



CONGREGATION TIFERETH BETH DAVID JERUSALEM

# Shabbat Bulletin

יח אב התשפ"ג

שבת פרשת עקב

Shabbat Parshat Eikev

August 4 - 5, 2023 / 5783

Please print this bulletin before Shabbat.

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## SHABBAT SHALOM • שבת שלום

### Shabbat Parshat Eikev

Haftara: Yeshayahu 49:14 - 51:3

#### Friday, August 4

- 6:30pm Minha et Kabbalat Chabat -  
Minyane Sépharade - Chapel
- 6:35pm Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat  
- Main Sanctuary
- 6:48pm Plag Hamincha
- 8:00pm Candle Lighting

#### Shabbat, August 5 / 18 Av

- 8:00am Shacharit - Hashkama Minyan
- 8:40am Parsha Shiur with Rabbi Claman
- 9:00am Shacharit - Main Sanctuary  
and Minyane Sépharade
- 9:22am Sof Zman K'riyat Shma
- 9:30am Kef Club Shabbat Programs  
for Kids - Lower Level
- 6:00pm *Perek in the Park* with  
Rabbi Zolly Claman and  
Rabbi Michael Whitman at  
Applewood Park in Hampstead
- 6:46pm Plag Hamincha
- 7:20pm Shiur with Rabbi Claman in the  
Library - *Letters from the Rambam*
- 7:40pm Minha, Seoudah Shleesheet  
et Shiour - Minyane Sépharade
- 7:50pm Mincha, Seoudah Shleesheet  
and Maariv - Main Sanctuary
- 8:18pm Sh'kiah
- 9:08pm Havdala

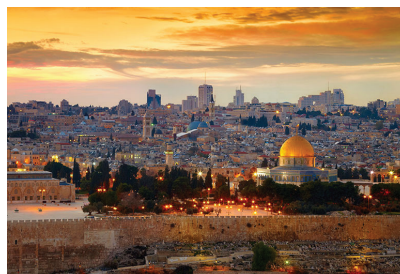
### COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Esther & Morris Feinberg** and Lauren & Adam Hirsch and their families on the upcoming wedding of their children Naomi and Daniel on Sunday, August 6. Sharing in their simcha are Naomi's grandparents Florence & Joseph Benhamou and Sylvia & Richard Feinberg, Daniel's grandparents Ann & Lester Arfe and Debbie & Robert Hirsch, great-grandmothers Marcelle Attias and Selma Boncheck, and many delighted siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins in both families.

Mazal Tov to **Rhoda Wise** and her family on the upcoming wedding of her grandson Jordan Wise to Heather Endleman on Sunday, August 6. Proud parents are Carrie & Jonathan Wise and Linda Shore and Lawrence Endleman. Sharing in their simcha are Jordan's grandfather Martin Bogante, Heather's grandparents Carol & Wally Shore and many delighted siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins in both families. Lovingly remembered at this time are, zichronam livracha, Jordan's grandparents Ralph Wise and Linda Bogante and Heather's grandparents Sara & Irving Endleman.

### THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

This Shabbat Bulletin is sponsored by **Naomi & Issie Fishman** in memory of Naomi's beloved mother Haya Raanani z"l (Haya Bracha bat Yitzchak Meir v'Bluma - 23 Av) and in memory of Issie's beloved father Joseph Fishman z"l (Yosef Mordechai ben Yitzchak - 24 Av).



**DO YOU HAVE A CHILD WHO  
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IF INTERESTED, PLEASE SEND AN  
EMAIL TO RABBI CLAMAN@TBDJ.ORG!**

### NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

**Mincha / Maariv: 7:55pm**

**Shacharit**

Sunday: 8:00am

Monday and Thursday: 6:50am

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 7:00am

**Friday, August 11**

Mincha - Main Sanctuary: 6:25pm

Mincha - Minyane Sépharade: 18h30

Plag Hamincha: 6:39pm

Candle Lighting is at 7:50pm

For our full schedule, go to [tbdj.org/calendar](http://tbdj.org/calendar).

**Mark your calendars!  
Kef Club Season Opener!  
Family Apple Picking at  
Verge Labonte Orchard  
for Kef Club kids and  
their parents!**

Sunday, Sept. 10, 1:00pm-5:00pm  
\$20/child 5-13; \$25/adult or teen  
Under 5 = free! Transportation and bag for apples included!  
Register now at [www.tbdj.org/KCApples5783](http://www.tbdj.org/KCApples5783)



## G-d Owes Me Nothing

Years ago, a book was written by the eminent Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein z"l of Kehilath Jeshurun in New York City. Though not yet completed at the time of his passing, the book has an amazing title: *G-d Owes Me Nothing*. This book of gratitude, eventually completed posthumously by others, provides an autobiographical picture of a man who lived a great life, who affected many people and many institutions and who made an impact upon Jewish history, not only in New York City but throughout the world. The title of the book appropriately expressed the author's feelings: with great, yet humble, thanks to the Almighty, his cup of life was more than full!

Baruch Hashem, I returned to the synagogue for early morning prayers this past Monday morning following last week's medical incident. I had the opportunity to receive a Torah-related honour and to recite *Birkat Hagomel*, the *Thanksgiving Blessing*. This blessing is offered upon different occasions, one of which is when one leaves the hospital and recovers in good health from a serious medical challenge.

Rashi and Rabbenu Asher offer commentary that *Birkat Hagomel* is recited instead of the thanksgiving offering that was offered in the Beit Hamikdash. Namely, the occasion of reciting the blessing is worthy of a sacrifice. However, as we no longer have the Beit Hamikdash, we say the blessing.

