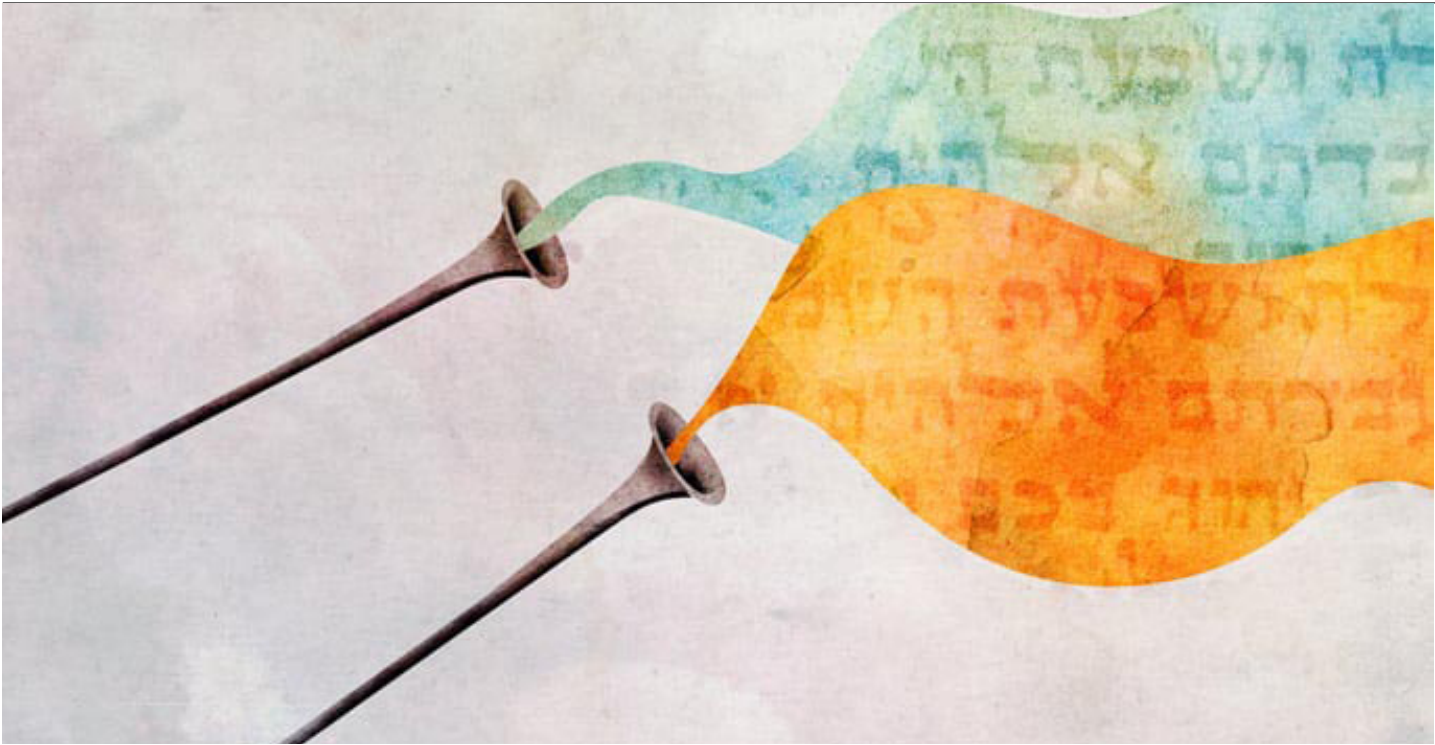




Shearith Israel
SPANISH &
PORTUGUESE
Synagogue of Montreal
Est. 1768

SHABBAT BULLETIN

June 10, 2023 | 21 Sivan, 5783



Dvar Torah Behalotcha 5783

By: Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis

We are now in the third Parsha of the book of Bamidbar. The last two Parshiot have been all over the place in terms of chronology and content. For two weeks we've had an eclectic mix of narrative and Mitzvot, slowly building to this week's Parsha in which the Children of Israel start their triumphant journey to the promised land. Finally, the young nation takes its first unsure steps and we fall flat on our face.

