



Congregation Spanish & Portuguese

שארית ישראל

ויקרא

Parashat Emor פֶּרַשַׁת אֶמּוֹר

Count of Omer

ספירת העומר

9 mai Shabbat Soir #31	10 mai Dimanche Soir #32	11 mai Lundi Soir #33	12 mai Mardi soir #34	13 mai Mercredi soir #35	14 mai Jeudi soir #36	15 mai Vendredi soir #37	16 mai Shabbat Soir #38
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Parashat Emor - by Yossi Zahav

The first *cohanim* were Aaron (Moses' older brother) and his four sons. Together with their future descendants, they were chosen by G'd to conduct the service in the Sanctuary as representatives of the entire people of Israel. Due to this sanctified position as a minister serving in G'd's Temple, the *cohen* may not come into contact with the dead, his body must be unblemished, certain marriages are prohibited to him, etc.

You may not have heard the story of the man who visits his rabbi and begs him to make him a *cohen*. He just has to belong to the priestly tribe and he's prepared to pay the rabbi any amount of money for the honour. The rabbi patiently explains that neither he nor anyone else can make the man a *cohen*. It is simply not in the province of the rabbinate to do these things. The fellow is desperate. He offers the rabbi a huge donation if he would only grant him this one favour. The rabbi is exasperated but intrigued and asks the man why it is so important to him that he be made a *cohen*. The guy answers: "Rabbi, my father was a *cohen*, my grandfather was a *cohen*, I just have to become a *cohen*!"

The truth is that as funny as a born *cohen* wanting to buy his way into his own family may sound, being a *cohen* is no joke. In my experience, I have been involved in a number of human tragedies which emanated from Jewish ignorance about of a *cohen* and the regulations which pertain to members of the priestly tribe.

While cemetery conduct and protocol for a male *cohen* is a very important mitzvah, failure to comply with these regulations is between him and G'd. It does not affect anyone else, at least not in any earthly, tangible form. However, when it comes to marriage choices there is always someone else involved and, subsequently, very much affected.

Some tragedies are unavoidable. But the most frustrating tragedy is one that was avoidable. And when ignorance of our traditions leads to human pain, then familiarizing ourselves with those traditions could go a long way towards preventing tragedy from happening.

Picture the scene. A young man announces his engagement and arrives at the synagogue to book his wedding. The rabbi discovers that he is a *cohen* and his fiancé is a divorcee, convert, someone previously married out of the faith, or perhaps the daughter of a non-Jewish father. Very sensitively, he advises the couple that there is

a *halachic* impediment to their union being solemnized "in accordance with the law of Moses and Israel." This week's *parashah* gives us the basic laws governing whom a *cohen* may and may not marry. If he is indeed a genuine *cohen* and she does, belong to one of the above-mentioned categories, we have a problem.

Now, my question is, why in the 2 or 3 years of their relationship did this issue never surface? The answer is ignorance. Nobody told them that there was a problem.

Who gets the blame? The rabbi, of course. He is accused of being a religious fundamentalist, intolerant and inflexible. Well, let me assure you that my colleagues and I love to be welcoming and accommodating. However, there are situations when Jewish law and tradition, which to us is sacred and inviolate, may appear to be standing in the way of human happiness. And we are not empowered to change the law to suit the occasion.

Personally, I say the responsibility to educate young people about this particular issue lies with their parents. Especially a father, who is a *cohen* and has passed down that lineage to his son, has a moral obligation to advise his son of what it means to be a *cohen*. True, there are privileges, like being the first to be called to the Torah, but there are also responsibilities, like choosing marriage partners very carefully.

This type of suffering is totally avoidable if we educate our children well before they become romantically involved. Parents should inform their kids to be discerning in whom they date. In the same way as no intermarriage ever happened without prior inter-dating, no *cohen* would suffer disappointment over an unsanctioned marriage if he only dated girls that he would be able to marry. He shouldn't be hearing about it for the first time when he approaches the rabbi with a wedding date.

Marriage is a tenuous institution. If the Torah tells us that a particular union is not kosher, rather than resenting the interference, we should consider it as if the Almighty Himself came down and whispered a word of loving advice in our ears: "Trust me; this one is not right for you." Sometimes we think the Torah is standing in the way of our happiness when the reverse is true. In the long run, it may well be protecting both parties from making a serious mistake with life-long ramifications.

