



CONGREGATION TIFERETH BETH DAVID JERUSALEM

Shabbat Bulletin

שבת פרשת שמות
כה טבת ה'תשפ"א

Shabbat Parshat Sh'mot
January 8 - 9, 2021 / 5781

Please print this bulletin before Shabbat.

Rabbi
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SHABBAT SHALOM • שבת שלום

Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat is on Thursday, January 14.

Shabbat Parshat Sh'mot

Haftara: Yeshayahu 27:6 - 28:13, 29:22 - 29:23

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, January 8

- 3:00pm Daf Yomi on Zoom
- 4:05pm Minha et Kabbalat Shabbat -
Minyane Sépharade - Lower Hall
- 4:10pm Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat -
Indoor
- 4:11pm Candle Lighting
- 4:29pm Sh'kiah

Shabbat, January 9 / 25 Tevet 5781

- 8:30am Shacharit Minyan - *on hiatus*
- 8:45am Shacharit Minyan - *on hiatus*
- 8:45am Shacharit - Minyane Sépharade -
on hiatus
- 9:48am Sof Zman K'riyat Shma
- 10:20am Shacharit Minyan - *on hiatus*
- 10:30am Shacharit Minyan - *on hiatus*
- 12:15pm Early Mincha Minyan - *on hiatus*
- 4:00pm Minha et Arvit - Minyane
Sépharade - *on hiatus*
- 4:05pm Mincha/Maariv Minyan -
on hiatus
- 4:30pm Sh'kiah
- 5:19pm Havdala
- 5:45pm Musical Havdala and Kumzitz
on Facebook with Rev. Bender
- 6:30pm Daf Yomi on Zoom

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Heidi & Howard Cohen** on the wedding of their daughter Amanda to Ryan Crelinsten on Sunday, January 3. Sharing in their simcha are Ryan's parents Linda & Gordon Crelinsten and many delighted siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins in both families. Lovingly remembered at this time are, zichronam livracha, Amanda's grandparents Ettie & Issie Moscovitch and Rhoda & Michael Cohen, and Ryan's grandparents Bernice & Charles Harvey and Esther & Charles Crelinsten.

Mazal Tov to **Monica & Joe Gauze** on the engagement of their granddaughter Aliza Katz to Yehuda Averick of Israel. Sharing in their simcha are Alyssa's parents Cyma & Perry Katz of Toronto, Yehuda's parents Lisa & Benjamin Averick of Israel, Alyssa's paternal grandparents Frances & Sol Katz, and many delighted siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins in both families.

SPONSORSHIPS AND THANK YOUS

This Shabbat Bulletin is sponsored by **Monica & Joe Gauze** in honour of the engagement of their granddaughter Aliza Katz to Yehuda Averick of Israel.

The Women's Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat Shiur and Rabbi Freundlich's "Lunch & Learn" Parsha Shiur on Wednesday, January 13 are sponsored by **Sari Newman** and family in memory of beloved father, grandfather and great grandfather Lou Stern z"l (Elazer Gedalia ben Yechiel - Sh'vat 1).

Covid Update from Josh Orzech

It is with deep sadness but complete understanding that we once again have to close the physical TBDJ building following the recent announcement and directives of the Gouvernement du Québec. As part of the effort to protect our health and well-being, all houses of worship must close beginning Saturday, January 9. We will be hosting Minyanim this Friday, January 8 for Shacharit, Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat, but will be closed starting Shabbat morning.

While our physical building will be closed, TBDJ Online is open and as busy as ever. Please visit <https://programming.tbdj.org> for a list of upcoming programs, and watch your emails for reminders and news. We will continue our daily Mincha/Maariv group on Zoom each evening, with short learning led by Rabbi Freundlich following Mincha. We invite you to join, see familiar faces, and daven alongside others in the community. Go to <https://tbdj.org/zoom-mincha> to join us from Sunday to Friday.