My initial reaction is to blame it on atrophy, we've been sitting in camp for nearly a full year, we have forgotten what it's like to be on the move. These are just early missteps; these failures will be the source of our future success. The problem with this theory is that the data doesn't support it. Things don't go great this week, but things get worse not better in next Parsha. Over the next two Parshiot, which close out our first

forty years in the desert, the Children of Israel don't scrape together a single win. The failures of this week's Parsha give birth to greater failure not success.

In the second Aliyah of our Parsha Moshe purifies and dedicates the Levites. The Levite were not priests, they had responsibilities to the Temple, but did not serve any role in the rituals or sacrifices performed there. Rather the Torah states explicitly that the Levites were to serve in place of the first-borns of the children of Israel. G'd makes clear that the Levite's role is to mediate between the Children of Israel and the Temple in order to protect the Children of Israel. At their dedication the Levites are charged to take care of the Children of Israel and to protect them from the plagues that G'd will send in response to inappropriate action on the part of the Children of Israel.

What then happens in our Parsha? Twice the Children of Israel are struck by a plague that kills many people. What do the Levites do to preempt or protect the people from plague?

Nothing! The Levites were the religious leadership of Israel, the first Rabbis, G'd puts their dedication in the beginning of this week's Parsha specifically to show that they did not perform their function.

The mistakes, failures and rebellions that the Children of Israel perpetuate in their first two years in the desert are because of failure of leadership, religious leadership specifically. It is not as if there was a simple solution to the challenges that the nation presents. They are a people close to G'd but starved of spiritual connection. Healing this wound would have taken engagement, contact and follow up, it would have required the Levites to spend most of their time out of their camp exposing them to spiritual and ethical challenges; worst of all it would have presented them with situations that challenged their assumptions and ideology. It was the challenge they were created for, and they turned away from it. The Levites failed to risk changing themselves and so they could not change the nation.

Shabbat Shalom!

SHABBAT SHALOM

Start/Debut 8:23 p.m. End/Fin 9:40 p.m.

PARASHAT BEHA'ALOTEKHA
HERTZ PAGE 605
HAFTARAH JUDGES
HERTZ PAGE 620

SHABBAT SERVICES
SHAHRIT: 8:30A MINHA: 8:15P

WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday
Shahrit: 8:30A Minha: 6:00P
MONDAY - FRIDAY
Shahrit: 7:00A Minha: 6:00P

CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

SHABBOS, June 10TH
Schachris 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, June 11TH
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



OPINION

SPY Farewell Pizza Party

By: Julia Peress



Thank you all for joining us tonight as we gather to celebrate and bid farewell to our beloved Shinshin Ariel and Morah Maayan. Before I address them both, I would like to take a few moments to reflect on our collective achievements throughout this past year. I have never been prouder to be a member of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue and to be a part of this vibrant community than I am right now. This year has served as a shining example of the incredible things we can accomplish when we come together.

Within this room, I see so many familiar faces whom I have known and loved throughout my entire life. Despite our diverse schedules, commitments, and passions, there is something that unites us. We share a rich history, cherished memories, and a profound connection. This synagogue is our home, and this community is our family. I marvel at the connection my children feel to this

place and to the children within this community—a connection that I may never fully comprehend. As I watch them joyfully running through these halls, it takes me back in time. While my children and I will undoubtedly experience different childhoods, this shared bond will forever unite us.

Initially, I intended to express my gratitude to all the individuals who made this year so meaningful and extraordinary. To those who served on committees, to our leadership, our clergy, our office staff, Santos, his team, those who volunteered their time, and promoted our synagogue—I am immensely thankful. However, I quickly realized that if I were to start naming names, the list would never end. Instead of individually thanking each one of you, I implore you not to stop, not to give up. Please, keep coming! Your synagogue



& community need you more than ever!

Now, let us focus on the true purpose of our gathering. Maayan, Ariel, I am at a loss for words

to express the depth of my admiration for both of you. It feels surreal to think that just a year ago, I didn't even know your names. I couldn't have found two more dedicated individuals to join us on this journey. Your unwavering devotion to the synagogue and our youth is both unique and remarkable. Every Shabbat, every event, every holiday, you were there, presenting fresh ideas, organizing new activities, and radiating the same energy and warmth. You didn't simply show up at our events, you stayed, and you were often the last ones to leave. You didn't simply get to know our children; you genuinely loved them, and they loved you back. Letting go



of both of you is proving to be more difficult than I had imagined. However, holding onto you would be selfish, especially when there is a vast world eagerly awaiting your talents and contributions.

