



SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE ABIR YAAKOB CONGREGATION

ברוכים הבאים שבת שלום
Shabbat Shalom—Welcome to our Synagogue

Chief Rabbi
Haham Amram Assayag
President
Meyer Keslassy
Vice President
Isaac Cohen
Shaliach Tzibur
Marc Kadoch
Hazan
Rabbi David Kadoch

Shabbat Parashat Naso
June 3, 2017 - 9 Sivan 5777
Parasha page 748, Haftara page 1181 in Artscroll

<i>Shabbat Prayer Times</i>		
Shir Hashirim	6:50 pm	שיר השירים
Minha	7:05 pm	מנחה
Kabalat Shabbat	7:20 pm	קבלת שבת
Candle Lighting	7:40 pm	הדלקת נרות
Shaharit Ha'Hida Vatikim	4:35 am	שחרית החיד"א (וטיקין)
Netz	5:37 am	נץ
Shaharit (Main Synagogue)	8:30 am	שחרית
Daf Yomi	6:10 pm	דף יומי
Rambam shiur	6:55 pm	רמב"ם
Tehilim	7:50 pm	תהלים
Minha	8:20 pm	מנחה
Shekia	8:55 pm	שקיעה
Shabbat Ends	9:49 pm	שבוע טוב

<i>Weekday Services at Medrash Torah Vehayim</i>		
<i>Shaharit Sunday שחרית</i>		
Vatikim	4:55 am	וטיקין
Makdimim	8:00 am	מקדימים
Kebuim	9:00 am	קבועים
<i>Weekday Tefillot</i>		
Vatikim	4:55 am	וטיקין
Makdimim	6:45 am	מקדימים
Kebuim	8:15 am	קבועים
Minha	7:00 pm	מנחה
Arbit	7:30 pm	ערבית
Please note that by popular request, during the summer months, we will be having Minha and Arbit at an early time only.		
<i>Next Ereb Shabbat, Friday June 9, 2017 Shir Hashirim 6:55 pm (Mincha 7:10 pm)</i>		

SPONSORSHIPS

This week's kiddush is sponsored by our guests, the **Ben-Shlomo and Goldberg** families in honour of the upcoming marriage of their children, **Ronen and Robyn**. All are welcome.

This week's seudah shelishit is sponsored by **Jacques & Biba Benquesus** in commemoration of the nahala of Jacques' mother, **Simy Benquesus ז"ל**.

This week's seudah shelishit is also sponsored by **Julia Cohen** and **Mercedes Bendayan** in commemoration of the nahala of their husband and father, **Ichoa Cohen ז"ל**. All are welcome.

NAHALOT

Shalom Bitton ז"ל	9 Sivan/ June 3
David Abitbol ז"ל	12 Sivan/ June 6
Gloria Goodis ז"ל	12 Sivan/ June 6
Elisabeth Pearl Kirschner ז"ל	12 Sivan/ June 6
Ichoa Cohen ז"ל	13 Sivan/ June 7
Simy Benquesus ז"ל	13 Sivan/ June 7
Liora Saban ז"ל	13 Sivan/ June 7
Miriam Essayag ז"ל	14 Sivan/ June 8
Amram Assayag ז"ל	15 Sivan/ June 9
<i>Nahalot for Next Week</i>	
Yojebed Attias ז"ל	16 Sivan/ June 10
Gabriel Rosenberg ז"ל	17 Sivan/ June 11
Alegria Chriqui ז"ל	17 Sivan/ June 11
Messoda Benaksas ז"ל	20 Sivan/ June 14
Rachel Beracha Bohbot ז"ל	20 Sivan/ June 14
Zohra Azoulay ז"ל	21 Sivan/ June 15
Luna Cohen ז"ל	22 Sivan/ June 16

JERUSALEM: 50 YEARS REUNIFIED

Please join us Tuesday, June 6 at 7:30 pm at Petah Tikva Congregation to welcome the new Consul General of Israel, Mrs. Galit Baram, to Toronto. Featuring a Sephardic Cantorial Concert. Please see the back page for the full flyer and all information. This event is in collaboration with the Sephardic Synagogues in Toronto.



