



CONGREGATION TIFERETH BETH DAVID JERUSALEM

# Shabbat Bulletin

בס"ד  
שבת פרשת תרומה  
פרשת זכור  
ח אדר ה'תשפ"א  
Shabbat Parshat Terumah  
Parshat Zachor  
February 19-20, 2021 / 5781

Rabbi  
Yechezkel Freundlich

Chazzan Sheini  
Rev. Amiel Bender

President  
Josh Orzech

6519 Baily Road, Côte Saint-Luc, Québec H4V 1A1 Canada • 514-489-3841 • www.TBDJ.org • director@tbdj.org

## SHABBAT SHALOM • שבת שלום

*Ta'anit Esther is on Thursday, February 25 - fast begins at 5:25am, ends at 6:05pm / Purim is on Friday, February 26.*

Shabbat Parshat Terumah  
Parshat Zachor

*Haftara: Shmuel Alef 15:2 - 15:34*

*Minyanim and Parshat Zachor Readings are restricted to members 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, February 19

3:30pm Daf Yomi on Zoom  
4:00pm Reading of Parshat Zachor on Zoom  
4:21pm Plag Hamincha  
5:00pm Minha & Kabbalat Shabbat -  
Minyane Sépharade-Lower Hall  
5:09pm Candle Lighting  
5:10pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat -  
Main Sanctuary, Upper Hall and  
Library  
5:27pm Sh'kiah

Shabbat, February 20 / 8 Adar 5781

7:45am Shacharit - Main Sanctuary  
8:30am Shaharit - Minyane Sépharade  
8:45am Shacharit - Upper Hall  
9:29am Sof Zman K'riyat Shma  
9:30am Shacharit - Main Sanctuary  
10:30am Shacharit - Upper Hall  
11:15am Shacharit and Early Mincha -  
Main Sanctuary  
12:30pm Parshat Zachor-Main Sanctuary  
12:45pm Parshat Zachor-Main Sanctuary  
1:00pm Parshat Zachor-Main Sanctuary  
4:14pm Plag Hamincha  
4:30pm Parshat Zachor-Main Sanctuary  
4:45pm Parshat Zachor-Main Sanctuary  
4:55pm Minha - Minyane Sépharade  
5:05pm Mincha - Main Sanctuary and  
Upper Hall  
5:29pm Sh'kiah  
6:13pm Havdala  
6:45pm Musical Havdala and Kumzitz  
on Facebook with Rev. Bender  
7:00pm Daf Yomi on Zoom

Mincha is at **5:10pm** this coming week.

To view all times for sh'kiah, davening, shiurim & candle lighting, go to [www.tbdj.org/calendar](http://www.tbdj.org/calendar).

To view details about our all our programming, go to [www.programming.tbdj.org](http://www.programming.tbdj.org).

### COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Brenda & Jeffrey Friedman, Faigie Friedman** and **Helen & Nathan Langburt** and their families on the engagement of their daughter and granddaughter Jillian Friedman to Ira Marcovitch. Sharing in their simcha are Ira's parents Susan & Jack Marcovitch of Ottawa and many delighted siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins in both families. Lovingly remembered at this time is Jillian's beloved grandfather Shulom Friedman z"l.

Mazal Tov to **Barbara & David Zukor** and to **Edith Zukor** and their families on the birth of a grandson and great grandson on Thursday, February 18 in New York City. Proud parents are Riva & Jordan Kestenbaum. Sharing in their simcha are the babys' siblings Leo and Ruby, grandparents Debbie & Alan Kestenbaum, great grandparents Anita & Hal Beretz of Great Neck, NY, Gloria & Sandy Kestenbaum of Jerusalem, and many delighted aunts, uncles and cousins.

Condolences to **Theodore Wald** and to **Danny & Audrey Wald** and their families on the loss of beloved wife, mother and mother-in-law **Hadassa Halay Wald z"l** who passed away on Thursday, February 18. Funeral took place on Friday, February 19.

### SPONSORSHIPS AND THANK YOUS

This Shabbat Bulletin is sponsored by **Pnina & Abe Brodt** and family in memory of Abe's beloved mother Sara Rivka Brodt z"l (Sarah Rivka bat Yitzchak v'Soshe - Adar 8).

