

CONGREGATION TIFERETH BETH DAVID JERUSALEM

Shabbat Bulletin

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SHABBAT SHALOM • שבת שלום

Yom Yerushalayim is on Friday, May 19

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Ella Solica Bensimon** on the occasion of becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Proud parents are **Clairette & Joe Bensimon**. Sharing in their simcha are Ella's siblings Joelle, Samuel and Gabriel, her grandmother Perla Davila and many delighted aunts, uncles and cousins.

Mazal Tov to **David Ettegui** who was sworn in as the new Bâttonier of the Barreau de Montréal on Thursday, May 10.

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

Refu'a Shleima to **Edward Sacher** - יהודה בן צביה

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

Kiddush for the Main Sanctuary is sponsored by **Adele & Ruby Friedman** and by **Rosie Goldstein & Mark Hardy** to mark the tenth yahrzeit for Rosie and Adele's beloved father Majer Goldstein z"l (Meir ben Yisroel Zvi v'Chaya Rachel - 22 Iyar).

Kiddush for the Minyane Sépharade is sponsored by **Clairette & Joe Bensimon** in honour of their daughter Ella Solica becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Kiddush for the Hashkama Minyan is sponsored by **Mitchell Axelrad** in memory of his beloved father Harry Axelrad z"l (Tsvi ben Yoel - 23 Iyar).

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Mincha/Maariv: 8:00pm

Shacharit

Sunday: 8:00am / Monday and Thursday: 6:50am

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 7:00am

Friday, May 19

Candle Lighting is at 8:04pm

Mincha - Main Sanctuary: 6:35pm and 7:00pm

Mincha - Minyane Sépharade: 18h30

Plag Hamincha: 6:49pm

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

Shabbat Parshat Behar-Bechukotai

Haftara: Yirmiyahu 16:19 - 17:14

Friday, May 12

- 6:25pm Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat - Library
- 6:30pm Mincha et Kabbalat Chabat - Minyane Sépharade - Chapel
- 6:42pm Plag Hamincha
- 7:00pm Later Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat - Main Sanctuary
- 7:56pm Candle Lighting
- 8:15pm Sh'kiah

Shabbat, May 13 / 22 Iyar

- 8:00am Shacharit - Hashkama Minyan
- 9:00am Shacharit - Main Sanctuary and Minyane Sépharade
- 9:09am Sof Zman K'riyat Shma
- 9:30am Youth Minyan - Youth Chapel
- 10:00am Kef Club Shabbat Programs for Kids - Lower Level
- 10:15am The Zone for Kids - Library
- 6:30pm Special Lecture for Women - Main Sanctuary**
- 6:43pm Plag Hamincha
- 7:35pm Mincha, Seoudah Shleesheet et Shiour - Minyane Sépharade
- 7:50pm Mincha, Seoudah Shleesheet and Maariv - Main Sanctuary
- 8:16pm Sh'kiah
- 9:08pm Havdala

Special Lecture for Women

presented by

Hebrew Academy and TBDJ

in honour of the

First Annual Hebrew Academy Girls' Basketball Tournament

Shabbat, May 13 at 6:30pm
in the Main Sanctuary

*Body Challenged,
Soul Redeemed:
My Story of Survival
and Finding Judaism*

with
Amanda Spiro



ATTENTION ALL KNITTERS!

Would you be interested in joining a casual group here at TBDJ in which you could knit, chat and share patterns and project ideas?

Knitters of all levels welcome!

For more information, and to join the group, send an email to stephanie@tbdj.org.



**TBDJ YOUTH
PRESENTS...**

**STARTING
SHABBAT
MAY 13**

THE ZONE

**Led by Dror Yechieli and Madrichot
with Rabbi Daniel Salter**

**Come enjoy good food,
meaningful tefillah, Parsha games,
and a chance to win prizes!!!**

- 10:15-10:45am Program for Grades 1-3
in the library**
- 10:45-11:15am Program for Grades 4-6
in the library**



Thursday May 18th

**Join Bnei Akiva & TBDJ Kef Club,
in partnership with CJA Shinshinim
on a tour of Israel's capital-
Jerusalem!**

5-7pm @6519 Baily



36\$ per family
pre-registration
40\$ at the door

To preregister online, go to:
www.tbdj.org/yomyer5783



RAV YEHIA BENCHETRIT



B"H

Conférence



TORAH COMPRÉHENSIBLE ET TORAH INCOMPRÉHENSIBLE

Congrégation TBDJ - 6519 Chem. Baily, Côte Saint-Luc

DIMANCHE | 14 MAI | 2023 | 8:00 PM

Café - Thé - Viennoiseries seront servis | Entrée gratuite

Cours dédié à la mémoire de

Salomon Ben Hana & Rachel Bat Rebecca

Renseignements 514-826-0719





FRIDAY | MAY 26 | 12 PM

1950's Dairy Lunch • 1st day of Shavuot • Following Services

🎵 Ice Cream • Soda Floats • Delicious Food 🎵

✧
✧
**Limited
Seating
Available**

\$40 ages 16+ | \$25 ages 4-15 | 3 & under are free

Registration is first come, first served.
Assigned seating.

