



Shearith Israel
**SPANISH &
PORTUGUESE**
Synagogue of Montreal
Est. 1768

SHABBAT BULLETIN

August 20, 2022 | 23 Av, 5782



Dvar Torah

EKEV
BY: REVEREND/HAZAN DANIEL BENLOLO

This week's Parasha of Ekev encompasses one of the most important passages in the Torah, a section of the Shema. This passage is found in our holiest of objects such as the Mezuzot that adorn our homes and our gates and the Tefilin that we wear proudly when praying to G-d. We are all obligated to recite the Shema and feel its power in every word. Men, women, and children alike. In this column I decided to bring back to life an important moment in the life of 5 special women who took part in celebrating their Bat Mitzvah. It is and continues to be a right of Passage for every Jew.

Five Hillel Lodge residents celebrate a Bat mitzvah.

By Alana Belfer.



Pictured left to right: Hillel Lodge Bnot Mitzvah celebrants Flory Benbaruk, Anne Bokhaut Koffman, Shirley Weiner, Helen Trachtenberg and Bernice Seward, stand together beneath the Tallit.

Five residents of the Bess and Moe Greenberg family Hillel Lodge in Ottawa have proven it's never too late to have a Bat Mitzvah. Friends, family and community leaders gathered at the lodges Abraham and Dara Lithwick chapel, May 22, to watch Bernice Seward, Helen Trachtenberg, Shirley Winer, Anne Bokhaut Koffman and Flory Benbaruk, all aged between 79 and 91, become as Seward put it, "official Jewish women."

Cantor Daniel Benlolo led the ceremony after working with the "B'not mitzvah" participants for 5 to 6 months to prepare for the occasion. It was the third time in 11 years he has helped put together a Bat Mitzvah ceremony for the Lodge residents.

The Bnot Mitzvah participants read a Bat Mitzvah prayer and the Shema. They also recited prayers for the welfare of the state of Israel and the government of Canada. Each woman read a psalm, which she had personally selected. Trachtenberg chose to recite hers in Yiddish, while Benbaruk who is originally from Casablanca, Morocco, recited hers in French. Benbaruk also sang "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav" following an introduction in which Cantor Benlolo called her voice "exceptionally beautiful".

The women then participated

in a candle lighting ceremony and gave their Bat Mitzvah speeches. "It is a bit ironic for children to attend their mothers Bat Mitzvah", Trachtenberg noted. Her daughter came from Nova Scotia for the event. Her son and grandson also attended this special milestone. Trachtenberg was born in Poland and lost her "nearest and dearest family" during the holocaust. She survived by enduring starvation, illness, and dangerous living conditions in Siberia. She came to Canada in 1960, but after only one year, her husband died of a heart attack at 42. "As you can see my life wasn't a happy one, but I'm still living and I am having a Bat Mitzvah at 91, Trachtenberg said, "I am not a very religious person, but I felt a spiritual change come over me, I feel like a 12 year old bat mitzvah girl".

After the Bnot Mitzvah were blessed by Cantor Benlolo with a Tallit held over their heads, the ceremony concluded with a performance of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah by the Tamir Neshama Choir conducted by Benlolo. During the reception in the large lobby following the ceremony attendees congratulated the five Bat Mitzvah girls with chants of Siman Tov and danced to the sound of Klezmer music from a Touch of Klez.

Shabbat shalom

<https://youtu.be/vj49dhoNOP4>

SHABBAT SHALOM

Start/Debut 7:37 p.m. End/Fin 8:41 p.m.

PARASHAT EKEV
HERTZ PAGE 780

HAFTARAH ISAIAH:
HERTZ PAGE 794

WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Shabbat

Shahrit: 8:30A Minha: 7:35P

Sunday

Shahrit: 8:30A Minha: 6:00P

MONDAY - FRIDAY

Shahrit: 7:30A Minha: 6:00P

CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

SHABBOS, August 20TH
Schachris 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, August 21TH
Schachris 8:00 a.m.

HIGH HOLIDAYS SEATS

Please call the office
(514) 737-3695
to reserve your seats as
soon as possible.

