



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

SHABBAT BULLETIN

March 19, 2022 | 16 Adar II, 5782



Parashat TSAV

Purim in Southern Lebanon
Tremblant's Torah Thoughts
By: Daniel Bouskila

Purim, 1985. The surroundings seemed so strange to me (Daniel Bouskila). From childhood, Purim always meant Megillah readings, noise from noisemakers, loud music, lively dancing, people dressed up in different costumes, lots of good food, exchange of Mishloach Manot (food-and-drink gift packages), and a little "l'chaim" to top things off. That was exactly the Purim I had in 1984, 1983, 1982... all the way back to 1964, the year I was born.

This year, it just wasn't the same. There was no Megillah scroll available to be read. There were some occasional loud noises, but they did not come from kids cranking noisemakers. There was no music to dance to, and nobody was really in the mood to dance. Not only were people not dressed up in costumes, but everyone was actually dressed exactly the same. The food was the same type of bland food we had eaten the day before, and the only exchanges were wishes of "Purim Samayach" ('Happy Purim'), with the sad and sarcastic response being "Yes, this is really samayach (Happy), isn't it?" If we said l'chaim - to life - it wasn't over a drink; it was a sincere hope that we will come out of this alive.

Purim 1985. Southern Lebanon. A lonely

platoon of IDF soldiers, stuck in a small fortress. Not a very friendly place to be. The noise of gunfire, not the rhythm you would want to dance to. Young boys dressed up in khaki uniforms. Neighbors who were not interested in receiving Mishloach Manot. Strange, surreal.

"During the month of Adar, we increase in joy" says the Talmud. Not here. Not in this place. No joy, nothing to celebrate. Just long shifts of guard duty, and patrols that really warranted the wishes of "l'chaim."

That night of Purim is one big blur to me. Same with the morning - a total blank. All I could remember is the same exact things I could remember from any other day in Lebanon. But I will never, ever, ever forget the afternoon.

I was standing on guard duty with Moti, my sergeant who I had become very close to ever since basic training was over. We always did guard duty together, often talking about life, big dreams, and great hopes for the future. We would take turns looking through the binoculars, as there was this one long road we had to watch over. All sorts of traffic passed through this road. Lebanese delivery trucks, civilians driving from one town to the next, IDF convoys, ambulances.

Due to the rise in suicide car bombs in Southern Lebanon, the IDF declared a rule that any vehicle that had only a driver and no passengers would immediately be suspected as a suicide bomber, and the IDF would open fire at it. We had the

dubious honor of watching over this road.

Moti was staring through the high-powered binoculars, and he told me that an IDF convoy was on its way. "I see some IDF vehicles approaching us," he said, "and there is some other non-IDF van with them, but I can't recognize what it is from here. Take a look." I looked through the binoculars, and the convoy of jeeps and armored personnel carriers, still quite a distance away, was indeed accompanying a white van, but I could not make out the writing on the van. I looked and looked and looked, until the writing on the van suddenly became clear to me.

"Oh my G d, I can't believe my eyes," I said in English. "What...What is it?" asked Moti. My eyes stared in amazement through the binoculars at the writing on the van: Chabad. That's right, this IDF convoy was accompanying a Chabad van!

The convoy pulled up to our fortress, and my friends guarding the gate opened it up. In drove IDF jeeps, armored personnel carriers, and a van carrying Chabad rabbis and students. Like a mirage in the desert, the van stopped, and out came four Chabadniks. One of them held a Megillah scroll. Another had an accordion slung over his shoulders. Another had a bag filled with small copies of Megillahs, Purim cards from kids, and blessing notes from the Lubavitcher Rebbe, of righteous memory. Last but certainly not least, one of them brought out several bags of hamentashen pastries, various

cont'd. next page under announcements

SHABBAT SHALOM

Start/Debut **End/Fin**
6:46 p.m. **7:50 p.m.**

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HAFTARAH JEREMIAH: HERTZ PAGE 439

WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Shabbat
Shahrit: 8:30 a.m. Mincha: 6:30 p.m.
Sunday
Shahrit: 8:30 a.m. Mincha: 6:00 p.m.

MONDAY - FRIDAY
Shahrit: 7:30 a.m.
Mincha: 6:00 p.m.

CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

SHABBOS, MARCH 19TH
Schachris 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20RD
Schachris 8:00 a.m.

To contact *Reverend Hazan*
Daniel Benlolo:
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(514) 892-2859



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

If you can't explain it simply,
you don't understand it well
enough.

Albert Einstein | Aish HaTorah

OPINION

Chevra Shaas

Words From
Rabbi Menahem White
TSAV 5782

The Mesha stele dates from the 9th century BCE. Written in the ancient Moabite language, it describes the exploits of the Moabite king Mesha. I always remember, when we were studying it during my student days as a grad student at Brandeis, one of my fellow students blurted out, "the Moabites were Nazis," for the way they treated the Israelites.

