



Shearith Israel  
SPANISH &  
PORTUGUESE  
Synagogue of Montreal  
Est. 1768

# SHABBAT BULLETIN

February 25, 2023 | 4 Adar, 5783



## Dvar Torah Parashat Terumah Summary & Questions!

By: Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo

Parasha Terumah describes God's instructions to the Israelites regarding the construction of the Tabernacle (Mishkan) - a portable dwelling place for God's presence. The Tabernacle was to be constructed using a specific set of materials, including gold, silver, copper, and various fabrics. The Israelites were commanded to donate these materials willingly and generously.

The Parasha also provides detailed instructions for the construction of the Tabernacle's furnishings, including the Ark of the Covenant, the Table, and the Menorah. These objects were to be crafted with great care and attention to detail, and were rich in symbolic meaning.

The Ark of the Covenant, for example, was a gold-covered box that contained the Tablets of the Law and was considered the physical manifestation of God's presence among the Israelites. The Table held the showbread, which represented God's sustenance of the Israelites, while the Menorah was a seven-branched candelabrum that represented God's illumination and wisdom.

The construction of the Tabernacle and its furnishings required a significant amount of resources and skill, and the Israelites were commanded to build them with the utmost care and precision. The Parasha emphasizes the importance of craftsmanship and the value of giving willingly and generously to communal projects.

Overall, Parashat Terumah highlights the importance of creating a space for God's presence among the Israelites, and the role of giving, craftsmanship, and attention to detail in the construction of sacred objects and spaces.

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### Discussion questions

1. Why did God command the Israelites to build the Tabernacle? What was its purpose, and why was it necessary for the Israelites to have a portable dwelling for God's presence?
2. The construction of the Tabernacle required a significant amount of resources and skill. Why do you think God chose to have the Israelites build the Tabernacle in such an elaborate and intricate way? What does this tell us about the importance of craftsmanship and attention to detail?
3. The Israelites are commanded to donate materials for the construction of the Tabernacle. Why do you think it was important for the Israelites to give willingly and generously to this project? How does this relate to the concept of tzedakah (charity) and the role of giving in Jewish tradition?

Shabbat shalom

## SHABBAT SHALOM

Start/Debut 5:16 p.m. End/Fin 6:20 p.m.

PARASHAT TERUMAH  
HERTZ PAGE 326  
HAFTARAH KINGS I  
HERTZ PAGE 336

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

### WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday  
Shahrit: 8:30A Minha: 5:00P  
MONDAY & TUESDAY  
Shahrit: 7:30A Minha: 5:00P  
Wednesday - Friday  
Shahrit: 7:00A Minha: 5:30P

### CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

SHABBOS, February 25<sup>TH</sup>  
Schachris 9:30 a.m.  
SUNDAY, February 26<sup>TH</sup>  
Schachris 8:00 a.m.

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

## PURIM Festivities

By: Julia Peress

Dear Friends

It's that time of the year again, and we're thrilled to announce that our *Annual Purim Party* is right around the corner! We have truly gone all out this year, and we can't wait to share with you all the exciting details.

First and foremost, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our incredible committee, *Sandra Mashaal, Lucie Shemie, Karen Shebath and Oren Gabbay*, who have worked tirelessly to plan the perfect evening. Their dedication to making



this party an unforgettable experience is truly inspiring, and we couldn't have done it without them.

The evening will kick off with a *cocktail hour*, complete with delicious appetizers and exciting *Backgammon and Dosa tournaments*. We were able

to secure extravagant prizes for the winners and for the best costume.

Following the tournament, we will all be treated to an over-the-top cocktail dinatoire catered by the one and only *La Marguerite*. *DJ Guy* will pack the dance floor like only he can, with a mix of songs that will keep the party going all night long. We will also have an *Open Bar and Valet parking*.

As we come together to celebrate this beautiful holiday, we want to emphasize the importance of events like our annual Purim party are so important to the future of our community. It is through moments like these that we strengthen our connections and build a sense of unity that will carry us forward.

So don't miss out! Get your costumes ready and come party with us on *March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00P in the Aintabi Hall*.

*We can't wait to see you there!*

## Social Action Initiative Minyan

By: Reverend Hazzan Daniel Benlolo

Good morning!

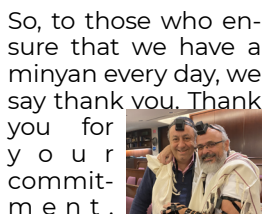
In every synagogue, there are individuals who make a commitment to ensure that a minyan is present every day. They are the dedicated members who come, rain or shine, early in the morning and in the after-



noon, to make sure there is a Minyan. Their devotion is inspiring. They understand the importance of having a minyan, not just for the prayers themselves, but for the sense of community it creates. They know that without the minyan, mourners cannot say Kaddish or acknowledge yahrzeit, and that it is their duty to ensure that every member of the congregation can fulfill these sacred obligations.



your devotion, and your unwavering dedication to our community. Your presence is felt in every prayer, in every moment of connection, and in every act of kindness that you perform. May you be blessed with health,



happiness, and the knowledge that your contributions are deeply appreciated and cherished by us all.



