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## S&P Central Newsletter - March 2014

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Draft



Please find below some news and updates on S&P/Western Sephardic communities.

Wishing you a Happy Purim!

S&P Central

[www.sandpcentral.org](http://www.sandpcentral.org)

### SOME PURIM EVENTS

#### Jerusalem

##### **Shushan Purim Service**

Congregation Sha'are Ratzon will hold services starting at 6:30pm followed by a party with food, drink and a raffle. For more information, please email [shaare\\_ratzon@yahoo.com](mailto:shaare_ratzon@yahoo.com) or go to [www.sandpjerusalem.org](http://www.sandpjerusalem.org).

#### Montreal

##### **Purim Party**

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue will hold a Purim Party for all with "food, fun, surprises and music" and a costume contest. Festivities start at 4pm. RSVP to [514-737-3695](tel:514-737-3695), ext. 101. For more information, please go to: <http://www.thespanish.org/weekly-bulletin/>

#### New York

##### **Purim Ceilidh - An Irish-Themed Dinner and Celebration**

Congregation Shearith Israel this year will an Irish-themed celebration in honor of the Jewish Museum of Ireland as well the synagogue's longstanding ties to Ireland, which it supported during the Potato Famine. The Megillah reading will be followed by an Irish-themed dinner, Irish folk music, fascinating talks, and improvisational comedy. For more information, please go to: [www.shearthisrael.org/purimdinner](http://www.shearthisrael.org/purimdinner)

#### Paris

##### **Pourim Fete**

At the Temple Buffault, following the reading of the Megilla, there will be Purim festivities including a show, a make-up artist for children, and a photo booth. For more information, please go to: [www.buffault.net](http://www.buffault.net)

## Philadelphia

### **Seudat Purim Banquet**

Congregation Mikveh Israel will hold a "sumptuous seudat Purim banquet." Services start at 5pm followed by dinner, dessert, wine, music, and games. For more information, please go to: [www.mikvehisrael.org](http://www.mikvehisrael.org).

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

### Manchester

#### **Concert of Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue Music / May 8**

To celebrate the 140th anniversary of the opening of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue Shaare Tephilah in 1874 and the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Jewish Museum in 1984, the Museum is hosting a concert of Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue music by members of the choir of Bevis Marks Synagogue, London led by choirmaster Eliot Alderman. Thursday, May 8, 7:30pm. For more information, please see this link:

[https://www.facebook.com/events/424296464371562/?ref\\_notif\\_type=plan\\_user\\_invited&source=3&source\\_newsfeed\\_story\\_type=regular](https://www.facebook.com/events/424296464371562/?ref_notif_type=plan_user_invited&source=3&source_newsfeed_story_type=regular)

### Philadelphia

#### **Joint Shabbaton of Congregations Mikveh Israel and Shearith Israel / May 9-11**

Members of sister congregations Mikveh Israel of Philadelphia and Shearith Israel of New York will come together to hold an enriching Shabbaton filled with prayer, discussions, delicious meals, and much more. All are welcome, including members of other S&P congregations who might like to visit. The Shabbaton will be held at Mikveh Israel in the heart of historic Philadelphia near to the famous Liberty Bell. For more information on the Shabbaton as well as accomodation options, please contact: Rabbi Albert Gabbai of Mikveh Israel ([info@mikvehisrael.org](mailto:info@mikvehisrael.org)) or Rabbi Shalom Morris([smorris@shearithisrael.org](mailto:smorris@shearithisrael.org)).

## RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS

### London

#### **BBC Radio Series**

Rabbi Jeff Berger of the S&P Congregation in Borehamwood, was asked to offer BBC listeners an 8-part religious segment called, "Pause for Thought." Airing on BBC Radio 2, the segments are intended to provide an inspirational message on a different theme each week. To hear a podcast, click the following link, press the "play" arrow, and then forward to 1'20" in the Richard Allinson Show.<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03wpshh>

### Paris

#### **Conference on Kashrut**

Recently the Temple Buffault hosted a talk by the Grand Rabbi of Paris, Michel Gugenheim, on the topic of kashrut. He was introduced by the synagogue's rabbi, Didier Weill. To listen to their remarks and the discussion that followed, please go to: [www.buffault.net/conference.html](http://www.buffault.net/conference.html).

