



# Beth Zion Congregation

ב"ה

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May 8—14, 2021

26 Iyar - 3 Sivan 5781

Parshat Behar Bechukotai  
Chazak

**Interim Rabbi**

*Rabbi Yamin Benarroch*  
(514) 758-0117

**Founding Rabbi**

*Rabbi Sidney Shoham Z"L*

**President**

*Shlomo Benarroch*

**Executive Director**

*Zev Mestel*

**Youth Director**

*Rabbi Avron Swartz*

**Chazan Emeritus**

*Tibor Holczer Z"L*

**Chazan Sheni Emeritus**

*Yitzchok Rosenberg*



*Rabbi Jonathan Cohen of Maryland relates some interesting ideas in parashat Behar:*

- 1) The primary characteristic of the Sabbatical year was leaving the fields and vineyards uncultivated. Some scholars have suggested that the Israelites were practicing an early form of soil conservation; modern farmers often leave fields uncultivated or practice crop rotation in order to restore nutrients to the soil. A second lesson of the Sabbatical year is derived from the fact that during this time all people, whether rich or poor, had to collect and gather food in the same manner; all were dependent upon what the land would produce naturally. This experience would sensitize the well-to-do to the conditions the poor always faced and motivate them to help support the needy.*
- 2) The Jubilee year began on Yom Kippur rather than on Rosh Hashanah. The Rabbis explained that just as Yom Kippur gives an individual a fresh start, the Jubilee year allowed society a fresh start. Israelites that had to sell either their property or themselves into slavery due to economic circumstances would regain their property and their freedom and be able to start over and remake their lives. It is still customary for many Jews to pay off their debts before Yom Kippur.*

*The theme of Parashat Bechukotai is the Tochacha" a series of devastating predictions of what will befall the Jewish people throughout history - exile, anti-Semitism, persecution, and more. Yet we know how much the Almighty cares for us, and He never punishes"without sandwiching"it with love. So it is not surprising that the dire predictions"ln this parashah also contain hidden blessings.*

*Rabbi Shraga Simmons explains: '...For example, Leviticus 26:33, God declares that I will scatter you among the nations.'This is a hidden blessing, because if the Jewish camp is geographically divided, then when one community is persecuted, the other can carry on. Also, Leviticus 26:22 says that when the Jews are in exile, the Land [of Israel] will be desolate.'This is a hidden blessing, because throughout the millennia - as numerous empires conquered the Land, and countless wars were fought for its possession - astonishingly, no conqueror ever succeeded in permanently settling Israel or causing the desert to bloom. This, of course, made it easier for the Jewish people to return in the 20th century and resettle their homeland - a hidden blessing. God cares for us so deeply, giving us the confidence that in life, every cloud has a silver lining.'*

*If you will keep my mitzvahs ... the land will yield its produce ... and I will give you rain'(Lev. 26:3). It's interesting that the Torah promises an abundance of material and physical blessings in exchange for following the Torah. Most of us would probably expect a promise of spiritual return such as the promise of Heaven, paradise, or eternal life.*

*Rabbi Ron Jawary offers some insight into this verse: 'Interestingly, the Torah never makes an explicit mention of life beyond this world. Perhaps what the Torah is teaching us is that we shouldn't think the world and all the blessings in it have nothing to do with a spiritual life. The idea behind this could be that the physical, material blessings are truly spiritual blessings in that they provide us with an opportunity to connect to the Divine.*

*The more we understand this, the greater is our opportunity to become a conduit for God's blessings. In fact, the Talmud expands on this and points out that we all have certain skills and talents, and should strive to share those talents with those around us. In doing so, we're taking the physical blessings we've been given and transforming them into an eternal spiritual connection with God.'*

*Prepared by Devorah Abenhaim*

## **WEEKLY BULLETIN SPONSOR**

*Ilana & Michael Kapusta  
in honour of  
the Bar Mitzvah of  
their son  
Mark Austin Kapusta*

## **MAZAL TOV TO**

*Bar Mitzvah  
Mark Austin Kapusta  
grandson of  
Miriam & Morton Kapusta  
Aline & Stacey Bank Z"L  
son of  
Ilana & Michael Kapusta  
brother of  
Matthew, Reese and Max*

*Birth  
Lyla Jenny Samsonovitch  
granddaughter of  
Rhona & Lenny Samsonovitch  
Karin & Leonard Gorski  
daughter of  
Lauren & Matthew Samsonovitch*

*55th Anniversary  
Esther & Steve Csillag*

## **CONDOLENCES TO**

*The family of the late  
Sylvia Dollin Z"L*

## **IN APPRECIATION TO**

*Jacob Silverman  
for leading services  
in the Main Sanctuary*

*Bobby Shaul  
for leining  
in the Main Sanctuary*

*Dr. Bruce Mazer  
for leading services  
in the Albert Spector*

*Danny Kroo  
for leining  
in the Albert Spector*

Friday, May 7  
Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat  
and Maariv 7:00 pm  
Candle Lighting 7:51 pm

Shabbat, May 8  
Mvarchim Sivan  
Molad Tuesday May 11 8:31  
and 7 Chalakim pm

Ashkenaz Shacharit Albert  
Spector 9:00 am  
Sefardi Shacharit Smi-  
ley 9:00 am

Ashkenaz Mincha 7:55 pm  
Sefardi Mincha 7:55 pm  
Shabbat Ends 9:02 pm

Shacharit  
Sunday 8:00 am  
Monday, Yom Yerushalayim  
6:10 and 8:00 am  
Tuesday 6:25 and 8:00 am  
Wednesday, Rosh Chodesh  
6:05 and 8:00 am  
Thursday 6:15 and 8:00 am  
Friday 6:25 and 8:00 am

Mincha Maariv  
Sunday, May 9 to Thursday,  
May 13 in person and on  
Zoom  
7:55 pm

Zoom:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/  
j/86077732180?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86077732180?pwd=Y3lIVmxtU2o5ODVMWVRMMUJoYml2QT09)  
pwd=Y3lIVmxtU2o5ODVMW  
VRMMUJoYml2QT09  
Meeting ID: 860 7773 2180  
Passcode: 444278

Friday, May 14  
Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat  
and Maariv 7:00 pm  
Candle Lighting 7:59 pm