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**CONGREGATION  
SCHARA TZEDECK**



## Congregation Schara Tzedek Shabbat Bulletin

**Rabbi: Rabbi Andrew Rosenblatt**

**Associate Rabbi: Rabbi Ari Federgrun**

**Torah Reader: Reverend Joseph Marciano**

### Dignity Beyond Death

*Rabbi Ari Federgrun*

Rochel Berman, author of “Dignity Beyond Death: The Jewish Preparation for Burial” comments that “the rituals surrounding the Jewish preparation for burial are clouded by ignorance, myth and misconceptions.” As a result of her own experience working for her hometown Chevra Kadisha, she felt the need to publicize the beauty and dignity we give to the deceased. In fact, she wrote an entire high school curriculum about the Tahara process. The students learn both the halacha and the spiritual logic behind the process. To quote from one of the principals who incorporated the curriculum into his own school, the students learn “that we are not a body that had a soul; we are a soul that had a body; a soul that does not die when the body does.” With death, “it is not so much that life ends, just a stage of existence has ended.”

In addition to the entire Tahara (purification) process of the body, there is a required shmira, watching over the body from the time of death until the burial. Shmira is essentially a process of soul-guiding. In the hours and days following the death, the soul of the deceased hovers near the body. The Shomer reads Psalms during the time of shmira and creates a connection with the discarnate soul. The reading of the Psalms is a form of communication between the world of the living and the soul, of comforting and guiding the soul as it moves on to the next world. To quote one of the members of our Chevra Kadisha: “Being involved in the entire Tahara process is the biggest mitzvah, and following the process, I glow - knowing that I have done my part to help prepare the body and soul for its next stage of life.”

Our Sages tell us that in fact, preparing a body for burial in this special way and burying a fellow Jew are the highest forms of chesed that one can do in this world. Other acts of kindness can be reciprocated, but this act of kindness can

**November 23, 2019**

**Cheshvan 25, 5780**

**Parshat Chayei Sarah  
Shabbat Mevarchim**

**Torah Reading pg. 106**

**Childminding 9:30 am – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
floor**

**Youth Program 10:00 am-  
12:00 pm – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

**Luncheon sponsored by the  
Cemetery Board and Chedvra  
Kadisha – following services**

*Rabbi's class will resume in the  
Spring*

**Mincha 3:55 P.M.**

**Havdalah 5:15 P.M.**

*Mincha Sunday-Thursday 4:05  
P.M.*

never be reciprocated. It is done out of a pure desire to give to another. Many of us who have lost a loved one find much comfort in knowing that the Chevra Kadisha completed the Tahara process and we have much gratitude to all of the members for their hard work, dedication, and care for our community. The Talmud teaches that “the person that eulogizes will be eulogized by others. The one that buries others will be buried by others. The person that loads many words of praise and tribute into the eulogies that is delivered to others will be similarly treated by others. The one that raises his voice in weeping over others will have others raise their voices over him.” Certainly, the one that helps prepare the body and soul for burial will be treated as such by others. There are currently opportunities available to help participate in the Chevra Kadisha, especially in the shmirah. If anyone in our congregation is interested in participating in this meaningful and most important mitzvah, please contact Howard Jampolsky, Reverend Joseph Marciano, or Kerry Swartz.

Question of the Week  
 “And I will adjure you by the Lord, the God of the heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose midst I dwell.” (Bereishit 24:3) Avraham made Elazar promise that he will not take a wife for his son from the girls of Canaan. Elazar was a faithful servant and referred to Avraham as “my master.” Why was it necessary for Avraham to make Elazar take an oath to fulfill this particular request? Does Avraham not trust Elazar?

## Schara Tzedek Announcements

### Condolences

To the Brock and Halperin families on the passing of their beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather Jack Brock z'l.

### Mazal Tov

To Shira David on becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

To Dr. Eytan and Zehavit David, Dr. Tony and Ruth David and Pinhas and Hana Yosipovich on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter and granddaughter, Shira David.

### Todah Rabah

To Irvin Lerner and Family for sponsoring scotch in memory of Celia Lerner z'l.

To Mark and Tracy Schonfeld for sponsoring scotch in honour of the Yahrzeit of Mark's father, Moric Schonfeld z'l.

To the Cemetery Board and Chevra Kadisha for sponsoring the Congregational Kiddush Luncheon.

**Thank you to the Cemetery Board and Chevra Kadisha for all that they do for our community.**

### Upcoming Events

**NCSY Italian Family Dinner**  
 Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>

**Family Chanukah Factory**  
 Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

**Schara Tzedek AGM**  
 Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

**Mexican Shabbat Dinner**  
 Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

**Shtisel Discussion Part 2**  
 Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

## Schara Tzedek Weekly Schedule

### SUNDAY

**Parsha Class** with Rabbi Don Pacht  
 9:15 am

### MONDAY

Torah Talks with Rabbi Rosenblatt 7:00 pm  
 Talmud Talks with Rabbi Federgrun 8:00 pm

### TUESDAY

**T-Jex** Afternoon Hebrew School  
 4:15-5:45 pm

### WEDNESDAY

Women's class with Ayala Wilchfort  
 NEW TIME - 10:00 am

### THURSDAY

Women's class with Rabbi Federgrun at the Blicker home  
 9:00 am

Parsha Class with Rabbi Estrin  
 7:30 pm



### Our Bat Mitzvah – Shira David

Our Bat Mitzvah girl this week is a world-class, all around amazing person: Shira David. Shira puts so much passion and love into everything she does, whether it is her studies in grade 7 at Vancouver Talmud Torah, her music classes or soccer practice. Shira is an incredible musician, playing piano, cello and first bass. For her Bat Mitzvah project, Shira decided to use her love and talent for music to start a new program, “Old Music for Young Hearts”, where she performs classical music at various senior homes, bringing joy and comfort to so many people. This is typical of Shira, who has a big heart and is always thinking of others. In many ways, Shira is similar to Rivka Imeinu, who we learn about in this week's Parsha, Chayei Sarah. Rivka was always kind to others, and was constantly thinking of what Mitzvah she can do next and how to continue to add light to the world; Shira loves doing Chessed and plans to continue playing classical music at Senior Homes well past her Bat Mitzvah. Even with all her talent and achievements, Shira is still very down to earth, and loves nothing more than coming home to cuddle with her dog, Milky, and curl up with a good book. We wish a big Mazal Tov to her parents, Dr. Eytan and Zehavit David, big sister Yael, and little brothers Ilai and Liam. Mazal Tov as well to grandparents Dr. Tony and Ruth David and Saba Pinhas and Savta Hana Yosipovich.