



# Congregation Spanish & Portuguese

שארית ישראל

פרשת וישיב

Parashat Vayeshev

פרשת וישיב

Parasha Hertz: Page 141 ~ Haftarah Amos Hertz: Page 152

ROSH HODESH TEVET ~ WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI 16 DÉCEMBRE לַחֹדֶשׁ הַחֲדָשׁ

## The "Paper Towel Syndrome": Parashat Vayeshev by Rabbi Marc D. Angel

Joseph was talented, capable and God-fearing. He did so much for so many. Yet, he almost always seemed to be forgotten.

This week's Parasha reports that the imprisoned Joseph correctly interpreted the dream of Pharaoh's butler, indicating that he would be restored to his former position. In return for this, Joseph asked the butler to remember him to Pharaoh who could release him from prison where he had been unjustly placed. But the Torah states that the butler "did not remember Joseph, and he forgot him." This repetitious phrase indicates not merely normal forgetfulness, but a conscious effort to eradicate Joseph's good deed from his mind.

Later in the Torah, we learn that Joseph saved the Egyptians from famine due to his correct interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams and his practical planning to store food during the seven years of abundance. But no sooner had Joseph died, when a new Pharaoh arose "who did not know Joseph." Of course, he had to have known about Joseph's remarkable achievements on behalf of Egypt. Yet, the Pharaoh preferred to "forget," to make as though he did not know of Joseph.

Before his death, Joseph asks the Israelites to remember him when they ultimately return to their own land. He asked that they be sure to take his remains with them for reburial in Canaan. Yet, when the time of redemption is at hand, the Israelites are busy collecting gold and silver from the Egyptians; Joseph's bones are not on their minds. Only Moses remembers Joseph. Moses sees to it that Joseph's remains are brought out of Egypt during the Exodus. Joseph suffered from what I have called "the paper towel syndrome."

Paper towels are used and then tossed away without an afterthought. They are expendable. Once people have gotten what they need, they unceremoniously discard the used paper. The paper towel syndrome manifests itself when people exploit others, squeeze out whatever benefit they can derive, and then discard these people

and forget them fairly quickly. In a healthy society, people are valued as human beings; they are respected and appreciated. In an unhealthy society, people are treated like paper towels—exploited, tossed away, and forgotten. The Joseph narratives in the Torah remind us that the paper towel syndrome affects even the greatest of human beings. Only Moses maintained the loyalty and decency to care for Joseph. Everyone else—Egyptians and Israelites alike—took advantage of Joseph's wisdom and beneficence....but then tossed him away once he no longer seemed to be of use to them.

When the value of human life is measured purely by one's utility, then people cease to be full human beings. Rather, they become things—tools of production. The ones who suffer from the paper towel syndrome are not just the "paper towels" but the exploiters as well. Since they treat others like paper towels, the day will surely come when they themselves will fall victim to their own philosophy of life. They will become paper towels.

In his essay, "The Community", Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik underscored that halakha demands high respect for the dignity of others. "To recognize a person is not just to identify him physically. It is more than that: it is an act of identifying him existentially...To recognize a person means to affirm that he is irreplaceable. To hurt a person means to tell him that he is expendable, that there is no need for him." In other words, to recognize a person means to affirm that he/she has human value, that he/she is appreciated, that he/she matters to us. To hurt a person means to treat him/her as a "paper towel," expendable, to be used and discarded.

Certainly, we do not act kindly because we want or expect a show of gratitude. We do what is good and what is right because it is good and because it is right. Yet, how much nicer our world would be if we avoided the "paper towel syndrome," if we all could develop that sensitivity and graciousness to recognize the human dignity of others. If ingratitude and callousness are signs of morally deficient human beings, gratitude and sensitivity are hallmarks of humanity at its best.

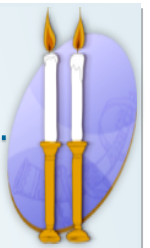
*Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Maimon Pinto*

## Shabbat Shalom

Start/Début 3:52 pm.

