

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 Vayeshev פרשת וישב

Shabbat December 9th 2023, כ"ו כסלו תשפ"ד / 26 Kislev 5784
Perasha Page 198 Haftarah 1210 רני in Artscroll

Shabbat Prayer Times

מנחה Mincha (Main Synagogue)	4:20 p.m.
הדלקת נרות Candle Lighting	4:22 p.m.
שחרית מניין החיד"א (ותיקין) Shacharit Ha'Hida Vatikim	6:40 a.m.
Shiur Hilchot Shabbat	8:15 a.m.
שחרית Shacharit (Main Synagogue)	8:45 a.m.
תהלים Tehilim	3:30 p.m.
מנחה Mincha	4:00 p.m.
שבת שבוטע Shabbat Ends	5:29 p.m.



Shabat Zemanim- Netz- נץ 7:40 am, Keriat Shema- שמע 9:54 am, Shekia- שקיעה 4:40 pm

Weekday Services

שחרית Shacharit Sunday	שחרית Shacharit Weekdays
ותיקין Vatikim 7:00 a.m.	ותיקין Vatikim 7:00 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 4:25 p.m.
	ערבית Arbit Arbit immediately following Mincha

Mazal Tov

Samuel Emet Benzacar on the occasion of his Bar-Mitzvah

Proud parents: Mr. Jack Benzacar and Dr Andrea Somers

Proud grandparents: Mrs. Renata Somers, Mr. & Mrs. Maurice and Elise Benzacar

Mr. & Mrs. Jory and Gillian Hennick on their recent Marriage

Proud parents: Mrs. Rita Benzacar and Mr. David Piltz, Mr. and Mrs. Jay and Barbara Hennick

Proud grandparents: Mrs. Irene Gray and Mr. & Mrs. Maurice and Elise Benzacar

Mr. & Mrs. Coby and Raquel Elimelech on the birth of a baby girl

Proud grandparents: Mr. & Mrs Shimon and Hagit Elimelech, Mr. Jacob Abecassis and Mrs. Mercedes Pinto

Proud great-grandparents: Mr. & Mrs. Amram and Bruria Gozlan, Mrs. Esther Abecassis and Mr. & Mrs. Albert and Esther Pinto

Happy Anniversary

♦ Maurice & Rebecca Buzaglo ♦ Isaac & Rena Cohen

Happy Birthday

Perlita Azulay, Dov Levy, Yaakov Elmaleh, Donna Azulay, Talya Saban, Solange Attias,
David Cohen, Yaakov Benmergui, Leah Dahan

Nahalot

Perla Keslassy ז"ל, Maklouf Moryoussef ז"ל **26 Kislev** / Shabbat Dec.9th
Abraham Shemesh ז"ל **27 Kislev** / Sunday Dec.10th
Isaac Benmergui ז"ל **29 Kislev** / Tuesday Dec.12th
Isaac Nezry ז"ל, David Kirschner ז"ל, Simcha Bitton bat Esther ז"ל **1 Tevet**
/ Wed. Dec.13th
Georgette Keslassy ז"ל, Ramy Dishy ז"ל **3 Tevet** / Friday Dec.15th

Nahalot for the following week

Yaakob Totah ז"ל **5 Tevet** / Sunday December 17th
Yaakov Roditi Gulerson ז"ל **6 Tevet** / Monday December 18th
Rica Nezry ז"ל **7 Tevet** / Tuesday December 19th
Rabbi David Benguigui ז"ל, Camille Benchetrit ז"ל, Abraham Benchetrit ז"ל
10 Tevet / Friday December 22nd

Synagogue News

Rosh Hodesh Tevet

Rosh Hodesh Tevet is this coming Wednesday December 13th (Tuesday night).

Mishmara Notice

The Sheloshim for Mr. Vidal Gabay ז"ל will be on Monday Dec. 11, 2023. Minha will be at 4:30pm at Petah Tikva Synagogue.
The cemetery will be on Tuesday, December 12th, 2023 at 8:45am.
The eleven month mishmara for Mrs. Esther Azuelos ז"ל, mother of our dear friend and parnass, Avi Azuelos will be held following tefila on Thursday, December 14th in the Lower Level Synagogue.

Avot U'Banim

Avot U'Banim is postponed to next Motsae Shabbat because of our yearly Hanukah Bingo Night

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 Benzar family in honour of their Smachot

Everyone is Welcome

Seuda Shelishit

This week's Seuda Shelishit is sponsored by:

- Mr. & Mrs. Oren and Marni Dishy, in loving memory of his father, Ramy Dishy ז"ל
- Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy and Limor Keslassy, in loving memory of his grandmother, Georgette Keslassy ז"ל

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!