Around the same time, the prophet Amos was preaching in the Land of Israel. In the first chapter of the Biblical Book of Amos, the prophet strongly rebukes the nations on Israel's border, for the way they had treated us. Amos refers to Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon. [The world hasn't changed much in the last

3000 years. Israel was surrounded by enemies then, and also now (except that now they have different names! e.g., Damascus = Syria; Ammon = Jordan)]

As chapter 2 begins, Amos castigates Moab. Having studied the Moabite inscription, I would imagine that Amos would have some strong rebuke for the cruel way that Moab dealt with us. No! Amos rebukes Moab for having burnt the bones of the King of Edom. (A passage that my students whom I prepare for Bible Contest were studying recently!)

We see from here that we must be sensitive to injustices, even when perpetrated against former enemies.

What is the contemporary relevance? We are all saddened by the slaughter and indignities being perpetrated against the Ukrainians. Someone might say, who cares? The parents and grandparents of these people were the most vicious of antisemites!

Indeed, Natan Scharansky wrote recently in the Jerusalem Post, that when he was growing up in Ukraine, he knew nothing of Shabbat or kashrut; the defining element of his Jewishness was the terrible antisemitism that Jewish people endured.

Nevertheless, he stresses that the world in general, and the Jewish world in particular, must feel the pain of the Ukrainians. [And of course, they now have a Jewish president, who is inspiring them along with the whole world!]

We celebrated this week how the plans of one man to destroy our people were thwarted. Likewise, we pray for a peaceful resolution, against the modern day reincarnation of Amalek.

Shabbat shalom: good health and good news.

Mazal Tov To



Bonnie & Milo Shemie, on the birth of their granddaughter, Saida Shemie.

Kol Hakavod To



Mordechai-Joshua Hadid, son of Charly Hadid & grandson of Marc & Jamie Hadid, on passing the Regional Bible Contest in the Grade 5-6 category for the 2nd year in a row.

Purim in Southern Lebanon cont'd.
other sweets, and, of course, a bottle and shot glasses for a true "l'chaim."

Just like that, out of nowhere, in the middle of a war zone, this little IDF fortress suddenly came alive with the spirit of Purim. It was surreal. Superimposed on the bleak picture I described above, I could see somebody reading the Megillah from a parchment scroll, with people following in small paperback Magillahs (I have mine to this day). I could hear joyous

accordion music, and I could see people dancing with big smiles in small circles. People were eating hamentashen, and l'chaim was not about a patrol, but instead was a good shot of vodka.

We were all taking turns guarding the various posts, as everybody wanted to share in this sudden outburst of Purim joy. Purim was here, alive and well, in an IDF fortress in Southern Lebanon! Here we were - religious soldiers, secular soldiers, regular soldiers, officers, mechanics and cooks - together with these four Chabad angels, who brought us the purest sense of joy and the most sincere expressions of solidarity, support and unity I have ever experienced.

There is not a single mention of G d's name in Magillah scroll. Rabbinic tradition interprets this as the Purim story being an example of the "hidden hand of G d," where miracles happen behind the scenes. I wasn't in Shushan 2,500 years ago, so I can only rely on what the Megillah tells us. But there is one thing I am sure of: on Purim Day, 1985, for my friends and I in an IDF fortress in Southern Lebanon, there were no "hidden miracles." G d's name was in the air, and the miracle of Purim was out in the open - in the most unlikely of places - for all to see and hear.

*Shabbat shalom,
Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo*

Congregation Maghen Abraham

Thoughts: Mayer Sasson - PERASHA TZAV PURIM

"The paupers' eyes are lifted up to the Megillah reading"

The time of Megilah reading is auspicious to livelihood and blessings

In the sefer Ateret Yehoshua of the holy Rabbi of Jikov it is brought down that the Megillah reading is auspicious to a good livelihood The Rabbi explains this according to what our Sages said "The paupers' eyes are lifted up to the Megillah reading".

The simple explanation is that the paupers wait for a long time for the Megillah reading because at that time Jews give them charity which is the custom of the day - to give gifts to the poor.

The Rabbi of Jikov explains the Gemara according to what the ARIZ'L wrote: We know that when we say the verse of "Ashrei Yossef Beitecha we have to have intentions for the angels' names who are in charge of livelihood "פנאי" who come from the initials of the words Poteach et yadecha "פּוֹתַח אֶת יָדְךָ" - You open Your Hand and "חתך" - that come from the last letters of those words "פּוֹתַח אֶת יָדְךָ".

The Rabbi of Jikov adds that the words of the blessing on reading the Megillah "על מקרא מגילה" add up to 519 which is exactly the sum of the two angels of livelihood "פנאי" and "חתך" (519).

This is the intention of the Gemara "The paupers' eyes are lifted up to the Megillah reading"- The paupers can rise in wealth and leave their poverty by reading the Megillah because by reading the Megillah one is blessed with a prosperous livelihood and all the best from the names "פנאי" and "חתך" that are alluded to in the Megillah.

