



CONGREGATION TIFERETH BETH DAVID JERUSALEM

Shabbat Bulletin

שבת פרשת בראשית
 כ"ט תשרי ה'תשפ"א

Shabbat Parshat Breisheet
 October 16-17, 2020 / 5781

Please print this bulletin before Shabbat.

Rabbi
 Yechezkel Freundlich

Chazzan Sheini
 Rev. Amiel Bender

President
 Josh Orzech

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SHABBAT SHALOM • שבת שלום

Rosh Chodesh Marcheshvan is on Sunday, October 18 and Monday, October 19

Ari Isaac Miller Kohl, Bar Mitzvah

Shabbat Parshat Breisheet

Haftara: *Machar Chodesh - Shmuel Alef 20:18 - 20:42*

Minyanim on Shabbat are restricted to those who have pre-registered. When davening at home, it is preferable to do so at the same time as the rest of the community.

Friday, October 16

4:00pm	Musical Kabbalat Shabbat on Facebook with Rev. Bender
4:58pm	Plag Hamincha
5:00pm	Daf Yomi on Zoom
5:40pm	Mincha et Kabbalat Chabbat - Minyane Sépharade Tent
5:48pm	Candle Lighting
5:50pm	Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat - Tent
6:06pm	Sh'kiah

Shabbat, October 17 / 29 Tishrei 5781

7:00am	Shacharit - Tent
8:45am	Shahrit - Minyane Sépharade Tent
8:50am	Shacharit - Tent
9:57am	Sof Zman K'riyat Shma
10:20am	Shacharit - Tent
4:57pm	Plag Hamincha
5:45pm	Mincha et Arvit - Minyane Sépharade Tent
5:50pm	Mincha and Maariv - Tent
6:04pm	Sh'kiah
6:49pm	Havdala
8:15pm	Daf Yomi on Zoom

ROSH CHODESH CHESHVAN SHIUR

ON ZOOM

WITH RIFKI FREUNDLICH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

AT 8:00PM

WATCH FOR OUR EMAIL ON
 SUNDAY WITH DETAILS!!!!!!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Ari Kohl** on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Proud parents are **Noa & Steven Kohl**. Sharing in their simcha are Ari's siblings Eli, Ani and Ezi, his grandparents Liliane & Allan Kohl, Maria De La Riva Pinal, Miguel Angel Cachon Escamilla and Marva Alarcon Peretz, and many delighted aunts, uncles and cousins. Lovingly remembered at this time are, zichronam livracha, Ari's beloved father Isaac Miller Alarcon, and his beloved great grandparents Moses Kohl, Sylvia Lobel, Aniela Danziger Fink, Ludwik Wajdenfeld and Fernando Millar Gallardo.

Mazal Tov to **Maxine & Stephen Jacobson** on the engagement of their grandson Chaim Chernoff to Liat Greenwood. Sharing in their simcha are Chaim's parents Edie & Allen Chernoff of Chicago, Liat's parents Pam & Matt Greenwood of West Orange, New Jersey and many delighted siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins in both families.

Mazal Tov to **Eva & Alan Katznelson** on the birth of a great granddaughter in New York City on Shmini Atzeret - Shabbat, October 10. Proud parents are Didi & Menachem Mermelstein. Sharing in their simcha are Didi's parents Rivi & Moti Schiffer of Woodmere, NY and many delighted aunts, uncles and cousins.

Mazal Tov to **Deanna Mendelson** on her special birthday, which she celebrated on Wednesday, October 14! Ad 120!

SPONSORSHIPS AND THANK YOUS

TBDJ thanks the following Tent Sponsors for their support -

Tuesday, Oct. 13: Reesa & Ephriam Kandelshein and family, in memory of Reesa's brother Mark Busgang z"l

Wednesday, Oct. 14: Natalie & Jonathan Gal, in honour of TBDJ's Executive, Board of Directors, clergy, staff, lay leaders and members "with our profound gratitude for the love and support shown to us over the last three years."

Thursday, Oct. 15: Marcelle Alt and family, in honour of Isaac Alt's birthday "with our best wishes for good health and much happiness for many more years to come!"

