

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 Toledot פרשת תולדות

Shabbat November 18th 2023, ה' כסלו תשפ"ד / 5 Kislev 5784
Perasha Page 124 Haftarah 1137 משא in Artsroll

Shabbat Prayer Times

מנחה Mincha (Main Synagogue)	4:30 p.m.
הדלקת נרות Candle Lighting	4:32 p.m.
שחרית מניין החיד"א (ותיקין) Shacharit Ha'Hida Vatikim	6:15 a.m.
Shiur Hilchot Shabbat	8:15 a.m.
שחרית Shacharit (Main Synagogue)	8:45 a.m.
תהלים Tehilim	3:35 p.m.
מנחה Mincha	4:05 p.m.
שבת טוב Shabbat Ends	5:36 p.m.



Shabbat Zemanim- Netz- נץ- 7:16 am, Keriat Shema- שקיעה- 4:49 pm, Shekia- 9:39 am, קריאת שמע

Weekday Services

שחרית Shacharit Sunday	שחרית Shacharit Weekdays
ותיקין Vatikim 6:35 a.m.	ותיקין Vatikim 6:35 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 4:35 p.m.
	ערבית Arbit Arbit immediately following Mincha

Mazal Tov

Mr. & Mrs. David and Dina Azulay on recently celebrating their daughter
Enny's Bat Mitzvah

Proud Grandparents: Mr. & Mrs. Elias and Perla Azulay & Rabbi Yedidya and Donna Ohayon

The SKC Thunder Basketball Team for winning the first game of the season by a score of
63-25 against 601.

Happy Anniversary

•Leon & Sandy Volgyi •Louis & Solange Attias •Maurice & Elise
Benzacar •Ami & Anita Benarroch •Jeff & Merav Benoliel

Happy Birthday

Raphy Amar, Seth Abtan, Emma Benarroch, Eric Bouaziz,
Simon Sabbah, Hava Aboudi, Sarah Azulay, Joseph Bouaziz,
Tehila Elmaleh, Isaac Abitbol, Nathalie Boussidan,
Aaron Serruya, Stephen Dwek, Ely Halioua, Farnaz Amirian,
Chantal Ohayon



Nahalot

Chemaya Keslassy Bar Mordechai ז"ל, Rachel Bitton ז"ל, Mordechai Kadoch ז"ל **5 Kislev** / Shabbat November 18th
Yosef Dayan ז"ל, Amram Saaporta ז"ל, Joseph Dayan ז"ל **6 Kislev** / Sunday Nov 19th
David Nissan ז"ל **7 Kislev** / Monday Nov 20th
Luna Ouaknine ז"ל **8 Kislev** / Tuesday Nov 21st

Nahalot for the following week

Hannah Fruma Chai ז"ל **13 Kislev** / Sunday Nov. 26th
Isaac Beniluz ז"ל, Joseph Benchetrit ז"ל **14 Kislev** / Monday Nov. 27th
Joseph Abitbol ז"ל **15 Kislev** / Tuesday November 28th
Leon Sibony ז"ל, Salomon Cohen ז"ל **16 Kislev** / Wed. November 29th
Esther Chiriqui Saporta ז"ל, Jacob Hassan ז"ל **17 Kislev** / Thursday November 30th
Suzy Esseis ז"ל, Yitzhak Ariei Chai ז"ל **18 Kislev** / Friday Dec. 1st

Synagogue News

Condolences and Mishmara Notice

We are sad to announce the passing of Mr. Vidal Gabay z"l husband to Mrs. Raymond Gabay, father to our dear member and co-head of our sisterhood Joanne Azulay, and to Mrs. Bella Sugar and Mr. Isaac Gabay. The Mishmara of the week will take place at Petah Tikva this Motsae Shabbat starting at 6:15 pm.

Avot U'Banim starts this week!