Oneg Shabbat - Friday December 8th - Shabbat Hanukah

Friday night December 8th, Shabbat Hanukah, Rabbi Kadoch and his family will host their annual Oneg Shabbat at their house. Come and enjoy light food/snack, sing some songs, and enjoy words of Torah.
Everyone is invited - 7:30pm-9:30pm. - 138 Colvin Cres

Security Update

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

If you see something, say something.

This Motzaei Shabbat Join us for our Annual Hannuka Bingo Night

With Prizes, Pizza and Sufganiot this years Bingo Night Promises to be full of Excitement and Fun

The Fun Starts @ 7pm

See you there!

PARASHA PRISMS

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, this insightful gathering promises to be a source of inspiration and spiritual growth. Discover the timeless wisdom embedded in our sacred parashiyot and learn how to apply it to your everyday life. Let's come together to explore, reflect, and strengthen our connection to our Torah and Jewish values. (See flyer below)

Sisterhood Presents: Music, Movement & Meditation With Esther Willinger

Special Performance by Elena Levy

For the past two Sundays a terrific Women's Wellness program that combines SOMA Breath, Meditation, Music and Body Activation took place in our Social Hall. It uplifted, energized and elevated the attendees to heal within and send healing energy to those in need. It was a powerful wave of positive energy, love and inspired action.

Thank you to all who attended and to Esther Willinger and Elena Levy for dedicating their time to the Sisterhood

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



Hanukkah 5784 - Education

Rabbi David Kadoch

Hanukkah, with its radiant lights, offers a compelling metaphor for the profound connection between the festival and Jewish Torah education, mainly because the root of the word h-n-ch means to educate. In the same way that the menorah is kindled, bringing light to the darkness, Torah education serves as the source of illumination for the spiritual journey of each student. Consider each student as a unique flame, distinct yet contributing to the collective brilliance of the Jewish community. The menorah, with its individual branches, reflects the diversity of learners, each with its distinct strengths, perspectives, and qualities. Similarly, Jewish education recognizes the individuality of students, understanding that each holds a unique spark that, when nurtured, contributes to the overall radiance of the community. Just as the lights are kindled one by one, so too does Torah education unfold gradually, with each student delving into the vast reservoir of Jewish knowledge at their own pace.

The process of education mirrors the miracle of the oil lasting for eight days, signifying the enduring impact of Torah learning on the individual and the community. Moreover, the responsibility to pass on the flame lies with educators, akin to the role of the shamash (the central candle on the menorah) that ignites the others. Torah educators serve as guides, mentors, and facilitators, nurturing the individual lights of their students and empowering them to shine brightly in their unique ways. Just as the menorah's lights are positioned to face the centre, drawing strength from a common source, Torah education unites individuals under the shared umbrella of Jewish tradition and values. Through the study of Torah, students not only discover their personal lights but also understand their interconnectedness with the broader Jewish story, forging a collective radiance that dispels the darkness of ignorance and apathy.

The metaphor of the individual lights extends beyond the confines of traditional education, urging us to recognize that the pursuit of Jewish Torah wisdom is a lifelong journey, not confined to a specific stage of life. Just as the menorah's brilliance is not limited to the eight days of Hanukkah, the light of Torah should permeate all aspects of our existence. Opportunities for learning present themselves in every phase of life, whether in the workplace, within familial relationships, or in personal endeavors. Seeking Jewish Torah education becomes a continuous endeavor, allowing the wisdom of our tradition to illuminate the choices we make, the challenges we face, and the values we uphold. By embracing the idea that learning is a lifelong process, we ensure that the flame of Torah not only endures but also grows brighter with each passing day, enriching our lives and contributing to the broader radiance of the Jewish people. Hanukkah serves as a reminder that the light of Torah is a guiding force, beckoning us to engage in a perpetual quest for wisdom and understanding.

As we celebrate the holiday, let us appreciate the symbolic resonance between the lights of the menorah and the lights of knowledge kindled through Jewish and Torah education. May each person be encouraged to embrace their individual light, recognizing its significance in contributing to the luminosity of our shared heritage.

