

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 Vayera פרשת וירא

Shabbat November 4th 2023, כ' חשוון תשפ"ד / 20 Heshvan 5784
Perasha Page 78 Haftarah 1134 ואשה in Artscroll

Shabbat Prayer Times

מנחה Mincha (Main Synagogue)	5:45 p.m.
הדלקת נרות Candle Lighting	5:47 p.m.
שחרית מניין החיד"א (ותיקין) Shacharit Ha'Hida Vatikim	7:00 a.m.
Shiur Hilchot Shabbat	8:15 a.m.
שחרית Shacharit (Main Synagogue)	8:45 a.m.
תהלים Tehilim	4:50 p.m.
מנחה Mincha	5:20 p.m.
שבת טוב Shabbat Ends	6:49 p.m.



Shabat Zemanim- Netz- נץ- 7:57 am, Keriat Shema- שמע 10:29 am, Shekia- שקיעה 6:04 pm

Weekday Services

שחרית Shacharit Sunday	שחרית Shacharit Weekdays
ותיקין Vatikim 6:20 a.m.	ותיקין Vatikim 6:20 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 4:50 p.m.
	ערבית Arbit Arbit immediately following Mincha

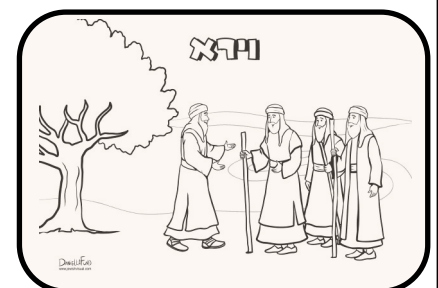
Mazal Tov

Mr. & Mrs. Isaac and Shani Oziel on their recent wedding
Proud Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Sam and Renee Oziel and Mr. & Mrs. David and Miriam Avraham
Proud Grandparents: Mrs. Anna Halioua, Mr. & Mrs. Avraham and Frida Chaminov and Mrs. Rachel Abramov

Mr & Mrs. Jeremy and Shirel Benchaya on their recent wedding in Montreal
Proud Grandfather: Mr. Yaacov Medina

Happy Birthday

Rebecca Shemesh, Talia Elimelech, Marcus Cohen,
Rafael Sheps Douek, Simona Bitton,
Mercedes Maman de Cohen, Eitan Amar, Sarah Abtan,
Daniel Nahmias, Esther Bensimon, Simha Bensimon,
Aaron Cohen, Sydney Ohayon



Nahalot

Salomon Abikher ז"ל **20 Heshvan** / Shabbat November 4th
Nina Keslassy ז"ל, Isaac Bentolila ז"ל **21 Heshvan** / Sunday Nov 5th Lily
Medina ז"ל, Rachel Elgrichi ז"ל **22 Heshvan** / Tuesday Nov 6th
Elazar Benshabat ז"ל, Hugo Faierman ז"ל, Haim Cohen ז"ל **23 Heshvan** /
Tuesday Nov. 7th
Luna Moyal ז"ל, Samuel Benchimol ז"ל **24 Heshvan** / Wed. Nov. 8th
Yehuda Leon Sevi ז"ל **25 Heshvan** / Thursday Nov. 9th
Samuel Cohen ז"ל **26 Heshvan** / Friday Nov. 10th

Nahalot for the following week

Claudine Touboul ז"ל **29 Heshvan** / Monday Nov. 13th
Gisele Amar ז"ל, Simha (Simi) Dayan ז"ל, Moshe Aharon ז"ל, Simha Hazan
ז"ל **2 Kislev** / Wednesday Nov. 15th
Rica Assayag ז"ל, Perla Beniluz ז"ל, Joseph Assayag ז"ל **3 Kislev** /
Thursday November 16th

Synagogue News

Condolences

We extend our condolences to our dear Parnass and Member, Mr. Avi Azuelos on the passing of his brother-in-law Mr. Maurice Loeb ז"ל, and husband to Rebecca Azuelos and father to Noah. May his neshama rest eternally in Gan Eden and may we only hear Besorot Tovot. Amen.

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.