DAILY SCHEDULE: JANUARY 10 - 15

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Shacharit Minyan: hiatus Mincha on Zoom: 4:10pm Shkiah: 4:31pm	Shacharit Minyan: hiatus Mincha on Zoom: 4:10pm Shkiah: 4:33pm	Shacharit Minyan: hiatus Mincha on Zoom: 4:10pm Shkiah: 4:34pm
WEDNESDAY	THURS. - R. CHODESH	FRIDAY
Shacharit Minyan: hiatus Parsha Shiur 12:15pm Mincha on Zoom: 4:10pm Shkiah: 4:35pm	Shacharit Minyan: hiatus Mincha on Zoom: 4:10pm Shkiah: 4:36pm Chumash Shiur 8:00pm	Shacharit Minyan: hiatus Mincha on Zoom: 4:20pm Candle Lighting 4:19pm Sh'kiah 4:38pm

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

For more programs, shiurim and classes... please visit <http://programming.tbdj.org>



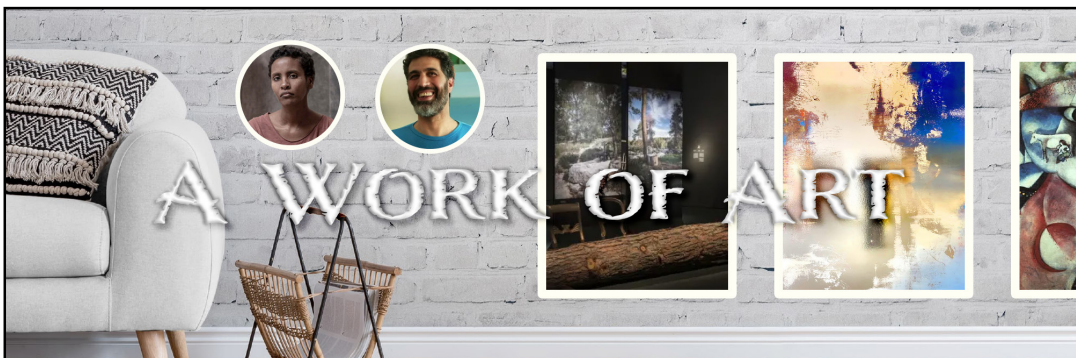
Led by Rifki Freundlich, For Women

Monday, January 11 at 11:00am // Location: Zoom Social Hall



Book & Film Club Review of the film "1945" - session begins with screening of film

Monday, January 11 at 1:00pm // Location: Zoom Social Hall



A Work of Art with Ronnit Vasserman - Spotlight on Artist Shai Azoulay

Tuesday, January 12 at 12:00pm // see website for details



Virtual Diaspora Series - Online Tour of India

Tuesday, January 12 at 8:00pm // registration required - see email



**THE TBDJ WOMEN'S INITIATIVE
PROUDLY PRESENTS**

Let's DOUGHnate!



A fun way to shmooze & connect
while also helping others!

**EVERY SECOND
THURSDAY STARTING
JANUARY 14TH AT
10AM IN THE TBDJ ZOOM
SOCIAL HALL**

COOKIES – CUPCAKES – BARS – BROWNIES & MORE!

Each week we will bake a different yummy treat together on zoom!
Once they are baked and cooled, wrap the treats up and drop
them off at TBDJ! We will take care of the rest!
We will be delivering these treats to our heroes, frontline
workers and other chesed organizations!



Serach and the Secret Code of Redemption

Circa 2447 on the Hebrew calendar. Moshe Rabeinu has just accepted the sceptre of leadership and is about to embark on the difficult mission of getting our ancestors ready to be redeemed from Egypt. Imagine – a new career for Moshe Rabeinu at the ripe young age of 80 as the divinely appointed leader of the young Jewish nation. Indeed Moshe has his doubts and asks the Almighty two questions: “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should take the children of Israel out of Egypt?” The first part of the question is clear. “How can I, a person so unqualified, influence Pharaoh?” The Kli Yakar and Sfas Emes explain that the second part of the question concern Moshe’s doubts about Bnei Yisrael ridding themselves of the spiritual pollution of so many years in Egypt. Hashem assures Moshe that He will be with him and that Bnei Yisrael are destined to go forward and receive the Torah on the very mountain that Hashem revealed himself to him.

Assuming his responsibilities, Moshe encounters his people, embittered and unbelieving. Moshe gains the faith of the people in an unexpected way. In order to understand how he accomplished this, we need to become acquainted with a marvelous and relatively unknown biblical character: Serach the daughter of Asher, the granddaughter of our patriarch Yaakov. Serach is mentioned twice in the Torah: First in the Torah portion of Vayigash which describes the journey to Egypt of Yaakov and his family: “And the sons of Asher were Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, and Briah, and Serach, their sister...” and again in the Torah portion of Pinchas where Bnei Yisrael are counted: “The name of Asher’s daughter was Serach”. The Torah mentions her name twice but gives us no further information about her. We know that there is a reason for Serach’s mention as otherwise her name would not have been recorded in the Torah. Serach’s fascinating history is connected with the story of the migration to Egypt and eventual slavery, and also with the redemption from Egypt and the return to Israel. Midrashim enhance us with stories about this remarkable woman who possessed great beauty and wisdom, including her part in getting the people to believe in Moshe Rabeinu’s leadership. She was blessed with much knowledge, which she used to help Am Yisrael when needed in their early history and at different intervals in her long life.