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

Our Condolences To



**The Romano Family, on the
loss of Elie Romano z'l.**



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Don't tell God how big your
problems are -- tell your
problems how big God is.

| Aish HaTorah

OPINION

Chevra Shaas

Words From
Rabbi Menahem White
EIQEV 5782

I wrote about this incident 2 years ago. As it is a personal story that is very meaningful to me, I am taking the liberty of repeating it this year:

Many years ago, I had the privilege of taking my family on a year's sabbatical in Jerusalem. We left Montreal on a Wednesday evening, via El Al, when it was still offering direct flights. On the flight, I met an old friend from my home town Boston, who was traveling via Montreal, and bringing with him a Sefer Torah, to be used in a Jerusalem shul. My friend and I were traveling tourist class, but El Al gave the Torah

the honour of being stored in First Class.

Thursday morning, as the plane was approaching Israel, a minyan was formed for shaharit, and after considerable pleading with the steward, he let us use the Torah. [As you know, on Thursday morning we read the first aliya of the parasha.] It seems that it was not common practice on El Al to read the Torah.

Actually, we would never have been allowed to do it, were it not for the fact that one of the minyan people was a writer for an Israeli newspaper, and promised the steward that he would write a glowing article about El Al if we were given permission.

Someone asked if anyone knew how to read the Torah, so I volunteered. It happened to be this week's parasha: 'eiqev. As I came to the last few verses,

I was overcome with emotion: I'm thinking to myself: here we are, just about to land in Israel and I am reading: "For HaShem your G-d is binging you to a good land ...a land of wheat and barley and figs and pomegranates and olives and dates .. a land where you will not be lacking anything...and you will eat and be satisfied, and bless HaShem your G-d for the good land which he has given you."

As I said, reading these words, and realizing that I was about to arrive with my wife and children in that land, was an overwhelming thought. Indeed, the reporter wrote how I read those words with "great emotion."

May HaShem watch over the land and its inhabitants, and protect them from illnesses, and from their enemies.

Shabbat shalom



S.&P. Shabbat Kiddush is Sponsored by:

Françoise & Joseph Hatchuel, on the birth of their grandson, **David Leon Jacques Leitner** and the naming of **Myriam Norah Katy Françoise Leitner**, who was born Nov. 15, 2019 but was not able to be named in synagogue because of Covid restrictions - children of **Donna & Yonathan Leitner**. Grandchildren of **Esther & Shmuel Leitner** and **Ruth & Joseph Hatchuel**.

S.&P. Seudah Shlishit is Co-Sponsored by:

Jocelyn & Joseph Dana, in memory of his mother, **Marie Dana z'l**. **Ruth & Aaron Revah**, in memory of his father, **Moshe Ravah z'l**.

C.S. Shabbos Kiddush is Sponsored by:

Rabbi Menahem White, in honour of his special Birthday.

Mazal Tov To



Grandparents, **Andrée & Selim Sasson** and **Gracie Dallal & the late Samir Tricot** and the late **Rose & Albert Rutman** and the late **Esther & Reuben Brown** and proud parents, **Beverley & Joe Sasson** and **Sondra & Jason Brown**, on the upcoming wedding of their children, **Nicole Sasson & Shael Brown**.



Great grandparents, **Andrée & Selim Sasson** and **Gracie Dallal & the late Samir Tricot** and **Myriam & Moises Botner** and the late **Teresa & Maximilliano Nachtigall** and grandparents, **Beverley & Joe Sasson** and **Alicia & Edgardo Nachtigall** and proud parents, **Nadia & Mark Sasson**, on the birth of their **Baby Girl**.

COMMUNITY

Congregation Maghen Abraham

Thoughts: Mayer Sasson

PERASHA EKEV

"And it shall come to pass as the consequences of your hearing these legal maxims and carefully carrying them out that G-d your G-d will keep the covenant and the love..." (7,12)

"You Shlomo may have the thousand" (Shir Hashirim)

Gavriel and Chana were married for twenty five years and did not yet merit to have children, but Gavriel, who was a chassid of the Baal Hatanya accepted his state happily and never complained to the Rebbi about his situation.

Gavriel used to give respectable amounts to charity. In one of his visits by the Baal Hatanya the Rebbi asked for a large sum for the mitzvah of redeeming captives, but this time his financial situation was very bad and he did not know how he would be able to obtain the desired amount. He went home downheartedly and sadly told his wife about the amount the Rebbi had asked for.

"Don't worry! Certainly G-d will help and we will be able to contribute this amount that the Rebbi asked for" the wife said. She took several pieces of her jewelry, sold them and brought the entire amount to her husband in a closed bundle. She suggested that he go immediately to the Rebbi to give him the desired amount.