The Sephardic Kehila Centre

Everyone is Welcome

Seuda Shelishit

This week's Seuda Shelishit is sponsored by:

- Mr. & Mrs. Moses and Mercedes Bendayan in loving memory of Isaac Bentolila ז"ל
- The Benchimol family in loving memory of Samuel Benchimol ז"ל
- Mr. & Mrs. Chemaya and Perla Keslassy in loving memory of Nina Keslassy ז"ל

Everyone is Welcome

Time Change Reminder

Don't forget to Turn clocks one hour BACK Saturday night



Early Risers, Early Gainers

Rabbi Kadoch's Shabbat morning Shiur prior to Shaharit continues this Shabbat at 8:15am.

Tefilot and Piyutim

The young boys of the community, led by Adam Ohayon, continue learning the songs and melodies that make our services unique. To have your child participate, bring him 30 minutes before Mincha on Shabbat afternoon.

Special Shiur by Efi Palvanov

Now bi-weekly at the SKC

Join Efi Palvanov and his exciting series of classes every other week on Wednesdays in the Downstairs Synagogue. Next class is this Wednesday. See you there!

SKC Enhanced Security

Dear SKC Community,

I hope this email finds you well and that your able to find support and ways to cope with the current situation. We remain deeply concerned about the events in Israel. Many of our community members and families have family in Israel and we pray for their safety and well-being. We send our deepest sympathies to those who have suffered loss or who are missing loved ones.

Top of mind for us at the Sephardic Kehila Centre is the safety of our building attendees. The security team met this week and expect an on-going process of assessing the situation and making adjustments as necessary. Here is some more information about what to expect.

Heightened Security:

We have witnessed and have been informed of increased police presence in the area, nevertheless, during shabbat services for the next several weeks we've hired off-duty police to be present during services in addition to the security we currently have in place.

We ask for the SKC community to exercise a heightened degree of healthy vigilance and situational awareness.

Extra attention should be paid in ensuring all security protocols are being followed, particularly regarding entrances and doors that should remain locked.

Kids Program:

As always, we encourage parents to bring their children to the centre and feel comfortable that they are in a safe and healthy environment with programs and activities and ask you to reinforce with your children that they should always remain in the program until they are picked up by you or remain seated next to you in the sanctuary. We won't allow the wondering in the halls of any child unattended. Your assistance in the matter will be appreciated.

Volunteers Needed:

Security measures have been prepared for the safety and security of all who attend but we are asking for additional volunteers to help our current volunteer team. Now more than ever we need your assistance. Please reach out directly to one of our board members or security team members of your interest.

Wishing strength to Israel, and peace and security to us all.

SECURITY UPDATE:

THE SECURITY COMMITTEE & BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS DECIDED TO IMPLEMENT A NEW SECURITY MEASURE FOR OUR MEMBERS AND ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS OF THE BUILDING:

A FOB system has been installed at all Main Entrance points into the building. We encourage all active participants to collect from our office (mon-fri 9-5) their own personal registered FOB Key. This will allow you access into the building at set times during the day and night allowing for the consistent locking of our entrance doors.

Refundable Security Deposit Required

Security Committee & Board of Directors

Security measures have been prepared for the safety and security of all who attend but we ask you to be vigilant and be reminded to report any suspicious activity that you witness to a staff member, member of the board or member of security team.

Jean-Claude Abtan -- Elias Anidjar -- Mose Bendayan -- Sol Benchetrit -- Eric Benchetrit -- Isaac Cohen -- Oren Dishy -- Oren Hyams

If you see something, say something.

PARASHA PRISMS: New Shiur for men and women

Couples and/or singles of all ages and levels are welcome to join our brand new shiur focused on the weekly parasha and its profound life lessons delivered by our own Rabbi Kadoch.