Friday, Oct. 16: Billy & Keila Finkelstein, in memory of Billy's mother Mildred Finkelstein z"l, and in honour of the leadership, volunteers and staff of TBDJ "for all their amazing efforts to keep our shul active and operating during this challenging time in its history"

Shabbat, Oct. 17: Rhonda & Leslie Gal, in honour of TBDJ's immediate past president Jonathan Gal, "for his devotion to TBDJ and his wonderful work as a community leader. We are very proud of you!"

Shabbat, Oct. 17: Noa & Steven Kohl, in honour of their son Ari becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Sunday, Oct. 18: Cheryl & Amiel Bender, in memory of Cheryl's mother Rachel Gnatt z"l

Tuesday, Oct. 20: Peter Konyves, in memory of his mother Cecilia Wiesner Konyves z"l

Tuesday, Oct. 20: Elaine & Isaac Silberman, in memory of Isaac's father Moishe Silberman z"l

Thursday, Oct. 22: Carolyn & Arnold Steinman and family, in memory of Carolyn's brother Harry Aharon David Notkin z"l

**President Jonathan Gal's Address
at the
Annual General Meeting of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem
Wednesday, October 14, 2020 / 26 Tishrei 5781**

Someone recently told me that there is no playbook for what we as a society are currently going through. While that may be correct, there is a tried and true, very Jewish way to start a presidential address off. Here we go...

I recently heard of a shul that was arguing over particular minhag, whether to stand or sit during a specific portion of davening. Each time the passage came up, half the congregants would stand and the other half would sit. Each side argued passionately that they were correct and neither side would give an inch. The fighting got so bad, this particular issue was threatening to fracture the shul in two. The Rabbi and President brainstormed and decided that in order to solve this, they would go visit one of the original members of the shul, who at well over 100 years old was the oldest living member, living in a nursing home.

The Rabbi asked him, when we get to this passage in davening, should we stand? No, said the old man, that is not our tradition. Well then said the Rabbi, should we sit? No, said the old man, that is not our tradition. Frustrated, the President said, "But we need to know what to do, because our congregation members are fighting amongst each other". That, said the oldest living member of the congregation, IS our tradition! Thankfully, my experience over the last 3 years as President has been the complete opposite of that.

Before I move forward, I wanted to ask for forgiveness for anyone in the past that I have hurt or insulted. It was certainly not intentional. I just hope I don't offend anyone with this speech!

I recently reviewed my address at the September 2017 Annual General Meeting and was struck by a few of my remarks; some seemingly clairvoyant while others were comically inaccurate.

- Taking over as President just over a year after Rabbi Freundlich, Rifki and the rest of the Freundlich family landed here in Montreal, it was already clear to me how incredibly lucky we are to have them. 3 years later- that is now crystal clear to the entire Montreal Jewish Community.
- I pledged to help foster new leaders for the future of TBDJ, you can see that both at the board and executive level with this new slate. The future is indeed very bright.
- Membership, in particular young families, has continued to grow. That my friends, is a tremendous sign of an organization that is healthy.

As for the inaccuracies...

- I insisted in my speech that I would only serve a 2-year term
- I said it would be less eventful than my predecessor's term

Like I said, in retrospect pretty far off.

Before we move forward, its important to acknowledge and honour what came before (as we always try to do at TBDJ). Brace yourselves- lots of gratitude coming...

About 8 months ago, in a time know as BC (before COVID), we had a fully operational shul that thanks to many, was the unquestioned leader in the Montreal Modern Orthodox Jewish community.

It starts with our staff, the people on the ground who help run and manage the day to day operations. Joyce Reinblatt (who I know is enjoying her retirement!), Brian Torobin, Tatyana Brovarnik, Yakov Lev and his staff...thank you! Hopefully soon, we'll all be able to be back together in the office. Well, with Josh, not me ;)

Our volunteers who came in to help on a regular basis in the office, Cheryl Bender and Esther Hutman. Thank you.