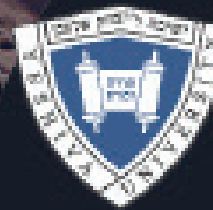
REGISTER TODAY

WWW.TBDJ.ORG/BRDINER5783



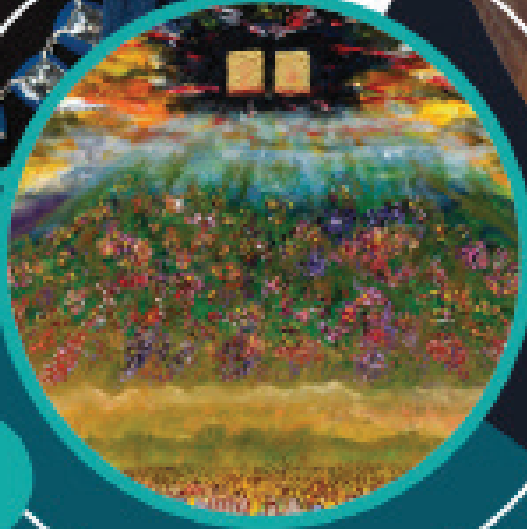
✧ Want to mark a special occasion? Sponsorships Available ✧

5783 SHAVUOT
SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE



TBDJ WELCOMES
**DR. MICHELLE
LEVINE**

Associate Professor of Bible
Rebecca Ivry Dept. of Jewish Studies
Stern College for Women



TIKUN LEIL SHAVUOT
@ TBDJ 11:00PM

Into the Wilderness: The Journey
from Egypt to Har Sinai:
Lessons in Emunah



TIKUN LEIL SHAVUOT
@ KTM 12:15AM

Moshe Rabbeinu at Ma'amad
Har Sinai: Ascending and
Descending the Mountain



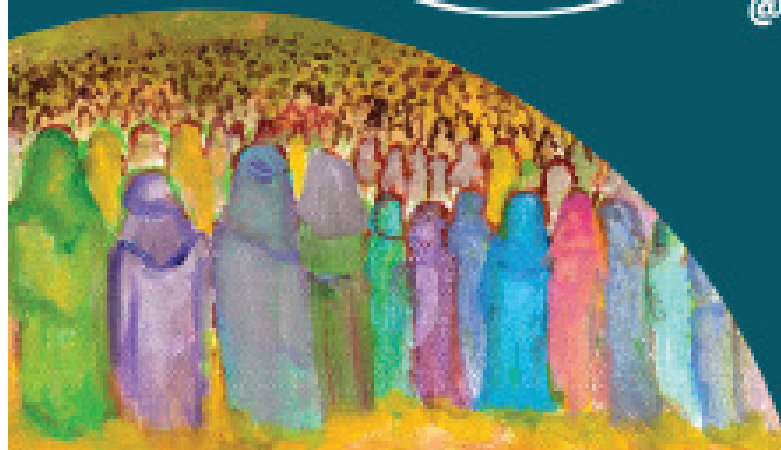
SHABBAT - FOR WOMEN
@ HOME OF SAM & BRENDA GEWURZ
4:00PM

Redemption, Restoration,
and Royalty in the Book of Ruth



SHABBAT - FOR ALL
@ TBDJ 7:00PM

Zachor v'Shamor b'Dibbur Echad:
The Mitzvah of Shabbat,
A Taste of Gan Eden



Sponsored by the Gewurz Family Foundation Scholarship Fund
for Montreal Jewish Day School Graduates

The “Ifs” In Our Lives

The second Torah portion of this week’s doubleheader, Behar-Bechukotai opens with a strong conditional word: **אם - if**. This word is repeated five times in the portion. Once, when it comes to keeping the commandments where it is a positive word with positive outcomes, and four times as a word of warning foreboding negative outcomes to Bnei Yisrael’s commitment to keeping the commandments.

אם־בחקתי תלכו ואת־מצותי תשמרו ועשיתם אתם

If you will follow My decrees and observe My commandments and perform them...

