

SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE

ABIR YAAKOB CONGREGATION



President
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ברוכים הבאים שבת שלום
Welcome to our Synagogue
Shabbat Shalom

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

פרשת משפטים *Perashat Mishpatim*
Shabbat February 10th, 2018, כה' שבט תשע"ח / 25 Shevat 5778
Perasha Page 416, Maftir 484, Haftara 1212 in Artsroll

Shabbat Prayer Times

שיר השירים Shir Hashirim	5:10 p.m.
מנחה Minha	5:25 p.m.
קבלת שבת Kabalat Shabbat	5:40 p.m.
הדלקת נרות Candle Lighting	5:22 p.m.
שחרית מנין החיד"א (וטיקין) Shacharit Ha'Hida Vatikim	6:25 a.m.
שחרית (Main Synagogue/Barechu:9:35) Shacharit	8:30 a.m.
תהלים Tehilim	4:25 p.m.
מנחה Minha	4:55 p.m.
שבוע טוב Shabbat Ends	6:25 p.m.

Ereb Shabbat, Friday February 16th, 2018
Minha 5:35 p.m. (Candle Lighting 5:31 p.m.)

Weekday Services at Medrash Torah Vehayim

שחרית <i>Shacharit Sunday</i>	
וטיקין Vatikim	6:35 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim	8:00 a.m.
קבועים Kebuim	9:00 a.m.
שחרית <i>Shacharit Weekdays</i>	
וטיקין Vatikim	6:35 a.m.
מקדימים Makdimim	6:45 a.m.
קבועים Kebuim	8:15 a.m.
מנחה Minha	5:25 p.m.
ערבית Arbit	6:05 p.m.

Shabat Zemanim- Netz- נץ- 7:24 am, Keriat Shema- קריאת שמע- 9:22 am, Shekia- שקיעה- 5:41 pm

Kiddush

Everyone is invited to join us for Kiddush after services. In order to continue our coveted Kiddush which we all enjoy on a weekly basis, we are looking for sponsors.
Everyone is welcome.

Seuda Shelishit

This weeks Seudah Shelishit is sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Ralph and Anne Benisty in loving memory of his father Victor Haim Benisty ז"ל
Everyone is welcome.

Nahalot

Samuel Korman ז"ל 25 Shevat/ Shabbat February 10th
Anna Hakoun ז"ל 26 Shevat/ Sunday February 11th
Victor Haim Benisty ז"ל 27 Shevat/ Monday February 12th
Shimon Reboh ז"ל 28 Shevat/ Tuesday February 13th
Claude Yahia Ayache ז"ל 1 Adar/ Friday February 16th

Nahalot for the following week

Chaya Nacson ז"ל, Isaac Medina ז"ל, Albert Benzacar ז"ל, Yitzhak Nahmias ז"ל 2 Adar/ Shabbat Feb.17th
Joseph Anidjar ז"ל, Shimon Mashiah ז"ל 4 Adar/ Monday February 19th
Rahel Nacson ז"ל 5 Adar/ Tuesday February 20th
Mair Cohen ז"ל 6 Adar/ Wednesday February 21st
David Igelman ז"ל, Victor Totah ז"ל, Simy Benarroch ז"ל 7 Adar/ Thursday February 22nd
Rahamin Sibony ז"ל, Aharon Assor ז"ל, Juliette Ohayo ז"ל 8 Adar/ Friday February 23rd

Hilula Rav Hida

Rebbi Hayim Yosef David Azulay ZYAA

Abir Yaakov Congregation cordially invites all the men
And women, member and non-members to the

Hilula of Rav Hida - Rebbi Hayim Yosef David Azulay ZYAA

on February 25, 2018 at the Kehila Centre.

Minha followed by Arbit at 5.45 pm. The dinner, following
is graciously sponsored by Jacques and Biba Benquesus,
and is free of charge.

Please RSVP no later than

Thursday February 22nd, 2018,

to Jimmy Dayan at 905-669-7654x253

or jdayan@kehilacentre.com



Synagogue News

Rosh Hodesh Adar

Please be advised that Rosh Hodesh Adar will be on Thursday and Friday, February 15 and 16th.

Shloshim

The Shloshim service of Mr. Moses Elmaleh ז"ל and the year service of, Mrs. Marie Elmaleh ז"ל will be on Wednesday, February 14th, 2018 at Minyan Sepharad Congregation starting with Minha at 5:30 pm., 475 Patricia Ave. Toronto, Ontario, (Eitz Chaim boys school). Unveiling of the stone for Mr. Moses Elmaleh ז"ל will be on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 3:00 pm. In Israel at Har Hamenuchot (Givat Shaul), Marie & Moses Elmaleh ז"ל Kever.

Social Hall Update

We would like to inform the entire community that we have that the Social Centre will be opened for all, from Tuesday to Thursday, from 6 PM to 11 PM, Sundays from 2 PM to 11 PM. The Centre will be closed during all Jewish holidays.

Weekly Classes at Abir Yaakov

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.

