



CONGREGATION TIFERETH BETH DAVID JERUSALEM

Shabbat Bulletin

כה אב התשפ"ג

שבת פרשת ראה

Shabbat Parshat R'ei

August 11 - 12, 2023 / 5783

Please print this bulletin before Shabbat.

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SHABBAT SHALOM • שבת שלום

Noah Nessim Benhamou, Bar Mitzvah

Rosh Chodesh Elul is on Thursday, August 17 and Friday, August 18

Molad is on Wednesday, August 16 at 5:04pm and 17 chalakim

Shabbat Parshat R'ei

Haftara: Yeshayahu 54:11 - 55:5

Friday, August 11

- 6:25pm Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat - Main Sanctuary
- 6:30pm Mincha et Kabbalat Chabat - Minyane Sépharade - Chapel
- 6:39pm Plag Hamincha
- 7:50pm Candle Lighting

Shabbat, August 12 / 25 Av

- 8:00am Shacharit - Hashkama Minyan
- 8:40am Parsha Shiur with Rabbi Claman
- 9:00am Shacharit - Main Sanctuary and Minyane Sépharade
- 9:25am 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
- 6:38pm Plag Hamincha
- 7:10pm Shiur with Rabbi Claman in the Library - *Letters from the Rambam*
- 7:25pm Mincha, Seoudah Shleesheet et Shiour - Minyane Sépharade
- 7:40pm Mincha, Seoudah Shleesheet and Maariv - Main Sanctuary
- 8:07pm Sh'kiah
- 8:56pm Havdala

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Noah Nessim Benhamou** on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Proud parents are **Judith & Patrick Benhamou**. Sharing in their simcha are Noah's siblings Olivia and Benjamin, his grandparents Claudine & Henri Benhamou and Liliane & Robert Obadia and many delighted aunts, uncles and cousins.

Mazal Tov to **Isabelle & Moishe Punski** and Liat & Shmuel Dahan and their families on the wedding of their children Rachelle & Dvir on Thursday, August 10. Sharing in their simcha are Rachelle's grandmothers Mireille Hamaoui and Henya Punski and many delighted siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins in both families. Lovingly remembered at this time are Rachelle's grandfathers Albert Hamaoui z"l and Arie Punski z"l.

Condolences to Akiva Gitelman and his family on the loss of his beloved father Henry Gitelman z"l who passed away on Wednesday, August 8 in Calgary. Funeral will take place at Paperman & Sons on Sunday, August 13 at 1:00pm. Shiva in Montreal in the reception room of 6005 Cavendish Blvd., Cote St. Luc H4W 3E2; Sunday 7:00pm-9:00pm, Monday and Tuesday 2:00pm-4:00pm and 7:00pm-9:00pm; Shiva continues in Calgary on Thursday and Friday.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

Kiddush for the Minyane Sépharade is sponsored by **Judith & Patrick Benhamou** in honour of their son Noah becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Rabbi Claman's Parsha Shiur on Shabbat Morning is sponsored by **Isabelle & Moishe Punski** in honour of the wedding of their daughter Rachelle to Dvir Dahan.



DO YOU HAVE A CHILD WHO RECENTLY GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL AND IS SPENDING A YEAR IN ISRAEL? WOULD THEY BE INTERESTED IN WRITING A DVAR TORAH FOR OUR UPCOMING TBDJ "JOURNEY" MAGAZINE? IF INTERESTED, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO RABBI CLAMAN@TBDJ.ORG!

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Mincha / Maariv: 7:45pm

Shacharit

- Sunday: 8:00am
- Monday: 6:50am
- Tuesday and Wednesday: 7:00am
- Thursday and Friday (Rosh Chodesh): 6:45am

Friday, August 18

- Mincha - Main Sanctuary: 6:15pm
- Mincha - Minyane Sépharade: 18h30
- Plag Hamincha: 6:30pm
- Candle Lighting is at 7:39pm

For our full schedule, go to 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



Seeing What Hashem Has Given You

ראה אנכי נותן לפניכם היום ברכה וקללה

See – behold - I set before you today a blessing and a curse; The blessing, that you will heed the commandments of the L-rd your G-d, which I command you today; And the curse, if you will not heed the commandments of the Lord your G-d, but turn away from the way I command you this day, to follow other gods, which you did not know;
(Devarim 11:26)

