



18 Reiner Road, Toronto, Ontario M3H 2K9 416-636-3451

**Parshat Acharei Mot-Kedoshim  
April 28, 2018 13 Iyar 5778**

Torah: page 486 Ch. 17, v. 8  
Maftir: page 500, Ch. 19, v. 11 Haftorah: page 509

The Shabbat Congregational Kiddush is sponsored by Iris and John Gorfinkel celebrating their daughter Sarah becoming a Bat Mitzvah Friday evening and by Dina and Joel Majer and Bubbie Edith Majer celebrating Maya becoming a Bat Mitzvah Shabbat morning. Kiddush will take place in the Belzberg Weisberg Social Hall on the lower level.

The unveiling service for Elaine Vernon, late mother of Mark Vernon & Derek Vernon will take place Sunday, April 29 at 2pm at Mt Sinai Cemetery, Beth Radom NEW Section.

**BETH RADOM CONGREGATION Hebrew School**

2018 / 2019 Hebrew School Registration OPENS SOON! Watch for Early Registration Discount offers

**Beth Radom always welcomes NEW MEMBERS!**  
See our Membership Promotion at [www.bethradom.com](http://www.bethradom.com)

**Invite your Family, Friends and Neighbours and tell them that Jewish Day School Families receive an additional 25% off Membership at Beth Radom**

**CANDLE LIGHTING & SERVICE TIMES:**

Friday, April 27, 2018 Light Candles at 7:57pm  
Saturday, April 28, 2018 Shabbat ends at 9:07pm  
Friday, May 4, 2018 Light Candles at 8:06pm  
Saturday, May 5, 2018 Shabbat ends at 9:17pm  
Sunday Mornings-9:00 am - Weekday Mornings-7:30am

Beth Radom hosts a morning minyan Every weekday morning at 7:30am and at 9:00am on Sunday mornings.



As some members are currently saying Kaddish, we ask that you make every effort to attend morning services as regularly as possible to help achieve a minyan each day. Please attend. It's a Mitzvah!

**Check out our UPDATED Museum GALLERY!**

The display cases in the lower foyer are being transformed into a museum of Radom artifacts and memorabilia! If you have anything that your family is willing to part with, to entrust to our care, to add to this museum, we are most appreciative. Our search list includes, but is not limited to, plaques, photos, paperwork, hand written letters, booklets, flyers, old landing papers – anything 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

**Volunteering at BINGO is FUN!**

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to date!



The next available volunteer opportunity is: **Sunday, June 3 | 8pm – midnight**  
To volunteer, please contact [miriam@bethradom.com](mailto:miriam@bethradom.com) or 416-636-3451 x24

**A 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.

**RABBI:** Rabbi Dr. Geoffrey Haber [rabbi.haber@bethradom.com](mailto:rabbi.haber@bethradom.com)  
**CANTOR:** Jeremy Burko [cantorj@bethradom.com](mailto:cantorj@bethradom.com)  
**PRESIDENT:** Ronald Lindsay [president@bethradom.com](mailto:president@bethradom.com)  
**GABBAI:** Mark Vernon [mark@bethradom.com](mailto:mark@bethradom.com)  
**HEBREW SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:** Cindy Joseph [cindy@bethradom.com](mailto:cindy@bethradom.com)  
**ADMINISTRATOR:** Miriam Sharpe [miriam@bethradom.com](mailto:miriam@bethradom.com)

**#TorontoStrong Vigil planned for Sunday evening.**

Date: Sunday, April 29 Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: Mel Lastman Square, 5100 Yonge St.

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

Joe Levitan	Henry Icyk	Esther Icyk
Marc Rochweg	Allan Fryman	Joel Zeger
Dorothy Shessel	Anice Stark	Rachel Akierman
Phillip Shadlesky	Abe Swimmer	Gerald Robinson
Sam Weisberg	Rosa Weisberg	Ilsa Matheus
Harry Leichner	Ruth Leichner	

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

Benjamin Picov	Late Husband of Anne Picov
Sheldon Goldberg	Late Brother of Jack Goldberg
Irwin Igra	Late Husband of Joanne Shinwell
Morris Pasternack	Late Father of Patricia Weinstein
Louis Schwartz	Late Father of Macey Schwartz
Freda Bersin	Late Mother of Ronald Lindsay
Ziporah Hoffenberg	Late Partner of Ephraim Kohn
Shlomo Cwang	Late Son of Mordechia Cwang
Isaac Berneman	Late Husband of Ruth Berneman
Berel Borts	Late Father-in-Law of Bella Borts
Sandra Claire Lewis	Late Mother of Gilah Haber

**Happy Birthday Wishes To:**

Rachel Kay	Hannah Kay	Gail Chippin
Faye Landau	Anice Stark	Lisa Kay
Risa Epstein	Lauren Lindsay	Nicola Lisus
Miriam Birnbaum	Cantor Jeremiah Burko	

*Happy 90th birthday to Bluma Fried in Kiriya ATA, Israel. Sister of the late Ernie Weiss, sister-in-law of Rachel Weiss and aunt of Ilene Bronsteter, Edie Weiss, Sheila Seigel and Marilyn Sinclair. Our Shabbat newsletter is sponsored in Bluma's honour by her Beth Radom Family.*

Join the growing trend of Monthly Giving. Use your Visa or MasterCard. Set up your program today! It's never too late to donate!



