

# SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE

## ABIR YAAKOB CONGREGATION



President  
Meyer Keslassy  
Vice President  
Jean-Claude Abtan

שבת שלום      ברוכים הבאים  
*Shabbat Shalom      Welcome to our Synagogue*

Rabbi Emeritus  
Haham Amram Assayag  
Rabbi  
Rabbi David Kadoch  
Shaliach Tzibur  
Marc Kadoch  
Parnas  
Avi Azuelos

*Parashat Ahare Mot פרשת אחרי מות*  
Shabbat May 4th 2019, טו ניסן תשע"ט / 29 Nisan 5779  
*Parasha Ahare Mot Page 636, Haftarah 1173 in Artscroll*

### Shabbat Prayer Times

מנחה Mincha	6:40 p.m.
שבת קבלת שבת Kabalat Shabbat Mizmor Shir LeYom HaShabbat	7:30 p.m.
הדלקת נרות Candle Lighting	8:04 p.m.
שחרית מנין החי"א (ותיקין) Shaharit Ha'Hida Vatikim	5:05 a.m.
שחרית (Main Synagogue/Barechu) Shaharit	8:30 a.m.
Rabbi Shiur	6:15 p.m.
תהלים Tehilim	7:00 p.m.
מנחה Mincha	7:20 p.m.
ערבית Arbit	8:45 p.m.
שבת טובע שבע טובע Shabbat Ends	9:12 p.m.

*Erev Shabbat Friday May 10th, 2019  
Mincha 6:40 p.m. (Candle Lighting 8:12 p.m.)*

### Weekday Services at Medrash Torah Vehayim

<i>שחרית Shahaarit Sunday</i>	
ותיקין Vatikim	5:20 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim	8:00 a.m.
קבועים Kebuim	9:00 a.m.
<i>שחרית Shahaarit Weekdays</i>	
ותיקין Vatikim	5:20 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim	6:45 a.m.
קבועים Kebuim	8:15 a.m.
מנחה Mincha	6:40 p.m.
ערבית Arbit	7:10 p.m.

Shabat Zemanim- Netz- נץ- 6:06 a.m. Keriat Shema- קריאת שמע- 9:04 a.m. Shekia- שקיעה- 8:24 a.m.

### Kiddush

Please join us for Kiddush after Shaharit on Shabbat, offered by both Abir Yaakob Congregation and Mr. & Mrs. Ian and Rachel Keslassy in honor of their son Chemaya Keslassy reading of the Perek. Everyone is welcome.

### Seuda Shelishit

This Shabbat Seuda Shelishit is sponsored by: Mr. & Mrs. Jack and Suzanne Benchimol and Mr. & Mrs. Leon and Marie Benchabo in loving memory of Rica Benchimol ז"ל. Everyone is welcome.

### Nahalot

Avraham Hassan ז"ל, Vida Benoudiz ז"ל, 29 Nisan / Saturday May 4  
Clara Assayag ז"ל, 30 Nisan / Sunday May 5  
Blaine Stein ז"ל, Avraham Elfassy ז"ל 1 Iyar Nisan / Monday May 6  
Rica Benchimol, Monique Hanna Sibony ז"ל, Esther Ebidia ז"ל 2 Iyar Tuesday May 7  
Haya Messodi Zrihen ז"ל, Habib Darvishpour ז"ל 4 Iyar Thursday May 9  
Meny Abikhzer ז"ל, Simon Melul ז"ל, 5 Iyar / Friday May 10



## **Nahalot for Following week**

Maurice Shalom Wizman ל"ד, 6 Iyar / Saturday May 11  
Tuba Kissati ל"ד, 7 Iyar / Monday May 12  
Aaron Bensimhon ל"ד, 13 Iyar / Sunday May 13  
Menora Tabesh ל"ד, 15 Iyar Wednesday May 15  
Estrella Sibony ל"ד, Estrella Laredo ל"ד, 12 Iyar Friday May 17

## *Synagogue News*

### **ROSH HODESH IYAR**

Begins Sunday May 5th and Monday 6th 2019

### **Mesilat Yesharim, Rabbi Kadoch Shiur begins this week**

The weekly summer Shabbat class resumes this Saturday.  
Rabbi Kadoch will begin the classic Jewish book of study, Mesilat Yesharim.  
Men and women are invited to join. Every Shabbat, 45 minutes before Tehilim.

