

# SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE

## ABIR YAAKOB CONGREGATION



President  
Meyer Keslassy  
Vice President  
Isaac Cohen

ברוכים הבאים שבת שלום  
*Shabbat Shalom Welcome to our Synagogue*

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

פרשת וארא *Perashat Vaera*

Shabbat January 13th, 2018, כ"ו טבת תשע"ח / 26 Tevet 5778  
Perasha Page 318, Haftara 1149 in Artsroll

### Shabbat Prayer Times

שיר השירים Shir Hashirim	4:35 p.m.
מנחה Minha	4:50 p.m.
קבלת שבת Kabalat Shabbat	5:10 p.m.
הדלקת נרות Candle Lighting	4:45 p.m.
שחרית מנין החיד"א (וטיקין) Shacharit Ha'Hida Vatikim	6:50 a.m.
שחרית (Main Synagogue/Barechu:9:35) Shacharit	8:30 a.m.
תהלים Tehilim	3:50 p.m.
מנחה Minha	4:20 p.m.
שבת טוב Shabbat Ends	5:51 p.m.

*Ereb Shabbat, Friday January 19th, 2018*  
Minha 4:55 p.m. (Candle Lighting 4:53 p.m.)

### Weekday Services at Medrash Torah Vehayim

שחרית <i>Shacharit Sunday</i>	
וטיקין Vatikim	7:10 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim	8:00 a.m.
קבועים Kebuim	9:00 a.m.
שחרית <i>Shacharit Weekdays</i>	
וטיקין Vatikim	7:10 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim	6:45 a.m.
קבועים Kebuim	8:15 a.m.
מנחה Minha	4:50 p.m.
ערבית Arbit	5:30 p.m.

Shabat Zemanim- Netz- נץ- 7:50 am, Keriat Shema- קריאת שמע- 9:32 am, Shekia- שקיעה- 5:04 pm

### Mazal Tov

Mazal Tov to Mr. and Mrs. James and Limor Keslassy on the Bar Misva of their son, **Joshua (Shua) Isaac**

**Proud Grandparents:** Mr. and Mrs. Max and Mercedes Keslassy and Mrs. Shoshana Rosenberg  
**Proud Great Grandmother:** Mrs. Rica Cohen.

### Kiddush

This Shabbat Kiddush is sponsored by **Mr. and Mrs. James & Limor Keslassy** in honour of the Bar Misva of their son **Joshua Isaac**. *Everyone is welcome.*

### Seuda Shelishit

This weeks Seudah Shelishit is sponsored by Mrs. Marcelle Benaim, in loving memory of her husband Jack Benaim ז"ל, and Mr. Simon Sabbah, in loving memory of his mother Rebecca Sabbah ז"ל  
*Everyone is welcome.*

### Nahalot

Hillel Edery ז"ל 26 Tevet/ Shabbat January 13th  
Luna Benchabo ז"ל 29 Tevet/ Tuesday January 16th  
Rebecca Sabbah ז"ל, Yaakob Zeitouni ז"ל 1 Shevat/ Wednesday January 17th  
Jack Benaim ז"ל 3 Shevat/ Friday January 19th

### Nahalot for the following week

Achi Biba Benmaman ז"ל 4 Shevat/ Shabbat January 20th  
Gimol Bendelac ז"ל, Abraham Yaakob Delmar ז"ל, Ethel Korman ז"ל 5 Shevat/ Sunday January 21st  
Simcha Soudry ז"ל 7 Shevat/ Tuesday January 23rd  
Isaac Cohen ז"ל 9 Shevat/ Thursday January 25th  
Joseph Amar ז"ל, Simon Serfaty ז"ל 10 Shevat/ Friday January 26th

*To increase participation during Tefila, this bulletin should not be read during the conduction of prayer services.*

*This bulletin must be discarded in a proper Geniza. 7026 Bathurst Street Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8K3 Tel: (905) 669 7654 Fax: (905) 669 5138*

## Synagogue News

### **New Member**

We would like to wish a hearty Baruch Abba to Mr. & Mrs. Joseph and Sandra Algai for becoming members. Welcome to our Kehila

### **Refuah Shelema**

Rabbi Yehuda Edery past Rabbi of Petah Tikva, is currently in Sunnybrook Hospital, and is very sick. His wife is also sick and cannot even go to visit him, and was asked by the nurse as to why there are no visitors.

We are sure that Rabbi Edery as a comfort to him, would like to have some visitors to come to see him and wish him.

Refuah Shelema.

### **Social Hall**

Last Thursday January 11th., we inaugurated the Social Centre to serve our community. The Centre has been established to provide all, the opportunity to meet and enjoy the amenities that we are presently offering.

The Social Centre will be open for all from Monday to Thursday from 6 PM to 12 PM, Saturday during the winter season, we will open from 1 hour after Shabbat ends, until 12 AM., Sundays from 1 PM to 12 AM. The Centre will be closed during all Jewish holidays.