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

Shiur Bites By Rabbi Kadoch

"ואלה המשפטים אשר תשים לפניהם" (כא:א)

"And these are the ordinances that you shall place before them"

Immediately following Matan Torah, the Jewish people were given a set of regulatory laws to direct their lives. These laws, for the most part, seem obvious. Any human being with bare morals will understand the need to refrain from lying, return lost objects or not strike his/her parents. This is why Rashi, opening his commentary on the parasha, needs to tell us that all these laws were given on Har Sinai. As obvious as they may be, the *vav* in the word "Ve'Ele" comes to extend what was given on Har Sinai. Therefore a person should not think that commandments such as helping to unload your friend's animal, or refraining from cursing your parents and hitting your fellow, were unpronounced due to their indisputability.

Yet, the word *Mishpatim* struck me. Why choose this word? Why choose these set of laws to begin the deliverance of our mitzvot? I would like to say the following. It makes sense to begin teaching elementary Jews simple laws rather than more complex ones. We know that our commandments are basically divided into two categories; *Hukim* and *Mishpatim*. *Hukim* are the commandments that are beyond reason; commandments that we cannot grasp why God would give them, yet we fulfill them with love to gain the utmost reward. Included in these would be: *Para Aduma*, *Tzitzit*, *Kashrut* etc. *Mishpatim* are the laws that make sense and with good reason: Do not murder, do not kidnap, give charity, respect your parents etc... Following the Ten Commandments, the Torah felt the need to break us in slowly, give us the laws which are easy for us to understand before delving into more profound areas of the Torah.

I believe from this we can learn a fundamental lesson in how to engage ourselves when it comes to studying and learning about our religion. Often people get excited learning Torah, especially if it's for the first time. That's a good thing. However, one cannot be pulled into matters of the Torah which far outweigh his current level of comprehension or knowledge in Torah. As tempting it is to delve into matters of *Kabbala*, *Zohar* or other mystical concepts, one must first have a solid foundation of what our Torah is about. One should engage first in the "*mishpatim*" before tackling the "*hukim*." It's unfortunate that I see many people eager to dive into the Torah but forgoing the basics of *Parashat HaShavua* and essentials of *Halacha*. How can you attempt a *Ramban* or *Ohr HaHaim HaKadosh*, without mastering *Rashi*? How can you contend with a *Gemara* without first confronting *Mishna*? Have you grasped the laws of *Shema*, *Tefila*, *Shabbat* and holidays so well that you feel the need to explore the intricacies of *Kashrut*?

The lesson of *Mishpatim* is clear. The giving of the Torah began a process that would span generations until the end of time. It is important to realize that there are steps to complete that process and one can only advance by beginning with baby steps, moving slowly towards larger strides. When this method is followed diligently, before you know it, you'll be off and running.

Halacha Corner By Rabbi Eli Mansour

The Special Torah Reading for Shabbat Shekalim

During the times of the *Bet Ha'mikdash*, the nation's officials would announce to the people during the month of *Adar* that they must send in their *Mahasit Ha'shekel*, the mandatory annual donation to the *Bet Ha'mikdash*. The "fiscal year" of the *Bet Ha'mikdash* began in *Nissan*, and therefore, starting with the onset of *Adar* - the month before *Nissan* - preparations for the next year's budget began, with the solicitation of the *Mahasit Ha'shekel*. Unfortunately, due to our unworthiness, we do not have a *Bet Ha'mikdash*, and we are therefore unable to fulfill this *Misva* of *Mahasit Ha'shekel* during the month of *Adar*. However, as the *Mishna Berura* (*Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan* of *Radin*, 1839-1933) cites (in *Siman 685*) from the *Lebush*, we commemorate this donation through the reading of "*Parashat shekalim*" on the *Shabbat* that precedes *Rosh Hodesh Adar* (which we call "*Shabbat shekalim*"). By reading about this *Misva* of *Mahasit Ha'shekel*, we are considered, on some level, as though we actually fulfill this *Misva*. This resembles the concept of "*U'neshalema Farim Sefatenu*," which means that we read and study the verses relating to the sacrifices and are thereby considered to have actually offered the sacrifices. Similarly, we read about the *Mahasit Ha'shekel* and are thus considered to have fulfilled this *Misva*. There are a number of *Rishonim* (*Medieval Halachic scholars*) who

