



Congregation Spanish & Portuguese

שָׂרִית יִשְׂרָאֵל

בְּרֵאשִׁית

Parashat Bereshit

פָּרַשַׁת בְּרֵאשִׁית

ROSH HODESH HESHVAN

SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 11 OCT. & MONDAY/LUNDI 12 OCT.

הַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה לָכֵן

BERESHIT 5781 - 2020

G-D's BUSINESS

Go and see the deeds of God, awesome in His deeds toward mankind. (Psalms 66,5)

The goal of a business venture is to make a profit. No self-respecting businessman would invest capital or time when the accounts do not show profit. And yet, the greatest benefits must be reaped under the very conditions that most responsible businessmen seek to avoid because of wholly unpredictable developments.

We can say that the spirit of the businessman operates on two levels. At the manifest level, he seeks stability and control. At this level, "being caught off guard" harms business.

While knowing that every adventure involves some risk, its goal is to prevent them, to have an action plan for any eventuality. But at a deeper, subconscious level, the businessman longs for the unpredictable. For only there lies the potential for greater profits than analysts envision.

Our Sages tell us that "the kingdom of Heaven is like the kingdom of earth," that the structures of human society and patterns of human behavior reflect how the Creator relates to and directs His world.

Gd operates according to a strategy borrowed from the business world: the Torah which is Gd's "plan for creation" defines the "profit" that the Creator wants to derive from His business. Torah laws detail what should and should not be done, and what should and should not happen, to safeguard the divine investment in creation and ensure its profitability.

But on the first day of business in history, the plan went awry. Adam and Eve, by eating the forbidden fruit violated the first Mitzvah, Gd's first commandment. Their act jeopardized the entire adventure, leaving chaos of good and bad to sweep over the organized world in which they were born.

And yet, our Sages tell us, it was "Gd's fearful plan for the children of man." "It is I who made them sin, by creating in them a tendency towards evil" admitted Gd before the Prophet Elijah.

For it is the process of the Teshuvah ("return") of sin that brings the greatest profit in the business of life. There is no love stronger than love felt from afar and greater passion than the quest to return to an abandoned house and a self that has alienated itself. When the soul's bond with Gd has stretched to the point of breaking, the force that ties it to its source is greater than anything that can be produced by the soul that never leaves the divine orbit. And when a soul has wandered to the farthest corners of life and exploited all the

negative and vile aspect of its surroundings, feels the urge to return to Gd, it is uplifting those parts of Creation which lie behind the framework of a life lived in righteousness.

This is the "dreadful plot" against the children of man: to create a man with an inclination to evil, so that when he succumbs to it he reunites with Gd in greater love and redeemed resources generated by a life now in accordance with the Divine Will.

However, it is certain that one cannot say that Gd wanted man to sin: a sin is, by definition, an act that Gd does not want. Further, if Gd's "plan" was for man to sin, it raises the question of what would have happened if Adam and Eve had not chosen to eat the forbidden fruit. Would Gd's purpose in Creation have been fulfilled?

Just as with the conventional businessman, there are two levels of "motivation" behind the divine act of creation. On the manifest level, the world was intended and created to fulfill the plan indicated by the Torah. This plan calls for the existence of an inclination to evil in the heart of man so that our conformity to the divine will have meaning.

Maimonides says: "Freedom is given to every man: if he wishes to follow the right path and be a just person, the choice to do so is in his hands; and if he wishes to follow the path of evil and become a vile being, the choice to do so is in his hands ... It is a major principle and a basis of the Torah and the commandments ... For if Gd were to decree that a person is good or vile or if there was in the essence of the individual something that compels him to take such a path, how could Gd have commanded us through His Prophets "do that" and "don't do that"? What place would have occupied the entire Torah? And by what righteousness would Gd punish the wicked and reward the good?"

This plan does not require the existence of evil, but only the potential for its existence. It is possible for us to violate the divine Will, so that our failure to do so will be a moral triumph for us and a source of pleasure for Gd. It must be possible for us not to do good, so that our good actions have value and meaning.

But on the deeper "subconscious" level, Gd plots to make man succumb to sin. This is not what He desires, and it is even a deviance from His express Will. But when that happens, it unleashes a wealth of possibilities that are infinitely more effective than anything the "official" plan could have allowed. And it is these possibilities behind the calculations and official plans that constitute His ultimate motivation for which He has invested in "the business" of human life.

