



CONGREGATION TIFERETH BETH DAVID JERUSALEM

Shabbat Bulletin

ז' טבת התשפ"ג
שבת פרשת ויגשShabbat Parshat Va'yigash
December 30 - 31, 2022 / 5783

Please print this bulletin before Shabbat.

Rabbi
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SHABBAT SHALOM • שבת שלום

Ta'anit Asara b'Tevet is on Tuesday, January 3 - fast begins at 6:10am, ends at 4:58pm

Shabbat Parshat Va'yigash

Haftara: Yechezkel 37:15 - 37:28

Friday, December 30

- 3:45pm Minha et Kabbalat Chabat -
Minyane Sépharade -
Lower Level Chapel
- 4:01pm Candle Lighting
- 4:05pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat
and Maariv - Main Sanctuary
- 4:20pm Sh'kiah

Shabbat, December 31 / 7 Tevet

- 8:00am Shacharit -
Hashkama Minyan
- 8:30am Shacharit -
Minyane Sépharade
- 9:00am Shacharit - Main Sanctuary
- 9:46am Sof Zman Kriyat Sh'ma
- 10:00am Kef Club Shabbat Programs
for Kids - Lower Level

**Staycation Shabbat Lunch after
davening - for those who have
already preregistered.**

- 3:55pm Minha, Seoudah Shleesheet
et Arvit -
Minyane Sépharade
- 3:55pm Mincha, Seoudah Shleesheet
and Maariv - Main Sanctuary
- 4:21pm Sh'kiah
- 5:11pm Havdala
- 5:30pm Daf Yomi

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Celia & Stan Nattel** and to **Julie Nattel** and their families on the birth of grandson and great-grandson David Yaakov Nattel on Shabbat, December 10 in Phoenix, Arizona. Proud parents are Devora & Daniel Nattel. Sharing in their simcha are David's maternal grandparents Lori & Barry Frank, his great-grandfather Harold Frank, his siblings Yisrael Meir, Tzvi, Vivi, Zev and Chaim and many delighted aunts, uncles and cousins.

Condolences to **Lynda & Marvin Rosenbloom** and their family on the loss of Lynda's beloved brother Irving Moishe Kirsch z"l who passed away on Sunday, December 18 in Vancouver. Funeral took place in on Tuesday, December 27 in Montreal. Shiva continues until Monday, January 2 in Florida.

Refu'a Shleima to **Michael Goodwin** - מאיר זלמן בן רחל -

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

Seudah Shleesheet is sponsored by **Keila & Billy Finkelstein** and their family in memory of Billy's beloved father Issie Finkelstein z"l (Isser ben Yosef - 10 Tevet) and in memory of Keila's beloved grandmother Keila Prutschi z"l (Keila bat Fischel - 16 Tevet).

Kiddush in the Hashkama Minyan is sponsored by **Celia & Stan Nattel** in honour of the birth of their grandson David Yaakov Nattel.

This Shabbat Bulletin is sponsored by **Barbara & David Zukor** and their family in honour of the birth of their granddaughter Romi Jane Kestenbaum.

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Mincha/Maariv: 4:05pm on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
3:50pm on Tuesday (Ta'anit Asara b'Tevet)

Shacharit

Sunday and Monday: 8:00am / **Tuesday: 6:30am (Ta'anit Asara b'Tevet)**
Wednesday and Friday: 7:00am / Thursday: 6:50am

Friday, January 6

Minha - Minyane Sépharade: 15h55 / Mincha - Main Sanctuary: 4:10pm
Candle Lighting is at 4:08pm

For our full schedule, go to tbdj.org/calendar.

*Please note that
Rabbi Claman will be on vacation
from Wednesday, December 21
until Wednesday, January 4.*



Kef Club

Vayigash

December 31st
7 Tevet

Grades 1-6:



10:00 - Games
10:40 - Tefilla
11:00 - Parsha questions
(register here to get the questions)
11:15 Activity!
11:40 - Kef club kiddush.



Nursery:

10:00 - free play
11:00 - songs and tefilla
with madrichot
11:20 - Story time
11:40 - Kef club kiddush

**Earn your
Shabbos Shekels
and get prizes!**



A Light Unto the Nations

We have just celebrated another wonderful Chanukah. For eight days every year, we are treated to our own unique festival of divinely ordained and radiant light, as our modest Chanukah flames connect us anew to the glorious miracle of our past. For eight days, the world is lit up with Judaism. One small flame kindles another flame, and these flames join with millions of flames across the globe to enhance the message of light, of spiritual survival, of the continuity of Hashem's chosen nation amidst the other nations in Hashem's world.

