
S&P Central Newsletter - April 2015

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Please find below some news and updates on S&P/Western Sephardic communities. Would you like to suggest an item for the next newsletter? Great! Just write us here: sandpcentral@gmail.com / www.sandpcentral.org

NEWS

London

Bevis Marks Undertakes Search for New Rabbi

London's oldest Spanish & Portuguese synagogue, Bevis Marks, has begun a search process for a new rabbi of this historic congregation. For more details, please see the listing here: http://www.totallyjewishjobs.com/job/?entry_id=1212

RECENT EVENTS

Curacao

Concert of Spanish & Portuguese Music

On March 26, a candlelight concert of centuries-old songs in the Spanish-Portuguese tradition was held at the historic Sephardic synagogue, Mikve Israel (<http://www.snoa.com>). The concert is part of an exhibition of Jews in the Caribbean. You read more about it (in Dutch) here: <http://werkgroepcarabischeletteren.nl/concert-met-sefardisch-joodse-synagogemuzyiek-uit-curacao/>

Jerusalem

Passover Services with Visiting Members of New York S&P Community

On the 7th day of Pesach, Congregation Shaare Ratzon hosted visiting members of the S&P community from New York. Services at the Istambuli Synagogue in the Old City were followed by a reading of Shir Hashirim by the young women of the community.

London

Passover Services Led by Amsterdam's Hazzan Rodrigues Pereira

For the last two days of Pesach, Bevis Marks Synagogue was privileged to be led by Hazzan Nachshon Rodrigues Pereira of the Esnoga in Amsterdam. Also present for services was the London S&P community's senior rabbi, Joseph Dweck.

Montreal

Rabbi Angel is Guest Speaker on Shabbat

On March 28, Rabbi Marc Angel, Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Shearith Israel in New York, served as guest speaker at sister congregation, Shearith Israel of Montreal (<http://www.thespanish.org>). Rabbi Angel spoke on two topics: "Tradition and Change: Striving to Maintain a Balanced Judaism" and "Redemption Then, Redemption Now: Lessons from the Passover Haggadah."

New York

The "Re-Trial" of Baruch Spinoza

On March 8, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik of Congregation Shearith Israel presented an entertaining "re-trial" of Baruch Spinoza, the famed philosopher who was excommunicated by the Amsterdam S&P community in 1656. At its conclusion, the panel of "judges" chose to retain Spinoza as part of the community.

Philadelphia

Prof. Asher Salah on the History of Italian Jews

On March 22, Prof. Asher Salah gave a historical overview on the 2,000-year history of Jews in Italy entitled, "Is There Such a Thing as Italian Jews?" Prof. Salah is a professor of Italian Literature at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

TRAVEL

Portugal

Hidden Heritage: The Secret Jews of Portugal, June 22-29

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin of Ohr Stone in Israel, along with Rabbi Shalom Morris of Congregation Shearith Israel in New York, will lead a tour of Jewish Portugal, including visits to Belmonte, Coimbra, Oporto, and Lisbon. For more information, please see read more here: <http://ots.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Portugal.pdf>

FOOD

Mediterranean Shavuot Recipes

As we look ahead to Shabuot, following are some recipe recommendations for enthusiastic chefs to peruse and consider:

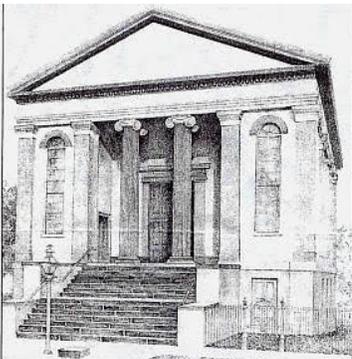
<http://healthyjewishcooking.com/2012/05/14/mediterranean-shavuot-recipes/>

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Facebook

Foundation for the Preservation of the Western Sephardic Tradition

For those interested in lively discussions of Spanish & Portuguese traditions, one Facebook group you may wish to explore is "Foundation for Preservation of Western Sephardic Tradition" with over 700 members from all over the world. Recent discussions have focused on variations in S&P Haggadot, the checking of rice during Pesach, and tracking down details of this onetime Portuguese synagogue in Mobile, Alabama:



Artist James Coshon created this pencil drawing of the Jackson Street Synagogue in 1992. The synagogue was consecrated May 14, 1858. (Artwork courtesy of JASHF)

Did you enjoy this newsletter?

Would you like to help write future editions?

Just reply [here!](#)

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.