



CONGREGATION TIFERETH BETH DAVID JERUSALEM

Shabbat Bulletin

ב אלול התשפ"ג
שבת פרשת שופטיםShabbat Parshat Shoftim
August 18 - 19, 2023 / 5783

Please print this bulletin before Shabbat.

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SHABBAT SHALOM • שבת שלום

TBDJ Welcomes Special Guest Chanan Kupietzky

Shabbat Parshat Shoftim

Haftara: Yeshayahu 51:12 - 52:12

Friday, August 18

- 6:15pm Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat - Main Sanctuary
- 6:30pm Plag Hamincha
- 7:00pm Minha et Kabbalat Chabat - Minyane Sépharade - Chapel
- 7:39pm Candle Lighting
- 7:58pm Sh'kiah

Shabbat, August 19 / 2 Elul

- 8:00am Shacharit - Hashkama Minyan
- 8:40am Parsha Shiur with Rabbi Claman
- 9:00am Shacharit - Main Sanctuary and Minyane Sépharade
- 9:29am 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
- 6:29pm Plag Hamincha
- 7:00pm Shiur with Rabbi Claman in the Library - *Letters from the Rambam*
- 7:15pm Minha, Seoudah Shleesheet et Shiour - Minyane Sépharade
- 7:30pm Mincha, Seoudah Shleesheet and Maariv - Main Sanctuary
- 7:56pm Sh'kiah
- 8:44pm Havdala

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Danielle & Eddy Rogozinsky** and Danielle & Michel Bitton and their families on the wedding of their children David Rogozinsky and Julia Bitton on Sunday, August 20. Sharing in their simcha are grandparents Barbara & Abe Rogozinsky, Simone Benarroch, Raphael Rouimi, Rachel Sebag and many delighted siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins in both families.

Mazal Tov to **Eva & Alan Katznelson** and their family on the engagement of their grandson Dovi Kassai to Batel Hutman. Proud parents at Yaffie & George Kassai of Edison, New Jersey and Elite & Wayne Hutman of Silver Spring, Maryland.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

Kiddush for the Main Sanctuary is sponsored by **Marla & Peter Veres** to mark the conclusion of the daily recitation of Kaddish for Peter's beloved mother Huguette Weksler Veres z"l (Rut bat Ze'ev v'Rivka - 1 Tishrei).

This Shabbat Bulletin is sponsored by **Esther & Andy Csillag** in memory of Esther's beloved parents Eugene & Helen Rosenfeld z"l (Yehoshua Ya'acov ben Yekutiel Yehuda v'Faigi - 7 Elul and Chaya Yenti bat Michael Shlomo v'Esther Malka - 23 Elul).

Rabbi Claman's Parsha Shiur on Shabbat morning is sponsored by **Baila Aspler, Aviva & Ami Drazin, Rachel & Judah Aspler** and **Jacob Aspler** in memory of beloved husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather Jerrold Aspler z"l (Yosef Yehoshua ben Avraham Sholem v'Rivka - 3 Elul).

Rabbi Claman's *Letters from the Rambam* Shiur on Shabbat afternoon is sponsored by Agnes Romer Segal and her family to mark the conclusion of shloshim for her beloved mother Irene Romer z"l (Sarah Breindl bat Moshe v'Gitl - 25 Tammuz).



Shabbat Morning in the Main Sanctuary: How is the Para Aduma Relevant in 2023? with Special Guest Chanan Kupietzky

Chanan works in an Israeli startup and is involved in many fascinating initiatives around the country - particularly in Yehuda and Shomron.

He lives in Efrat with his wife Sofia and their four children and spent the summer at Camp Moshava providing special programming, including teaching leadership through the art of shepherding.