In Canada our Chanukah lights express another message which is enhanced by our weather and the nature of the cold winter and snowy season. As a recently-written Chanukah song in English states: *In the window where you can see the glow from my menorah on newly fallen snow* - the glow of the flame by our windows gives a feeling of physical and spiritual warmth and stands boldly in contrast to the cold and snowy landscape. The flame is tiny and fragile, yet strong and resilient in its own special way. The reflection of the candles on the background of the snow outside can be a metaphor for the miraculous survival of our people over the centuries. We are indeed a small, yet strong, light among the nations.

Just before Chanukah in 2019, I was visiting Israel for a few days and it was warm outside, about 25°C. During the visit, I mentioned to my father that Chanukah isn't Chanukah without snow! The warmth of being in our own national home stands in strong contrast to the cold of trying to survive in the diaspora as a stranger among the other nations. It is different in Israel where Jews are in the majority and Chanukah is sunny and warm. Yes, sadly there will always be threats to our existence everywhere in the world, even in Israel, but the Jew in Israel is at home, while we who are dwelling in the diaspora are in exile.

Perhaps it's more than a coincidence that, during this time of year, around the observance of Chanukah, we annually read the Torah's account of the story of Joseph and his brothers in the diaspora of Egypt. Yosef and his father Yaakov eventually became shining Jewish lights during their years in Egypt. Not only was Yosef the single Jewish flame that was alight among the Egyptians before the rest of his family came to Egypt, but he was also the shamash that attended to Egypt's welfare during the years before and during the great famine of the time. He was the Jewish flame that ascended to the position of viceroy of the great nation. He was the economic genius who managed the country's economy, preparing the Egyptians for the oncoming famine and later overseeing the distribution of food during the terrible famine years.

We read in Parashat Va'yeshuv about Yosef being sold by the Medanites to Potiphar who was a courtier of Pharaoh in the royal palace. Yosef soon rose in the ranks of Pharaoh's administration because Hashem blessed him with success at whatever task he was given. Yosef merited Hashem's blessings which were the source of his successful work in the household:

Hashem was with Yosef, and he became a successful man, and he remained in the house of his Egyptian master; His master perceived that Hashem was with him and whatever he did Hashem made succeed in his hand. (Brisheet 39:2)

A few verses later we read about the blessings that Hashem gave to Potiphar's household because of Yosef:

And it happened that from the time he appointed him in his house and over whatever he had, Hashem blessed the Egyptian's house on Yosef's account, so that Hashem's blessing was in whatever he owned, in the house and in the field.

Breisheet 39:5

Midrash Tanchuma explains that Potiphar's affairs prospered wherever Yosef was, in the house and in the field. If Yosef was absent from certain areas of Potiphar's domain, those areas did poorly, which proved to Potiphar that Yosef was responsible for the blessings.

The story continues in this week's Torah portion of Vayigash, where we read about the descent of Yosef's father Yaakov Avinu and his family into Egypt two years after the devastating famine had started. This small group of Jews were the modest yet powerful flames of Yiddishkayt amidst the idolatrous Egyptian empire. Yaakov's descent to Egypt was instrumental in the famine ending earlier than was previously predicted by Yosef's interpretations of Pharaoh's dreams. The Midrash teaches that the famine ended after two years rather than after the predicted seven years.

Rashi teaches: *Since Yaakov came to Egypt, blessing came with him, and they started to plant, and the famine was ended.* There is an opinion brought forth from the writings of Rabbi David Pardo (The Chasdei David, 1718-1790) that if a famine stops at the arrival of a tzaddik, then it's clear to everyone what caused the famine to stop. Commentary also teaches that the early end of the famine was due to Yaakov's blessing Pharaoh at their meeting upon Yaakov's arrival in Egypt. Righteous people are a true source of blessing: Potiphar's home was blessed by Hashem because of Yosef, and Yaakov's merit caused all of Egypt to be blessed by Hashem.

It is very possible that Hashem puts the right people in the right places at the right time. These people are placed in different locations around the world at different periods in history, where they make a difference in their locations and serve as a source of קידוש ה', of sanctifying Hashem's holy name and bringing appreciation and praise to our Jewish heritage. Am Yisrael is an אור לגוים, a light unto the nations, a light that is meant to shine and radiate within the world at large.

There are many examples of Jews who have risen to prominence in Israel and in the diaspora throughout our history. In contemporary times, our nation has produced world-renowned leaders and scholars and Nobel Prize winners. We take immense pride in all those successful Jewish professionals who enhance the world of science, medicine, law, education, politics, finance, music, arts, theatre, sports and more. These Jews are flames of achievement and productivity which light up the worlds around them. They represent the triumph of the enlightened Jewish spirit as it illuminates Hashem's world - in places all over the globe, and often in times of ignorance, injustice, darkness and cold.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rev. Amiel