

Shearith Israel  
SPANISH &  
PORTUGUESE  
Synagogue of Montreal  
Est. 1768

# SHABBAT BULLETIN

April 8, 2023 | 17 Nissan, 5783



## Pessah Message

From  
*Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo*

Dear Friends,

As Passover approaches, I am reminded of the great story of our ancestors' liberation from slavery in Egypt. This is a time when we reflect on the hardships they endured and the miraculous redemption that followed.

The story of Passover begins with the harsh enslavement of the Jewish people in Egypt. Through the leadership of Moses, they were able to escape the tyranny of Pharaoh and make their way to the promised land. Along the way, they were sustained by the power of Hashem, who provided them with food, water, and shelter.

The Passover Seder is also an opportunity to reflect on our individual and collective journeys. We remember the hardships of our ancestors and the miracles that allowed them to overcome adversity. This is a chance to reflect on our own struggles and triumphs and to gain perspective on the challenges we face in our lives.

In a few weeks, I will be departing for Poland with a group of teenagers, volunteers, and support staff on the annual March of the Living Trip. As the spiritual leader, it is my responsibility to teach our youth the importance of faith and tradition even in trying times.

Despite the difficult circumstances of life in ghettos, concentration camps, and other forms of detention during the Holocaust, many Jewish people were determined to observe Passover to maintain their connection to their history, culture, and religion. This required great courage and creativity.

In some cases, Jewish people held secret Passover seders in hiding places, such as cellars or attics, to avoid detection by the authorities. There are even stories of courageous people holding small seders in concentration camps throughout the Holocaust.

I was particularly touched by the story of Dina Kraus, who was sent to the labor camp Unterluss, near Hannover in northern Germany. Because of her fluency in German, she was assigned to be the clerk in the barrack and the distributor of the daily ration of soup. One day, as Passover, approached, a group of girls in the barrack asked her if she

would conduct a seder. Like any good teacher, she prepared. She drew on her memories of all the seders she had attended, and she summoned up the texts and the liturgy from her memory.

Then, with a pencil, she wrote down extensive sections of the Haggadah: Hashatah avdei, l'shanah habah benai chorin – "This year we are slaves, but next year we will be free."

Kraus survived and was liberated by British troops at Bergen-Belsen, where she had been transferred after Unterluss.

Celebrating Passover during the Holocaust was a way for the Jewish people to affirm their identity and to assert their humanity in the face of persecution and dehumanization. It was also a way to honor the memory of those who had come before them and to maintain hope for a better future.

This year, when you sit at the seder table with your family, let us remember Dina Kraus and the many other heroes of the Holocaust. Let us all sing a little louder and pray a little harder this year in their honor. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and meaningful holiday.

*My wife, Muriel, children & grandchildren wish our S&P family Shabbat shalom and Pessah kasher v'sameah.*

## SHABBAT SHALOM Shabbat & Pessah Schedule

**Wednesday, Apr. 5 (Erev Pessah)**  
Shahrit: 7:00A Minha: 6:45P  
**Thursday, Apr. 6 Pessah I**  
Shahrit: 9:00A Minha: 7:15P  
**Friday, Apr. 7 Pessah II**  
Shahrit: 9:00A Minha: 6:00P

**SHABBAT, APRIL 8**  
**Start/Debut End/Fin**  
**7:12 p.m. 8:18 p.m.**  
**SHAHRIT: 8:30A MINHA: 7:15P**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 9**  
**SHAHRIT: 8:30A MINHA: 6:00P**  
**MONDAY, APR. 10**  
Shahrit: 8:00A Minha: 6:00P  
**Tuesday, Apr. 11**  
Shahrit: 7:00A Minha: 7:00P  
**Wednesday, Apr. 12**  
Shahrit: 8:30A Minha: 7:00P  
**Thursday, Apr. 13**  
Shahrit: 8:30A Minha: 7:15P  
**Friday, Apr. 14**  
Shahrit: 7:00 A Minha: 6:00P

## CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

**SHABBOS, April 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
Schachris 9:30 a.m.  
**SUNDAY, April 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
Schachris 8:00 a.m.

