

SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE

ABIR YAAKOB CONGREGATION

President
Jimmy Keslassy
Vice President
Isaac Cohen

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 Re'eh פרשת ראה

Shabbat August 12th 2023, כה' אב תשפ"ג / 25 Av 5783
Perasha Page 998 Haftarah 1199 ענינה 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	8:09 p.m.
שחרית מניין החיד"א (ותיקין) Shacharit Ha'Hida Vatikim	5:20 a.m.
Shiur Hilchot Shabbat (postponed)	8:30 a.m.
שחרית Shacharit (Main Synagogue)	9:00 a.m.
Shiur Mesilat Yesharim (postponed)	6:50 p.m.
תהלים Tehilim	7:15 p.m.
מנחה Mincha	7:45 p.m.
שבת שבע טוב Shabbat Ends	9:14 p.m.



Shabbat Zemanim- Netz- נץ- 6:19 am, Keriat Shema- שקיעה- 8:26 pm, Shekia- 9:50 am, קריאת שמע

Weekday Services

שחרית Shacharit Sunday	שחרית Shacharit Weekdays
ותיקין Vatikim 5:40 a.m.	ותיקין Vatikim 5:40 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim 8:00 a.m.	מקדימים Makdimim 6:30 a.m.
קבועים Kebuim 9:00 a.m.	קבועים Kebuim 8:00 a.m.
	מנחה Mincha 6:40 p.m.
	ערבית Arbit Arbit immediately following Mincha

Mazal Tov

Mr. & Mrs. Josh and Biba Atara Rais on their recent wedding
Proud Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Reuben and Naomi Benquesus and Mr. & Mrs. Yechiel and Yael Rais
Proud Grand-Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Jack and Biba Benquesus, Mr. & Mrs. Jenö and Judith Gal,
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold and Sally Rais, Mr. & Mrs. Sruly and Debbie Karoly
Proud Great Grand-Parents: Mrs. Mira Kipper, Mrs. Ida Karoly and Mrs. Bella Lehrer

Happy Anniversary

•Victor & Ilana Arrobas •Meyer & Suzy Benchetrit •Joseph & Lana Shemesh

Happy Birthday

Samara Mazin, Judy Kadoch, Ethan Kliaman, Deborah Rothenberg,
Samuel Serruya, Lee Benchetrit, Bracha Bohbot, Hootan Tabesh,
Reut Cohen, Yehuda Bohbot, Dustin Stein, Daniel Shemesh, Joe Boussidan,
Jordan Levy, David Cohen, Robert Abtan



Nahalot

Zamila Mouyal ז"ל 26 Av / Sunday August 13th
Mindel Adina Gal-Kurtz ז"ל, Simon Elgrichi ז"ל, Yael Brigitte Nahmias ז"ל 27 Av / Monday August 14th
Mercedes Benmergui ז"ל, Freidel Stefania Gal ז"ל 28 Av / Tuesday Aug. 15th
Saada Assayag ז"ל 30 Av / Thursday August 17th
Messod Assayag ז"ל 1 Elul / Friday August 18th

Nahalot for the following week

Shoshana Rosenberg ז"ל, Abraham Shvartsman ז"ל 2 Elul / Shabbat August 19th
Sarah Benatar ז"ל 3 Elul / Sunday August 20th
Ezra Totah ז"ל, Shamil Kardashov ז"ל 4 Elul / Monday August 21st
David Cohen ז"ל, Salomon 'Shlomo' Benarroch ז"ל, Osvaldo Faierman ז"ל 6 Elul / Wednesday August 23rd
David Revivo ז"ל 7 Elul / Thursday August 24th
Jacob Benmergui ז"ל, Mary Benchimol ז"ל, Sol Serfaty-DeCohen ז"ל, 8 Elul / Friday August 25th

Synagogue News

Baruch Dayan Ha'emet

We are sad to announce the passing of Mr. Bentsian Prosmushkin z"l, father of our dear member Mrs. Svetlana Benchetrit and to Ms. Nina Blumin and husband to Mrs. Alisa Prosmushkin.
May his neshama rest eternally in Gan Eden.

Rosh Hodesh Elul

Rosh Hodesh Elul is this coming Thursday and Friday (begins Wednesday night)

Farewell

On behalf of the Kahal Kadosh, we extend a hearty farewell to **Rabbi Yitzhak Hakak and his family** who will be moving to Hollywood Florida this week. Rabbi Hakak has been voluntarily giving a nightly shiur following Arvit for the last few months and has been a wonderful addition and source of inspiration for many of our community members. We thank him for sharing his incredible wisdom with us and we wish him much hatzlaha in his new synagogue and kehila in Florida.

