

# SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE

## ABIR YAAKOB CONGREGATION



President  
Meyer Keslassy  
Vice President  
Jean-Claude Abtan

שבת שלום  
*Shabbat Shalom*

ברוכים הבאים  
*Welcome to our Synagogue*

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

**Parashat Hukat פרשת חקת**  
Shabbat July 13 2019 / ב תמוז תשע"ט 10 Tammuz 5779  
Hukat Page 838 — Haftarah Page 1187 in Artscroll

### Shabbat Prayer Times

מנחה Mincha	6:45 p.m.
נרות הדלקת נרות Early Candle Lighting	7:40 p.m.
שחרית מנין החיד"א (ותיקין) Shacharit Ha'Hida Vatikim	4:40 a.m.
שחרית (Main Synagogue/Barechu:9:35) Shacharit	8:30 a.m.
Rabbi's Shiur - Mesilat Yesharim	7:15 p.m.
תהלים Tehilim	8:00 p.m.
מנחה Mincha	8:30 p.m.
שבת שבע טוב Shabbat Ends	9:52 p.m.

**Erev Shabbat Friday July 19th 2019**  
Mincha 6:45 p.m. (Early Candle Lighting 7:40 p.m.)

### Weekday Services at Medrash Torah Vehayim

שחרית Shacharit Sunday	
ותיקין Vatikim	5:00 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim	8:00 a.m.
קבועים Kebuim	9:00 a.m.
שחרית Shacharit Weekdays	
ותיקין Vatikim	5:00 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim	6:45 a.m.
קבועים Kebuim	8:15 a.m.
מנחה אשרי מנחה Mincha Ashre	7:00 p.m.
ערבית Arbit	7:35 p.m.

Shabat Zemanim- Netz- נץ- 5:48 a.m. Keriat Shema- שקיעה- 8:59 a.m. Shekia-

### Mazal Tov

To Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Carly Auspitz in honour of their recent marriage.  
Proud Parents: Mr. & Mrs. George and Rivka Auspitz and Mr. & Mrs. Steven and Vanesa Sacks

To Mr. & Mrs. Barry and Sylvia Fenton in honour of their recent marriage.  
Proud Parents: Mrs. Audrey Benchimol.

### Kiddush

This Shabbat Kiddush is sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. George and Rivka Auspitz and Mr. and Mrs. Steven and Vanesa Sacks in honour of their childrens' marriage.  
Everyone is welcome.

### Seuda Shelishit

This Shabbat Seuda Shelishit is sponsored by:  
Mr. & Mrs. Elie and Ruth Revivo in loving memory of his father David Revivo ז"ל  
Everyone is welcome.

### Nahalot

Elie Revivo ז"ל, 10 Tammuz / Saturday July 13  
Salomon Ponte ז"ל, David Ohana ז"ל, 12 Tammuz / Monday July 15  
Ruben Benhaim ז"ל, 13 Tammuz / Tuesday July 16  
Jacky Benoudiz ז"ל, 15 Tammuz / Thursday July 18  
Esmerelda Aquinin ז"ל, 16 Tammuz / Friday July 19

To increase participation during Tefila, this bulletin should not be read during the conduction of prayer services.  
This bulletin must be discarded in a proper Geniza. 7026 Bathurst Street Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8K3

Tel: (905) 669 7654 Fax: (905) 669 5138

## *Nahalot for next week*

Messod Azoulay ז"ל, 17 Tammuz / Saturday July 20

Rivkah Saporta ז"ל, 18 Tammuz / Sunday July 21

Estrella Benaim ז"ל, Sandra Azulay ז"ל, 21 Tammuz / Wednesday July 24

David Cohen ז"ל, 23 Tammuz / Friday July 26

## **Synagogue News:**

### **New Members**

Abir Yaakob would like to welcome Mr. and Mrs. David and Ziskland and Ms. Lisa Miadovnik to our community, Baruch Haba.

### **Mikveh**

We hope to have the Mikveh running to serve the community as soon as possible.

### **Save this Date**

Sefer Torah Dedication in memory of Jack Buzaglo ז"ל, September 8th, 2019.

