



Shearith Israel
SPANISH &
PORTUGUESE
Synagogue of Montreal
Est. 1768

SHABBAT BULLETIN

November 27, 2021 | 23 Kislev 5782



Dear members & Friends
It is my distinct pleasure
to wish you and your loved
ones a very Happy festive
Hanukkah. May this Holiday
of lights bring you and your
family good health, Joy and
Serenity

Warmest regards
Hag Sameyah
Charles Shemie, President

Chers membres & amis
En cette veille de Hanukkah,
je tenais à vous souhaiter
ainsi qu'à vos familles, une
joyeuse célébration de la
fête des Lumières, en santé
et dans la sérénité

Chaleureuses salutations,
Hag Sameyah
Charles Shemie, Président

Parashat Vayeshev

The Silent Message of Hanukah
Par: Rabbin Maimon Pinto

A sage once said that the lights of Hanukkah might be silent, but if we listen very hard, they have something to say. The candles speak in silence, but they are profound. They say the story of our people, resilience and courage, a small light chasing away the darkness. Hanukkah is an annual Jewish holiday that lasts eight days. But it also claims to be the beginning of Western civilization but not the one of Jewish civilization. This one was already ancient during the first Hanukkah in the second century BCE, not the Greek culture, which was also archaic. The encounter of Athens with Jerusalem, which represented the encounter of reason with revelation, began at Hanukkah.

“Man - said an ancient Greek philosopher - is the measure of all things. The Torah disagrees: “The reverence of Hashem is the beginning of wisdom.” So, Who is right? A great debate about G-d and man resides at the very heart of the West. From Sinai to Babylon,

from lions to the Crusaders, from the Wars of Religion in the Age of Enlightenment - and the Revolution, from Stalin to John Paul II, from eugenics to the belief that life is sacred and globalism to respect for individual states - even Israel! - this remains the central question. Athens and Jerusalem are still what they always have been, the enemy twins of Western civilization.

“Hanukkah commemorates a miraculous victory in a war that took place in 167 BCE. A Greco-Macedonian kingdom centred in Syria attempted to ban the Jewish religion in its homeland in Judea and replace it with Hellenic culture. Many Jews supported this goal. But that's no surprise because Hellenism had a considerable appeal.

Hellenism seemed to have it all; a modern, sophisticated and intellectually rewarding. It also offered wealth, health, artistry and glamour. It was the ticket to an imperial civilization. Hellenism provided the opportunity to think BIG.

Judaism was at the opposite end of the scale of values. He was old, small and poor. He didn't have an empire. He had nothing more to offer than faith, confidence, love, and strength. But these things, it turns out, are things the human heart cannot live without them.

And that is precisely how the Hanukkah miracle happened. A small group, burning with faith, comes to conquer an empire.

There is, of course, a rational explanation; there is always one. “The Syrian-Greek state was in decline,” “The Jews had short lines of communication,” “They mastered guerrilla tactics,” “The Greeks were too sure of themselves,” “Judea did not worth the bones of a Macedonian soldier anyway.” If rational explanations are enough for you, take your pick. Perhaps some of our readers are reminded of the six days war when reading these lines. People said and heard all kinds of rationale and excuses, but just like Hanukkah, it was nothing short of a miracle.

Back to Hanukkah. If you think that “the heart has its reasons which reason does not know.” Suppose you feel that there is more in life than moving particles. And if you respect science without devoting worship to it, in short, if you doubt that man is G-d, so marvel at the light of a miracle shining in the dark days of winter.

Light up the night with Hanukkah lights.

Hanukkah Samea'h

features were similar to Jacob's, causing Jacob to have a natural affinity to Joseph.

(2) The verse that says that Jacob favoured Joseph comes immediately after the verse that tells us that Jacob had heard bad reports about the other brothers. In particular, perhaps he was incensed by the report, as recorded by Rashi, that the sons of Leah were making fun of the children of Bilhah and Zilpah (i.e. Dan, Naftali, Gad, Asher.)

