



Shearith Israel  
SPANISH &  
PORTUGUESE  
Synagogue of Montreal  
Est. 1768

# SHABBAT BULLETIN

February 26, 2022 | 25 Adar I, 5782



## Parashat Vayakhel

*Parashat Vayakhel*  
*Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo*

Why do people take on selfless and at times thankless tasks?

Sometimes it's a parent who is so devoted to his or her child to the point where they don't have any time for their own lives.

Sometimes it's a child with an elderly parent who's absolutely devoted in doing everything they can for them. Very often it's people who chose professions, like soldiers, firemen and policemen who put their lives in the line of fire to protect the rest of us.

And very often it's people who volunteer, volunteer their precious time on Boards and committees to brighten and enrich our religious and spiritual existence. Take the installation of a Shul president for example and what allegorical connection can one make? After some contemplation here is what I came up with. A Shul president is like installing a washing machine – it takes more than one person to do the job - and it ought to last 10 years at the very least! Got the drift Charles?

So, the question is why do people

choose thankless tasks, jobs, where does all this selflessness come from?

In actuality love and selflessness is a bit of a riddle. Charles Darwin, when outlining the theory of evolution had a great intellectual problem with absolute and selfless love.

He could not understand how certain beings can give so much of their lives for others. This seems to run counter to the survival of the fittest. This is off course a riddle for evolutionary scientists it's not for me to resolve. But it is a question that I have to resolve on a religious level.

How is it that people can be selfless? Where does that come from?

Perhaps Maimonides explains it best by distilling what are the most profound thoughts in Judaism. The idea of serving from love!

He says a person who serves G-d in his or her community out of love does so not because he or she will receive any reward or merit in this world or the world to come, rather Maimonides says; a person who serves out of love does what is right because it is the right thing to do. Ose Haemet mipnei shehu emet. This is a profound idea. Somewhere deep down in our soul, we know we should be doing the right thing. And because of that powerful spiritual instinct, we are willing

to give of ourselves and sacrifice precious time to help others and in the service of a higher cause. John Stewart Mill said "that even when we pursue happiness, the greatest happiness that comes to us is from doing what is right" – and that is why we are willing to be selfless.

In this week's Parasha, Moshe tells the people: "Take from among you an offering to G-d: whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it .

Gold, silver and copper; Blue-, purple- and scarlet- [dyed wool], fine linen and goats' hair; Oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense and more..

The response was overwhelming: They came, everyone whose heart stirred them and everyone whose spirit made them willing, and they brought the offering to G-d for the work of the Tent of Meeting, they came, the men along with the women . . . and they brought bracelets, earrings, rings and girdles, all golden ornaments . . . Then something amazing happened, what they brought was "too much."

But at the end when all is said and done as the poet Khalil Gibran said "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give..."

Shabbat Shalom

### OPINION

## Chevra Shaas

Words From  
Rabbi Menahem White  
VAYAQUEL 5782

This past week, there has been quite a bit of news to reflect (and worry?) upon: did the PM respond too harshly with the Emergency Act, or is he guilty of having responded too slowly; what will happen in Ukraine; is the impending removal of masking in schools a good idea, or will it lead to increased infections?

All of that, and be careful of walking outside on the ice!

Nevertheless, I was bothered by an article I happened to read today, written by a former president of the National Council of Young Israel. It seems that in January, there was a program at the Boca Raton Synagogue. This is an orthodox shul, led by an extremely hard working and talented rabbi. The synagogue

has become one of the largest in North America.

The program to which I refer was addressed by former Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, and also by Pastor Mario Bramnick, head of a committee for Latino-Jewish relations, pro-Israel activism, and countering anti-Semitism. [The whole program can be seen on YouTube.] The former President of Young Israel was distressed by the sharp criticism of a certain outspoken "chareidi" Rabbi, who very strongly criticized the Boca Rabbi for having organized such a program.

This sharp attack even led to the rabbi's daughter receiving a threat on her phone.

I agree with the former President of YI: to attack publicly a rabbi who was just trying to inspire his congregation for Israel, was reprehensible. Without accomplishing any good thing, such an attack only leads to division among our people.

I couldn't help but think of this week's parasha. It begins with the words *va-yaqhel moshe 'et kol adat yisrael*. This is usually translated "Moshe assembled all the community of Israel;" or in French "Moïse convoqua toute la communauté." But I would like to suggest a different translation: The verb *va-yaqhel* is what we call a "denominative verb," from the noun *qahal*, meaning "community." And it happens to be in the verbal declension known as *hiph`il*, "causative." That is, Moses was doing more than calling everyone to a meeting. He was trying to make then into a *qahal*, a community.

