



# ETZ CHAIM SEPHARDIC CONGREGATION

B"H

## SHABBAT SHALOM

### PARASHAT BAMIDBAR D'VAR BY RABBI DAVID GINGOLD-ALTCHEK

#### The 12 Flags of Israel

In this week's parasha, our forefathers are counted in census in the wilderness. Their numbers are promising for a fledgling nation, a confederacy of tribes, with its own religio-political organization, laws, language and culture.

However, the physical layout of the encampment, that was clearly now going to last many more decades than originally anticipated, was laid down in law by the lawgiver himself! This too would be the order in which they would march to the manifestation of their national destiny - an Israelite peoplehood.

As the census was counted to establish the number of men able to fight in the legions of the Lord, another important and symbolic practice was commanded. Each tribe, in this confederacy, was to make its own flag!

The pragmatic function of this practice is clear, just like the soldiers of old and today's modern armies - guidons (unit flags) are used as a point of assembly and a point upon which a march is directed. However, we are symbolic by nature and pragmatism alone does not provide the full picture.

So let us look to tradition to better understand this as members of the species *homo-symbolicus*. The sages, ob"m, record that, "since the Israelites crosses the sea, the Holy One, blessed be He, commanded Moshe saying make for them flags so they may go in the fashion of kings and customs of royalty" (M"R Devarim, 16), and in the words of the commentary there: "The people leaving Egypt, from slavery, on its way to the promised land are already free and may raise a flag as a symbol of said freedom (from bondage)."

This freedom was not however, a freedom from bondage but a freedom to serve a higher meaning and purpose. Now, not only free from Egyptian bondage, the sages interpret this as a freedom to be a 'holy people and a priestly nation' in our new role as a spiritual aristocracy. However, for such a leadership to be successful and meaningful, it can't just be titles and given authority. No, it must be servant leadership and living by example. So they made flags, their symbol of freedom, to march under. Not to raise and lounge under but to march under as they subjugated themselves as a free people, not to a human master but to the master of the world and the uniquely human conscience!

This is both the message of parashat Bamidbar and the

#### Shabbat Bamidbar Observance Times

Friday Night Services - Minha	7:30 PM*
Shabbat Candle Lighting	8:52 PM*
Shabbat Morning Services - Shaharit	9:00 AM**
Torah Today Class	1:15 PM
Shabbat Ends	10:00 PM*

\*Please note observance times change.

\*\*Please arrive on time to help make a minyan, so Torah reading can begin on time.

Please silence your cellphone during Shabbat & holiday observances. Thank You

#### Contact Information

<u>Rabbi:</u> Rabbi David Gingold-Altchek::	Rabbi@etzchaimindy.org	
<u>President:</u> Alan Cohen:	President@etzchaimindy.org	317-513-3056
<u>Immediate Past President:</u> Gadi Boukai:	BGadi@att.net	317-727-6113
<u>Treasurer:</u> Mark Sigman:	Treasurer@etzchaimindy.org	317-691-7553
<u>Deborah Sisterhood Pres.:</u> Maya Shmoel:	Sisterhood@etzchaimindy.org	
<u>Donations:</u> Batya Auerbach:	Batya@etzchaimindy.org	317-251-6220
<u>Oneg Sponsorship:</u> Rakhel Farahan		317-413-0373
<u>Life &amp; Legacy:</u> Alan Cohen, President@etzchaimindy.org		317-513-3056
<u>Office:</u> Information@etzchaimindy.org		317-251-6220

Please Note: We have centralized the processing of donations for Prayer Books, Chumashim, donations to Etz Chaim and Sisterhood. Please indicate how your check should be applied. Mail all donations to Etz Chaim, Attn: Donations, P.O. Box 80004, Indianapolis, IN 46280. Thank you

(cont. d'var) upcoming holy day of Shavuot. Not freedom from [servitude and bondage] but freedom to [choose a purpose, meaning, and to lead by example, to] be 'a light unto the nations'.

Shabbat Shalom!!!