End/Fin 5:01 pm.

Havdalah



Services Schedule

Horaire des Offices

Our Week Day Services

SERVICES SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

SHAHRIIT: 7:30 a.m.

Everyday Monday through Friday

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

Afternoon/Evening Services:

Minha/Arvit 3:25

Join on Zoom ID: 914-650-9809

SHABBAT SERVICES (RSVP)

MASHAAL SANCTUARY - 9:00 a.m.

Minha Friday & Shabbat 3:45

## LEARNING WITH RABBI PINTO

Lundi 14 decembre

4:00 - 4:30 P.M.

PENSÉE JUIVE

Mardi 15 decembre

4:00 - 4:30 P.M.

DÉCOUVRIR LE SIDDOUR

Adon Olam

Thursday, December 17

4:45 - 5:45 P.M.

In the Beginning

Monday through Thursday after Minha

S&P SOUP TALK

Join us for a warm soup & enriching conversation with Rabbi Pinto

Sunday, December 13

10:30-11:30 A.M. ~ "Wrap & Roll"

With Rabbi Pinto & Hazzan Benlolo

Monday through Thursday

8:25AM. & 3:40PM.

RABBI'S DAILY THOUGHTS & HALAKHA

## Happy Hanukkah "May Love & Light Fill Your Home & Heart" חנוכה שמח



Thurs., Dec. 10



Fri., Dec. 11



Shabbat, Dec. 12



Sun., Dec. 13



Mon., Dec. 14



Tues., Dec. 15



Wed., Dec. 16



Thurs., Dec. 17

## Quote Of The Week

Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness. — Anne Frank -Aish HaTorah

# Beit Hamidrash Helwani

פֶּרְנַס הַכּוֹבֵד - Parnass Hakavod: Mayer & Muriel Sasson

PROGRAMME DU BEIT HAMIDRASH

שיעור יומי

PROGRAMME QUOTIDIEN - HOK LEISRAËL - DIM.-VEN. APRÈS SHAHRIT Rabbi M. Pinto - Zoom ID: 5264381158

## PARNASS HAYOM פֶּרְנַס הַיּוֹם

Shabbat 26 Kislev - December 12 décembre

Sampson Family, in memory of Diana Shimshon Sampson ז"ל.

Familles Benizri & Hasson, à la mémoire de leur mère, Fréha Benizri ז"ל.

Isaac Shemoly, in memory of his father, Naji Shemoly Hakohen ז"ל.

Sunday/Dimanche 27 Kislev - December 13 décembre

Albert Mann, en l'honneur de ses Enfants et Petits-Enfants

Monday/Lundi 28 Kislev - December 14 décembre

Albert Levy & Jimmy Levy, en l'honneur de leurs Enfants.

Tuesday/Mardi 29 Kislev - December 15 décembre

Sehayek Family, in memory of their mother, Farha Sehayek ז"ל.

Wednesday/Mercredi 1 Tevet - December 16 décembre

Dan Sequerra, à la mémoire de sa mère, Sarah Sequerra ז"ל.

Famille Gozlan, à la mémoire de leur grand-mère, Lédicia Elkaïm ז"ל.

Zion Totah, à la mémoire de son père, Moshe ben Salha ז"ל.

Isaac Shemoly, in memory of his mother, Victoria bat Amouma ז"ל.

Thursday/Jendredi 2 Tevet - December 17 décembre

Albert Mann, in honour of Rabbi Abittan, spiritual leader of Helwani Beit Hamidrash.