We understand that everyone has different schedules and commitments, which can make it challenging to attend every minyan. However, we believe that with your help, we can ensure that our minyan runs smoothly and efficiently.



To help us get organized, we have created a Google form where you can let us know your availability.



We will also use this information to call upon individuals when we need to form a minyan. We will send out an email next week containing a link to the form. Please sign up and do your part in ensuring the future of our sacred community. Good luck and Shavoua Tov.







S.&P. Annual Shabbat Kiddush Donors:

Arlene & Henri Abitan, à la mémoire de son père, Roger Joseph Madar z'l.  
Lucie & Charles Shemie, in memory of his father, Noori Khedouri Shemie z'l.

S.&P. Seudah Shlishit is Sponsored by:

Penina & Claude Helwani, in memory of his brother, Joseph Helwani z'l.

C.S. Shabbos Kiddush is Co-Sponsored by:

Shulamit & Simcha Foxman, in memory of her father, Rabbi Mordechai Singer zt'l. (25<sup>th</sup> Yahrzeit)

HELWANI BEIT HAMIDRASH  
PARNASS HAYOM

**SHABBAT 4 ADAR - FEBRUARY 25**  
Rachel & Jim Archibald, in memory of her sister, Madeleine Ftaya ז"ל

**SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 5 ADAR - FEBRUARY 26**  
Famille Madar, à la mémoire de leur père, Roger Joseph Madar ז"ל

Ouri Ohayon & Famille, à la mémoire de Josiane Suissa ז"ל

Joseph Layani, à la mémoire de son père, Ichoua Layani ben Cohava ז"ל

**MONDAY/LUNDI 6 ADAR - FEBRUARY 27**  
Famille Amzallag, à la mémoire de leur père, Salomon Amzallag ז"ל  
Hathan Hasukariot

Leona Harari & Joseph Houx, in memory of Leon Harari ז"ל

**TUESDAY/MARDI 7 ADAR - FEBRUARY 28**  
Penina & Claude Helwani, à la mémoire de son frère, Joseph Helwani ז"ל

**WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI 8 ADAR - MARCH 1**  
Leila Khamara, in honour of her granddaughter, Myriam Sigalit.

**FRIDAY/VENDREDI 10 ADAR - MARCH 3**  
Sabah Bekhor, in memory of his father, Victor Bekhor ז"ל

Community

Congregation  
Maghen Abraham

PERASHA TERUMAH  
Thoughts: Mayer Sasson

"...spices for anointing oil and for the incense of aromatic spices." (5, 6)

Atonement for sins

"Something hidden (the Ketoret- Incense) shall come and atone for a hidden deed (= slander)."

Concerning the service of the Cohen Gadol on Yom Kippur we learn in the *gemara* (Yuma) "And it shall atone for him and for the members of his household and for the entire community of Israel – What is the atonement that is good for him, his family, his fellow Kohanim and for all of Israel? We shall say that it is the offering of the Incense." The *gemara* wonders and asks, "Does the Incense atone?"

And it answers, "We learn from here that the Incense atones, as it says, "And he shall give the Incense and atone for the Nation." Rabbi Yishmael learns, "For what does the Incense atone? For slander. For something hidden (the Incense) shall come and atone for a hidden deed (slander)."

We learn from here that the *Ketoret* (Incense) atones for slander and from here we can deduce a new idea, for when our Rabbis ob'm said "As long as the *Beit Hamikdash* existed the Altar atoned for Israel but now – a person's table atones for him" they intended atonement for the sin of slander.

Our Rabbis ob'm said (Brachot) that the manner of those who are lax in guarding their tongues is to speak their slander when they eat together at the table. In other

words, when they eat their bread they also "eat and swallow" people with their sharp tongues. Therefore it is explained in the holy Zohar that "The time of eating is a time of war". The Zohar explains that when a person is eating his bread there is a war between his Good Inclination and his Evil Inclination, for the Evil Inclination tries with all its might to catch the person in his net and therefore a person has to fight against it with all his might.

(And we can add that the word table – שֻׁלְחָן is the same letters as the words "to the snake" – לִנְחָשׁ - to teach you that when a person eats by his table, the נחש -"Snake", an epithet for the Evil Inclination, arouses to fight against him. But if a person speaks out words of Torah by the table, the letter Lamed ל, that alludes to learning, enters the word נחש and then it becomes שֻׁלְחָן – Table, as it says "The Table that is before G-d.")