Rifki Freundlich's Tehillim Shiur on Monday, February 22 is sponsored by **Dorothy, Steve and Sean Howard** in memory of their beloved daughter and sister Lauren Melissa Howard z"l (Leah Miriam bat Shlomo HaLevi v'Devorah - Adar 7).

Rabbi Freundlich's Pre-Purim Shiur on Monday, February 22 is sponsored by **Melissa & Michael Assaraf** and family in honour of Rabbi Yechezkel & Rifki Freundlich "with heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and dedication! May you continue to guide and support us. You both are an inspiration to all of us. Wishing you good health, much happiness, many blessings and a Chag Purim Sameach!"

### MESSAGE FROM RABBI FREUNDLICH ABOUT PARSHAT ZACHOR

There is a mitzvah in the Torah to remember Amalek and its descendants, and to orally recall their iniquity. We are to tell our children in each generation what the people of Amalek did to us during our departure from Egypt. To properly fulfill this commandment, the Sages have prescribed the public reading of this passage from a Torah scroll, once every year, on the Shabbat which precedes Purim – so that the 'wiping-out' of Amalek might be adjacent to the 'wiping-out' of Haman, the latter being a descendant of Amalek.

This mitzvah will be fulfilled this Shabbat. In addition to the regularly scheduled minyanim in shul, we will have several additional Zachor readings Shabbat afternoon, open to both men and women: at 12:30pm, 12:45pm and 1:00pm, and again at 4:30pm and 4:45pm. Due to the current health restrictions limiting us to 10 people in a room, pre-registration before Shabbat is required. Please refer to the email that was sent out to the community on Wednesday evening for the link to our Sign-Up webpage for Shabbat.

Women have traditionally taken it upon themselves to come to shul to hear Parshat Zachor, but they are not required to do so.

If one cannot make it, or one is not comfortable attending shul, one should read the prescribed pesukim from a Chumash at home on Shabbos afternoon (Devarim 25:17-19).

Additionally, Rev. Bender will read from a Torah on Friday, February 19 at 4:00pm on Zoom. A link to hear this reading will be sent by email on Friday.

This mitzvah of reading Parshat Zachor serves to initiate the celebration of Purim and the victory over Haman. Rifki and I look forward to celebrating this chag with all of you in the coming week.

Shabbat Shalom

## Dwelling Within Us

Many know the classic old joke about the Jew stranded on a desert island. After years he is finally rescued. The Jew treats his rescuers to a tour of the island, showing them how he managed to survive on his own for so many years. He shows them his tree house, his garden, his fruit trees, his water hole and more. At the end of the tour he shows his rescuers two huts with stars of David on them. “What are these?” he is asked. “These are the two synagogues that I built on the island”. His rescuers ask him: Why two synagogues for one person? His answer: “The one on the left is my shul! The shul on the right I wouldn’t go into if you paid me!”

It is said that there is a grain of truth in every joke. While on the surface this joke conveys the message of the importance of connection to a synagogue, the deeper understanding is the connection of each and every one of us to our synagogue.

The connection between the Jew and his shul began with the construction of the Mishkan which we read about in this week’s Torah portion, Terumah. The verse states: וַעֲשׂוּ לִי מִקְדָּשׁ וּשְׁכֵנִתִּי בְתוֹכָם “They shall make a sanctuary for Me – so that I may dwell among them” (Shmot 25:8). The verse teaches us that a shul is more than a building where we seek Hashem’s presence – a shul is a building which emphasizes Hashem’s presence within us. I like to think that the synagogue is an extension of our very existence. Having a place to go to seek Hashem’s presence is the address for our spiritual yearning as individuals and as a community.

Our synagogues, designated for prayer and for study are referred to as our מִקְדָּשׁ מַעֲט, our holy buildings reminiscent of the sanctity of the Mishkan in the desert and later on in history, our בְּתֵי מִקְדָּשׁ, our Holy Temples in Yerushalayim. The acceptance and dedication of our forefathers in the desert to support the initial communal place of gathering for the divine presence was enthusiastically expressed through the campaign to collect for the Mishkan. In fact, at a certain point the donations were more than plentiful and the people were asked to stop donating. Our forefathers were communal role models and set for us a strong example of devotion to a building and donating to a place of divine presence in the spirit of community.