### **Exciting Changes to our Shabbat Services**

We are happy to announce that teenagers and young adults, ages 13-25 will now be able to lead Friday night services and recite Parashiyot/Haftarot on Saturdays in our congregation. To do so, one must:

Give at least 3 weeks advance notice to the Parnas (Avi Azuelos) or Shaliah Tzibur (Marc Kadoch) to check for availability. be tested prior to the Shabbat in question.

As wonderful as this new initiative is, we maintain that the Bet Keneset and our Tefila continue to be conducted with a sense of professionalism, respectability and competence as they have always been. For that reason, we will ensure that our young kids will be ready and prepared before stepping up to the *teva*.

We hope that these new changes will encourage the kids to be more participative in the weekly service and increase attendance. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the Parnas or Shaliah Tzibur.

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

The weekly summer Shabbat class resumes this Shabbat @7:15 p.m.

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.

### **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)>

### **Security Committee**

The SKC is searching for volunteers to serve on a Security Committee, we ask all interested contact Joseph Mamane at 905-669-7654 Ext 200 or email at [joseph.mamane@kehilacentre.com](mailto:joseph.mamane@kehilacentre.com).

## **Torah Learning Opportunities at the SKC**

**Daily** - Halacha - between Minha and Arbit.

**Sundays** - Gemara Masechet Megila with Rabbi Kadoch - 7:15am-8am, Lower Level Synagogue, Coffee will be served.

**Tuesdays** - Tuesday Night Live on the Parasha with Tomer Malca, 8PM, Medrash, beer and wings, men only.

**Wednesdays** - Halacha in Hebrew with Rabbi Yitzhak Hakouk, 9PM, Lower Level Synagogue, Refreshments to be served.

**Thursdays** - Halacha with Rabbi Kadoch for men - following Arbit.

**Shabbat** - Noam Elimelech on the Parasha with Rabbi David Kadoch, 815am - 845am, Lower Level Synagogue, coffee and hot chocolate, men only

**Shabbat** - Mesilat Yesharim Mussar with Rabbi Kadoch - 45 minutes before Tehilim, men and women.

*Shiurim Online: If you wish to access any of the Torah classes given during the week by Rabbi Kadoch, Tomer Malca or Rabbi Dabush, you can listen to them at anytime by accessing them on our website: [bit.ly/skctorah](http://bit.ly/skctorah)*

# Torah Bites

By Rabbi Kadoch

## Parashat Hukat 5779

לד:כא("אל תירא אותו כי בידך נתתי אותו")

("Do not fear him for in your hand I shall give him" (21:34) believe the saying goes: "One act of kindness can go a long way.")

When you think of kind people in history of the Jews, one automatically thinks of those who volunteer for Jewish organizations or philanthropists who have supported Jewish institutions in their quest for survival. In the Tora, it's hard to overlook Aharon HaKohen and his desire to seek peace among the members of his congregation. Glancing at recent Jewish history, a person that pops to mind is Oskar Schindler; who albeit isn't Jewish, did whatever he could to save Jewish souls during the horrors of the Holocaust. But what if I told you that the evil Og, King of Bashan, could serve a great example for how far an act of kindness can go? Say that again? Og? The king who Moshe defeated during his trek throughout the desert? Yes. Let me explain.

In fact, Moshe encountered two evil kings while making his way to Israel; Sihon the King of Heshbon and Og the King of Bashan. Nevertheless, it was Og in which he feared. We know this base on the verse that Hashem needed to ensure Moshe that he had nothing to fear: "Don't fear him, for in your hand I shall give him... Just like I did with Sihon the King of Bashan." Why did Moshe fear Og so much? This question was posed by the Talmud in Masechet Nida 61a, which answers that Og could have been successful based on his kind act during the life of Avraham Avinu. When Lot was captured in Sedom, a "refugee" came to deliver this news to Avraham. Our sages tell us that this palit (refugee) was none other than Og. The truth is that Og's message were said with malintent. He was actually hoping that Avraham would enter Sedom to save Lot but be killed by the opposing forces.

