

# SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE

## ABIR YAAKOB CONGREGATION

President  
Jimmy Keslassy  
Vice President  
Isaac Cohen



שבת שלום      ברוכים הבאים  
*Shabbat Shalom      Welcome to our Synagogue*

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

*Shabbat Shofetim* פרשת שופטים

Shabbat August 19th 2023, ב' אלול תשפ"ג, 2 Elul 5783  
Perasha Page 1024 Haftarah 1199 אנכי in Artscroll

### Shabbat Prayer Times

מנחה Mincha (Main Synagogue)	6:35 p.m.
הדלקת נרות Candle Lighting - Early Shabbat	7:20 p.m.
הדלקת נרות Candle Lighting - Standard	7:59 p.m.
שחרית מניין החיד"א (ותיקין) Shaharit Ha'Hida Vatikim	5:25 a.m.
Shiur Hilchot Shabbat (postponed)	8:30 a.m.
שחרית Shaharit (Main Synagogue)	9:00 a.m.
Shiur Mesilat Yesharim	6:15 p.m.
תהלים Tehilim	7:00 p.m.
מנחה Mincha	7:30 p.m.
שבת שבע טוב Shabbat Ends	9:02 p.m.



Shabat Zemanim- Netz- נץ- 6:27 am, Keriat Shema- קריאת שמע- 9:53 am, Shekia- שקיעה- 8:15 pm

### Weekday Services

שחרית Shaharit Sunday	שחרית Shaharit Weekdays
וטיקין Vatikim 5:50 a.m.	וטיקין Vatikim 5:50 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 6:35 p.m.
	ערבית Arbit Arbit immediately following Mincha

### Happy Anniversary

•Henri & Chantal Ohayon •Joseph & Rose Bouaziz •Elias & Adina Toby  
•Rafael & Michal Prieu

### Happy Birthday

Samuel Wexler, Yehuda Rahimy, Moshe Bitton, Nehama Meckler,  
Samantha Benchetrit, Emilie Cohen, Svetlana Benchetrit, Mayan Hyams,  
Daniel Amar

שופטים



## Nahalot

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

## Nahalot for the following week

Mercedes Serruya ז"ל 9 Elul / Sunday August 26th  
Esther Azoulay ז"ל 12 Elul / Tuesday August 29th  
David Menahem Nacson ז"ל 13 Elul / Wednesday Aug. 30th  
Aileen Ossowski ז"ל 14 Elul / Thursday August 31st

## Synagogue News

### Mishmara - Carlos Shalom Abitbol z"l

The unveiling for Mr. Carlos Shalom Abitbol z"l will be on Sunday, August 20th, at 10 am at Pardes Shalom Cemetery. The mishmara will be at Petah Tikvah the same day (Sunday, August 20th) starting with Minha at 6:30 pm.

### Selihot

Beginning Sunday, Selihot begins 45 minutes before each minyan. Please make every effort to attend to ensure minyan. Tizku LaMitzvot

### 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 Minha on Shabbat to hear this week's insight.

**This week's Seuda Shelishit is sponsored by**

- ◆ Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy and Limor Keslassy in memory of her mother, Shoshana Rosenberg z"l
- ◆ Mr. & Mrs. Eli and Ruth Revivo, in memory of his father David Revivo z"l
- ◆ Ms. Bella Kardashova, in memory of her father Shomil Kardashov z"l
- ◆ Ms. Mila Nassimova and Ms. Bella Kardashova in memory of their sister, Jenia Nassimova z"l

*Everyone is Welcome*

### A Very Special Thank you

Abir Yaakob Congregation and the Sephardic Community would like to take this opportunity to thank **Mrs. Clarita Bensalmon**, for her years of dedication to our Mikve Ma'ayan HaSimcha. Mrs. Bensalmon joined our Mikve as an attendant since its inception in 1998. Her commitment to upholding the value of Taharat HaMishpacha in our community is exemplary. We wish **Rabbi and Mrs. Bensalmon** a safe move filled with only health, happiness and prosperity.