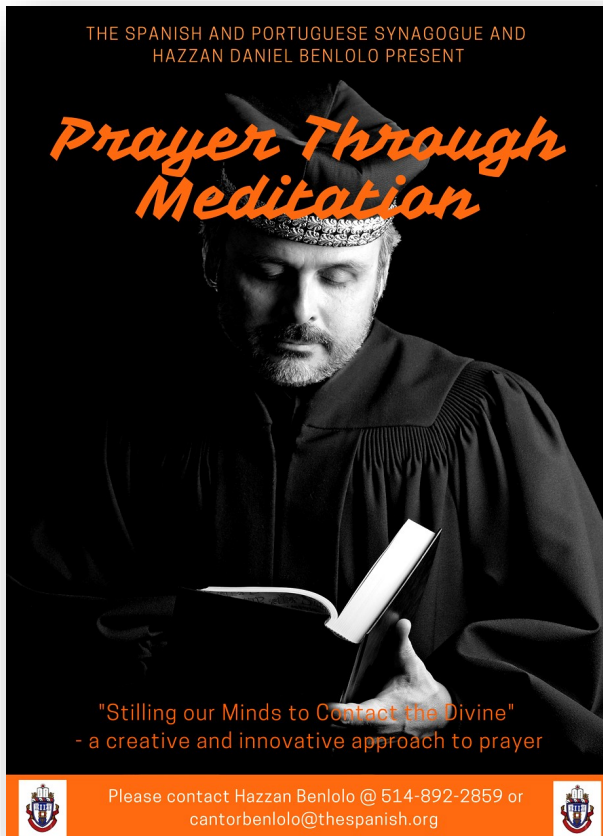
Friday/Vendredi 3 Tevet - December 18 décembre

Sabah Bekhor, in memory of his mother, Hadiya Bekhor ז"ל.

Solly Arazi, à la mémoire de son père, Albert Mourad Arazi ז"ל.

THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE SYNAGOGUE AND  
HAZZAN DANIEL BENLOLO PRESENT

### Prayer Through Meditation



"Stilling our Minds to Contact the Divine"  
- a creative and innovative approach to prayer

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cantorbenlolo@thespanish.org

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ADATH JESHURUN  
HADRATH KODESH  
SHEVET ACHIM  
CHAVERIM KOL YISRAEL  
D'BET ABRAHAM  
CONGREGATION

### SHABBOS, DECEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>

FOR TIMES OF WEEKDAY SERVICES, PLEASE  
FOLLOW WITH SPANISH & PORTUGUESE

WE HAVE MOVED THE STARTING TIME OF SHABBAT  
MORNING SERVICES IN CS HALL TO 9:30 A.M.

WORDS FROM RABBI WHITE  
THE GREEK SIDE OF HANUKKAH

What? Doesn't everyone know that the Greeks under Antiochus were the bad guys, and the Jews the good guys? Well, it's not so simple.

When I was in college, my professor of classics, to whom I was very close, the late Dr. Louis Feldman ז"ל, stressed the fact that the issue was not so simple. Now, keep in mind that Prof. Feldman was a pious and learned Jew, a world-renowned authority on Josephus, and a real "mentch." Yet, basing himself on classic sources, he demonstrated the importance of understanding the full picture.

So, what did he mean? Well, we know that Hellenism was known in the land of Israel before the time of Antiochus (2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE.) Many Jews among the upper classes were attracted to it. The high priests Jason and Menelaus (wow! real Greek names!), who lived before and during the reign of Antiochus, introduced Hellenistic and even pagan practices!

From what we understand, the wealthier Jews were becoming more and more assimilated, and thus opened the door for Antiochus' wicked decrees. So, don't get me wrong. We don't consider Antiochus a "good guy." But, sadly, the way to Antiochus' decrees was paved by the assimilated, hellenised Jews themselves.

This was the background that caused Mattityahu, Yehudah, and their followers to revolt, and to restore the Temple.

Is there a lesson to be learned here for our time? I think so.

Shabbat shalom, and happy Hanukkah.



שבת שלום



# Major Donors Program

The Spanish & Portuguese has recently begun a fundraising program whereby our goal is to raise \$1.5 Million over 3 years to help fund our activities, programs, and events.