To the best/worst "job" in the shul- being a gabbi- To Steve Fiter, Ian Widman, Gerry Cartman, Nathan Rosenshein- Thank you. To the runners- Frank Fried, Ephraim Kandelshein, Isaac Silberman- Thank you

I often joke with Alain Matarasso about how his job as Treasurer is just as time consuming as mine but with none of the 'glory'. Now we can debate how much glory there is in being president, but what cannot be debated is the extreme time and energy he has put in over the last 7+ years that I have personally witnessed. I am indebted to him for his guidance and basically doing all the hard work while I got the accolades. He deserved them far more than I did. Together with his wife Susan, they have and continue to selflessly serve the Montreal Jewish community.

Thank you

- To Sivan & Eli - our Youth directors and their madrichim- Thank you!
- Thank you to the Board of Directors, Executive committee and various other committees who have and will continue to work for the betterment of the shul.
- To the lay leadership- both formal and not-who have stepped up and led with their actions over the past 3 years, either behind the scenes or as volunteers to champion programs. To Keren Ludvig, Adina Moss, Stephanie Steinman, Alex Halpern, Rachel Goodman Aspler, Michael Hollander, Alyssa Myers, Jessica Kovitz-Lensch, Isaac Bendayan, Gabby Cohen, Karine Tordjman- Thank you
- To those who were integral to making sure the daily minyanim ran smoothly; Saulie Deitcher, Steve Korolnek, Alan Katznelson- Thank you
- To our Mashgiach Howie Silbiger- Thank you
- To David Etedgui and Neil Oberman- Thank you. You know why.
- Rabbi Rothchild, Rabbi Buchinger- who both ran Daf Yomi- Thank you
- To Yisroel Freundich- who leined in the hashkama minyan for many years- Thank you
- To our volunteers of all of our programs, thank you!

Then, well...it was CE- COVID Era. And so many, and I mean SO MANY people stepped up, when I think about it I get a lump in my throat.

Before I get started there, Judah Aspler, our past president, deserves his own thank you speech. But, I know he doesn't want one. So I'll be brief- his work ethic, commitment, humbleness and talents that he continues to use for TBDJ should inspire all of us to do and to be better. Thank you Hudi. You set a high standard as President and an equally high one as immediate past president. One I hope to live up to. On behalf of a grateful community- THANK YOU!

President Jonathan Gal's Address *continued*

When all of this started back in March, we had to pivot. To completely shift our focus from 6519 Baily Road. Thanks to Hudi and Naftoli Jacobs, we did. They, along with help from Jeff Zigman, moved TBDJ to online and virtual- seemingly overnight. It was a job that looked effortless but required tremendous effort. All of us here attending this meeting are enjoying the direct result of those efforts. May as well throw in right here about our Virtual Israel tours that we enjoyed and that they spearheaded and tech supported. But most of you don't know, they took the time to train some of the tour guides on how to do their tours virtually instead of in person and made sure all money flowed directly to them as their parnasa has been decimated by this pandemic. Just incredible. Hudi and Naftoli- thank you.

Yair Myers. Yair- what can we say to you and about your group of 70+ volunteers? People of all ages, High School to age 90+ and everywhere in between, making weekly phone calls. Helping where help is needed. Giving of themselves- their time, energy, love- to help others with no expectations in return. The very definition of chessed. To Yair- our Mr. Chessed and to the entire chessed committee. Thank you. May Hashem repay your acts of chessed 100-fold and may you all continue to be a shining example of what a Kiddush-Hashem is to the entire Jewish community.

Perhaps no one has had their shul job changed, changed and changed again more than our Rev Amiel Bender. No matter what, he has rolled with the punches, with an easy smile and calm demeanor, and continues to be there on the visible daily front lines while both he and Cheryl continue to work quietly behind the scenes helping people. Thank you

Thank you to our unofficial COVID-19 Committee, Rabbi Freundlich, Religious Services Chair Ami Drazin, Immediate Past President Hudi Aspler and incoming President Josh Orzech. Being able to present different sides, disagree while keeping an open mind and listening, even having our minds changed- is the hallmark of healthy dialog and respect. I thank you all for doing just that. May we be zoche soon to never have to use that group again.

Related- thank you to all the physicians who have been there for us to answer questions and provide medical guidance on how to best try and navigate these difficult times: Aviva Drazin, Alex Guttman, Stan Nattel, Ronnie Schondorf, Mark Buch- Thank you. And to all our front line workers- Thank you for help keeping us safe!