The text of the blessing is interesting:

ברוך אתה ה' אלוהינו מלך העולם  
הגומל לחי-ימים טובות שגמלני כל טוב

***Blessed are you Hashem, King of the Universe, Who bestows good things upon the guilty, Who has bestowed every goodness upon me***

הגומל לחי-ימים טובות - These words mean: *Hashem bestows goodness upon those who owe him*. Hashem owes us nothing, but we owe Hashem everything. What is owed? The text of the blessing teaches about the favours that Hashem does for us. In fact, Hashem's wonderful favours are the reasons which prompt us to make the blessing. True, we are not perfect, and we have faults. We have wrongdoings on our slates. Yet, the *Beit Yosef* explains that that even those who are owing to Hashem in any way still benefit from Hashem's granted favours.

Thanking Hashem for goodness. How can anyone think otherwise? We realize this the moment we open our eyes every morning when we recite *Modeh Ani* and thank Hashem for returning our souls to us with His abundant compassion. We owe every breath of life to our Creator and for this alone we must be eternally thankful. Yes, Hashem gives us the tools with which to live and develop our lives, our education, our careers, but we must always be conscious of, and thankful to, the Source of that goodness. And yet sometimes we forget this.

In Parashat Eikev we are warned about the danger of forgetting Hashem as the source of our successes. Hashem's constant care for us as individuals and as a nation is the source of our triumphs and we should not misappropriate our success to ourselves. The challenge of success is spelled out for Bnei Yisrael. Moshe warns them to beware, lest they allow the oncoming prosperity and security to blind the identity of Hashem, the source of all blessings (Rav Matzliach). The Torah tells us:

***Lest you eat and be sated, and build good houses and dwell therein; and your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold increase, and all that you have increases; and your heart grows haughty, and you forget the L-rd, your G-d, Who has brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; ...and you will say to yourself, "My strength and the might of my hand that has accumulated this wealth for me"; But you must remember the L-rd your G-d, for it is He that gives you strength to make wealth, in order to establish His covenant which He swore to your forefathers, as it is this day (Devarim 8:12-14, 17-18).***

The *Malbim* teaches that we must recognize and remember that while all the achievements and accomplishments in our lives are indeed the fruit of our efforts, our successes are not the product of our own strengths, rather it is our inner strength that propels us towards our goals. This inner strength comes from above and all our actions down here are motivated and influenced by the strengths of heaven which give us the drive to move towards achieving our goals.

We learn from the *Sefer Chafetz Chaim: In his famous "Ethical Letter" to his son, Ramban writes that ענוה, humility, is the greatest of all מדות - positive character traits - and that humility leads to 'ראת ה', awe of Hashem. ...To be humble also means not to feel haughty just because we have been blessed with talent in any given area. A talent is a blessing from Hashem to be used in His service, not to make one feel superior to others.*

We all grew up with the concept of the *Self-Made Man*. This classic phrase was coined in 1842 by Henry Clay in the United States Senate, to describe individuals whose success lay within the individuals themselves, not with outside conditions. Many people brag about being *Self-Made Men*, how they built up their lives, and their careers. We often hear stories about immigrants who came to the new country with nothing but the clothes on their backs, and then... they made it big! In our Jewish world the correct way to give credit to our successes and triumphs is: *With Hashem's help I have what I have today.*

Indeed, the talented singer and composer Shlomo Katz once described a nigun that Hashem sent his way as if it fell from heaven: *The Annapoli Nigun came pouring down*. Shlomo accredited the source of the beautiful nigun that he composed and introduced to the world to Hashem's abode in heaven, the source of all that we are in our lives.

There is a story about a brilliant scientist who brings home yet another Nobel Prize. His wife, dismayed, wails: *Give it up already! You have more awards than we have place to put them! You've more than contributed to the world of science!* The scientist smiles. *I will do one more act of science tomorrow and then I promise I will retire. I have cloned animals in the past and tomorrow I will conclude my career with my most awesome feat: I will create man...* His wife's face turns white. *You are a religious man! Surely you know that only the Creator can create man. You were blessed with a gift from G-d for the sciences, but you are not G-d! It is wrong!!!* The scientist replied that it was *"too late, all the major networks will be on our lawn at 10:00 AM tomorrow morning and as we speak a stage is being constructed in front of our house..."* The next morning, amid the buzz of media and press, the arrogant scientist announced to the large crowd that had gathered: *I have achieved much in my storied career and now I will take of this earth in the pail beside me and as our Creator did at the beginning of time, I will create Man!* As the scientist picked up a handful of earth, a voice boomed out from above: *Don't you think that you should create your own earth first?*

*G-d owes me nothing.....*

It is an important reflection to take with us as we progress towards the High Holiday season. During the incoming month of Elul, more than ever, we stand humbly, modestly and with much gratitude and appreciation before our Creator with the proper perspective of the fragility of our lives hanging in the balance as we approach the annual *Days of Judgement*. We must remember that Hashem is the source of who and what we are in this world as we stand before the King of Kings. We need to remember that while G-d owes us nothing, we owe G-d everything.

Shabbat Shalom,

*Rev. Amiel*



# Casks & Caballeros

The TBDJ's 7<sup>TH</sup> Annual

Thursday, August 31<sup>ST</sup>

7:30PM

## An Unforgettable Tasting Affair

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Bottle - \$500 CAD

Table - \$1500 CAD

REGISTER AT:

[www.TBDJ.org/scotch2023](http://www.TBDJ.org/scotch2023)





Join us for

# *Perek in the Park*

with Rabbi Zolly Claman of TBDJ, and  
Rabbi Michael Whitman of ADATH

Every Shabbat\*

6:00 PM

Applewood Park, Hampstead



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Perek in the Park is sponsored by Edie & Phil Friedman in  
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