**ROSH HASHANAH 5780 ORDER FORM**

SEPHARDIC SPECIALTIES  
From The ETZ CHAIM SEPHARDIC CONGREGATION

Deadline for all orders with payment Sunday, September 1, 2019		Pick up: Etz Chaim Social Hall Sunday, September 15, 2019 11:00 am - 1:00 pm			
ITEM	TYPE	SIZE	PRICE	QUANTITY ORDERED	TOTAL
Round Challah	Plain	each	\$10		
	With Raisins	each	\$10		
Borekachs	Cheese	1 Dozen	\$20		
	Cheese/Spinach	1 Dozen	\$20		
Todelekhos	W/ Sesame Seeds	2 Dozen	\$10		
	W/O Sesame Seeds	2 Dozen	\$10		
Baklava	Bite Size	1 Dozen			
Mandel Bread	Chocolate				
Coconut Sesame					

**Donations of ingredients or money to purchase ingredients are needed at this time. Please contact Rakhel Farahan (317)413-0373 for a list.**

**Order Forms available in the lobby, on facebook @etzchaimindy and attached to the weekly email.**

and check to: Deborah Sisterhood  
Deborah Sisterhood@Etz Chaim, P.O. Box 80004, Indianapolis, IN 46280

## Anyos

*Esther Magen Aframian  
Rebecca Pardo  
Morris. Y. Cohen  
Juliet Leah Bat Miryam Farahan*

# Shavuot 5779

## All Night Study

*Saturday Night, June 8 - Sunday Morning, June 9*

### In the Social Hall

12:00-4:30 AM

**Torah Today Class: Exploring the Laws of Daily Jewish Living - Review & Continuation**

Contemporary applications of Jewish law and living, based on a world-renowned curriculum recently introduced to the English-speaking world.

**Recitation of the Korbanoth**

4:30-5:00AM

### In the Sanctuary

For those planning to complete the Tiqun, a Hebrew only recitation will take place in the sanctuary through the night!

6:00 AM Shaharit

8:00 PM Minha/Arvit

Monday, June 10

9:00 AM Shaharit

*All are welcome!*

**It's THAT time, again!** We are preparing for the July 4th Picnic and raffle. Please contact Alan Cohen (317)513-3056, if you'd like to volunteer this year.

... And we are now accepting items for the R\*A\*F\*F\*L\*E! Contact the office to arrange a drop-off time, or bring items directly to the picnic.

Join Etz Chaim for our



## Weekly Services & Classes

*Services and classes are open to the community & free of charge.*

### Sunday @ Chabad on 96th

*Shaharit @ 9:00 AM*

### Monday, May 27 @ Etz Chaim

*Shaharit @ 8:00 AM*

### Tuesday - Friday @ Etz Chaim

*Shaharit @ 7:00 AM*

### Wednesday @ 8:00 PM

*Pirkei Avot Class with Rabbi Gingold-Altchek*

### Friday, Shabbat 1:15-2:15 PM

*Torah Today Class*

## Upcoming

### Saturday, June 8 - Monday, June 10

*Shavuot All Night Study & Services*

### Thursday, July 4 @ 11 AM - 3:30 PM

*Annual July 4th Members' Picnic  
JCC Sablosky Pavillion*

Please see flyer(s) for more information on event(s).

### Question about your Statement?

If you have any questions regarding your statement, please do not hesitate to reach out to our treasurer, Mark Sigman / treasurer@etzchaimindy.org / 317-691-7553. \*Anything you discuss will be treated with confidentiality.

*The Shabbat Oneg has been sponsored  
by*

*Joyce Rose-Weisberger & Phil Weisberger*

*In Honor Of*

*Their Wedding Anniversary*

*and*

*The Farahan Family*

*In Loving Memory Of*

*Juliet Leah Bat Miryam Farahan*

**Volunteer in the Kitchen!**

**Friday Mornings @ 10:00AM-1:00PM**

Join Sisterhood in the preparation of our Shabbat *Onegs*. Both **women and men** are welcome to help in the kitchen.

*Oneg sponsorship and co-sponsorship opportunities are available! For additional information contact Rakhel Farahan 317-413-0373 or email sisterhood@etzchaimindy.org*

Etz Chaim is a proud participant and recipient of the **LIFE & LEGACY** program. Contact Alan Cohen (317) 513-3056 for more information.



Etz Chaim is a proud member of  
**The Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of America**  
**La Ermandad Sefaradi**

To receive their weekly newsletter,  
*La Boz Sefaradi* The Sephardic Voice  
Subscribe at [www.sephardicbrotherhood.com](http://www.sephardicbrotherhood.com)

**Bikkur Cholim:** Please contact us 317-251-6220, if you know of someone who is ill or needs support of our community or Rabbi.

Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation

6939 Hoover Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46260 • 317-251-6220 • [www.EtzChaimIndy.org](http://www.EtzChaimIndy.org) • [Information@EtzChaimIndy.org](mailto:Information@EtzChaimIndy.org)