Having a shul as the nucleus of a Jewish community is more than a privilege. There is, in fact, a halachic requirement to build a shul. To quote the Rambam (Hilchos Tefillah 11:1-2): *Any place that has ten Jews must have available a building that they can enter to pray at every time of prayer. This building is called a Beis Hakenesses (synagogue). The members of the community can force one another to build a synagogue, to purchase a Sefer Torah and books of the Prophets and of the Kesuvim. When you build a synagogue, you must build it in the highest part of the town... and you must elevate it, until it is taller than any of the courtyards in town.*

The words of the Rambam teach us that it is required to have a building designated specifically for this purpose and to procure the books of the Tanach. Rav Moshe Feinstein explains that a community is required to have a building designated to be their מִקְדָּשׁ מַעֲט. We learn from the words of the Rambam of the prominence of the actual building and its architectural dominance among the structures in the community. It is interesting to recognize the communal obligations with regard to building a shul. Since it is a community responsibility to have a shul building, the minority of the membership of a community may force the majority to raise the money to build a shul (Rema, Choshen Mishpat 163:1). In earlier generations, communities had the authority to levy taxes on their members. Since building a shul is a community responsibility, they could require people to provide the funds necessary for this project. Rabbi Yirmiyohu Kaganoff, a contemporary scholar writes about the obligation to build a shul: “Must we build a shul? ...We have been comfortably davening in different people’s houses, three times a day, seven days a week. Now, some individuals are clamoring that they want us to build a shul, which is a huge expense. Isn’t this chutzpah on their part, when we are all struggling to pay our mortgages? The answer is that, not only is it not chutzpah on the part of those individuals, the halachic right is on their side. The community is required to have a shul, and it is unsatisfactory that the minyan takes place in a home that is not meant to be a Beis Tefillah (House of Prayer).”

When we give of ourselves to something, we become a part of it and it becomes a part of us. We have a special feeling of belonging and connection not to just any shul, but to our shul. The connection is significant, it is strong, steeped in tradition potentially spanning generations. To quote one of our TBDJ members: “Sitting at TBDJ on Shabbos mornings, I connect with whoever is around me... sitting with my sister... knowing that my dad is not only in shul with me but within my line of vision across the mechitza... It’s a family thing. It’s a feeling of generational continuity. It’s a community thing, it means that we are part of something greater... a unique relationship with my shul that is specific to TBDJ, a feeling that I could not feel in another synagogue”. Ruefully hinting to the pandemic, our member continued: “When I’m not at TBDJ I miss it terribly and I’m looking forward to the day that, after visiting my children, I will come back to TBDJ”. Indeed, we get used to many aspects of our synagogues of choice, they are our comfort zone and they enhance our prayer experience: the presence of our Rabbi as our spiritual leader along with his sermons and words of knowledge and inspiration, the comfort of our permanent place in shul surrounded by friends and familiar faces, the prayers and songs, the social aspects of the Shabbos greetings, handshaking and Kiddushim (remember those?) and the list goes on.

I recall, upon being interviewed for the job at Beth Ora 31 years ago, that I was introduced to a gentleman who told me that he was the president of the shul. I remember thinking to myself in amazement: “Synagogues have presidents?” I had just arrived from Israel where we would go to shul to daven and learn at the designated times. Social was reserved for other venues. Big Kiddushim almost never happened. If there was a president in my shul in Israel, I never knew about it. My experience serving as clergy at Beth Ora and TBDJ taught me to appreciate the synagogue of the diaspora as an organizational community center and over the years I have observed how fond members are of their synagogues, forming a strong connection with the place where Hashem’s Holy Shechina resides and where they enjoy davening, learning and so much more.

I recall my disbelief last year at the news that the synagogues of Montreal were going into lockdown. The place that we so needed to beseech the Almighty in prayer and the place for comfort during these trying times was closed to us! I remember coming up to the synagogue the afternoon of our first lockdown and to make sure that everything was in order before the lockdown began, giving each of the Torah scrolls a kiss, putting other things in order etc. The lockdown began just as we began to prepared for Pesach and remembered the plague of the first born of Egypt that was inflicted by the Almighty at midnight. In Egypt the Jews went into divine lockdown to be saved from the plague and so did we. With gratitude to Rabbi Freundlich and the executive our lockdown from TBDJ was only a physical one. We were sustained in the spiritual sense and the communal sense - “They shall make a sanctuary for Me – so that I may dwell among them”. I believe that years ago in the desert, Hashem was teaching Bnei Yisrael an eternal lesson about the strength of the community coming together in prayer and devotion. This is the strength of Pandemic TBDJ, though locked out of the building, functioning at full strength as a community, keeping its members involved and keeping Hashem within us even as we were locked out of our House of Prayer.