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 Shabbat Kiddush is 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 Mincha on Shabbat to hear this week's insight.

**This week's Seuda Shelishit is sponsored by
The Sephardic Kehila Centre**

Everyone is Welcome

Mesilat Yesharim - postponed this week

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.

Absence

Rabbi Kadoch will be away from Tuesday Aug. 8th until Monday Aug. 14th. If needed for serious inquiries or issues, please contact him via WhatsApp only.

Synagogue Cleanliness

Over the last few months, we have witnessed a number of people attending Tefila on Shabbat who bring water bottles, coffee cups and glasses of water into the main sanctuary. Not only have we have seen examples of people spilling liquids on siddurim and on the carpet of the sanctuary; but our staff is constantly pulling bottles and cups out of book holders where they can cause damage. While it is best to leave all liquids outside the main sanctuary (and prayer areas), we ask people to be respectful of the environment and to clean up after themselves and their children, if they do bring liquids into the sanctuary.

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.

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.

Send an email to calendar@kehilacentre.com with your interest and to receive a price list

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)

Parashat Re'eh 5783 - Recognizing another's dignity and worth

Rabbi David Kadoch

In Parashat Re'eh, we encounter a profound message about charity and the importance of helping those in need. The Torah instructs us to open our hearts and hands to the less fortunate among us, promising blessings and abundance for those who respond with generosity and compassion. One of the central themes of Parashat Re'eh is the commandment of "tzedaka," which translates to righteousness or charity. The Torah emphasizes that we must not harden our hearts or turn away from those who are in need. Instead, we are called upon to be open-handed and ready to assist our fellow human beings, regardless of their circumstances.

Tzedaka is not simply an act of kindness or a gesture of goodwill; it is a fundamental part of our ethical and spiritual obligations. Through giving charity, we acknowledge the interconnectedness of all humanity and recognize our responsibility to care for one another as children of the same Creator.

The Hebrew word "tzedaka" is derived from the root "tzedek," which means righteousness or justice. Thus, charitable acts are not acts of charity alone; they are acts of justice. By sharing our resources and blessings with those in need, we are striving to create a more just and equitable society, fulfilling the divine call to pursue justice and righteousness.

It is no secret that as a community we encounter many individuals who come weekly to collect tzedaka from us. We should be willing to give charity to people who come to collect tzedaka, even if they come frequently because our tradition teaches us the importance of compassion and empathy. The act of giving tzedaka is not solely about the frequency of the recipient's visits but about recognizing the inherent dignity and worth of every individual. Our sages emphasize that even if someone comes often, we should not turn them away empty-handed, for we never truly know the weight of their burden or the challenges they may be facing. By displaying generosity and kindness, we create a culture of empathy and support, and our charitable actions can uplift the spirits of those in need, inspiring hope and reminding us of the values we hold dear as a community.

As we immerse ourselves in the teachings of the parasha, let us reflect on the profound significance of charity. Let us cultivate a spirit of generosity and compassion, looking for opportunities to uplift and support those around us. Just as the Torah promises blessings for those who respond with an open heart, may our acts of tzedaka bring blessings not only to those we help but also to ourselves and our community. In this way, we can fulfill the timeless commandment of tzedaka and contribute to a world filled with kindness, justice, and love.

Parashat Re'eh- We Can Take Moshe's Word for It

by Rabbi Eli Mansour

Parashat Re'eh begins with Moshe telling Beneh Yisrael, "See that I am presenting you today with a blessing and a curse." He then proceeds to explain that the people will earn G-d's blessings by fulfilling His commands, and they will be subject to the opposite, Heaven forbid, if they disobey.

The Or Ha'haim Ha'kadosh (Rav Haim Ben-Attar, 1696-1743) raises a number of questions regarding this verse. First, he asks why Moshe begins his address with the word "Re'eh" – "See," instead of telling the people to "listen" to what he was telling them. Secondly, Moshe here uses the word "Anochi" for "I," instead of the more common word, "Ani." Normally, the word "Anochi" is used to emphasize exclusion as though saying, "Specifically I", or, "I and nobody else." Why would Moshe use the word "Anochi" in this context?