The weekly father-son learning program begins this Saturday night starting at 7:00PM. Pizza and prizes. (See flyer on back)

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. Sol and Bella Benchetrit in memory of her mother, Rachel Bitton z"l
- ◆ Mrs. Esther Vered in memory of her father, Moshe Ben Aharon z"l
- ◆ Mr & Mrs Meyer & Suzy Benchetrit in memory of her mother, Luna Ouaknine z"l

Everyone is Welcome

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 Minha 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

Toledot 5784 - Making it your own

Rabbi David Kadoch

Rashi, the renowned commentator on Humash, emphasizes the uniqueness of Hashem's response to Yitzhak and Rivka praying to have a child. The Torah phrases the response by stating, "vaye'ater lo Adonai" - "And Hashem allowed Himself to be entreated from HIM (Yitzhak)." Notably, it is not written, "And Hashem allowed Himself to be entreated by THEM (Yitzhak and Rivka)." Rashi explains that the primary reason for Hashem's responsiveness was Yitzhak's prayer, not Rivka's. Why is this the case? Rashi, drawing from the Talmud, explains, "The prayer of a righteous person who is the son of a wicked person, is not similar to the prayer of a righteous person which is the son of a righteous person; therefore, it [the response] was for him [Yitzhak] and not for her [Rivka]." In other words, the power of the tefila of a righteous person, born to a righteous lineage (Yitzhak, the son of Avraham), surpasses that of a righteous person born to a wicked lineage (Rivka, the daughter of Betuel). Many might question this rationale since the achievement of a righteous person born to wicked parents should be more significant. Even though they were born into a sinful environment, they managed to reach their righteous status. So why is the prayer of a righteous person, the son of a righteous person, preferred?

One known answer is that while the righteousness of a person born to wicked parents may be great, when a person prays, not only is their own merit considered, but also the merit of their parents and ancestors. In this regard, the prayer of a righteous person, the son of a righteous person, holds a higher status because it includes the merit of the forefathers.

Another perspective, as articulated by Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler suggests that in certain aspects, the service of a righteous person, the son of a righteous person, is more challenging than that of a righteous person born to wicked parents.

Here are his words (translated): It has already been explained what our sages said regarding the prayers of Yitzhak and Rivka, and seemingly, it is difficult. On the contrary, isn't the merit of a wicked person's son, who did not learn from his father's actions and did not follow in his ways but rather followed the ways of the Hashem, greater? However, Yitzhak's greatness was in this: that even though he was the son of Abraham, he did not suffice with what he learned from his father, which could be superficial and merely habitual. Instead, he strived to make everything his own, to acquire an internal and personal connection, and he built a great structure of manifesting strength within creation, a new structure with his own strength alone... This work is exceedingly great and challenging, and in this, the greatness of the righteous person, the son of a righteous person, surpasses that of the righteous person, the son of a wicked person, who did not need to elevate himself from upbringing and external habits to transform them into his internal and personal virtues."

In the tapestry of life, we often find ourselves influenced by the values and virtues passed down from our ancestors. However, the story of Yitzhak reveals that true greatness emerges when individuals go beyond the boundaries of their inherited beliefs and actively engage in the process of self-discovery and spiritual development. Despite being the son of the illustrious Avraham, Yitzhak chose not to rest on the laurels of his father's teachings. Instead, he embarked on a personal journey to internalize these values, making them an integral part of his own being. This narrative invites us to reflect on the nature of our spiritual growth. Are we merely following a set of traditions and habits handed down to us, or are we actively involved in shaping our own moral compass? This profound lesson is a call to action, challenging us to explore the boundaries of our spiritual journey. It encourages us to question, understand, and embrace values not merely because they are handed down, but because we have made a conscious choice to make them our own. In doing so, we build a foundation that is not only deeply rooted but also uniquely shaped by our personal commitment and dedication.

Parashat Toledot: The Cynics

by Rabbi Eli Mansour

The opening verse of Parashat Toldot introduces the story of Yishak Abinu and his family, and writes, "This is the story of Yishak; Abraham begot Yishak." Curiously, the Torah found it necessary to "remind" us that Yishak was Abraham's son, despite the fact that we are already very well aware of who Yishak was from the previous chapters of Sefer Bereshit. The Midrash explains that the Torah here tells us not that Abraham begot Yishak, but rather that it was clear to one and all that Abraham begot Yishak.

