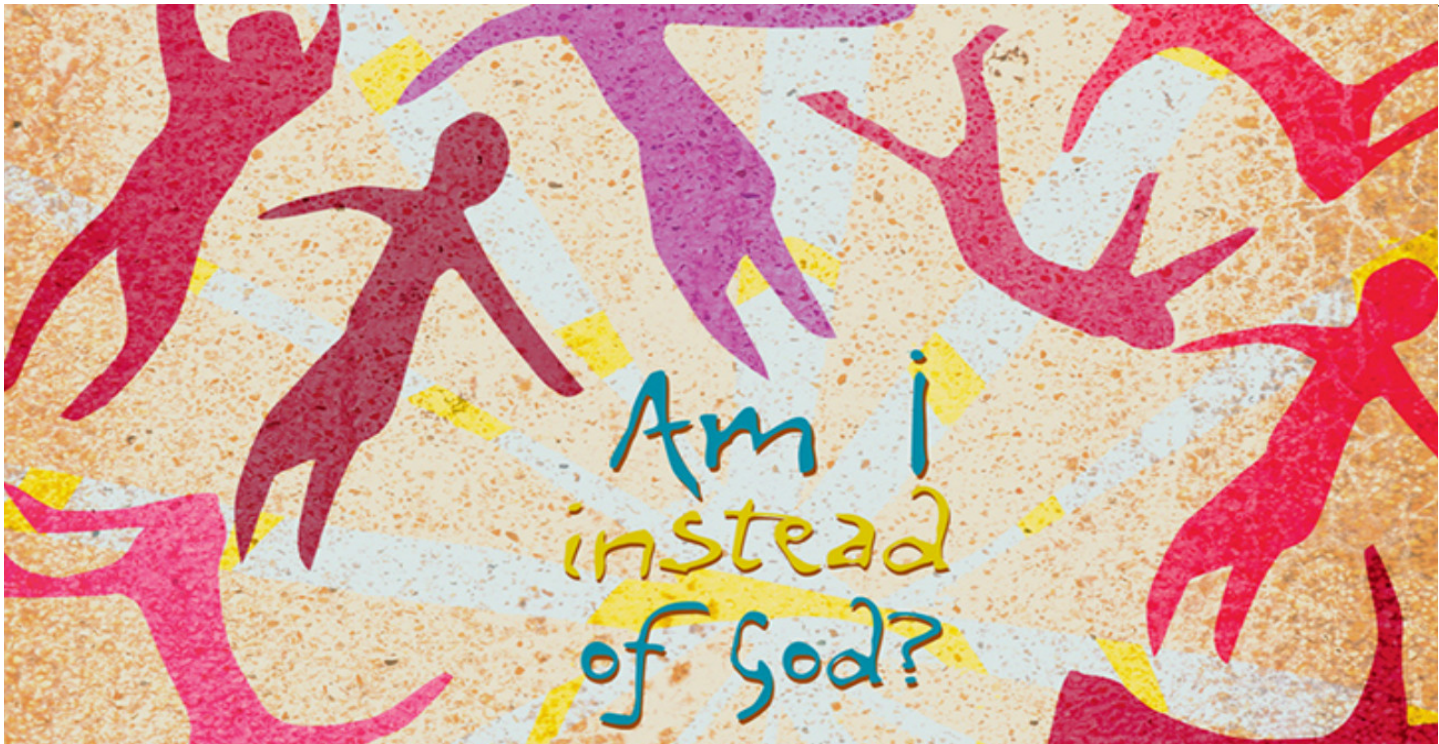


Shearith Israel
**SPANISH &
PORTUGUESE**
Synagogue of Montreal
Est. 1768

SHABBAT BULLETIN

January 7, 2023 | 14 Tevet, 5783



Parashat Vayehi

THE SPANISH, GOING FORWARD...

By: Julia Peress Rosenfeld

2022 was a memorable year at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue.