maintained that the annual reading of *Parashat shekalim* constitutes a *Torah* obligation. This is the implication of *Tosafot* (*Medieval French and German scholars*), in *Masechet Berachot* (13a). *Halacha* does not, however, follow this view, and we maintain that this annual reading is required on the level of *Mi'de'rabbanan* (*Rabbinic enactment*). *Hacham Ovadia Yosef* ruled that women are not included in the obligation of *Parashat shekalim*. Since this *Misva* applies only on specific occasions, it has the status of "*Misva She'ha'zman Gerama*" (a time-bound *Misva*), from which women are generally exempt. Therefore, strictly speaking, there is no obligation for a woman to attend the synagogue to hear the reading of *Parashat shekalim*. It is customary to bring two *Torah* scrolls from the ark in the synagogue on *Shabbat shekalim*. From the first, we read that week's *Parasha*, and we use the second for the reading of *Parashat shekalim* for the *Maftir*. *Hacham Ovadia Yosef* writes that if the first *Torah* scroll is found to be *Pasul* (invalid for use) during the reading of the weekly *Parasha*, it is preferable to continue the reading from the second scroll, which had been taken from the ark for *Parashat shekalim*, rather than take a third scroll from the ark. Normally, in a situation where a *Torah* scroll is found to be invalid, we leave it on the *Teba* (table) as a sign of respect and bring a new *Torah* from the ark. On *Shabbat shekalim*, however, the two readings - the weekly *Parasha* and the special reading of *shekalim* - are in close proximity to one another. For example, this year (5771), *Shabbat shekalim* occurs on the *Shabbat* when we read *Parashat Pekudeh*, which is only two *Parashiyot* after *Parashat Ki-Tisa*, where the section of *shekalim* appears. Therefore, it would not cause undue inconvenience to the congregation to roll the *Sefer Torah* from *Parashat shekalim* to the weekly *Parasha*, and then back to *Parashat shekalim* for *Maftir*. *Hacham Ovadia* maintains that this is preferable to removing a third *Sefer Torah* from the ark, given that there is little or no inconvenience entailed.

Summary: There is a *Misva* for a congregation to read the special section of *Parashat shekalim* on the *Shabbat* preceding *Rosh Hodesh Adar*. Women are exempt from this obligation. We take two *Torah* scrolls from the ark - the first for the reading of the weekly *Parasha*, and the second for the special reading of *shekalim*. If the first *Torah* scroll is found to be invalid, the *Torah* scroll that was taken for *shekalim* should be used for the weekly reading and then rolled back to the section of *shekalim*. This is preferable to taking a third *Torah* scroll from the ark.

Insights on the Torah By Haham Amram Assayag

Shabbat Shekalim

This *Shabbat* is one of the four *Shabbatot* in the year, which although they are not festive ones, two *Sefarim* are taken out and two different portions of the *Torah* are read. Those four *Shabbatot* of some greater significance, begin with the *Shabbat* before *Rosh Hodesh Adar* and end with the *Shabbat* before *Pesah*. The first *Shabbat* is called "*Shabbat Shekalim*". At the time of the *Bet Hamikdash*, there were two categories of *Korbanot* (sacrifices): *Korban Tzibur*: communal sacrifices which were offered daily and on holidays on behalf of the whole nation, and *Korban Yahid*: offerings and sacrifices that each Jew would bring individually for various occasions. For a *korban* to be qualified as a communal offering, each individual must participate in the value of the *korban*. For this purpose, an annual tax was collected for the *Bet Hamikdash*, a tax of half a *shekel*, compulsory on any Jew older than twenty, whether rich or poor. These sacrifices serve the purpose of forgiving all the sins of the nation and of creating a bond of love between this nation and *Hashem*. The *Korbanot Tzibur* of each year were bought with the funds collected in that same year and no other monies could be used. Thus, it was imperative that the *Shekalim* be deposited in the treasury of the *Bet Hamikdash*, no later than the 1st of *Nisan*, the beginning of the new year. For this very reason, the *Hachamim* established that on *Rosh Hodesh Adar* the annual "*Mahatzit Hashekel*" campaign must be announced for everyone to prepare his contribution. In commemoration of this *Misva* of the *Torah*, on the *Shabbat* of *Rosh Hodesh Adar*, we also announce the *Mahatzit Hashekel* fund-raising, through the lecture of the *Perasha* which refers to this *Misva*. Nowadays, although neither the *Bet Hamikdash* nor the *Korbanot* are in existence, we continue to perform our holy customs and on the day of *Purim* (14th *Adar*), we collect in all our Synagogues a "*Mahatzit Hashekel*" from each member, even his wife and for the children. May the Almighty rebuild the *Bet Hamikdash* very speedily, and may we all enjoy the privileges of contributing towards the "*Temidim*" and "*Musafim*" in a newly reestablished *Yerushalayim* "amen".

KOLLEL YISMACH MOSHE - ONLINE FUNDRAISER

On Wednesday, February 14th, Kollel Yismach Moshe is hosting a 24-hour campaign in an effort to raise \$150,000. Thanks to our generous matchers, every dollar you sponsor will be QUADRUPLED! Under the direction of Rabbi Oziel, Rabbi Zrihen & our Rosh Kollel Rabbi Hassan, we have a vibrant group of Avrechim who focus on community outreach. Each evening avrechim rotate at Sephardic shuls within the Toronto area affording everyone the opportunity for Torah study and instilling pride in our Sephardic heritage. This campaign is all or nothing so please show your support on Wednesday at www.charidy.com/kym

KOLLEL YISMACH MOSHE IS CREATING AN
**EVERLASTING
FOUNDATION!**

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**RAISING 150,000K
IN 24 HOURS!**



**EVERYTHING QUADRUPLED!
ALL OR NOTHING!**

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KOLLEL YISMACH MOSHE
כולל ישמח משה
The Sephardic Torah Centre

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.