



# BALTIMORE SEPHARDIC CENTER

*A New Name... A New Era*

5784

3615 SEVEN MILE LANE BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21208 • PHONE: 410-318-8262 • [WWW.BSC.ORG](http://WWW.BSC.ORG)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE RAV

### REKINDLING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HASHEM

The forty days from the beginning of Elul through Yom Kippur correspond with the forty days during which Moshe beseeched Hashem to forgive Bnei Yisrael for the sin of the Golden Calf. Since Moshe was answered

favorably, descending from Mount Sinai on Yom Kippur with the new set of Tablets, this time period is known as the “Y”mei Ratzon” (ימי רצון), a time when it is possible to rekindle our relationship with the Almighty.



Rabbi Emanuel Goldfeiz

Consequently, Chazal record that during this time a person should accept upon himself greater “chumrot” (חמרות) - “stringencies” in his observance. Most perplexing however, is the fact that we do not find any requirement to continue with these observances after the Yamim Nora’im. Performing these stringent acts during this time period only, appears hypocritical. What message are we relaying to the Almighty? Our Rabbis tell us that the word “Elul”

is an acronym for the phrase “Ani l’dodi v’dodi li” (אני לדודי ודודי לי) - “I am for my beloved and my beloved is for me”. These days are designated for focusing upon our relationship with Hashem. If a man were to bring his wife flowers daily, doing the same on their anniversary would not express his love for her. At times which are designated for expressing our true feelings for our loved ones, a form of expression different than that used year-round is required.

Similarly, when expressing to Hashem our love and commitment to Him, we must go beyond our regular observance in order to effectively convey our true feelings. Therefore, additional commitments are required only at this time of the year.

Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.

**כתיבה וחתימה טובה  
עמנואל גולדפייז**

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



Elliott J. Sharaby

### EMBRACING THE HIGH HOLIDAYS

Dear beloved members of our BSC Family...

As the seasons transition, we find ourselves on the threshold of an incredibly significant time for our community – the High Holidays. These moments of spiritual depth, marked by Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, hold a unique place in our hearts as we come together to reflect, renew, and deepen our connection with both each other and the Divine.

#### Rosh Hashanah: Reawakening Our Connection:

With the soft rustling of leaves and the faint whisper of change in the air, Rosh Hashanah arrives, signaling the dawn of a new year. The shofar’s resounding call awakens our souls, urging us to recon-

*(Article continues on back page)*

## דבר תורה

על ידי ר'שלמה אביגדור

אני זוכר לפניי שנים כשטיילתי במורד נהרות בוליביה ופגשתי במקומיים החיים על גדות הנהר עברה בי המחשבה בראותי אותם יושבים בפיתחי ביקתותהם, מצחקים, שרים ומנגנים, שהם נמצאים במקום השליו והמאוש, שהם הגיעו ליעד הנכסף ולאיוון הנכון בחיים ובאיזה שהוא מקום פנימי קינאתי במצבם ורציתי ללמוד את סודם. חיים פשוטים במעבה יערות העד, מחוברים לטבע וחיים את הרגע. לאחר היום הראשון במחיצם הזמנתי להצטרף אליהם ליומיים במעבה הגיוגל לחפש מזון. החום, היתושים המטרידים, החיפוש אחר מזון מתאים ולבסוף, לאחר יומיים, חזרה הביתה עם שני קופים קטנים, תוכי, ואשכול בנות כשלל שאמור להאכיל 3 משפחות, הבנתי שאולי החיים האלו לא כל כך פשוטים, ויש בצידם הרבה קושי ועמל. אז גם הבנתי את המקור לשלווה והאושר שראיתי, את הסוד. קושי ההשרדות, המאמץ והעמל הם שבסופו של דבר הביאו לאותם מקומיים את השלווה והאושר.

העבודה באלול ובתשרי מצד אחד היא אישית, קשה, תובענית, ומאידך היא מלאה בקהילתיות תומכת, משפחה וחברים, ובסיעתא דשמיא מיוחדת. בדרך כלל הפוקוס בימים אלו הוא על ה“נוראים”. זהו שמם, הימים הנוראים מכיוון שבימים אלו אנו עובדים ביתר שאת על עצמנו וקירבת השם הניית מוחשית יותר משאר ימות השנה, ואז גם מידת היראה מוחשית יותר ומקבלת את הבימה המרכזית. רבותינו מלמדים אותנו שמידת היראה היא נחוצה וממנה נמשכת האהבה שהיא יותר קרובה לתכלית בעבודת השם. וכשאנו פועלים מתוך אהבה גם מידת השימחה הפנימית מתגברת ונוכשת את הנפש.