Shabbat Shalom,

*Rev. Amiel*



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

### Monday Morning Tehillim

WITH  
RIFKI FREUNDLICH

EVERY MONDAY AT 11:00AM

HOSTED IN TBDJ'S ZOOM SOCIAL HALL

*This shiur is sponsored by Dorothy, Steve and Sean Howard in memory of their beloved daughter and sister  
Lauren Melissa Howard z"l (Leah Miriam bat Shlomo HaLevi v'Devorah - Adar 7).*

Monday, February 22 at 11:00am // Location: Zoom Social Hall



**\*Film & Book Club - Screening & Review of "Footnote" - 2012 Oscar Nominee - Foreign Lang. Film\***  
Hebrew w. English Subtitles / Mon., Feb. 22 at 12:00pm // Location: Zoom Social Hall



**\*Pre-Purim Shiur with Rabbi Freundlich: Do We Need to Know This for the Test?\***  
Monday, February 22 at 8:00pm // Location: Zoom Social Hall



**\*Purim Pandemic Pajama Party\***

Thursday, February 25 at 7:45pm // Location: Zoom Social Hall

# **TBDJ's Book and Film Club**

**Monday, February 22 at 12:00pm**

**Screening and Review of "Footnote" (2011, Hebrew with English Subtitles)**

FOOTNOTE is the tale of a great rivalry between a father and son. Eliezer and Uriel Shkolnik are both eccentric professors, who have dedicated their lives to their work in Talmudic Studies. The father, Eliezer, is a stubborn purist who fears the establishment and has never been recognized for his work. Meanwhile his son, Uriel, is an up-and-coming star in the field, who appears to feed on accolades, endlessly seeking recognition.

Then one day, the tables turn. When Eliezer learns that he is to be awarded the Israel Prize, the most valuable honour for scholarship in the country, his vanity and desperate need for validation are exposed. His son, Uriel, is thrilled to see his father's achievements finally recognized but, in a darkly funny twist, is forced to choose between the advancement of his own career and his father's. Will he sabotage his father's glory?

FOOTNOTE is the story of insane academic competition, the dichotomy between admiration and envy for a role model, and the very complicated relationship between a father and son.





The TBDJ Kef Club invites  
all kids to join



# PURIM BINGO PARTY



Here's how to play... it's simple!

Register here: <http://tbdj.org/purimbingo>

Suggested minimum donation per player of \$5.

(All donations go towards Matanot La'Evyonim in our community!)

Check your email - you'll receive a **Bingo card!**

**On Thursday 6:45pm, Purim night**

We'll meet on Zoom for the  
**BIG BINGO GAME!**

Check your emails for our Zoom link.  
One Bingo Card per kid.





**SPECIAL DAY  
AND TIME!**



**SUNDAY  
FEB. 21 @ 8PM**

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

# Let's DOUGHnate!



## Hamantaschen

### Ingredients

4 large egg  
1 1/4 cup sugar  
1 cup neutral oil  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 tsp Vanilla Extract  
3 tsp baking powder  
4- 4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

### Instructions

Combine all ingredients in a medium bowl, add flour 1 cup at a time mixing before adding the next cup.

Dough should be slightly sticky.

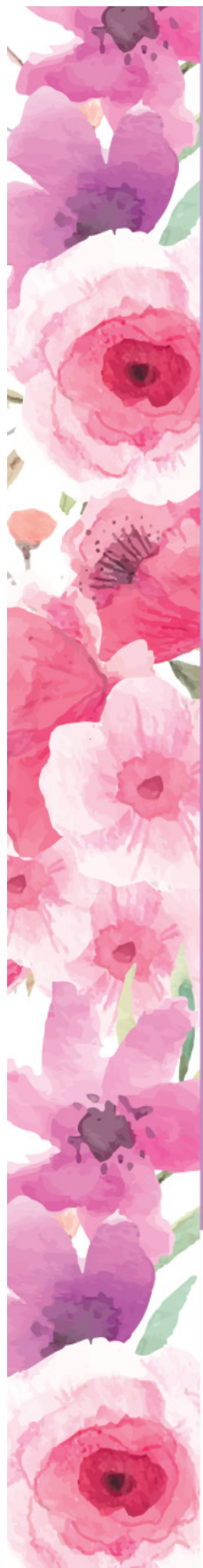
Roll into 1/4" thickness between parchment paper.

