

# SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE



President  
Meyer Keslassy

Vice President  
Isaac Cohen

Executive Vice President  
Maurice Benzacar

## ABIR YAAKOB CONGREGATION

שבת שלום  
Shabbat Shalom

ברוכים הבאים  
Welcome to our Synagogue

Chief Rabbi  
Haham Amram Assayag  
Hazan  
Rabbi David Kadoch  
Shaliach Tzibur  
Marc Kadoch

פרשת ויצא  
Shabat Vayetzai

Shabbat December 10th, 2016, י' כסלו תשע"ז / 10 Kislev 5777  
Perasha Page 144, Haftara 1139 in Artscroll

### Shabbat Prayer Times

שיר השירים Shir Hashirim	4:10 p.m.
מנחה Mincha	4:25 p.m.
קבלת שבת Kabalat Shabbat	4:40 p.m.
הדלקת נרות Candle Lighting	4:22 p.m.
שחרית מנין החייד"א (וטיקין) Shacharit Ha'Hida Vatikim	6:40 a.m.
שחרית Shacharit (Main Synagogue)	8:30 a.m.
תהלים Tehilim	3:25 p.m.
מנחה Mincha	3:55 p.m.
שבת טוב שבע טוב Shabbat Ends	5:28 p.m.

Ereb Shabbat, Friday December 16th, 2016

Shir Hashirim 4:10 p.m. (Candle Lighting 4:23 p.m.)

### Weekday Services at Medrash Torah Vehayim

שחרית Shacharit Sunday	
וטיקין Vatikim	7:00 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim	8:00 a.m.
קבועים Kebuim	9:00 a.m.
שחרית Shacharit Weekdays	
וטיקין Vatikim	7:00 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim	6:45 a.m.
קבועים Kebuim	8:15 a.m.
מנחה Mincha	4:25 p.m.
ערבית Arbit	5:05 p.m.

Shabbat Zemanim- Netz- נץ- 7:41 am, Keriat Shema- שקיעה- 9:20 am, Shekia- שקיעה- 4:40 pm

### Mazal Tov

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel and Yocheved Ohana on the birth of a baby boy  
Proud Grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Michel and Esther Ohana, Rabbi Raphael and Shoshana Hassan

### Kiddush

This Shabbat Kiddush is sponsored by The Kiddush Group  
Everyone is welcome

### Seuda Shelishit

Please join us for Seuda Shelishit after Mincha.  
Everyone is welcome.

### Nahalot

Isaac Beniluz ז"ל 14 Kislev/ Wednesday December 14th  
Joseph Abitbol ז"ל 15 Kislev/ Thursday December 15th  
Salomon Cohen ז"ל 16 Kislev/ Friday December 16th

#### Nahalot for the following week

Freha Soudry ז"ל, Jorge Geri Senechal ז"ל 17 Kislev/ Shabbat December 17th  
Yehuda Bensalmon ז"ל 19 Kislev/ Monday December 19th  
David Zrihen ז"ל, Messody Cohen ז"ל, Pinhas Ouaknin ז"ל 20 Kislev/ Tuesday December 20th  
Luna Cohen ז"ל, Abraham Azagury ז"ל, Mordechai Azuz ז"ל, Esther Nahmias ז"ל 22 Kislev/ Thursday December 22nd  
Esther Cohen ז"ל, Mary Perez ז"ל 23 Kislev/ Friday December 23rd

# Abir Yaakob News

## **Kiddush Group**

Due to the generosity of some members during Simchat Torah last year, our Kiddush Club was well funded and we had the pleasure of enjoying wonderful kiddushim all this time.

Shabbat Kiddush is a wonderful opportunity for us to connect with our friends, meet new members and enjoy great food! The fund that was started last year is now near depletion.

Please help us continue this wonderful tradition by becoming a Kiddush Club Sponsor.

Please contact the office at 905-669-7654 ext. 253 or maurice@kehilacentre.com

## **Get Involved!**

The Sephardic Kehila Centre is delighted to announce the formation of Brotherhood and Sisterhood committees and are

inviting you to join!