Gavriel came to the Rebbi and immediately upon entering for a private conversation, he put the bundle on the table. The Rebbi was pleased to see him and opened the bundle in his presence. On the table sparkling coins piled up as if they had just came out of the mint. The Rebbi said to Gavriel, "In the contributions given for the Mishkan

the only thing that shone were the mirrors that the women had used in Egypt. The contributed the mirrors for the Mishkan and from them the Laver and its Pedestal. The Laver was the place where they began the Service in the Mishkan. And where did this money come from?"

Gavriel told the Rebbi all that he had undergone recently and about his financial situation. He also told him that when he told his wife about the sum the Rebbi had asked for, she sold her jewelry without telling him and encouraged him to bring the Rebbi quickly to the Rebbi. The Rebbi raised his head and said, "The decree is cancelled! G-d will give and give again to you and your wife sons and daughters and longevity to see generations upon generations. May G-d give you success in all your endeavors and prosperity and may you find favor in the eyes of all who see you."

The chassid went home happily and told his wife what the Rebbi had said and about the blessing he gave them. "But tell me"- he said – "how did the coins shine so much?"

"When I received the coins", the wife answered, "I thought that the contribution should be perfect. I rubbed the coins with sand until they shone and sparkled. In my heart I prayed that G-d should have mercy on us and that the Rebbi in his holiness should bless us that our luck should also shine and sparkle."

A year later Gavriel and his wife merited the birth of their oldest son. Gavriel and Chana experienced success in all their endeavors and Gavriel always made sure to tell everyone that his success was only in the merit of the innocent faith of his wife Chana. Shabbat Shalom!!

Got a Question for Reverend/Hazan Daniel Benlolo?

Dear Danny,
What Does Tzitzit Mean?

The word tzitzit (צִיצִית) is literally defined as “fringes,” and refers to the strings attached to the corners of the tallit, the Jewish prayer shawl. It also refers to the poncho-like mini-tallit that is worn throughout the day, often under a shirt. Here's how the mini-tallit came to be.

Tzitzit: The Mini-Tallit
G-d commanded the Jewish people to affix fringes to the corners of their clothing so that they would constantly remember Him and His commandments.1 At that time, the common garment was a simple sheet of cloth, and the mitzvah was to affix fringes to each of its four corners. But styles changed over the centuries, and the simple garments of biblical times were replaced with robes, jackets, trousers, and shirts. What would happen to the tallit? Jewish men then began to fulfill the mitzvah in the following two ways:

- a) During prayer, we drape ourselves in a tallit gadol (“big tallit”), which has essentially remained the same since ancient times. (Read about the Tallit here.)
- b) We wear a little poncho called a tzitzit, tallit katan (“small tallit”), or arba kanfot (“four corners”). For most of us, it fits neatly under a shirt.

Tzitzit: The Tassels
The fringes attached to the tallit of either size are called tzitzit. They are almost always made of white wool and must be spun with the sacred intention that they be used for the mitzvah. So, if you need to replace a snapped thread, make sure that you purchase special tzitzit threads.

The strings must be tied onto the garment, so a ready-made tassel that is sewn or clipped into place is invalid, as would be certain repairs done to an existing tassel that has torn.2

On each corner, four threads are threaded through a hole and looped over, so that there are eight strings hanging down. A series of double knots and coils then join the first few inches of each corner's tassel into a single cord. The remainder of the eight threads are then free to hang down.

What the Tzitzit Mean
The eight strings and five knots are a physical representation of the Torah's 613 mitzvahs. It works like this: Each letter in the Hebrew alphabet has a corresponding numerical value (gematria). The numerical values of the five letters that comprise the Hebrew word tzitzit add up to 600. Add the eight strings and five knots of each tassel, and the total is 613.

Shabbat shalom

Jewish Wisdom

SHOWING RESPECT TO BREAD
HALACHA YOMIT

Question: Our custom is that on Shabbat, after the head of the household slices the bread, in order to distribute the bread among the many guests, he throws a piece to everyone around the table. Is this custom halachically correct?

Answer: The Gemara (Berachot 46a) states that regarding the blessing on the bread made on Shabbat, the head of the household should not honor anyone else with reciting this blessing; rather, he should do so himself, break the bread, and give it out to everyone seated at the

table. The reason for this is in order for him to give out generous pieces, about the size of an olive's volume, to all those seated. (The holy Zohar, Parashat Ekev, discusses another reason for this based on Kabbalah). Thus, the custom that the head of the household slices the bread and gives out to everyone is indeed a fine custom. This is the prevalent custom throughout the Jewish nation.

