

SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE

ABIR YAAKOB CONGREGATION



President
Jean-Claude Abtan
Vice President
Eric Benchetrit

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

Shabbat Hol Hamoed
Shabbat September 25th 2021
יב' תשרי תשפ"ב / 19 Tishrei 5782

Shabbat Prayer Times

מנחה Minha	6:50 p.m.
הדלקת נרות Candle Lighting	6:52 p.m.
שחרית מנין החיד"א (ותיקין) Shacharit Ha'Hida Vatikim	6:10 a.m.
תהלים Tehilim	5:50 p.m.
מנחה Minha	6:20 p.m.
שבע טוב Shabbat Ends	7:52 p.m.

Weekday Services at

Medrash Torah Vehayim

שחרית Shacharit Sunday

ותיקין Vatikim	6:30 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim	7:45 a.m.
קבועים Kebuim	9:00 a.m.

שחרית Shacharit Weekdays

ותיקין Vatikim	6:30 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim	6:30 a.m.
קבועים Kebuim	8:00 a.m.
מנחה Minha	6:50 p.m.

ערבית Arbit

18 minutes after Sunset

Shabat Zemanim- Netz- נץ- 7:09 am, Keriat Shema- קריאת שמע- 10:08 am, Shekia- שקיעה- 7:08 pm

Mazal Tov

To Maurice & Elise Benzacar on the birth of a great-granddaughter

Happy Anniversary

Daniel & Yael Amar

Birthdays this week

Arielle Keslassy, Marcos Benaim, Shabtai Nacson, Estrella Benaim, Neomi Mishan, Jack Azagury, Samuel Essebag, Isaac Ponte, Sarah Benarroch, Jonathan Dwek, Daniel Moshe Cohen, Naomi Benquesus

Nahalot

Suzane Levy ז"ל, Samuel Melul ז"ל, Hanania Zrihen ז"ל **19 Tishrei** / Shabbat September 25th
Tamo Benedid ז"ל, Nina Nezry ז"ל **22 Tishrei** / Tuesday September 28th
Messod Levy ז"ל, Anna Aronova ז"ל **24 Tishrei** /Thursday Sept. 30th
David Kadoch ז"ל, Freha Ben-Assor ז"ל **25 Tishrei** /Friday October 1st

Nahalot for the following week

Rachel Benaim ז"ל, Elimelech Wolf ז"ל **26 Tishrei** /Shabbat Oct. 2nd
Amilia Solomon ז"ל **28 Tishrei** /Monday Oct. 4th
Esther Berdugo ז"ל, Messod Dadoun ז"ל **29 Tishrei** /Tuesday Oct. 5th
Myriam Medina ז"ל, Rachel Benaim ז"ל, Mair Oziel ז"ל **30 Tishrei** /Wednesday Oct. 6th
Miriam Benhaim ז"ל, Aliya Oziel ז"ל **1 Heshvan** /Thursday Oct. 7th
Hanna Anidjar ז"ל, Messod Benarroch ז"ל, Nissim Elkaim ז"ל, Hassibe Zeitoune ז"ל, Ambrosio Edery ז"ל **2 Heshvan** /Thursday Oct. 14th

Synagogue News

JNF Honouree

We are happy to announce that our own Rabbi David Kadoch will be honoured by JNF and Negev, along with other rabbis around the city for their incredible work and devotion to the community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. See flyer in the foyer for more details. Hazak U'Baruch to Rabbi Kadoch!

SKC Sukkah

Members who are unable to build a sukkah in their home, are welcome to use the SKC Sukkah located behind the building.

Keri'e Moed/Meldado

Meldado/Keri'e Moed will begin Monday morning at 1am in the Downstairs Synagogue. Shaharit will follow at 6:30am

Simhat Torah

We invite the entire Kahal and their respective families to join us Tuesday night and Wednesday morning as we celebrate Simhat Torah. Come dance with the Sifre Torah and take joy in the beauty and happiness of the holiday.
Kiddush will be served following each Hakafot.

Kiddush Is Back!

Kiddushim have long been an opportunity for everyone to socialize and see each other. We are thrilled to be able to welcome everyone back. We will need everyone to be mindful of social distancing and of COVID restrictions.
Anyone who wishes to sponsor Kiddush to celebrate an occasion, should contact Sultry in the office at 905-669-7654 x200 or via e-Mail at sultry@kehilacentre.com.