This is your chance to develop programs and fundraising events that will enhance the Kehila experience.

For more information, please contact the office at 905-669-7654 ext 253 or email maurice@kehilacentre.com

## **Bnei Akiva**

Shabbat shalom kehila!

This will be our last shabbat of Bnei akiva until January 7th (after winter break).

Everyone between grade 1-6 come join out fun filled shabbat programs 20 mins after Mincha.

Keep a look out for the Bnei Akiva bulletin in shul that had future programming!



By Haham Amram Assayag

## **Shabat Vayetze**

Yaakob Abinu, fleeing from his brother Esav toward Haran, goes by Har Hamoriya. The place, where his father was tied to be sacrificed, he stops to pray, and as it became dark, he lies down to sleep. That night Yaakob dreamt about a ladder standing on earth and reaching the heavens, whereby angels go up and down. In that instant, he hears in his dream the Almighty's voice who promises him a numerous descendants who will inherit the land where he finds himself and at the same time assures him that He will protect him until he returns to his land. The next day Yaakob travels and arrives at a well, where he inquires about Laban. They inform him that he is well and point out his daughter Rachel who had just arrived with her cattle. Yaakob ends up settling in Laban's house working for him. Yaakob offers to work seven years to obtain Rachel as a wife. After those years of work, Laban tricks Yaakob and gives him Lea his daughter instead of Rachel, Yaakob works for another seven year to be able to marry Rachel. In the meantime, Lea gives birth to Reuben, Shimon, Levi, and Yehuda. Rachel deeply hurt for not having children, gives to Yaakob her servant Bilha to reproduce from her. Bilha gives birth to Dan and Naftali. Lea who is also not able to become pregnant, gives also her servant Zilpa to Yaakob. The latter gives birth to Gad and Asher. Hashem hears Lea's prayers and she gives birth to Yisachar, Zevulun and a daughter, Dina. Rachel's prayers are also fulfilled by giving birth to her first child, Yoseph.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

-Esav ordered his son Elifaz to pursue Yaakob and kill him. Elifaz reached Yaakob and reluctantly told him that he must follow his father's orders. Yaakob told him to take all his possessions away and being penniless he would be considered dead and so he did (Ani Hashuv Camet).

-When Yaakob left Canaan, he went to the Yeshiva of Shem and Eber for 14 years through which he never lied down to sleep. The first time he slept in 14 years was in Har Hamoriya, where he had the dream.

-Yaakob gave Rachel a code through which the night of the wedding he would know if it was her. When Rachel found out that Lea her sister was going to be the one to marry Yaakob, she gave her code in order that she should not suffer any embarrassment.

### Hanukah-The Proper Time to Light the Menorah

There is a disagreement between the Rishonim regarding the proper time to light the Chanukah Menorah. The Rambam states that it should be lit at "Shki'at Ha'Hama" (sunset), whereas the Rosh and the Tur hold that the proper time is "Set Ha'kohavim" (nightfall). Maran rules that the Menorah should be lit "Im Sof Shki'ata"-at the end of sunset. The Mishna Berura (Rav Yisrael Meir Kagan of Radin, 1839-1933) and the Ben Ish Hai (Rav Yosef Haim of Baghdad, 1833-1909) understand this to mean nightfall, in accordance with the Rosh and the Tur. Hacham, Ovadia and Hacham Bension concur that nightfall is 15-20 minutes after sunset. It should be noted that Maran also rules that one should not light earlier or later than the prescribed time. If one lights too early, it is still light outside and the candles are not noticeable. Hacham Bension writes that one should not light later than 50 minutes after sunset. Of course, if one missed that time he can still light afterwards, B'diavad-after the fact.

SUMMARY: The preferred time for lighting the Menorah is 15-20 minutes after sunset until 50 minutes after sunset.