(3) Perhaps Jacob felt an affinity to Joseph because, like himself, Joseph was a dreamer. Jacob surely could never forget the dream he had upon fleeing Canaan, the dream of a ladder reaching up to heaven, with angels of G-d ascending and descending. And that dream had come with a divine promise that HaShem would be with him, and return him safely to the land. And it was in a dream that he was informed that it was time for him to return safely home from Lavan.

(4) And, of course, considering all of the “coincidences” that will happen in

the Joseph story, we can say that it was all a divine plan that the family would have to go down to Egypt, and later to escape the Egyptian slavery, receive the Torah, and enter the Land of Israel.

(5) As Rashi points out, Jacob probably felt an affinity for Joseph, since both were hated by their brothers.

(6) ibn Ezra suggested, by careful analysis of the language, that although Joseph acted like a kid in the company of his brothers, he acted maturely, like an adult, in the presence of his father.

(7) The authoritative Aramaic translation, Onkelos, as understood by Rashi, has a tradition that the two had a special intellectual relationship, as they had studied together what Jacob had learned in the academies of Shem and Ever.

....
The story of Joseph is always read around Hanukkah time. First candle is Sunday night. Just like the name Yosef means “to increase,” every day of Hanukkah we increase 1 candle, following the approach of Bet Hillel. Shabbat shalom, and Hanukkah sameah.

SHABBAT SHALOM

Start/Debut End/Fin
3:56 p.m. 5:03

Parashat Vayeshev - Hertz page 141
Haftarah Amos - Hertz page 152

Shabbat Services
Shahrit: 8:30 Mincha: 3:45

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULES

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

Monday - Thursday
Shahrit: 7:30 a.m.
Mincha: 4:00 p.m.
Friday Mincha: 3:54 p.m.

CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

SHABBOS, NOVEMBER 27th
Schachris 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28th
Schachris 8:00 a.m.

BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI WITH RABBI PINTO

Monday through Friday
8:40 a.m. - Hok L'Israel

Dvar Torah
Weekly Debate - Sunday after services
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
8:25 a.m. - Halaka/Talmud
5:45 p.m. - Jewish Wisdom

Dear friends,
I am here for you. Whether you want
to ask a question, consult, learn or
just chat, you can call me on my
mobile (514) 506-3164 or to my email
rabbi@thespanish.org
I am available 24/6.
Shabbat, emergencies only
Rabbi Maimon Pinto

To contact Reverend Hazan
Daniel Benlolo:
cantorbenlolo@thespanish.org
(514) 892-2859



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"A Chanuka miracle would be a
universally accepted way of
spelling Hanukkah."

| Aish HaTorah

OPINION

Chevra Shaas

Words From

Rabbi Menahem White
VAYEISHEV 5782

A question that hits us as soon as we begin reading this parasha is why Jacob favoured Joseph over the other brothers. After all, Jacob certainly knew that as a result of his mother's having favoured him over brother Esau, he had to flee out of the country, to escape Esau's wrath. For when Esau had said "I'm gonna kill you," he really meant it.

Here are some possible answers: 1) The Torah itself gives the reason, that Joseph was a ben zequnim, a "child of Jacob's old age." Of course, we could ask about this (a) was that a sufficient reason to favour Joseph?; and (b) what about Benjamin, who was even younger than Joseph. Perhaps that is why Rashi, (following midrash Bereishis Rabba) explains the word zequnim as meaning that Joseph's

Mazal Tov To



Karine & David Abitbol, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Jacob**.



S&P Shabbat Kiddush is Sponsored by:

Karine & David Abitbol, in honour of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Jacob**.

C.S. Shabbos Kiddush is Sponsored by:

Mary Ruth & Ronnie Gehr and **Anne & Joshua Haimovici**, to honour the birthdays of **Ronnie Gehr** and **Elior & Tehila Haimovici**.