The high holidays rivalled those of our glory days. Five different services, one more moving than the next. Families praying together again, friends reunited. The Spanish in all its splendour. Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo lead the services like only he can. Never missing an opportunity to make a new member feel welcome, a loyal congregant feels special, or a child feel included. We held events on some of our holidays. Purim, Sukkoth, Hanukkah to name a few. We implemented a kids' club on Shabbat and a Junior Hebrew school during the week. We held our first ever Youth Shabbat. And welcomed our first ever shinshin from Israel. Our relationships with both Garderie OrSheli and UTT continued to evolve. We hosted both schools in our beautiful Mashaal sanctuary on several occasions. Reverend Benlolo guided the children through Tashlich, Simhat Torah and Rosh Hodesh with

warmth and rouach. The children, not to be undone, matched his incredible energy. We had the honour of hosting many life-cycle events. There were some many memories created this year at our synagogue. Needless to say, the future of the Spanish and Portuguese is brighter than ever.

We have spent much of the past year asking congregants what they need from their synagogue and this year we are committed to making sure we can provide it. Our focus to date has been on young families. We could not be happier with the results of our efforts and will continue to do everything we can to make our youngest members and friends happy. Additionally, we would like to offer more programming and events for young adults, singles, seniors and women. To date we have planned a youth Shabbat on February 4th. An event for TuBishvat (details to follow). A Purim party for adults on March 5th and one for families on March 7th. A pre-Passover pizza and movie night on April 4th. And a Beit Ha Midrash gala in May.

In order to accomplish our many goals, we need your help. Reverend Benlolo and I have received a tremendous amount of support from the office and Santos and his team. Without them, none of it would have

been possible. As we embark on a new calendar year, with a new set of challenges we are hoping that we can find some volunteers to help support our initiatives. We understand that many of you are already committed to your families, careers, schools, and other organizations. We appreciate that you may not have a lot of time to give. But we ask that you please try to find some time for your synagogue, for our synagogue. If this is something you think you can do, or want to get more information about, please contact me at your convenience, either by email or on my mobile. If you don't have time to volunteer but want to offer suggestions or feedback, we would welcome those as well.

Let's make the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue a place our parents and grandparents would be proud of, a place our children want to go, a place where we can find everything we need. Many of us grew up in the synagogue, in this renowned community. We considered ourselves fortunate to be part of the Spanish and Portuguese, it's our job to ensure that our children and grandchildren feel the same pride when they talk about their synagogue.

Shabbat shalom!
Reverend Hazan Danny Benlolo

OPINION

Chevra Shaas

Words From
Rabbi Menahem White
VA-YEHI 5783

Mr. Irwin Miller observes yahrzeit for his mother, Bess bat Tvi Hirsh, on Wednesday 18 Tevet.

**

Moving to NJ was difficult, as I had to leave behind all of my friends from the synagogue, from my school from my neighborhood, (oops, that's the American spelling) etc.

There is another kind of friend that I had to painfully leave behind. I am referring to my seforim, my books. Almost every room in my Westbury home was packed with books, journals, and papers. Knowing that I would not have space for all

of them in my new home, I had no choice but to respectfully dispose of the bulk of my collection. I had to carefully select the books that I would be taking with me.

One of those books that made the grade was one that I had bought a few years ago, but never had opened, was Unlocking the Torah Text: Bereisheet, by



Rabbi Shmuel Goldin. He is what we could call a "pashtan." As I had often expressed over the years, "peshat" does not mean "Simple."

Here is a very brief excerpt from his book: "Why does the Torah devote so much text to Yaakov's request to be buried in Israel?... In a beautiful yet sorrowful fashion the patriarchal

era comes full circle with Yaakov's request. The era that optimistically began with Avraham's passage to Canaan now ends with a very different journey on the part of his grandson, Yaakov, to the very same land.... A cautionary message to his children: Egypt is not your home!"