Thank you to all of you who have stepped up and given donations to the shul during this difficult period. The response to the daily tent sponsorship has been tremendous. We will be continuing this campaign moving forward (tent or no tent), as a way for people to mark occasions, thank people or just because.

Thank you for those that have stepped up and fulfilled their commitments to their annual membership dues, the Taking our Seats Campaign and Yom Kippur Appeal. Thank you to those volunteers who helped reach out to others and made the Taking Our Seats Campaign so successful and special.

Thank you to those who anonymously, made very generous contributions to the shul, allowing us to continue to operate during these difficult times.

Thank you to those who have, since the tents were put up, helped run our daily and Shabbat Minyanim-

- Gershon Sacher and Amiel- our Ba'alei Koreh extraordinaire...and more.
- Abe Ludvig, Judah Aspler, David Zukor, Josh Orzech- and everyone else who has davened repeatedly. Thank you

To the members of our Roving Minyan, while we were permitted to do so. Thank you

To our wandering shofar blowers on Rosh Hashana, allowing so many to fulfill the Mitzvah of hearing shofar on Rosh Hashana- Thank you

To Brian Harris- who co-ordinated and facilitated our magnificent, inspiring and uplifting Rosh Hashana & Yom Kippur davening. Thank you

Thank you to everyone who gave of themselves to lead High Holiday Services in our various minyanim, many davening multiple times or for the 1st time: Amiel Bender, David Zukor, Ronnie Schondorf, Murray Vasilevsky, Judah Aspler, Josh Orzech, Gershon Sacher, Tovi Berk, Morrie Levy, Avi Guttman, Leslie Gal, Ami Drazin and of course Rabbi Freundlich.

Which brings us to Rabbi Freundlich- you are so many things. A true leader. A role model. An optimist. A real manifestation of what a G-d fearing Jew should be. It has been my honour to work alongside you, to learn from you, to be inspired by you. I am excited to officially add Rifki as a Yoetzet Halacha and for the two of you to continue to bring Congregation TBDJ to even greater heights. These words don't do justice to the way that I feel, but Thank you.

Thank you to my parents and siblings for instilling in me the value of community and continuing to embody it daily. Thank you as well to my in-laws and to my sisters and brothers in-law who have always been there to help when called upon.

And finally, saving the best for last. My family. Natalie- thank you for being an incredible partner. A sounding board. While you give an unbelievable amount to TBDJ in your own right, your patience and understanding, particularly during these crazy times, has been amazing. Thank you for always being there for me and for the community. Thank you of course to my two beautiful daughters, Ella and Abigail, who I hope will, when they get older, want to give back as their parents have and will continue to do.

In September 2017, I spoke about goals. Here in 2020, I'll let Josh deal with that. My only goal is to try and best serve TBDJ in whatever capacity our new President and board feels that I can best help.

Good luck to our new slate and board of directors. Thank you for stepping up to the challenge.

These are indeed challenging times. More challenging ones may be ahead. But if the past 8 months are any indication, we will rise to meet that challenge together. Even if we are physically separated, we are more together than ever.

Wishing you all blessings and good health.

Jon Gal

DAILY SCHEDULE: OCTOBER 18 - 23

SUN-ROSH CHODESH	MON-ROSH CHODESH	TUESDAY
Shacharit 8:00am	Shacharit 6:45 & 8:00am	Shacharit 7:00 & 8:00am
Mincha 5:40pm	Mincha 5:40pm	Mincha 5:40pm
Shkiah 6:03pm	Shkiah 6:01pm	Shkiah 5:59pm

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Shacharit 7:00 & 8:00am	Shacharit 6:50 & 8:00am	Shacharit 7:00 & 8:00am
Parsha Class 12:15pm	Mincha 5:40pm	Mincha-Sefardic 5:20pm
Mincha 5:40pm	Shkiah 5:56pm	Mincha 5:35pm
Shkiah 5:58pm		Candle Lighting 5:36pm
		Sh'kiah 5:54pm

New Gemarah Shiur with Rabbi Freundlich Wednesdays, 8:30pm-9:15pm starting on October 21!!!!

We will learn Mesechet Makkos from start to finish, covering about an amid each session. Review sheets and optional quizzes provided.