הרב אורי זהר זצ"ל מגדיר בספרו “לא נתנו ציאנס” מה זה אומנות הבידור. להגדרתו, בידור זה מלשון לבדר, לפזר. הבידור הוא האמצעי לפזר את המתחים שהצטברו בנפש, והמעגל חוזר על עצמו ללא תכלית מסוימת ולכמה רגעים אנחנו מרגישים שמחים ומשוחררים ממתחים פנימיים. אבל זו לא שמחה, ולא שחרור אמיתי. באופן דומה אך להבדיל, סוכות ושמיני עצרת הבאים לאחר הימים הנוראים מטרתם אינה “התפרקות” הנפש או “בידורה” מהמתחים והעבודה הקשה של אלול ותשרי. נהפוך הוא, הם הם התכלית של הימים הנוראים. אלו רק באו להכין אותנו למצב בו נוכל באמת לקיים את מצוות השם ו“שמחת בחגך”. זוהי השמחה האמיתית, היכולה לנבוע רק מתוך נפש מזוככת.

עלינו לזכור זאת היטב, מטרת העמל והעבודה היא כדי להגיע לשייכות לתורה ולמלא את הנפש בתכלית שלשמה היא נוצרה. “אם-בְּחֻקֶּי תֵּלְכוּ וְאֶת-מִצְוֹתַי תִּשְׁמְרוּ וְעִשְׂתֶּם אֹתָם” וברש"י “הא מה אני מקיים אם בְּחֻקֶּי תֵּלְכוּ? שְׁתִּהְיוּ עֹמְלִים בְּתוֹרָה (ספרא). ניקח את הלימוד הזה לכל ימות השנה, שנהיה עמלים בתורה ובזכות זה נגביר בנפשנו את השייכות לכוך מחצבתנו וממילא תגבר בנו אז גם תחושת האהבה והשמחה הפנימית.

בברכת שנת עמל אהבה ושמחה.  
שלמה אביגדור.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

### It’s OFFICIAL!

### BEIT YAAKOV IS NOW BALTIMORE SEPHARDIC CENTER

This year, will IY”H mark the 31st anniversary since the inception of Congregation Beit Yaakov. Over the years, our Beit Kneset grew from a small Shabbat Minyan to a very special congregation that services Sephardic Jews of various backgrounds. Through the unwavering commitment of our esteemed Rav, Rabbi Emanuel Goldfeiz, the founding members, and many others, our Beit Kneset was able to establish daily prayer services, various



shiurim, Kollel learning, children’s programs, family activities and much more. Recently, the decision was made to reintroduce the Congregation to the community with a new name, *Baltimore Sephardic Center*. With this name change and the many upgrades that we have instituted, it is our hope that we will be able to attract even more Sephardic families that are seeking to connect with their heritage and the vibrant Kehilla that we have become.

Respectfully, Board of Directors

### 5783 – A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS ... continued from front

assistance and continued Kehillah’s support, we will be able to accomplish much more in this coming year. May it be written and may it be sealed that all of us be granted a new year that brings fulfillment and happiness, peace and prosperity, and all the blessings of the Torah.

Shana Tova u Metucha!  
*Rakhmin Koshayev*

*(Calendar continued from front)*

2-5	CHOL HAMOED SUCCOT
6	HOSHANA RABBAH SHACHARIT 6:40 A.M. MINCHA / ARBIT 6:23 P.M. CANDLE LIGHTING 6:23 P.M.
7	SHEMINI ATZERET/SHABBAT SHACHARIT 8:30 A.M. MINCHA 6:10 P.M. DIVREI TORAH 6:40 P.M. ARBIT/KIDDUSH/HAKAFOT 7:34 P.M. CANDLE LIGHTING 7:52 P.M.
8	SIMCHAT TORAH SHACHARIT 8:30 A.M. KIDDUSH/HAKAFOT AFTER SHACHARIT MINCHA 6:15 P.M. / ARBIT 6:59 P.M.

## לשנה טובה תכתבו!

*We wish all our members, friends and high holyday guests a happy, healthy, and sweet New Year.*

*We welcome the New Year with this 5784 issue of our Shul bulletin.*

### LULAVIM AND ETROGIM FOR SALE

As in past years, through the efforts of Rabbi Goldfeiz, the shul has an arrangement with Shabsi’s to sell members the Arba Minim at discounted prices.