(Vayikra 26:3)

Hashem gives Bnei Yisrael a crystal-clear message. If you keep the commandments, you will merit a multitude of blessings. The Sifra explains the word **אם - if**, as a word of wishful thinking: *Would it be that you follow in my commandments...* The successive verses list the wonderful things that will be Bnei Yisrael’s lot if they observe the commandments. Hashem then seemingly reasons with Bnei Yisrael about why they are obligated to keep the commandments:

***I am Hashem, Your G-d,
Who took you out of the land of Egypt from being slaves:
I broke the staves of your yoke and led you erect...***

(Vayikra 26:13)

We are Hashem’s nation and Hashem wants to provide a world fitting for us, the chosen nation of the King of the world. Hashem then delivers the first of the two admonitions in the Torah - the second one is in Parashat Ki-Tavo in the book of Devarim - and we read a scary twenty-nine verse narrative which describes a series of punishments which will be the lot of Bnei Yisrael if they fail to live up to the obligations of Hashem’s commandments as the Chosen People. Our rabbis teach that the admonition in our Torah portion refers to sins committed during the period of the destruction of our first Beit Hamikdash and its aftermath, while the second admonition in the Book of Devarim refers to the period leading up to the Second Temple destruction and the current exile. The admonition narrative in our Torah portion opens with the following words:

ואם לא תשמעו לי ולא תעשו את כל המצות האלה

***But if you will not listen to Me
and will not perform all these commandments***

(Vayikra 26:14)

These verses are a message for the ages. Bnei Yisrael and us, their descendants, the future of our nation, are offered the most perfect world that Hashem can provide. All we need to do is follow in Hashem’s commandments. A win-win proposition to live an amazing life! Easy enough, no? Then, again...

אם - if... If we keep the commandments, if we do this, if we do that... Our worlds are full of *if* scenarios. If we do this, we will succeed. If we had given our actions more consideration, we wouldn’t have suffered the consequences. The word *if* is indeed a word of wishful thinking. We use this word frequently as we tend to coach, advise, and scold ourselves, our children, students, and colleagues.

I like to think that Hashem gave us, as individuals as well as a collective nation, a world in which we have the capacity to perfect ourselves to the best of our ability within the challenges that we face. Let us not forget that our lives are an ongoing learning process and that there is always that margin of error which may lead us to wrongdoings, mistakes and most importantly in our Jewish world: to sin. What is our job in this world? Maybe, to try to negotiate the *ifs* in our lives and not to mess things up!

What happens when the negative *ifs* prevail? We must fix things, do things differently. We have this chance every morning when we start our world anew and take on the new day. In our morning prayers we say the words:

**המאיר לארץ ולדרים עליה ברחמים,
ובטובו מחדש בכל יום תמיד מעשה בראשית**

***He Who illuminates the earth
and those who dwell upon it with compassion:
and in His goodness renews daily, perpetually, the work of creation***

Hashem has compassion for us and in His daily renewed world we can rectify our mistakes and errors. We are Hashem’s creations, the Chosen People, and we are daily and continuously renewed in Hashem’s wonderful world.

One of the difficult challenges that we face is the temptation of sin. In Pirkei Avot, we read about the enticing wrongdoings that give us temporary satisfaction, but work against us in the long term. Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi taught that we must *consider the cost of a mitzvah against its rewards, and the rewards of a transgression against its cost* (Pirkei Avot 3:1). What is the cost of a mitzvah against its reward? A simple understanding is that there are times when performing a mitzvah comes at the cost of losing something. Consider this scenario: You are about to buy a stock at a great price a few minutes before the market closes and at that very moment someone calls you for desperate help. The mitzvah of helping the person will take you away from the stock purchase and possible rewarding financial gains, but the reward for the mitzvah that you are performing is far beyond the cost of the mitzvah. On the other hand, committing a transgression or doing something that is forbidden may be temporary pleasing, but its long-term consequences are spiritually costly.

And in His goodness renews daily, perpetually, the work of creation... Not only is Hashem’s world a perfect one. It is a constantly changing one in so many ways. Years ago, I learned about another kind of *if* - a supernatural expression of gratitude which I will illustrate with the following memoir. A member of our family faced a medical challenge which was not life threatening, Baruch Hashem, but still required immediate attention. Though pessimistic, our doctor referred us to one of the best radiologists in the city. The radiologist did an ultrasound and assured us that everyone was going to be okay. As we walked out of the doctor’s office with a great sense of relief and appreciation for the radiologist’s immense skill and proficiency, I remember looking up at the sky and proclaiming: *...תמיד מעשה בראשית*. - Hashem, you have created such medical wonders in Your ever-expanding world! I remember thinking that if Hashem could show us such tremendous kindness and compassion, is there any way that I could even begin to thank Him? It was then that I pledged to say the daily Tehillim psalms for the rest of my life, a practice that has been a privilege for the past twenty-four years!