It is an easy formula: Listen to Hashem and follow His commandments and the blessings will come. Stray from Hashem's commandments and curses will be your lot. Let us concentrate on blessings rather than curses. The Kotzker Rebbe, Menachem Mendel Morgensztern, noted that the first verse in Parashat R'ei begins in the singular form, addressing an individual, ראה - *see/behold*, and concludes in the plural, לפניכם - *before you*. He notes that the Torah was given equally to every Jew - thus the plural before you. Insight and reflection on Torah, however, is according to every individual's spiritual state. Thus, for each individual Jew, the word *see* has a different spiritual significance, according to that person's spiritual state. Similarly, the Rebbe wrote that while the Torah was given to our nation at large, each individual studies and learns Torah on his/her level to the best of their capacities. We are all unique. No two people will see or comprehend Torah on the same level.

Expanding on the words of the Kotzker Rebbe concerning Torah abilities, I offer a similar idea relating to the concept of blessings. Blessings may be collective for Klal Yisrael as a nation and for our selves within our family and friendship framework, but blessings are also individualized in a very real and special way. Our lives are, Baruch Hashem, full of blessings. I guess we'd have to be silly not to realize that, though our sometimes-uncompromising narrow-sightedness doesn't always recognize it. Our expectations in life are not always met. Sometimes we fail to perform to what we feel is our maximum capacity and at other times we find that we just cannot meet the goals that we set for ourselves. Yet, blessings also tend to be realized in the most unusual and unexpected ways. I realized this a few weeks ago with my minor medical setback. Yes, it was a medical event that caused concern, dictated life changing practices, and took me away from my busy routine. It was also however, an eye-opening medical event that served as a warning for the future. Curing this minor medical defect at the present time meant securing, b'ezrat Hashem, a brighter medical future and possibly not risking a more serious event of this nature later. A blessing in disguise, but... Baruch Hashem, a blessing!

ראה - See... These words are deep. Our eyes take in a lot. We not only enjoy our own blessings, but our eyes take in wondrous sights and help us enjoy other's blessings that Hashem puts before us. This past Sunday, Cheryl and I were privileged to be at an incredibly beautiful *badekn* at the wedding of our good friend's daughter. The joyous and continuous sounds of the exuberant *Od Yishama* as the chosn was danced to the kallah were infectious. The singing went on and on, longer than the usual, filling our hearts with joy. I shared a thought with Cheryl at that moment, that one of my more difficult moments since my medical challenge was that I couldn't join in the dancing. Still, it is always special to be able to rejoice with others in their blessings and rejoice in their good fortune. This is what being a Jew is all about and this is a major strength of Klal Yisrael.

Blessings also appear in the form of feel-good stories. Last Shabbos, two gentlemen from out-of-town joined us at the Hashkama Minyan. When the first of the two was called to the Torah, I asked his name. He said that he recognized me and upon his answer I smiled and gave him a warm handshake. The man was Rabbi Gershon Albert, rabbi of Beth Jacob Congregation of Oakland, California. Rabbi Albert and I had been in touch by email a little over a year into the pandemic. He had written an article in the *To Go* magazine in which he described the way that he closed his shul at the onset of the pandemic. After reading the article, I wrote him a message introducing myself and comparing notes with the way I closed the sanctuary and the Aron Kodesh here at TBDJ in Montreal on that fateful day in March 2020.

In our email communications, I learned that he actually was a graduate of St. Laurent's Herzliah High School and that he and his brother had attended some of the programs I had created as Youth Director at Beth Ora Congregation!