**

I have often mentioned in my derashot on specific parashiyot what literary scholars would call an "inclusio." Rabbi Goldin has done that for the patriarchal stories. In other words, he has found deep meaning in the "peshat," the literal meaning of the text.

HAZAQ HAZAQ VE-NITHAZZEQ!

Shabbat shalom

SHABBAT SHALOM

Start/Debut 4:08 p.m. End/Fin 5:18 p.m.

PARASHAT VAYEHI
HERTZ PAGE 180
HAFTARAH KINGS
HERTZ PAGE 191

SHABBAT SERVICES
SHAHRIT: 8:30A MINHA: 4:00P

חזק חזק ונחזק

WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday
Shahrit: 8:30A Minha: 4:00P

MONDAY - FRIDAY
Shahrit: 7:30A Minha: 4:00P

CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

SHABBOS, January 7TH
Schachris 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, January 8TH
Schachris 8:00 a.m.

TORAH CLASS

Join **ANDRE ROTCHEL** every
Shabbat after services
Beit Hamidrash
Refreshments

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



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The only thing you take with you when you're gone is what you leave behind.

-John Allston | Aish HaTorah



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

Dorothy Karkoukly, in memory of her husband, Solly Karkoukly z'l.

Claudia Aintabi & Family, in memory of her brother, Solly Karkoukly z'l.

S.&P. Seudah Shlishit is Sponsored by:

Ann & Dan Sequera, in memory of his father, Haim Sequerra z'l.

C.S. Shabbos Kiddush is Sponsored by:

The Congregation

Mazal Tov To



Sandra Koukou, on her son, Michael Canart's wonderful achievement of passing his exam and is now a pilot flying as "Captain" in a Florida airline!

Shloshim



Tuesday, January 10 Services at 4:00P. in memory of Vivian Gabbay z'l. Followed by berakhoth to 7:00P. Observed by Past-President, David Gabbay Family; Oren & Karen Gabbay Family; Doris Shasha; David Shasha, and Selma Sufer Family.

Wednesday, January 11 - Services 7:30A at S&P. Followed by cemetery visit at 9:00A at the S&P Mount Royal Cemetery.

INSIGHTS

Got a Question for Reverend/Hazan Daniel Benlolo?

Chabad.org

Cher Dany, Pourquoi les Juifs récitent-ils la Amidah (prière silencieuse) trois fois par jour ? Pourquoi dit-on la même chose, et pourquoi à des moments précis ? Quand tout a-t-il commencé?

Cher lecteur, Excellente question. Le Talmud propose deux origines (apparemment divergentes) du régime de prière trois fois par jour :

a) Les trois prières ont été instituées par nos ancêtres. Abraham a institué la prière du matin (Shacharit) ; Isaac a d'abord prié le service de l'après-midi (Mincha); et Jacob fut le premier à dire les prières du soir (Maariv).

b) Les rabbins ont chronométré les prières quotidiennes pour correspondre aux deux sacrifices quotidiens du Temple, un le matin et un l'après-midi, et la combustion des membres de l'offrande de l'après-midi, qui se poursuivait toute la nuit. Cela explique pourquoi des jours comme Shabbat, lorsque des sacrifices supplémentaires ont été offerts, nous avons une prière supplémentaire (Musaf).

Le Talmud poursuit en disant que les deux sont vrais. Bien que les patriarches aient établi la prière à ces trois moments de la journée, leur conduite ne nous obligerait pas nécessairement à le faire. Ce n'est que plus tard que les rabbins ont formalisé les trois prières quotidiennes comme pratique standard, et ils les ont chronométrées pour correspondre aux sacrifices quotidiens.

Les rabbins formalisent les trois prières quotidiennes. Comme mentionné, il n'y avait pas toujours de prière formelle dans le judaïsme. Jusqu'à l'époque d'Esdras, chacun priait selon sa capacité et son éloquence. Une personne qui était si encline offrirait de nombreuses prières et requêtes longues, et une personne qui était moins articulée prierait moins. Certains priaient

une fois par jour, d'autres plusieurs fois.

