



CONGREGATION TIFERETH BETH DAVID JERUSALEM

Shabbat Bulletin

בס"ד
שבת פרשת כי תשא / פרשת פרה
כב אדר ה'תשפ"א
Shabbat Parshat Ki Tisa
Parshat Parah
March 5 - 6, 2021 / 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

Shabbat Parshat Ki Tisa Parshat Parah

Haftara: Yechezkel 36:16 - 36:38

All minyanim 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, March 5

- 3:30pm Daf Yomi on Zoom
- 4:36pm Plag Hamincha
- 5:28pm Candle Lighting
- 5:30pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat - Main Sanctuary, Upper Hall and Library
- 5:47pm Sh'kiah

Shabbat, March 6 / 22 Adar 5781

- 7:45am Shacharit - Main Sanctuary
- 8:45am Shacharit - Upper Social Hall
- 9:15am Sof Zman K'riyat Shma
- 9:45am Shacharit - Main Sanctuary
- 10:30am Shacharit - Upper Social Hall
- 11:15am Shacharit and Early Mincha - Lower Social Hall
- 4:37pm Plag Hamincha
- 5:20pm Mincha - Main Sanctuary and Upper Hall
- 5:48pm Sh'kiah
- 6:32pm Havdala
- 7:05pm Musical Havdala and Kumzitz on Facebook with Rev. Bender
- 7:30pm Daf Yomi on Zoom

Mincha is at 5:30pm this coming week.

To view all times for sh'kiah, davening, shiurim & candle lighting, go to www.tbdj.org/calendar.

To view details about our all our programming, go to www.programming.tbdj.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Sylvia & Ben Levitt** and **Iris Levitt** and their families on the birth of great granddaughter and granddaughter Sophia Toledano on Wednesday, March 3. Proud parents are Jordana & Wesley Toledano. Sharing in their simcha are big brother Gabriel, grandparents David Delnick and Ingrid & Albert Toledano, great grandmother Victoria Pariente and many delighted aunts, uncles and cousins.

Condolences to **Elizabeth & Meir Israel** and their family on the loss of Elizabeth's beloved father Dr. Henry Feingold who passed away in New York on Monday, March 1. Husband of Maryse Feingold. Also father of David Feingold, Cathy Linder and Rachel Hanuka. Funeral was held in New York on Tuesday, March 2.

SPONSORSHIPS AND THANK YOU'S

This Shabbat Bulletin is sponsored by **Susan & Bennett Little** in memory of Bennett's beloved father Henry Little z"l (Hench ben Hirsh - Adar 11), Susan's beloved father Louis Orenstein z"l (Haim Mihal Leib ben Avraham Pesach - Adar 26) and Susan's beloved aunt Sarah Orenstein (Sarah Leah bat Avraham Pesach - Adar 24).

Rabbi Freundlich's Gemara Shiur on Wednesday, March 3 was sponsored by Avi Whiteman and Michelle Whiteman in memory of their beloved father Dr. Gabriel Whiteman z"l (Gavriel ben Shmuel v'Miriam HaLevi - Adar 20).

MIZRACHI CANADA

WHO'S WHO IN THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS

MIZRACHI CANADA INVITES YOU TO MEET THE PARTY LEADERS **IN ENGLISH**

Haftali Bennett YAMINA	Gila Gamliel LIKUD	Benny Gantz BLUE & WHITE	Yair Lapid YESH ATID	Merav Michaeli LABOR	Yitzchak Pindrus UTZ	Gideon Sa'ar NEW HOPE	Bezael Smotrich RELIGIOUS ZIONISTS

Moderated by **Gil Hoffman**, Chief Political Correspondent of The Jerusalem Post

SUNDAY MARCH 7 2021

CANADIAN SCREENING 8:30 PM

WATCH AT **mizrachi.tv**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

About Counting and Completion

This past Monday morning a TBDJ member walked into shul and announced that he had made his appointment to receive the long awaited COVID-19 vaccine. This appointment was made on the first Hebrew date anniversary of last year's initial citywide COVID-19 lockdown, the day that we were locked out of TBDJ. I wonder if it is a coincidence that our first TBDJer(s) - as far as I know - booked their appointment on this date? We have counted a complete Hebrew year, 354 Hebrew or lunar calendar days of pandemic related anxiety, a punishing blow that has affected and restricted the way we live our lives. We have learned that the virus doesn't discriminate with its afflictions and lockdowns. We have all been equally touched by this global viral challenge which has given us an unwelcome and enduring reality check as we have learned to realize and accept a new sense of personal and communal vulnerability.

In this week's Torah portion of Ki Tissa we read of the first census of Bnei Yisrael in the desert. The Torah teaches us that it is forbidden to count Jews in the ordinary manner and that when it is necessary to conduct a census, it is done by the people contributing items which are then counted, enabling the census takers to know how many donors contributed, thereby tallying up the final census numbers. We read about the donation of the Machatzit Hashekel - the half shekel - which was applied towards the building and the upkeep of the Mishkan, the Tabernacle in the desert. The status of Israel is elevated by its contributions to charitable causes and this is why they were counted by having the entire nation join together in contributing to a sacred cause. The Torah teaches us that everyone from the age of twenty years and up was to make this donation and that all were equal in their contribution of the half shekel:

הָעָשִׂיר לֹא-יִרְבֶּה וְהַדָּל לֹא יִמְעוּט מִמַּחֲצִית הַשֶּׁקֶל

The wealthy shall not increase and the destitute shall not decrease from the half shekel...