### **\*Yom Hazikaron Program\***

Special Yom HaZikaron program this Tuesday night at 730pm in the upstairs Medrash led by Rabbi David Kadoch.  
Refreshments sponsored by the Estrella Benaim ל"ד Foundation

### **Bnei Akiva**

SHABBAT SHALOM KEHILA SNIF!!

This week we have a very special SNIF. We will be combining both Kehila & BAYT at BAYT! At BAYT we will be participating in a Peula in honor of Yom Haatzmaut this upcoming week!

To let us know that you are coming so we can create walking groups please [email: Etan@bneiakiva.org](mailto:Etan@bneiakiva.org) or call: (416) 838-7742.  
Walking groups will be picked up from houses provided and will be dropped off at the same place unless given specific instructions.

Please try and come out to the BAYT for one of the greatest SNIF of all time!

### **Cemetery Plots**

The SKC is pleased to announce the availability of Pardes Shalom cemetery plots to our members. In order to accommodate the limited availability of these plots, we ask all interested members to contact **Sol Benchetrit** <[solbench@hotmail.com](mailto:solbench@hotmail.com)>

*If you have a Mazal Tov that you would like to share with the congregation or if you have a change of address or email please contact the office at (905) 669-7654.*

*Please be advised that the cutoff time for insertion in the bulletin is Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.  
This bulletin is printed courtesy of Print Three Concord (905) 738-5682.*

# Torah Bites

By Rabbi Kadoch

## Ahare Mot 5779 - Where is 34 from?

There are multiple customs around the Jewish world when it comes to Sefirat Ha'Omer with regards to when one should practice customs of mourning. The general Sephardic custom is to wait until the 34<sup>th</sup> day of the Omer and only then may one cease practicing mourning. Before we see the source for our custom let's look at the other three major customs among Am Yisrael.

The Gemara in Massechet Yebamot says that the holy students of Rabbi Akiba died from Pesah until Atzeret (Shavuot). Because of this statement, there are Jews around the world which practice mourning for the entire 49 days of the Omer.

Our tradition teaches us that the students stopped dying on the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the Omer. Hence, many Jews around the world, namely Ashkenazim, halt all practices of mourning on the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the Omer, otherwise known as Lag Ba'Omer.

Another widespread custom among the Ashkenazim is to mourn for 33 consecutive days; regardless of when it begins. The source for this is that since the students died over a span of 33 days that were not days of happiness. If one removes all the days of Shabbat, Rosh Hodesh, Pesah Sheni, Pesah and Isru

Hag from the 49 days of the Omer, he will be left with 33 days. The minhag of most Sepharadim is to practice 34 days. This comes from another statement in the Gemara that the students of Rabbi Akiva died - מפיסח עד פרוס העצרת - The word פרוס means "half" (half a month) and therefore they stopped dying 15 days (which is half a month) prior to "Atzeret/Shavuot." If one subtracts 15 days from Shavuot, he will arrive at the 34<sup>th</sup> day of the Omer and this is how we practice.

Of course, as we know, once a person observes even a small amount of the day, it counts towards the whole day based on the rule. מוקצת היום ככולו. May it be His will that all suffering end among Klal Yisrael, and may we celebrate to see this holy individuals rise with all our loved ones during *Tehiyat HaMetim* with the coming of Mashiah, Amen.

