



Sephardic Kehila Centre

יגדיל בתורת א-להינו ירבה בתוך הקהילה

Abir Yaakob Congregation

Rabbi Rabbi David Kadoch
 Rabbi Emeritus Hacham Amram Assayag
 President Jimmy Keslassy
 Vice President Isaac Cohen
 Shaliah Tzibur Marc Kadoch
 Parnas Avi Azuelos



Shabbat Parashat Pekude
 March 16th, 2024 | 6 Adar 11, 5784
 Parasha pg. 530 | Haftara pg. 1164

פרשת פקודי
 ו' אדר ב תשפ"ד

Shabbat Zemanim: Netz - - 7:28 am | Keriat Shema - - 10:26 am | Amida - - 11:26 am Shekia - - 7:25 pm

Shabbat Services

מנחה Mincha - Main Synagogue	7:00 pm
הדלקת נרות Candle Lighting / Mizmor Shir	7:06 pm
שחרית מנין החיד"א (וטיקין) Shacharit HaHida Vatikim	6:30 am
Shiur Hilchot Tefila	8:15 am
שחרית Shacharit - Main Synagogue	8:45 am
תהלים Tehilim	6:10 pm
מנחה Mincha	6:40 pm
שבוע טוב Shabbat Ends	8:09 pm

Weekday Services

Sunday	
וטיקין Vatikim	45 min before sunrise
מקדימים Makdimim*	8:00 am
קבועים Kevuim	9:00 am
*Rosh Hodesh 7:45am	
Monday - Friday	
וטיקין Vatikim	40 min before sunrise
מקדימים Makdimim*	6:30 am
קבועים Kevuim*	8:00 am
מנחה Mincha	6:00 pm
ערבית Arvit	immediately following Mincha
*Rosh Hodesh 6:25am/7:45am	

Mazal Tov

Mr. & Mrs. Aaron and Sarah Cohen on the birth of a baby girl
Proud Grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Sam and Elvy Cohen,
 Mr. and Mrs. Dan and Sarit Somogyi
Proud Great Grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Albert and Esther Pinto,
 Mr. and Mrs. George and Gladys Somogyi, Mrs. Rina Shuldiner

Happy Anniversary

- Mr & Mrs Simon & Sol Keslassy
- Mr & Mrs Armand & Esther Bensimon
- Mr & Mrs Weitzman & Offra Abraham

Birthdays

Violeta Malinowicz, Hannah Benarroch, Amram Essebag, Clara Serruya,
 Ely Abitbol, Dylan Kliaman, Michoel Nacson, Gabriel Anidjar,
 Mia Benarroch, Joe Azoulay, Rachel Benchetrit, Danielle Elmaleh,
 Lauren Halioua, David Dana

Nahalot This Week

Saturday 6 Adar 11 – March 16th | Mair Cohen ז"ל

Sunday 7 Adar 11 – March 17th | Victor Totah ז"ל, Messodi Trojman - Bendahan ז"ל

Monday 8 Adar 11 – March 18th | Aharon Assor ז"ל

Thursday 11 Adar 11 – March 21st | Rahel Benzacar ז"ל

Nahalot Next Week

Saturday 13 Adar 11 – March 23rd | Marc Soberano ז"ל, Chava Shvartsman ז"ל

Sunday 14 Adar 11 – March 24th | Cohava Muyal ז"ל, Haim Ederly ז"ל

Tuesday 16 Adar 11 – March 26th | Abraham Bitton bar Yaacob ז"ל, Salomon Benlezhrah ז"ל

Thursday 18 Adar 11 – March 28th | Isaac Oziel ז"ל, Abraham Ederly ז"ל

Synagogue News

Purim Events & Times

Thursday March 21st - Ta'anit Esther

Fast begins - 6:06 am

Minha: 7:05 pm with tefilin / Arvit: 7:50 pm

Fast ends: 8:04 pm

Saturday March 23rd (Motzae Shabbat) - Purim

Shabbat ends - 8:18 pm / Arvit - 8:20 pm

Megila: 8:50 pm followed by Havdala Service by the SKC Boys Choir

Sunday March 24th - Purim

Shaharit: 6:20 am (medrash), 8:00am (main synagogue)

