

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

SHABBAT BULLETIN

May 21, 2022 | 20 Iyar, 5782



Dvar Torah

I KNOW YOU LOVE YOUR SYNAGOGUE
Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo

Three Jewish mothers are sitting on a bench, arguing over which one's son loves her the most. The first one says, "You know, my son sends me flowers every Shabbat."

"You call that love?" says the second mother. "My son calls me every day!"

"That's nothing," says the third woman. "My son is in therapy five days a week. And the whole time, he talks about me!"

I know you love your Synagogue
A young, inexperienced rabbi called on a colleague with many more years of experience for advice.

"Take the heads of this congregation, for instance," said the old rabbi.

"They are pious and G-d-fearing. I never have trouble with them. They always do what I tell them." "What makes you so sure that they do?" the young rabbi asked. The old rabbi laughed. "You see, I am careful not to ask them to do what I know they won't do!"

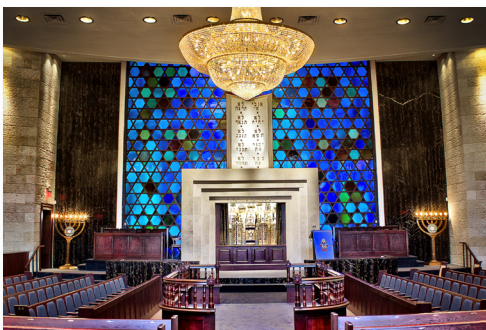
Some people feel the urge to share with me why they are unable to be present at services. Some find it necessary to alert me that their children are faced with too many distractions and activities which preclude them from attending Shabbat services.

For my part, I never put anyone on the spot and ask them why they don't go to Synagogue. I ask myself; do I need to justify to anyone why I didn't go to the gym, or overindulged in sweets? And yet when people see me in the community the urge to explain their absence in Synagogue always seem to filter in the con-

versation. So, I heed the old rabbi's advice and don't ask them to do what I know they might not do!

I put myself in their shoes and can appreciate that some baby boomers have had some not-so-great experiences attending Synagogues when they were growing up. We all heard about the insensitive or unfriendly rabbi, the arrogant and at times contemptuous cantor (don't get any ideas now!) and the condescending "shushers" that would have nothing to do with kids in Shul.

Let's forget all that for a moment!



This is a new dawn for Synagogues around the world especially for our own Spanish and Portuguese. It's a new generation of leaders; it's even a new generation of congregants intertwined with long-standing supporters and builders of this great community. Times are different now and people's needs are different too. We understand you; we want to work with you. We want you to consider this saying "I don't pray because it makes sense to pray. I pray because my life doesn't make sense without prayer."

Once you start going regularly to synagogue – especially Shabbat services – you may very well find it habit-forming. You start looking forward to Saturdays and catching up with congregants, hear

some inspiring discussions about the Torah portion and be moved by beautiful prayers and songs. In our midst you will find a place to teach our children about Judaism a place to celebrate wonderful Jewish holidays and a place to sit around the table and eat and enjoy each other's company. Many people find it's an effective anti-depressant and soon enough your synagogue will become again the center of Jewish communal life.

My dear friends, as we embark in what promises to be an exhilarating future for our community, know this; you belong here! Without any justification, walk in, take a prayer book, and sit down as if you always belonged there. A Jew needs no reason to be in synagogue. There is no explanation necessary. Most of the time, we don't know why we started coming to synagogue. So let's offer no rationalization. "You only need a reason not to go to synagogue. But to go, no reason is required. I am here because I am Jewish and going to synagogue is Jewish."

Let's not try to find ways to explain why we don't come to Synagogue and start putting into plain words why we should!

It reminds me of the man who told his doctor that he couldn't do all the things around the house that he used to do. When the examination was complete, he said, "Now, Doc, tell me in plain English what is wrong with me." "Well, in plain English," the doctor replied, "you're just lazy." "Okay," said the man. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife." We all know she won't buy it. I tried!

So, let's all make a commitment to renew our dedication to this great community of ours and begin anew our enthusiasm of old and wherever we are, let the walls of our congregation reverberate with song, laughter, and harmony.