# Perasha Insights

By Rabbi Eli Mansour

## Parashat Achare Mot - Kedoshim Who Won the Lottery?

Parashat Acharei-Mot describes the service that was performed in the Beit Hamikdash on Yom Kippur. One of the rituals involved two Se'irim, goats, one of which was offered as a standard sacrifice, while the other was carried by a Kohen into the wilderness and cast off a cliff. The two Se'irim would be brought to the Kohen Gadol who would conduct a lottery to determine which of the goats would be offered as a sacrifice, and which would be condemned to Azazel - to death in the wilderness.

To explain the meaning behind this ritual, Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch suggests that we try to imagine what the second goat might be thinking during this process. At first glance, it appears that he "won the lottery." He watches as the first goat is slaughtered in the Temple, its skin is removed, its blood is sprinkled on the altar, and its body is burned. In the meantime, a special Kohen comes to take him, the second goat, with all the distinguished members of the Jewish people looking on. He is led through the streets of Jerusalem and taken along a scenic route out into the wilderness. All throughout, he likely thinks to himself, "I got the better deal; the poor, other goat was brutally killed, while I get to remain alive and be treated with honor!"

Suddenly, the Kohen stops and prepares to cast the goat off the mountain. At that moment, the goat realizes that he, in fact, was the loser. True, the first goat was killed, it had to make the ultimate sacrifice, but at least it made a sacrifice to God. But he, as it turns out, is doomed to die in an empty wilderness. It may have appeared all along that he was the winner, but in the end it became clear that the first goat, which was sacrificed to God, was the one who won the lottery.

Rabbi Hirsch explained that this very same concept applies to religious and secular life. A non-observant Jew may likely see himself as the "winner," as the one who has the better end of the deal. He is not bound in his mind by the many restrictions and obligations of religious life. He can eat whatever he wants, he is not required to arise early in the morning to go to synagogue, he does not have to provide his children with a Torah education, and so on. A non-observant Jew might look upon the religious Jew with pity, as he has to work so hard and sacrifice so much to God, while he is allowed to enjoy the comforts and pleasures of secular life.

But ultimately, it becomes clear that the first goat, the observant Jew, is the real winner. True, he lives a life of "sacrifice." But through his sacrifice he earns eternal life with God, while secular life leads to eternal "Azazel," an empty wasteland. Unfortunately, many people face this reality only at the last moment, like the second goat, shortly before the death, when they can no longer change their fate. Fortunate is the one, Rabbi Hirsch writes, who realizes his mistakes earlier in life, when he still has the opportunity to change his lifestyle.

Although religious life demands difficult sacrifice, in truth it is the winning "lottery ticket," as it leads a person to eternal happiness, eternal bliss, and eternal blessing.



*Commemorating*

# YOM HAZIKARON

A special class and prayer  
for men and women  
delivered by Rabbi David Kadoch.  
With first-hand accounts from Daniel Saban;  
former member of the IDF Golani Brigade

Tuesday, May 7th at 7:30pm  
(Arbit at 7:10)

Sephardic Kehila Centre  
Upstairs Medrash



תנועת בני עקיבא בטורונטו  
BNEI AKIVA OF TORONTO



## Pre -Yom Ha'atzmaut Snif!

Special Peula in honour of Israel's 71st !!

**Shabbat, May 4**

**Bayt + Kehila (@BAYT): 6:30Pm**

**Or Chaim: 5:00 Pm**

**Shaarei Shomayim: 5:30Pm**

For walking groups email:

[etan@bneiakiva.org](mailto:etan@bneiakiva.org)

**Grades**

**1-8**

Wear Blue and  
White to  
participate in  
the RAFFLE!!



KOSHER KING PRESENTS



# ROYAL *kiddush*

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SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE  
PRESENTS

## THE 21ST ANNUAL HILULA OF RABBI SHIMON BAR YOHAI

Traditional auction of candles and fabulous  
items.

Dinner graciously sponsored by the  
Benquesus, Keslassy and Serruya families.

**THURSDAY MAY 23 - 2019, 6PM  
MAIN BANQUET HALL**

Admission is FREE with registration  
905-669-7654 x200 or

<https://www.kehilacentre.com/event/hilula2019>