There is also a strong contemporary *if* that we have lived with for the past three years. *If* is a thought provoking word that comes to mind when we recall and consider the adjustments made in living our lives since March 14th, 2020 with the onset of COVID-19. *If* became a life-protecting word of warning with the numerous directives presented to us by the medical authorities. *If* you go out, wear a mask, and keep your distance... *If* you were exposed to someone with Covid, please... *If* you were out of the country... *If* you feel the following symptoms... and so on... Last Friday, the World Health Organization issued a statement that COVID-19, the life-challenging and life-changing experience that challenged our physical and mental health, no longer qualifies as a global emergency, marking a symbolic end to the devastating coronavirus pandemic that triggered once-unthinkable lockdowns, upended economies worldwide and killed at least seven million people worldwide. Sorrowfully I think, *if* only all this never happened.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rev. Amiel

T B D J P R E S E N T S

WHAT?



EVER HAPPENED TO?

TAKING A **NOSTALGIC LOOK** AT
PARTS OF JUDAISM THAT ARE
NO LONGER WHAT THEY USED TO BE
AND **UNDERSTANDING WHY**

**ALL CLASSES AT TBDJ - WITH RABBI CLAMAN
7:00PM FOLLOWED BY MINCHA/MAARIV**

**ON
AIR**



TUE. MAY 2

**KARAITE JEWS: THE IMPACT THEIR BREAKAWAY HAD
& WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

TUE. MAY 16

**KSAV IVRI: WAS THE TORAH WE RECEIVED AT HAR SINAI
WRITTEN IN THE SAME BLOCK LETTERS WE HAVE TODAY?
IF NOT, WHY DID WE CHANGE?**

TUE. MAY 30

**THE BET-DIN OF YESTERYEAR: SAME OR DIFFERENT THAN
THE BET-DIN OF TODAY? WITH RAV EDERY**

TUE. JUNE 13

THE ARK: IF INDIANA JONES DIDN'T FIND IT - WHERE IS IT?

TUE. JUNE 27

**TCHEILET: THE GOOD 'OL BLUE FRINGE THAT THE GUY
NEXT TO YOU IN SHUL HAS ON HIS TALLIT - WHAT'S WITH THAT?**

DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF LUCY, MAIA AND RINA DEE HY"D

SERIES AND SESSION SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE



Weekly camaraderie,
lunch, and Parsha!

Lunch & Learn

with Rabbi Claman

WEDNESDAYS

Lunch at 11:30am

Class from 12:00-12:30pm

We're thrilled to bring back our popular
Lunch & Learn program each week.

\$10 per person for lunch
Everyone is welcome!

www.TBDJ.org



DO YOU KNOW WHAT MASECHET SOTAH IS ABOUT?

LET ME GUESS... SOTAH?

OH, IT'S MUCH MORE THAN THAT!
SOTAH IS ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING AND FASCINATING MASECHTOT!

REALLY? WHAT ELSE DOES IT COVER?

IT'S PRETTY SHORT - ONLY 48 DAF,
AND IT INCLUDES ALL THESE SUGYOT:

DAVID AND AVSHALOM
SHIRAT HAYAM **EGLA ARUFA**
THE MERAGLIM HOW TO GO TO WAR
THE PRIZE FOR LEARNING TORAH **YETZIAT MITZRAYIM**
SHIMSHON HAGIBOR BIRCHAT KOHANIM
THE DEATH OF MOSHE RABBEINU

WE BEGIN MASECHET SOTAH ON FRIDAY!!!
THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO JOIN TBDJ'S DAF YOMI...
GIVEN DAILY BY RABBI CLAMAN!

MASECHET SOTAH BEGINS ON FRIDAY, MARCH 31

WEEKDAYS AT 6:15AM, SUNDAYS AT 8:45AM
IN THE TBDJ LIBRARY





BRIDGE AT BAILY

IS BACK!

STARTS ON MONDAY, JUNE 5!!!!

EVERY MONDAY AT 12:30PM
LIGHT BUFFET LUNCH BEGINS AT 11:30AM

\$20 ADMISSION FEE
INCLUDES LUNCH

TO REGISTER, SEND AN EMAIL TO LINDA:
l.schmaltzbridge@gmail.com