The "Lesanim" - "cynics" - of the time charged that Yishak was actually fathered not by Abraham, but rather by the Philistine leader Abimelech. After all, Abraham and Sara were married for many years without children, and then immediately after Sara was abducted by Abimelech, Sara conceived. The cynics pointed to this as "evidence" that Yishak was not really Abraham's son. G-d therefore made Yishak appear exactly like his

father, thereby putting to rest the cynical denial of Yishak's relationship to Abraham. The Hid"א (Rav Haim Yosef David Azulai, 1724-1806) noted how the rumors spread by the cynics of Abraham's time are typical of the way cynics speak. In a certain sense, the claim that Sara conceived as a result of Abimelech was true.

After Abimelech returned Sara to Abraham, Abraham prayed on his behalf, asking that his wives should have children. In reward for his prayer, Abraham was blessed with a child. Hence, when the cynics went around proclaiming, "Sara conceived from Abimelech," they were not lying. Indeed, the Hid"א notes, the Midrash calls these people not "Resha'im" - wicked people who spread lies - but rather "Lesanim" - cynics.

They spoke the truth, but deliberately phrased in a way that guarantees it would be misunderstood. Part of the reason why cynics are so dangerous is that they do not lie. Instead, they find a way to portray all

things in a negative light without actually speaking dishonestly. Liars could easily be dismissed; formulating the truth in a negative, disparaging way attracts an audience. Ensuring to speak the truth does not always ensure that we speak appropriately. The truth can be expressed in many different ways.

The cynics excel in spinning the truth to make everyone and everything look bad, so they don't have to take anything seriously.

We can learn from them the importance of exercising care and caution with regard to not only what we say, but how we say it, and of seeking to find all that is noble and commendable in other people, rather than constantly looking to insult and malign.

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.

Avot U'Banim

Father-Son Learning Program
Learning & Tehillim • Amazing Prizes • Pizza • Treats & more...



Sephardic Kehila Centre - Lower Level Synagogue
7026 Bathurst Street, Thornhill, Ontario

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Motzaei Shabbat During The Winter Months

For more information or to sponsor an Avot U'Banim Program please contact Dr. Adam Ohayon at adamohayon@gmail.com

Don't take our **word** for it.

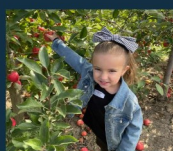
Walk the halls of Ohr HaEmet
and see why our family is the
right fit for yours.

- OPEN HOUSE -
December 4th, 2023 @ 7PM
7026 Bathurst Street Thornhill

Register at: [JDOHSS.org/OpenHouse](https://www.jdohss.org/OpenHouse)

Don't forget your checklist: (or use ours)

- ☒ A Torah-true environment and hashkafa
- ☒ Separate schooling in one convenient location
- ☒ Top tier Rabanim and educators
- ☒ Successful alumni across the spectrum, from Kollel to academia
- ☒ The latest in education technology
- ☒ Licensed Kindergarten program
- ☒ The warmth and love of a Sephardic background, with room for everyone



THE SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE PRESENTS

A SEPHARDIC COMMUNITY YOUNG ADULT

AM YISRAEL CHAI DINNER

~ FEATURING ~

*Rabbi David Kadoch &
a Surprise Speaker*

FRIDAY NIGHT 11/24/23

CANDLE LIGHTING & MINCHA | 4:25PM
DINNER | 6:00PM

AGES 19-30 COST \$40/PERSON

REGISTER ONLINE BY NOVEMBER 20TH
www.kehilacentre.com/event/yadinner2023

GUEST HOUSING AVAILABLE

The Sephardic Kehila Centre

For More Information or Sponsorship Opportunities
Call Jacob - 647-545-4716