Shabbat shalom

SHABBAT SHALOM

Start/Debut **End/Fin**
8:06 p.m. **9:20 p.m.**

PARASHAT BEHAR:
HERTZ PAGE 531
HAFTARAH JEREMIAH:
HERTZ PAGE 539

WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

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

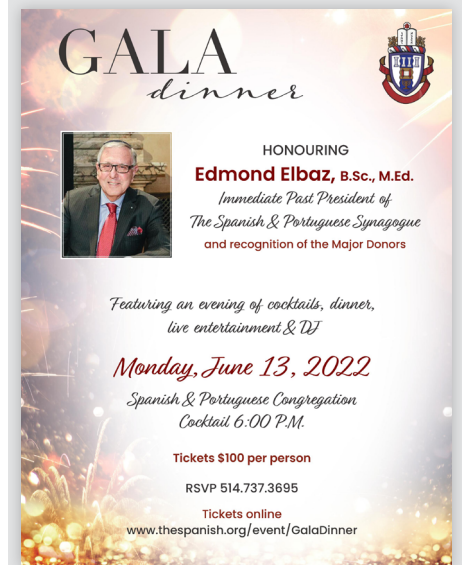
MONDAY (LEGAL HOLIDAY)
SHAHRIT: 8:30 A.M. MINHA: 6:00 P.M.

TUESDAY - FRIDAY
Shahrit: 7:30 a.m.
Minha: 6:00 p.m.

CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

SHABBOS, MAY 21ST
Schachris 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 22ND
Schachris 8:00 a.m.



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

SYNAGOGUE OFFICE
will be closed on
Monday, May 23 for legal holiday.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

We let folks know we're interested
in them and that they're vital to us.
Because they are.

Sam Walton, Founder of Walmart |
Aish HaTorah

OPINION

Chevra Shaas

Words From
Rabbi Menahem White
BEHAR 5782

Some thoughts on current events:

I'm not a news junkie, but I often listen to the news when eating, or washing dishes, or driving. This past Sunday, I heard 4 times about an indigenous man who attaches electrodes to his plant, and connects to a computer. Thereby, he is able to translate the impulses into sound, which comes out through a speaker as music. The man explained that in his tradition, there is life in everything.

I said to myself, wow! There is a verse in Psalms, that we say every Friday night, 'az yerannenu kol `atsei ya`ar, i.e., the time will come when all of the trees of the forest will sing. We usually understand that figuratively, but maybe it really should be understood literally. And, of course, there is *pereq shirah* (which, according to scholarship, dates from the 10th century) which describes the songs of all of nature.

And speaking of song: this past Thursday was Lag ba`omer, the 33rd day of the Omer period. This holiday particularly remembers Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai, who had to hide in a cave from the Romans, who were

ruling over the land of Israel in the 2nd century. What was he doing in a cave? Well, we are all aware of political polarization: the left vs. the right. This is nothing new! The Talmud in tractate Shabbat (ironically in folio 33) relates that there was a great divergence of opinions among the rabbis as to how to relate to Roman rule.

Rabbi Yehudah praised the Romans for their many improvements in the Land: fixing market places, bridges, and bath houses (remember: there was no running water in those days!)

Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai vociferously disagreed. He felt that the Romans couldn't care less about the Jews. All of the "improvements" where only for

the benefit of the Romans: the bridges were repaired in order to collect tolls, the markets set up for... well, I won't mention!!

R. Yossi kept his silence. (Either because he didn't have an opinion, or maybe he just didn't want to antagonize one of his colleagues) The Talmud relates that when the Romans got word of the varied positions, they rewarded R. Yehudah. But they banished R. Yossi to the city of Sephoris, and they issued a warrant that R. Shimon should be killed. That's why R. Shimon and his son had to go into hiding.

So, we see that polarized political opinion is nothing new!

Shabbat shalom, let's hear only good news!



S.&P. Shabbat Kiddush is Sponsored & Co-Sponsored By:

Anita & Rony Gabbay, in memory of his father, Minashi Heskell Gabbay z'l.

Rachel & Michael Gabbay, on the upcoming wedding of their daughter, Cheryl Sheer Gabbay to David Alessandro Benrimoh, son of Marie Barillaro Benrimoh and the late Gabriel Benrimoh.

S.&P. Shabbat Seudah is Co-Sponsored By:

Selma Sufer & Family, in memory of her husband, Shamoun Sufer z'l.

