



Shearith Israel
SPANISH &
PORTUGUESE
Synagogue of Montreal
Est. 1768

SHABBAT BULLETIN

February 18, 2023 | 27 Shevat, 5783



New Social Action Initiative

By: Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo
BIKUR HOLIM

Meet Mr. & Mrs. (...), they're house-bound, lonely, they don't have the energy or motivation to cook for themselves, so they often skip meals. Slowly they see the days, the weeks and the months go by.

No one wants to feel this way, no one should feel this way.

We need you to rekindle a sense of purpose in the lives of our members who are sick, hospitalized, lonely or housebound. Once we have identified members in need, we will setup weekly calls and periodic visits. The idea is not simply to visit people in need but to form meaningful connections, to get to know them, provide companionship, support, friendship, and spiritual guidance.

CEMETERY UPKEEP & BEAUTIFICATION

How does one honour their loved ones once they have left this world? Many turn to prayer, mark the anniversaries and visit the cemetery. There is, however, another way to pay hom-

age and that is by ensuring that their final resting place is dignified and well maintained.

There are three phases in the project:

- Phase 1:** Cleaning the grounds and documenting stones that require upkeep.
- Phase 2:** Power washing and polishing stones.
- Phase 3:** Planting bushes and beautifying the grounds.

We set aside three dates: May 14th, 28th and June 11th for this initiative.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

I have such fond memories of my days in the choir. It's where I discovered my passion for religion, for music and for community. I think it's fair to say, that I am where I am today because of the Spanish & Portuguese Youth Choir. I am so grateful to have been part of the choir and I want to make sure your children have the same incredible opportunity. Starting in April, we will designate one Shabbat a month for "choir practice". We will invite all children interested to join us in the choir section where they will have the chance to learn the melodies and familiarize themselves with the service. Additionally, I have prepared video recordings that will allow your children to learn the songs without the inconvenience

of weekly practices. This choir is the only way to secure our precious heritage and preserve our liturgy and music for the next generation.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH CLUB

We have put together an eclectic Bar / Bat Mitzvah program to instill in your sons, daughters, grandsons, and granddaughters the importance of this milestone. This responsibility is not simply personal, it is a communal one. We are partnering with several organizations including Banav and Chai Lifeline to help us accomplish this goal. It's not simply about giving back, it's about educating our future generation that in their hands lies the power to make a difference in this world. This program is geared towards children ages 11 to 14. We will officially launch this program in September 2023, however we will have several events leading up to that date. Please sign up below to receive additional information.

We are overwhelmed by the response we received to date and we hope more of you will be part of this social action initiative. One by one we must do our part in honouring our history all while ensuring our future.

Daniel Benlolo

Parashat Mishpatim

THE PARASHA
By: Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo

Last week, we tried something new and innovative. Rather than share my thoughts on the week's Parasha, I brought questions to the congregation with the hope of opening the door for

discussion. What followed was a lively and interactive discourse. Below you will find three questions related to this week's Parasha. I look forward to answering them together during the Shabbat morning service:

Let me start with a short summary of this week's Parasha, Mishpatim. This very important Parasha deals with the laws of "Ben Adam La'Makom" (between a person and G-d) and also Ben Adam Lechavero (between

people). It goes on to detail the many laws, including those related to slavery, personal injury, loans, usury, and property damage. The end of the portion speaks of the preparations the Israelites made before receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai.

Here are the questions:

1. Why does this portion, which follows immediately after a peak spiritual experience, begin with laws about slavery?

such a barbaric event would happen in the most advanced and sophisticated country that had given birth to eminent philosophers, scientists and composers?

We must ask ourselves: can it happen again?

We are left with this terrible and haunting question: who is to blame?

From the time of the creation of man, G-d gifted us with the freedom of choice and commanded us to choose life: Ou Beharta Ba Hayim!

The Psalmist reminds us in the Hallel: HaShem's responsibility is to manage

SHABBAT SHALOM SHABBAT SHEKALIM

Start/Debut 5:06 p.m. End/Fin 6:11 p.m.