We learn in the *gemara* (Yuma) that the indication for a repentor that he has succeeded in his repentance is if "at the same time in the same place" he withstood the trial. In other words, if a person comes at the same time and the same place to where he had succumbed in the past to sin and now he overcomes his Evil Inclination and withstands the trial, this is an indication that he is truly penitent.

So now we can understand the reason why a person's table atones for him for slander just as the Altar for Incense did; for since the manner of slanderers is to speak and gossip essentially when they are eating at the table, therefore at that time and place they are worthy of atonement for slander if they hold themselves back from speaking and listening to slander and instead say words of Torah at the table.

SHABBAT SHALOM!!

Chevra Shaas

Words From  
Rabbi Menahem White  
TERUMAH 5783

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of Adar, Shulamit Foxman observes yahrzeit for her father, Rabbi Mordecai Singer.

Also, on that day, Charles Stein observes for his mother Giza.  
May their memories be for a blessing.

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Parashat Terumah discusses the building of the mishkan, which was the forerunner of the Temple, which in turn was the forerunner of the synagogue, which indeed was referred to as "miqdash me`at," a. miniature Temple, by the prophet Ezekiel.

Synagogues are served by rabbis. So, let me tell you a news item about rabbis that was publicized last week, and that bothered me personally very much.

Background to what I want to tell: Growing up in Boston, I received my Jewish/Hebrew education in an institution known as the "Hebrew Teachers College" or HTC for short. Although not what we would call a day school, it was an intensive 5-day curriculum where we learned Talmud, Bible, Rashi, Hebrew Lang and Lit, and Jewish History. Everything was taught in Hebrew, and it was inconceivable to speak to a teacher, even in the hallways, in English. So, I am indebted to the school for having given me a solid background.

The school was founded around 1920, in order to provided teachers for future generations of students. Hence the word "Teachers" in the name.

Some time after I graduated, the "T" was dropped from the school's name.

Perhaps they realized that most students nowadays had no desire to become teachers.

Around 20 years ago, they created a "non-denominational" rabbinical school. That is, you could take courses, without committing to being Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, or Reconstructionist. At least, the school held on to one requirement: in order to be admitted, or to graduate, your spouse, or boy/girl/they/friend, must be Jewish.

Last week, after much deliberation, the school announced that that requirement had been lifted. Now, according to new policy, it is not only acceptable for a "Rabbi" to officiate at a mixed marriage, but the rabbi him/her/they/self can be married out of the faith.

Sadly, this is an example of "wokeism" carried to the extreme. I am, of course, upset at the sharp left turn my alma mater has taken.

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Since we are already in Adar, and soon will be celebrating Purim, let's conclude on a lighter note: There was the man whose doctor told him last month that he was going deaf. He hasn't heard from the doctor since.

And the man whose landlord complained that the heating bill was too high. He told the landlord: "thank you for telling me. I always keep an open door."

And the doctor who pointed out that cosmetic plastic surgery used to be a taboo subject, but now no one raises an eyebrow!

I hope you don't think that I am PUNishing you with these "marbim be-simcha" comments.

Shabbat shalom

Upcoming Events



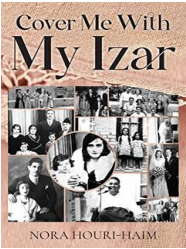
**IMMEDIATE**  
**SISTERHOOD PURIM BASKETS (MISHLOAH MANOT)**  
**ORDER: your Purim baskets Today!**  
  
Deadline: Tuesday, February 28th, 2023 at 12:00P.  
**\$54/basket - Phone: 514-737-3695 - OR**  
visit our website: [www.thespanish.org](http://www.thespanish.org)



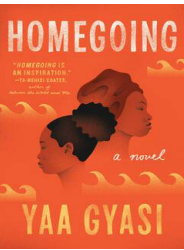
**SHABBAT, APRIL 1 | 10:00A - 1:00P**  
**SPY Kids SHABBAT HAGADOL TAKEOVER**  
Join us for a fun song filled, children led service. Followed by a kid friendly kiddush.  
  
Please contact Julia Peress [julia@thespanish.org](mailto:julia@thespanish.org) if your child would like to participate in the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



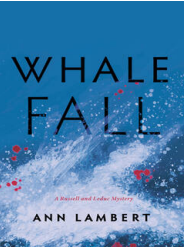
**TUESDAY, MARCH 7 | 7:00 PM**  
**PURIM GAME NIGHT | JOIN US FOR FUN & GAMES,**  
BACKGAMMON, DOSA, PRIZES, MUSIC, COCKTAIL DINATOIRE & OPEN BAR - PRIZE FOR BEST COSTUME.  
**\$75 BY DEADLINE DATE: FEBRUARY 27 - \$85/ADULT AFTER.**  
VALET PARKING INCLUDED.  
Registration: <https://www.thespanish.org/event/PGN23>



**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



**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, 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