



Congregation Spanish & Portuguese

שַׁבָּת יִשְׂרָאֵל

בְּרַאשִׁית

Parashat Vayehi

פַּרְשַׁת וַיְהִי

Parasha Hertz: Page 180 ~ Haftarah Kings II Hertz: Page 191



Diaspora & Torah

This week's Torah reading, Vayehi, discusses Jacob's final years. Not long before his passing, Jacob blesses Joseph's children, Ephraim and Menashe, as well as his own. A massive funeral procession escorts Jacob's body to the land of Israel.

Jacob blesses his children with "multitude", as the verse states, "Let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." The classic commentator on the Torah, Rashi, explains that Jacob blessed them to multiply as the fish of the ocean. What was his motive in comparing them to fish?

Perhaps this can be understood with the following Talmudic anecdote. Once the Roman government issued a decree forbidding Torah study. Papus ben Yehudah saw Rabbi Akiva conducting Torah classes and asked him, "Do you not fear punishment by law?" Rabbi Akiva answered with a parable: A fox was strolling along the riverbank and noticed fish swimming swiftly from place to place. He asked, "Why are you running?" They replied, "We are afraid of the net that people set up to catch us." The fox slyly said, "Perhaps it would be wise to ascend to the shore and live together with me." The fish responded, "You speak foolishly; if we are afraid in our native habitat, our fear will be even greater on land, where death will be certain." Similarly, said Rabbi Akiva, Torah is our source of life and may save us. Without it we will definitely perish.

Jacob was instructing his children to always remember that just as a fish cannot live without water, so a Jew cannot exist without Torah; and he blessed them to "swim like a fish" in the ocean of Torah study.

There is something else striking regarding Jacob's

last years in the land of Egypt and the importance of Torah study. The verse states that, "Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years." Commentators ask, we already know that Jacob was 130 years old when he arrived in Egypt. We also know that he died there at the age of 147. Why is it necessary to state that he lived in Egypt for 17 years?

Here too, I want to bring to your attention a famous anecdote of a great sage by the name of the Tzema'h Tzedek. When Tzema'h Tzedek was a young boy, his teacher taught him this verse and explained it to mean that the best years in Jacob's life were the 17 years he lived in Egypt. (The word "tov" (טוב) means good and has the numerical value of 17.)

When he came home he asked his grandfather, "How can we say that Jacob's best years were the years he lived in the sinful land of Egypt?" His grandfather explained: Before Jacob arrived in Egypt, he sent Yehudah to build a Beth Hamidrash so that the children of Jacob would have a place to devote themselves to Torah study.

When a Jew learns Torah, he comes closer to Hashem. Therefore, since the family of Jacob learned Torah, even in the sinful land of Egypt, "Vayehi Yaakov" — Jacob's life was vibrantly 'alive,' full and rewarding.

From both of the stories above and from Jacob's life we learn several lessons: 1) We must educate so that our youth seek answers to their questions. 2) To be prepared to personally answer any question that arises. 3) No matter how great the darkness around us, Torah study always illuminates the way and guarantees our success and that of our children.

Have a safe and healthy winter.

Shabbat Shalom

HALAKHA הלכה

BURIAL PLOTS

It is customary to purchase one's burial plot while still alive. I've heard that this is a *segulah* (spiritually propitious act) for longevity, because by doing so one contemplates his own mortality and uses his time allotted on this earth more wisely.

Before Jacob passed away, he requested of his son Joseph to bring his body to Israel for burial in the Cave of Machpelah. Joseph also asked his brothers to assure him that when their descendants would leave Egypt, they would take his bones and bury them in the Holy Land. We learn from this that interment in the Holy Land is considered a great privilege.

It is important to be buried amongst one's family members.

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Maimon Pinto

Shabbat Shalom

Start/Début 4:03 pm.

End/Fin 5:13 pm.

Havdalah



Services Schedule

Horario de Offices

Our Week Day Services
SERVICES SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

SHAHRI: 7:30 a.m.