Après la destruction du Premier Temple et vers la fin de l'exil babylonien, les Juifs ont été dispersés en Perse, en Grèce et dans d'autres pays. Les enfants juifs nés dans ces pays étrangers parlaient un mélange particulier d'hébreu et d'autres langues et étaient incapables de s'exprimer de manière cohérente dans une seule langue. Selon les mots de Néhémie : « Leurs enfants parlaient à moitié Ashdodite et ne savaient pas parler la langue juive. Au contraire, [ils parleraient] selon la langue de divers autres peuples.

Cela a grandement entravé leur capacité à prier Dieu en hébreu pur. Lorsque le co-dirigeant de Néhémie, Ezra, et sa cour ont vu cela, ils ont officialisé les 18 bénédictions de l'Amidah, qui est au cœur du service de prière quotidien. (L'Amidah formalisée laisse la place à une personne pour exprimer des demandes et des prières personnelles.)

A cette époque, ils déterminèrent que cette formule de prière standard soit dite trois fois par jour, correspondant aux sacrifices du Temple. En vérité, même dans les siècles entre les patriarches et Ezra, certaines personnes priaient trois fois par jour. Par exemple, le roi David a déclaré : « Soir, matin et midi, je parle et je gémis, et il a écouté ma voix. Concernant Daniel, le verset déclare : « Daniel... vint dans sa maison, où il y avait des fenêtres ouvertes dans sa chambre haute, en face de Jérusalem, et trois fois par jour il s'agenouilla et pria et offrit des remerciements devant son Dieu, comme il l'avait fait auparavant.

Ainsi, Ezra, avec les Hommes de la Grande Assemblée, institua et formalisa la routine de prière qui avait déjà été pratiquée par quelques privilégiés. Concernant la prière, la Torah déclare : « Et servez-Le de tout votre cœur. »6 Les sages expliquent : « Qu'est-ce que le service du cœur ? Ceci est la prière. »7 Ainsi, bien que les mots et l'ordre soient extrêmement importants, ne perdez pas de vue le fait que l'ingrédient le plus important dans la prière est la partie qui vient de votre cœur.

Congregation Maghen Abraham

Thoughts: Mayer Sasson

PERASHA VAYECHI

"Through Asher, his food is rich לחמו... he delivers royal dainties." (49,20)

The assistance of Asher son of Yaakov

In the sefer Medrash Talpiot a wonderful idea is brought in the name of the Ari'zl that Asher the son of Yaakov studied Torah and Mishnah more than his brothers and therefore, in the merit of his learning, he merited to help all Jews in their times of distress.

After a person's passing, if G-d forbid he is sentenced to Gehinom a person calls out to each Tribe of Israel to save him from Gehinom but – they don't answer him.

But when that person calls out "Asher son of Yaakov" Asher answers him and asks, "In your lifetime did you ever learn Mishnayot?" If the person answers yes, Asher son of Yaakov immediately has him removed from Gehinom in the merit of the Mishna that he learned.

It says "Through Asher, his food is rich לחמו – the letters of שמנה are the same letters as the word משינה. In other words, because of the Mishnah that a person reads and learns Asher son of Yaakov will fight for him ילחם לו and will save him from falling into Gehinom.

Moreover, he even has him brought to Gan Eden, as it says further "he delivers royal dainties" – Asher the son of Yaakov will bring that person to Gan Eden to enjoy dainties of the "King" – of G-d, the King of all kings.

SHABBAT SHALOM!!