### Farewell

On behalf of the Kahal Kadosh, we extend a hearty farewell to all the young boys and girls of our Kehila who will be leaving this week to Israel to study in Yeshivot or Seminaries. We wish you much hatzlacha in your year of learning and we hope to see you back safe and healthy when it's all done.

### Mesilat Yesharim

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.

### 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.

### Membership Update

Thank you, members and friends, for your membership and commitment to our community and shared goals in enhancing our culture and worship for current and future generations. It's that time of year where we ask you to reinforce that loving commitment by renewing your membership before the upcoming High Holidays. In the next few weeks, we will be sending out statements to all members with the dues for the year coming 5784. We ask you to be proactive in making arrangements to pay any outstanding pledges along with next year's renewal in order to receive High Holiday tickets.

We Look Forward To Bringing In The New Year Together  
If you have any questions, please call Yitzhak in the office at 905-669-7654 x200 or email at yer@kehilacentre.com

### 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)

## Shofetim 5783 - Lacking Expertise

*Rabbi David Kadoch*

The opening mitzvah of this week's parasha details the requirement to place judges and officers to rule and enforce the laws of society. The Torah understands the essentiality to impose fines and penal codes when required to keep law and order. The judges are then asked to "judge the people with righteous judgment" - "ve'shafetu et ha'am mishpat tzedek." One can ask that this requirement is self-explanatory. Why would a judge do anything besides judge righteously? If the verse implies not to take bribes, this wouldn't be correct since the next verses instruct the judges not to take bribes. So what is the purpose of this obvious statement?

Rashi answers that these words are meant to teach us to "Appoint judges who are expert and righteous so that they will judge justly." In other words, when choosing the judges, make sure that they are experts in their field because otherwise, they will not be able to judge correctly. To judge with righteousness means that your area of study needs to be mastered before ruling on any matter. Otherwise, you would be prone to err, and "righteousness" would be severely affected.

Nowhere do we see this to be as important as the area of halacha. Often I encounter individuals who are all too ready to offer their halachic analysis on a subject only to be completely off track with their line of thinking. They believe that with minimal exposure to a subject, or a small shiur they heard once upon a time, they are ready to be "posek" (rule) on halachic matters. These men (or women) are skewing the truth and twisting righteous judgment. They are in no place to judge, rule, or decide on anything but yet, they feel that they can comment and speak their mind with no basis whatsoever. I wouldn't share my opinions on the future of the stock market if I have no knowledge or education on the subject. So why is the judgment on Jewish law any different? Ruling on a halachic matter is no joke. There is a lot at stake and simply stating what you "feel" should be the halacha, or what you believe is right or wrong only causes more confusion. Lacking expertise is exactly what the Torah warns us about at the start of this parasha. In fact, the directive is towards the judges themselves, not the laymen. Because even the judges are experts in only certain areas and thus they must be reminded, that if you don't hold expertise in a certain subject, stay away and pass it on. All the more so, when it comes to people who barely have a halacha study background.

I advise one of the following two options. First, begin the study. If you want to state your opinion, then study the subject. Open the appropriate sefarim and delve into the beauty of our Torah and halachic decisions. If that is too difficult, then choose option two. Don't give your opinion and let the experts (the Rabbis) judge accordingly. Rabbis are traditionally tasked with ruling on halacha matters because they are extensively trained and knowledgeable in Jewish law, ethics, and tradition. Their expertise allows them to interpret and apply the complex and nuanced principles of halacha to various situations, guiding individuals and communities in accordance with Jewish teachings. This specialization ensures that halacha is upheld and practiced accurately, maintaining the integrity of religious observance and fostering a sense of unity within the Jewish community. By confining their rulings to halacha matters, rabbis can provide authoritative and informed guidance on religious and legal issues, ensuring that individuals receive accurate and contextually relevant advice. In other words, they deliver "righteous judgment."