**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.

“People can choose between the sweet lie or the bitter truth. I say the bitter truth, but many people don’t want to hear it.”

--Avigdor Lieberman, Israeli Minister of Defense

In this week’s parshah, Acharei-Mot Kedoshim, you won’t find an exciting story. There aren’t any exciting miracles, no riveting narrative, no real iconic moments of Jewish biblical history, and truthfully, the parshah amounts to little more than a list of rules. Nevertheless, it is among my absolute favourite parshiot, and if you haven’t already, I recommend taking the time to read deeply. This list is not only the basis for ethical Judaism, but it is arguably the foundation beneath all of modern Western social behaviour. When children begin learning Torah in a traditional Hebrew school, they begin not with the story of Creation, but with the rules found in parshat Kedoshim. In the bar and bat mitzvah classes that I teach here at Beth Radom, I also begin with a careful study of this parshah and the various laws it contains.

Of the 613 mitzvot in the Torah, parshat Acharei-Mot Kedoshim accounts for a whopping 81 of them, more than 7 times the average. Among them, you will find laws pertaining to the treatment of one’s parents, ethical treatment of the disabled, charitable giving, equal treatment of all human beings before the law, personal accountability for enabling others to commit a crime, and the list goes on. Regarding the overwhelming majority of these laws, it would be hard to find any civilized individual in the western hemisphere, Jewish and non-Jewish alike that did not believe in each of these values as fundamental to secular society. Indeed, many of these same statutes can be found in Canadian law, American law, and so for many other countries. Though others may see these laws as self-evident today, I believe the Jewish people deserves to be proud to lay first claim to them. I, for one, am happy to share them with the world, and I believe we are certainly all better off for it. However, in our ever increasingly politically polarized society of Conservatives and Liberals, and to a great extent, religionists and secularists, I wonder if perhaps for the first time, some of these essential values may be under a veiled threat.

Our civil legal system is designed to keep church and state separate. Nevertheless, an educated secularist/atheist will grant that our civil laws are still based on a cultural Judeo-Christian code, i.e. the Bible, i.e. the Torah, i.e. God. But given the theological origins of our civil legal code, can that code be truly divorced from God? And if so, so what?

While I consider myself socio-politically liberal, I loathe to join up officially with that group, for one reason among many, its stance

on Israel. I find the political-left critique of Israel reckless, ignorant, naive and ultimately dangerous not only to the Jewish people, not only to the Middle East, but to the entire world, including Muslims. (For specific details on examples of factual errors, misleading statements, poor moral equivocation, I happily refer you to a set of videos on the Beth Radom website resource page for my most recent adult education seminar.) Why do so many people fall for such obvious manipulation of truth? It’s easy – all you have to do is flash a picture of a suffering child and you get to name whatever perpetrator you like. In today’s world, it seems that in so many cases, truth has been usurped by emotion; how we feel carries more legitimacy than facts. Often times in a whirling cacophony of opinions about any given topic, we seem to kowtow to whoever is the angriest, or in the most pain, and not who makes the most sense.

When God is removed as the source and center of our sense of law, ethics and morality, we replace that center with ourselves. How we feel, our experience, then, carries the most weight when we assess what is morally right. On the surface, it doesn’t sound too bad. But when we realize that that entitles every individual to their own conclusion of morality based on each of their own feelings and experiences, then all opinions are suddenly legitimate. While truth may still be found among those opinions,

it is so easy to simply lose it among the myriad of “alternative truths”. As a result, debate is no longer a search for truth, but simply a contest of who can yell the loudest; and a picture of a suffering child yells loudly, indeed. Truth can sometimes be cold and uncomfortable. I mean this without any sarcasm or joking intended that if a congregant asked me to perform a Jewish funeral for his beloved pet dog (yes, it has happened), I would have to refuse. Most of you know how attached I am to my dear canine friend, and I can completely understand that person’s need to hold a service. Nevertheless, Jewish law forbids it, and so the discussion is over. But what if... what about... could we possibly...? The aphorism, ‘the cold, hard truth’ says it well. It is so, because it doesn’t care how you feel about it. The truth remains independent, immutable by cultural relativism. Truth disappoints a child when she learns that eating too much sugary food will rot her teeth. Truth also stands in judgement of the world as it responds to the resurgence of Neo-Nazism. While beauty may be in the eye of the beholder, truth is not. Truth belongs to God alone, and our sense of morality, our respect of law and our duty to social justice is meaningless without it.

Shabbat Shalom,

--ChazJ

**WE KNEAD YOU!**  
Where? Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue  
470 Glencairn Ave, North York, ON M5N 1V8  
When? May 17th 2018 7:00-9:30 pm

**\$36 per ticket**  
BUY NOW @challah4chai.org/events/challah4chai

Join us for **Challah4Chai**, Chai Lifeline’s Challah Bake hosted by TanenbaumCHAT students on the evening of May 17th. Engage in a meaningful shabbat experience and help give back to the community by preparing shabbat boxes for families in need.

Light refreshments will be served.

Amazing raffle prizes!

@Challah4Chai

REGISTER at  
[www.bethradom.com](http://www.bethradom.com)

**Beth Radom Charity Golf Tournament**  
**Tuesday, June 12, 2018**  
Lebovic Golf Club | 14020 Leslie St. | Aurora | ON