PARASHAT MISHPATIM
HERTZ PAGE 306
HAFTARAH KINGS II (SPECIAL)
HERTZ PAGE 992

SHABBAT SERVICES
SHAHRIT: 8:30A MINHA: 5:00P

ROSH HODESH ADAR

Tuesday/Mardi February 21 Février
Wednesday/Mercredi
February 22 Février

WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday
Shahrit: 8:30A Minha: 5:00P

MONDAY - FRIDAY
Shahrit: 7:30A Minha: 5:00P

CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

SHABBOS, February 11th
Schachris 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, February 12th
Schachris 8:00 a.m.

TORAH CLASS

Join ANDRE ROTCHEL every
Shabbat after services
Beit Hamidrash
Refreshments

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



2. The Torah greatly praises Am Yisrael for having said "na'aseh v "nishmah" (we will do, and we will hear). Why did they follow Hashem blindly, no questions asked?

3. This week's parsha of Mishpatim is famous for many of its laws, one of which is "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand and a foot for a foot." Should this be taken literally?

Shabbat shalom

From the President Charles Shemie

MOL (The March of the Living 2023)

Good morning!

Last Saturday night, we welcomed the 160 students who will be participating in this year's March of the Living (MOL2023) to join Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo for a powerful Havdalah service. Our President, Charles Shemie addressed the students, and we would like to share a copy of his very moving speech. We are so proud to have hosted such an incredible group of children and chaperones,

and we look forward to collaborating with them in the months to come.

Speech - March of the Living 2023

Dear friends,

You are now embarking on an extraordinary mission: a holy mission of remembrance of a tragedy that befell on our people during the black days of the HaShoah.

No one has an answer for such a tragedy that took the life of six million of our brothers and sisters, including one and a half million children.

Who would have ever imagined that

the heavens with the myriads of the galaxies and constellation.

Whatever happens on earth, however, is the responsibility of man.

Last week's Parasha, ended with this call: Lo Tishkah! Don't forget.

It is our mission now, your sacred mission to remember what had happened. The world had already forgotten this tragedy and the witnesses are slowly vanishing.

It is going to be up to you now, to pass on the torch of the remembrance.

Good luck and Shavoua Tov.

S.&P. Annual Shabbat Kiddush Donors:

Co-Sponsors:
Freha, Myriam, Renee, Esther & Yolande Amzallag, à la mémoire de leur père, le hazzan **Salomon Amzallag z'l** (Samy Elmaghribi).
Rachel & Michael Gabbay & Family, in memory of his mother, **Laura (Shahrabani) Gabbay z'l**.
Denise Touaty & Families, in memory of husband & father, **Manny Touaty z'l**.

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

Gladys Mooallem, in memory of husband, father & grand-father, **Jamil-Joseph Mooallem z'l**. 15th yahrzeit.
S.&P. Seudah Shlishit is Sponsored by:
Penina & Claude Helwani, in memory of his mother, **Camille Helwani z'l**.
Ethel Perez & Melissa Perez, in memory of their father, **Salomon Perez z'l**.



Community

Congregation
Maghen Abraham

PERASHA Mishpatim
Thoughts: Mayer Sasson

And these are the ordinances... you shall place before them" (21,1)

In good faith

Rashi says on the spot that when we read ..."And these" it means that the Torah wants us to know that these ordinances are in addition to the utterances that were given in the monumental event of the receiving of the Torah; this is to say that the first set of instructions are from Mount Sinai and so are these issues are given at the same event.

The first issue that is felt within these ordinances is related to a Jewish slave that stole and did not have money to pay and therefore was sold as a slave in order to repay in kind to settle his debt.

Rav Moshe Feinstein says that this first issue here relates directly to the very first commandment "I am Hashem your God..." which means that if one had to steal then in fact he lacks the proper faith that Hashem is his God that takes care of the needs and livelihood of all creatures in the entire universe. Therefore the person who resorted to theft is deficient of faith and trust in Hashem and doubts Hashem's obligation to sustain and support the entire creation and in fact demonstrates an impediment in belief in the very first commandment; otherwise he would have been able to muster enough faith in Hashem and would not resorts to theft.