Cut out 3" circles, fill with filling of choice!

Can use nutella, biscoff, prune, apricot jam, chocolate spread, endless possibilities!

Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 9-11 minutes.





# WONDER WOMEN SERIES



Lessons from  
Inspirational  
Jewish Leaders

אם-התרש תחרישי  
*If you remain silent at this time:  
Perspectives from an Orthodox Journalist  
with Avital Chizhik-Goldschmidt*

**February 24 at 8pm  
in TBDJ's Zoom Social Hall**

Avital Chizhik-Goldschmidt is a writer living in New York City. Previously she was the Life editor at the Forward, and a reporter for Haaretz. Her essays have appeared in the New York Times, Vox, and Salon, among others, and Avital has taught journalism at Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women. She does pastoral work alongside her husband Rabbi Benjamin Goldschmidt in Manhattan's Upper East Side.

# **Guide to Purim 5781**

## **by Rabbi Yechezkel Freundlich**

### **Machatzit HaShekel**

The custom is to give three half dollar coins to charity at mincha prior to Purim, in commemoration of the practice in times of the Beit Hamikdash. However, due to limitations on synagogue attendance and strict distancing measures, there is no need to approach a central collection plate and raise the actual coins. One may fulfill the minhag of Machatzit HaShekel by placing paper money in the collection bin, or by making a special donation to charity in the merit of this custom. We should keep in mind that this custom is merely a commemoration of a Holy Temple ritual ("zecher l'Machatzit Hashekel") and not the actual mitzvah of Machatzit HaShekel that was performed in the days of the Beit Hamikdash.

### **Taanit Esther**

The Fast of Esther begins Thursday morning, February 25th, at 5:25am and ends at 6:05pm in the evening. Even if one hears the Megillah early (see below) the fast remains in effect until 6:05pm.

### **Megillah Readings**

- It is an obligation upon both men and women to hear the Megillah twice on Purim, once at night and once during Purim day.
- This year will obviously be quite a challenge. Limited to groups of 10 and with an 8:00pm curfew, we will do everything possible to provide an opportunity for everyone to hear the Megillah. By law, we are permitted to host simultaneous minyanim, provided each space has its own separate outside entrance. Because of these pandemic restrictions, pre-registration is required for all readings and minyanim at our shul. Registration has already begun - if you have not yet registered, please write [brian@tbdj.org](mailto:brian@tbdj.org) so that he can find a spot for you.
- The Megillah reading itself does not require a minyan, though it is preferable under normal circumstances; both men and women are encouraged to register at one of the readings scheduled.
- A number of Megillah readings will be for men only so that a complete minyan can be present for davening prior to the reading. Those sessions are clearly marked on the registration page, both Thursday night and Friday morning.
- We have attempted to maximize the opportunities to hear the Megillah. If you are unable to secure a spot, please be in touch with Amiel or myself and we will do our best to make arrangements. You can send an email to [rabbifreundlich@tbdj.org](mailto:rabbifreundlich@tbdj.org) or [amiel@tbdj.org](mailto:amiel@tbdj.org)
- Under normal circumstances, it is considered ideal to wait until nightfall to hear the Megillah at night. However, "under duress" it is permitted to read the Megillah before nightfall, beginning with the halachic time known as plag mincha (4:27pm this year). Given our very limited situation this year, we have scheduled a number of readings beginning at 4:30pm on Erev Purim - Thursday, February 25..
- Zoom: Under normal circumstances, one must hear the Megillah directly from the person reading it. This year there are many people who are simply not able to come to shul. Under the guidance of leading rabbinic authorities, we will be broadcasting some of our readings at shul over Zoom - please watch for upcoming emails providing the links to these Zoom broadcasts. Someone who cannot attend in person should listen in to every word on Zoom, both Thursday night and Friday morning.
- I would also like to encourage those with young children to have them join you on Zoom for as much of the Megillah reading as possible. While circumstances have simply made it impossible to have children in shul, their absence is a painful void and it is important that they, and ourselves, experience and celebrate Purim.

### **Zoom Broadcast Schedule**

Please note: All minyanim in the Main Shul will be on Zoom as well. Megillah reading will start about 30 minutes after the start of the minyan.

