

SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE

ABIR YAAKOB CONGREGATION

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שבת שלום ברוכים הבאים
Shabbat Shalom Welcome to our Synagogue

Shabbat Hukat-Balak פרשת חקת-בלק

Shabbat July 1st 2023, יב' תמוז תשפ"ג / 12 Tammuz 5783
Perasha Page 838 Haftarah 1189 והיה in Artscroll

Shabbat Prayer Times

מנחה Mincha (Main Synagogue)	6:45 p.m.
הדלקת נרות Candle Lighting - Early Shabbat	7:30 p.m.
הדלקת נרות Candle Lighting - Standard	8:45 p.m.
שחרית מניין החיד"א (ותיקין) Shaharit Ha'Hida Vatikim	4:35 a.m.
Shiur Hilchot Shabbat	8:30 a.m.
שחרית Shaharit (Main Synagogue)	9:00 a.m.
Shiur Mesilat Yesharim	7:10 p.m.
תהלים Tehilim	7:55 p.m.
מנחה Mincha	8:25 p.m.
שבת טוב Shabbat Ends	9:59 p.m.



Shabat Zemanim- Netz- נץ- 5:39 am, Keriat Shema- קריאת שמע- 9:30 am, Shekia- שקיעה- 9:03 pm

Weekday Services

שחרית Shaharit Sunday	שחרית Shaharit Weekdays
וטיקין Vatikim 4:55 a.m.	וטיקין Vatikim 4:55 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim 8:00 a.m.	מקדימים Makdimim 6:30 a.m.
קבוים Kebuim 9:00 a.m.	קבוים Kebuim 8:00 a.m.
	מנחה Mincha 7:15 p.m.
	ערבית Arbit Arbit immediately following Mincha

Mazal Tov

~ Eduardo and Malka Nahmad on their recent wedding
Proud Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Isaac and Rena Cohen and Mr. & Mrs. Marcos and Polly Nahmad
Proud Grandparents: Mrs. Tany Cohen, Dr. Alan and Elaine Fink, Mrs. Ruth Hamui, and Mr. & Mrs. Eduardo and Olga Nahmad

~ Maxwell and Maya Charlat on their recent wedding
Proud Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Reuben and Naomi Benquesus, Dr. & Mrs. Josh and Rhonda Charlat
Proud Grandparents: Mr. & Mrs. Jacques and Biba Benquesus, Mr. & Mrs. Jeno and Judith Gal, Mr. & Mrs. Harold and Elaine Charlat, Mrs. Phyllis Flatt

~ Simmi and Adam Toby-Blankenstein on the birth of a baby girl
Proud Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Elias and Adina Toby, Fay Slewain and Harvey Blankenstein
Proud Grandparents: Mr. & Mrs. Samuel and Alegria Toby

Happy Anniversary

•Charles & Amarya Botbol •Leon & Denise Elmaleh •Jacob & Vanessa Benarroch
•Andrew & Talya Concister •Moses D. & Mercedes Elmaleh •Farhad & Lili Amirian •Nissim & Goldie Saban
•Joseph & Mercedes Beniluz •Oren & Raquel Hyams

Happy Birthday

Liora Gal, Ness Botbol, Ariel Nacson, Aaron Nacson, Amit Elimelech, Alyssa Essebag, Maya Avital Benquesus, Lidia Anidjar

Nahalot

David Ohana ז"ל, Salomon Ponte ז"ל, Messod Benhaim ז"ל

12 Tammuz / Shabbat July 1st

Ruben Benhaim ז"ל **13 Tammuz** / Sunday July 2nd

Jacky Benoudiz ז"ל, Nechama Aronovici ז"ל **15 Tammuz** / Tuesday July 4th

Avraham Mouyal ז"ל, Esmerelda Aquinin ז"ל **16 Tammuz** / Wed July 5th

Messod Azoulay ז"ל, Messody Hadida ז"ל **17 Tammuz** / Thurs. July 6th

Rivkah Saporta ז"ל **18 Tammuz** / Friday July 7th

Nahalot for the following week

Estrella Benaim ז"ל, Sandra Azulay ז"ל **21 Tammuz** / Monday July 10th

Jacob Azagury ז"ל **22 Tammuz** / Tuesday July 11th

David Cohen ז"ל **23 Tammuz** / Wednesday July 12th

Bella Bentolila ז"ל **24 Tammuz** / Thursday July 13th

Synagogue News

Fast of 17th of Tammuz

The fast of 17th of Tammuz is Thursday July 6th.

Fast begins at 4:30 a.m. Fast ends at 9:42 p.m.

Minha 8:35 p.m. (Main Synagogue). Arvit 9:20 p.m.

Shabbat Kiddush

Kiddushim bring everyone together on multiple levels and we are thrilled to welcome everyone to SKC for a congregational Shabbat Kiddush. Anyone interested in sponsoring all or part of a kiddush or even helping us enhance the weekly kiddush is asked to call the office at

905-669-7654 x200 or send an e-mail

to social@kehilacentre.com.