## S&P WEBSITES

### Lisbon

This website was recently launched to tell the story of the Portuguese Jews:  
<http://www.mpjh.org/Welcome.html>

## S&P VIDEOS

### Montreal

#### **Purim Song: Cuando Haman S'Emboracho**

Listen to this wonderful video by the Choir of the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue in Montreal, singing a cheerful song in honor Purim:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRD6zF8qVek>

## S&P-RELATED ARTICLES

"Spanish City of Granada Founds Museum to 'Lost' Sephardic Jews," Jewish Daily Forward, Dec. 22, 2013

[http://forward.com/articles/189750/spanish-city-of-granada-founds-museum-to-lost-seph/?utm\\_source=Mailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=The+Forward+Today+%28Monday-Friday%29&utm\\_campaign=Saturday-and-Sunday\\_Daily\\_Newsletter+2013-12-22](http://forward.com/articles/189750/spanish-city-of-granada-founds-museum-to-lost-seph/?utm_source=Mailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_term=The+Forward+Today+%28Monday-Friday%29&utm_campaign=Saturday-and-Sunday_Daily_Newsletter+2013-12-22)

"Prospect of Spanish Citizenship Appeals to Descendants of Jews Expelled in 1492, New York Times, Feb. 13, 2014

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/14/world/europe/interest-in-israel-as-spain-weighs-citizenship-for-sephardic-jews.html>

"My Spanish Inquisition: A Reporter Exercises His Right of Return," Jewish Daily Forward, Jan. 26, 2014

<http://forward.com/articles/191376/can-sephardic-jews-go-home-again--years-after/>

## S&P/SEPHARDIC RECIPES

### **Sweet and Sour Fish (Fish Ingriyi)**

This month's recipe is offered by Fiona (Hallegua) Amiel, who grew up in an esteemed Jewish family in Cochin, India. Her ancestors arrived to Cochin over 200 years ago from Iraq and Syria. Her cooking knowledge was passed to her by her mother, an award-winning chef with whom she spent many hours in the kitchen. Today she lives with her husband Alan in New York, where they belong to the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue there. This recipe, believed to be Iraqi in origin, was eaten during the week and is made with tamarind instead of lime to adapt to South Indian cuisine.

Fish Ingriyi / Sweet and Sour Fish

1 kg Firm Fish Fillets  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1 tsp turmeric  
2 medium eggplant sliced  
4 medium onions sliced  
1/2 kg tomatoes sliced  
2 tbsp. sugar  
1 tbsp. tamarind paste  
oil for frying  
salt and pepper to taste

Clean the fish, coat well with salt, pepper and turmeric and pan fry until cooked and medium brown. Set aside. Heat oil sauté onions until golden brown. Fry eggplant until golden brown. Drain and set aside. Fry tomatoes drain and set aside.

In a casserole dish place a layer for cooked fish, sautéed onions, egg plant and tomatoes. Keep layering until these ingredients are finished. Mix tamarind paste, sugar and salt with 1/2 cup of water together. Pour this mixture over the layers and bake in a moderate oven of 20-30 minutes. Serve with boiled rice.

# LETTERS

## St. Thomas

Dear S&P Central, I am just concluding a five-year term as Rabbi of the Kahal Kadosh Beracha veShalom uGemilut Hasadim in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, now called The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas. It is truly a magnificent and historic structure, the smallest and most intimate in its design of all the great Spanish Portuguese Synagogues. There are few founding families left who are still on St. Thomas and still Jewish, and the ritual has only occasional echoes of the rich S&P past. Nonetheless, the building itself keeps the mainly American, Ashkenazic, Reform Congregation tied to its Spanish Portuguese past. I have been privileged to serve here as Rabbi for the past five years and I will carry the spirit of this Synagogue and its legacy with me wherever I go. Thank you, Rabbi Shimon Moch

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Did you enjoy this newsletter? Would you like to help with future editions?

Please write and let us know! Just reply to this email with your thought or interest.

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Where can I find S&P communities around the world?**

Right here on this list we've compiled. Please note it's a work in progress. If you see something that is missing or incorrect, please do write and let us know:

<http://www.sandpcentral.org/#!/communities>

### **How can I learn more about S&P minhag and melodies?**

Happily, a number of the S&P communities have built websites filled with an abundance of readings, recordings, and commentary. You can find those sites here on these two pages:

<http://www.sandpcentral.org/#!/minhag>

<http://www.sandpcentral.org/#!/melodies>

**Where can I purchase S&P prayers books, birkat hamazon books, etc?** There are a number of versions in various translations offered by several communities. You can learn what is available and how to contact the communities here on this page: <http://www.sandpcentral.org/#!/texts>

### **Where can I join discussions of S&P traditions with others online?**

Facebook features several excellent discussion groups. Please see a list of them here:

<http://www.sandpcentral.org/#!/discuss>

### **I'm interested in the food! Where can I find some good S&P and other Sephardic recipes?**

For excellent Greek, Turkish, Moroccan, Italian and other recipes, please see the excellent websites here on this page:

<http://www.sandpcentral.org/#!/food>

### **I'd like to find others to form an S&P minyan in my area. Do you have a suggestion?**

Yes! Do you live in Nome, Alaska? No worries. Please send us your name and location, and we'll let you know if we hear from others in your area.