Serach did not have the status of a prophet among the women prophets in scripture, such as Sarah, Miriam, Devorah, Chana, Avigail, Chuldah and Esther. She did however, merit a righteous exit from the world and along with a few among the exalted people in our Jewish history, she entered the Garden of Eden while still alive. Like the Prophet Eliyahu and a few others, she did not pass away as humans do. Where does Serach figure into the story of Moshe Rabeinu and his attempt to gain the belief of our enslaved ancestors, and what is her role in his holy mission as Hashem’s agent to bring about the eventual redemption from Egypt from the house of slavery?

The Rabbis assign to Serach an important role in identifying Moshe as the redeemer who would deliver the Israelites from Egypt. According to the Midrash, the secret of redemption was given over to Avraham, who conveyed it to Yitzchak, Yitzchak to Yaakov, and Yaakov to Yosef. Yosef transmitted the secret of redemption to his brothers shortly before his passing in Egypt, telling them: “When G-d has taken notice of you - *pakod yifkod* - you shall carry up my bones from here (Breisheet 50:25)”. Yosef’s brother Asher passed the secret along to his daughter Serach. When Moshe and his brother Aaron came to the Israelite elders and performed miracles before them, the elders went to Serach and told her: “A certain man has come to us and performed such and such wonders.” Serach replied: “There is no substance to him” - that is, he is not the deliverer. They then said to her: “He also said: ‘When God has taken notice of you’ - *pakod yifkod*.” She said: “This is the man who will redeem Israel from Egypt, for I heard from my father ‘He will take notice’ - *pakod yifkod*.” The people immediately believed in Hashem and Moshe His agent: “...and the people were convinced when they heard that the Lord had taken note - *pakad* - of the Israelites.” (Shmot 4:31)

Serach was blessed with an amazingly long life. We know that Serach was among those who came to Egypt and one of those who left it. The second mention of her name in the Torah portion of Pinchas is used as proof that she also entered the Land of Israel, a time span of 250 years! (Seder Olam Rabbah 9). Rashi notes that she is mentioned in the latter verse to point out the unusual length of her life. Tradition of Serach’s longevity has it that Serach was still alive in the time of King David and even longer. A fascinating insight into the longevity of Serach’s life is told in the Midrash (Pesikta d’Rav Kahana, Beshalach 11:13): Torah scholars were once studying the account of the exodus from Egypt. Rabbi Yochanan, a third-century Talmudic sage, read the sentence: “The waters [of the Red Sea] became a wall to their right and to their left.” He explained this to mean that the waters formed well-sealed walls. The Midrash continues saying that Serach, the daughter of Asher, said in response to Rabbi Yochanan, “I was there, and the walls were transparent and let light through [like glass].”

In a musical sense, there is another amazing story about Serach which took place towards the family’s eventual descent into Egypt, nearing the end of Yaakov Avinu’s heavy years of mourning the “death” of his beloved son Yosef. The Midrash in Sefer Hayashar tells us that when the brothers returned from Egypt following Yosef’s revealing his identity to them, they feared that breaking the news of Yosef’s survival and his success in Egypt to their father Yaakov could cause his death. They knew that the news had to be broken to Yaakov gently and they asked Serach, who was very close to her grandfather, to do so. Serach played the harp. Tradition is however, that during Yaakov’s years of mourning she did not play the harp for him. She now took her harp and in a soft voice intoned: “Yosef lives, Yosef lives, and he is the ruler of Egypt...” She repeated this refrain again and again. Yaakov, first hearing this musical message wondered: “What is the meaning of this?” He listened to her words and his heart filled of joy. The Midrash continues that Yaakov was spiritually revived by these words and said to Serach: “The mouth that informed me that Yosef lives will not taste death.”

We know that our forefathers did not give not their blessings lightly and Serach’s blessing from her grandfather was well deserved. This made her worthy of being the only granddaughter of Yaakov mentioned in the Torah and her wisdom and outstanding character traits made her the ideal person to merit a prolonged life and a significant and special place in the early history of our nation.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rev. Amiel