In the difficult times in which we live, we the Jewish people must be respectful one to another, not antagonistic one to another.

May this coming week bring good news to the Jewish people, and to the world.

Shabbat shalom

### SHABBAT SHALOM SHABBAT SHEKALIM



Start/Debut      End/Fin  
5:17 p.m.      6:22 p.m.

*Parashat Vayakhel - Hertz page 373*  
*Haftarah Kings II - Hertz page 992*

#### WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Shabbat  
Shahrit: 8:30 a.m. Minha: 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday  
Shahrit: 8:30 a.m. Minha: 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
Shahrit: 7:30 a.m.  
Minha: 4:30 p.m.

#### ROSH HODESH ADAR II

THURSDAY/JEUDI MARCH 3 MARS  
FRIDAY/VENDREDI MARCH 4 MARS

#### CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

SHABBOS, FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>  
Schachris 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27<sup>RD</sup>  
Schachris 8:00 a.m.

### Junior Hebrew School

An educational & fun afterschool program for *children ages 3 - 5 years old*.

Your children will learn about the ALEPH-BET, Shabbat & Holidays as well as other Jewish values in an interactive, creative & engaging way.

Our first semester is starting on *February 24 for 6 weeks*.

For more information, please refer to the *flyer on our website*.

Thank you,  
Gali Pinto

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



### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

There never was a good war or a bad peace.

Benjamin Franklin | Aish HaTorah





## S&P Shabbat Kiddush is Sponsored by:

**Penina & Claude Helwani**, in memory of his mother, **Camille Helwani z'l.**

## C.S. Shabbos Kiddush is Sponsored by:

**David & Marc Zilbert**, in memory of their father, **Allan Zilbert z'l.**

# Congregation Maghen Abraham

*Thoughts: Mayer Sasson - PERASHA VAYAKHEL-SHKALIM*

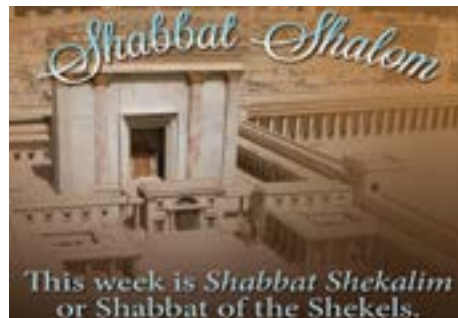
"...then shall they give a ransom each one for his person... half a shekel in the weights of the Sanctuary..." (30,12-13)

### All Jews need one another

We must know that the fact that Moshe was commanded to collect half a shekel from the Children of Israel and not a whole shekel contains therein great intentions. The Torah thereby came to tell every Jew that a person never reaches perfection when he is by himself; it is only when he connects together with another Jew.

Therefore, when each Jew gave only "half a shekel" to Moshe in the census two gifts of two people added up to one whole shekel.

Moreover, no one in Israel ever knew who had joined him to make his half a shekel into a whole one. This teaches us that the simplest Jew has the power to supplement and perfect even the greatest in Israel.



### IMPORTANT NOTICE

We are happy to announce that we have opened our doors. To attend DAILY AND SHABBAT services at the Spanish, Chevra Shaas and Maghen Abraham, we no longer need proof of vaccination.



As it says in the sefer "Ahavat Yonatan:" The reason why they gave half a shekel and why one was not allowed to give more is lest a person think that he doesn't need others; All Jews need one another and a person alone is nothing."

The half a shekel alone was not worth anything if it was not joined up with another half a shekel and therefore they gave "every one that passed over to the numbered ones" half a shekel – to teach a person that he alone is nothing and all Jews have to come to be one group and therefore "the rich shall give no more".

Shabbat Shalom!!



## COMMUNITY

## Jewish Wisdom

HALAKHA  
SHABBAT SHEKALIM  
Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo

Shabbat Parashat Shekalim recalls the time of Purim, which was also a time of Divine scrutiny and judgment for the Jewish People. The name of the Day of Atonement, Yom HaKippurim, the "Day which is like Purim," is also suggestive of this relationship, although Purim also contains the word "Pur," lottery, to suggest how G-d uses what seems to be "chance" in His administration of the world.

At the time of Purim, an edict had been issued by an earthly "court;" namely, the "court" of Haman and Achashverosh (often acting unknowingly as an emissary of the Heavenly Court), calling for the harsh punishment, if not the destruction of the Jewish People. The Fast of Esther, combined with the Repentance of the Jewish People, drew the nation into a unity, which was once again able to receive upon itself the "yoke of the Kingdom of Heaven," and renew their acceptance of the Torah, "the Jews accepted again what they had begun to do," and therefore merit their redemption.