Every Monday at 7:30pm

Weekly Shiurim

Midrash by Night - **8:00-9:30 pm** Tuesday and Thursdays

Parashat HaShavua - **7:30 pm** Monday / **8:15 pm** Bilvavi-Mussar

Hilchot Shabbat - Shabbat at **8:15 am** Main Synagogue

Gemara Sanhedrin - Sundays at **7:15 am** Downstairs synagogue

Vayera 5784 - Recognizing godliness in everyone

Rabbi David Kadoch

In this week's Torah portion, we encounter a profound lesson in the harmonious relationship between the spiritual and the physical, as demonstrated by the actions of our patriarch, Avraham. Avraham's unwavering dedication to the mitzvah of hachnasat orchim, or welcoming guests, prompts us to delve deeper into the nature of this fundamental practice. As we explore the reasons behind Avraham's choice to cease his Divine conversation in favor of extending hospitality to the three strangers, we gain insight into the idea that respecting and welcoming others is, in fact, a direct path to welcoming the Divine presence. Avraham's example teaches us that recognizing the godliness in every individual is an essential aspect of our faith and a key to truly welcoming Hashem into our lives.

As a result of the hospitality Avraham displayed to the angelic guests, Avraham ceased to speak to the Divine presence that was currently dwelling upon him. For the purpose of the mitzvah, Avraham stopped a Godly conversation for a physical one. The Gemara learns from here that hospitality is as great as receiving the shechina." While this remains the source for performing hospitality to the end of the degree, where did Avraham learn this idea from? What stirred his response to leave the shechina for the purpose of the people knocking on his door. Secondly, the logic behind the statement is difficult to understand. How can it be that hachnasat orchim, as important as it is, can be more vital to receiving the word of Hashem?

The answer is that when a person honours his counterpart and thereby respecting the godly spirit that resides in that person, there is no greater welcoming of the shechina than this and Avraham realized this idea before anybody. Rabbi Sacks zt"l explains that Avraham, as the founder of monotheism, knew the paradox that in order to live a life of faith and belief in Hashem, means to see his stamp on every person, even a stranger. It's easy to welcome His presence when he presents Himself as a God. But it's more complex to do so when it's hidden behind the faces of three men dressed in arab garb. This was the greatness of Avraham. He believed wholeheartedly that Avodat Hashem and Hachnasat Orchim are one and the same, not two separate entities or requirements.

In conclusion, the lesson we can draw from this is that the mitzvah of hachnasat orchim goes beyond mere acts of kindness; it is a means of perceiving the divine spark within each person we encounter. Avraham's wisdom in recognizing the godliness in strangers, even when disguised as mere travelers, demonstrates the unity between our service to Hashem and our treatment of fellow human beings. This lesson calls on us to always seek and honor the Divine within others, reminding us that the mitzvah of hachnasat orchim is not just a good deed but a spiritual practice that brings us closer to God. Therefore, let us strive to cultivate a habit of seeing the godliness in every person, embracing the mitzvah of hospitality as a bridge between our earthly encounters and our connection to the Divine, fostering a world filled with kindness, understanding, and love.

Parashat Vayera- Keeping It Private

by Rabbi Eli Mansour

The Torah in Parashat Vayera tells the story of the destruction of Sodom, a wicked city which G-d condemned to annihilation. Before destroying the city, G-d sent two angels to rescue Lot – Abraham's nephew – who had taken residence in Sodom. Rashi (19:29) makes a perplexing comment explaining why Lot deserved to be rescued. Lot was saved, Rashi writes, in the merit of a favor which he did for his uncle, Abraham. When Abraham was forced to briefly move to Egypt because of the harsh famine that struck Eretz Yisrael, he and his wife, Sara, posed as siblings. Abraham feared that Egyptian men might desire Sara and thus kill him so she would be available for marriage. In order to protect his life, he and Sara had no choice but to pretend that they were brother and sister. Lot, who had accompanied Abraham and Sara, went along with the plan, and did not reveal to anyone in Egypt that Sara was actually Abraham's wife, and not his sister. In this merit, Lot was deserving of being rescued from Sodom before the city's annihilation.

The obvious question arises, why was this considered such a significant source of merit? What was so special about Lot keeping this secret about Abraham and Sara's relationship?