YOM TOV CALENDAR

2023/5784

September

15

EREV ROSH HASHANAH  
SELICHOT 5:50 A.M.  
SHACHARIT/HATARAT  
NEDARIM 6:21 A.M.  
MINCHA/ARBIT 6:47 P.M.  
CANDLE LIGHTING 6:46 P.M.

16

ROSH HASHANAH – DAY 1  
SHACHARIT 7:30 A.M.  
MINCHA 7:00 P.M.  
ARBIT 7:47 P.M.  
CANDLE LIGHTING 8:26 P.M.

17

ROSH HASHANAH – DAY 2  
SHACHARIT 7:30 A.M.  
SHOFAR APPROX. 10:35 A.M.  
TASHLICH AFTER TEFILOT  
MINCHA 7:02/ARBIT 7:33 P.M.

18

TZOM GEDALIAH  
FAST STARTS 5:38 A.M.  
SELICHOT/SHACHARIT 5:50 A.M.  
MINCHA 6:46/ARBIT 7:21 P.M.

22

EREV SHABBAT SHUVAH  
SELICHOT/SHACHARIT 6:05 A.M.  
MINCHA/ARBIT 6:46 P.M.  
CANDLE LIGHTING 6:46 P.M.

23

SHABBAT SHUVAH  
SHACHARIT 8:30 A.M.  
SHABBAT SHUVAH DERASHA  
10:13 A.M.  
HAVDALAH 8:14 P.M.

24

EREV YOM KIPPUR  
SHACHARIT/  
HATARAT NEDARIM 6:30 A.M.  
MINCHA/KAPAROT 1:30 P.M.  
KOL NIDREI 6:51 P.M.  
CANDLE LIGHTING 6:43 P.M.

25

YOM KIPPUR  
SELICHOT 5:50 A.M.  
SHACHARIT 7:30 A.M.  
MINCHA 4:00 P.M.  
NE'EILAH 6:15 P.M.  
ARBIT 7:53 P.M.

29

EREV SUCCOT  
CANDLE LIGHTING 6:35 P.M.  
MINCHA/ARBIT 6:35 P.M.

30

SUCCOT – DAY 1  
SHACHARIT 8:30 A.M.  
MINCHA 6:20 P.M.  
ARBIT 7:30 P.M.  
CANDLE LIGHTING 8:03 P.M.

October

01

SUCCOT – DAY 2  
SHACHARIT 8:30 A.M.  
MINCHA 6:24 P.M.  
ARBIT 7:10 P.M.

(Calendar continues on back page)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

5783 – A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. and Mrs.  
Rakhmin Khoshayev

In the beginning of each year, leadership of every organization sets forth a plan and an agenda for the following year. Similar to other organizations our leadership put together an ambitious plan what to do in the upcoming year. Our projected plan included: strengthen existing programs (Kollel, shiurim, sisterhood, youth minyan, boys & girls Shabbat groups, etc.); improve building security by installing new doors and cameras; renovate and expand the parking lot; hire additional security guards to provide security during the Shabbat/Holidays and weekdays; introduce new sisterhood activities, introduce new youth activities, hire an administrative assistant, update our bookkeeping systems, launch the website, and improve membership. Although, some of the items on this list did not have a chance to get done for one reason

or other, we are grateful to all the people who assisted us for completing everything that *did* get done for the past year.

We thank Hashem for granting us patience, knowledge and most of all, the ability to carry out what we had planned to do. Baruch Hashem, thus far with help of the Rabbi, Board of Directors, and many men and women of the Kehillah, we were able to continue our daily shiurim and Kollel, hire additional security guards to provide security not only on Shabbat and Holidays but also on weekdays during all the services, host several new sisterhood events, hold numerous fun children and youth activities, successfully organize and celebrate Chanukah and Purim party events, build a one-of-a-kind coffee station, upgrade our bookkeeping systems, launch our new website, and welcome 5 new families as members of our Kehillah.