Mazal Tov To



Rachel & Michael Gabbay, on the upcoming wedding of their daughter, Cheryl Sheer Gabbay to David Alessandro Benrimoh, son of Marie Barillaro Benrimoh and the late Gabriel Benrimoh.

COMMUNITY

Jewish Wisdom

Tout savoir sur Lag Baomer

<https://www.tsidkat-eliaou.org/>

REVEREND HAZAN DANIEL BENLOLO



LAG BAOMER

Qu'est-ce que Lag BaOmer? Que s'est-il passé à Lag BaOmer? 1) Durant la période du Omer, une épidémie mortelle fit rage parmi les étudiants du Grand Maître **RABBI AKIVA**, et tua 24 000 de ses étudiants, à cause du manque de respect mutuel qui sévissait parmi eux. L'épidémie éclata dans les jours qui suivirent Pessah et se prolongea jusqu'à Lag BaOmer. À Lag BaOmer, les élèves de RABBI AKIVA cessèrent de mourir, nous fêtons donc cet événement joyeux.

2) Le jour de Lag BaOmer mourut le Grand Maître **RABBI CHIMON BAR YOHAI**, auteur du Zohar Hakadoch (ses écrits sont utilisés comme base pour la partie kabbalistique de la Torah). À sa mort, RABBI CHIMON révéla à ses disciples de nombreux secrets mystiques de la Torah et ordonna à ses disciples de fêter chaque année l'anniversaire de sa mort, le jour de Lag Baomer comme un jour de joie. Ainsi, à Lag Baomer, nous célébrons la vie de RABBI CHIMON BAR YOHAI, et la découverte de la Torah cachée- voir sa biographie plus bas.

Que faire à Lag BaOmer?

· Le jour de **Lag BaOmer**, les lois de deuil qui sont d'usage pendant les **jours du Omer** ne s'appliquent pas.

· Nous ne récitons pas les passages de "supplication" dans la prière du jour de **Lag Baomer**.

· Les enfants ont l'habitude d'allumer des feux de joie à l'occasion de **Lag Baomer**. Les feux sont allumés en commémoration de la lumière de la Torah que **RABBI CHIMON** ajouta au monde.

· Il est également de coutume à **Lag Baomer** de sortir dans les champs et de jouer avec des flèches et des arcs. Ceci en mémoire du fait que, pendant la vie entière de RABBI CHIMON, aucun arc en ciel n'apparut dans le ciel (l'arc en ciel est un signe du péché).

· Pour **Lag Baomer**, beaucoup vont pèleriner sur la tombe de RABBI CHIMON à Méron, où a lieu un allumage central, et les célébrations se poursuivent toute la nuit et dans la journée qui suit.

Got a Question for Reverend/Hazan Daniel Benlolo?

Dear Danny, why do we need to affix so many mezuzoth in the house?

Dear Reader, in researching an answer to your question, I fell upon this discussion on the Mezuzah Maven site which I think can answer your question.

Why does a garage need a mezuzah if nobody lives there? The actual doorway of my garage is brick, its door rolls down from its casing along rails. I don't know whether to put the mezuzah on the brick wall or on the railing. Shouldn't I put the mezuzah on the brick so that it will be on the outer tefach (a unit of length, approximately equal to eight centimeters, or 3.2 inches) of the house? Also, if there are two garage doors, does each one need its own mezuzah?

ANSWER: A garage should have its own mezuzah affixed to it as any other storage room, with a berachah (blessing) especially if it is attached to the house. Even though nobody "lives" in a storage room, it is fully functional

as it serves the owner or renter in some way and enters it from time to time.

The answer to your second question would depend on the two acceptable opinions regarding wide doorways. The general custom seems to follow those authorities who rule that the mezuzah should be affixed on the brick or cement walls on the outer tefach that is still under the cement beam. Consequently, one would measure from the floor to this beam to determine the top third.

According to the other opinion, the mezuzah should be put on the railing as it would be considered a fitted post within a wide doorway. If one follows that opinion, one will measure from the floor up to the casement and place the mezuzah on the top third of the railing. Since it is under the lintel, it can be affixed facing out.

To answer your third question, each of the garage doors requires its own mezuzah.

Hope that helps!