This week's congregational Kiddush is co-sponsored by

The Sephardic Kehila Centre

Everyone is Welcome

Seuda Shelishit

Over the past few months, the Divre Torah during Seuda Shelishit have tackled interesting and thought-provoking topics.

Joins us after Minha on Shabbat to hear this week's insight.

This week's Seuda Shelishit is sponsored by

- Mr. & Mrs Joseph and Esther Azoulay, in memory of his father, Messod Azoulay ז"ל
- Mr. & Mrs. Reuben and Naomi Benquesus, in honour of Maxwell and Maya's wedding

Everyone is Welcome

Mesilat Yesharim - Back for another summer!

Men and women are invited for another summer to hear words of inspiration and Torah values from the book Mesilat Yesharim. Join Rabbi Kadoch every Shabbat, 45 minutes before Tehilim, to absorb the profound words of this masterpiece.

This week at 7:10 pm in the main synagogue.

Early Risers, Early Gainers

Rabbi Kadoch's Shabbat morning Shiur prior to Shaharit continues this Shabbat at 8:30 am.

Shabbat Kids Program - On Hiatus For Summer

The Shabbat program for children will be on hiatus during the summer and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year when everyone comes back from their summer activities.

Goodbye Is Not Forever

Please join us for services and for a special kiddush on Shabbat July 8th, 2023 as we say goodbye to Aaron and Laura Harroch and their family as they will be moving to Houston shortly thereafter. Aaron and Laura have been instrumental in supporting the synagogue and various programs over the last few years and we wish to let them know how much we appreciate them and that we will miss them.

This kiddush is organized by many of their friends and we acknowledge their generosity in sponsoring the kiddush. Should you wish to contribute financially and help us make the kiddush even greater, please contact the SKC office at 905-669-7654 x200 or via e-Mail at social@kehilacentre.com.

SKC CALENDAR 2023-2024

We are pleased to introduce to you the SKC Community Calendar. The SKC will be producing this attractive multi-color publication, and mailing it to the entire membership and community free of charge.

The Calendar will include detailed information about upcoming Holidays, upcoming special events, Shabbat and Holiday candle lighting times, Nahalot and Birthdays. The practical design also provides ample room for the recording of personal information and appointments.

For more information and pricing, please contact the synagogue office

SKC Sisterhood BOOK CLUB

Thank you to all the ladies who came out to the Womans Wellness Program, Music Movement and Meditation

A special thank you to Mrs. Esther Willinger for inspiring and energizing the woman of our community for the last several months.

We hope to see you in the new year.

Weekly Shiurim

Midrash by Night - Tuesday and Thursdays following Arvit

Parashat HaShavua - Thursdays @8pm HYBRID*

Hilchot Shabbat - Shabbat at 8:30am Main Synagogue

Gemara Sanhedrin - Sundays at 7:15am Downstairs synagogue

Zachary Benatar

Weekly on Mondays @ 2:45pm: Parasha (men and women)

Hukat 5783 - On the King's Highway

Rabbi David Kadoch

Last Motsae Shabbat returning from synagogue, I was playing the catch song from Yaakov Shwecky called “Bederech HaMelech.” It’s a good one, have a listen. I asked my sons if they knew where the source of these words were from - bederech hamelech nelech. I explained to them that it came from this week’s parasha in two separate places. Once, after the infamous story of Me Meriva, Moshe wishes to cross the land of Edom and is asking for permission from their king. Second, just a few verses later after the death of Aharon, he requests the same permission to cross the land of Sihon, the King of Emori. In both situations, he requests that he will only take the “King’s highway.” His people will not veer to the adjacent lands or take things that won’t belong to them. If they would require food or drink, they will pay for it like any passerby. But other than that, they will stay traveling on the main interstate. In both episodes, the kings refused the request and the Jewish people had to travel around the land and extend their trip.

I couldn’t help but think that there is a more profound message being taught here. The life of the Jew is to remain on the King’s Highway - the “King” being Hakadosh Baruch Hu. Living in a world where we are constantly pulled in many directions of impurity and volatility, the best road travelled is the one where we stay connected to the King. Sidetracking to the left or right comes with risks. It promotes vulnerability and lack of awareness. Moshe wasn’t just trying to convince the local king to save some time, he was imparting a message to his people. If we’re going to travel among the nations of the world, we must remain a tight group, clinging only to Hashem. We cannot be swayed in directions that will threaten our spiritual growth or our connection with God. Taking side-roads is uncomfortable, bumpy, and inconvenient. We must stick to the main path that Hashem has set out for us.

Maybe this is the reason why the local kings denied the request. Their mission is to get us to sin and falter. They wish to impose their values and ideals upon us and impress ways of life that is not the way of Hashem. “Certainly, you are welcome to pass through our land, but we want you to integrate with our members. We want you to be influenced by our ways of life and our skewered visions. We want you to take the side-roads to meet us, not the main highway that you’ll just pass through. But if you’re not interested in that, they please go around.” Moshe wasn’t ready to take that risk and neither should we. May Hashem give us the strength to remain on the path that he set out for us. The highway is not just the fastest route to our destination, but it’s the safest and most desirable.