## SYNAGOGUE OFFICE CLOSURE

Wednesday, Apr. 5 at 12:00P & will reopen Tuesday, Apr. 11, we will close again on Wednesday, Apr. 12 & Thursday, Apr. 13 for Pessah & Legal Holiday.



## Dvar Torah Pessah

### Summary & Questions!

By: *Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo*

Parasha Pesach is the Torah portion that is read during the week of Passover, and it tells the story of the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt. The narrative begins with the Lord's commandment to Moses and Aaron to instruct the Israelites to prepare a lamb and mark their doorposts with its blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes and not smite them when He came to kill the firstborn of Egypt.

The Parasha then describes the final plague, which caused Pharaoh to release the Israelites from slavery, and the Israelites' hasty departure from Egypt. They left with unleavened bread, as they had no time to let it rise.

The narrative then turns to the Israelites' journey through the wilderness and the crossing of the Red Sea. When Pharaoh and his army pursued the Israelites, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and the waters were parted, allowing the Israelites to cross on dry ground. When the Egyptians tried to follow, the waters returned and

drowned them.

The Parasha concludes with the revelation of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai and the giving of the Torah. The Israelites were instructed to observe the holiday of Passover in memory of their deliverance from slavery, and the Parasha provides detailed instructions on how to prepare and observe the holiday.

Parasha Pesach serves as a reminder of our history and our deliverance from slavery. It emphasizes the importance of remembering and retelling the story of the Exodus each year, as a way of reaffirming our faith and identity

### Discussion questions:

1. Why did God choose the lamb as the animal to be sacrificed for the Passover meal, and what was the significance of marking the doorposts with its blood?
2. How did the Israelites know which direction to travel during their journey through the wilderness, and what challenges did they face along the way?
3. What was the significance of carrying the bones of Joseph with them as they left Egypt, and why was it important to fulfill his request to take his remains with them?

Shabbat shalom

## Shabbat Hagadol

By: *Julia Peress*

This past Friday, we came together to celebrate Shabbat Hagadol. Over 250 people attended, including many members and their young families. It was very touching to celebrate such an important Shabbat together.

The event was made possible through the hard work and dedication of our community. We would like to extend a special thank you to *Lily Bilbul* and *Amy Hadid* for their help with seating. Their efforts were nothing short of remarkable, and their meticulous attention to detail was truly appreciated. We also want to extend our gratitude to *Sandra Mashaal* for the beautiful decor. Her creative touch helped transform the space, and we are grateful for her contributions.

None of this would have been possible without the tireless efforts of our office staff, who worked hard behind the scenes to ensure that everything ran smoothly. We want to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

We also want to thank *Reverend Hazan*

*Daniel Benlolo* for making this evening so memorable and for going above and beyond to make sure that everyone felt welcome. Hazan Benlolo, *Hazan Sheni Benjamin Harrouch*, and *Marc Ezerzer* led the prayers and songs so beautifully. We are blessed to have so many talented singers in our midst.

If this event showed one thing, it's that when we come together as a community, anything is possible. We are grateful to our members for their continued support. Our events have been so well attended, and we want to express our gratitude for the support you have shown us in the past six months. The

Spanish and Portuguese synagogue is so special. So many of our members are first-generation immigrants; they came to Canada looking for a home and found one at the Spanish.

It's these members, their children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren that make this community so unique. They are our inspiration and driving force. It's our job to work together to ensure that their synagogue, their home, continues to be a source of pride and joy for years to come. Shabbat shalom



## Congregation Maghen Abraham

PERASHA PESACH  
*Thoughts: Mayer Sasson*

"Command Aharon and his sons, this is the teaching of the elevating offering, It is the elevating offering..."(6,2)

### Lack of money/covering

On the verse "Command Aharon and his sons saying this is the teaching of the elevating offering..." Rashi explained per the Medrash Torat Cohanim "Command is only used to hasten. Rabbi Shimon said, the verse must especially hasten in a place where there is a lack of money. The righteous Rabbi Yitchak Meir of Gur, author of the Chidushei HARIM explains the words of Rabbi Shimon according to what the Sages ob'm say that the elevating offering atones for sins that a person transgresses in thought, as it says, "Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai said, "the elevating offering only comes to atone for thoughts of the heart."

