



Young Israel of Chomedey Congregation Chevra Mishnayis

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B"H

YIC Weekly Newsletter July 12 - 18 / 20 - 26 Tammuz

DAY	DATE	SCHACHRIS	MINCHA / MA'ARIV	
SUNDAY	July 12	9:00 AM	No Services	
MONDAY	July 13	7:00 AM	No Services	
TUESDAY	July 14	No Services	No Services	
WEDNESDAY	July 15	No Services	No Services	
THURSDAY	July 16	7:00 AM	No Services	
FRIDAY	July 17	No Services	7:00 PM Shabbat Starts: 8:19 PM	
SATURDAY	July 18	Parshat: MATOT_MASSEI Partial Services as indicated.	Shabbat Ends:	9:32 PM

CORONAVIRUS - COVID-19

Dear Members;

Last night - Erev Shabbat - we had our first in-house Minyan in 4 months, and I'm pleased to say it went off without a hitch. Everyone sat in their designated seats 6 feet apart, everyone used a mask, and everyone passed through the testing procedures which were outlined, as they came in to shul. Those who worked hard to make it happen, were extremely pleased. Rabbi Banon led the services, and as the Rabbi said, everyone sang somewhat better and more in unison, than they did on Zoom; thankfully, no one sounded sick. It all made for a very pleasant experience.

We will be having morning Minyans this week as noted above, a return to our morning schedule. Our evening services Minyans will still be zoomed, as we do not have enough for evening Minyans. Next weekend we will have once again an Erev Shabbat Minyan, and on Shabbat July 18 B"H we will be hosting our first Shabbat Minyan in over 4 months. Those who have not yet registered, feel free to do so anytime this week, just inform the writer via email.

Have a great week!

Issie Baum

BIRTHDAYS: MAZAL TOV & HAPPY 61st BIRTHDAY to Marvin Baker who celebrates his special day on Thursday, July 16th. Wishing you good health and happiness ad 120.

MAZAL TOV: A very hearty **MAZAL TOV** on the amazing accomplishment by our long-time members Natalie and Adrian Bercovici, on receiving the dual Meritorious Service Awards, a yearly award handed out by the Governor General for exceptional service to the community. This award, given with the Queen's approval, is truly an outstanding accomplishment for all the Bercovicis have done on behalf of Generations Foundations, feeding upwards of 10,000 inner-city school children daily nutritious meals, supplying them with parties and gifts throughout the year, and sending them to summer camp. This prestigious award will be handed out in Ottawa at a later date at the Governor General's residence. **YASHER KOACH** Adrian and Natalie for a job well-done with love and devotion for over 20 years!!! This is not only an honour for the Bercovicis, but an Honour to our community in which they reside, and an Honour to our shul, of which they have been long time members and supporters. May Hashem give you both good health, long life, and the ability to continue for many more years to do the good work that you do.

MAZAL TOV: MAZAL TOV to Doris and Danny Silverman who became first time great-grandparents with the arrival of their precious grandson Dean Lewis, born on June 20. Proud parents are Vanessa & Zachary Creatchman. Wishing the family the heartiest of blessings on the new addition to the family. May Dean have a long life filled with health and happiness. Congrats to the entire mishpocha!!!

REFUAH SHLEMA: a) A full **REFUAH SHLEMA** to Yossi Aberman's son, Sammy, who underwent a 10-hr plastic surgery operation on his arm this past Tuesday, as a result of last year's horrific car accident; the good news is the operation went well, and he should be home within a week.
b) And a **REFUAH SHLEMA** to Klal Yisrael, and the world at large - may Hashem soon rid of of this pandemic.

Yahrzeits for the week of July 13 - 19 / 21- 27 Tammuz

COMMON DATE	JEWISH DATE	MEMBER		DECEASED	RELATION
Jul 16	Tammuz 24	Sharon Apelbaum	for	Allan Rothman z"l	brother
Jul 17	Tammuz 25	Yvonne Serfaty	for	Joseph Serfaty z"l	husband
Jul 18	Tammuz 26	Beatrice Duchoeny	for	Benny Duchoeny z"l	brother in
Jul 19	Tammuz 27	Mildred Handelman	for	Sophie Cohen z"l	mother
Jul 19	Tammuz 27	Beryl Grabina	for	Saul Mileret z"l	father

Any Young Israel member **MISSING** a Yahrzeit notice in the shul bulletin, please email the info directly to therudys@videotron.ca Please provide full name in English (and Hebrew if possible) and the date of the Yarzeit as well as relationship to YIC member. As soon as info is received, it will be forwarded to the shul office, or you can also email or phone in the info direct to the office if you prefer. **Note:** In the event a female member does not want her maiden name included in the weekly bulletin Yahrzeit notices - for possible security reasons - please advise the office, and we will make the appropriate change.