Megila ladies: 7:20am SHARP (138 Colvin Cres)

Megila: 7:35 am (medrash) 8:45 am (main synagogue)

Purim with Rabbi Kadoch: 12:30-4:00pm (138 Colvin Cres)

Minha: 4:00pm (Home of Rabbi Kadoch 138 Colvin Cres)

Wild West Purim Seudat 6:00pm (main banquet hall)

RESERVATION ONLY

Arvit: After Seuda

Weekday Minha/Arvit Summer Scheduling

Beginning this Sunday, Minha will be recited before Pelag Minha followed immediately by Arvit.

(Erev Shabbat will remain at winter scheduling until April.)

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 is asked to call the office at 905-669-7654 x200 or send an e-mail to social@kehilacentre.com.

Please Join Us For This Weeks Congregational Kiddush, sponsored by the Sephardic Kehila Centre. Everyone is Welcome

Seuda Shelishit

This Week's Seuda Shelishit is Sponsored By:

Mr. & Mrs. Maurice and Elise Benzacar in memory of his mother Rahel Benzacar ז"ל *Everyone is Welcome*

Early Risers, Early Gainers

Join Rabbi Kadoch Shabbat mornings at 8:15 am for an informative shiur on Hilchot Tefila using the sefer Peninei Halakha. Coffee and tea are available.

Tefilot and Piyutim

The young boys of the community, led by Dr. 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.

BAYT Movie Night

Thank you to everyone who came out for an informative and fun night at the BAYT last Saturday night.

PARASHA PRISMS: Shiur for men and women

Parashat HaShavua Shiur by Rabbi Kadoch will take place this week on Monday at 8:00PM.

Open to men and ladies

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 Wednesday March 20th. See you there!

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

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

Sisterhood Unleash the Queen Within

What an incredible turnout we had at "Unleash the Queen Within"! It was heartwarming to see familiar faces as well as many new participants from across the Jewish Community in Toronto. Together, we delved into the timeless story of Queen Esther from the Purim narrative. We explored the profound significance of the Hebrew name "אֶסְתֵּר" (Esther), which means "Hidden," and reflected on Esther's journey from uncertainty, fear and hiding her identity to embracing her purpose and taking powerful action. Just like Queen Esther, we all have a hidden queen within us—often ignored and suppressed. Through invigorating body activation and transformative breathwork techniques, we shook off limiting beliefs and boundaries, reconnecting with our inner queen. As we set the foundation to unleash our true gifts and potential into the world, we are empowered by the story of Queen Esther to take courageous steps and make a positive impact in our lives and communities. Thank you to all who attended and participated and

Thank you to the two queens, Esther Willinger and Estee Assayag for organizing

Divrei Torah - Perashat Pekude

By: Rabbi Kadoch

Pekude 5784 - Leshem Yihud

Parashat Pekude opens with a powerful declaration: "And out of the blue, purple, and crimson wool they made the meshwork garments to serve in the Holy, and they made Aaron's holy garments, as the Hashem had commanded Moshe." The Ohr HaChaim HaKadosh, a revered 18th-century Torah commentator, notes that during the construction of the Mishkan and its vessels, the artisans would recite the phrase "just as Hashem commanded to Moshe" to emphasize their strict adherence to the divine instructions.

This meticulous adherence to God's commandments is considered the source of the paragraph known as "*Leshem Yihud*." The *Leshem Yihud* is a paragraph statement prefacing many mitzvot, expressing the intention to perform the commandment for the sake of unifying Hashem's name. This practice is rooted in the belief that one's actions should be performed with a higher spiritual intention, aligning with the will of Hashem.

