



Shearith Israel
SPANISH &
PORTUGUESE
Synagogue of Montreal
Est. 1768

SHABBAT BULLETIN

April 29, 2023 | 8 Iyar, 5783



Welcome Address Yom Hazikaron to Yom Ha'atzmaut

Charles Shemie, President

Dear Members and Friends,



Shalom and welcome to the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue as we gather to commemorate Yom Hazikaron and celebrate Yom Haatzmaut, the transition from a solemn day of remembrance to a joyous day of independence. I am deeply honored to be standing before you as we mark these significant occasions together.

As we come together in this sacred space, I am filled with immense pride. Our synagogue has been a pillar of our

community for generations, and it is truly a privilege to host this meaningful event here. Today, as we honor the fallen heroes who sacrificed their lives for the establishment and defense of the State of Israel, and rejoice in the birth of modern Israel, I am reminded of the resilience, strength, and spirit of our people.

Yom Hazikaron is a day when we remember the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our homeland. We honor their memory and express our deepest gratitude for their selflessness and bravery. They will forever remain in our hearts, and their legacy will continue to inspire us to cherish and protect the precious gift that is Israel.



And then, as the sun sets and a new day begins, we transition to Yom HaAtzmaut, the Day of Independence. It is a day of celebration, a day to rejoice in the miraculous journey of the modern State of Israel, which has overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to become a beacon of democracy, innovation, and cultural richness.

As we commemorate Yom Hazikaron and celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut, let us renew our commitment to the values that Israel embodies - courage, perseverance, and hope. Let us continue to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Israel, and work towards a brighter future for our people, our beloved homeland, and the world.

Shabbat shalom

SHABBAT SHALOM

Start/Debut 7:39 p.m. End/Fin 8:48 p.m.

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HERTZ PAGE 460
HAFTARAH KINGS
HERTZ PAGE 477

SHABBAT SERVICES
SHAHRIT: 8:30A MINHA: 7:00P

WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

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

MONDAY - FRIDAY
Shahrit: 7:00A Minha: 6:00P

CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

SHABBOS, April 29TH
Schachris 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, April 30TH
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



Yom Hazikaron to Yom Ha'atzmaut Event



On Tuesday night, we hosted a ceremony to mark the transition from Yom HaZikaron to Yom HaAtzmaut. The evening began with a touching tribute to fallen soldiers and civilian victims of terror, with the Israeli flag at half-mast. **Charly-Marco Hadid** and **David Nathaniel** recited Yizkor. Our ShinShin, **Ariel Levy**, then explained the meaning of the transition ceremony, eloquently describing how difficult it is for Israelis to shift from solemn and somber remembrance to jubilation and celebration, and how important the process is. He also expressed how special it was for him to bring the ceremony to our synagogue.

During the ceremony, **Hazan Sheni Benjamin Harrouch** sang "Shir Hamaalot Essay Enay," a beautiful

psalm about how Hashem watches over the state of Israel at all times. **Juliana and Rebecca Salama** read a poem about a flower in both English and French translated from Hebrew. We were honoured to welcome a young and talented singer, **Rachel Chemtob Stadtlander**, who sang "Keshehalev Boche" by Sarit Hadad. **Lisette Shashoua** read a moving letter from the widow of a fallen soldier. We concluded with a performance from a group of grade 5 girls from Solomon Schechter Academy who sang the prayer for the Israeli Defense Soldiers. Ariel Levy then raised the flag, signaling the transition to Yom HaAtzmaut. He was joined on stage by the other ShinShin, and together they read

"The Silver Platter"
by **Nathan Alterman**. **Rose Simon Schwartz** read the English version of the poem.

When planning the event, we expected it to be emotional. The readings that Ariel selected were particularly beautiful, and the songs were incredibly powerful. The readers and performers exceeded our expectations. Their passion resonated in every word they said, in every note they sang. Despite the fact that there were over 200 people in the Lawee Hall, the room

was silent during the ceremony, and we were touched by the respect our guests had for those being honoured and for one another.



In planning the event, we also wanted to ensure that our children could take something from the ceremony. We tried to create activities that would be meaningful and age appropriate. As usual, **Morah Maayan** and her team did not disappoint! The children wrote letters to Israeli soldiers, made flowers for the Yizkor table, lit memorial candles, made Israeli flags and 3-dimensional maps of Israel. Although it's hard to know exactly what our children took from the experience, my two eldest children, who are six and four years old, woke up the next morning and could not wait to put on their T-shirts with the embossed Israeli flag. I think it's safe to say that everyone who attended yesterday's ceremony felt similarly. We all left feeling closer to Israel, more connected to Judaism, and proud of our synagogue and our community.

The Silver Platter - Nathan Alterman

And the land grows still, the red eye of the sky slowly dimming over smoking frontiers

As the nation arises, Torn at heart but breathing, To receive its miracle, the only miracle

As the ceremony draws near, it will rise, standing erect in the moonlight in terror and joy

When across from it will step out a youth and a lass and slowly march toward the nation

Dressed in battle gear, dirty, Shoes heavy with grime, they ascend the path quietly

To change garb, to wipe their brow They have not yet found time. Still bone weary from days and from nights in the field

Full of endless fatigue and unrested, Yet the dew of their youth is still seen on their head

Thus they stand at attention, giving no sign of life or death

Then a nation in tears and amazement will ask: "Who are you?"