The very first question one is asked after his ascendance to the Next world is "Did you negotiate in good faith" and the reason that this question is first and carries the highest gravity is that if one did not obtain his income in lawful and proper means, that means all the Mitzvoh that he performed that stemmed and were derived from such questionable income as Tefilin, Blessings on meals, donations and so on, were all founded on corrupted earnings and therefore would in fact amount to sins and transgressions and would carry little merit.

It is said that once a rich businessman presented the phylacteries that were just made for him to the Chazon Ish and said that he spared no money and effort to have them made with the utmost strict rules

and finest material as well as the highest grand like manner and beauty, and that he paid top dollars and spared no resources and hired the most distinguished writer and was very pleased and proud of this. The Chazon Ish then whispered in his ears the question, "Did you also obtain the funds for this purchase with the same type of dedication and honorable methods"?

"When money you lend to My people, to the poor person who is with you, do not act towards him as a creditor, do not place ... interest". When a poor person comes to borrow money we are to employ a great deal of sympathy and understanding as well as very strict and important awareness. We must be mindful that sometimes Hashem granted us wealth and money only for the sake of landing and sharing part of it, as it is His way of taking care of the poor and needy that for unknown reasons to us Hashem selected for them to receive their sustenance in this manner.

Each and every one, in accordance to his own level, has to lend money if one of the 3 'If and whens" that are not discretionary arise and it must be treated as a commandment; furthermore, the saying "the poor who is with you" as per Or HaHaim Hakadosh means that we need to feel just as poor as the borrower, we need to feel that we are poor in our balance of Mitzvoh and that this borrower is now an opportunity for us to merit a great Mitzvah.

Therefore, Hashem warns us to not to feel as a creditor and not to think that we are somehow superior to the borrower and possess an elevated state and to realise that in fact the main point is to make an effort to feel the borrower's plight and humiliating state of mind when asking for a loan. As a result we must share this emotional burden and acknowledge his turmoil as much as we can.

These 2 issues have direct link to the strength of our faith and trust in Hashem that indeed He is our God! On one hand, having ample confidence in Hashem as the ultimate provider will ensure that we apply appropriate and sincere conduct as well good faith in our dealing with others. Thus, on the other hand, we know to never have to resort to ill fated methods to earn our living, as it can come to us in a fair and proper manner.

And as result and proof of this faith, we will be able to view our wealth as a trust that Hashem has put with us and lend to others as agents and messengers.

SHABBAT SHALOM!!!

SHINSHIN
ARIEL LEVY
PLEASE JOIN ME IN SONGS

Hello everyone and Shabbat Shalom!

This is Ariel Shinshin, and every week I will share with you my two weekly songs, you are invited to listen to them during the week and share with me what you thought of them!

To listen to my songs, scan the following QR code



The first song of this week is "Meshugaat" (Crazy) by Gal Adam. You probably heard about Omer adam, his big brother, but since Gal Adam started to post himself singing, he became more and more famous, like his brother Omer.

The second song is "Or Ha'yareach" by Aviv Gefen. Aviv is a well-known Israeli rock musician, singer, and songwriter. even though this song is much older than me, It's a classic song, and recently, Yasmin Muallem and Tuna renewed his song into a modern version that I also recommend.

I can't wait to hear your opinion about the songs! I wish you, Shabbat Shalom

INSIGHTS

Jewish Wisdom
HALAKHA

Are We Obligated to Forgive? (Cont'd.)
by Rabbi Dovid Rosenfeld

... We are obligated to somehow convey to him our hurt – and by so doing afford him the opportunity to own up to his bad behavior and make amends.

Thus, in your case, it is especially important that you let your friend know how hurtful her behavior was. If it is too hard to bring this up in person, you could send her an email, or possibly better, involve a trusted go-between, someone respected by both parties who could help restore peace. Hopefully, the result of all this will be that your acquaintance will realize how insensitive she was, will regret it, and will sincerely ask your forgiveness. And if all that occurs, you will hopefully find it in your heart to forgive her as well.