This way, he would have the luxury to take Sara, his widow, as a wife. Disgusting, right? Nevertheless, the small speck of kindness he displayed by informing Avraham that his nephew had been captured was enough of a reason for Moshe to be worried that maybe he would lose the war. This is an incredible idea that must be taught and learned. Never underestimate the power of your actions. It would be unfathomable for a person to come up with such calculations that an evil person would have the upper hand based on a such a petty act. Yet Hashem maintains a different set of standards when it comes to kindness. "Notzer Hessed La'Alafim" means that not only can your act of kindness go a long way, but it can travel thousands of generations to help you. Unfortunately for Og, this small good act wasn't enough to put him over the top as he was ultimately defeated by Moshe and the army of Bene Yisrael

## Perasha Insights

By Rabbi Eli Mansour

### Parashat Hukat- Unconditional Commitment

The Torah in Parashat Hukat present the law of Para Aduma - the "red heifer" whose ashes were used to prepare the purifying waters, through which people and objects would be purified after becoming Tameh (impure). In introducing this Misva, the Torah proclaims, "Zot Hukat Ha'Torah" - "this is the statute of the Torah."

The Misva of Para Aduma is the quintessential "Hok"- law whose

reason cannot be understood by the human mind. Our Sages teach that even King Shlomo, the wisest man who ever lived, was unable to determine the reason behind this law, whereby the ashes of a red cow bring purity to somebody who had become impure.

Interestingly, the Torah refers to this Misva as "Hukat Ha'Torah" - the "statute" of the entire Torah. What this might mean is that the "Hok" of Para Aduma reveals that ultimately, all the Misvot are, in a sense, a "Hok," a law whose reasoning eludes human comprehension. Although reasons have been given for many of the Misvot, ultimately, we accept them irrespective of their reasons. The Hebrew word for "reason" is "Ta'am" - which also means "taste" or "flavor." The reasons given for the Misvot add "flavor" to the Misvot, making them more enjoyable, more meaningful and more fulfilling, but they are not the essence of the Misvot. Just as a person cannot subsist on salt and pepper, we cannot spiritually "subsist" if our Misva performance is rooted solely in our understanding of the reasons.

For example, if we observe Misvot only because of our understanding of their reasons, we'll end up driving to the synagogue on Shabbat - after all, Shabbat is a day of rest, and driving is far more relaxing and comfortable than walking. We'll also end up turning on lights on Shabbat, assuming that kindling a flame was forbidden only when this entailed hard work and effort, but not when we just need to flip a switch.

The reasons given for the Misvot are just the "flavor," the "seasoning," to make the experience of Misva performance more fulfilling. But ultimately, we observe them because G-d commanded us to, and this is itself enough of a reason.

And thus the law of Para Aduma is the "Hukat Ha'Torah" - a Misva which is representative of the entire Torah. Just as this Misva is binding even though we cannot understand its reason, we must accept each and every Misva as unconditionally binding, regardless of its reason.

This might explain why this Misva is presented immediately after Parashat Korah, which tells the story of Korah's uprising against Moshe.

The Midrash, as Rashi cites, tells that Korah challenged Moshe by presenting him with a garment made entirely of wool dyed in Techelet, the special blue dye with which one of the Sisit strings is to be dyed. The purpose of this blue thread of Sisit is to make us mindful of the heavens, thereby reminding us of our obligations to Hashem. Korah took a garment dyed entirely in Techelet, and asked whether such a garment requires Sisit strings. Moshe replied that it does, just as any other garment requires Sisit. Korah then mocked Moshe, arguing that if one blue thread on each edge of a garment suffices to remind a person of the Misvot, then certainly a garment dyed entirely blue should suffice, without requiring strings.

Korah decided that he can decide Torah law based on the reasons of the Misvot, that he can determine whether a Misva does or does not apply based on his logic. He did not accept the message of "Hukat Ha'Torah," that we must accept all the Torah's laws unconditionally, irrespective of their rationale.

And for this reason, perhaps, these two Parashiyot are juxtaposed. The response to the tragic story of Korah is Parashat Hukat - our unconditional commitment to each and every law of the Torah, even as we add "flavor" by trying to understand their underlying rationale.



Sephardic  
Kehila  
Centre

# MESILAT YESHARIM

With Rabbi David Kadoch

**SHABBAT AFTERNOONS**

The book that every  
Jew must learn!

Beginning Saturday May 4th

45 minutes before Tehilim - Main Sanctuary