Hanukkah- Striving for More

by Rabbi Eli Mansour

The Misva of lighting the Hanukkah candles features an unusual component, one which is unique to this specific Misva. Namely, the Rabbis instituted three different standards of observing the Misva. The Gemara in Masechet Shabbat (21b) teaches that the basic, minimum obligation of Hanukkah candles requires lighting just a single candle in each home on each of the eight nights of Hanukkah. The higher level of observance – “Mehadrin” – is lighting a candle for each member of the household. The third and highest level – “Mehadrin Min Ha’mehadrin” – is lighting an additional candle each night, until we light eight candles on the eighth night. Of course, as everybody knows, the universally accepted practice is to adhere to the standard of “Mehadrin Min Ha’mehadrin,” and light an additional candle on each night of Hanukkah. What might the reason for this unique feature of the Hanukkah candle lighting? What might the reason for this unique feature of the Hanukkah candle lighting? And what does this teach us about the celebration of this holiday? The answer might stem from a different question which many commentators raised, concerning the miracle of the pure flask of oil. As the Gemara relates, after the Hashmonaim drove the Greeks from Jerusalem, they set out to cleanse the Bet Ha’mikdash, which the Greeks had defiled, and consecrate it anew. When they sought to kindle the Menorah, they found only one flask of pure oil, and it miraculously burned for eight nights, until fresh, pure oil could be produced and delivered. The commentators

noted the exceptional Halacha known as “Tum’a Hutra Be’sibur,” which allows Halachic impurity in the service of the Bet Ha’mikdash when the majority of the nation is Tameh (impure). Although generally Tum’a (impurity) is not permitted in the Bet Ha’mikdash, this restriction is suspended in a situation of widespread Tum’a. Seemingly, then, it was permissible for the Hashmonaim to kindle the Menorah with impure oil under the extenuating circumstances, as the Greeks had defiled all the oil. One answer given to this question is that the Hashmonaim, as they set out to renew religious life in Eretz Yisrael following their victory over the Greeks, did not want to rely on any leniencies or shortcuts. They wanted to adhere to the highest standards, to perform the Misvot in the most complete way, rather than just satisfy the minimum requirement.

This might be why, when the Sages later enacted the Misva of candle lighting to commemorate this miracle, they established different gradations. Their intention was for us to extend beyond the minimum obligation, and reach for the level of “Mehadrin Min Ha’mehadrin,” the highest standards of Misva observance. This is one of the important lessons of the Hanukkah story – not to be content with fulfilling our basic obligations, and to instead extend ourselves, to reach for the stars, to achieve all that we’re capable of achieving. Just as the Hashmonaim were not content with the minimum standard, and went the extra mile to perform the Misva in the best way possible, so must we strive to serve Hashem to the best of our ability. I recall the time when a fellow who built a new home in Deal invited me to help with

the mezuzot. We approached the front door, and when I placed my hand on the doorknob, I felt that it was special. I asked the man about it. “Yeah, it cost me \$400. And I have a few dozen of them in the house – 400 bucks each!”

I later told him that I know where he could purchase beautiful, high-quality mezuzot for around \$100 apiece. He looked at me and said that he thought this sounded very expensive. “Aren’t their simpler ones for \$25?” he asked. For the doorknobs – doorknobs!! – he settled on nothing but the very best, at \$400 per knob. But when it came to the mezuzot, he asked for the cheapest ones he could find...

Chanukah teaches us to take the precise opposite approach – to make Misvot our highest priority, to strive for the best in our performance of Misvot, to be willing to compromise our standards in other areas of life, but never in the area of the service of Hashem.

When we pray to Hashem for the things we need and want, we tend to ask for only the best. When we pray for a livelihood, we pray for more than the ability to pay our electric bill; we pray for a comfortable income. When we pray for Shidduchim for our children, we pray that they find outstanding people to marry. We ask for the best. We become worthy of having these prayers answered when we do the same for Hashem – giving him the very best of what we have to offer. If we constantly strive for the level of “Mehadrin Min Ha’mehadrin,” for the highest standards of Misva observance, then we are deserving of the highest “standards” of Hashem’s blessings, of receiving all that we wish for.

ת"וב
MOTZEI SHABBAT



HANNUKA *Bingo*

PIZZA, PRIZES, AND SUFGANIOT!

All Ages Welcome!

\$7 for 7 Games!
No Registration Required!




SAT
DEC 9

7
PM

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

The Joe Dwek
Ohr HaEmet
Sephardic
School

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

MIDRASH BY NIGHT


Tuesdays & Thursdays
Following Arvit
(or 8:00pm in the winter)

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

**Various shiurim by R' David Kadoch,
R' Shemuel Pinto and others**

Speak to Rabbi Kadoch to find the right class for you

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



SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE PRESENTS

Parasha Prisms

A TORAH CLASS ON THE WEEKLY PARASHA FOR
MEN & WOMEN OF ALL AGES AND LEVELS.

EVERY MONDAY AT 7:30PM.

DELIVERED BY RABBI DAVID KADOCH
LIVE IN PERSON AND ONLINE AT
TINY.CC/FHLIVE