Ariel, it is astonishing to realize that you are only 18 years old. Your passion, drive, responsibility, and wisdom exceed your years. The world eagerly awaits your boundless potential, and I cannot wait to see what you're going to do next.

Maayan, you embody selflessness in its purest form. You are an exceptional educator and an even better person. The level of dedication you have shown to our children and community is immeasurable, and we cannot thank you enough. So, to Maayan, Ariel, our leadership, team, volunteers, and entire community, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for a year our congregation so desperately needed, a year I will never forget.

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SHABBAT KIDDUSH SPONSORED BY:
The Congregation

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SHABBAT SEUDAH SPONSORED BY:
Nelly & Victor Perez, à la mémoire de sa mère, Jouvou Perez z'l.

CHEVRA SHAAS SHABBOS KIDDUSH SPONSORED BY:
Dr. Yehoshua & Chana Dvora Haimovici, thanking Hashem for the goodness He did, does and will continue do for all of us and for Medinat Israel.

COMMUNITY

Congregation Maghen Abraham

PERASHA BIHAALOTCHA
Thoughts: Mayer Sasson

"And this is the workmanship of the Candelabrum...." (8,4)

The difficulty

Rabbi Shaul Yedidya, the Grand Rabbi of Modzhitz says: Our Sages tell us that when G-d commanded Moshe to make the Menorah it was hard for Moshe Rabenu and even though G-d showed him with His Finger how the candelabrum should be made, as it says, "this is the workmanship of the candelabrum", Moshe was not able to do it until G-d told him: Throw the block of gold into the fire – and the Menorah was formed on its own!

These words of our Sages seem hard to understand. If G-d Himself was the Rabbi and Moshe, the chosen person was the disciple, how could it have been hard for Moshe Rabenu to understand how to make the Menorah?

The Grand Rabbi of Modzhitz explains: The Menorah was made "beaten out from one piece of gold" in order to symbolize the unity and wholeness of all parts of the Jewish Nation. "Its root stock"-symbolizes the simple people in the nation that are at the bottom of the class scale and "its blossom" symbolizes the great and important people in the nation – and Moshe Rabeinu had the difficult assignment of unifying all parts of the nation into "one block", like the Menorah.

It was therefore difficult even for Moshe, the best person in the nation, until he merited Heavenly Assistance, and the Menorah was formed on its own.

We too, the Grand Rabbi says, can reach unity in Israel if we pray, ask and beg the Creator to bless us with a spirit from Heaven to help us cancel out the evil inclination within us to split into groups so that we unify into one mass.

SHABBAT SHALOM!!



Chevra Shaas Words From Rabbi Menahem White

BEHA'ALOTEKHA 5783

Dear mitpallelim,

This Friday, 20 Sivan, is the yahrzeit of my late sister, Muriel (Menucha Sarah) Gerofsky, and of my grandmother Ida (Chaya) Shapiro.

This day, known in Hebrew as Kaf Sivan, is a most significant day in Jewish history. In 1171, 40 Jews in Blois, France, were murdered due to a blood libel. The great sage Yaakov Tam (grandson of Rashi) decreed that this day should be observed as a fast day. And then, in the years 1648 and '49, the Ukrainian Cossacks, under the leadership of the notorious Bogdan Chmielnicki, massacred between 150,000-200,000 Polish Jews. The day of 20 Sivan was then established as a day of mourning and fasting in memory of those Jews and is recorded as such in commentaries on the Shulhan Arukh.

Perhaps, as a result of the holocaust, which has overshadowed kaf Sivan as a tragedy, this day is usually not observed as a fast anymore. Nevertheless, it is appropriate to take a moment to reflect on the memories of those who have perished `al kiddush HaShem.

On Monday, 23 Sivan, Blossom Shaffer observes yahrzeit for her father Phillip; on Tuesday, 24 Sivan, Robert Skolnik observes yahrzeit for his mother Katie; on 26 Sivan, Henry Zingerman observes for his mother Chaya Sara. May their memories all be for a blessing.