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Mincha / Maariv: 7:30pm

Shacharit

Sunday: 8:00am

Monday and Thursday: 6:50am

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 7:00am

Friday, August 25

Mincha - Main Sanctuary: 6:05pm

Plag Hamincha: 6:20pm

Minha - Minyane Sépharade: 19h00

Candle Lighting is at 7:27pm

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

UNVEILING

A MONUMENT IN MEMORY OF

BLOSSOM WACHSBERG ז"ל

WIFE OF THE LATE SHAYA WACHSBERG Z"l

MOTHER AND MOTHER-IN-LAW OF

NADINE & BENNY LIEBERMAN,

RONALD & ZISI WACHSBERG AND STUART WACHSBERG

WILL BE UNVEILED ON

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25 AT 9:00AMIN THE YOUNG ISRAEL SECTION OF KEHAL ISRAEL CEMETERY,
4189 BOULEVARD DES SOURCES IN DOLLARD-DES-ORMEAUX.

19
SEPT
8PM

Hachana I'Yom Kippur

AN EVENING OF SONG AND INSPIRATION
WITH RENOWNED SINGER AND COMPOSER

Eitan Katz

ה' תשרי תשפ"ד // Tuesday Sept. 19, 2023 at 8:00 PM

Sponsored by Edie and Phil Friedman in loving memory
of Edie's late mother, Norma Bruckner z'l



TICKET PRICES:

Single: \$36 | Double: \$54 | Family: \$118

Registration required at TBDJ.org/EitanKatz5784

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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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Bring yourself or bring your family
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Perek in the Park is sponsored by Edie & Phil Friedman in
memory of Edie's mother, Norma Nussbaum Bruckner z"l

***Weather permitting**

Elul Has Arrived

This week we welcomed the arrival of Elul, the last month of the Hebrew year. We anticipate Elul's arrival on the Shabbos before, when we bless the incoming new month with *Birkat Hachodesh*, as is the practice for welcoming each month in our Hebrew calendar. The only exception to this is the start of the month of Tishrei on Rosh Hashanah.

Most commentaries explain that the purpose of this prayer is to announce when the new month will begin. Rabbi Eliezer of Metz noted that *the early authorities decreed that the public should be informed about Rosh Chodesh in order for them to be meticulous about it and about those laws dependent on it.*

Many Ba'alei Tefilot around the world intone and enhance this beautiful monthly prayer with an emphasis on music that is connected to holidays which fall in that particular month. For the month of Elul, I find that *Birkat Hachodesh* is much more than an announcement of the new month at hand. Hearing the Ba'al Tefillah intone the words, and even more so, to a High Holiday related tune, is a reminder of where we are headed at this season of our year. It is a reminder that we are initiating the annual process of *teshuvah* - repentance. It is a time of personal accounting before the Almighty where we revisit our actions of the previous year. As Rabbi Metz teaches, it is a time for us to be meticulous about ourselves. The month of Elul brings about a change in our mindset which is stirred by a fearful sense of awe as we proceed toward our impending judgment on Yom Kippur. Rabbeinu Yonah wrote in *Sefer HaYirah*: *From the entry of the month of Elul until Yom Kippur, one should tremble and fear, in awe of [G-d's] judgment.*

In her book *There Once Was a World*, Yaffa Eliach z"l wrote about the arrival of Elul in a shtetl named Eishyshok:

From the onset of the month of Elul, straight through the high holidays, the entire population of the shtetl was gripped with fear and awe, their minds engaged in taking stock of their actions in the past year, their hearts set on making amends. Therefore, beginning on the morning of Rosh Chodesh Elul, and continuing through every morning from then until Yom Kippur, the pre-dawn darkness would find the Shammash making his way to the Market Square, and from there to every street and lane, to chant his special wake-up call. House by house, the melody of his call passed through the wooden shutters, and every man, woman, and child in the community rose early to go to shul. Soon the streets were filled with families, lanterns in hand, stumbling along in the early morning chill. Footsteps, echoing off the cobblestones. Crisp autumn air with a touch of frost. Darkness split by light from the lanterns. They were all part of the soul-stirring, awe-inspiring atmosphere of Elul.