Weekly Classes at Abir Yaakob

Brunch and Learn - Sunday mornings at 10:00 am

(following Shahrith)

Join Hacham Assayag every Sunday morning at 10:00 am for a special breakfast and open-ended learning session. The topic is *The Underlying Reasons for the Minhagim*. Tefilla begins at 9:00 am. For more information please contact Hacham Assayag.

Daf Yomi

Please join us daily for Gemara Daf Yomi with Hacham Assayag one hour before Minha.

Tuesday Night LIVE With Tomer Malca

Please join Tomer Malca on Tuesday nights in the Midrash at 7:30 pm for a shiur on relevant halacha topics of the day.

Night Yeshiva - Wednesdays at 8:00 pm

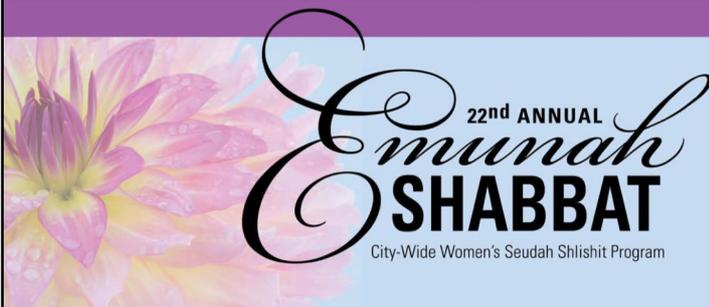
Attention High School and University boys: Come and enjoy a learning session followed by an intense game of basketball. Every Wednesday night beginning at 8:00 pm. Special activities and trips take place bi-monthly. For more information, contact Yossi Azulay or Isaac Nacson in person.

Life Matters - Thursdays at 9:00 pm

Join Hacham 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 in person.

Kehila Boys' Mishmar Program - Grades 5-8!

Boys grades 5-8, come out for a great time and see your friends from all schools! Every Wednesday we'll be meeting in the Red Room at 7:00 pm for some learning, snacks, and prizes, followed by our own basketball league in the gym! For any questions or for sponsorship opportunities, please contact yosazulay@gmail.com



22nd ANNUAL
Emunah
SHABBAT
City-Wide Women's Seudah Shlishit Program

Shabbat, June 10, 2017 שבת פרשת בהעלותך

EMUNAH TORONTO & BAYT SISTERHOOD

Speaker: **ORA ZIRING**
Topic: **A Break from the World**
5:30 p.m. Perlis Hall
Seudah Shlishit will be served

Co-chairs: Aliza Gershuni (647) 223-5104 & Aliza Fried (647) 298-2851

Emunah Shabbat at BAYT is being dedicated by the **KELMAN & GUTENBERG FAMILIES** in memory of their mother **Ruth Kelman z"l**

COUVERT: \$25.00 • SPONSORSHIPS: \$36 / \$54 / \$72 or more
Partial receipts will be given for donations of \$36 or more

Due to the success of past years, pre-registration and payment is required by June 7, 2017 at 5 pm

DAILY HALACHA by RABBI ELI MANSOUR

The Torah in Parashat Naso presents the Misva of Birkat Kohanim – the special blessing with which the Kohanim are to bless the people each day. G-d introduces this Misva by saying to Moshe, “Speak to Aharon and his sons, saying: So shall you bless the Children of Israel – say to them, ‘G-d shall bless you and protect you...’”

Rashi notes the unusual verb form used in this verse reference to the Kohanim’s blessing – “Amor.” To explain the meaning of this word, Rashi comments that it resembles two famous terms used in reference to the Misva of Shabbat – “Zachor” (“remember”) and Shamor (observe). Grammatically, this means that the word “Amor” connotes consistency, that is to say, the Kohanim should always use this text when blessing the people, just as “Zachor” and “Shamor” require us to always have the observance of Shabbat on our minds throughout the week, on an ongoing basis.

