



Shearith Israel  
SPANISH &  
PORTUGUESE  
Synagogue of Montreal  
Est. 1768

# SHABBAT BULLETIN

April 30, 2022 | 29 Nissan, 5782



## Aharei Mot

YOM HASHOAH & YOM HA'ATZMAUT  
Michael Benlolo

An hour, a day, a week, a month, a year, - even a lifetime - is not enough time to stand before you and begin to tell you - what my eyes have wit-



nessed - and how my life has been changed forever. Let alone the 2 minutes I have been given to stand before you this evening.

How can one even scratch the surface or begin to understand the scope of the Holocaust. How can one try to explain the darkness and the abyss of Auschwitz, the vivid cries of the souls from the depth of Treblinka and the hollowing

sounds of majdanek.

- Tonight - I stand before you as a witness.
- One who has walked the same road many have walked -but never came back.
- One who has walked the tracks on which trainloads of men, women and children were treated as animals - only to be killed as one.

But within all this madness, - I have found a ray of hope.

Hope in the eyes of Lillian and Max. Hidden children of the Holocaust no more, because this time I was there with them, this time I held their hand, this time they were not alone, cold and hungry. I will forever be indebted to Max for waking me up in the middle of the night during our flight back to bare his soul to me, as he needed someone to talk to. I recorded everything so my children can also bare witness!

This time not only did I live through their pain and anguish, but I also shared in their dreams.

Max finally celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on top of Masada - that was a dream. Lillian dancing in the streets of Jerusalem on Yom Ha'atzmaut - that was a dream.

It is these dreams that will keep the Jewish soul alive. It is these dreams that will ensure a brighter tomorrow for generations to come.

Now, I stand before you and pledge my undying commitment to never forget the past - but I also pledge my unending commitment to ensure Jewish continuity.



Am Yisrael Chai

*continued in "Dear Danny"*

### OPINION

## Chevra Shaas

Words From  
Rabbi Menahem White  
AHAREI MOT 5782

First of all, in the name of Chevra Shaas, we send our condolences to Ron Mashaal on the loss of his father; and to Rev. Hazzan Benlolo, on the loss of his sister. May their memories be for a blessing. *min ha-shamayim tenuhamu!*  
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This past Thursday, 27 Nisan according to the Jewish calendar, was Yom Ha-Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. Is there a connection to Pesach (15-22 Nisan)?

Well, yes. For the Passover story begins with Pharaoh decreeing that all Israelite baby boys should be killed. A great role model for the Nazis *ym"sh*. But there might be something even more.

Towards the beginning of the hagada,

we refer to the words arami 'oved 'avi, from the Book of Deuteronomy. Those words are usually translated "my father was a wandering Aramaean," referring either to Abraham or to Jacob. Yet the ancient and authoritative Aramaic translation, known as Targum Onqelos, translates "Lavan the Aramaean wanted **to destroy** my father [Jacob.] And it is obvious that the author of the hagadah follows the approach of Onqelos, for we recite towards the beginning of the hagada, "Go and learn, what Lavan the Aramaean intended to do to our father Jacob. For Pharaoh decreed the destruction of only the males, whereas Lavan wanted to root out the whole nation."

What!!!!? Whom did he want to eradicate? Besides Jacob, he would have destroyed his 2 daughters, and his 12 grandchildren (11 boys, 1 girl: Benjamin hadn't been born yet.) Why was he so mad at Jacob? Well, Jacob had been working for him as a shepherd. It seems that Jacob had been extremely successful as a breeder. Finally, Jacob, with full

agreement of his wives, runs away, together with his wives and children.

What did Lavan say? "the girls (i.e. the wives) are MINE, the children are MY children, the sheep are MY sheep, and whatever you see is MINE. And I would have harmed you, had I not had a dream in which your God told me not to harm you."

According to this interpretation, Lavan is the role model for antisemites throughout history. Persecuted Jews come into a land (as Jacob was running from Esau,) become very successful, bring wealth and culture into their adopted country, and then are despised for their success.

And that's why we say in the hagadah: "in every generation they try to destroy us, but the Holy One Blessed be He saves us from them." And that's why we appreciate the great miracle of 5 iyyar, coming this week!!

Shabbat shalom, and  
Yom Ha` atzma'ut sameah.

### SHABBAT SHALOM

Start/Debut      End/Fin  
7:40 p.m.      8:50 p.m.

**PARASHAT AHAREI MOT:**  
HERTZ PAGE 480  
**HAFTARAH SAMUEL:**  
HERTZ PAGE 948

#### ROSH HODESH IYAR

SUNDAY/DIMANCHE MAY 1 MAI  
MONDAY/LUNDI MAY 2 MAI

#### WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

**Shabbat**  
Shahrit: 8:30 a.m. Minha: 7:30 p.m.  
**Sunday**  
Shahrit: 8:30 a.m. Minha: 6:00 p.m.

**MONDAY - THURSDAY**  
Shahrit: 7:30 a.m.  
Minha: 6:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY**  
Shahrit 7:30 a.m - Minha 6:30 p.m.

#### CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

SHABBOS, APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>  
Schachris 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>  
Schachris 8:00 a.m.

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



### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Weak people revenge, strong  
people forgive, intelligent people  
ignore.

| Aish HaTorah



## Our Condolences To

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**Ron & Sandra Mashaal, Cathy & Richard Collis, Debbie & Gilles Mosseri, Lisa & Mitchell Steinberg & Families,** on the loss of their father, grandfather & great grandfather, **Salim Mashaal z'l.**
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**Morris & Evette Mashaal, the late Fouad Mashaal & Danielle Mashaal Albert & Sandy Mashaal, Victor & Edna Mashaal, Sue & Kamal Gabbay, Emile & Myriam Mashaal & Families,** on the loss of brother & brother-in-law, **Salim Mashaal z'l.**
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**Audrey & Morrie Hotter,** on the loss of his mother, **Mireille Hotter z'l.**
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**Reverend/Hazzan Daniel & Muriel Benlolo,** on the loss of his sister, **Yvonne Simcha Acoca z'l.**

## Jewish Wisdom

Yom Ha'Atzmaut  
Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo

There is a wide variety of ways in which Jewish communities religiously commemorate Israel's Independence Day, many involving special prayers for the day. The following article from 'My Jewish Learning' surveys some customs that have developed since the founding of the state in 1948.

While not widely adopted in the Diaspora, special liturgies [of Yom Ha'atzmaut] are fairly common in Israel, where government leaders regularly attend the festive prayer services. The one for the evening, designed by Israel's Chief Rabbinate in 1949, begins with psalms of thanksgiving (Psalms 107, 97, 98) and ends with a single blast of a shofar and a prayer that as we have witnessed the beginning of redemption, we will also merit hearing the shofar announcing the messiah.

Some also read the Torah (Deuteronomy 7:1-8:18, describing what would happen after the Israelites entered the Land, or Deuteronomy 30:1-10, about being returned to the Land after exile and misfortune). A prayer for the welfare of the State of Israel, one in memory of those fallen, prayers for Jerusalem, and a Zion Lover's Prayer have also been added to services, along with the song expressing belief in the coming of the messiah, "Ani Ma' amin.

Communities around the world have added their own touches. An announcement of the number of years since the establishment of the state prior to sounding the shofar at the evening service is modeled on the Yemenite Tisha B'Av custom of proclaiming the number of years since the destruction of the Temple.

A *Tikkun L 'Yom Ha'atzmaut*, an anthology of readings and prayers (parts of *Kabbalat Shabbat*, *Shema*, *Leshanah Haba B'Yerusha'ayim*, *Shir Hama' alot*-perhaps sung to the tune of Israel's national anthem-and *Ani Ma'amin*), is used by some Moroccan and other congregations for Arvit and Shacharit.

Excerpted with permission from *Celebrate!* The Complete Jewish Holiday Handbook (Jason Aronson Inc.)

## Congregation Maghen Abraham

Thoughts: Mayer Sasson - ACHAREI MOT - SHABBAT MEVARCHIM

"Clinging to G-d"

"And G-d spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aharon; it was in their coming near before G-d..."

In one verse the Torah mentions "after the death of the two sons of Aharon" and immediately thereafter goes into the details of Laws pertaining to the Service of the Cohen Gadol on Yom Kippur. The holy Or Hachaim asks: The Torah described the death of Aharon's sons in great detail in the Parsha of Shmini and it said they "offered strange fire before G-d". What does the Torah want to teach us in this verse?

We know that the Rabbis said that Nadav and Avihu - why were they hit by a divine fire? Be-

cause they had drunk, they were not married, they stated the Law before their teacher, they offered a strange fire that G-d had not ordered - and there are other things said about them. G-d forbid, they committed so many sins? One was not enough? This shows that all the things mentioned were not enough of a justification for them to die and their death is not explained.

The holy Or Hachaim says that in this Parsha the Torah reveals to us why they died. And this explains the words "by them that are near to Me will I be sanctified". How did Moshe Rabeinu console Aharon HaCohen? Moshe said - "Now I remember that G-d told me con-

cerning the work in the Mishkan, he said "by them that are near to Me will I be sanctified". On that day the Divine Presences will dwell in Israel, the Mishkan will be built - by them that are near to me will I be sanctified. And I thought - who are those that are near to G-d? Either you or me. And now I see that they are greater than me and you. "By them that are near to Me will I be sanctified."

The holy Or Hachaim says that the righteous always day with "kiss of death". Not through the Angel of Death, not from external reasons of This World.

continued on our website  
[www.thespanish.org](http://www.thespanish.org)

## Yom Hazikaron & Yom Ha'atzmaut Reverend/Hazan Daniel Benlolo?



## PARNASS HAYOM BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI

SHABBAT 29 NISSAN - APRIL 30

Nussbaum Family, in memory of their father, Jerry Nussbaum ז"ל.