Money can't buy being a *cohen*! Suffice it to say, it is a very special blessing. Let's make sure that our children never consider that blessing a curse.

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Maimon Pinto

Shabbat Shalom

Start/Début 7:52 pm.

End/Fin 9:04 pm.

Havdalah

Services Schedule

Horaire des Offices

DURING THE COVID19 PERIOD,
SERVICES SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

SHAHRI: 9:00 a.m.
Everyday Monday through Friday

Afternoon/Evening Services:

Minha/Arvit 7:45
Fridays 5:00

Our Week Day Services
Zoom meeting ID: 5264381158

LAG B'OMER - Monday, May 11

Celebrate with us the great Hilloula of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai. An evening animated with melodies & anecdotes.
After services, which begin at 7:45PM.

Sunday - Friday Thought Of The Day
with Rabbi Maimon Pinto
10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Mercredi à 20H15 - La Cabale de soi
Dans cette classe, nous découvrons la dimension intérieure de la Torah et des secrets de l'univers telle qu'elles sont présentées par les mystiques juifs.

MERCREDI 13 Mai, 2020

Moïse, Dieu et le Tsimsoum

Thursday - 12:00PM - Ethics Of The Fathers
Bring your lunch & join me for an interactive class of one of the most adored Jewish texts, the "Pirkei Avot".

THURS., May 14 - 2 Sages - 5 Opinions

Friday - 5:00PM - Light YOUR Sparks
Discover the most celebrated day of the Jewish Calendar, SHABBAT.

Every Friday evening join me for a pre-Kabbalat Shabbat full of melodies and inspirational sparks.

Saturday Night (15 minutes after Shabbat)
Join us in a musical Havdalah & enter the week with song & gladness.

Zoom Meeting ID 526 438 1158

Quote of the Week

Anyone who says that friendship is easy has never been a true friend.

- Aish HaTorah

Beit Hamidrash Helwani

בית המדרש הלואני
Parnass Hashana - פרנס השנה
Joseph & Betty Nezri
Parnass Hakavod - פרנס הכבוד
Mayer & Muriel Sasson
In Honour of Rabbi Cantor Yehuda Abittan

PROGRAMME DU BEIT HAMIDRASH

שיעור יומי

PROGRAMME QUOTIDIEN - HOK LEISRAËL
DIM.-VEN. APRÈS SHAHRIT RABBI MAIMON PINTO

ZOOM MEETING ID: 5264381158

PARNASS HAYOM פרנס היום

Shabbat 15 Iyar - May 9 mai

Famille Henri Levy, en l'honneur de **Rabbin Howard Joseph**.
Morris Abdulezer & Alfred Abdulezer, in memory of their grandfather,
Shlomo ben Meir Albdulezer ז"ל.

Sunday/Dimanche 16 Iyar - May 10 mai

Sampson Family, in memory of Simha Nachson Sampson ז"ל.
Famille Dadoun, à la mémoire de leur mère, Mercedes Dadoun ז"ל.

Lundi 17 Iyar - 11 mai

Famille Shama, à la mémoire de leur père, César Shama ז"ל.

Mardi 18 Iyar - 12 mai

Judy & Jacques Tobianah, à la mémoire de **Rabbin Shimon Bar Yohai** ז"ל.
Anonymous, with many thanks to all the Clergy for their devotion to
the Congregation during this period!

Mercredi 19 Iyar - 13 mai

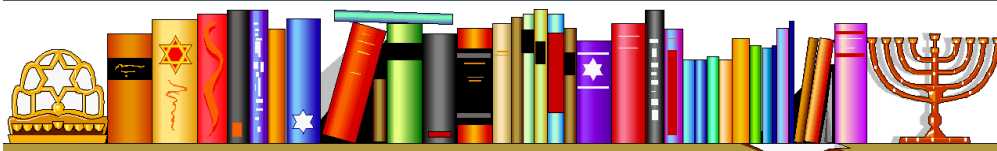
Famille Lallouz, à la mémoire de père, Joseph Lallouz ז"ל.

Thursday 20 Iyar - May 14

Afram & Leila Khamara, in honour of their Children & Grandchildren.

Vendredi 21 Iyar - 15 mai

Famille Sasson, À la mémoire de Frida Sasson Levy ז"ל.