Kiddush, this week, is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ibgbi for the Refua Shelema of Messod ben Messouda

Seuda Shelishit

We are holding Seuda Shelishit again, between Minha and Arbit on Shabbat, with some adjustments due to COVID restrictions.

Anyone who wishes to sponsor Seuda Shelishit in memory of a loved one, should contact Sultry in the office at 905-669-7654 x200 or via e-Mail at sultry@kehilacentre.com.

Seuda Shelishit, this week, is sponsored by The Abtan Family in memory of their mother and grandmother, Freha Ben-Assor z"l and the Kadoch/Azulay family in memory of their father David Kadoch z"l. and Mila Nassimova and Bella Kardashova in memory of their mother Mrs. Anna Aronova z"l.

Winter Schedule

This Shabbat we will begin our winter scheduling for Tefila, including weeknights. See times above for times and information.

Kid's Program Is Back

We are thrilled to celebrate the return of the kids' program. We have four young women from the community led remotely by Ashlene Azulay, who have gotten together to create a program of activities to entertain and educate children of the community while their parents pray. We encourage parents to bring their children to the centre and feel comfortable that they are in a safe and healthy environment.

The kid's program is located in the Lower Level Social Hall (Restaurant) and will run from 9:30 am until 11:30 am on Shabbat.

Weekly Shiurim

Monday - Study of the Amida (men and women) @ 8 pm (resuming after holidays)

Tuesday - Halacha (university-aged boys) @ 8 pm

Thursday - Parashat HaShavua (men and women all ages) @ 8 pm

Sunday - Gemara Masechet Sotah @ 7:15am (resuming after holidays)

Vezot Haberacha - Torah learning comes with merit

Rabbi David Kadoch

The blessing Moshe gave to the Tribe of Levi was short but concrete. In fact, it could have arguably been the greatest blessing of them all. "They shall teach Your laws to Jacob and Your instructions to Israel."

In a nutshell, Levi's job was to transmit and teach the Torah to the Jewish people. They were the holiest, the worthiest and the greatest. With those qualities, it is no wonder why they received the merit to teach Bene Yisrael. The key word is "merit."

Rav Isser Zalman Meltzer z"l has a fascinating explanation on one of the mishnayot in Avot (6:10). Rabbi Yose ben Kisma was once walking on the road when he was approached by a man. After exchanging greetings and places of dwelling, the man made Rabbi Yose an offer he couldn't refuse. He told him, "I will give you all the money in the world, just come live in my town." Nice offer, right? Well, he refused. His response: "If you give me all the gold and silver and precious jewels, I will only live in a place where there is Torah."

The obvious question is, if Rabbi Yose was given all the money, why couldn't he just build the city filled with Torah from scratch? Let him use the money to build schools, yeshivot, kollelim and synagogues. He had the means to do it at his disposal.

Rav Isser Zalman explains that in order to successfully root a place of Torah, it's not just about the person building it, or the means to build it. There needs to be "zechut," there needs to be merit. That place needs to MERIT having Torah dwell within it. That person, needs to have MERIT to build such a holy community. This is what Rabbi Yose ben Kisma was telling the man. The creation of synagogues and schools have nothing to do with money nor the people running it, but rather the *siyata dishmaya* (Godly assistance) and merit that comes along with it.

The proof lies all around us. Just take a look at all the religious institutions around the world the are up and running and with huge success. Many of these place were faced with harsh monetary challenges that in normal circumstances would have led to closures and bankruptcies. However, the Jewish people and their institutions, especially those made up of Torah and religiosity don't fall under the normal rules of world. They bank on merit and *mesirut nefesh* (devotion). This is what the tribe of Levi possessed over all other tribes. To be a teacher of the masses means that your are worthy enough to live up to the task. It means that Hashem has possessed you with the skills needed to succeed and those skills shouldn't go to waste. However, even with those skills and the merit one has to be a *melamed* (teacher), you need a prayer and blessing to go along with it. Who better to give that prayer and blessing than Moshe Rabenu.

Sukkot and the War of Gog U'maggog

Rabbi Eli Mansour

The prophecy read as the Haftara for Shabbat Hol Ha'mo'ed Sukkot is from the Book of Yehezkel (chapters 38-39), and it foresees a series of major battles which will take place in the Land of Israel before the arrival of Mashiah. Yehezkel describes how two nations will fight against one another in the Land of Israel, though it will not directly involve the Jewish People.