The answer to this question perhaps can be found in a teaching of the Gemara, in Masechet Megilla (13b). The Gemara writes that in the merit of Rachel's *Seniut* ("modesty"), she was worthy of having a de-

scendant, Shaul, who would become king over Israel. And in the merit of Shaul's *Seniut*, the Gemara then states, he was deserving of having a great descendant of his own – Queen Ester, who likewise had this quality of *Seniut*. The Gemara explains that the term "*Seniut*" in this context refers not to a style of dress, but rather to the ability to remain private, to keep quiet when necessary. Rachel did not divulge to Yaakov before what was to have been their wedding night that she had taught Leah the special signals that she and Yaakov had arranged before the wedding. Shaul complied with the prophet Shmuel's instruction not to tell anybody that he had been chosen to be king. And Ester obeyed Mordechai's instruction not to mention that she was Jewish. It emerges from the Gemara that Shaul and Ester rose to royalty in the merit of this quality of privacy, of reticence, of remaining quiet, keeping things to oneself rather than freely talking and spreading information, either about oneself or about others.

Rashi makes his comment about Lot's merit for remaining silent just before the story of Lot's incestuous relationships with his daughters, which produced a son, Moab. Centuries later, Rut, a descendant of Moab, was born. Rut, of course, was the great-grandmother of David Ha'melech, and she was thus the matriarch of the Davidic dynasty, which will culminate with Mashiach. Rashi is perhaps alluding to us that Lot earned this great privilege, of fathering the eternal dynasty of Jewish kings, in the merit of his "*Seniut*" – his quality of remaining quiet when necessary. Lot lived in a society where one person's business instantly became everyone's business. He invited the

angels – who appeared as ordinary travelers – into his home, and soon the entire city assembled outside his home and demanded that they be handed over. The society of Sodom marked the antithesis of "*Seniut*," of privacy. Despite living among such people, Lot retained this quality, and for this reason, he was worthy of fathering the Davidic dynasty.

This area has become very challenging in our times. Today it has become accepted to broadcast everything, to send pictures of ourselves and the activities we're involved in to hundreds of people using our devices. People are on social media platforms trying desperately to draw attention to themselves – the precise opposite of *Seniut*. Who knows if what's delaying the arrival of Mashiach, the restoration of the Jewish dynasty, is this lack of *Seniut*, of discretion, or privacy, the way we broadcast ourselves as much as possible.

We began by asking why Lot deserved so much credit for remaining silent in Egypt, keeping to himself the information about Abraham and Sara being married. But if we take an honest look at our own habits, at how quickly we rush to spread private information around, we have our answer. It indeed takes a great deal of discipline to keep quiet, and not divulge "juicy" information that we have. We need to examine ourselves in this area, and recommit ourselves to the timeless value of *Seniut*, of remaining silent when silence is warranted, and keeping our private information, and other people's private information, private, out of public view.

SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Monday

7:30pm - Parashat HaShavua
(Men & Women)
8:15pm - Bilvavi/Mussar
(Young Men)

Tuesday

8:00-9:30pm - Medrash by Night
(Open Havruta Learning)

Wednesday

8:00pm - Shiur w/ Efi Palvanov
(Men & Women)
*bi-weekly

Thursday

8:00-9:30pm - Medrash by Night
(Open Havruta Learning)

Shabbat

8:15am - Hilchot Shabbat

Sunday

7:15am - Gemara Sanhedrin



For more information on any of the
above shiurim, or to arrange a
Havruta (learning partner) for
Medrash by Night, please contact
Rabbi Kadoch directly.

CAPTIVES OF WAR

*How far can we go to redeem our
loved ones? At what cost?*

**A HALACHIC DISCOURSE
W/ RABBI KADOCH**

**SHABBAT NOVEMBER 4TH
SEUDA SHELISHIT**

*Men and women are invited to hear a short special discourse on the
subject of "Captives of War" delivered by Rabbi Kadoch.
This coming Shabbat during Seuda Shelishit. Mincha at 5:20pm*



LET'S HELP

FREE our captives

PROTECT our soldiers

HEAL our injured

in the zechut of NOT TALKING IN SHUL

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

דע לפני מי אתה עומד

SEPHARDIC COMMUNITY GATHERING

Evening of CHIZUK

WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

**RABBI
JOEY HABER**

RABBI OF MAGEN DAVID, BROOKLYN, NY



THURSDAY NOV 9TH | 6 PM

441 CLARK AVE W. UNIT 7

TORONTO SEPHARDIC KOLLEL EXTENSION IN THE SOBEY'S PLAZA

MEN & WOMEN ARE WELCOME