A THOUGHT FOR SHABBAT FROM REV. AMIEL BENDER: ONE ALIYAH A YEAR

"Amiel, you realize that you'll be lucky to get one aliya a year when this is over..." These words were said to me in the tent by a close friend before the Torah reading on Simchat Torah, only six days ago.

This pandemic has certainly increased my number of aliyot to the Torah. Rav Hershel Shachter delivered a halachic ruling a few months after the outbreak of Covid-19 as shuls were preparing to resume a semblance of public davening and Torah reading rituals. The Rav wrote that as the first wave of the virus is lessening, and the government doctors are more lenient in permitting small groups to pray together outside, it is proper that the Torah Reader take the Torah from the ark, will receive all of the aliyot, including the haftara, will lift and dress the Torah - hagbah and gelilah, and put the Torah back in the ark - in order to minimize the spread of the pandemic from one to another. This ruling placed the Torah Reader in charge of everything that has to do with the Torah reading, including taking all of the aliyot.

In all Jewish communities, it is considered a great merit and honour to be called to recite the blessings at the Torah. It is referred to as an aliyah, which means "ascent," referring not just to the climb up to the platform upon which the Torah is read, but also the spiritual elevation which comes along with this opportunity. The Zohar tells us, "G-d looked in the Torah and created the world; when a human looks in the Torah, and toils in it, he sustains the world." Even the very gazing at the letters in the Torah scroll - especially when this is preceded and followed by the special aliya blessings - sustains and gives vitality to the world. Furthermore, when one has an aliya to the Torah, all parts of one's soul, including those which are in the spiritual realms beyond this world, experience an elevation at that moment. For the above reasons, aliyot to the Torah are special.

We all know that aliyot to the Torah are precious and coveted. Aliyot are distributed as a way to bestow honour on the recipient for celebrations, for yahrzeit observances, and following periods of mourning. Men in shul generally want "their" aliyot to the Torah and every gabbai on the face of the earth fears the scenario where an aliyah which is expected by an individual is overlooked and just does not happen. In some congregations people bid for their aliyot, and this is accepted as an important source of financial support for those shuls. Over the past 30 years as Chazan Sheini, I have heard unhappy people reacting to not getting an aliya that "was coming to them," and, trust me, sometimes "it ain't pretty." When Rabbi Freundlich conveyed Rav Shachter's pandemic-related Sefer Torah protocols to me, I felt uncomfortable with the fact that, for the time being, I would be the recipient of all of the Torah honours.

In truth, everything about handling our Torah is an honour. Though not a common perception, lifting and dressing the scroll may actually be the most important honour pertaining to the public reading of the Torah, even more significant than getting an actual "talking Aliya". It is a popular misconception that hagbah and gelilah - preparing the Torah to be put away - are a mere "housekeeping" task. The Talmud (Megillah 32a) records a statement of Rav Yehoshua ben Levi that the most distinguished member of the congregation should receive the honour of rolling up the Torah scroll because he will thereby receive the spiritual reward of all those who participated in the reading. In earlier times, gelilah was either given to the most prominent shul members or the most important rav of the city. We learn from the Orach Chaim that this unique honour was sometimes auctioned to the highest bidder (SA, OC 147:1). In contemporary times, the custom is to offer the honour to any member of the congregation (MB 147:7).

The earliest detailed description of hagbah is found in the post-Talmudic Mesechet Sofrim, where it states (14:14): "Then he rolls open the Sefer Torah until three columns [are visible], and lifts it up and shows the text to the people standing to his right and left, and then he turns it to the front and back, because it is a mitzvah for all of the men and women to see the text, and bow, and say the following Torah verses: 'And this is the Torah which Moshe placed before the Children of Israel' (Devarim 4:44) and 'The Torah of God is perfect, restoring the soul'" (Tehillim 19:8). In order to ensure that everyone sees the actual text in the Torah scroll, Mesechet Sofrim states that the Torah should be raised and shown in all directions "because it is a mitzvah for all of the men and women to see the writing." Why do we need to see the text of the Torah? A story in the book of the prophet Nechemiah may be a source for this custom of hagbah. The Jews had returned from the Babylonian exile and were experiencing a religious revival, highlighted by a lengthy public Torah reading by Ezra. After the reading was completed, the story states: "Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood." (Nechemiah 8:5)

Not only do hagbah and gelilah have special status, it is commonly believed that certain aliyot of the Shabbos Torah reading are also prestigious. It is customary in many congregations to award these aliyot to the rabbi or to distinguished guests. The most prestigious "talking" aliyah that one can receive is the last aliya of each of the five chumashim, the "Acharon Chazak" aliya. Additionally, it is considered a great honour to be called to an aliya for any number of distinguished Torah portions such those containing the Ten Commandments or "Shirat Hayam - The Song at the Sea."