Hardly anyone in NJ has any idea of Quebec realities: Bill 101, Bill 96, OQLF, Bill 21, pastagate, etc. However, Qc has finally become the number 1 item on the news reports. Air quality here the last couple of days has been the worst since the 17th century. The culprit: "Quebec wildfires." I heard asked on a talk show: why can't their government put out those fires? So, Quebec is now famous! Bonne chance!

On a positive note: Mazal tov to our good friends Ron and Coty Finegold, on the marriage of their granddaughter Zahava Giloni to Shlomo Brody. As the Giloni family lives is Passaic, which is about a half hour drive from Teaneck, I was pleased to attend the wedding, together with my daughter.

Shabbat shalom

S&P Sisterhood Closing Meeting



The sisterhood of SPS extend their deepest appreciation to Grace Peress Lawee for her unwavering dedication and hard work.

During the pandemic she rolled up her sleeve Grace-

Mazal Tov To



Grandparents, **Andrée & Selim Sasson** and **Yafa Benisti**, proud parents, **Muriel & Mayer Sasson**, on **Solomon** receiving his degree in Medicine from McGill University.

Got a Question for Reverend/Hazan Daniel Benlolo?

Dear Danny,

I've been feeling a bit disconnected from my faith lately. I used to have a strong spiritual connection, but lately, it feels like something is missing. Do you have any advice on how I can reignite my religious fervor?

Rabbi: I understand the struggle you're experiencing, and it's not uncommon to go through periods of spiritual questioning. To reignite your religious fervor, I suggest exploring various avenues. Engage in regular prayer and meditation, study sacred texts, and seek out meaningful discussions with fellow congregants. Attend synagogue services, participate in community events, and consider reaching out to a mentor or spiritual guide for guidance. Remember, everyone's spiritual journey is unique, so be patient with yourself and open to new insights. May your pursuit of deeper connection with your faith be blessed.

until next time...

Cher Danny,

je me sens un peu déconnecté de ma foi ces derniers temps. J'avais autrefois une forte connexion spirituelle, mais ces temps-ci, j'ai l'impression qu'il me manque quelque chose. Auriez-vous des conseils sur la façon de raviver ma ferveur religieuse ?

Cher congregant,

Je comprends les difficultés que vous traversez, et il n'est pas rare de traverser des périodes de questionnement spirituel. Pour raviver votre ferveur religieuse, je vous suggère d'explorer différentes voies. Engagez-vous dans une prière et une méditation régulière, étudiez des textes sacrés et recherchez des discussions significatives avec d'autres fidèles. Assister aux services à la synagogue, participer à des événements communautaires et envisager de vous tourner vers un mentor ou un guide spirituel pour obtenir des conseils. Rappelez-vous que le parcours spirituel de chacun est unique, alors soyez patient envers vous-même et ouvert aux nouvelles perspectives. Que votre quête d'une connexion plus profonde avec votre foi soit bénie.

à bientôt...

PARNASS HAYOM BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI

SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 22 SIVAN - JUNE 11
Albert Mann, in honour of his Children & Grandchildren.

TUESDAY/MARDI 24 SIVAN - JUNE 13
Albert Cohen, à la mémoire de son père, Moses Cohen ז"ל

Herscovitch Family, in memory of Abraham Herscovitch ז"ל

Lily & Alfred Bilbul, in memory of her father, Naji Saeh Daniel ז"ל

WEDNESDAY/MERcredi 25 SIVAN - JUNE 14
Armand & Lizanne Mamane, à la mémoire de Esther Mamane ז"ל

FRIDAY/VENDREDI 20 SIVAN - JUNE 9
Anita & Rony Gabbay, in memory of his mother, Muzli Gabbay ז"ל

Kamal & Sue Gabbay, in memory of his mother, Muzli Gabbay ז"ל



style and organized activities which involved bringing in our young professionals who shared with us their expertise

in a variety of fields via zoom. For the most part, zoom was a new phenomenon and Grace patiently taught us how to use the technology during this very isolating period. She never stopped

addressing and engaging us in new and inventive ways. In short, she became a life-giving force during a challenging time.



We are grateful for all that she brought us during her tenure. We wish her and her family the very best of good health and happiness.

Upcoming Events



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14 | 10:00A - 12:00P
WOMEN'S LEARNING GROUP: A Musical Celebration to Complete Series 28 with Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo.

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