**DANCE CLASSES  
AT SKC For Girls  
HIP HOP JAZZ AND  
LYRICAL**

**\$100 for 10 Classes  
January 21 -April  
15 2018**

**All proceeds Go to  
support Shalva**

(you will receive a Full Donation receipt)

**Please register at**

**[alysaessebag@rogers.com](mailto:alysaessebag@rogers.com)**



## *Weekly Classes at Abir Yaakob*

### ***Avot U'Banim***

Community wide Avot U'Banim, Father and son learning continues this Motsae Shabbat in the midrash from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Great Raffle Prizes, Pizza, Skating, Snacks and more! For more details and information please speak to Rabbi Kadoch.

### ***Brunch and Learn - Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM***

Join Hacham Assayag every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM for a special breakfast and open-ended learning session.

Topic: The underlying reasons behind the Minhagim.

Tefila begins at 9:00 AM. For more information contact Hacham Assayag.

### ***Daf Yomi***

Please join us daily for Gemara Daf Yomi with Hacham Assayag, following Arvit.

### ***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 - Wednesday Nights at 8pm***

Attention high school and university boys: Come and enjoy a learning session followed by an intense game of basketball.

Every Wednesday beginning at 8pm. Special activities and trips take place bimonthly. For more information contact Yossi Azulay or Isaac Nacson.

### ***Life Matters - Thursdays at 8:00 PM***

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.

### ***Halacha and Mussar***

Thursday nights at 9:00 PM - Join Rabbi David Kadoch in an informative class on Hilchot Shabbat and Character Development. Each class will end with a thought on the Parasha.

Men of all ages invited.

## *Upcoming Events*

### ***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](mailto:yosazulay@gmail.com)

“קח את מטך והשליך לפני פרעה יהי לתנין” (ז:ט)

*Take your staff and throw it in front of Pharaoh and it shall be a serpent” (7:9)*

This wasn't some ordinary staff. This staff was of the ten items created on the sixth day of creation just prior to the onset of Shabbat. The holy books write that the tetragram name of God (יהוה) was inscribed on this staff and with this name it contained the power required to perform some of the most incredible miracles ever to be witnessed on Earth. The snake (serpent) on the other hand, is the polar opposite; representing the lowest of the low; a symbol for the evil inclination in reference to the original sin by Adam and Hava at the Tree of Knowledge. One is forced to ask how can Hashem possibly instruct Moshe to turn such a holy object into such an impure one, only to revert back to its original holy status as Moshe grasps its tail?

Rashi, quoting the Medrash, states that one of the reasons Hashem chose to turn the holy stick into an evil snake was because of Moshe's negative speech towards the Jews. Moshe was *motzi shem ra* (gave a bad name) to the people by accusing them of not believing him when he would inform them that God promised a redemption. The Medrash writes that Hashem told Moshe: "Really, you are deserving to be hit by this stick since you performed an action attributed to the snake (*lashon hara*) while indeed My people are "believers, sons of believers." Hence, this is the staff/snake connection."

However, I'd like to turn your attention to a novelty a little more complex but certainly worthwhile learning. After Moshe approached Pharaoh requesting to leave Egypt, Pharaoh responded accurately as follows: "What merit should your people leave my country? They are also idol worshippers. They have sunk to the forty-ninth level of impurity, so why should they leave?" In essence this is a great argument by Pharaoh and the only rebuttal Moshe had was performing the staff/snake episode. How so? Because no matter how holy the staff was, the moment it leaves the domain of Moshe (*kedusha*) and enters the domain of Pharaoh (*tuma*), the stick becomes mundane. It becomes like every other piece of wood in the world. Worse...it becomes like a snake with the power to bring evil. Nevertheless, when Moshe grasps the tail of the snake once more, it reverts back to the holy object it originated as. This exactly was Moshe's answer to the Egyptian king. "You claim that the Jews aren't worthy of the Exodus because they stooped to the forty-ninth level of impurity. Look at the holy staff how it transcended to the lowest depths. The same is with my nation the Jewish people. Their source is one of holiness, stemming from the sacred patriarchs, but the moment they fall under your umbrella they sink and become like snakes. But once I take hold of them, once I grab their tail and direct them the way they need to go, you will see how they will change back to holy nation they once were; back to the Staff of God.

I believe that the same applies to the Jewish people. If we are a people yearning to settle under the umbrella so-called leaders of the world of vanity, then where will we end up? When we look up to the "superstars" of the generation, be it in the sports world or that of entertainment, is this what defines us as the holy people of God? Every day more reports come alive about the horrible actions of Hollywood superstars or those making millions in the sports industry. Yet this is who we want to emulate?! We turn from holy staff to immoral snakes. But when sit at the feet of our Rabbis, leaders who emulate Moshe Rabenu, then we become like the holy staff; the same staff used to perform some of the most astounding miracles of all time. While we may not be privy to see wonders like these in our lifetime, we can certainly acknowledge that our lives are filled with small miracles every day of the week, in hope that we see one more grand sensation; the coming of Mashiah, may he come speedily in our days, Amen.