And they will answer quietly, "We Are the silver platter on which the Jewish state was given."

Thus they will say and fall back in shadows And the rest will be told in the chronicles of Israel



SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SHABBAT KIDDUSH SPONSORED BY:
The Congregation

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SHABBAT SEUDAH SPONSORED BY:
Dr. Norma Joseph, in memory of her father, Moshe Baumol z'l.

CHEVRA SHAAS SHABBOS KIDDUSH Co-SPONSORED BY:
Maggy Cohen & Michael Rubin, in memory of her father, Jacob Cohen z'l.
Abraham Mermelstein, in memory of his father, Eliyahou Mermelstein z'l.

COMMUNITY

Congregation Maghen Abraham

PERASHA KEDOSHIM - One Torah

Thoughts: Mayer Sasson

"... and love your neighbor's well being as it were your own..." (19,18)

In the gemara it is told about a gentile who came before Shamai. He said to him – Convert me, so you can teach me the entire Torah while I am standing on one foot." He pushed him away. When he came to Hillel the Elder Hillel gave him wonderful advice and said, "That which is hated by you do not do to another." This is the mitzvah of "love your neighbor's well being as it were your own" and "That is the entire Torah". This is what Rabbi Akiva says, "Love your neighbor's well being as it were your own" is a great rule in the Torah, for it is truly the foundation of the entire Torah.

We therefore find at the giving of the Torah "And there Israel encamped before the mountain" and Rashi explains that the Children of Israel encamped before the mountain "like one person with one heart". We see that unity amongst Jews between one another is the basis of the entire Torah.

The Chid'a wrote that each person receives his portion of Torah at Sinai and if he is pious he will produce that which his soul received. No one else can say the new Torah idea because it is his portion that his soul received.

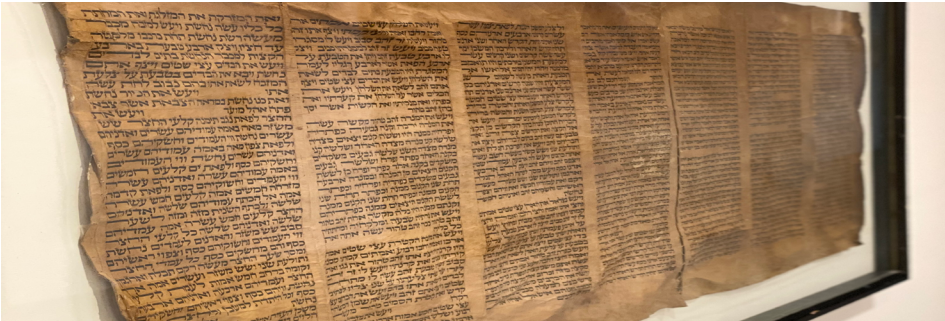
The Gaon of Vilna ob'm said that it says in the gemara that the fetus is taught the entire Torah. Before it comes into this world angel comes and hits his mouth to make him forget the entire Torah. The idea here is that a person is taught his portion of Torah that he is to clarify in the world and he is then made to forget it so that he merits to achieve his portion in Torah through toil and efforts.

We find that wholesomeness in Torah is only when all of Israel is unified. However if, G-d forbid, there is a separation in Israel, there will be a separation in all the parts of Torah.



We can now understand the request of the convert to Shamai and Hillel and their answers to him. He knows that every person in Israel has his special portion in Torah that belongs only to him and he therefore asked Shamai to "convert him so that he can teach him the entire Torah while he stands on one foot". He wanted to achieve, not only his portion in Torah but all parts of all of Israel in wholesomeness. Shamai therefore pushed him away for that is not possible for one person, for each person has only his portion of his Torah that he received at Sinai.

However when he came to Hillel the Elder Hillel gave him wonderful advice how to achieve the entire Torah by telling him, "That which is hated by you do not do to another", i.e. fulfill the mitzvah of "love your neighbor's well being as it were your own", to love all of Israel as one person and thereby it will be considered as if he achieved all parts of the Torah. That is what is written "As one person with one heart" to allude to the fact that if there is unity in Israel, they are like one person with one heart. Therefore when a person loves his neighbor as himself knowing that we are all responsible for one another like one body with one heart – then if his neighbor fulfills a certain mitzvah that he cannot, it is considered as if he fulfilled this mitzvah as well.

SHABBAT SHALOM!!!