- Thursday night: 5:10pm, 6:30pm, 7:15pm
- Friday morning: 6:30am, 8:00am, 9:30am, 10:45am, 3:00pm

### **Programming on Erev Purim - Thursday, February 25**

#### ***The TBDJ Pandemic Purim Pajama Party***

What is Purim without a massive TBDJ Purim celebration? We can't dance and sing and eat together, but we still can get into the Purim spirit just like we always do. Join us on Zoom at 7:45pm for a special program of fun, games and videos for the whole family, led by Rabbi and Rifki Freundlich. Make sure you dress up – it's a pajama party!

#### ***Kef Club Purim Bingo Game and Party for Kids on Zoom***

Calling all TBDJ kids! Eli and Sivan are hosting a special Zoom Purim Bingo Game and Party at 6:45pm. Pre-registration required before end of day on Wednesday, February 24. Go to [tbdj.org/purimbingo](https://tbdj.org/purimbingo) to register.

#### ***Simchat Purim Tisch with Kollel Torah MiTzion***

We also invite you to join with KTM for a Simchat Purim tisch beginning at 8:30pm, complete with brief words of Torah from community Rab-bis, including Rabbi Freundlich.

### **The Three Purim Mitzvot**

Besides hearing the Megillah, there are three mitzvot to fulfill on Purim Day - Friday, February 26.

1. Mishloach Manot is fulfilled by delivering two food items to one person. They must be delivered on Purim day itself. One who is not able to deliver themselves may appoint an agent - shaliach - to do so for you. Our TBDJ Chesed Committee is standing by and ready to help! Write [chesed@tbdj.org](mailto:chesed@tbdj.org) if you need assistance.
2. Matanot L'evyonim - gifts to the poor - must also be dispensed on Purim day. Rabbi Freundlich will be collecting donations in advance of Purim to give out monies on Purim. You can drop off envelopes at his home, or donate on line and mark it "matanot l'evyonim". Go to our website's donation page at [tbdj.org/donate](https://tbdj.org/donate).
3. A festive Purim Seudah is to be eaten as it is every year, ideally with bread, meat and wine, despite the fact that Purim is on a Friday. However, in order to honour Shabbat and not enter into the Friday night meal already completely full, it is ideal to eat the Purim meal in the morning. If that is not possible, it is best to try and complete the Purim meal by about 2:30pm - three hours before sunset). If that is not possible either, the meal should be completed any time before Shabbat begins.





THE CANADIAN SHAARE ZEDEK  
HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

SAVING LIVES • DELIVERING LIVES • CHANGING LIVES

UJA PROFESSIONAL  
DIVISIONS

PRESENT

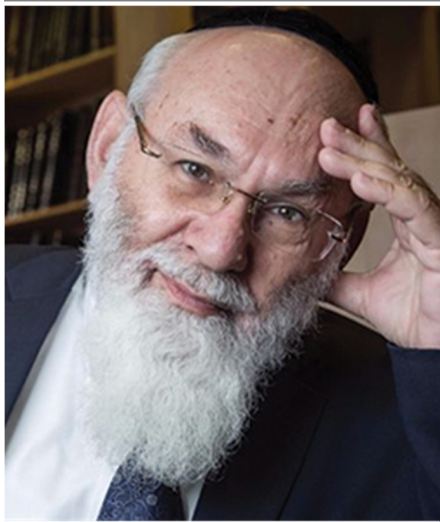
## RABBI PROFESSOR AVRAHAM STEINBERG

### Zoom Scholar-in-Residence

**TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021 | 12:00 PM**

### ON THE TOPIC

Health & Ethics Issues Related to COVID-19:  
Triage Decisions, Vaccinations, and Halachic Issues  
related to Davening / Holidays



Rabbi Prof. **Avraham Steinberg**, MD, is an associate clinical professor of medical ethics at the Hebrew University–Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem. He is the author of *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Medical Ethics*, for which he was awarded the *Israel Prize* in 1999. Prof. Steinberg is a senior pediatric neurologist at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem, and directs the center's Medical Ethics Unit. He is also director of Yad Harav Herzog, and a member of national and international societies of child neurology, medical ethics, and Jewish medical ethics. In Israel, Prof. Steinberg is the co-chair of the National Bioethics Council, chair of the National Committee in accordance with the Dying Patient Act, a member of the National Committee in accordance with the Brain-Death Act, the National Committee for Inspection on Mohalim, the Institutional Review Board (“Helsinki Committee”) of Shaare Zedek, and the Ethics Committee of Shaare Zedek. He is the author & editor of 36 books and public reports, and over 260 articles and chapters in scientific journals and books.