Our Condolences To



Marc Dadouche & Family, on the loss of his mother, **Jeanine Dadouche z'l**.

Congregation Maghen Abraham

Thoughts: *Mayer Sasson* - *PARASHA VAYESHEV*

The process of conquering

“And he refused and said unto his master’s wife....” (39,8)

In the entire Torah the Shalshet reading sign only appears four times:

A. When Lot and his daughters were saved - “וַיִּתְמַהֲמַה” (-and he lingered) (Breishit 19, 16)

B. When Eliezer asked for Rivka - “וַיֹּאמֶר” (-and he said) (ibid 24,12)

C. In our Parsha “וַיִּמָּאֵן” (and he refused)

D. During the seven days of inauguration “וַיִּשְׁחַט” (and he slaughtered) (Vayikra 8, 23)

The Rebbe of Slonim, author of Yesod Haavoda explains this matter and says that these four words have something in common because they symbolize the process wherein a person can conquer his evil inclination with great success. How?

At first a person must “linger” – to consider the matter well and understand what he is facing.

Thereafter “he said” – one must turn in prayers to the Creator that He help him conquer his evil inclination. And if he has done this, he will be able to fulfill “he refused” – to refuse the temptation of his evil inclination.

And thereafter he will even reach the level of “he slaughtered” – slaughtering his evil inclination and nullifying it.

SHABBAT SHALOM!!



COMMUNITY

Jewish Wisdom

Oui, chef!
Rabbi Maimon Pinto

[Joseph] a dit à [ses frères] : « S’il vous plaît, écoutez ce rêve que j’ai fait. »

Les deux rêves de Joseph semblent véhiculer la même idée. La raison de la répétition apparente est qu’ils symbolisent deux étapes distinctes dans la relation entre chaque génération et ses dirigeants.

Les gerbes de céréales sont constituées de tiges individuelles, qui poussent discrètement les unes des autres, chacune dans sa propre rainure. Les lier en gerbes symbolise notre première tâche dans la vie : rassembler toutes nos capacités et nos talents et les unir dans l’œuvre de la sainteté. Une fois que nous sommes devenus une « gerbe », nous devons rechercher les conseils et l’inspiration d’un « Joseph », un chef spirituel.

Au fur et à mesure que nous nous murissons spirituellement, nous atteignons un niveau plus élevé : après nous être élevés au-dessus de la conscience terrestre, nous regagnons la conscience céleste originelle de notre âme et brillons comme une « étoile ». Pourtant, même à ce niveau, nous ne devons pas compter sur nos propres réalisations pour nous inspirer, car cela peut conduire à la stagnation et à la complaisance. Au contraire, nous devons continuer à nous tourner vers notre « Joseph » - c’est-à-dire notre mentor spirituel - pour plus de perspicacité et d’inspiration.

Got A Question for Reverend/Hazan Daniel Benlolo?

Dear Danny: How do we make sense of the attack in Jerusalem this past week?

Everyone knows that Jerusalem is and will always remain a hot spot of contentious debate and a melting pot of religious identity.

Journalist Ilene Prusher writes “This massacre—the latest in a series of attacks linked to the feud over the Temple Mount, or Noble Sanctuary — has already been dubbed by some in the Israeli and Palestinian media the “Jerusalem Intifada” and by others, the “Jerusalem War.”

What do we make of all this? What does the Tanach say?

Genesis 15:18 On that day the L-rd made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates

Joshua 1:2-3 “Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and this entire people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.

Psalms 125:2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore.

Psalms 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! “May they be secure who love you! And the list goes on!

What happened in Jerusalem this week is a crime. Not because we are at war, but because this atrocity occurred in a Place of Worship, a sanctuary, G-d’s sanctuary.