Rabbi Albert's article was entitled *Bringing Our Communities Back to Life*. In it he describes closing his shul at the start of the Covid pandemic: *I vividly remember standing in our sanctuary on Friday afternoon, March 13, 2020, in shock and disbelief, less than an hour after sending an email canceling services. For 130 years, my predecessors and generations of congregants worked tirelessly to build and maintain Jewish life in Oakland, California, and here we were, closing the doors to the building. I slowly walked to the light switches, turned off the chandeliers that hung from the A-frame structure, and looked back one last time before exiting the building. Feeling the weight of the words from Eicha (Lamentations 5:21) for the first time in my life, I davened:*

**השיבנו ה' אליך ונשובה חדש ימינו כקדם
Bring us back to you, G-d, and we will come back;
renew our days as of old!**

After reading Rabbi Albert's words, I wrote him the following email message:

Dear Rabbi Albert, I am writing to you as I read your article "Bringing Our Communities Back to Life" in the latest "To Go" magazine for Shavuot. First of all, Yishar Koach on your article. I really related to it since... I wrote something along the same lines in an email to my rabbi and president upon our lockdown! The email is below... I attached my email from March, 2020 to Rabbi Freundlich and President Jon Gal. The subject of my email: "Closing up - Reflections." Here are some excerpts... It's a crazy thing to understand that the building is being closed at midnight tonight and that the grim reality of no physical access to our beloved synagogue is at hand. How we did not want it to come to this! ...Upon leaving the building I felt it necessary to come up to the sanctuary to give the Aron Kodesh a well deserved kiss of בקרוב ה' להתראות בעזרת ה' - see you soon... Walking around the sanctuary I put things in order that were still scattered from Purim... On the page there was a torn page from one of our Art Scroll Siddurim. It was the page with the prayers for when we return the Torah to the Aron Kodesh! The paragraph jumped at me from that page! We are leaving right now, hopefully not for too long and we say the words that this beautiful paragraph in our liturgy has to offer:

**שובה ה' רבבות אלפי ישראל
Return Hashem to the thousands of Israel
השיבנו ה' אליך ונשובה חדש ימינו כקדם
Bring us back to you, Hashem, and we shall return;
renew our days as of old;**

This page, which was cast out of a well-used prayer book, says it all. I pray that we all meet here in our beloved sanctuary at TBDJ very soon in good health.

I received a reply from Rabbi Albert one day later: *Thank you for your kind email and for sharing those powerful thoughts that you wrote to your shul leadership over a year ago. I obviously can relate very much having gone through such a similar experience... Seeing and reconnecting with Rabbi Albert and his brother Laizer at TBDJ and having the privilege to read the Torah for their Aliyot last Shabbos after our first meeting so many decades ago was a highlighted blessing moment, one of many that have continuously come my way with over the many years of work in Avodat Hakodesh. Being able to see what Hashem has set before me over the years is rewarding and fulfilling in the most significant way.*

Shabbat Shalom,

Rev. Amiel

Casks & Caballeros

The TBDJ's 7TH Annual

Thursday, August 31ST at 7:30 pm

6519 Baily Rd in Cote-St-Luc

An Unforgettable Tasting Affair

Experience a one-of-a-kind opportunity to sample exclusive spirits, sourced from legendary distilleries and boutique producers.

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www.TBDJ.org/scotch2023

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Early Bird Special:

Standard (3 Drinks) - \$180

Deluxe (8 Drinks) - 250

Onsite Tickets:

Standard (2 Drink Vouchers) - \$200

Additional Drink Tickets - \$15 Each

Sponsorships

Bottle - \$500 CAD - Inc 3 Tastings

Table - \$1500 - Inc 8 Tastings



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



ADATH 
Judaism for the next generation

Bring yourself or bring your family
to Applewood Park for a short
Pirkei Avot discussion.

Perek in the Park is sponsored by Edie & Phil Friedman in
memory of Edie's mother, Norma Nussbaum Bruckner z"l

***Weather permitting**



BRIDGE AT BAILY
EVERY MONDAY!!!!

LIGHT BUFFET LUNCH BEGINS AT 11:30AM
GAME BEGINS AT 12:30PM

\$15 ADMISSION FEE
INCLUDES LUNCH

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

MIZRACHI CANADA FAMILY TRIP TO

ISRAEL



WINTER BREAK 2023/2024
DECEMBER 22, 2023 – JANUARY 4, 2024

- Walk in the footsteps of our ancestors
- Hike through the waterfalls in the desert
- Daven at the Kotel on Friday Night
- Walk through the water tunnels of King Hezekiah
- Explore the Golan with a thrilling ATV tour

AND SO MUCH MORE!

GIVE YOUR FAMILY THE TIME OF THEIR LIFE



MIZRACHI
CANADA

FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER VISIT:
WWW.MIZRACHI.CA/ISRAELTRIP

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