We are pleased to announce the following congregants who have made very generous 3-year donations:

Edward & Gertrude Mashaal & Family	Ovadia Shebath & Family
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Philip & Dahlia Lawee & Family	Morris & Evette Mashaal & Family
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## SPANISH & PORTUGUESE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

With deep gratitude, we acknowledge the following generous donors who are supporting the operations, activities, and welfare of our synagogue.

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Paul Harari	Rabbi Howard & Norma Joseph
Gladys Matarasso	Jim & Ruth Nabi
Ferial Akairib	

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 - 10:30 - 11:30 A.M.**

Wrap & Roll: Parent & son Super Sonyc Service - Rabbi Pinto & Hazan Benlolo

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 - 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.**

Sisterhood Super Tuesday Hanukah Community Celebration - Trivia game (male vs. female) led by Rachel Gabbay. Hanukiah Lighting & Hanukah songs with Rosie Shahrabani & Moriel Shahin.

Zoom ID: 869 7901 6997 SUPERSIS

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 - 10:00 A.M.**

Sisterhood Yoga by Lisa Shebath - Must Register: Lisashebeth@gmail.com  
OR Grace sisterhood2020@hotmail.com

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 ~ 4:15—5:15 P.M.**

Hanukah Festive Menorah Lighting with Rabbi Pinto & Hazzan Benlolo. Must Register  
Rosh Hodesh Tevet Musical Experience

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22 - 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.**

Sisterhood Health Series: "Connecting With Ourselves & Others: The Language of Emotions" Guest Speaker, Cheryl Gabbay  
Zoom ID: 830 8070 2240 SUPERSIS

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29 - 12:00 - 1:00 P.M.**

Sisterhood Book Review "The Third Daughter" by Talia Carner  
Reviewer: Wilma Mashal - Zoom ID: 885 7489 6038 SISBOOK

## HALAKHA הלכה

### HANUKIAH LIGHTING

The Jewish tradition is that on the first night of Hanukah one flame is lit, on the second night two, and so on until the eighth night when eight flames are lit.

The question was brought forth whether to begin the lighting with one flame and proceed, adding one each night, or do just the opposite, begin with eight and end with one, was a matter of dispute.

In the democratic spirit of the Talmud, the question was voted upon by the colleagues of Hillel and Shammai, and Hillel's opinion prevailed; thereby establishing our present practice of lighting, from one to eight.

**How do we prepare the lights?** The preferred way to perform the 'mitzvah,' or commandment, of lighting the Hanukah lamps is with pure olive oil and cotton wicks, since their light is pure, and it recalls the light of the Golden Menorah in the Temple which was lit with pure olive oil. Candles made of wax or paraffin are also permitted.

The candles or wicks should be placed in a straight row, and even; that is, none being higher or lower than the others, none receding or protruding, and none in a circle.

**How do we light the flames?** On the first night of Hanukah we light the first flame, and each night after, we add an additional light until the eighth

night, when eight lights are lit. The flames are lit from left to right, with today's flame being lit first. By doing this each night, we remember that it is that additional flame that represents the 'growth' of the miracle.

On the first night of Hanukah, three 'brachot' (blessings) are said before the lights are kindled:

... l'hadlik ner shel Hanukah.

...she'asah nisim la'avotenu, bayamim hahem bazeman hazeh.

...shehecheyanu, vekiyemanu vehigi'anu lazeman hazeh.

When the lighting is concluded, Hanukah songs are sung, in accord with the custom of one's community.

On the second night through the eighth nights only the first two 'brachot' are said, omitting the third blessing – 'shehecheyanu.'

Traditionally one must refrain from work during the first half hour that the flames are lit.

**Special issues regarding Shabbat!!** Erev Shabbat the Hanukah lights are lit first, and subsequently the Shabbat lights. After Shabbat, at home, 'Havdalah' is first recited over wine and then the Hanukah lights are lit.

*Shabbat Shalom, Hazzan Daniel Benlolo*

### SISTERHOOD NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

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