### Hanukah: Using Inedible Olive Oil

The preferred time for lighting the Menorah is 15-20 minutes after sunset until 50 minutes after sunset

The preferred way to light on Chanukah is with olive oil, because it was used in the Bet Hamikdash. Today, we find some olive oils made expressly for lighting, labeled "Not fit for human consumption." Is it permissible to light with these oils? The Ben Ish Hai (Rav Yosef Haim of Baghdad, 1833-1909) discusses a certain olive oil that is too bitter to eat. He rules that it is still fit for the misva, as long as there is no ruach tuma on it; e.g. it wasn't left under a bed. Rav Haim Kanievsky, as quoted by Rav Nissim Korelitz, ruled that the oil labeled "not fit for human consumption" is no different from the bitter oil permitted by the Ben Ish Hai. Although, one could distinguish between the two and say that, technically, the bitter oil is edible; people just avoid it because of its taste. On the other hand, the other oil is very acidic and would be dangerous for anyone to eat it. However, they don't make that distinction.

Rav Eliashiv zt"l (Ashrei Ish p. 239), ruled that it is clearly better to use edible olive oil for the misva, since the oil used in the Bet Hamikdash was edible. Some claim that even oils labelled "not fit for human consumption," are indeed edible. They mark it as such to avoid paying the higher import tariff for foodstuff.

SUMMARY: Lechatehila, it is preferable to use olive oil that is fit for human consumption. However, any olive oil, even if it is "not fit" or bitter, is kosher for Chanukah lighting. (Yalkut Yosef, Chanukah p.117)

## Shiur Bites

By Rabbi Kadoch

"And Yaakov woke up from his sleep and he said "Behold, there is God in this place, and I did not know." (29:16)  
The Arizal, when discussing Tefila, writes that never can two prayers be the same. There are so many factors involved in a single prayer, that it's impossible to know the outcome one can receive. The spiritual level of the reciter, the poet, the words being said and mazal (constellations) are all factors that can affect how Hashem listens to our prayers and how He will respond. Therefore, he advises that one should not squander the opportunity to make every prayer impactful and one should NOT say "It's okay that I wasn't focused today because there's always tomorrow." One should NOT say, "There are three prayers in a day, so if I rush through this one, it's not a big deal."

With this in mind, I think we can understand a very problematic verse in this week's Parasha. After Yaakov's dream with the ladder and angels, God blesses him with the blessing of all blessings; protection, wealth and power. Yaakov wakes up and states something unusual. "Behold, there is God in this place and I did not know." Could it possibly be that Yaakov did not know that Hashem was present? As children we are taught "Hashem is here, Hashem is there, Hashem is truly everywhere." Certainly Yaakov, the chosen of the Avot, knew who Hashem was and that he was present at that moment. What did Yaakov mean by stating this?

Rashi explains that if Yaakov would have known that this place

was holy (Har HaMoriah), he wouldn't have slept there. The Ohr Hachaim HaKadosh goes further and says that if he would have known he was to receive prophecy, he would have prepared for it better.

IMHO, I think these two opinions are very much connected and it all relates to what I mentioned above in the name of the Arizal. Yaakov arrived to the place and prayed, what he thought was just going to be a typical prayer. After receiving the prophecy, his reaction was one of "WHOA! Did that just happen? I had no idea that Hashem was ready to bestow on me all of these great things. If I did, firstly, I wouldn't have slept here and secondly, I would have prepared myself better for this incredible experience."

Yaakov was teaching us a valuable lesson. Seize the moment, because today's moment isn't tomorrow's. Nor is it yesterday's. You never know what Hashem is ready to grant you. You never know your mazal at that given instant. For if we did know, we would never let an opportunity of intense, focused prayer pass us. May we merit to live everyday internalizing the concept of "Behold, there is God in this place."

Shabbat Shalom

If you have a Mazal Tob that you would like to share with the congregation or if you have a change of address or email please call

Maurice Benzacar at (905) 669-7654 Ext. 253 or e-mail [maurice@kehilacentre.com](mailto:maurice@kehilacentre.com)

Please be advised that the cutoff time for insertion in the bulletin is Wednesday.