The question remains, however, as to why Rashi brought specifically these examples of this grammatical construction. There are other instances in Tanach where this verb form appears. If Rashi chose to cite the examples of “Zachor” and “Shamor,” it appears that he found some connection between Shabbat and Birkat Kohanim.

The Kedushat Siyon (Rav Bentzion Halberstam, the second Rebbe of Bobov, 1874-1941) explained that Shabbat is unique among all the sacred days we observe in that it is determined entirely by G-d. All the holidays are observed on specific dates on the calendar, and thus they depend on the monthly declaration of the new month made by the Sanhedrin (the highest Rabbinical court; nowadays, we used the fixed calendar system, instituted by the great sage Hillel). Shabbat, however, occurs every seventh day without any input whatsoever from the Jewish People. It arrives entirely independent of anything we do.

For this reason, the Kedushat Siyon explains, Rashi alluded to a comparison between Birkat Kohanim and Shabbat. The Midrash notes that the Misva of Birkat Kohanim might mislead us into thinking that the Jewish People’s blessing depends on the Kohanim, that they are empowered to bring us prosperity and success. But this is incorrect, and in fact, G-d concludes the command of Birkat Kohanim by proclaiming, “Va’ani Abarechem” – “I will bless them.” For reasons which we do not necessarily understand, G-d wanted the blessing to come through the Kohanim, but the source of the blessing is G-d, not the Kohanim. When the Kohanim bless us in the synagogue, it is really G-d who is giving us a Beracha.

This is the connection between Shabbat and Birkat Kohanim. Although we are obligated to observe Shabbat, it is sacred regardless of what we do; similarly, although the Kohanim bless us, the blessing in truth depends on G-d.

We must never belittle the importance of Birkat Kohanim, whereby we receive a Beracha directly from G-d. Many people will travel across the world to Israel to receive blessings from famous Rabbis, but they do not have the patience to wait in the synagogue until Musaf on Shabbat to receive an extra blessing from G-d Himself. Each day, we are given a special privilege to receive a Beracha from G-d Himself. Let us take advantage of this opportunity by attending the service and paying close attention to this Beracha, so we will be the beneficiaries of the greatest blessing at all – the blessing that comes directly from G-d, the source of all blessings in the world.

Insights on the Torah by Hacham Amram Assayag

QUESTION: How was the Netilat Yadayim for food established?

ANSWER: Shelomo Hamelech established the Mitzva of Netilat Yadayim. He heard a voice from Heaven stating: "My son, if your heart is wise my heart shall also rejoice." Shelomo later incorporated this Pasuk in Mishle.

The food that one consumes has a great value of sanctity in our Torah. Many of the services of the Bet Hamikdash were composed of foods that were sanctified, such as sacrifices, the Teruma given to the Cohen, the Maaser presented to the Levi, as well as other offerings of food. When the Bet Hamikdash was destroyed, the emphasis of this sanctity was put on the table on which one eats, which is considered by the Hachamim as the Altar in the Bet Hamikdash. Therefore, from the times of the Teruma, the need to purify one's hands before eating was established, in order to eat the foods with cleanness and sanctity.

The Hachamim decreed that one must make Netilat Yadayim for food primarily in the following circumstances:

1. Before eating bread one must wash his/her hands. However the beracha is recited only if the person intends to eat 58 grams of bread or more.
2. For cakes of dough products of the like, the beracha of Bore Mine Mezonot is recited without Netilat Yadayim. Nevertheless, if the person intends to eat 230 grams or more of Mezonot, then one must make Netilat Yadayim with a beracha, recite Hamotzi and then eat.
3. If one is going to eat something, which is wet or will be dipped in liquids, one must do Netilat Yadayim without a beracha. (This is the reason why on the night of Pesah, before eating the Karpas, one washes his hands without a beracha, as it is celery, which will be dipped in wine or vinegar).