We humbly ask Hashem for the upcoming year to be a year of health, peace, abundant blessings, and a ton of Torah learning and Mitzvot. We are confident that with Hashem’s

(Article continues on back page)

קול הנערים קול הנערים קול הנערים קול הנערים קול הנערים

*Our Kol Hanearim program last year was bigger and better than ever! Participants enjoyed incredible prizes, delicious pizza and snacks, and best of all- the learning was out of this world! Not only were the boys and men of the Beit Knesset invited to come and participate, but we also had an amazing girls’ program called “Tiferet”. Spearheaded by the dynamic Mrs. Esti Kohanghadosh for the younger girls and creative Mrs. Debbie Glazer for the older group, Tiferet girls learned life lessons on the parshah, made amazing projects, and enjoyed delicious pizza and exciting raffles. We want to give a BIG thank you to these two women for making the Tiferet girls’ program a smashing success! We look forward to another EPIC season of Kol Hanearim and Tiferet this year iyH!*

Photos courtesy of Rafi Shasho

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SALO BEMARES

SEEKING AN ORTHODOX LIFE

*In this issue we spotlight Mr. Salo Bemares. Our current Vice President, Salo is one of the important voices of our Kehilla. Full of innovative ideas, he is constantly striving to institute relevant programming that will attract all BSC members. He agreed to tell us about himself.*

I was born and raised in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. Growing up, the community was Conservative-Reform which for me always seemed hypocritical. Preaching one thing and doing something different just didn’t seem right. My first step was in 5th grade when a Hebrew teacher said that the Maccabim preferred to die than to eat pork. I went

Salo Bemares

home and told my Mom I was not going to eat pork again. At age 12, I wanted to blow the shofar and my uncle said that in order to blow the shofar you can’t eat milk and meat together. I loved the idea and immediately stopped.

At age of 19, I started learning with a friend who had moved to Mexico City to become frum and would travel back and forth to Guadalajara. The more I learned the more things became clearer. At age 23 I married the love of my life, Sandy Sidransky from El Paso, Texas. She had just graduated from Yeshiva University and was looking to keep a kosher home. Once again I loved the idea. We started being Shomer Shabbat and keeping kosher outside of our home. Together with a group of friends we started a kollel in Guadalajara with the help of *chachamim* from Mexico City. Each Shabbat we had the cream of the crop of *chachamim* come and spend Shabbat with us and our families. The experiences were beautiful and eye opening.

We knew we had no future left in Guadalajara, and when our family began to grow, both my wife and I realized that without a Jewish religious community to grow up in, our children had no future there. Exploring different options, Baltimore became the best place to settle down as my wife’s brother was living here ... there were Jewish schools, kashrut, and family. We prayed this would enable us to BZ”H give our family a religious upbringing. So, in 1998 we left my parents, business and friends and moved from Guadalajara to Baltimore. Upon arriving I looked for a Sephardi minyan and found Ohr Hamizrach. I went for mincha and came home

(Article continues to the right)

Enjoy Using Our  
New State-of-the-Art  
Beverage Station

*Over the past year Baltimore Sephardic Center/ Beit Yaakov has seen many improvements enhancing our members’ Shul experience. Probably the most visible to membership is an exciting state-of-the-art machine offering delicious beverages such as*

*fresh coffee, lattés, hot chocolate, cappuccinos, and more. The station is beautifully designed and strategically located right off*

*our front lobby adjacent to the cloakroom.*

*Thank you so much to Avraham (Tony) and Tziona Abramov*

*for dedicating our new beautiful beverage station in memory of his father. Monthly dedications are welcomed for the coffee supplies. Anyone who joins us for tefillot and learning is welcome to try our new machine and taste the offerings for yourself!*

*Thank you to Salo Bemares for his vision & David Attar for his design/build skills.*

to tell my wife that my English was extremely bad as I did not understand one word from the speech! I later found out the speech was in Farsi!! No wonder!

During the following years I attended Sephardi shuls on Greenspring, Shomrei Emunah, and Ohr HaChaim. In 2012, I began attending Beit Yaakov mainly because my son Moy was going to become Bar Mitzvah and I wanted a place for him to learn Sephardi davening and customs. Aharon Newman welcomed us every week with open arms. In the last couple of years I have become involved on the Board of Directors and together with Rabbi Goldfeiz we are taking Beit Yaakov to the next level to become the Baltimore Sephardic Center.

B”H we have come a long way! The following are some of our accomplishments:

1. Renovation of the kids quarters (Mordechai Segan-Kohanim)
2. Kids programing every Shabbat with the help of Mrs. Ayala Kuhr and Shlomo Khoshayev, as well as Dafna Bemaras, Gina Kassin, Avigayil Ziv, Mrs. Chaya Moses, Rachelli Khoshayev, Ariella Gholian, Fortuna Halwani, Avigail Rubinov, and Yaffa Rubinov
3. Shabbat kiddushim and seudah shlishit