The holy author of the Tiferet Shlomo added that through the Megillah reading blessings of children, life and livelihood are brought down to Israel. He added: Therefore, it is a mitzvah to spread out the Megillah like a letter, as it says in the Shulchan Aruch, so that the good blessings are spread over the entire world, Amen.

SHABBAT SHALOM!!

COMMUNITY

Jewish Wisdom

HALAKHA

SHUSHAN PURIM

Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo

Shushan Purim falls on Adar 15 and is the day on which Jews in Jerusalem celebrate Purim.

Purim is celebrated on Adar 14 because the Jews in unwallled cities fought their enemies on Adar 13 and rested the following day. However, according to the Megillah in Shushan, the capital city of the Persian Empire, the Jews were involved in defeating their enemies on Adar 13-14 and rested on the 15th. In commemoration of this, it was decided that while the victory would be celebrated universally on Adar 14, for Jews living in Shushan, the holiday would be held on Adar 15. Later, in respect to Jerusalem, the Sages determined that Purim would be celebrated on Adar 15 in all cities which had been enclosed by a wall at the time of Joshua's conquest of the Land of Israel. This measure allowed the city of Jerusalem to retain its importance for Jews, and although Shushan was not walled at the time of Joshua, it was made an exception since the miracle occurred there.



Got A Question for Reverend/Hazan Daniel Benlolo?

Purim 2022

It started on Wednesday, March 16. Our Purim eve festivities began with the Megilah reading, by our Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo in the Mashaal Sanctuary along with 140 "in person" and 90 on Zoom. Later that evening, a light supper was served in the Aintabi Hall that included music, hot dogs, french fries and drinks. A great time was had by everyone.

Purim Day - Thursday, March 17 at 4:00 p.m. our celebration began in the Aintabi Hall with games for the kids, inflatable bouncy castles, face painting, magic show, balloons and music - while in the Mashaal Sanctuary the Megilah was chanted once again with a full crowd for those who did not have the chance to hear it.

By 5:30 p.m., **the Purim miracle happened!** Over 280 people including 90 children crowded and "demolished" the Lawee Hall. A delicious Italian dinner was the treat by our in-house chef, Yair Ayalin, and entertainment from Garderie OrSheli with Purim songs, which delighted everyone in attendance.

We take this opportunity to thank, **Julia Peress Rosenfeld, Muriel Suissa, Gali Pinto, Yair Ayalin, Noémie Rosenfeld, Nina Hazan, Alina Betman** and the **Office and Maintenance Staff.**

Needless to say, our Purim festivites was a great success and a wonderful beginning of reconnecting with our friends and relatives as we congregate once again in our Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue. Towards many more!!!
Pictures to follow next week.

Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo



PARNASS HAYOM BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI

SHABBAT 16 ADAR II - MARCH 19

Linda, Max, Eric & Daniel Amzallag, in memory of André Supino ז"ל. Father, Father-in-law & nonno.

Penina & Claude Helwani, in honour of the birth of their grandson, Walter Meir Helwani.

Supino Family, in memory of André Supino ז"ל.

SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 17 ADAR II, MARCH 20

Famille Bensimon, à la mémoire de leur père, Hanania Nissim bar Messod ז"ל.

Wilma Mashal & Ian Mashal, in memory of husband & father, Morris Abraham Mashal ז"ל.

MONDAY/LUNDI 18 ADAR II - MARCH 21

Famille Nezri, à la mémoire de leur mère, Simi Nezri ז"ל.

TUESDAY/MARDI 19 ADAR II - MARCH 22

Rita & Victor Guindi, Sasha & Samantha, Tania & Adam, à la mémoire de Joseph Meir Zilkha ז"ל.

Edna & Victor Mashaal, in memory of her father, Albert Gareh ז"ל.

FRIDAY/VENDREDI 22 ADAR II - MARCH 25

Peress Family, in memory of their mother, Naima Peress ז"ל.

Famille Tauby, à la mémoire de Yaacov ben Latifée Tauby ז"ל.



Upcoming Events



Tuesdays, MARCH 22 / 29 | 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



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 24 Wednesday March 30 / | 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Passport to Learning - Instructor: Rachel Gabbay
March 24: Are science & religion compatible? What does the Torah tell us about our world?
Wednesday, March 30: Is religion still relevant? Do we still need religion / G-d? What for?
Zoom info will be provided at a later date



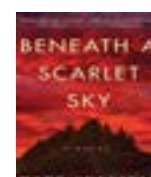
Thursday, March 31 | 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

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



Wednesday, April 13 | 12:00 - 1:13 P.M.

Come join our network of entrepreneurs & professionals to learn, share & grow!
Speaker: Lorne Steinberg - LSWM "Economic update, investor positioning, asset allocation" - **Intro: Oren Gabbay** - Argust Transport *(More info consult our website)*



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