PARNASS HAYOM BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI

SHABBAT 14 TEVET - JANUARY 7 Familles Abittan & Nezri, à la mémoire de leur frère & beau-frère, Sam Abittan Saul ben Aicha ז"ל

SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 15 TEVET - JANUARY 8 Dorothy Karkoukly, in memory of her husband, Solly Karkoukly ז"ל

MONDAY/LUNDI 16 TEVET - JANUARY 9 Martha Lawee, in memory of her brother, Haim Tapiero ז"ל

TUESDAY/MARDI 17 TEVET - JANUARY 10 Sampson Family, in memory of Shimshon Nachshon Sampson ז"ל

Sachs Families, in memory of Esther Cohen Hakak ז"ל

WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI 18 TEVET - JAN. 11 Noemi & Isabelle Dupuy, à la mémoire de leur mère, Vivianne Bitton Dupuy ז"ל

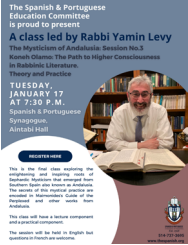
THURSDAY/JEUDI 19 TEVET - JANUARY 12 Famille Bitton, à la mémoire de leur parents, Abraham Simon ז"ל & Simy Bitton ז"ל

FRIDAY/VENDREDI 20 TEVET - JAN. 13 Dan Sequerra, à la mémoire de son père, Haim Sequerra ז"ל

Sylvia Shahin, in memory of her father, Salim Akairib ז"ל



Upcoming Events



TUESDAY, JANUARY 17 | 7:30P - 9:00P The Education Committee Presents: MISTICISM OF ANDALUSIA (SESSION 3) KONEH OLAMO: THE PATH TO HIGHER CONSCIOUSNESS IN RABBINIC LITERATURE - with RABBI YAMIN LEVY

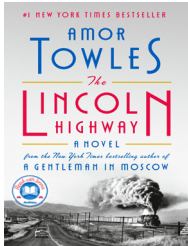
We are thrilled to welcome, once again, Rabbi Levy, who will lead us into a series on Sephardic mysticism, with a combination of practice and theory.

Registration required: www.thespanish.org



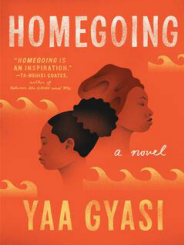
SHABBAT, FEBRUARY 4 | 10:00A - 1:00P SPY KIDS SHABBAT TAKEOVER Join us for a fun song filled, children led service. Followed by a kid friendly kiddush.

Please contact Julia Peress julia@thespanish.org if your child would like to participate in the service.

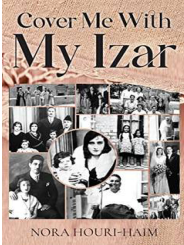


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 | 10:30A - 12:00P SISTERHOOD BOOK REVIEW: The Lincoln Highway by: Amor Towles - Reviewer: Yvonne Saleh Battat Hall

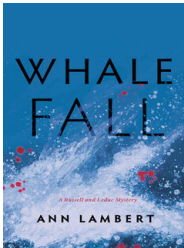
\$5 FOR SISTERHOOD MEMBER & \$8 FOR NON-MEMBERS



SUNDAY, MARCH 12 | 10:30A - 12:00P SISTERHOOD BOOK REVIEW: Homegoing by: Yaa Gyasi - Reviewer: to be advised - Battat Hall \$5 FOR SISTERHOOD MEMBER & \$8 FOR NON-MEMBERS



TUESDAY, APRIL 4 | 10:30A - 12:00P SISTERHOOD BOOK REVIEW: Cover Me With My Izar by: Nora Houri-Haim - Reviewer: Joe Menashe Battat Hall \$5 FOR SISTERHOOD MEMBER & \$8 FOR NON-MEMBERS



TUESDAY, MAY 2 | 10:30A - 12:00P SISTERHOOD BOOK REVIEW: Whale Fall by Ann Lambert - Reviewer: Taff Chitayat Battat Hall \$5 FOR SISTERHOOD MEMBER & \$8 FOR NON-MEMBERS