Protecting Ourselves and Our Children

by Rabbi Joey Haber

Parashat Balak tells the story of two men – Balak and Bilam – who worked together to try to destroy Beneh Yisrael. Balak was the king of Moav, and he was afraid that Beneh Yisrael might wage war against his country. He hired Bilam to place a curse on them so they would be destroyed. But Hashem intervened and forced Bilam to bless Beneh Yisrael, instead.

The Gaon of Vilna makes a comment about the names of these two men – **בלק** and **בלעם**. The letters of these two names – **ב,ל,ק,ע,מ** – can be rearranged to spell the names of two nations that waged war against Beneh Yisrael: **בבל** and **עמלק**. Balak and Bilam brought together the evil forces of these two nations – Bavel (Babylonia) and Amalek – thus posing an especially dangerous threat to our people.

Let us examine what these two nations represent, in order to understand why this combination is so dangerous.

The area of Bavel was so named because it was there where the people tried to rebel against Hashem by building a tower to the heavens, resulting in **בלל ה' את שפת האדם** – Hashem “mixed together” people’s languages. The word **בבל** means “mixture,” of many different things coming together, and Bavel was the place where different languages and cultures became mixed.

Interestingly, the Gemara in Masechet Sanhedrin gives another explanation for the name **בבל**, stating that it alludes to the Talmud, which was written there in Babylonia (and is thus called the **תלמוד בבלי**), and which

is a “mixture” of all the different parts of Torah.

“Mixing” many different things together can be both very good and very bad. When we are open to mixing together different things, we can come up with something beautiful and powerful like the **תלמוד בבלי**, the Gemara. But on the other hand, being open to “mixtures” of all kinds allows for the acceptance of ideas and behaviors that should never be accepted.

The United States of America was founded on two principles – freedom, and equality. These two foundational concepts are what allow American Jews to live and flourish in this country, practicing our religion and building wonderful Torah institutions. Never throughout our two thousand years of exile have we had it any better, and we must be extremely grateful to the United States for granting us this opportunity.

However, this country’s quality of **בבל**, allowing everything into a “mixture,” has resulted in everything being accepted. It has become taboo to call something “wrong” and sinful. Behaviors that should never be considered acceptable have now been normalized, even in our community.

What makes this problem especially difficult to deal with is that it is combined with “Amalek.”

Amalek is the nation that waged war against Beneh Yisrael soon after they left Egypt. When all other nations recognized Hashem and stood in awe of Beneh Yisrael, Amalek went to fight them. Amalek, then, represents the effort to forcefully oppose our values.

Today, unfortunately, society is trying to force anti-Torah values down our throats. In the name of progressivism and equality, we are being told that we must accept things which the Torah rejects. This is particularly so in universities, where students are expected to conform to the prevailing values and attitudes, many of which run in direct contrast to the Torah.

In response to Amalek’s attack, Moshe appointed his disciple, Yehoshua, to lead the battle against Amalek. Yehoshua embodies the concept of **מסורה**, receiving the tradition from the previous generation. The first Mishna in Pirkeh Avot teaches, **משה קיבל, תורה מסיני ומסרה ליהושע** – “Moshe received the Torah from Sinai, and transmitted it to Yehoshua.” In order to defend ourselves against Amalek, we need to recommit ourselves to the process of **מסורה**, of conveying our tradition. Parents need to speak to their children about what the Torah teaches us, about what we believe, about what Hashem expects of us. This must be done in a way the children can understand and relate to, so they are equipped with the knowledge and commitment to ward off the dangerous influences that are all around us. In Parashat Balak, Hashem protected us from Balak and Bilam. He is helping us today, too, in our struggle against the modern-day combination of Bavel and Amalek. But we must do our part, fortifying ourselves and our children with Torah values so we can stand strong and resilient in our struggle against the powerful cultural forces that we are up against.



MIDRASH BY NIGHT

Tuesdays & Thursdays
Following Arvit throughout the
summer

*Torah learning opportunities for everyone
Learn with a havruta partner or at your own pace*

**Various shiurim by R' David Kadoch,
R' Shemuel Pinto, R' Yitzhak Hakak and others**
Speak to Rabbi Kadoch to find the right class for you

*7026 Bathurst Street - Downstairs Synagogue
(Coffee and tea available)*



Sephardic
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Centre

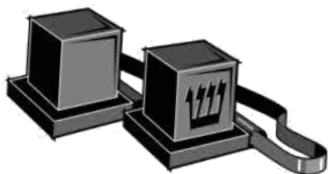
MESILAT YESHARIM

With Rabbi David Kadoch

SHABBAT AFTERNOONS

The book that every
Jew must learn!

Beginning Saturday April 29th
45 minutes before Tehilim - Main Synagogue



Bar Mitzva Club

Learning and sports
with Rabbi Pinto
Tuesday nights
6:10 - 7:45 pm

Sephardic Kehila Centre
Lower level midrash

Sponsorships Available

