



**Parshat Ki Tissa – Shabbat Parah  
March 14, 2020 – 18 Adar 5780**

Torah: Page 352 Ch 30, V 11  
Maftir: Page 652 Ch 19, V 1 Haftorah: Page 999

Today's Congregational Kiddush was to be sponsored by Ida & Sandy Shessel honouring the yahrzeits of Ida's parents, Jacob & Renee Bailin and Sandy's father David Shessel. Sadly for the immediate future, Kiddish and breakfasts have been canceled in line with the recommendations of Health Canada

**LIBERATION 75 - Global Gathering of Holocaust Survivors, Descendants, Educators & Friends**

Toronto marks the 75th anniversary of liberation from the Holocaust at the end of the Second World War, and host Liberation75 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre - May 31 through June 2, 2020. **To REGISTER and LEARN MORE about Liberation75, VISIT [www.liberation75.org](http://www.liberation75.org)**

The Jewish Community of Ghana has reached out to friends of Beth Radom in search of gently used Tallit and Kippot in time for the Passover holidays. To donate, please email [office@bethradom.com](mailto:office@bethradom.com)

Passover University at Beth Radom

Tuesday, March 31 | 7PM Please register: [www.bethradom.com](http://www.bethradom.com)

**CANDLE LIGHTING & SERVICE TIMES:**

Saturday, March 14, 2020 Shabbat ends at 8:14pm  
Friday, March 20, 2020 Light Candles at 7:13pm  
Saturday, March 14, 2020 Shabbat ends at 8:22pm  
Daily Minyan (M-F) | 7:30am, Sunday | 9am, Shabbat Morning | 9:30am

**Special Occasion coming up? Send a Card!**

Support your fellow members and your Shul by dedicating a leaf on the Tree of Life, a Sim Shalom Siddur for sending a warm, thoughtful Beth Radom Donation Card. **MAZEL TOV, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HAPPY ANNIVERSARY SPEEDY RECOVERY, SYMPATHY or THINKING OF YOU!** Call 416-636-3451x24

**A Minyan has been requested by members of Beth Radom in need of a Minyan to say Kaddish Wednesday, March 18 at 7:30am**

Members in need of a minyan to say Kaddish should contact the Shul office at least a week or two in advance so arrangements can be made. **Call 416-636-3451 ext. 24 – Please attend – it's a Mitzvah!**



**CHECK OUT BETH RADOM'S MUSEUM AND GALLERY**

**Have you seen our new video display? It's on our website!** Does your family have things to add to this museum? We appreciate donations of plaques, photos, paperwork, hand written letters, booklets, flyers, old landing papers – everything related to the once thriving, Jewish, City of Radom. And of course we are looking for funding streams to expand the presentation space. Contact Allan [afryman@rogers.com](mailto:afryman@rogers.com) for more information.

**ELECTRONIC BINGO HAS ARRIVED!**

Are you age 18+ and interested in volunteering? Please contact the shul office to register for training sessions. Two hours a week is all we need! Please contact the Shul office 416-636-3451x24

**Prayer For Healing**

*Mi she berach avoteinu* מי שברך: אבותינו,  
*M'kor hab'racha l'imoteinu* מקור הברכה לאמותינו  
May the source of strength, who blessed the ones before us;  
Help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing.

*Mi she berach imoteinu* מי שברך: אמותינו,  
*M'kor hab'racha l'avoteinu* מקור הברכה לאבותינו  
Bless those in need of healing with refuah sh'lema  
The renewal of body, the renewal of spirit, and let us say: Amen

**THE BLESSING FOR STUDY:**

Barukh attah Adonai ברוך אתה ה  
Eloheinu melekh ha-olam אלהינו מלך-העולם  
asher qidshanu b'mitzvotav אשר קדשנו במצותיו  
v'tzivanu la-asoq b'divrei Torah. וצונו לעסק בדברי-תורה.  
Praised are you Adonai, our God, eternal Sovereign of the Universe, Who sanctified us with [God's] commandments and enjoined upon us to study Torah.

**We wish Refuah Sh'lema to:**

Bela Davidson	Howie Meyer	Ralph Edery
Allan Fryman	Joe Levitan	Anice Stark
Rose Rosenbaum	Gerald Robinson	Abe Swimmer
Ruth Leichner	Morton Allen Cohen	Bryna Kay

If you know Beth Radom members who would benefit from Kaddish outreach or should be part of our Refuah Sh'lema list, please contact [office@bethradom.com](mailto:office@bethradom.com). We assure you of confidentiality.

**With Reverence, We Honour The Yahrzeits Of:**

Albert Weisbart	Late Father of Murray Weisbart
Marilyn Berman	Late Sister of Allan Fryman
David Shessel	Late Father of Sanford Shessel and Late Brother-in-Law of Abe Swimmer
Irma Hirschberg	Late Sister in Law of Rachel Weiss
Blanche Shields	Late Mother of Debra Zucker
Sheila Chippin	Late Mother of David Chippin
Shalom Matlow	Late Husband of Liz Matlow
Anne Seiden	Late Aunt of Richard Tinianov
Manfred Levison	Late Father of Lottie Glass
Lola Storfer Levett	Late Mother of Sloan Levett
Harry Barak	Late Father of Esther Icyk
Alex Mishevski	Late Father of Lucian Michaels
Kay March	Late Mother-In-Law of Marlene March

**Happy Birthday Wishes To:**

	Emma Vernon	Sheldon Katz
	Rabbi Dr. Geoffrey Haber	Lynne Rosenstein
Phyllis Friedman	Perry Glazier	Abigail Maya Cole

**Happy Anniversary Wishes To:**

Robin & Allan Tameshtit 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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“To reap a return in ten years, plant trees. To reap a return in 100, cultivate the people.”