The author of the Chidurshei HARIM says that if we look into a person's limbs that cause him to sin we see that each of them has a "pocket" that covers them so that he should not sin with them. The eyes have a covering, the eyelids, that cover the eyes when necessary so that he doesn't look at something bad; likewise the tongue has the teeth and lips that close and cover the tongue so that he doesn't speak slander. The ears as well have "poles", as our Sages have said – If a person hears something improper he should put his fingers in his ears. We find that each limb has a "pocket"/covering to prevent him from sinning.

However, thoughts in our head do not have a covering to prevent them from bursting forth at any time and therefore a person can easily come to strange or bad thoughts unless he guards himself with all his strength and therefore it is just by the elevating offering that the holy Torah uses the word "command", a word to hasten, as Rabbi Shimon said and Rabbi Shimon comes to explain why we need extra hastening for this offering.

Rabbi Shimon said, "The verse must hasten especially in a place where there is a lack of money/covering"- in other words, the Torah must push a person to make him fear in a place where there is a lack of covering – in a person's brain where his thoughts have no covering that come naturally stop it from coming to sin.

SHABBAT SHALOM!!

## Chevra Shaas

Words From  
**Rabbi Menahem White**  
**PESACH 5783**

Alan Zavalkoff observes for his mother Malca on 21 Nisan. May her memory be for a blessing.

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Mazal tov to our Israeli friends, the Gehrs, on the birth of a girl to Arye and Elinor Kaufman in Jerusalem.

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After we were no longer able to conduct daily services in CS Hall, I would often begin the davening as Hazzan for my students in Herzliah. Our Bet midrash was located on the 4th floor, thus offering a panoramic view of the surroundings. One windy day, it looked like the trees were dancing to my prayers. I told the students "look: this is what the Bible (Book of Chronicles,) as quoted in the siddur, said, 'az yerannenu `atsei ha-ya`ar" "the trees of the forest sing out.'" It looked like the trees were responding to my prayers.

It is now the month of Nisan. The harsh winter, even in Quebec, is coming to an end.

It is time to appreciate the beauty of nature.

On Shabbat, we read the Song of Songs: (chapter 2) "... the winter is past... the blossoms have appeared in the land; the time of singing has come; the song of the turtledove is heard in our land; the figs form on the fig tree; the vines in blossom give off fragrance..."

The Rabbis of the midrash noted that it was not by coincidence that the Exodus from Egypt was in the month of Nisan, as this was the easiest time for traveling.

Yes, the hills are ablaze with the sound of music: the music of nature singing the praises of HaShem; and our appreciating the beauty of the world.

Have a kosher and happy Pesach;

Shabbat shalom

## Jewish Wisdom HALAKHA

Passover (Jewish Family & Life)  
Yosef I. Abramowitz & Susan Silverman.

Passover is the strictest of holidays when it comes to food. Although the rules of Passover differ greatly according to local communities and families, there are several practices that are followed by most Jewish people in some way.

Regular kosher food is not enough. Passover foods are labeled. However, most unprocessed fruits and vegetables are permissible.

### Significance of Unleavened Bread on Passover

When the Israelites had to pack their things quickly for the long trek in the desert, they did not have time to let their bread rise. So in memory of the hasty exodus, we eat unleavened bread (matzah) for 8 days and we abstain from hametz (literally "vinegar" but used to refer to all foods not kosher for Passover such as bread products and foods made with yeast).

### Keeping Kosher for Passover

To prepare for Passover we rid our homes of any items that are not Kosher for Passover. This is usually done by cleaning out the refrigerator and the entire kitchen and putting many dry items in an out-of-the-way cabinet which is then taped up. The custom is to "sell" anything that would represent a major financial loss, if you had to get rid of it. These items are "sold" to a non-Jewish friend or neighbor, so even though it's on your property, it's not technically yours. Then after the holiday, you "buy" it back.

