

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

פרשת כי תשא *Parashat Ki Tisa*

Shabbat March 14th, 2020, יח' אדר תש"פ / 18 Adar 5780
Perasha Page 484, Maftir 838, Haftara Para 1216 in Artsroll

Shabbat Prayer Times

מנחה Mincha	6:55 p.m.
הדלקת נרות Candle Lighting	7:04 p.m.
שחרית מנין החיד"א (ותיקין) Shacharit Ha'Hida Vatikin	6:30 a.m.
שחרית Shacharit (Main Synagogue/Barechu:9:35)	8:30 a.m.
תהלים Tehilim	6:25 p.m.
מנחה Mincha	6:55 p.m.
שבת טוב Shabbat Ends	8:06 p.m.

Ereb Shabbat, Friday March 20th, 2020
Mincha 6:00 p.m. (Early Candle Lighting 6:55 p.m.)

Weekday Services at Medrash Torah Vehayim

<i>שחרית Shacharit Sunday</i>	
ותיקין Vatikin	6:45 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim	8:00 a.m.
קבועים Kebuim	9:00 a.m.
<i>שחרית Shacharit Weekdays</i>	
ותיקין Vatikin	6:45 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim	6:45 a.m.
קבועים Kebuim	8:15 a.m.
מנחה Mincha	7:05 p.m.
ערבית Arbit	7:35 p.m.

Shabat Zemanim- Netz- נץ- 7:31 am, Keriat Shema- שקיעה- 9:53 am, Shekia- שקיעה- 7:23 pm

Seuda Shelishit

Seudah Shelishit to be eaten at home before Mincha

Nahalot

Isaac Oziel ז"ל, Shalom Saban ז"ל, Abraham Edery ז"ל 18 Adar / Shabbat March 14th
Messod Sabbah ז"ל, Messody Elmaleh ז"ל, Josef Fridman ז"ל 21 Adar / Tuesday March 17th
Habiba Abtan ז"ל, 23 Adar / Thursday March 19th
Mazaltob Bensimon ז"ל, Messod Benzacar ז"ל 24 Adar / Friday March 20th

Nahalot for the following week

Abraham Benedid ז"ל 25 Adar / Shabbat March 21st
Haim Keslassy ז"ל 26 Adar / Sunday March 22nd
Salomon Bitton ז"ל 29 Adar / Wednesday March 25th
Yaakob Azuelos ז"ל, Chola Benchetrit ז"ל 1 Nissan / Thursday March 26th
Zisel Boim ז"ל, Rachel Vaturi ז"ל, Joseph Edery ז"ל 2 Nissan / Friday March 27th

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

Synagogue News

Condolences

Our deepest and most sincere condolences to Mrs. Betty Lalou on the sudden passing of her brother Mr. Simon Karalou z"l.

The niftar was buried yesterday in Netanya Israel.

Mrs. Lalou is sitting Shiva in her home at 110 Whitney Pl, Thornhill. Shiva hours between 11 am and 3pm.

Shiva ends Monday morning

תהי נפשו צרורה בצרור החיים

New Minha/Arvit Location

Note that Minha/Arvit weekday services will now take place in the Lower Level Synagogue until further notice. Attendees are encouraged to sit apart from each other in order to better isolate possible viral transmission.

Shabbat Afternoon Shiur between Minha and Arvit

Rabbi Kadoch will give a small shiur in Halacha between Minha and Arvit on Shabbat in place of Seuda Shelishit. Members are reminded to eat Seuda Shelishit at home prior to Minha.

Security Update

Due to threats to synagogues and other Jewish institutions worldwide, the Board of the Kehila Centre under the advice of the UJA, has decided like many other congregations, schools and Jewish institutions in Toronto, to increase the security in our synagogue and building to better protect our members. For that purpose the Board has decided to create a Security Committee that will oversee all the matters regarding security. This committee will work closely with the UJA and other security organizations to implement a security plan tailored to meet the security requirements of our synagogue and building and most important of all to protect our members. The Board has nominated Moshe Bendayan to be in charge of this project. Moshe in turn will seek volunteers among our membership to create the final Security Committee to elaborate a plan of action.

Thank You

The SKC would like to extend a warm thank you to our dear member Mr. David Dayan, who has agreed to repair and repaint areas of the ceiling in our holy synagogue that need fixing. Tizke lamitzvot!

If you are interested in volunteering your time or services in any capacity towards the betterment of our Kehila, please don't hesitate contact Rabbi Kadoch or any of the board members. Let's all do our part in respect to #CommunitySpread

2020 Board of Governors Elections Update

We are pleased to announce that a nomination committee composed of David Bensimon, Moses Bendayan, Jack Benchimol and Daniel Amar has been formed for the 2020 Board of Governors Election. On behalf of the board we would like to thank them. Nomination information and election details will be posted in an upcoming bulletin.