## Shabat Vaera

Hashem speaks to Moshe telling him that He appeared to Abraham, Yitzhak and Yaacob, making a covenant to give them the land of Canaan. Moshe must address the Jews in Egypt and assure them into the Promised Land. Unfortunately, the Jews did not hearken to Moshe out of the cruel bondage. Hashem asks Moshe to return to Par'oh and request that he send the Jews out, but Moshe doubts that Par'oh will listen since the Jews themselves did not listen. Nevertheless, Hashem teaches Moshe and Aharon what to tell Par'oh, while he informs them that He will harden Par'oh's heart and will multiply His signs until the Egyptians recognize that He is G-d; the Almighty. Moshe at 80 years of age and Aharon at 83, come to Par'oh and begin the signs by Aharon casting down his staff on the ground and it became a crocodile. Par'oh calls on the Egyptian magicians and has them turn their staffs into crocodiles, but Aharon's staff swallows theirs. After this event, when Par'oh's heart continued to harden, Hashem sends Moshe and Aharon to bring upon Mitzrayim the plagues, warning him before each plague.

**Dam - Blood** - Hashem orders Aharon to stretch out his staff over the waters of Egypt, when Par'oh went down to the Nile in the morning, and they turn into blood. The fish in the river die. The Egyptians cannot drink water and they must dig around the river to find water as the rivers, streams, and pools become blood. The magicians are able to perform this plague.

**Tzefardea - Frogs** - Hashem commands Aharon to extend his hand again over the waters and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt, coming into their houses, beds and foods. The magicians did likewise with their secret arts. Par'oh calls on Moshe, that he pray to Hashem to take away the frogs and he would redeem the nation. The following day the frogs died in the houses, courts and fields, and they gathered them in heaps and the land stank.

**Kinim - Lice** - Hashem asks Moshe that Aharon stretch out his staff and smite the dust of the earth, which turned into vermin on man and beast, all the dust of the earth became lice. The magicians tried to do likewise, but this time, being unsuccessful, they proclaim that it is G-d's doing.

**Arob - Wild Beasts** - Hashem sends wild beasts, which fill the houses and the whole land of Egypt, nevertheless, not one entered the land of Goshem, which the Jews inhabited. Par'oh calls Moshe and Aharon, offering to them that the Jews worship and bring sacrifices to their G-d in the land of Egypt. Moshe refuses, and Par'oh promises to deliver the Jews from their bondage when G-d puts an end to this plague.

**Deber - Deadly Plague** - Hashem sends a plague upon the cattle and flocks of the Egyptians. Hashem made again that all the cattle of the Egyptians which were in the fields (not those in stables and under cover) die, but none perished from the cattle of Israel.

**Shehin - Boils** - Hashem tells Moshe to take his hands full of soot out of a furnace and to throw it towards the heaven. This becomes fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, which brings about boils producing rash and tumors, upon man and beast. After this plague, Hashem warns Par'oh that He will send all his plagues so that him and his nation will know that there is none like Him on all the earth. He assures him that He could have smitten him and his people with pestilence and they would have been destroyed from off the earth. But He allowed him to stand in order to show him His power and that His name be declared over the whole world.

**Barad - Hail** - Moshe forewarns Par'oh that Hashem will cause a heavy hail storm, the like has never been seen in Egypt, and advises him that he and all his cattle should take refuge because all which shall be found outdoors will die. Moshe stretches his staff towards the heaven and Hashem sends thunder, lightning, and hail and self-contained fire in its midst. The hail killed man and beasts, broke every tree and smote all herbage of the field.

Par'oh calls Moshe and Aharon, but this time he admits that he sinned, that Hashem is just and him and his nation are the evildoer. When the hail ceased, Par'oh continues to harden his heart and refuses to send the children of Israel away.

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# SOLD OUT

The Joe Dwek Ohr HaEmet Sephardic School  
Cordially Invites the Entire Community  
to the 34th Hilula of

## *Baba Sali*

*Haadmor Rabbi Yisrael Abuhatzira זצוק"ל*  
*צדיק נתמר ירח*

5 Shevat 5778 | Sunday, January 21st, 2018  
Cocktails and Registration at 5:00 p.m. | Dinner to Follow  
Door Prizes | Silent Auction | Raffles | Live Music

*Sephardic Kehila Centre*  
7026 Bathurst Street, Thornhill, On  
(905) 669-7653

*Lighting the Way to a Brighter Future*



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 contact the office at (905) 669-7654 Ext. 1.

Please be advised that the cutoff time for insertion in the bulletin is Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.

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