



שבת שלום

Weekly Bulletin

Congregation B'nai Torah

בית כנסת בני תורה



March 8, 2024

Shabbat Parashat Vayakhel – Shekalim – Mevarchim Chodesh Adar II

28 Adar I 5784

Paresha D'var Torah

Rav Kook Torah
Vayakheil: Technology and the Sabbath
Shemot 35:1 - 40:38

"Do not ignite fire in any of your dwellings on the Sabbath." (Ex. 35:3)

The Torah forbids 39 different categories of activity on the Sabbath. Yet only one — lighting fire — is explicitly prohibited in the Torah. Why? And why does the Torah qualify the prohibition of lighting fire with the phrase, "**in any of your dwellings**"? Is it not forbidden to start a fire in any location?

Guidelines for Technology

The control and use of fire is unique to humanity. It is the basis for our advances in science and innovations in technology. Even now, fuel sources for burning, coal and oil, are what power modern societies. In short, fire is a metaphor for our power and control over nature, the fruit of our God-given intelligence.

What is the central message of the Sabbath? When we refrain from working on the seventh day, we acknowledge that God is the Creator of the world.

One might think that only the pristine natural world is truly the work of God. Human technology, on the other hand, is artificial and perhaps alien to the true purpose of the universe. Therefore, the Torah specifically prohibits lighting fire on the Sabbath, emphasizing that our progress in science and technology is also part of creation. Everything is included in the ultimate design of the universe. Our advances and inventions contribute towards the goal of creation in accordance with God's sublime wisdom.

Along with the recognition that all of our accomplishments are in essence the work of God, we must also be aware that we have tremendous power to change and improve the world. This change will be for a blessing if we are wise enough to utilize our technology within the guidelines of integrity and holiness.

Fire in the Temple

This caveat leads to the second question we asked: why does the Torah limit the prohibition of lighting fire on the Sabbath to "**your dwellings**"? The Talmud ([Shabbat 20a](#)) explains that lighting fire is only forbidden in private dwellings, but in the Temple, it is permitted to burn offerings on the Sabbath. Why should fire be permitted in the Temple?

The holy Temple was a focal point of prophecy and Divine revelation. It was the ultimate source of enlightenment, for both the individual and the nation. The fire used in the Temple is a metaphor for our mission to improve the world through advances in science and technology. We need to internalize the message that it is up to us to develop and advance the world, until the entire universe is renewed with a new heart and soul, with understanding and harmony. Permitting the technological innovation of fire in Temple on the Sabbath indicates that God wants us to utilize our intellectual gifts to innovate and improve, in a fashion similar to God's own creative acts.

Happy Adar

Z'manei Tefillah

Friday, March 8, 2024

Candlelighting..... 5: 57 p.m.
Mincha 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 9, 2024 Vayakhel – Shekalim

Shacharit 9:00 a.m.
Latest Shema..... 9:34 a.m.
Mincha 5:55 p.m.
Shkiya..... 6:17 p.m.
Motzaei Shabbat 7:03 p.m.

Sunday-Friday, March 10-15, 2024

Earliest Tallit & Tefillin 6:38-6:29 a.m.
Shacharit, Sunday, **Rosh Chodesh** 8:00 a.m.
Shacharit, Monday, **Rosh Chodesh** 6:40 a.m.
Shacharit, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 a.m.
Shacharit, Thursday 6:45 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv, Sunday-Thursday **Plag** 5:55 p.m.

Friday, March 15, 2024

Candlelighting (*not earlier than 6:10*) 7:06 p.m.
Mincha, **Plag** 5:55 p.m.

Drasha Continued:

We need to be constantly aware of our extraordinary potential when we follow the path that our Maker designated for us. At this spiritual level, we should not think that we are incapable of accomplishing new things. As the Talmud declares, "If they desire, the righteous can create worlds" ([Sanhedrin 65b](#)). When humanity attains ethical perfection, justice will then guide all of our actions, and scientific advances and inventions will draw their inspiration from the source of Divine morality, the holy Temple ([Gold from the Land of Israel](#), pp. 164-165).

Adapted from *Ein Eyah* vol. III, p. 53

<https://ravkooktorah.org/VAYAK62.htm>

Daylight Savings Time Begins This Sunday March 10.

Set clocks **AHEAD** one hour at 2:00 a.m.

Please note changes in davening times!



*Lifecycle***Celebrations:**

- Mazal Tov to Marcos and Rachel Elmaleh on the birth of a grandson, son to Sara Lea Elmaleh and Aaron Cohen.