Everyday Monday through Friday

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

Afternoon/Evening Services:

Minha/Arvit 4:00

Join on Zoom ID: 914-650-9809

SHABBAT SERVICES (RSVP)
MASHAAL SANCTUARY - 9:00 a.m.
Minha Friday & Shabbat 3:45



BEIT HAMIDRASH
HELWANI

WITH
RABBI PINTO

Zoom Dvar Torah

ID: 914 650 9809

8:25 A.M. HALAKHA

3:40 P.M. MIDRASH

TALMUD - EIN YAKOV
LUNDI & MARDI 4H30

PARASHA
JEUDI 4H30

Monday through Thursday
after Minha

S&P SOUP TALK

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

Quote Of The Week:

Every minute, every hour,
every day that you sit around
trying to figure out what
to do, someone else is
already doing it.
Make a choice, or a choice
will be made for you.

- Aish HaTorah

Beit Hamidrash Helwani

פֶּרַנְס הַכּוֹבֵד - Parnass Hakavod: Mayer & Muriel Sasson

PROGRAMME DU BEIT HAMIDRASH

ש י ע ו ר י ו מ י

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

PARNASS HAYOM פֶּרַנְס הַיּוֹם

Shabbat 18 Tevet - January 2 janvier

Noemi & Isabelle Dupuy, à la mémoire de leur mère, Vivianne Bitton Dupuy ז"ל.

Sunday/Dimanche 19 Tevet - January 3 janvier

Famille Bitton, à la mémoire de leur parents, Abraham Simon & Simy Bitton ז"ל.

Monday/Lundi 20 Tevet - January 4 janvier

Dan Sequerra, à la mémoire de son père, Haim Sequerra ז"ל.

Sylvia Shahin, in memory of her father, Salim Akairib ז"ל.

Tuesday/Mardi 21 Tevet - January 5 janvier

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

Wednesday/Mercredi 22 Tevet - January 6 janvier

Sachs Families, in memory of Oscar Rahamin Sachs ז"ל.

Dr. Samia Bekhor & Amy Hadid, in memory of their mother, Selima Zubaïda ז"ל.

Thursday/Jeu 23 Tevet - January 7 janvier

Michel & Lina Cohen, in honour of their Children.

Rosette Rossano, in memory of her father, Rav. Jaïs Revah ז"ל.

Friday/Vendredi 24 Tevet - January 8 janvier

David Gabbay, in memory of his mother, Renee Gabbay ז"ל.

Marie Miriam Benhaïm Schad, à la mémoire de sa mère, Rachel Benhaïm ז"ל.

Rina & Zion Totah, in memory of her father, Yossef Benisti ben Rina ז"ל.

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

SHABBOS, JANUARY 2nd

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
VAYECHI 5781

Mazal tov to Leon Haimovici on his bar mitsvah. And, as we say, a *sach nachas* to his parents Iris and Yaakov, and to his grandparents in Israel, and to all the family.

The most outward manifestation of bar mitsvah is the wearing of tefillin. What is so special about tefillin? Let me suggest 2 answers:

1) The Torah introduces us to the mitsvah of tefillin in *parashat bo'* (Exodus 13:9) where it says "so that the Torah of HaShem should be in your mouth." What does that mean? If you look up that verse in Exodus, you will see that it comes right after the verse where the father is told to teach his son. The explanation is that the Torah should be as essential to us as food. Just like food is absorbed into the body, so must Torah be absorbed into our bodies, and be a part of us. The Torah supplies us with the spiritual mineral and vitamins that we need to exist.

It is interesting to note that Rav S. R. Hirsch pointed out that in the 3rd chapter of Ezekiel, HaShem tells the prophet to eat a megillah, and that Ezekiel said that he ate it, and was sweet as honey.

2) Just a few verses before 13:9, we are told that HaShem is bringing us into "a land flowing with milking honey." I.e., we must recognize the significance and beauty of Eretz Yisrael.