This divinely oriented fundraiser was fashioned in a way that all were commanded to give an equal share, coming together as one unified nation. The idea of equal donations speaks volumes beyond the idea of merely raising money. True, this method of raising money supported the permissible way to count Bnei Yisrael in the census however in understanding the idea of the denomination of the half shekel donation, we learn that the half shekel is a symbolic sum which suggests two important concepts of our lives as Jews: 1. No Jew is complete until he joins with others. 2. As long as we are in isolation, each of us is only half of our full potential. In order to maximize our potential as Jews and as members of our community, we must join with others!

This past year has lent itself to these concepts in different ways. The first few months of lockdown were challenging and many of us found ourselves on the flip side of the half shekel as feeling incomplete and not maximizing our spiritual potential were distressing and at times seemingly insurmountable. We were forced to spend a restrictive Covid-19 period in protective isolation in the shelter of our homes. Though enforced physical isolation defined the first stage of our COVID-19 trials, we gradually we managed to stave off our communal spiritual isolation through rich virtual synagogue activity. Zoom minyanim and the use of the tent in the parking lot brought us together for prayers in a unique and special way. Torah, virtual tours in Israel and the diaspora, cooking events, lectures, music, youth programs and more joined us with our TBDJ family in our individual and communal efforts to realize our full potential even as we were locked out of the shul.

Parashat Ki Tissa. This was the first Torah reading that we were locked out of shul in March, 2020. The second verse of the portion in speaking of the census of the half shekel has a word that over the past year we have come to fear: "When you take the count of the B'nei Yisrael to determine their numbers, each man shall give an atonement pledge for his soul to Hashem, when you count them. Thus there will be no plague among them when you count them." Rashi teaches: רש"י במנ"ן שולט עין הרע וגורם למחלת הדבר לבוא – counting can cause an "Ayin Harah" and cause disease to happen. The Malbim explains that when we are counted as one nation, the merit of the Klal Yisrael protects us, unlike when we are counted alone, judged as individuals by our deeds and thus susceptible to affliction. Our tradition cites various opinions relating to counting. The Talmud lays down a clear prohibition with regard to counting: R. Eleazar said: Whosoever counts Israel, transgresses a [biblical] prohibition, as it is said: "Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured" [The prophet Hoshea]. R. Nachman b. Isaac said: He would transgress two prohibitions, for it is written: 'Which cannot be measured nor numbered'. I understand this idea as implying a wish or even a prayer if you will that our nation should be plentiful, infinite in number. As Jews we are careful about counting people. In fact, when we count men for a Minyan in shul we use a 10 word verse from Psalms to ascertain that we have our Minyan, reciting or counting with the words of the verse instead of counting to 10! הושיעה את עמך וברך את נחלתך ורעם ונשאם עד העולם. If you ask a Jewish grandparent how many grandchildren they have, they will invariably tell you that: "I have Shloime and Sari and Yechiel..." I have learned to ask not how many grandchildren people have, rather, what are their names? With respect to Hashem's counting of our people, we learn of Hashem's love for us. The Midrash Tanchuma in our portion teaches that Hashem counted us 10 times! Rashi further explains: "Because they (the Israelites) are precious before Him (Hashem), He counts them all the time; when they went out of Egypt He counted them [Shemot, 12:37], and when they fell because of [the sin of] the golden calf He counted them to know the number of those who remained, when He came to cause His Presence to rest upon them He counted them."

Plague... counting... equality... It has been a difficult year and quite a sobering pandemic experience. We are all equals in our fear and susceptibility where the virus is concerned. We are equal in our individual and collective pain of loss. The past 354 days have served as a constant reminder to us that every person is unique; every person is counted and recognized as a precious individual in Hashem's world. He or she has a unique identity, personality and purpose. Each and every one of us shares individual and communal value. We count as part of our family and our community. The pandemic has emphasized a painful sense of incompleteness brought on by the loss of those who were a part of, and are now, sadly missing from our lives. Almost immediately with the onset of the virus, I was uneasy when the numbers of those afflicted and sacrificed by the virus started surfacing in the media, and changing daily. We would see every day's updated number of those who were afflicted and of those who sadly, were not with us. The nagging thought in my mind was: where is the individual? Where and who are the individuals who have left us, that make up these numbers. The whole numbers were and are incomplete. They tell us of a number but not of those composing the number. The pandemic whole is not the sum of the pandemic parts.

Maybe that is the lesson of the half shekel in light of the pandemic. It is more than simple mathematics. It is about people. The Torah advises that as individuals we are incomplete and that joining with Klal Yisrael will complete us in a special way. We must however understand the quality of completion, the value of that which is completing us, not merely the mathematical quantity.