The Malbim (Rav Meir Leibush Wisser, 1809-1879), his commentary to Yehezkel, explains that these wars will be waged between the kingdoms of Edom (the kingdom founded by Esav) and Yishmael – meaning, between the western, Christian world, and the Arab world. This will occur, the Malbim writes, after the Jewish People return to the Land of Israel, and the kingdoms of Edom and Yishmael will fight against each other for control of Jerusalem. We see this prophecy's fulfillment gradually unfolding in our times, as the Jews have returned to the Land of Israel and established sovereignty there, and tensions are building between the West and the Arab world. This war will result in an enormous number of casualties, and will be followed by the arrival of Mashiah, who will bring peace and serenity to the world, and under whose kingship all mankind will recognize and serve the one, true G-d.

The question arises as to why this prophecy is read on Sukkot. What connection is there between the war of Gog U'maggog and the festival of Sukkot?

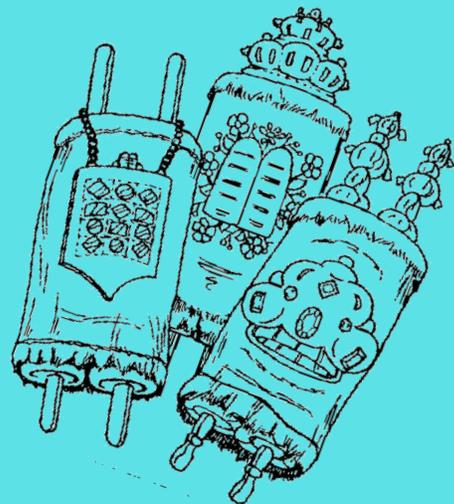
The answer is found in a remarkable observation made by the Gaon of Vilna (Rav Eliyahu of Vilna, 1720-1797) regarding the special sacrifices brought over the course of Sukkot. As the Torah outlines in Parashat Pinhas (Bamidbar 29), a large number of animals were offered as the Musaf sacrifices each day of Sukkot. These included a total of seventy bulls, which, our Sages teach, were offered on behalf of the seventy gentile nations. The sacrifices also included one goat brought each day of Sukkot as a sin-offering.

The Gaon of Vilna noted that two different expressions are used to refer to these goats. The goat offered on the first, second and fourth days of Sukkot is referred to by the term "Se'ir Izim," whereas the goat offered on the third, fifth, sixth and seven days is called simply, "Se'ir." The Gaon explained that the word "Se'ir" on its own alludes to Esav, who was also called by the name "Se'ir." The term "Se'ir Izim," by contrast, refers to Yishmael. Now on the first, second and fourth days of Sukkot, a total of 35 bulls were offered (13 on the first day, 12 on the second, and 10 on the fourth). This same number of bulls were offered on the third, fifth, sixth and seventh days (11 on the third, 9 on the fifth, 8 on the 6th, and 7 on the seventh). The Gaon explained that all the gentile nations are aligned with either Edom or Yishmael, such that exactly half of the 70 bulls offered on Sukkot correspond to Edom, and precisely half correspond to Yishmael.

Understandably, then, we read the prophecy of the war of Gog U'maggog on Sukkot – because the sacrifices offered on this holiday reflect the historical tension between the two kingdoms of Edom and Yishmael, who will wage this fierce battle.

Our Sages have taught us that prophecies predicting blessing and prosperity will always be fulfilled, whereas prophecies of calamity and tragedy can be averted through Teshuba (repentance). It thus follows that the dreadful war of Gog U'maggog – which, according to some commentators, will result in 60 million casualties, and according to others, in the death of one-third of the world's population – can be avoided. By reaffirming our commitment to faithfully obey the Mivot, study Torah and perform acts of kindness, we will, please G-d, be worthy of protection from this war as well as from all crisis and hardship, Amen.

Shemini Atzeret Schedule



Monday Sept. 27th - H.R.

- 1:00** Keri'e Moed - Meldado
- 6:30** Shaharit
- 6:45** Minha
- 6:47** Candle Lighting
- 7:25** Arbit
- 7:30** Nightfall/Kiddush after

Wed Sept. 29th - S.T

- 6:25** Shaharit Vatikim
- 8:30** Shaharit Main Synagogue
- 6:45** Minha
- Shiur
- 7:35** Arbit
- 7:45** Havdala/Hag Ends

Tuesday Sept. 28th - S.A

- 6:25** Shaharit Vatikim
- 9:00** Shaharit Main Synagogue
- 6:45** Minha
- 7:25** Arbit
- 7:28** Candle Lighting after
- 7:50** Hakafot