This bulletin is printed courtesy of Print Three Concord (905) 738-5682.

# Weekly Classes at Abir Yaakob

**NEW**

## Avot U'Banim - Saturday Nights at 7pm

In conjunction with Kollel Yismah Moshe, Abir Yaakob conducts a Father-Son learning program every Motsae Shabbat at 7pm. In addition to the learning of Torah, the boys get to learn a Sephardic piyut (song) and hear a story from Rabbi Kadoch. It culminates with food and prizes. Skating following the learning. Sponsorship opportunities available at \$150 and \$250. Contact Rabbi Kadoch for more information.

This weeks sponsor is **Victor Arrobas** in honour of the **JDOHSS Flames Basketball team** for their success.

## Brunch and Learn - Sunday mornings at 10AM (following Shaharit)

Join Hacham Assayag every Sunday morning at 10AM for a special breakfast and open-ended learning session.

**Topic: The underlying reasons behind the Minhagim.**

Tefila begins at 9AM. For more information contact Hacham Assayag.

## Weekly Halacha with Tomer Malca

Please join Tomer Malca on Tuesday nights in the Midrash at 8:00 p.m. for a shiur on relevant halacha topics of the day.

## Night Yeshiva - Thursday Nights at 8pm

Attention high school and university boys: Come and enjoy a learning session followed by an intense game of basketball. Every Thursday beginning at 8pm. Special activities and trips take place bimonthly. For more information contact Yossi Azulay or Isaac Nacson.

## Ladies Shiur - Wednesdays at 8pm

Parashat HaShavua, Halacha and more. Ladies are invited to join Rabbi Kadoch every Wednesday at 8pm for an hour of Torah learning and discussion. For more information or for email reminders, contact Rabbi Kadoch at [davkadoch@gmail.com](mailto:davkadoch@gmail.com)

## Life Matters - Thursdays at 9pm

Join Hacham Amram Assayag every Thursday night for a discussion on deep and profound insights on life and Torah values. Refreshments to be served. For more information contact Max Benatar.

## Upcoming Events

### **In-House Kehila Boys Shabbaton - Grades 5-8 - January 27-29**

Kehila Boys between Grades 5-8 are invited for an exciting in-house Shabbaton at the SKC. You will enjoy two delicious Shabbat meals with fun and games followed by a Motsae Shabbat activity and a Sunday RAPTORS GAME!

To sign up, contact Rabbi Kadoch by January 1st 2017. Cost \$100/\$120 (non-member)

### **In-House Kehila Girls Shabbaton - Grades 6-8 - January 20-22**

Kehila Girls between Grades 6-8 are invited for an exciting in-house Shabbaton at the SKC. You will enjoy two delicious Shabbat meals with fun and games followed by a Motsae Shabbat activity and a Sunday RAPTORS GAME! To sign up, contact Rabbi Kadoch by December 24th 2017.

Cost \$100/\$120 (non-member)

### **Oneg Shabbat - Friday December 30th**

The entire Kahal Kadosh is invited to the house of Haham Amram and Rabbanit Shoshana Assayag for an Oneg Shabbat in celebration of Hanukah. Divre Torah, singing and good conversation will accompany delicious treats. Friday December 30th from 8pm-10pm.

Hope to see you there! (To host an Oneg Shabbat this winter, please contact Rabbi Kadoch)

### **Bakashot are back! Saturday January 21st @ Magen David 8-10pm**

Everyone is welcome to a night of musical liturgy and Moroccan treats as our own Rabbi David Kadoch and Hazan Aviv Ouanounou lead the Bakashot of Parashat Vayehi.

Abir Yaakob will host Bakashot Shabbat Zachor on Saturday March 4th.

### **Hanukah Bingo - Saturday December 24th**

Come and enjoy our yearly Hanukah event with Bingo, prizes and lots of oily foods. It's fun for the whole family! Plus we will light the first candle of Hanukah. Don't miss it! Saturday night December 24th at 7:30.