A couple of weeks ago, I asked members if they had an interesting family story to tell, that may be of interest to our members. Dave Apelbaum answered the call, and here is his heartwarming story.

This is the story of a couple's journey to become a family.

Our older son Martin, after living 4 years in Toronto, moved to LA in 1995, to work as a film editor. He married Susan Baker in her hometown near Columbus, Ohio in 2005, when both were in their late 30's. They badly wanted a baby but seems it wasn't meant to be. She underwent various painful and costly treatments to reverse devastating infertility. In fact she did conceive but suffered a miscarriage at work at 2 months. Susan's best friend in Ohio offered to be a surrogate mother, which she & Martin gratefully declined. So adoption remained their only choice. Rather than try nationally, which can still be a long process, they knew that lots of babies were up for adoption in Africa. So they hired an agency that specializes in Ethiopia, their country of choice. It's a very expensive and long process that took 2-1/2 years.

After much uncertainty and agonizing stress, they finally received a full medical and psychological report, including pictures of a 3-month old baby named Mihret, which in Amharic means Mercy. She was in an orphanage far north of Addis Ababa, the capital and largest city. They hired a pediatrician to evaluate data and approve it. Being positive, they asked the agency to proceed with her adoption. Fears and doubts remained if the report was fully truthful and reliable.

When they signed up, they were told they would have to go to Addis Ababa, meet their baby, pass the Court system to become legal adoptive parents, and get a visa to enter the USA to come home with their darling baby. While waiting, the rules were changed by a very corrupt regime. Despite the case already being in process, they now became subject to a new rule of 2 trips, meaning another 8,000 mile trip from LA, each costing \$5,000, not including lost wages for week.

They received a confirmation to come on January 29, 2011, as the excitement built up. My wife and I were there to watch their house and dog. After a long bumpy bus ride to the orphanage, they finally met and held their little angel, but only got 90 minutes to be with her, so as not to get too attached; she wasn't yet legally adopted. Of course, it was love at first sight. After the distress of having to abandon her there, they returned to Addis, passed Court to become legal adoptive parents. They heart-wrenchingly returned home empty handed, hoping and praying that she stayed healthy.

They were called to return to Addis 2 months later. Mihret, accompanied by her biological mother and grandmother, was brought to them, with heavy emotions on both sides. Her 22-year old mother explained in a video that they both lived in a straw hut, sharing it with a cow, and ate the same root vegetables morning and night. She gave her up because she wanted her to have a good education.

After getting her visa, they arrived in America on April 3rd, when she was 8-1/2 months old. We met them at LA Airport, when finally the suspense of the long wait was over. Unbelievable joy reigned supreme as I held and hugged my sweet granddaughter for the first time, tears flowing freely, as she melted my heart. B"H, in their forties, my son and his wife were finally a family. No other adoption was planned, as saving for her expensive college education was the next goal.

We worried how they would handle parenthood at that age, especially patience. Worry was for nothing, because both continue to be fantastic parents and amaze us with their innate skills and guidance in her upbringing. Further proof that a child doesn't have to be biological to be loved unconditionally, she's forever in their hearts. Mihret is lucky to be in America but not as fortunate as her parents are to have her, and by extension, we and the other set of grandparents. She turned 10 on June 24th, celebrated by baking a huge birthday cake; she is the joy of our lives, makes life purposeful, and amazes us with her evolution, achievements and scholastic success. I feel and predict that someday she will return to Ethiopia to try to find her biological mother.

(Please see some beautiful photos of Mihret with her doting grandparents elsewhere in the newsletter.)