New and exciting Torah classes @ SKC

Daily - Halacha - between Minha and Arvit.

Sundays - 7:15 a.m. **Gemara Shiur, Masechet Pesachim** with Rabbi Kadoch, Lower Level Synagogue
- 9:00 a.m. - **Navi with Rabbi Kadoch**, Lower Level Synagogue, men, Coffee will be served.

Tuesdays - 8:00 p.m. **Tuesday Night Live** with Tomer Malca in the Medrash
- 8:00 p.m. - **Rambam** with Rabbi Kadoch, Lower Level Synagogue
- Open topic discussion with Yitzchak Aboudi, Tuesday nights. Times to be determined

Wednesdays - 8:00 p.m. - **Ladies shiur** with Rabbi Kadoch, Location Lower Level Classroom

Thursdays - 8:00 p.m. - **Ohr HaHayim on the weekly Parasha** with Rabbi Kadoch, Medrash, men

Shabbat - 8:15 a.m. - **Noam Elimelech on the Parasha with Rabbi Kadoch**, Lower Level Synagogue.

New Shiur - Young Adult Males

Rabbi Kadoch will be offering a new Torah class Tuesday nights beginning this week for Young Adults. The topic of study will be the "Rambam" - a perfect blend of law, ethics and history. Tuesdays, 8 PM, Lower Level Synagogue.

Ladies Shiur

Ladies shiur is postponed until after the new year.

Ladies Tehilim Group

Women are invited to join the Tehilim group Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. and every Shabbat at 6:00pm Lower Level Restaurant.

Humash and Hamin - Thursday Nights

Come enjoy some delicious Hamin as we study the Parasha with the commentary of the Ohr HaHayim HaKadosh. Thursdays at 9pm in the upstairs Medrash.

If you have a Mazal Tob 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.

Torah Bites By Rabbi Kadoch

Concerning the command to give half a shekel it says (Shemot 30:13): "***This shall they give – everyone who passes through the census***". Rashi writes that Hashem showed Moshe a coin of fire that weighed half a shekel and told him, "Like this they should give". Hashem was hinting to Moshe Rabbenu a "h, an important foundation. A coin can be compared to fire. One who knows how to use fire in the appropriate way can derive much benefit from it. For example, one can use it to cook, to give light, and to warm oneself. But if, has veshalom, a person is irresponsible and uses fire in an uncontrolled way, it has the power to burn and destroy and wipe out all that comes in its path. The same is with the coin, which symbolizes money. If one uses it correctly, for an appropriate purpose, for example for giving charity, acts of kindness or investing in a mitzvah, it brings great benefit to man. But if a person uses his money in a negligent and unethical manner by using it for forbidden or improper things, then he can cause great damage to himself which can lead him down to the grave. Our Hachamim suggest an allusion to this concept:

The letters of the word 'מטבע' (coin) can be rearranged to spell 'מטבע' (טבע) Meaning, a person should take this part of nature (טבע) that Hashem created and use it (the money) for the sake of our Holy Torah which was given to Moshe Rabbenu in forty days (מ). This is the correct path for a person to take. All material things, which seem to us to be an extension of the yetzer hara, should be taken and used for fulfilling Torah and mitzvot.

For example, our Sages tell us (Avot 4:28): "Jealousy, lust and glory remove a man from the world". This seems to imply that these traits are intrinsically negative and they stem from the yetzer hara. But if a person uses his intellect and insight in the correct way, he can learn how to use these very traits in a positive way and to consecrate these traits for the sake of Hashem and His Torah. We can take, for example, the trait of jealousy. How can this be used in a positive way? One's heart should be jealous of those who follow the Torah way and one should desire to be like them. We can do the same with the trait of lust. If a person takes his desire for food and uses it for a holy purpose, for example by investing in a Shabbat or Yom tov seuda, or a Berit Mila celebration, this is "lust" used in an appropriate way. Concerning this very idea, we are told, (Devarim 6:5): "You shall love Hashem, your G-d, with all your heart". "With all your heart – with both your inclinations"; with both the good inclination and the bad inclination. This implication of this is that a person should take his yetzer hara and use it in a positive way and then it will aid the yetzer hatov.

Torah Portion By Rabbi Eli Mansour

The Golden Calf and Workaholism

Many commentators have noted that the story of Het Ha'egel – the sin of the golden calf – cannot be understood simply, to mean that Beneh Yisrael actually worshipped a golden image, thinking that it was a god. For one thing, it is hardly conceivable that they could make such a mistake just weeks after witnessing the miracles of the Exodus and beholding the Revelation of G-d at Ma'amad Har Sinai. Moreover, during the time of Het Ha'egel, Aharon announced to the people, "Hag L'Hashem Mahar" – "tomorrow is a festival for G-d!" The people still believed in and worshipped G-d, even during this unfortunate incident. And, it is clear from the story that the people sought a replacement not for G-d, but rather

for Moshe, who did not return from atop Mount Sinai at the time they had expected. Clearly, the people were not seeking a new god to worship.