In an article titled *Little Things Make a Difference* (2002), Rabbi Eliyahu Hoffmann wrote that in the tiny shtetlach of Poland and Hungary, and Russia, one could feel the month of Elul in the air; the fear and trepidation were palpable: It is said that there were some great Torah scholars who set aside their regular daily routine of Talmudic study, and devoted the month of Elul principally to the study of מוסר - ethics and character refinement. At the very least, people set aside time for חשבון הנפש - self scrutiny - and getting oneself ready for the upcoming month of Tishrei. Rabbi Hoffman cited special stringencies in Jewish law which were kept during the month of Elul as the people tried to *up their game* and gain important merit towards the High Holidays and the time of judgment.

Rabbi Hoffman then posed a series of questions, which I believe is present in all our minds at some point during the High Holiday season:

If these laws and customs and stringencies are indeed worthy and important, should we not be observing them all year round? And if observing them year-round is beyond our means, what is the relevance of going through the motions one month a year, knowing full well that after this period ends, we will just go back to doing what we did before? Who are we fooling?

Rabbi Hoffman offered an answer from the *Dubner Maggid* who noted that all year round our deeds are not under such careful scrutiny. But during these days, as we prepare for the great and awesome יום הדין (Day of Judgement) which takes place on Yom Kippur, we realize that our deeds will be measured and weighed, and we will be judged for the coming year based on their merit, or G-d forbid, lack thereof. Sometimes, in such a scenario, even one small mitzvah can make the difference. Even observing a custom or halacha which, in truth, goes far beyond the letter-of-the-law and is not a halachic necessity all year round can make a difference .

It's not that we're trying to fool anyone. To the contrary, to ignore the fact that every small deed makes a difference during a period of judgement would be nothing short of foolishness. It would be, in essence, a denial of the nature of the time of year in which we find ourselves, and the judgement associated with it. We do everything we can to ensure that when the *Day of Judgement* arrives, we will have as many good character witnesses as we possibly can.

There is a story told about a king who ruled over a small city. Once a year, the king would take off his crown and his royal clothes and put on regular clothes. He would then go out to his people to see and hear what he could do for them. No one knew, though, on which day of the year the king would do this. One day the king decided that today was the day. He put on regular clothes, went out to the park and sat next to a man he found seated on a bench. He asked the man how everything was with him and did the man need anything? The man answered that all was well and that he had everything. The king asked the man if there was anything that he could do for him? The man again answered: No. The following day, news of the king's outing was published in the local newspaper. Everyone read about how the king went out to the park in plain clothes and asked the person on the bench about his welfare and if he could help him. When the man who was in the park the previous day read the paper and realized that he had been sitting next to the king, he was devastated that he had missed his once-in-a-lifetime chance. He had a long list of requests that he could have presented to the king.

This tale relates to us and the month of Elul. While during the year we can always ask Hashem to fulfill our requests and needs, during the month of Elul, Hashem is close to us - right next to us on our park benches. Hashem is waiting for our calls, our pleas, for us to return to him. Elul is indeed the month where we do not want to miss this opportunity.

Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, the first Lubavitcher Rebbe, describes the following metaphor: The king's usual place is in the capital city, in the royal palace. Anyone wishing to approach the king must go through the appropriate channels in the palace bureaucracy and gain the approval of a succession of secretaries and ministers. He must journey to the capital and pass through the many gates, corridors and antechambers that lead to the throne room. His presentation must be meticulously prepared, and he must adhere to an exacting code of dress, speech, and mannerism upon entering the royal presence. However, there are times when the king comes out to the fields outside the city. At such times, anyone can approach him; the king receives them all with a smiling face and a radiant countenance. The peasant behind his plow has access to the king in a manner unavailable to the highest-ranking minister in the royal court when the king is in the palace.

The month of Elul, says Rabbi Schneur Zalman, is when the King is in the field - המלך בשדה!

Shabbat Shalom,

Rev. Amiel



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