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Maimon Pinto

Shabbat Shalom

Start/Début 5:48 pm.

End/Fin 6:49 pm.

Havdalah

Services Schedule

Horaires des Offices

Our Week Day Services

SERVICES SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

SHAHRIT: 7:30 a.m.

Everyday Monday through Friday

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

Afternoon/Evening Services:

Minha/Arvit 5:30

Join on Zoom ID: 914-650-9809

SHABBAT SERVICES (RSVP)
MASHAAL SANCTUARY - 9:00 a.m.

Cemetery

Following Sunday services,
Rabbi & Cantor visit

MOUNT-ROYAL CEMETERY

to recite weekly hashcobot.

Send names of loved ones to:

rabbi@thespanish.org

Mercredi 21 octobre - 18h45

VIVRE AVEC LA PARACHA

avec Rav. M. Pinto

Thursday, Oct. 22 - 6:45 p.m.

FROM OUR SAGES

with Rabbi Pinto

(watch emails for details)

Zoom Meeting ID 914-650-9809

Quote of the Week

Happiness is a better indicator
of success than success has
ever been of happiness.

• Mandy Grothe

Aish HaTorah

PREVENTIVE MEASURES FOR SAFE PLACES OF WORSHIP

MESURES DE PRÉVENTION POUR DES LIEUX DE CULTE SÉCURITAIRES



OR



OR



OR



Beit Hamidrash Helwani

פֶּרַס הַכְבוֹד - Parnass Hakavod: Mayer & Muriel Sasson

PROGRAMME DU BEIT HAMIDRASH

שִׁיעוּר יוֹמִי

PROGRAMME QUOTIDIEN - HOK LEISRAËL - DIM.-VEN. APRÈS SHAHRIT Rabbi M. PINTO - ZOOM ID: 5264381158

PARNASS HAYOM פֶּרַס הַיּוֹם

Shabbat 29 Tishrei - October 17 octobre

Yousfan Family, in memory of Sami Yousfan ז"ל.

Sunday/Dimanche 30 Tishrei - October 18 octobre

Max Myara, à la mémoire de son père, Meir Myara ז"ל.

Rosett Rossano, in memory of her mother, Gotha Revah ז"ל.

Monday/Lundi 1 Heshvan - October 19 octobre

Spanish & Portuguese Community, in honour of Dr. Sabah Bekhor.

Tuesday/Mardi 2 Heshvan - October 20 octobre

Famille Benaich, à la mémoire de Jacob Benaiche ז"ל יעקב בן מסעוד.

Wednesday/Mercredi 3 Heshvan - October 21 octobre

Fattal Family, in memory of their parents, Jacob & Josephine Fattal ז"ל.

Thursday/Jendredi 4 Heshvan - October 22 octobre

Fattal Family, in memory of their mother, Josephine Fattal ז"ל.

Famille Nezri, à la mémoire de leur père, Hanania Nezri ז"ל.

Forever in our hearts, Abdullah Sassoon Zubaida ז"ל.

Friday/Vendredi 5 Heshvan - October 23 octobre

Famille Elbaz, à la mémoire de leur père, Hanania Elbaz ז"ל.

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

SHABBOS, OCTOBER 17th

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

WORDS FROM RABBI WHITE
BEREISHI 5781

This week, we begin a new cycle of Torah reading. A couple simple comments from the first *parasha*:

1) After Adam eats from the forbidden fruit, God asks him *'ayyeka* ("where are you?") This is a relevant contemporary question. Many of us have not been able to attend regular synagogue services during the pandemic. But even if we do not attend services, *'ayyeka*, are we still praying regularly at home with our siddur? Are we strengthening our Jewish knowledge by reading Jewish books, and following the weekly *parasha* with traditional commentaries? Are we taking advantage of some excellent Torah websites? For example, there are thousands of high-quality lectures on the website of my alma mater, Yeshiva University, called "yutorah."