These two concepts: the love Torah and the love of Eretz Yisrael are cornerstones in the lives of Yaakov and Iris, and they strive to inculcate these values in their children.

So, we wish Leon much success. Mazal tov, mazal tov!

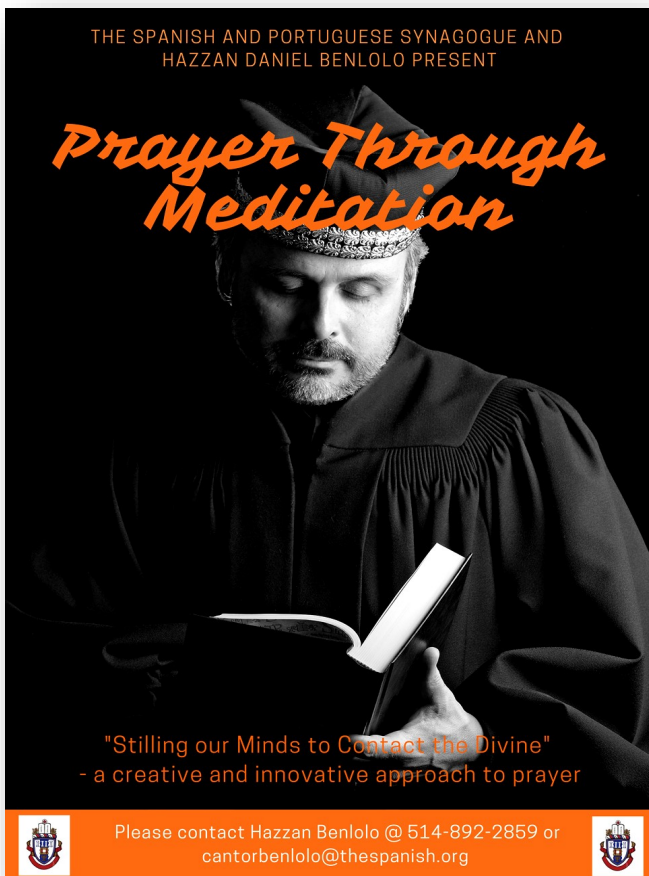
This Shabbat, 18 Tevet, is the yahrzeit of Mrs. Bessie Miller, Chaya Basya Sima bat Tsvi Hirsch. She was for very many years the "first lady" of our shul, when we were located on Bourret and Lavoie, and she inspired her family to do their many wonderful deeds for the community. *yehi zikhrach barukh.*

Shabbat shalom

May the problems of 2020 soon be behind us.

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

Please contact Hazzan Benlolo @ 514-892-2859 or
cantorbenlolo@thespanish.org

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

Sam & Ann Aintabi & Family

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Friends of the Congregation

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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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David & Lyson Haccoun

Gladys Mooallem

Maurice Douek

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Rabbi Howard & Norma Joseph

Jim & Ruth Nabi

UPCOMING EVENTS

A YEAR OF HONOURING RABBI SACKS ZT'L - THE TEN PATHS TO GOD (SERIES)
NEW DATE STARTING MONDAY, JANUARY 4 AT 7:00 P.M.
"IDENTITY: ON BEING A JEW"- Carole Basri, visiting Law Professor & History Scholar, Sami Sourani.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 - 10:00 - 11:00 A.M.

Sisterhood Health Series: Yoga Class with Lisa Shebath - Registration required.
 lisashebath@gmail.com OR sisterhood2020@hotmail.com

JOIN US: SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 - 12:00 NOON - 1:00 P.M.