Refuah Sheleimah:

- Refuah Sheleimah to all the cholim and all those who were wounded or kidnapped and who are suffering at this time. Tefillot and Tehillim said on behalf of the cholim are much appreciated.

Nichum Aveylim:

- Sincere condolences to our member, **Mollie Kaplan on the loss of her husband, Arthur Kaplan, Aharon Tzvi ben David Leib v Sarah, z"l**. The funeral was held today, Friday, in Israel. Shiva will begin in Israel at Eli's home, **at 40A Reuven Street in Beit Shemesh. Shiva will continue in Thornhill at 343 Clark Ave. West. #208 Buzz code: 2149**, at some point on Monday. Shiva hours, starting on **Tuesday, are 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.** Davening will be downstairs in the Conservatory minyan. Shiva ends on Thursday morning. Further details to follow, when available. Condolence cards may be sent by Sisterhood. To do so, please contact Elaine Tanenzapf, lainny@rogers.com.

Mishebeirach for Medinat Yisrael & Chayalim

- Sponsored by **Andrea Stern and Isaac Singer** in honour of their son Jonathan, who served in the IDF as a "Chayal Boded" and more recently, as a reservist, and in honour of all the other reservists and chayalim.
- The Korman family.

Daf Yomi

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|---------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| Mar. 9, 2024 | Shabbat | 29 Adar I 5784 | Bava Metzia 10 |
| Mar. 10, 2024 | Sunday | 30 Adar I 5784 | Bava Metzia 11 |
| Mar. 11, 2024 | Monday | 1 Adar II 5784 | Bava Metzia 12 |
| Mar. 12, 2024 | Tuesday | 2 Adar II 5784 | Bava Metzia 13 |
| Mar. 13, 2024 | Wednesday | 3 Adar II 5784 | Bava Metzia 14 |
| Mar. 14, 2024 | Thursday | 4 Adar II 5784 | Bava Metzia 15 |
| Mar. 15, 2024 | Friday | 5 Adar II 5784 | Bava Metzia 16 |

*Synagogue Notes***Clear Main Sanctuary Benches:**

There will be a Bar Mitzvah in the main sanctuary on Sunday. **Please remove all belongings from the benches by the end of Shabbat. Any belongings left behind on the benches will be moved.**

Special Purim Kiddush- Shabbat, March 23:

We are planning an extra special Kiddush for **March 23, Erev Purim**. Donations of \$36 or more are suggested and will be mentioned in the bulletin and be posted on the sponsor list at the Kiddush. Please contact the office at **416-226-3700** or by email at office@bnaitorah.ca with your information and donation level. **Please respond by Monday, March 18, to be included.**

Matanot L'Evyonim / Maot Chittim:

The B'nai Torah Tzedakah Fund is now accepting donations for Matanot L'Evyonim, for those in need for Purim, and Maot Chittim, for those in need for Pesach. Contributions can be made by credit card, cheque or e-transfer to marinagerstein@gmail.com. Please issue separate cheques for each fundraiser and indicate on the memo line of each cheque for which fund it is earmarked. Funds collected will benefit members of our Shul and local community during this most challenging time. Thank you!

Ladies Tehillim:

The Ladies' Tehillim group will recite Tehillim in their homes **Sunday, March 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** for cholim, both in our community and for cholim in Israel.

Israel News can be found at:

<https://images.shulcloud.com/148/uploads/News030824.pdf>

Halacha Corner:

This Shabbat, for the Maftir, we are going to read Pareshat Shekalim. The Korbanot Tzibur- communal offerings -were purchased with funds that were collected from the entire Nation of Israel. The Talmud notes that the fiscal year for these funds begins on Rosh Chodesh Nissan. Thus, the month that precedes Nissan -Adar- is a time to begin the process of collection. Consequently, as we announce the coming of the Month of Adar, we also read the section in the Torah that discusses the collecting of the Machatzit HaShekel, the funds for the Korbanot.

Yahrzeits for the Week of March 9–15, 2024

| Deceased Name | Relationship | Member or Affiliate Name | Day | Hebrew Date |
|---|--------------|--------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Isaac Kaftan | father | Goldie Blank | Shabbat | Adar II 6 |
| Yahrzeits from non- leap year Adars were published in the Adar I bulletins. | | | | |
| Please consider making a donation to B'nai Torah in memory of your loved one. | | | | |

Kaylim Mikvah Open by appointment only, for members only. Kaylim Mikvah is not available Erev Shabbat or Yom Tov. **Sisterhood Donations**, Elaine Tanenzapf, lainny@rogers.com or call 416.665.2182; **Tree of Life, Dedications, Memorial Plaques**, Contact the office. Visit us at our Donations page at www.bnaitorah.ca