Via Shaarei Shomayim's Zoom  
And Live-streamed on Shaarei Shomayim's Facebook Page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/shaareishomayim/live/>



## IMPORTANT MESSAGE: PURIM 5781 (COVID-19) COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

The circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic present unique challenges to the observance of *mitzvot* connected to Purim. It is the purpose of this document to provide guidance in preparation for Purim.

### **Celebrating Purim**

We urge the community to celebrate Purim in the safest possible way: alone with one's family/bubble. Even those who will attend reduced and abbreviated services should bear in mind that the traditional components of Purim – singing, dancing, l'chaims – are those very elements that have created "super-spreader" events. Preventing the spread of disease must come before the fulfillment of any of the *mitzvot* of Purim.

### **Megillah on Purim Night and Day:**

If one is able to hear the Megillah in person with a Minyan on both Purim night and day, one should do so. If one is not attending services, then one may follow the Megillah reading via the live Zoom transmission that will be arranged by your community synagogue. Please check with your local synagogue as to in-person and online offerings. (If one is reading the Megillah without a Minyan, the concluding blessing of "*Harav Et Reveynu*" should not be said.) This guidance is offered due to the extenuating circumstances of the pandemic; under normal conditions, we do not endorse Zoom megillah readings.

In a typical year, Purim is an essential synagogue experience for children. In this atypical year, children are encouraged to hear the Megillah on Zoom while dressed in costume, sounding groggers, and experiencing the joy of Purim in any way possible.

### **Purim Seudah:**

This year, Purim falls out on Thursday night and Friday, and one cannot fulfill the Mitzvah at night. Therefore, one should have a Purim Seudah either for breakfast or lunch on Friday. The meal should be a festive one, similar to a regular year, preferably featuring meat and wine. It is essential that the Purim Seudah include no guests, in accordance with provincial health guidelines.

### **Mishloach Manot and Matanot L'Evyonim:**

The mitzvot of Mishloach Manot and Matanot L'Evyonim are only fulfilled on Purim day (Friday). As social distancing norms continue to apply, we urge the community to avoid social gatherings or close proximity to those outside your immediate family when delivering Mishloach Manot.



Matanot L'evyonim requires that we give money to at least two people so they can celebrate Purim. Your rabbis are available to distribute these funds on your behalf, and *matanot l'evyonim* can be collected for distribution even before Purim.

**Reading of Parashat Zachor:**

The practice to hear Parashat Zachor (Devarim 25:17-19) traditionally takes place on the Shabbat preceding Purim. If you are able to safely attend a Minyan and hear the Torah reading at that time you should do so. If you are not able to attend a Minyan due to Covid-19 considerations:

- Read Parshat Zachor from a Chumash on Shabbat February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Or, this coming summer, when the same verses are read as part of Parashat Ki Teitzei (August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021), be mindful to fulfill the mitzvah of Zachor at that time.

**Machatzit Hashekel**

The custom is to give three coins to charity at *mincha* prior to Purim. However, due to limitations on synagogue attendance and, even for those present, strict distancing measures, there is no need to approach a central collection plate and raise the actual coins. One may fulfill the minhag of Machatzit HaShekel by placing paper money in the collection bin, or by making a special donation to charity in the merit of this custom. We should keep in mind that this custom is merely a commemoration of a Holy Temple ritual ("*zecher l'Machatzit Hashekel*") and not the actual mitzvah of Machatzit HaShekel that was performed in the days of the Beis Hamikdash.

Wishing everyone a safe and wonderful Purim Sameach,

**Rabbi Yamin Benarroch**, Beth Zion

**Rabbi Mark Fishman**, Beth Tikvah

**Rabbi Chatzkel Freundlich**, TBDJ

**Rabbi Reuben Poupko**, BIBA

**Rabbi Adam Scheier**, Shaar Hashomayim

**Rabbi Michael Whitman**, Adath



3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNITY

# MENTAL HEALTH SHABBAT

**SAVE THE DATE • MAY 6-9, 2021**

FEATURING SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

**DR. RONA NOVICK**

THEME: RESILIENCE

\*All events on Thursday, Friday & Sunday will be held online.