However, Rabbi Yehezkel Landau HaLevi, known as the Noda BiYehuda, took a strong stance against the use of *Leshem Yihud*. He argued that by adding this declaration, individuals were essentially altering the formulated texts established by the *Anshe Keneset HaGedola* (Men of the Great Assembly). According to his perspective, deviating from the established blessings was inappropriate, as it undermined the authority of those who meticulously crafted the traditional texts. Legend has it that Rabbi Yehezkel Landau was so resolute in his opposition that he once witnessed an individual reciting *Leshem Yihud* before blessing the Lulav. In response, he was so upset that he forbade the man from continuing with the blessing.

Despite Rabbi Yehezkel Landau's strong stance, the custom of reciting *Leshem Yihud* persisted and even gained support from other prominent figures, including the Hida (R' Haim Yosef David Azulai). The supporters of *Leshem Yihud* argue that this practice has its roots in the teachings of the Arizal (Rabbi Yitzhak Luria), a prominent 16th-century Kabbalist. According to the Arizal, the intention behind performing mitzvot is crucial, and the practice of *Leshem Yihud* is seen as a way to elevate mundane actions to a higher spiritual level. Furthermore, the Arizal claimed to have received support for this custom from Eliyahu HaNavi and Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai, adding a mystical dimension to the practice. This mystical endorsement has led many to embrace the *Leshem Yihud*, considering it a means of infusing deeper meaning and spiritual significance into their observance of mitzvot.

In conclusion, the debate over the use of *Leshem Yihud* reflects the tension between tradition and mystical innovation within Jewish practice. While some, like Rabbi Yehezkel Landau, sought to preserve the established texts, others, influenced by the teachings of the Arizal, embraced the *Leshem Yihud* as a way to enhance their spiritual connection with the divine. This ongoing tension exemplifies the rich tapestry of Jewish thought and practice. This enduring debate over the recitation of the *Leshem Yihud* underscores the diverse approaches within Jewish tradition. The reluctance of many Ashkenazim to adopt this practice, as opposed to the acceptance of it among Sepharadim and adherents of the Arizal's rite, highlights the intricate interplay between adherence to established customs and the pursuit of deeper spiritual connections. The Ashkenazi reluctance may stem from a commitment to maintaining the integrity of longstanding traditions as formulated by the Men of the Great Assembly, emphasizing a more conservative approach. Meanwhile, the Sephardic and Arizal-influenced communities, driven by the mystical teachings that inspire the *Leshem Yihud*, seek to infuse their mitzvah observance with a heightened spiritual consciousness. Ultimately, this divergence reflects the rich diversity within Jewish practice, where various communities find their unique paths to connecting with Hashem.

By: Rabbi Eli Mansour

Parashat Pekudeh- Our Unbreakable Bond With Hashem

The opening verses of Parashat Pekudeh present an accounting of the precious metals that Beneh Yisrael donated for the construction of the Mishkan. The Torah introduces this section by saying, "Eleh Fekudeh Mishkan, Mishkan Ha'edut" – "These are the calculations of the Mishkan, the Mishkan of testimony." Rashi explains that the Mishkan is called "Mishkan Ha'edut" ("the Mishkan of testimony") because it testifies to G-d's having forgiven Beneh Yisrael for the grave sin of the golden calf. The fact that He agreed to reside among them in the Mishkan demonstrates that He granted them forgiveness. Rav Eliyahu Mizrahi (c. 1455- c. 1525), in his work on Rashi's commentary, adds that the Mishkan showed that Beneh Yisrael were still beloved to G-d. Even after G-d rescinded His decree to annihilate them, and gave them the second Luchos (tablets) as a symbol of the covenant, it was not evident that He still loved and cherished them. This was confirmed by the Mishkan, by the fact that G-d commanded Beneh Yisrael to construct a special site when He would reside in their midst. Rashi also notes the seemingly repetitious phrase in this verse: "Mishkan, Mishkan Ha'edut" ("the Mishkan, the Mishkan of testimony"). Rather than refer to the Mishkan simply as "Mishkan Ha'edut," the Torah repeats the word "Mishkan," speaking of the structure as "Mishkan, Mishkan Ha'edut." Rashi writes that the double expression alludes to the two permanent Batei Mikdash which were later built and then destroyed. The Bet Ha'mikdash is called "Mishkan," Rashi explains, because "Nitmeshken" – it was taken from the people like an item is taken from a borrower as collateral ("Mashkon"). Just as a creditor can take the debtor's possession as collateral if the debt is not paid, Hashem likewise twice took the Bet Ha'mikdash away from us due to our "debt" of guilt arising from our misdeeds.