The Or Ha'haim answers that when a person seeks to urge his audience to choose spiritual engagement over indulgence in physical and material pleasures, they will not likely pay attention to him unless he is familiar with both the delights of spiritual achievement, as well as physical enjoyments. It is not enough for him to have acquired spiritual excellence; he must also have experienced worldly delights, so that he can

confidently tell his audience that the joy of spiritual engagement exceeds that of worldly pleasures. Otherwise, they will dismiss his words of admonition, claiming that he urges them to forego worldly delights for the sake of spirituality only because he has not had opportunities to indulge in worldly pleasures.

Moshe therefore begins his address to the people by telling them to "see" that it is he, Moshe, who is urging them to choose the blessing of spirituality over the curse of exclusive focus on worldly delights. Moshe enjoyed honor, prestige and wealth – but also unparalleled spiritual greatness, even spending forty days and nights atop Mount Sinai without food or water, receiving the Torah. He was well acquainted with both realms – the physical and the spiritual – and so he, more than anybody else, could be trusted to tell us which of the two realms we should choose.

The Or Ha'haim adds that this explanation of the verse also answers a third question – why Moshe here uses the singular form, "Re'eh," even though he was addressing the entire nation. Normally, the Or Ha'haim writes, when somebody speaks to a large audience, each person understands the presenter's words in a different way, or comes away with a different perspective on the words that were spoken. Sometimes, however, the speaker presents an idea so clearly, compellingly and effectively, that there is only one way to understand his words, and everybody walks away with the same message.

Moshe's point in this verse was perfectly clear – that he, more than anybody else whoever lived, was in a position to urge us to choose spirituality over excessive indulgence in worldly delights. This message was so compelling that all the people heard and understood it the precise same way. And so Moshe says to them, "Re'eh" – as though they were seeing this message as a single individual.

We might find it difficult to sacrifice convenience and comfort for the sake of Torah study, prayer, and Misva observance. The benefits of the physical and material world are clear and obvious, whereas the benefits of Torah and Misvot are not readily discernible. But we must remember that we can take Moshe Rabbenu's word for it. We can trust him that there is no greater or more precious privilege than devoting ourselves to the service of our Creator. The sacrifice of our time, money and convenience for learning and Misvot is well worth it, because the blessings we stand to gain by committing ourselves to Hashem far exceed any benefits that the physical world can possibly offer us.



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)

PLEASE JOIN THE SEPHARDIC WOMEN OF TORONTO FOR
AN EVENING OF UNITY AND INSPIRATION
WITH SOCIAL MEDIA AND LIFESTYLE INFLUENCER



CEO
AND
FOUNDER

GALI'S COUTURE WIGS

Charlene Aminoff
"HODU L'HASHEM"
LIVE IN TORONTO

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2023

DOORS OPEN AT 7:15 PM

PETAH TIKVA CONGREGATION

20 DANBY AVENUE

COUVERT \$26.00

REGISTER HERE

EVENT SPONSORS:

ELIAS BENAÏM & CHILDREN, IN MEMORY OF MRS. DEENIE BENAÏM Z"L

JOE & RUTH BITTON AND JACK & LILY BITTON

IN HONOUR OF RABBI MESSOD AZOULAY, MR. MAURICE OHAYON, & MR. MAX ARROBAS

JACK & SIMONE OZIEL, IN MEMORY OF MRS. ESTHER BENARROCH Z"L

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Petah Tikva

TEENS ONLY

10 SEPTEMBER 2023

PT + SKC

Petah Tikva + Sephardic Kehila Centre

GO KART
EVENT

MEET @5:00PM - PETAH TIKVA
Carpools leave at 5:30

LOCATION:

MINI INDY

575 CENTENNIAL PARK BOULEVARD,
ONTARIO, CANADA M9C 4V1

PRICE: \$30

KARTING AND FOOD IS INCLUDED

ADDITIONAL COST:

- ARCADE
- BATTING CAGES
- VOLLEYBALL COURTS

RSVP BY: AUGUST 28

For more information contact:

melissaoziel@gmail.com

THE NEXT CHAPTER OF JEWISH HISTORY

Talk on Jewish Empowerment
& Uniting the Nation of Israel

08/21/2023

8:00 PM

Sephardic Kehila Center
7026 Bathurst St. Thornhill,
On L4J 8K3

\$36

Students: \$18

<https://tinyurl.com/rudyincanada>



With Rudy Rochman