



CONGREGATION TIFERETH BETH DAVID JERUSALEM

# Shabbat Bulletin

שבת פרשת בלק  
טז תמוז ה'תשפ"א

Shabbat Parshat Balak  
June 25 - 26, 2021 / 5781

Please print this bulletin before Shabbat.

Rabbi  
Yechezkel Freundlich

Chazzan Sheini  
Rev. Amiel Bender

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## SHABBAT SHALOM • שבת שלום

Ta'anit Shiva Asar B'Tamuz is on Sunday, June 27 / fast begins at 3:19am, ends at 9:25pm

Shabbat Parshat Balak  
Haftara: Micah 5:6 - 6:8

*All minyanim and Kef Club programs 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, June 25

4:00pm Daf Yomi on Zoom  
7:00pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv - Main Sanctuary  
7:00pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv - Tent  
7:09pm Plag Hamincha  
8:29pm Candle Lighting  
8:47pm Sh'kiah

### Shabbat, June 26 / 16 Tamuz 5781

8:00am Shacharit - Upper Social Hall  
8:20am Shacharit - Tent  
9:02am Sof Zman Kriyat Shma  
9:30am Shacharit - Main Sanctuary  
10:00am Kef Club Programs for Kids - Tent  
7:09pm Plag Hamincha  
8:25pm Mincha and Maariv - Sanctuary  
8:25pm Mincha and Maariv - Tent  
8:47pm Sh'kiah  
9:45pm Havdala  
9:45pm Daf Yomi on Zoom  
10:10pm Musical Havdala and Kumzitz on Facebook with Rev. Bender

### Sunday, June 27 / 17 Tamuz 5781

Ta'anit Shiva Asar b'Tamuz  
3:19am fast begins  
8:00am Shacharit - Main Sanctuary  
9:03am Sof Zman Kriyat Shma  
9:15am Later Shacharit - Main Sanctuary  
8:15pm Mincha and Maariv - Sanctuary  
8:47pm Sh'kiah  
9:25pm fast ends

### SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT WEEK

Mincha will be at **8:30pm** in the Main Sanctuary and on Zoom - except on Ta'anit Shiva Asar b'Tamuz (Sunday) when it will be at **8:15pm**.  
Candle Lighting on Friday, July 2 will be at **8:28pm**.

**Due to changing regulations and necessary adjustment of our scheduling, please visit our website (TBDJ.org) and check your emails for up-to-date schedules and information on minyan locations and registration.**

### COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Carole & Mayer Diamond** and their families on the occasion of their grandson Zachary Menchaca becoming a Bar Mitzvah on Thursday, June 24. Proud parents are Bena & Andrew Menchaca. Sharing in their simcha are Zachary's brother Daniel and many delighted aunts, uncles and cousins. Lovingly remembered at this time are Zachary's grandparents Lucy St. Onge and Daniel Menchaca.

Mazal Tov to **Pnina & Abe Brodt** on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Ad 120!

**Mazal Tov to all students in TBDJ families who are graduating this summer! For a full list, see page two of this bulletin.**

### SPONSORSHIPS AND THANK YOUS

This Shabbat Bulletin is sponsored by **Marcelle & Isaac Alt** in memory of Isaac's beloved father Moshe Alt z"l (Moshe ben Yitzchak v'Reizl - 19 Tamuz).

Shabbat Drashot by Rev. Bender, Rabbi Solnica and Rabbi Gateno are sponsored by **Haviva & Brian Smith** in memory of Haviva's beloved mother Rachel Goldhaar z"l (Rochel bat Yisroel Moshe v'Chava - 16 Tamuz).

Ice cream snacks at Kef Club's Shabbat Programs are sponsored by **Tali & Izzie Steckler** with "heartfelt expressions of hakarat hatov and gratitude to Eli and Sivan Veresh for their impactful work these past three years. Eli and Sivan have served as role models to the Kef Club kids in particular and to the Montreal community in general. They have taught us and exemplified the importance of Religious Zionism, chesed and achdut. B'hatzlacha and l'hitraot!"