[By the way, what was the fruit that Adam and Eve ate? There are different opinions: grapes, fig, wheat, etrog, even banana. But definitely not apple. Some feel that the common mistake of calling it an apple is due to the fact that in Latin, the words for both "bad" and "apple" are the same: *malum*]

2) After Cain killed Abel, God asked him "where is your brother Abel?" Cain answered: "am I my brother's keeper?" A wise person once said that the message of the whole rest of the Bible is an answer to that question: "Of course you are!!!"

Shabbat shalom

HALAKHA הלכה THE BLESSINGS ON THUNDER AND LIGHTNING

One who sees lightning recites this blessing, "Baruch Ata Hashem Elokeinu Melech Ha'Olam Oseh Ma'aseh Bereshit." One who hears thunder recites the blessing, "Baruch Ata Hashem Elokeinu Melech Ha'Olam She'Kocho Ugvurato Maleh Olam."

Until When Can One Recite these Blessings?

One must recite these blessings with no delay following seeing the lightning or hearing the thunder.

Should One Recite the Name of Hashem Within the Blessing?

The Rishonim disagree whether the blessings on thunder and lightning should include Hashem's name (i.e. the words "Hashem

Elokeinu Melech Ha'Olam") or not. The Ra'avad is of the opinion that these blessings should be recited without Hashem's name, for instance, "Baruch She'Kocho Ugvurato Maleh Olam." Nevertheless, most Rishonim disagree with the Ra'avad and rule that these blessings should include Hashem's name just like any other blessing, as the Gemara (Berachot 40b) states that any blessing which does not contain Hashem's name and kingship is not a blessing. Maran Rabbeinu Yosef Karo rules likewise in his Shulchan Aruch that these blessings should include Hashem's name just like any other blessing that we recite.

YALKUT YOSEF

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Maimon Pinto

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS AND TRUST OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2020-2021

In conformity with section 8.16 of the By-Laws of Corporation of Spanish & Portuguese Jews, Shearith Israel of Montreal, the Nominating Committee nominates the following members to stand for election as Officers, Trustees and Trust Officers at the General Meeting to be held on **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH, AT 7 P.M. FOR THE YEAR 2020/21.**

EXECUTIVE Eleven (11) officers

Charles Shemie	President	Members at Large:
David Nathaniel	Exec. Vice-President	
Shawn Korin	Vice President	
Ronald Mashaal	Treasurer	
Rose Simon Schwartz	Secretary	
Marc Hadid	Parnass	
Edmond Elbaz	Imm. Past President	Jason Fattal

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Twenty (20) officers

Robert Abdulezer	Ronnie Gehr	Marc Perez
Vivian Belboul	Charly-Marc Hadid	Noam Reshef
Julie Cohen-Bacrie	Albert Herscovitch	Isaac Jack Sachs
Alan Daly	Selman Khazzam	Mayer Sasson
Avshalom Dawit	José Layani	Sami Sourani
Shawn Fried	Sandra Mashaal	Raphael Uzan
Oren Gabbay	Julia Peress	

Trust Officers - Two (2) officers: Henri Abitan & Philip Lawee

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee - September 25, 2020.

MEMBERS: CHAIR, RONY GABBAY, MULU DAWIT, SAMARA DAOUD, GLADYS KATTAN, JACK KORIN, SANDY LAYANI, ALAIN MURAD, BURT SALEH, STÉPHANIE WEIZMAN.

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.

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Ovadia Shebath & Family
Philip Khazzam
Morris & Evette Mashaal & Family
Mike & Monika Yuval & Family
Jacob & Iris Haimovici & Family
Joshua & Anne Haimovici & Family
F.G. Shahrabani Family
Salim Mashaal & Family
Charles & Lucie Shemie & Family
David & Carole Nathaniel & Family
Ronald & Myriam Reuben & Family
Victor & Edna Mashaal & Family
Henri & Arlene Abitan & Family
David & Vivian Gabbay & Family
Manny & Denise Touaty & Family

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

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FRIEND

André Rotchel
Joseph & Niddam Amzallag
David & Lyson Haccoun
Gladys Mooallem
Maurice Douek
Robert Fattal
Rabbi Howard & Norma Joseph
Sam & Ann Aintabi
Jim & Ruth Nabi



THOUGHTS FROM MAYER SASSON: THE TRAIT OF GRATITUDE

Shabbat Shalom