Then you clean, clean, clean. The kitchen gets most of the attention. The stove usually gets a lot of extra scrubbing. Special pots, pans, dishes, and utensils that are used only on Passover are brought out (once the kitchen is ready) for use in preparation for and throughout the 8 days.

The day of Passover is filled with preparing and cooking, a strain at any time. On this day also it is traditional for the firstborn in a family to fast in memory of the firstborn Egyptians who perished in the final and most perilous plague.

## PARNASS HAYOM BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI

**SHABBAT 17 NISSAN - APRIL 8**  
David Gabbay, in memory of his father, Khedoury Gabbay ז"ל

**SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 18 NISSAN - APRIL 9**  
Jimmy Levy & Albert Levy, en l'honneur de leurs enfants.

**TUESDAY/MARDI 20 NISSAN - APRIL 11**  
Famille Medalsy, à la mémoire de leur frère, Michael Medalsy ben Sultana ז"ל

**WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI 21 NISSAN - APRIL 12**  
Famille Ades, à la mémoire de leur père, Henri Ades ז"ל

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

Famille Chocron, à la mémoire de leur père, Mimon Chocron ז"ל

**THURSDAY/JEUDI 22 NISSAN - APRIL 13**  
Martha Tapiero Lawee, à la mémoire de sa mère, Violette Corcos ז"ל

Abdulezer Family, in memory of Yusuf ben Shlomo Abdulezer ז"ל

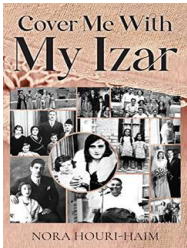
**FRIDAY/VENDREDI 23 NISSAN - APRIL 14**  
Evelyn & the late Anwar Shahin, in honour of their Family.



# Upcoming Events



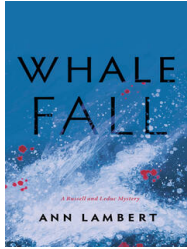
**THURSDAY, APRIL 13 | 10:00P - 11:30P**  
**LA MIMOUNA:** Terbah' ou outsaadou  
Soyez des Nôtres - Entrée gratuite - Orchestre Oriental Mofletas - Burkoks - Thé - Pâtisseries  
Synagogue Spanish & Portuguese - Info: 514-733-4998  
reception@csup.org



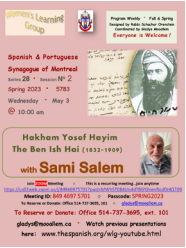
**SUNDAY, APRIL 23 | 10:30A - 12:00P**  
**SISTERHOOD BOOK REVIEW:** Cover Me With My Izar  
by: Nora Houri-Haim - Reviewer: Joe Menashe Battat Hall  
  
\$5 FOR SISTERHOOD MEMBER & \$8 FOR NON-MEMBERS



**MONDAY, APRIL 24 | 10:00A - 11:00A**  
**WOMEN'S LEARNING GROUP:** Yom Ha'Atzmaout 5783  
Hosted by Rabbi Schahar Orenstein, with Honourary Guest Hon. Paul Hirschenson, Consul General of Israel. Opening remarks from Jerusalem by Hon. Irwin Cotler. Also featuring CSL Mayor Mitchel Brownstein, Cantor Eyal Bitton and Michèle Tredger & Reverend Cantor Daniel Benlolo.  
Zoom ID: 849 4697 5701 - Passcode: SPRING2023  
RSVP/Donate: office 514-737-3695 x101 gladys@mooallem.ca



**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



**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



**SHABBAT, MAY 6 | 10:00A - 1:00P**  
**SPY KIDS TAKEOVER**  
Join us for a fun song filled, children led service. Followed by a kid friendly kiddush.  
  
Please contact Julia Peress [julia@thespanish.org](mailto:julia@thespanish.org) if your child would like to participate in the service.



**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