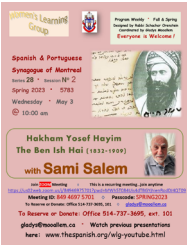


Upcoming Events




TUESDAY, MAY 2 | 11:00A - 12:30P
SISTERHOOD MUSEUM TOUR WITH RUTH KHAZZAM PARRALL(ELLES) A HISTORY OF WOMEN IN DESIGN

Register by email to: sisterhood2020@hotmail.com OR text Grace at (514) 979-9779 by Thursday, Apr. 17th.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 3 | 10:00A - 11:00A
WOMEN'S LEARNING GROUP: Hakham Yosef Hayim. The Ben Ish Hai (1832-1909) with Sami Salem

Zoom ID: 849 4697 5701 - Passcode: SPRING2023
RSVP/Donate: office 514-737-3695 x101 gladys@mooallem.ca




MONDAY, MAY 8 | 6:30P - 9:00P
LAG B'OMER: Join us for a BBQ - Bring your own kosher bottle (mashgiah supervision) - Make s'mores with ShinShin Ariel Levy - Live performance: Rachel Dara

Early bird Kids \$10 | Adults \$15 (valid to May 3)
After May 3: Kids \$20 | Adults \$30


Register: www.thespanish.org/event/lagbaomerbbq23

Mazal Tov To




Rabbi Menahem White and Azriel & Batia Novogroder, on the birth of their great granddaughter, Shifra Devorah, daughter of Dr. Joshua & Shoshana Goldstein.

Refuah Shelemah



We wish a speedy recovery to Rabbi Menahem White.

Our Condolences To



Chantal Brahmi, on the loss of her brother, Charles Salomon Brahmi z'l.

INSIGHTS

LAG B'OMER
START A FIRE &
CELEBRATE WITH JOY
JOIN US 6:30P MAY 8TH FOR A BBQ

Lag B'Omer is traditionally celebrated with great joy. Jewish sources offer a range of opinions as to the origins of this joy. The Talmud says *Lag B'Omer* celebrates the halt of a plague that took the lives of thousands of students of the great teacher Rabbi Akiva. Other sources say *Lag B'Omer* celebrates a victory for the armies of the Jewish leader Bar Kochba. Some associate *Lag B'Omer* with stories about Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai, a student of Rabbi Akiva and writer of an important Jewish text.

CELEBRATING THE 33RD DAY

A number of traditions and customs have developed around the holiday of *Lag B'Omer*. In Israel and beyond, many families light bonfires to brighten up cities and countryside alike. In addition, many Jewish couples schedule weddings and parties on *Lag B'Omer*.

Interested in celebrating *Lag B'Omer* this year? Try one of these fun activities:

Build a Campfire *Lag B'Omer* falls in mid-to-late spring, making it a great time to break out the camping gear — or at least light a fire in a fire pit. Don't forget to make a BBQ! and s'mores!

Put on a Parade Some communities stage parades for *Lag B'Omer*. Your family can organize a parade of its own. March around the block or just around the house and yard.

Get a Haircut Yes, a haircut! The Counting of the *Omer* is treated as a semi-mourning period, and observant Jews refrain from haircutting during such a time. Because *Lag B'Omer* suspends that restriction, it is a traditional time for young children to get their first haircuts.

Source: PJ Library

PARNASS HAYOM
BEIT HAMIDRASH
HELWANI

SHABBAT 8 IYAR - APRIL 29

Vivienne & Samuel Kairy, à la mémoire de Jack Israel ז"ל

Penina & Claude Helwani, in honour of their grandson, Oliver's birthday.

André Rotchel, in memory of his father, Moussa Rotchel ז"ל

SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 9 IYAR - APRIL 30

Raphael Ohayon, en l'honneur de ses Enfants & Petits Enfants.

MONDAY/LUNDI 10 IYAR - MAY 1

Famille Abitbol, à la mémoire de leur mère, Tamar Fhima Abitbol ז"ל

TUESDAY/MARDI 11 IYAR - MAY 2

Penina & Claude Helwani, in honour of the Participants in 2014 Mega Mission to Israel.

Leila Khamara Family, in recognition of their support & generosity to BH & S&P.

WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI 12 IYAR - MAY 3

Linda & Sam Fattal, in honour of their children.

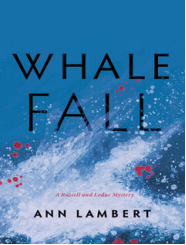
THURSDAY/JEUDI 13 IYAR - MAY 4

Peress Family, in memory of Sassoon Peress ז"ל

FRIDAY/VENDREDI 14 IYAR - MAY 5


Zion Totah, à la mémoire de Rabbi Meir Ba'Al Haness ז"ל ודבורת יגן עלינו ז"ל






TUESDAY, MAY 9 | 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



WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 | 10:00A - 12:00P
WOMEN'S LEARNING GROUP: Behind the Survival of the Babylonian (Iraqi) Diaspora with Sami Sourani

Zoom ID: 849 4697 5701 - Passcode: SPRING2023
RSVP/Donate: office 514-737-3695 x101 gladys@mooallem.ca



WEDNESDAY, MAY 17 | 10:00A - 12:00P
WOMEN'S LEARNING GROUP: "Ikebana" Japanese Flower Arrangement with Master Instructor Loris Dallal.

Zoom ID: 849 4697 5701 - Passcode: SPRING2023
RSVP/Donate: office 514-737-3695 x101 gladys@mooallem.ca