Max Myara, à la mémoire de sa mère, Saada Myara ז"ל.

Sam Abdou, in memory of his sister, Rachel Abdoo ז"ל.

SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 30 NISSAN - MAY 1

Fred Twik, in memory of his wife, Esther Martha Bracha bat Sarah ז"ל.

MONDAY/LUNDI 1 IYAR - MAY 2

Penina & Claude Helwani, in honour of their granddaughter, Cara Chaya Helwani.

Sam Abdou, in memory of his father, Khadouri Abdoo ז"ל.

Khamara Family, in memory of Violet Khamara ז"ל.

TUESDAY/MARDI 2 IYAR - MAY 3

Famille Romano, à la mémoire leur père, Miro Romano ז"ל.

Max Saad, à la mémoire de sa mère, Rosa Saad ז"ל.

Michel Dahan, à la mémoire son grand-père, Mayer Dahan ז"ל.

WEDNESDAY/MERcredi 3 IYAR - MAY 4

Evette Mashaal, in memory of her father, Naji Menashi Shahin ז"ל.

Linda Bilbul Family, in memory of Hanuka Bilbul ז"ל.

THURSDAY/JEUDI 4 IYAR - MAY 5

Leila Khamara Family, in recognition of their support & generosity to BH & S&P.

Famille Moryoussef, à la mémoire de leur mère, Hassiba Shirley bat Esther ז"ל.

FRIDAY/VENDREDI 5 IYAR - MAY 6

Rouben Family, in memory of their mother, Leah Rouben ז"ל.

### THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

"Passport to Learning" was a very successful program! A big thank you goes to our instructor *Rachel Gabbay*, who did an amazing job! Thank you also to the following donors for their generosity towards our program: **Jason Fattal ~ Lily Bilbul ~ Evette Mashaal.**

### Shavuot Night Of Study



This year again, we are hard at work preparing for the traditional Shavuot night of study, with engaging guest speakers. This event will take place on **June 4<sup>th</sup> , 10:00 p.m.**, if covid restrictions remain the same. We will keep you informed of the program and in the meantime, Save the Date.



**Shabbat, May 7  
8:30A.M. - 2:00P.M.**

Help us raise awareness and break the stigma surrounding Mental Health this week.

Join us for Shabbat morning services. Dvar Torah by *Reverend Benlolo*, followed by Shabbat kiddush & Guest Speaker, *Dr. Howard Margolese.*

## Upcoming Events



**Sunday, May 1 | 11:00A - 12:30P**

The Covenantal Zionism of Menachem Begin  
Join us for a pre-recorded lecture by Rabbi Meit Soloveichik with the Tikvah Fund from the learning series entitled Jewish Political Greatness, Studies in Statemanship.  
Intro: Rev. Benlolo | Panelist: Ariela Cotler | Moderator: Sandra Koukou. - Zoom ID: 914 650 9809 no pw required.



**Tuesday, May 3 | 10:00 - 11:00 A.M.**

**WLG: Yom Ha'Atzmaout 5782** - Hosted by Rabbi Schachar Orenstein, with honorary guest, Hon. Paul Hirschson, Consul General of Israel. Also featuring CSL Mayer Mitchell Brownstein, MP Anthony Housefather, MNA David Birnbaum, Cantor Eyal Bitton & Michèle Tredger & Rev.Hazan Daniel Benlolo.  
Zoom ID 880 6752 6532 PC WLG2022  
To Reserve or Donate: (514)737-3695 x101.



**Tuesdays, May 3 | 7:00 - 8:00 pm**

Improve your Arabic. Join our Tuesday night sessions  
Registration required: sisterhood2020@hotmail.com OR Grace at (514) 979-9779  
Meeting ID: 881 1057 1315 Passcode: SUPERSIS



**Thursday, May 5 | 7:30 - 9:00 P.M. est**

Mental Health Symposium - Featuring a panel of speakers: Dr. Rachel Goodman, moderator - Rabbi Yechezkel Freundlich, Cong. Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem - Barbara Victor, Chief Clinical Officer, Ometz \_ Diana Verrall, AMI-Quebec and Keynote Speaker: Dr. Howard Margolese.



**Sunday, May 8 | 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

Mental Health Morning  
**10:00 - 11:00 AM est | Hillel Fuld**  
How technology can bring mental health to the forefront.  
**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM est - Dr. Norman Blumenthal**  
Is it all bad: The upside of depression.



**Wednesday, May 11 | 12:00 - 1:15 P.M.**

Come join our network of entrepreneurs & professionals to learn, share & grow!  
**Speakers: Jonathan Raymond & Angie Hall - HSBC**  
Topic: Sustainable financing.  
Intro: Ron Reuben - Medicom  
Zoom ID: 664 017 2841