Rashi's reading of the phrase "Mishkan, Mishkan Ha'edut" seems jarring in this context. This verse speaks joyously of the precious materials which the people generously donated for the construction of the Mishkan, and of how the Mishkan testifies to G-d's continued desire to reside among them despite their wrongdoing. Why would the Torah allude to the destruction of the two Batei Mikdash here, in speaking of the Mishkan's testimony to G-d's unbreakable bond with Beneh Yisrael? How is this an appropriate context for a subtle allusion to the Temples which were taken from us because of our nation's failings?

The answer given by some commentators is that the Torah specifically compares the Temples' destruction to a "Mashkon," an object taken as collateral, because collateral is, by definition, a temporary condition. A lender's intent when seizing collateral from the borrower is not to keep it permanently, but rather to ensure the repayment of the loan, whereupon the collateral will be returned. Similarly, we are assured that the Bet Ha'mikdash was taken from us temporarily, and will eventually be restored, once we "repay" our "debt" in the form of repentance. This is why the Torah in this context alludes to G-d's having taken the Bet Ha'mikdash from us as "collateral." Just as the Mishkan testifies that G-d continues to love and cherish Am Yisrael despite our occasional failings, the temporary state of our exile proves that our bond with Hashem is unconditional and everlasting. We must never think that our mistakes and indiscretions permanently sever our relationship with G-d, that He has lost interest in us because of our wrongdoing. Any strain on our relationship with Hashem caused by our misdeeds is only temporary. No matter what mistakes we have made, we can look to the Mishkan and to G-d's promise of redemption as proof that He loves us unconditionally and eagerly awaits and anticipates our Teshuva.

SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE

בס"ד

WILD WEST PURIM

SUNDAY
MARCH 24TH
6 PM

ADULTS \$55
KIDS \$35

EVENING OF FUN!

GOURMET BUFFET & UNIQUE MELODIES!
WILD WEST COCKTAILS!
KAHOOT TRIVIA & MECHANICAL BULL RIDE!
PRIZE FOR FANCY DRESS!



REGISTER AT: WWW.KEHILACENTRE.COM/EVENT/PURIM2024

DEFEATING THE UNKNOWN AMALEK TODAY

A SHIUR ON PARASHAT ZACHOR - LESSONS FROM MEGILAT ESTHER



Shiur delivered by Rabbi David Kadoch for men and women

MONDAY MARCH 18TH
7:30PM
SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE
DOWNSTAIRS SYNAGOGUE
LIGHT FOOD TO BE SERVED



CELEBRATE PURIM WITH THE RABBI

JOIN RABBI KADOCH AND HIS
FAMILY AND ENJOY DELICIOUS
FOOD AND WINE

Come together to share the joy of
the Purim Holiday with our
community.
Lots of delicious food and wine,
music, and lots of candy for the
kids.

FOR MEN, WOMEN AND KIDS
OF ALL AGES.

SUNDAY MARCH 24TH
1230PM TO 400PM
(MINHA AT 4PM)

138 COLVIN CRES



SISTERHOOD

Mishloach Manot

The SKC Sisterhood is pleased to offer a box of our favorite
Sephardic treats. Send as a Mishloach Manot or sweeten
your own Purim table.

ONLY
\$ 40.00
PER BOX

Proceeds will fund future Sisterhood events.
Limited supply. Order soon!

Special thank you to Kasher City, Fanny Queroub, Jacob Azulay
and Mercedes Abecassils for preparing delicious treats. (Please
note, may not look as picture displays and pastries prepared in
strictly kosher kitchens.)

Pick up date Sunday March 24th 9am - 12pm at the SKC
To order, <https://www.kehilacentre.com/event/Purimbox>