The Mitzva of Netilat Yadayim is a most important one, for which our Hachamim have used strong expressions against those that do not keep this Mitzva. On the positive side though, we are told that whoever performs the Mitzva of Netilat Yadayim meticulously shall be worthy of becoming wealthy, while those who do not keep it become poor. Homiletically, the Hachamim indicate to us, that if one takes the first letter of the words "Al Netilat Yadayim" which are Ayin, Nun, Yod, which form the word "Ani", poor. The Gemara in Shabat quotes Rav Hisda saying: "I wash my hands with my hands full (plenty of water) and they give me hands full of good".

TORAH BITES

by Rabbi David Kadoch

Ploni Almoni - The man who "ALMOST" had it all

It is customary among Jews around the world to read the story of Rut on the holiday of Shavuot. Many reasons are given for this custom, the most famous being that Rut was the ancestral matriarch of King David, who was born and died on the first day of Shavuot. Rut, who converted to Judaism when deciding to cling to her mother in law Naomi, eventually married Boaz through a Levirate Marriage (yibum) and her offspring built the eventual Davidic Dynasty. What seems to get overlooked in the story, is that Boaz wasn't really first in line to marry Rut. That opportunity really belonged to a man named "Ploni Almoni" who was a closer relative to Elimelech (Naomi's deceased husband) than Boaz was. Halacha states that when choosing to perform the mitzvah of a Levirate Marriage, the closest relative to the deceased must be given first opportunity.

Ploni Almoni chose to deny Rut "lest I impair my own estate." In other words, according to Rashi, he saw the consequence and punishment handed down to Machlon and Chilyon (husbands of Rut and Orpah) who perished for marrying gentile women, and he didn't want his own offspring to suffer the same fate. Therefore, he turned down the opportunity to marry Rut. Little did he know that he was horribly mistaken in his decision making.

The law was already passed that the commandment not to marry a member of the Moavite nation only applied to men, and NOT to women. Ploni Almoni, through his inadequate knowledge of Torah and its laws, incorrectly decided that Rut was prohibited to him. Rashi explains that this is why he is called "Ploni Almoni" which literally means "so and so." His real name was "Tuv." He was called "Ploni Almoni" because he was an "Alman" (widow) to the Torah. He "widowed" himself from the study of Torah, he refused to understand the intricacies of Halacha and felt that marrying Rut would have led to his offspring's demise. He could have had it all; the monarchy, the rulership, the Mashiach; instead, he got nothing!

As we just passed the holiday of Shavuot, the holiday of Matan Torah, let us reinforce our commitment to Torah study. It's **not** enough to ask your rabbi a question only when an issue arises. It's **not** enough to attend a lecture once or twice a year and feel that you've fulfilled your obligation. It's **not** enough to attend synagogue once a week to hear the derasha of the Rav. It's **not** enough! Torah study is a daily obligation for men and the Shulchan Aruch clearly states that women are obligated to study the halachot (laws) pertaining to mitzvot that are incumbent upon them.

Let us not fall into the category of Ploni Almoni. Let's not be looked upon as the person that could have had it all, but widowed him/herself from what was important. Let's cherish the multiple opportunities around us that allow us to study Torah in so many ways and through that we should all merit to see the final link to the Davidic Dynasty, Mashiach ben David, may he arrive speedily in our days, Amen.

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 other changes in your family, please contact our Administrator, Jennifer Alexandroff at (905) 669-7654 x 253, or email her at jennifer@kehilacentre.com.

Please be advised that the cut-off time for insertion in the bulletin is Wednesday at 4:00 pm.

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

In collaboration with the Sephardic Synagogues in Toronto

JERUSALEM:



YEARS REUNIFIED

TUESDAY, JUNE 6TH AT 7:30PM

Petah Tikva Congregation, 20 Danby Ave.

June 5 - 10th, 1967. The 6 days that changed the landscape of Israel's history and re-unified Jerusalem to its glory.

Join us as we welcome the new Consul General of Israel to Toronto Mrs. Galit Baram for a moving ceremony to commemorate the 6 day war, featuring live testimony from IDF Soldiers who were on the front lines during the six day war.

Refreshments will be served.