Where can one look for answers? What does G-d promise his people?G-d promises relief from all troubles in the next world, and relief from some troubles in this life. We must remember that we are a people of faith. Throughout the centuries we have witnessed our dramatic deliverances from all manner of troubles and woes. The events of this past week will not deter our determination to stand strong and cling to the words and promises of our One and Only G-d. But we should remain steadfast in times when it seems that we aren’t relieved by G-d. We must prepare ourselves to endure. The answer is the help we pray for. Sometimes the answer is “Lean on me, and you will survive and thrive.” Today more than ever, we must lean on each other as a community and as a people!

Psalms 73:25-26 Remember your promise to me, for it is my only hope. Your promise revives me; it comforts me in all my troubles.

Psalms 119:50 The L-RD is my shepherd; I have everything I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

Until next time...

PARNASS HAYOM BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI

Shabbat 23 Kislev - November 27
Vivienne & Samuel Kairy, à la mémoire de sa mère, **Esther Israel ז"ל**.

Famille Dadoun, à la mémoire de leurs père, **Prosper Samuel Dadoun ז"ל**.

Sunday 24 Kislev - November 28
Famille Ifergan, à la mémoire de leur père, **Henri Ifergan ז"ל**.

Khamara Family, in memory of **Edmond Khamara ז"ל**.

Cantor Rabbi Yehuda Abittan, in honour of his **Aliyah to Israel**.

Monday/Lundi 25 Kislev - November 29
Famille Gozlan, à la mémoire de leur père, **Isaac Gozlan ז"ל**.

Tuesday/Mardi 26 Kislev - November 30
Albert & Gabriel Benizri; Dody & David Hasson, à la mémoire de leur mère, **Fréha Benizri ז"ל**.

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

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

Wednesday/Mercredi 27 Kislev - December 1
Albert Mann, en l’honneur de ses enfants et petits-enfants.

Thursday/Jeudi 28 Kislev - December 2
Albert & Jimmy Levy, en l’honneur de leurs enfants.

Friday/Vendredi 29 Kislev - December 3
Sehayek Family, in memory of their mother, **Farah Sehayek ז"ל**.

Upcoming Events



Tuesday, November 30 | 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Annual Commemoration-Displacement of Jews from Arab Lands
In-person & via zoom - registration required
www.thespanish.org Must present vaccination passport at the door



Thursday, December 1 | 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
253rd Annual General Meeting - You are cordially invited to join our President, Officers and Board of Trustees.
For in-person attendance, proof of double vaccination is required. Registration is mandatory for in-person & virtual attendance: www.thespanish.org.



Sunday, December 5 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm
Jewish Women Today - featuring Layers; Personal Narratives of Struggle, Resilience, and Growth From Jewish Women
3-series event, featuring the author, **Shira Lankin Sheps**
Rabbi Pinto Zoom ID 526 438 1158



Sunday, December 5 | 4:00 - 6:00 pm
SPY Hanukkah Party - Young families & kids ages 3 - 8 are invited to celebrate Hanukkah with the Clergy & the shinshinim
Register online www.thespanish.org by December 1
Vaccination passport for adults are mandatory



Tuesday, December 7 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm
Sisterhood Book Review: The Dark Flood Rises - By Margaret Drabble Reviewed by: Vicky Shemie

Zoom ID 895 2182 1866 - Password: SISBOOK



Sunday, December 12 | 11:00 - 1:00 pm
In Commemoration of Rabbi Howard S. Joseph zt”l
Please join Dr. Norma Joseph, Rabbi Joshua Joseph and Ami Joseph in a lively discussion on the Rabbi’s legacy & approach to Judaism in this era
In person & via zoom - more information to follow



Sunday, December 12 | 7:00 - 8:00 pm - save the date
JPL in collaboration with S&P present
A Glimmer of Light - A Tribute to Jewish Composers
Virtual pop music concert with our Hazan Daniel Benlolo
Registration required - www.thespanish.org



Tuesday, January 11 | 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Improve your Arabic. First of many Tuesday night sessions
Registration required: sisterhood2020@hotmail.com OR Grace at (514) 979-9779
Meeting ID: 88110571315 Passcode: SUPERSIS