## Got A Question for Reverend/Hazan Daniel Benlolo?

Dear reader,

As promised, here is part 2 of last week's "Dear Danny" column. Enjoy and be inspired!

- Your thoughts are powerful, make them positive. To have a life that's more abundant and more successful, you must think in the limitless terms of abundance and success. Thinking is among the greatest powers we possess, and it's our choice to use it negatively or positively.
- Forgiveness benefits two people--the giver and receiver. The bravest and the smartest thing you can do in a bad situation is to forgive and move on. Don't allow grudges and grievances to add to the weight you carry on the road to your own success.
- The word impossible contains its opposite: "I'm possible." What impossible may be a matter of a limited point of view. Allow no limiting beliefs to restrict your outlook on life.
- Preparation is a stepping-stone to success. As the old saying goes, failing to prepare means preparing to fail. Success can be defined as being totally prepared.
- You are constantly creating your own reality. Your reality is built out of your thoughts, so remember how much power you have. What you think you become, what you feel you attract, what you imagine you create.
- You are in control of your own heaven or hell. You're the master of your own destiny. You may not always be able to control your circumstances and environment, but how you respond is always within your control.
- Envy consumes itself. And if you give it a foothold in your life, it will take you with it.

Shabbat shalom



## PARNASS HAYOM BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI

**SHABBAT 25 ADAR I - FEBRUARY 26**  
Solly Arazi, à la mémoire de sa mère, Adele Arazi ז"ל.

Emile Sayegh & Family, in memory of his brother, Isaac ben Avraham Sayegh ז"ל.

**SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 26 ADAR I, FEB. 27**  
Albert Cohen, à la mémoire de sa mère, Estrella Cohen ז"ל.

Famille Abittan, à la mémoire de leur mère, Aicha Abittan ז"ל.

Victoria Nathaniel & Family, in memory of Heskell Nathaniel ז"ל.

**MONDAY/LUNDI 27 ADAR I - FEBRUARY 28**  
Famille Malka, à la mémoire de David Malka ז"ל.

Mr. & Mrs. Simantob Darwiche, in memory of Itshak ben Rivka ז"ל.

**TUESDAY/MARCI 28 ADAR I - MARCH 1**  
Rouben Shemie Family, in memory of Rouben Kadouri Shemie ז"ל.

**WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI 29 ADAR I - MAR. 2**  
Michel Dahan, à la mémoire de sa grand-mère, Zohra Dahan ז"ל.

Armand Moyal, à la mémoire de sa mère, Fibi bat Simha ז"ל.

**FRIDAY/VENDREDI 1 ADAR II - MARCH 4**  
In honour of the S&P Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh Adar II

Claude Helwani, à la mémoire de sa mère, Camille Helwani ז"ל.



## Upcoming Events



**Tuesday, March 1 | 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: 881 1057 1315 Passcode: SUPERSIS



**Wednesday, March 16 | 6:00 P.M.**

**PURIM FEST** - Festive Purim Celebration for all ages  
6:45 Megillah Reading - 7:30 End of Fast - Buffet & Music  
Prizes for kids in costume! \*Registration Required\*



**Thursday, March 17 | 3:45 - 7:30 P.M.**

**PURIM IN ITALY** - JOIN US FOR A FAMILY STYLE DINNER & PURIM CARNIVAL! \$18 PER PERSON (OVER 2) MEGILLAH READING 3:45  
KIDS' CARNIVAL: AINTABI 4:00 - PURIM FEST: LAWEE 5:30  
INTERACTIVE MAGIC SHOW 6:00 - KIDS PERFORMANCE 6:30  
\*Registration Required\*



**Tuesday, March 22 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm**

**Sisterhood Book Review: "The Dogs of Winter"**  
By Ann Lambert - Reviewer: TBA

RSVP: sisterhood2020@hotmail.com

Zoom ID 895 2182 1866 - Password: SISBOOK



**Thursday, March 31 | 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.**

**S&P Education Committee presents: "Shlomzion"**  
The Greatest Jewish Queen - with Carole Basri, Visiting Professor & Meir Soloveichik, Rabbi of S&P NY  
Moderated by Sandra Koukou  
Join on Zoom ID 861 0905 6217



**Tuesday, April 26 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm**

**Sisterhood Book Review: "Beneath A Scarlet Sky"** By Mark Sullivan - Reviewer: Wilma Mashal

RSVP: sisterhood2020@hotmail.com

Zoom ID 895 2182 1866 - Password: SISBOOK

**Sisterhood Purim Baskets 75% SOLD - order now while quantities last!**