LIFE AS A JEWISH MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT IN BAHRAIN (SINCE 2010)

Guest Speaker: **H.E. Nancy Dinah Elly Khedouri, politician, business-woman & writer.** Zoom ID 854 3687 7450 - Password 165893

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021 - 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Sisterhood Health Series "Let's Dance" with Silvia Lebensztajn Shahrabani
 Zoom ID: 899 8627 6146 SUPERSIS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

Rosh Hodesh Sh'vat Musical Experience

Rabbi Maimon Pinto & Hazzan Daniel Benlolo

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 - 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Sisterhood Health Series Healthy Mind for the Daily Grind
 Speakers: Dr. Melanie Bilbul & Dr. Sheida Rabipour

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021 - 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Sisterhood: Tu B'Shvat/Shabbat Shirah - Benefits of Music on Body, Mind...
 Guest Speaker Hazzan Daniel Benlolo

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.

Tu B'Shvat Seder Program - with Rabbi Pinto & Hazzan Benlolo

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.

A YEAR OF HONOURING RABBI SACKS ZT'L - THE TEN PATHS TO GOD (SERIES)
"PRAYER: SPEAKING TO GOD"- Cantor Rabbi Daniel Benlolo, Order of Canada; Cantor Eyal Bitton & Michèle Tredger, Cong. Neveh Shalom, Portland, OR.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021 - 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Sisterhood Health Series Healthy Musings on Holistic Wellness
 Speaker: Denise Archambault Nathaniel
 Zoom ID 811 4151 0549 - SUPERSIS



CONGREGATION ☆ MAGHEN ☆ ABRAHAM

THOUGHTS FROM MAYER SASSON ~ "EVERYTHING IS FOR THE GOOD"

"... for it was to preserve life "למחיה" that G-d has sent me before you." (45,5)

The last letters of the words "מרבבה... דוד צה ואדום" spell out "למחיה". Yosef came to hint to them that Hashem who is known as מוֹדֵדִי my beloved - is צה - white - i.e. even if He does things in this world that look אדום - red in the Trait of Judgment - in the end a person thanks G-d for He is - מרבבה. Distinguished among ten thousand and praiseworthy for all His deeds, for everything is done for the good; for G-d does for a person's benefit in order to purify his soul lest there be - רבב stains on it so that it is totally clean and pure.

"...you shall give a fifth unto Pharaoh..." (47,24)

On the verse in the Parsha of Bo "...the manner in which the Children of Israel lived in Egypt had lasted for four hundred and thirty years" all the

interpreters wondered- How could that be? We know that the Children of Israel did not live in Egypt for 430 years.

Torat Chaim says that the Children of Israel really deserved to be in the exile of Egypt for 430 years but it is explained in the Medrash that the difficult enslavement in Egypt was only 86 years - from the day Miriam was born until the day they left Egypt (- and that is why Amram called his daughter Miriam, after the bitterness of the difficult enslavement, as it says "וימררו" - and they embittered their lives with hard labor")

From this we learn that the Children of Israel were in hard enslavement for only 86 years which is one fifth - חמישית - of 430 years and this is what the Torah alludes to in the words "...you shall give a fifth unto Pharaoh..." - Only one fifth (86 years) of the years of exile that were decreed upon Israel (430) were in the enslavement of Pharaoh the King of Egypt.

Shabbat Shalom

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE OFFICE WILL CLOSE THURSDAY, DEC. 31 AT 12 NOON AND WILL REOPEN ON MONDAY, JAN. 4, 2021.

SISTERHOOD NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

JULIA PERESS ROSENFELD ~ LISA PERESS ~ SHANI SEBAG ~ GENE RABIE ~ WILMA MASHAL ~ MICHELE SHERIE
LISA JOY LAWEE ~ NATALIE LAWEE ~ GLENDA LISBONA ~ MARINA MASHAAL ~ EVELYNE BARCHICHAT

SISTERHOOD "SUPER TUESDAY" DONORS (S&P GENERAL DONATIONS FUND)

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Noemie Dupuy Bitton, in memory of her mother, Vivianne Bitton Dupuy z'l.
Dorothy Karkoukly, in memory of her husband, Solly Karkoukly z'l.