Maimonides writes further that sometimes it is clear that the person who wronged you is not a stable person. He is not someone capable of healthy relationships. He abuses others and feels no remorse.

In such a case, writes Maimonides, there is no obligation to communicate our hurt to the person to allow him to reconcile. Nothing will be gained. It is considered an act of piety (but not an obligation) to forgive such a person. Ultimately, we should feel bad for a person like that, who is so incapable of maintaining wholesome relationships and who turns to abuse in a hopeless attempt to build up his own self-esteem. He is the one with

PARNASS HAYOM
BEIT HAMIDRASH
HELWANI

SHABBAT 27 SHEVAT - FEBRUARY 18
André Rotchel, in memory of his mother, Esther Rotchel ז"ל

SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 28 SHEVAT - FEBRUARY 19
Famille Dana, à la mémoire de leur père, Victor Dana ז"ל

Ethel & Melissa Perez, à la mémoire de leur père, Salomon Perez ben Aviva ז"ל

TUESDAY/MARDI 30 SHEVAT - FEBRUARY 21
Ouri Ohayon & Famille, à la mémoire de leur grand père, Jacob Ohayon ז"ל

WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI 1 ADAR - FEB. 22
S&P Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh Adar, in honour of the Sisterhood.

Claude Helwani, à la mémoire de sa mère, Camille Helwani ז"ל

THURSDAY/JEUDI 2 ADAR - FEBRUARY 23
Khadoury Family, in loving memory of Adele Khadoury bat Tamam ז"ל

Famille Amzallag, à la mémoire de leur père, Hazzan Salomon Amzallag ז"ל

FRIDAY/VENDREDI 3 ADAR - FEBRUARY 24
Zion Totah, à la mémoire de sa mère, Mazal Fortuné bat Nazira ז"ל

the problems – who was quite possibly the victim of abusive relationships in his own childhood. We should feel bad for him rather than angry at him. We should let it go and move on.

(Again, this is not an obligation but a pious act. If the victim can find it in his heart to feel bad for the perpetrator and forgive him that is great. But often the victim in such a situation is suffering terribly from PTSD and the like. Trying to force himself to forgive the one who abused him so is liable to increase his hurt even more. In such a case, the victim should work on healing himself. Forgiveness can come later, when he is stronger.)

We do find that it is proper (but not obligatory) to forgive all – based on Talmud Megillah 28a that a rabbi claimed one reason he lived so long was that he never went to bed at night without first forgiving anyone who hurt him that day. Based on this, the Shema we say before going to bed includes a paragraph in which we forgive anyone who hurt us.

But this requires judgment. If someone hurt you deeply, rather than trying to erase it from your heart and forgive him, the more proper approach would be to admit that you have hard feelings towards him and deal with them. Fulfill Leviticus 19:17 and express your hurt to him. This will allow him to repent properly and properly mend the relationship. If you would just try to forget about it yourself, your friend would never realize the error of his ways and improve – and the relationship might limp along but would never truly be healed.

Shabbat shalom

Upcoming Events



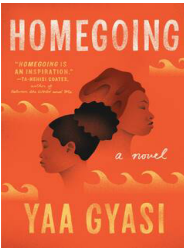
IMMEDIATE
SISTERHOOD PURIM BASKETS (MISHLOAH MANOT)
ORDER: your Purim baskets Today!

Deadline: Tuesday, February 28th, 2023 at 12:00P.

\$54/basket - Phone: 514-373-3695 - **OR**
visit our website: www.thespanish.org



TUESDAY, MARCH 7 | 7:00 PM
PURIM GAME NIGHT | JOIN US FOR FUN & GAMES,
BACKGAMMON, DOSA, PRIZES, MUSIC, COCKTAIL DINATOIRE & OPEN BAR - PRIZE FOR BEST COSTUME.
\$75 BY DEADLINE DATE: FEBRUARY 27 - \$85/ADULT AFTER.
VALET PARKING INCLUDED.
Registration: <https://www.thespanish.org/event/PGN23>



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



SHABBAT, APRIL 1 | 10:00A - 1:00P
SPY KIDS SHABBAT HAGADOL 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.