--Ho Chi Minh (1890-1969)  
Vietnamese leader and revolutionary

I'd like to thank my uncle-in-law, Rabbi Yechiel Goldreich, for the inspirational idea behind my article this week.

Coronavirus seems to lead every news story these days. People all over the world, and here at home, are canceling their vacations, avoiding public areas and stocking up on supplies in case of a quarantine. This year, Temple Sinai, Beth Shalom and the Village shul all postponed or entirely canceled their Purim celebrations amid fears of spreading the disease. My own professional convention was to take place this summer in Italy, and this week we all received the official e-mail that it had been canceled (I'm rather surprised it took them this long). Meanwhile, the world economy is slowing, stocks are falling, and the price of a small bottle of Purell is up to \$110 on Amazon. It's legitimately frightening, but also quite odd when we compare our current situation to pandemics in the past.

Many of us remember the H1N1 outbreak in 2009, also referred to as “swine flu”. According to the CDC, there were 18,500 laboratory confirmed deaths from the disease, with unconfirmed deaths estimated at between 150,000 and 575,000 around the world. By comparison, the current estimated number of deaths from coronavirus, worldwide, is hovering at about 3,000. It is important to note, of course, that we are still in the midst of the crisis and experts assure us that that number will grow significantly. But even so, I was shocked to learn about the wide gap between these numbers, particularly given the ferocity of the worldwide response to the coronavirus outbreak compared to the 2009 swine flu. The economic behaviour is also vastly different when compared to 2009. Today, the Dow and the S&P 500 both reflect enormous drops in the stock market as people cancel vacations, factories temporarily close, and productivity slows. By contrast back in 2009, global economies were in the process of bouncing back after the 2008 crash, and continued to improve despite the swine flu outbreak, measuring only a small dip with respect to the markets.

The narrative of our parsha this week, Ki Tissa, focuses on the famous story of the sin of the Golden Calf. However, for those paying attention, the very beginning of the parsha is eerily poignant for us today as it describes the Israelites responding

to an outbreak of a disease within the camp. God commands the construction of a copper washing station, initiating a policy that all those approaching the Tent of Meeting, or using the altar will be required to wash first. “When they enter the Tent of Meeting, they shall wash with water so that they will not die; or when they approach the altar to serve, to make a fire offering rise up in smoke to the Lord, they shall wash their hands and feet so that they will not die” (Ex. 30:20-21). Most interestingly, though, is God's commandment to Moses to perform a census of the Israelite nation which includes a rather peculiar qualifier. “When you take a census of the children of Israel according to their numbers, let each one give to the Lord an atonement for his soul when they are counted; then there will be no plague among them when they are counted” (Ex. 30:12). It seems that God is suggesting that there is a connection between the census and the plague that is gripping the Israelite camp.

There is a Jewish superstition to avoid counting people, as it invites the Evil Eye. This can be a particularly annoying superstition to observe because we Jews are constantly counting ourselves when we make sure we have enough people in shul for a minyan. My personal custom, as it is for many, is not to count with numbers, but to use the words of a blessing – Baruch atah Hashem Elokeinu Melech ha'olam, hamotzi lechem min ha'aretz... a standard 10-word blessing, one word per person. If I finish the blessing and there are still uncounted people, presto! We have a minyan! Rashi's commentary on the verse agrees, “for the evil eye has power over numbered things, and pestilence comes upon them”.

In 1919 the Spanish flu circumnavigated the globe, killing an estimated 17 to 50 million people. The economy was entirely unaffected, and this occurred for one very critical reason. World governments deliberately withheld information pertaining to the outbreak over concerns for the post-war effort. Without public service announcements and education about hygiene, without any concerns about canceling public gatherings, the Spanish flu was communicated to roughly 27% of the earth's population. But rather than experiencing a dramatic economic bust, the West soared obliviously into the roaring twenties. When a human being is reduced to a mere statistic, humanity is devalued, particularly when dealing with large scales. The ancient Israelites understood this as a fundamental rule of life, and therefore, rather than submit themselves as a number for the census, each person donated a half-shekel to the community chest, and in this way, the total number of Israelites

could be known without enumerating a single individual.

It seems that a dramatic dip in the economy, in fact, reflects an historic peak for humanity. The more we are aware, the more we are educated, the more we are able to contain a pandemic such as the coronavirus. While our markets may be causing us additional grief, it means that our global resources are instead being directed towards making us healthy. Similarly, the money collected from the Israelite census was not used for sacrifices or the glory of the Tabernacle, but rather it was used to sponsor the building of the washing station. The economy will no doubt bounce back, but in the meantime, we are investing in humanity.

Shabbat Shalom,  
--ChazJ

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