Different explanations have thus been offered for the nature of the sin of the golden calf.

One such explanation is presented in the work Yalkut Yehuda (Rav Yehuda Leib Ginsburg, Russia-Denver, 1888-1946). He notes that, as we read in the Book of Bereshit (46:34), the Egyptians despised shepherds – and for this reason they despised Beneh Yisrael, who worked primarily as shepherds. The Yalkut Yehuda explains that in the ancient world, farming was seen as a more reputable profession than shepherding. Farmers produced something tangible – food – whereas the shepherds brought their flocks to graze on the food produced by the farmers. Many people did not see the important benefits of raising sheep, and so they looked at shepherds with disdain. Therefore, the Egyptians despised Beneh Yisrael, and forced them to perform labor – claiming that shepherding was not productive, and that Beneh Yisrael needed to be coerced to do "real" work.

In light of this background, Beneh Yisrael might have intuitively figured that the solution to their problem was to give up shepherding, and to take on farming, instead. Since their shepherding is what caused the Egyptians to dislike them, they needed to stay away from this profession, and to instead devote themselves to farming in an effort to win the gentile nations' favor and goodwill.

Moshe, however, taught the people that the solution lies in devotion to Hashem. Of course, there is nothing wrong with agriculture, and in fact, the Torah presents many laws relevant to farming, clearly working off the assumption that many among Beneh Yisrael would work as farmers. However, the people's primary concern must be serving Hashem, studying His Torah and performing His Misvot.

When Moshe did not return from the mountaintop when the people expected, some decided it was time to abandon his teachings, and to return to their previous idea – namely, that they should embrace and devote themselves to farming. This, the Yalkut Yehuda explained, was the meaning of the golden calf. A young ox is the symbol of agriculture. Beneh Yisrael did not "worship" the calf in the sense of regarding it as a deity, but rather in the sense of making it their highest priority. They pinned all their hopes on a career in farming, viewing this as the solution, and thus making it their primary point of focus.

The sin of the golden calf was atoned through the construction of the Mishkan, at the center of which were the Kerubim (cherubs), which had their wings spread upward, toward the heavens. The message of the Mishkan was that our primary point of focus must be Hashem. Of course, we are expected to spend time "farming" – working and exerting effort. But this is not the ultimate source of our blessings, our wealth, or our security. All this comes only from Hashem.

The modern-day "golden calf," from this perspective, is the phenomenon of workaholism, people whose lives revolve around their professional pursuits, who think that everything depends upon their work. We must understand the message of the Kerubim – that our eyes and hearts must always be turned heavenward, that our highest priority and central focus must be Torah and Misvot. Work is important, but it is not the ultimate solution; it must never be the area of life around which everything else must revolve. Let us avoid the mistake of turning work into a "golden calf," and instead always remain focused on our commitment to G-d, even as we put in our required effort to earn a respectable living.

COVID-19 (coronavirus) UPDATE

Dear friends,

As you may have heard by now, many institutions around North America, including Ontario, have taken serious precautionary measures to avoid the spread of COVID-19 among their respective communities. We at the SKC have also chosen to be proactive rather than reactive, and have decided that effective immediately the following measures will be in effect:

1. Kiddushim are suspended until further notice.
2. Seuda Shelishit is suspended until further notice. Members should eat the Seuda at home prior to Minha.
3. Torah classes will run on a shiur-to-shiur basis but will be void of any food and drink. Attendees are asked to sit separately while attending the class to avoid transmission.
4. All youth programs including Bnei Akiva and Mishmar are suspended until further notice.
5. Members are encouraged to avoid handshaking, kiss greetings or any direct contact with other members.
6. Community Talitot will not be available for use. Please bring your own.
7. Members are to avoid clustering in small areas. Where possible, people should try to leave an empty seat on either side of themselves in order to better isolate possible viral transmission.
8. Any person who has experienced illness of any type in the last few days is asked to stay home.
9. Members are encouraged to bring and use their own Siddurim.
10. Please note that Minha/Arvit weekday services will now take place in the Lower Level Synagogue until further notice. Attendees are encouraged to sit apart from each other in order to better isolate possible viral transmission.

To do our part in preventing infiltration of this pandemic, we are working to increase the sanitization resources we have around the building such as hand sanitizers, tissues and liquid soap. We are thankful that COVID-19 has not affected our community like our brothers in New York and New Jersey. Nevertheless, we feel the need to take the necessary precautions to ensure the health and safety of our members.

We thank you for your understanding and patience in this matter and we pray that Hashem bring an end to this virus in the near future.

Sincerely,

Rabbi David Kadoch, Meyer Keslassy, Jean-Claude Abtan & the Board of Directors