Congregation Maghen Abraham

Thoughts: Mayer Sasson - PERASHA BEHAR



Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai

Reviving the Dead

The Tzemach Tzedek of Lubavitch z'y'o used to say: The day of Lag Ba'omer is a day that is auspicious for medical

recoveries and salvation! The initials of the words "a king Who is a loyal and merciful Doctor" - "מלך רופא נאמן ורחמן" spell out "מרון" and in the merit of the righteous Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai who is buried in Meron G-d sends recoveries and salvation to Jews on this day.

Concerning this it is told of the Imrei Chaim of Vizhnitz that when he came to the graveside of RSHBY he said, "It seems to me that a person who travels to RSHBY in Meron feels elevation like a person who has water spilled over his body that cleans out his sins."

He added: As evidence, the words "שמעון בר יוחאי" add up in numerology to 553 and this is the numerology of מחיה מתים - "who revives the dead. If a person learns the holy Zohar and spends time at the grave site of the righteous rabbi he receives vitality - even those people who can be considered in the category of "reviving the dead."

SHABBAT SHALOM!!

PARNASS HAYOM BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI

SHABBAT 20 IYAR - MAY 21

Leila Khamara, in honour of her Children & Grandchildren.

SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 21 IYAR - MAY 22

Famille Sasson, à la mémoire de Frida Sasson Levy ז"ל.

MONDAY/LUNDI 22 IYAR - MAY 23

Anita & Rony Gabbay, in memory of his father, Minashi Gabbay ז"ל.

Sue & Kamal Gabbay, in memory of his father, Minashi Gabbay ז"ל.

Deborah & Veronique Abecassis, in memory of their father, Leon Abecassis ז"ל.

TUESDAY/MARDI 23 IYAR - MAY 24

Moussa Saad, à la mémoire de sa mère, Rachel Saad ז"ל.

Sachs Families, in memory of David Cohen Hakak ז"ל.

Carmen & Jack Korin, in honour of the marriages of their Children.

WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI 24 IYAR - MAY 25

Linda & Sam Fattal, in honour of their Children.

THURSDAY/JEUDI 25 IYAR - MAY 26

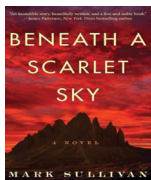
Pascale & David Pisarevsky, in honour of their son, Joseph's Bar Mitzvah.

FRIDAY/VENDREDI 26 IYAR - MAY 27

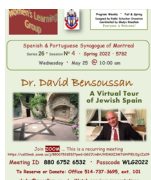
Rabie Family, in memory of Charlie ben Rouben Ezra Rabie ז"ל.



Upcoming Events



Tuesday, May 24 | 12:00 - 1:00 P.M.
Sisterhood Book Review: "Beneath A Scarlet Sky"
By Mark Sullivan - Reviewer: Wilma Mashal
RSVP: sisterhood2020@hotmail.com
Zoom ID 895 2182 1866 - Password: SISBOOK



Wednesday, May 25 | 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
WLG: A virtual Tour of Jewish Spain with Dr. David Bensoussan

Zoom ID 880 6752 6532 PC WLG2022
To Reserve or Donate: (514)737-3695 x101.



Wednesday, May 25 | 12:00 - 1:15 P.M.
Come join our network of entrepreneurs & professionals to learn, share & grow!
Speakers: Tasso Lagios & Justine Delisle - Richter
Topic: Establishing your family office.
Intro: David Nathaniel - Ascot Capital Group
Zoom ID: 664 017 2841

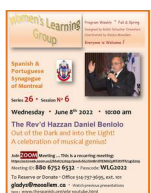


Wenesday, June 1 | 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
WLG: Maître Alain Murad

Zoom ID 880 6752 6532 PC WLG2022
To Reserve or Donate: (514)737-3695 x101.



Motzei Shabbat, June 4 | 10:00 P.M. - 3:00 A.M.
Shavuot Night of Study: This year again, we are hard at work preparing for this event, with engaging guest speakers. The time is dependent on covid restrictions. We will keep you informed but in the meantime, **SAVE THE DATE.**



Wednesday, June 8 | 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
WLG: The Rev'd Hazzan Daniel Benlolo, O.C.
Completing Our Sprin 2022 Series with Song.

Zoom ID 880 6752 6532 PC WLG2022
To Reserve or Donate: (514)737-3695 x101.