### MESSAGE FROM RABBI FREUNDLICH

Dear TBDJ Family,

I would like to share with you an exciting and important opportunity that I will be participating in this coming week: A North American Rabbinic Solidarity Mission to Israel organized by RZA - World Mizrahi. Our group is comprised of about twenty-five Rabbis and spouses (including Rabbi Chaim and Lisa Steinmetz), with the purpose of both offering support and solidarity on behalf of our communities related to the recent hostilities and missile attacks, and returning with first hand accounts and perspectives to share with you.

Our itinerary includes:

- A tour of the Gaza border with a military expert and visit with families to learn more about the recent riots and turbulence they have caused to families living there
- Meetings with established and leading Rabbinic personalities in Israel such as the Rishon Letzion, Rav Rimon, Rav Fendel and Rav Nagen
- A tour of the newly opened Kotel tunnels
- Meetings with leading politicians, both in the new government and the opposition
- Meeting with Rav David Stav of Tzohar and a discussion about the new roles they may play in conjunction with the establishment of the new government
- A day in the Shomron visiting Kever Yosef, Har Bracha and other areas to get a first hand understanding of the situation in the West Bank
- Meeting with experts for the Israel antiquities Authority about newly discovered ancient texts in the Judean Desert

In addition to the official itinerary, I am of course personally excited to visit with my parents and sisters for the first time in 18 months, and even join in the Shabbat bar mitzvah of my nephew. We depart this coming Wednesday, June 30th and return the following week, Thursday, July 8th. I hope to "take you along" with me with written or video updates that we will send out via email and Facebook. I can't wait to share my experiences in greater detail upon my return!

Shabbat Shalom,  
Rabbi Freundlich

# Kol Hakavod and Mazal Tov

## to the following students who have graduated this spring!

### CPE, PRE-SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Abigail Gal, daughter of Natalie & Jonathan Gal and granddaughter of Rhonda & Leslie Gal, Hebrew Academy Kindergarten  
Noam Guttman, son of Laura & Avi Guttman and grandson of Reesa & Ephriam Kandelshein and Rivka & Alex Guttman, Hebrew Academy Pre-School  
Emma Halpern, daughter of Erin & Alex Halpern and granddaughter of Bonnie & Leo Grunstein, Hebrew Academy Kindergarten  
Dorielle Viva Koifman, daughter of Stephanie Finkelstein & Sharon Koifman and granddaughter of Keila & Billy Finkelstein, CPE Narnia Day Care  
Eden Lapkovsky, granddaughter of Esther & Michael Rozenek, Solomon Schechter Academy Kindergarten  
Ami Meyers, son of Alyssa & Yair Meyers and grandson of Rohna Grunstein, Hebrew Academy CPE  
Jackson William Saks, son of Alana & Joshua Saks, grandson of Linda Levitt Saks and great grandson of Sylvia & Ben Levitt, JPPS Kindergarten

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Audra Zahava Bowen, daughter of Miri & Jason Bowen, granddaughter of Linda Levitt Saks and great granddaughter of Sylvia & Ben Levitt, Merton Elementary School  
Shireen Cale, daughter of Michele & Brian Cale, Hebrew Academy Elementary School  
Jacob Dahan, son of Leah & Michael Dahan, Hebrew Academy Elementary School  
Ilana Gross, granddaughter of Joseph Salem, Beth Yaacov Elementary School  
Maya Juliet Miller, granddaughter of Linda Levitt Saks and great granddaughter of Sylvia & Ben Levitt, Westpark Elementary School  
Ethan Moshé Sabbah, son of Lee Omer & Edouard Sabbah and grandson of Sylvie & Maurice Sabbah, Solomon Schechter Academy  
Sam Tabak, son of Stephanie & Eli Tabak and grandson of Chaya & Gerry Tabak, Hebrew Academy Elementary School

### MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

Lauren Busner, daughter of Adina & Harold Busner, LCC Middle School  
Samantha Busner, daughter of Adina & Harold Busner, Trafalgar High School for Girls  
Yehuda Dahan, son of Leah & Michael Dahan, Hebrew Academy High School  
Yakira Dickman, granddaughter of Maxine & Stephen Jacobson, Hannah Senesh Middle School, Brooklyn, New York  
Eliana Eisenberg, daughter of Louise Pilote & Mark Eisenberg, Hebrew Academy High School  
Ephraim Freundlich, son of Rabbi Yechezkel & Rifki Freundlich, Hebrew Academy High School  
Ezra Grossman, son of Rabbi Eric & Karynne Grossman, Hebrew Academy High School  
Ahuva Habashush, granddaughter of Joseph Salem, Beth Rivkah High School  
Sarah Jacobson, daughter of Natasha & Morris Jacobson and granddaughter of Maxine & Stephen Jacobson, Herzliah High School  
Rose Mintzberg, daughter of Shari Weiser, Westmount High School  
Adam Nadler, son of Karen & Phil Nadler, Herzliah High School  
Maya Joy Oberman, granddaughter of Norma & Harry Oberman, Saint Thomas High School  
Liam Roskies, grandson of Louise Roskies Goldstein, Bialik High School  
Madison Silber, granddaughter of Emma & Gabriel Cohen, Bialik High School  
Alexia Rena Rachel Skierka, daughter of Lorette & Peter Skierka, École Maïmonide High School

### COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY

Jordan Busner, son of Adina & Harold Busner, Middlesex Prep School, Concord, Massachusetts  
Alexandra Cohen, daughter of Ilana Spector & Mike Cohen and granddaughter of Shirley & Reuben Spector, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University  
Jamie Fried, daughter of Cheryl & Frank Fried, DEC in Arts, Literature and Communication, TAV College  
A.J. Jacobson, son of Ronit & Avi Jacobson, grandson of Maxine & Stephen Jacobson and Rachel & Issie Shanfield, DEC in Pure and Applied Sciences, Dawson College  
Samantha Jacobson, daughter of Natasha & Morris Jacobson and granddaughter of Maxine & Stephen Jacobson, Bachelor of Science in Psychology, McGill University  
Noah Margolese, son of Tanya & Howard Margolese and grandson of Haviva & Brian Smith, Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy, McGill University  
Rebecca Nadler, daughter of Karen & Phil Nadler, Bachelor of Music, University of Ottawa  
Benjamin Rudski, son of Marcy & Lawrence Rudski, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Biology, McGill University  
Tehila Sacher, daughter of Joy & Gershon Sacher, granddaughter of Ruth & Ed Sacher and Alan Marmor, Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology, McGill University  
Matthew D. Steinlauf, son of Marcia & David Steinlauf, Licentiate of Law (LL.L.), Faculty of Civil Law, University of Ottawa

*Thank you to all those who responded to our request and submitted names. We regret any errors or omissions.*

## *Our Elders - Our Bridges Through Time*

It was during Chol Hamoed, the intermediate days of the holiday of Sukkot in the year 2000. We were at my great aunt's funeral in New Jersey. In one of the eulogies, my cousin mentioned that my Auntie Basha was privileged to sit on the knees of Rabbi Yisroel Yitzchok, my great great grandfather in "Varshe". He used the Yiddish term for the city of Warsaw, Poland to emphasize that it was a city where Torah learning flourished. In essence, my great aunt, who merited a long life, was alive in Poland in an era where great Torah scholars and enhanced Torah learning in yeshivot and institutions of higher Torah learning was the norm. My great great grandfather Rabbi Yisroel Yitzchok Halevi Zambrowsky was a colleague of Talmidei Chachamim - great scholars and authors of written Torah commentaries that we learn today. He was also the author of a commentary on the Torah written in 1885 called *רביד הזהב - גרש כרמל*. Through her long life, my aunt served as a living bridge and eyewitness not only to a glorious past in our family, but to a rich period of Torah life in Europe. While she was with us, my aunt regaled us with stories of those days. Today, these accounts are only accessible through memoirs, written works and history books.

