



TW@Keshher
Iyyar 26-27 / May 27-28
Parshat Bechukotai
Shabbat Mevarchim
Shabbat Shalom!

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Mincha/Maariv 7:00pm

Candle Lighting 7:59pm

Shabbat Day Social Hall 8:45am

Followed by Kiddush sponsored by Lisa and Daniel Friedman and family

Latest Time for Keriat Shema 9:11am

Main Sanctuary 9:15am

Followed by Kiddush in the social hall sponsored by the Kiddush committee

Babysitting with Geeta 9:30am

Youth Groups 10:15am

Toddler-Parent Group 10:15am

Kayama shiur 5:00pm

Daf Yomi 7:15pm

Mincha 8:00pm

Seudat Shelishit sponsored by Michelle and Evan Sohn in honor of Justin's graduation

Shabbat Ends 9:08pm

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday May 29

Yom Yerushalayim Shacharit 8:30am

Mincha/Maariv 8:05pm

Monday May 30

Memorial Day Shacharit 8:30am

Mincha/Maariv 8:05pm

Tues-Thurs. May 31 - June 2

Tuesday May 31 Rosh Chodesh Sivan

Shacharit 6:30am
Mincha/Maariv 8:05pm

Next Friday June 3

Shacharit 6:30am

Mincha/ Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00pm

Candle Lighting 8:04pm

KESHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to our Rabbinic Intern Micah Hyman, and his wife, Shoshi!

Mazal tov to Rav Aviv and Adi Abebe on the birth of baby Ayala. Mazal Tov to siblings Amitai and Avishag.

Mazal tov to Gideon Breslaw on his engagement to Leah Saltzman! Mazal tov to Gideon's parents Stephanie and Marc Breslaw!

Kayama Women's Shabbat Mevarchim Shiur Megillat Rut: Female Puppeteers, 5pm Presented by Shoshi Hyman Hosted by Adina Brief at 455 Whitewood Rd.

Shavuot Flowers

Please consider sponsoring the floral arrangements that will be decorating our shul on the chag. Sponsorships may be made in commemoration of a yearzeit, a simcha, or a reason of your choosing. Sponsor [here](#).

Keshher Graduation Kiddush, Shabbat June 18 Sponsor a graduate [here](#).

Spring Clothing Drive– Donate at Keshher by June 7

Kayama Book Club Selection, Sunday June 26 When We Fell Apart By Soon Riley

Babysitter Directory

Keshher's 2022 Babysitter Directory is available to logged in members [here](#).

Youth WhatsApp Groups

To help our growing congregation connect, the Youth Committee has created **WhatsApp groups for parents** to use as a resource to get to know the families with child(ren) in the same grade(s). To join a Whats app group visit [here](#).

SIGN UP TO LAIN AT KESHER

Volunteer to lain your bar mitzvah parsha or any upcoming parsha. Sign up [here](#) or email laining@keshernj.com.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAR and Atmosphere Academies proudly present a screening of a documentary film, "Names Not Numbers", featuring the stories of 8 survivors, presented by 8th grade students. Screening will take place on Tuesday, June 7th, 2022 at 8:15 PM at the SAR Academy Field (655 West 254th Street).

Please bring your own chairs and blankets. "Names Not Numbers" is a copyrighted Holocaust Oral History film documentary project created by educator Tova Fish- Rosenberg.

Please join Jewish Family & Children's Services of Northern NJ for the 12th Annual Wheels for Meals: Ride to Fight Hunger, June 12, 2022 Spectra Labs in Rockleigh, NJ

Grab your friends for a fantastic day out. Create your own team and challenge your friends and family to raise money to fight hunger while enjoying tons of activities, including 50, 25, 10 and 3-mile bike routes, a guided hike, and so much more!

Register or donate to this great cause at www.ridetofighthunger.com Funds raised through the Ride to Fight Hunger will support JFCS programs for homebound seniors, disabled individuals, and struggling families in Bergen, Passaic, and Hudson counties. Some of the programs that help JFCS fight hunger in our community include the Corner Market Food Pantry, which served more than 900 families this past year, and Kosher Meals on Wheels, which delivers over 66,000 meals to seniors and disabled individuals each year. JFCS recognizes that food insecurity is often a symptom, not a cause. Your support helps our agency to provide many wraparound services including mental health services, career counseling, senior care management, and emergency financial aid to help our clients get the additional support that they need.

DIVREI TORAH

[Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks](#): The Politics of Responsibility

[Rabbi Aviva Richman](#): From Curse to Catalyst

[ISRAEL REPORT](#)

DVAR TORAH FROM RABBI BLOCK

Struggling with our Enemies - and with Ourselves

Bechukotai contains a lengthy section (Vayikra 26:14-63) of horrific depictions of pain and suffering that threatens the Israelites should the people reject God's ways. This section, called the *Tochacha – Admonition*, is read in an undertone because its contents are so disturbing. (A similar section also exists in Moshe's recapitulation of the Torah, in Devarim 28.)

These horrors comprise both physical and psychological afflictions, and their combination. But perhaps the most striking and horrific motif, depicted here more than once, is Israel's acute experience of catastrophic panic, despite the absence of any real threat or danger! Thus, the verse reads: "You will be plagued before your enemies, your foes ruling over you, and you will flee but there will be no one pursuing you." (v. 17) And later, God tells us that, as we continue to suffer and be dispersed, "those who remain of you – I will bring fear into your hearts in the lands of your enemies; **the sound of a driven leaf will pursue you, and they will flee to escape the sword – but there will be no one pursuing.**" (v. 36) That is to say, we will be so consumed with panic, so convinced of the vivid reality of our fears, that we will create images of enemies and threats that do not really exist. Then, in our fear of them, we will run away from our imaginary, nonexistent pursuers, only to stumble and fall because of our own paranoia.

The pain and suffering exists on every side, no matter where we turn. The one who sees enemies and dangers everywhere is pained by the obliviousness of those who dismiss those fears and concerns. And those who see the fear as unfounded are distraught to see their friends and family overtaken by ghosts and phantoms. If our enemies are real, then ignoring them can be disastrous. But if our paranoia is real, then promoting those enemies can be disastrous. If our enemies are real, we must be vigilant and attack them, or defend ourselves, or run! But if our enemies are figments of our unbalanced anxieties and misplaced rage, then we need to look inward to cure ourselves of our paranoia. Which is it? What are we to do? Neither side can persuade the other.

And perhaps herein partly lies the curse. Since we cannot agree about the facts of the matter, we are incapable of drawing the appropriate lessons from our painful situation. We cannot determine whether or not we are really suffering from a Divine curse, an admonition that is meant to warn us and be a wake up call to us. We cannot agree on what admonition we are supposed to heed. We cannot agree on what we are supposed to wake up to. Such an inability to understand the meaning of our experience is an affliction more terrible than those depicted in our Torah reading. It is a curse that our own Torah found too terrible to contemplate...

May we merit God's blessings even in difficult times - to have the clarity to know and recognize the enemy, so we can defeat it.

Shabbat shalom