We must now discuss the fact that the head of the household throws a piece to everyone seated at the table. Indeed, Tosafot (Berachot 50b) state that throwing bread is forbidden, even when the bread will not get ruined as a result, for bread retains a unique stringency and must be treated with respect;

throwing it is certainly disrespectful. Several other Rishonim rule accordingly.

On the other hand, the Rashba quotes Rav Hai Gaon who rules leniently regarding throwing bread if does not get ruined as a result, just as it is permissible to throw other foods that do not get ruined (like throwing wrapped candies at a joyous event). This is not considered disrespecting the bread. Halachically speaking, Maran Ha'Shulchan Aruch (Chapter 171) rules that bread may not be thrown from one place to another, even if it will not get ruined as a result, since throwing is considered extremely disrespectful, even more so that other usages of bread. It goes without saying that we follow the ruling of the Shulchan Aruch.

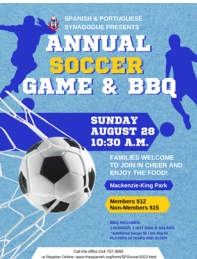
Nevertheless, there were great Chassidic Rebbes who would customarily throw pieces of bread to those assembled, especially when the table was very long.

The are several Acharonim who have supported this custom. Indeed, Hagaon Harav Chaim of Sanz (in his notes) writes that since this is permissible according to the majority of Rishonim and this is the prevalent custom, there is room for leniency. However, even he writes that one should abstain from throwing the bread wherever possible.

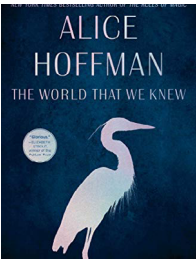
This is especially true regarding the bread upon which the blessing is recited on Shabbat about which the Peri Megadim (quoted by Mishnah Berura, Chapter 197, Subsection 88) states that according to all opinions, it may not be thrown, for this is considered degrading to the Mitzvah. It is therefore appropriate that every G-d-fearing person abstain from throwing the bread at the Shabbat table, for this stands in contrast with the simple understanding of the words of the Poskim (especially since degrading bread can cause poverty, G-d-forbid).

Shabbat shalom

Upcoming Events



SUNDAY, AUGUST 28 | 10:30A - 2:00P
S&P ANNUAL SOCCER GAME & BBQ - Mackenzie Park
Players 14 years & older, *please register* to be on a team:
www.thespanish.org/form/SPSoccer2022.html
All Families and Friends are welcome to come cheer and enjoy the outdoors!
Members \$12 - Non-members \$15
BBQ includes: 1 burger, 1 hot dog & salads



TUESDAY, SEPT. 13 | 2:30P - 4:00P
IN THE GARDEN IN HAMPSTEAD
SISTERHOOD BOOK REVIEW: "THE WORLD THAT WE KNEW"
By: ALICE HOFFMAN - REVIEWER TO BE ADVISED.
RSVP: sisterhood2020@hotmail.com - we will provided you with the address.
FREE FOR SISTERHOOD MEMBERS & \$5 NON-MEMBERS

PARNASS HAYOM
BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI

SHABBAT 23 AV - AUGUST 20 AOÛT
Mr. & Mrs. Marcel Menda, en honneur de Rabbin Yehuda Abittan.

WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI 27 AV - AUG. 24 AOÛT
Joseph Ovadia & Family, in memory of his mother, Marcelle Ovadia ז"ל.

THURSDAY/JEUDI 28 AV - AUG. 25 AOÛT
Daniel Children & Families, in memory of Katy Daniel ז"ל.
Rabie Family, in memory of their mother, Noor Rabie ז"ל.
Alfred & Martha Lawee, in memory of Muzly Lawee ז"ל.

Khazzam, Lawee & Meer Families, in memory of Muzly Lawee ז"ל.
Armand Afilalo, à la mémoire de son père, Henri Afilalo ז"ל.
Famille Dana, à la mémoire de sa mère, Marie Dana ז"ל.

FRIDAY/VENDREDI 29 AV - AUG. 26 AOÛT
Famille Elbaz, à la mémoire de leur mère, Estrella Elbaz ז"ל.