HALAKHA הלכה

LA PRIÈRE DES PATRIARCHES ET DES PROPHÈTES (SUITE)

L'une des prières qui imprimèrent le plus fortement leur marque sur toutes les générations futures fut celle de Hanna. Durant de longues années, Hanna fut stérile ; elle pria longuement au Sanctuaire de Dieu, qui se trouvait alors à Chilo, et fut la première à invoquer Dieu par le nom saint *Tseva-ot*. Son souvenir fut rappelé devant Dieu, et elle eut le privilège de mettre au monde un fils de haute stature : le prophète Samuel (I S 2). Du prophète Samuel, nos maîtres disent qu'il égalait Moïse et Aaron réunis ; en effet, par le biais de Moïse et d'Aaron, la parole divine s'est révélée dans le cadre miraculeux et transcendant de la traversée du désert, tandis que par le biais de Samuel, la parole divine s'est révélée dans le cadre matériel que connaît le peuple d'Israël sur la terre d'Israël. C'est en effet lui qui consolida le peuple et établit la royauté de la dynastie de David, et c'est grâce à son influence que le Temple fut construit. Or c'est parce qu'il possédait une âme aussi grande et aussi élevée qu'il fut difficile de la faire descendre sur terre. C'est ainsi que Hanna dut multiplier ses prières avant d'obtenir de l'enfanter. Et sa prière fut tellement élevée que nos maîtres, de mémoire bénie, en tirèrent de nombreuses règles (*Berakhot* 31a).

Source: Pninei Halacha

Shabat Shalom, Rabbi Maimon Pinto

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

SHABBOS, May 9TH

FOR TIMES OF SERVICES, PLEASE
FOLLOW WITH SPANISH & PORTUGUESE

WORDS FROM RABBI WHITE

EMOR 5780

This Tuesday is Lag BaOmer. It is associated with Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai (Rashbi,) one of the great scholars of the 2nd century CE. If you think your quarantining is difficult, imagine Rashbi's problem. Due to Roman persecution, Rashbi and his son Rabbi Elazar had to hide in a cave for 12 years, and then another year! They took good advantage of the time by studying Torah day and night. However, when they finally left the cave, they had different attitudes to the world. The son was negative: he felt that everyone should be studying Torah exclusively. Rashbi, on the other hand, came to realize that there is a need for people to work the land. In modern terminology, to restart the economy! (see the whole story in the Talmud, Tractate Shabbat 33b.)

I recently read an article describing how Americans came out of the pandemic of 1918. Certain habits did change: people stopped sharing drinking glasses; spitting in public was frowned upon. Nevertheless, there were no real major social changes. For example, attempts to introduce socialized medicine were squashed!

How shall we emerge from this pandemic? We pray for good health, both mental and physical, for all. And, of course, happy Mother's day!!

Shabbat shalom



שבת שלום

A Word From Hazzan Daniel Benlolo



Shavu'ot celebrates the giving of the Torah. According to ancient tradition, the Torah enumerates 613 mitzvot: 248 affirmative commandments and 365 prohibitions. In the Sephardic tradition, several poems enumerating each of the commandments have been written by various poets, these are called "Azharot" - Admonitions. Our custom is to read the version written by Solomon ibn Gabirol (1020-1069) with an introduction by David ben Eleazar Bekuda (12thc.) Traditionally, in the synagogue, we chant the Azharot "round-robin" style on the afternoons of Shavuot (reading the affirmative commandments on the first day and the prohibitions on the second day.)

This year since we cannot meet in the synagogue - we have joined together with our sister congregations and hazzanim from around the world to host a special joint Azharot service in advance of the holiday, on Sunday, May 24th. I will be joining Hazzanim from Philadelphia, Paris, Bayonne, Florence, Amsterdam, London, and Israel for this special virtual event. This type of joint service brings together almost all of the Spanish and Portuguese communities and something that has never been done before!

With thanks to the American Sephardi Federation for hosting this service via its Zoom Webinar platforms. More information will become available soon. Stay tuned!

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/8915883443528/WN_rcuVq327T_Srs09Glij5cQ

Shabbat Shalom

Our Clergy will be saying Hashcabah at the cemetery on Sundays, please let us know if you would like such a prayer for your loved ones by sending their name(s) to:
rabbi@thespanish.org

S&P SYNAGOGUE OFFICE

Please note that the office is open, with limited staff available, to serve the members from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Feel free to call for any requests (514) 737-3695.