Throughout Jewish history, it seems that there has been great debate about "aliyah hierarchy." There were great rabbis in the past who were exceedingly humble and would routinely accept aliyot of lesser importance and allow others to receive the more prominent ones in order to avoid congregational conflicts and confrontations.

In some communities, it is the Maftir Aliyah that is considered to be the most prestigious. This is because the person being honoured is also given the added kavod of reciting the haftara along with its blessings. The Maftir Aliyah is also special because it serves as the transition from the reading of the Torah to the reading of the prophets. On the other hand, some authorities maintain that the Maftir Aliyah is actually the least significant as it is not counted among the seven primary aliyot of the Shabbat morning Torah reading. Because of this lower designation, some communities around the world have a long-standing tradition of having that aliya recipient also lead the Musaf prayers as compensation. Shortly after my return to North America thirty years ago, I was davening in my wife's cousin's shul and was given the Maftir Aliyah. After I concluded, I was also asked to lead Musaf and I declined. My wife's cousin came to me and said: "Why didn't you daven Musaf? It cost me big money..."

An old and widespread idea is that the Third Aliyah - שלישי - is the most prestigious and is designated for scholars and community leaders. Rabbeinu Tam was very particular to receive this aliya as part of his rabbinical benefits, even when he was in mourning. In congregations where the Third Aliyah is customarily reserved for the rabbi, it can never be given to anyone else. Though some great sages accorded high honour to the Fifth Aliyah, it is the Sixth Aliyah that the Zohar claims is the most prestigious. It was the practice for Rav Kruspedai and the Arizal to receive it, as did the Vilna Gaon and many chassidic rabbis today. Some sources explain that the Sixth Aliyah is the one that was often sold to the highest bidder - indicating the high value the community placed on it.

The Chida wrote that the most prestigious aliya is actually the sixth - ששי - followed by the third. In his view, the least prominent aliya is the seventh - שביעי. Can an aliya actually be of lesser importance? A nice approach to the Seventh Aliyah is based on the principle that "we ascend in holiness". It is suggested that each ascending aliya is even more prestigious than the one before it. In Talmudic times not every aliya recipient actually recited a blessing on the Torah - only the individual who received the first (Kohen) and last (seventh) aliyot did so. As such, receiving the Seventh Aliyah would have been the most honourable because along with it came the opportunity to recite the final blessing on the Torah reading. Even today, there is an opinion that the Seventh Aliya is the most prestigious. The concept of "acharon acharon chaviv" - the best for last - also serves in favor of the Seventh Aliya.

Some scholars suggest that the seven aliyot represent Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaakov, Moshe, Aharon, Yosef and David. Yet others suggest that the seven aliyot represent the seven kabbalistic sefirot. There are additional theories and opinions as to which aliya is the most prestigious, and the accepted ruling is that every community should continue with their particular custom in this regard. In general, it is advised that one should never get annoyed or aggravated as a result of receiving one aliya over another, as each one has its own special identity. I have read that there is a view that one should make an effort to receive an aliya at least once a month. Wishful thinking, dear reader! As a member of a large and vibrant synagogue, take this advice: Forget it!

Needless to say, serving as the Ba'al Koreh during this pandemic has blessed me with quite a few aliyot and Torah-related honours - certainly many more than I ever thought I would get in my lifetime. I mean: who needs all this "Covid"??? Seriously though, I like to see myself as a representative of the tzibbur and accept these aliyot as honours that belong to all those present. However, I also look forward to the time when, בעודת השם, the pandemic will be a thing of the past and the aliyot and honours will once again be distributed among our people.

Shabbat Shalom