## Elul- Taking Back Our Time

*by Rabbi Eli Mansour*

### Elul- Taking Back Our Time

We are all familiar with the Rabbis' teaching that "Elul," the name of the month of repentance that precedes Rosh Hashanah, can be read as an acrostic representing the verse, "Ani Le'dodi Ve'dodi Li" ("I am for my Beloved, and my Beloved is for me" - Shir Hashirim 6:3). This name expresses the responsibility we have during the month of Elul to work toward strengthening our connection to Hashem.

The Arizal (Rav Yishak Luria, Safed, 1534-1572), however, found a different - and far more mysterious - allusion in the name "Elul." He taught that the name "Elul" references a verse in the Book of Shemot (21:13) that speaks of a situation of accidental murder. The Torah there writes that if a person had no ill intent, "Ve'ha'Elokim Ina Le'yado" - and G-d brought upon a situation whereby he mistakenly killed somebody, then "Ve'samti Lecha Makom Asher Yanus Shama" - G-d will designate a place where the killer can find refuge from the victim's angry relatives. This refers to the "Areh Miklat" - the cities of refuge where accidental killers were protected. The Arizal noted that the first letters of the words "Ina Le'yado Ve'samti Lecha" in this verse spell the word "Elul."

According to the Arizal, then, Elul is our "city of refuge," where we seek protection.

We must understand, however, why we require the kind of protection provided for an accidental killer. We certainly have all made mistakes, and need to work to improve ourselves. But how many of us have mistakenly taken somebody's life? Why do we need an "Ir Miklat"?

To answer this question, let us consider a Halacha relevant to the unfortunate situation of a "Goses" - a person who is breathing his final breaths of life. The Rambam rules that it is forbidden to even touch a "Goses," or close his eyes, because this could cause the patient to die a moment sooner than he would otherwise. If one accelerates the patient's death, the Rambam writes, even by just a moment, then he is guilty of murder.

Rav Chaim Friedlander (1923-1986) noted the broader implications of this Halacha. If it is considered murder to take away one moment of life from an ill, incapacitated patient, then we cannot even imagine the severity of wasting time that could have been used productively. If we are healthy and able to produce, achieve, accomplish, give, contribute and make a difference, but we instead use our time for vain, useless activities - or, as they say in our society, if we "kill" our time - then we have, in a certain sense, committed suicide. We have taken time away from our lives.

This is why we require Elul, our "city of refuge" where we repent - because we are guilty of inadvertent "murder." We of course never intend to waste our time. Nobody gets up in

u[p] in the morning planning to have unproductive day. But we get distracted, we get lazy, we are tempted by the many lures around us, and we end up wasting so much precious time, such that we commit "murder." Hashem has given us Elul as our "Ir Miklat," our opportunity to cure this ill, to earn atonement for the large chunks of time that we have "killed."

When I am asked to speak about the spiritual challenges posed by modern-day technology, this is, generally, the point that I try to emphasize. Of course, there are real challenges presented by the inappropriate, destructive content that technology makes available at all times. But even if somebody is able to protect himself from this content through filters, he is still prone to "kill" enormous amounts of time. Not everything that isn't inappropriate is valuable. So much of what people do on their phones is not necessarily forbidden, but is terribly wasteful. Time that could be used for Torah learning, for Hesed, for family time, for strengthening our relationships with family members, and other valuable pursuits, is being wasted on sheer nonsense.

This Elul, as we have entered the "Ir Miklat," let us work on correcting this problem. Let us resolve to use our time properly, to limit our screen time, to direct our focus and attention on the things that really matter. And if we use our time well, then Hashem will give us more time here in His world, many more long, healthy years in which to achieve, be productive, and fulfill the mission for which we were sent here.





# 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



*Charlene Aminoff*  
"HODU L'HASHEM"  
LIVE IN TORONTO

GALI'S COUTURE WIGS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 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](mailto: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