough into 5 pieces. Roll out each piece in paper-thin strips.
- Heat oil in deep frying pan.
- Cut the large strips into 2-inch-wide strips about 12 inches long. Start wrapping the strip around the prong of a wide 2-prong fork while frying it. Keep rolling it onto itself as it fries. When you have rolled it onto itself and it is light brown, it finished frying.
- Remove from oil and place in colander to drain.
- Dip the debla into the heated syrup all around, drain in a colander.

Syrup

- Mix the sugar, lemon juice, orange-flower water and vanilla together in a pan and just cover the mixture with water. Simmer the mixture over low heat for about 45 minutes to thicken. Stir and remove the syrup from the heat. Use immediately or set aside for later use.
- Dip the debla into the heated syrup all around, drain in a colander. If the syrup becomes too thick, add 1 or 2 tablespoons warm water. Spread the debla on a platter.

Historic Tour of S&P Communities

In August 2017, Torah in Motion will offer a tour of Jewish heritage sites in the USA and the Caribbean, many connected with Spanish and Portuguese congregations. Stops of S&P interest will include Newport, Philadelphia, Charleston, and Curacao, and lecturers will include Professors Jonathan Sarna and Laura Leibman. More information here:

http://www.torahinmotion.org/sites/torahinmotion.org/files/usa_2017_itinerary.v3.pdf

IN MEMORIAM

Gibraltar

Passing of Solomon Levy, Former Mayor of Gibraltar

In December, Gibraltar saw the loss of Solomon “Momy” Levy. Widely beloved throughout the community, he had served both as mayor as well as president of the Gibraltar Jewish Community. He was also a great promoter of interfaith relations. As the *Gibraltar Chronicle* notes, “Momy was known and respected by people from all walks of life and all religions. He always had a good word for everyone and had the most pleasure in stopping and chatting to everyone on the Main Street.” More about him here: <http://chronicle.gi/2016/12/momy-a-quintessential-gibraltarian-dies-at-80/> and here: <https://www.thejc.com/news/obituaries/captain-solomon-levy-mbe-1.432902>

Thanks to this issue's writers: Naftali Friedman, Janet Kirchheimer, David Lerner, Daniel Marcou, Joshua Mendes, and Vivienne Roumani-Denn.

Thanks for reading! Know someone who might like to receive this newsletter? Please feel free forward. If you would like to suggest items for a future edition, please write to: sandpcentral@gmail.com.

This is an all-volunteer effort to help preserve and perpetuate the small but precious S&P traditions and create connections and community.

For ongoing discussions of Western Sephardic customs and history, we recommend the Facebook group, [Foundation for Preservation of Western Sephardic Tradition](#).

S&P / WESTERN SEPHARDI COMMUNITIES

FRANCE

Bayonne

Nefoutsot Yehouda

www.consistoiredefrance.fr/synagogue/1513.cc-bayonne

Bordeaux	Grande Synagogue	www.synagogue-bordeaux.com
Paris	Temple Buffault	www.buffault.net/

GREAT BRITAIN

London	Bevis Marks	www.sephardi.org.uk/bevis-marks/
London	Hendon Minyan	www.sephardi.org.uk/hendon-sp-minyan/
London	Holland Park	www.hollandparksynagogue.com/
London	Lauderdale Road	www.sephardi.org.uk/lauderdale/
London	Rambam Sephardi	www.rambam.org.uk
London	Wembley S&P	http://www.sephardi.org.uk/wembley/
Manchester	Shaare Hayim	Facebook page
Manchester	Shaare Tephila	www.moorlane.org

IBERIA

Gibraltar	Esnoga Grande	www.jewishgibraltar.com/synagogues.php
Lisbon	Shaare Tikva	www.cilisboa.org
Porto	Mekor Haim	www.comunidade-israelita-porto.org

ISRAEL

Jerusalem	Shaare Ratzonv - Istambuli	www.sandpjerusalem.org
Ramat Gan	Tempio R. Ovadia Da Bertinoro	www.facebook.com/groups/692925940822138/

ITALY

Florence	Comunita Ebraica di Firenze	www.moked.it/firenzebraica/
Genova	Comunita Ebraica di Genova	http://moked.it/genovaebraica/
Livorno	Comunita Ebraica di Livorno	http://moked.it/livornoebraica/
Napoli	Comunita Ebraica di Napoli	http://moked.it/napoliebraica/
Pisa	Comunita Ebraica di Pisa	www.pisaebraica.it/cms
Rome	Tempio Spagnolo	www.romaebraica.it/tag/templi/
Venice	Schola Spagnolo	www.jvenice.org

NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam	Bendigamos Amsterdam	www.bendigamos.org
Amsterdam	The Portuguese Synagogue	www.esnoga.com/en/

NORTH AMERICA

Montreal	Shearith Israel - The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue	www.thespanish.org
New York	Shearith Israel – The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue	www.shearithisrael.org
Philadelphia	Mikveh Israel	www.mikvehisrael.org

HISTORICALLY S&P COMMUNITIES (services do not currently follow S&P practice)

CARIBBEAN

Aruba	Beth Israel	www.bethisraelaruba.com
Barbados	Nidhe Israel	http://www.nidheisrael.com
Curacao	Mickve Israel-Emanuel	www.snoa.com/snoa.html
Jamaica	United Congregation of Israelites	www.ucija.org/main.html
Panama	Kol Shearith Israel	www.congksi.blogspot.com
Recife	Kahal Zur Israel	www.kahalzurisrael.com
St. Thomas	St. Thomas Synagogue	www.synagogue.vi
Surinam	Neve Shalom	www.suriname-jewish-community.com

EUROPE

Antwerp	Communauté Israélite de rite portugais	portugees-israelitische-gemeenschap-van-antwerpen/
The Hague	Liberal Congregation of the Hague	www.ljgdenhaag.nl/

UNITED STATES

Charleston	Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim	www.kkbe.org
New Orleans	Touro Synagogue	www.tourosynagogue.com
Newport	Touro Synagogue	www.thespanish.org
Savannah	Mickve Israel	www.mickveisrael.org