*STAY SAFE
STAY HEALTHY
STAY HOME*

Meet **MIHRET**
the Apelbaum's beautiful granddaughter



PARSHAT HASHAVUA - WEEKLY TORAH PORTION

Matot - Massei Numbers 30:2-36:13

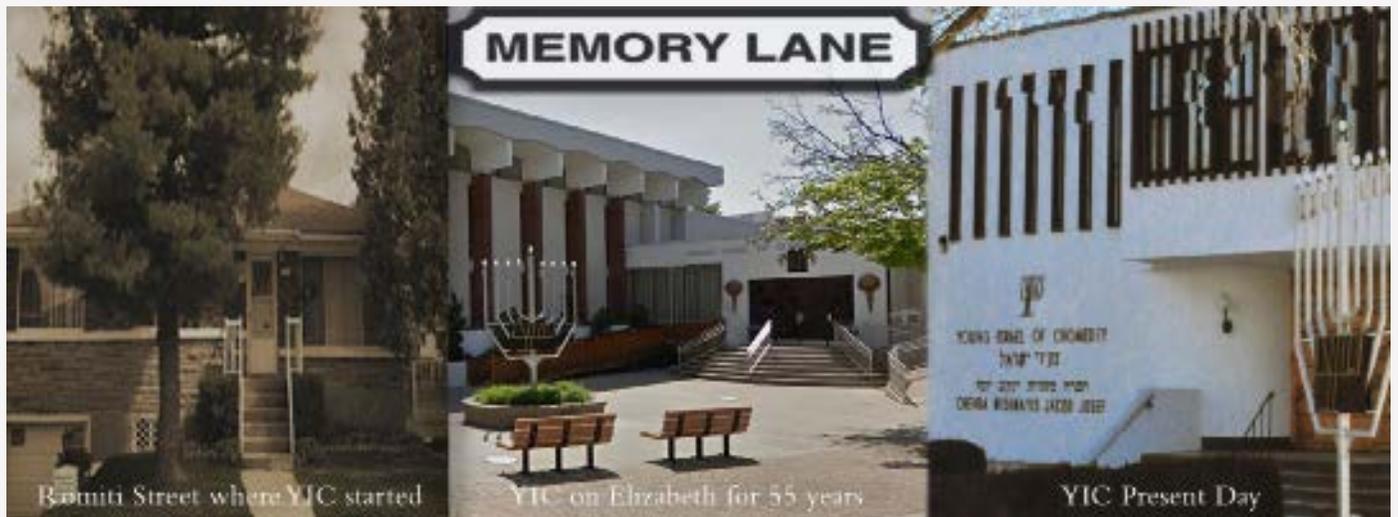


Antiquarian Map showing the forty-two journeys and encampments of the Israelites in the desert until they reach Moab, across the river from the Promised Land of Canaan (Israel).

Moses conveys the laws governing the annulment of vows to the heads of the tribes of Israel. War is waged against Midian for their role in plotting the moral destruction of Israel, and the Torah gives a detailed account of the war spoils and how they were allocated amongst the people, the warriors, the Levites and the high priest.

The tribes of Reuben and Gad (later joined by half of the tribe of Manasseh) ask for the lands east of the Jordan as their portion in the Promised Land, these being prime pastureland for their cattle. Moses is initially angered by the request, but subsequently agrees on the condition that they first join, and lead, in Israel's conquest of the lands west of the Jordan.

The forty-two journeys and encampments of Israel are listed, from the Exodus to their encampment on the plains of Moab across the river from the land of Canaan. The boundaries of the Promised Land are given, and cities of refuge are designated as havens and places of exile for inadvertent murderers. The daughters of Tzelafchad marry within their own tribe of Manasseh, so that the estate which they inherit from their father should not pass to the province of another tribe.



**MEMORY LANE # 74 (EDITED)
FROM THE BULLETIN OF THE YOUNG ISRAEL OF CHOMEDEY
SUMMER 1998 EDITION**

MAZAL TOV:

Jodie & Howard Melnik on their first Anniversary July 6th
 Rhonda & Brian Wiseblatt on their Anniversary May 30th
 Doreen & Sam Lisak on their Anniversary August 25th
 Natalie & Jay Lang on their Anniversary
 Leona & Eric Safran on their Anniversary
 Ethel & Issie Fruchter on their Anniversary
 Pearl & Mel Merovitz on their Anniversary
 Sonja & Harry Langburt on the birth of a Grandson
 Esther & Archie Rosen on the birth of a Grandson
 Frida & Moishe Levinger on the birth of a Granddaughter
 Lenore & Frank Schachter on the Bat Mitzvah of their Granddaughter Davina

KIDDISH SPONSORS:

Debbie & Naphtali Shainbach / Lillian & Fred Rudy / Nelly & Marvin Mendelovitch

SHALOS SEUDOS SPONSORS:

Cyvia & Robert Bergson / Rifka & Johnny Marmor

ALIYOT DONATIONS:

Elie Borychowski / Joseph Budner / Arnold Dalfen / Andre Frenkiel
 Joe Goldberg / Arnold Kostiner / Moishe Levinger / Moishe Roth
 Jerry Segal / Naphtali Shainbach / Issie Simon / Harry Wanderer

(Yashir Koach to Fred Rudy for providing us all with these memorable historical moments, which some of us may still remember!