*אוד כולו גשר צר מאוד - כל העולם כולו גשר צר מאוד* - *The whole world is a very narrow bridge...* These words written by Rabbi Nachman of Breslav over two hundred years ago are known to us through a contemporary song composed by Rabbi Baruch Chait while performing for Israeli soldiers during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. At the risk of taking these words slightly out of context, they may be adapted to the idea of negotiating the bridge of time. The generations preceding ours are the narrow bridge which connects us with our past. The bridge spanning the generations is narrow as its connections are slowly severed with the gradual passing of the previous generations. Each generation in turn becomes that narrow bridge, a bridge which is the foundation of the passing of the torch of Yiddishkayt from generation to generation.

Last Monday morning, while I was waiting on line at the supermarket, I became aware of a picture on the front page of the Montreal Gazette. It was a celebratory happy birthday picture of Cecile Klein with her daughter and granddaughter. At the tender age of 114, Cecile is the oldest living person in Canada and quite probably the oldest Jew alive today. I have known Cecile's children, Harriet and Arnold Nussbaum for years as congregants of Beth Ora Congregation and Cheryl and I are also friend's with Cecile's grandchildren. I had the pleasure of meeting her shortly after her 105th birthday following a Jewish music class which I delivered to the Beth Ora seniors' group where she was in attendance. I called Mrs. Klein's daughter Harriet to offer a hearty *Mazel Tov* on her mother reaching this amazing milestone.

While Harriet told me many things about her mother, I especially appreciated the stories and anecdotes about the family's long association and close relationships with many synagogues in Montreal over more than one hundred and fifty years, going back to the time of Cecile's parents and grandparents. Mrs. Klein is, and always has been, very spiritual and traditional - a beneficiary of the wonderful bridge of family tradition that her family passed on to her. For over a century, Cecile has continued to pass on the stories of a traditional family taking part in founding certain synagogues in our city and supporting them through volunteering, fundraising, membership drives and much more. The first shul that she was associated with was a synagogue downtown on Notre Dame Street. In fact, until the age of 110, she energetically attended synagogue services every Shabbos, Beth Ora Seniors' lectures and even went shopping at Esposito's grocery store following the lectures! Until the unfortunate breaking of her hip in her 111th year, Mrs. Klein made all the kneidlach for her family's Pesach sederim. Imagine this dedicated, traditional work of love by a centenarian! There were twenty people at each of the two sederim and there were always leftover kneidlach for the family to take to work. Family members would come to the seder with empty jars to take the left over kneidlach.

Cecile Klein is a living legacy of the marvelous bridge connecting the past with our contemporary world and our future. We in turn have the privilege of witnessing this remarkable gift of *אריכות ימים* - the blessing of an exceedingly long life, a rare phenomenon, with biblical age implications. One can only marvel at what Mrs. Klein has witnessed in her lifetime in Jewish history and world history, in technology, the World Wars, the great depression, the Holocaust, the establishment of the State of Israel... and the list goes on. If one takes a moment to reflect on the stories retold by her that she heard from her parents and grandparents, a magnificent bridge to the past spans well over 170 years. Regarding her longevity, Cecile has been heard to say: *I'm in competition with Moses*. Baruch HaShem, we are indeed blessed to have elder citizens among us who keep our traditions alive and actively keep our heritage continuous and vibrant. We wish Mrs. Klein continued health and contentment as she continues on her journey.



In Parashat Haazinu, there is a verse which attests to the significance of generations transmitting our heritage as bridges through time: *Remember the days of yore, understand the years of generation after generation, ask your father and he will relate it to you, your elders and they will tell you* (Devarim 32:7). We learn from this verse that our past is relevant and Moshe accordingly pleads with Israel to seek the counsel of those who have the proper experience and perspective to guide them in the future.