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

*** Led by Rifki Freundlich, For Women***

Monday, March 8 at 11:00am // Location: Zoom Social Hall



**Modern Jewish History - Part I:
Laying The Groundwork**
From the Mussar Movement
to the First World War (Early 1800s to 1918)

Modern Jewish History: The Treaty of Versailles

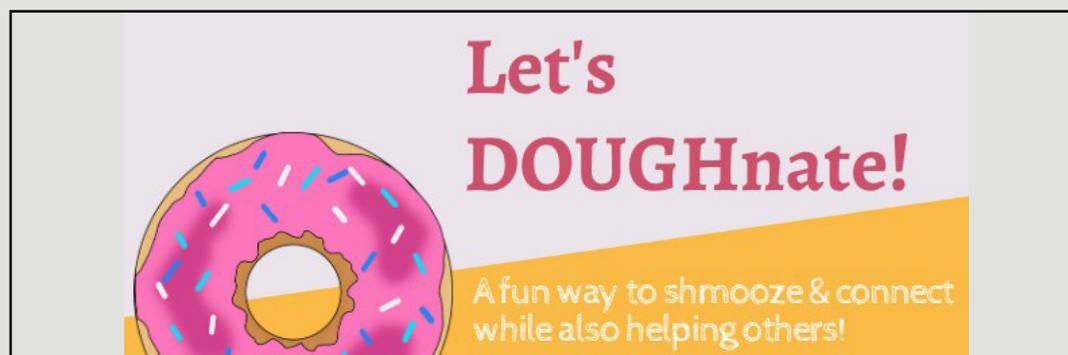
Monday, March 8 at 7:45pm // Location: Zoom Social Hall



VIRTUAL DIASPORA
by living room tours

Virtual Tour of Kishinev, Moldova

Tuesday, March 9 at 1:00pm // pre-registration required - see email



**Let's
DOUGHnate!**
A fun way to shmooze & connect
while also helping others!

Women's Program: Let's DOUGHnate!

Thursday, March 11 at 10:00am // Location: Zoom Social Hall

VIRTUAL DIASPORA

by  living room
tours

NEW DATES

SERIES FINALE

Tuesday, February 23

1:00pm Eastern / 12:00pm Central
11:00am Mountain / 10:00am Pacific

Shanghai - Part 1



The Extraordinary City Made by Extraordinary Individuals

The little-known stories of Jewish 'individuals extraordinaire' who shaped the metropolis of Shanghai and China's 20th Century history. During our tour, we'll explore the historical background of Shanghai's development along with sights from the modern city and Jewish community. *Led by Shanghai-based Photo-Journalist Dvir Bar-Gal.*

Tuesday, March 2

1:00pm Eastern / 12:00pm Central
11:00am Mountain / 10:00am Pacific

Shanghai - Part 2



Sweet & Sour Safe Haven:

The WWII Jewish Refugees Experience in Shanghai

Unlike many other places throughout the world, Shanghai kept its port open to Jewish refugees escaping Nazi persecution. Nearly 20,000 penniless refugees arrived to this exotic war-torn city only to realize the Japanese would soon take it over. Join us to hear this little-known yet extraordinary story. *Led by Shanghai-based Photo-Journalist Dvir Bar-Gal.*

Tuesday, March 9

1:00pm Eastern / 12:00pm Central
11:00am Mountain / 10:00am Pacific

Moldova - Kishinev



Moldova has a very rich Jewish history and heritage. About 200 shtetls, colonies, and târgs had a Jewish population prior to WWII. Moldova had more than 300 synagogues, Jewish cemeteries, schools, shops, baths, factories, private houses, and roads - most of this heritage was destroyed. We'll explore the Kishinev Pogrom of 1905 and take a virtual walk through Kishinev's Jewish neighborhoods, including the small but vibrant modern day community of Chişinău.

Tuesday, March 16

1:00pm Eastern / 12:00pm Central
11:00am Mountain / 10:00am Pacific

Belarus



Part I: Minsk and Volozhin, two centers of the Jewish world prior to WWII, and a look at the Jews of the Naliboki Forest. We'll explore the history, institutions, stories and myths, and profiles of some who escaped and emerged as leaders. *Led by local tour guide Alexander Bely.*

Part II: A musical geography of the early ethnographic expeditions in Belarus; Nigunim (Devotion Tunes) of the Belarusian Hasidim; and a musical soundscape of Litvakland. *Led by local musician Zisl Slepovitch.*

ACCESS THE TOURS AND RECORDINGS AT

<https://portal.livingroomtours.com>

(REGISTRATION AND ACCESS CODE REQUIRED)

**Please note changes to our original schedule, as a result of restrictions beyond our control in some of the original locations.*



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

Let's DOUGHnate!



**THURSDAY AT 10AM IN
THE TBDJ ZOOM
SOCIAL HALL**

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

COOKIES - CUPCAKES - BARS - BROWNIES & MORE!

**Each session we will bake a different yummy treat
together on zoom!**

**We will be delivering these treats to our heroes, frontline
workers and other chesed organizations!**