Midrash Tanchuma (Shmot:29) also cites this verse in teaching us how our elders are essential to the continuity of our people:

**אימתי ישראל עומדין? כשיש להם זקנים. למה? כשהיה בית המקדש קים היו נשאלין בזקנים, שנאמר  
שאל אביך ויגדך זקניך ויאמרו לך שכל מי שנוטל עצה מן הזקנים אינו נכשל**

These words teach us that Israel stands strong when our elders are with us. In the times of our holy Temples, our ancestors took counsel from the elders. Based on the above quoted verse from the Torah, the Tanchuma teaches that anyone who seeks counsel from the elders will not fail.

The Torah established the elevated status of the elders of our people when our nation was born. As Moshe Rabeinu was about to assume the role of leader and Hashem's messenger in Egypt, Hashem advised him: *Go and gather the elders of Israel and say to them, Hashem the G-d of your forefathers has appeared to me...* (Shmot 3:16) Abrabanel teaches that Moshe was advised to speak only to the elders who were capable of understanding the message and not to the common people. A few verses later the Torah tells that: *They will heed your voice...* (Shmot 3:18). The elders of the Jewish nation of Egypt would heed Moshe's call because of the tradition received from Yaakov and Yosef in a code, the expression of *פקדתי* - *I have surely remembered* (Rashi). The elders were to be the recipients of the special code that was to be used by Hashem's chosen redeemer, and they were the ones that would honour and understand Moshe's new status as the leader of the people and the one who would act as Hashem's agent for the eventual *יציאת מצרים* - exodus from Egypt.

We further learn from a verse in the book of Yehoshua - Moshe's successor - that our elders were afforded special status among our people. *And all Israel, and their elders and officers, and their judges, stood on this side of the ark and on that side* (Joshua 8:33).

It is evident that the status, wisdom and experience of the *elders* served as a powerful source of influence among the non-Jewish nations of those times as well. In this week's Torah portion, King Balak and the people of Moav fear the oncoming Bnei Yisrael. Making a contemporary *playoff time* appropriate analogy, Bnei Yisrael were the "Montreal Canadiens" of the time, scoring two upset military victories over kings Sichon and Og and their nations, as they advanced towards the Holy Land. Rashi teaches that the people of Moav were frightened as they were certain that Bnei Yisrael wouldn't prevail against the two mighty kings and that their military victories were happening *שלא במנהג העולם* - in a way that traditional military conquests do not happen. *Moab said to the elders of Midian...* (Bamidbar 22:4) The Moabites approached the elders of Midian for advice. As the story unfolds, Balak seeks to summon Bilaam, the evil prophet of the nations, to curse Bnei Yisrael. Balak sends the elders to convince Bilaam to accept Balak's plea: *The elders of Moav and Midian went with charms in their hand, they came to Bilaam and spoke to him the words of Balak* (Bamidbar 22:7).

We are taught to respect our elders, to listen to them. The Torah teaches us: *In the presence of an old person you shall rise and you shall respect the face of the elder - zaken* (Vayikra 19:32). Bartenurah teaches us that the word *zaken* refers to one who has acquired wisdom - *זה קנה חכמה*.

The wisdom and the experience of our elders has a direct influence upon the way we live our lives as individuals and as a community. Judaism emphasizes the tradition that is handed down from one generation to the next. The Talmudic tractate "Pirkei Avot" begins by telling us that Moses – after receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai – transmitted its teachings to Joshua, and from Joshua to the elders, the elders to the prophets, and the prophets to the Great Assembly. We constantly credit our preceding generations with the wisdom upon which our entire way of life is based, as we join them on a journey that crosses a never-ending series of bridges through time.

Shabbat Shalom,

*Rev. Amiel*