



Shearith Israel  
**SPANISH &  
PORTUGUESE**  
Synagogue of Montreal  
Est. 1768

# SHABBAT BULLETIN

June 3, 2023 | 14 Sivan, 5783



## Dvar Torah Nasso 5783

By: Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis

This week's Parsha is a strange one. The Parsha starts with a division of the different parts of the Mishkan to the Levitic families to take charge of its dismantling, transport, and reconstruction. The end of the Parsha is a list of sacrifices and gifts that the princes of each of the twelve tribes brought to the Mishkan on the days following its dedication. Spoiler alert, they are all the same. In between these two parts we have two of the most esoteric Mitzvot in the Torah, Sota and Nazir. More notable than the purpose and meaning of these two Mitzvot is how completely out of place they are here in the text. Not only do they not belong in the Middle of our Parsha, they don't belong in this book of the Torah at all, thematically they belong in Vayikra where it describes the other sacrifices offered by individuals.

The beginning of our Parsha describes the most important religious act of the Levites, the moving of the Mishkan. Each Levi performed a different action and each Levitic family had a different role in the deconstruction, transportation, and establishment of the Mishkan. Each of them was fulfilling their national role through independent actions that they were explicitly instructed by G'd. They each, through their own individual action at the command of G'd enabled the nation to function as a whole.

The end of our Parsha describes the most important religious act of the princes of the tribes, their tribute to the dedication of the Mishkan. Each of the twelve princes brought a spontaneous gift to the Mishkan, that ended up being the exact same items as every other prince. Each of them fulfilled their national role through independent and voluntary action that coincided with that of each of the other princes. They each, through their collective action as the result of their own personal

command, enabled the nation to function as a whole.

The beginning and end of the Parsha clearly indicate that the theme of our Parsha is the spiritual/religious achievements of the nation and the role the individual plays in it. The lesson is that if it is at the command of G'd then our action can be individual and that if it is through our own internal motivation then our action should be collective. But that is not always enough. Sometimes we need the ability to dedicate ourselves to G'd in a way that is neither proscribed nor similar to the action of others. That is why we have the Mitzvah of Nazir. When a person feels the need to serve G'd in a way that is different from everyone and not obligatory, they take the Nazirite vow. Why then is Sotah in our Parsha? To warn us of the dangers of those who seek out spiritual/religious exceptionalism. That spiritual seclusion often just degrades into carnal hedonism, which in the end risks erasing G'd's name from our lives.

Shabbat Shalom!

## SHABBAT SHALOM

Start/Debut 8:18 p.m. End/Fin 9:35 p.m.

PARASHAT NASSO  
HERTZ PAGE 586  
HAFTARAH JUDGES  
HERTZ PAGE 602

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 3<sup>RD</sup>  
Schachris 9:30 a.m.  
SUNDAY, June 4<sup>TH</sup>  
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

### TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

On behalf of Marc Zilbert, Rose Simon Schwartz and André Rotchel, the Education Committee would like to acknowledge B'H the great success of our Tikkun Leil Shavuot lecture series!

A special thank you to our speakers, André Rotchel (who also sponsored the delicious Cheskie's cheesecakes), Rev. Hazan Daniel Benlolo, Dr. Sonia Sarah Lipsyc, Dr. Stanley Goldstein, Dr. Fred Bilbul, Mayer Sasson, Rabbi Berel Bell, and Marc Zilbert! Kol HaKavod to the staff of the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue for the logistic support in bringing the event to fruition and a special thank you to Viola Tulchinski for beautifully publicizing the event!

## OPINION

## SPY Farewell Pizza Party

By: Julia Peress

Last spring, we made a decision to prioritize our youth within the synagogue. We took not one, but two significant steps: applying to be part of the esteemed ShinShinim Program and forging a connection with the incredible Morah Maayan Avraham.

Maayan and Ariel, poured their hearts and souls into the creation of a Shabbat Kids Club. Week after week, they presented the Pashat Shavua, followed by captivating activities that brought the parasha to life. Despite the initial challenges, their unwavering determination prevailed, and the Shabbat Kids Club began to blossom, eventually capturing the hearts of our community.



The success of the club stands as a testament to the boundless dedication of our Morah and ShinShin. They went beyond mere supervision; they provided an immersive and educational experience that resonated deeply with our children. Through their remarkable efforts, the synagogue has become a cherished home for my own children and countless others. Maayan and Ariel have gifted our community with a much-needed haven, and for that, we owe them an immeasurable debt of gratitude.

As the year unfolded, Ariel's ability to forge meaningful connections became abundantly clear. It was a privilege to witness his passionate address to the congregation on Shabbat. His speeches were well crafted, reflecting his authenticity and genuine enthusiasm. However, it was during the Yom Ha'atzmaut Yom Ha'Zikaron transition ceremony that Ariel truly shone. This awe-inspiring event, born from Ariel's visionary mind, left an indelible mark on our souls. It was a meticulously planned and deeply powerful evening, one that will forever remain etched in

our memories. Despite his tender age of 18, Ariel exudes natural leadership, driven by an unwavering work ethic and an insatiable desire to effect positive change. While his journey will soon take him beyond Montreal as he embarks on his army service, one thing is certain: the world has not seen the last of Ariel Levy. His impact on our synagogue is immeasurable, and his future endeavors promise to leave an enduring legacy. We stand in awe of his remarkable talents and eagerly await the remarkable path he will forge.

In addition to the Shabbat Kids Club and the multitude of events, Morah Maayan took charge of our Junior Hebrew school. The anticipation and excitement among the 14 children each Thursday afternoon was palpable. They eagerly engaged in song, absorbed the richness of Hebrew letters, and embarked on virtual journeys through the enchanting land of Israel. Maayan's warmth and infectious energy were a constant source of inspiration. The resounding laughter and joyful commotion that filled the hallways

attested to her exceptional skills as an educator. With the support of her colleagues from Talmud Torah and the ShinShinim, Maayan orchestrated this year's challah bake, a testament to her unparalleled dedication. Leading 60 children through the art of challah-making is no easy feat, yet Maayan tackled it with grace and finesse, ensuring an unforgettable experience for all. The energy in the room was simply electric, and the children reveled in the sheer joy of the occasion.

To express our deepest appreciation for the invaluable contributions of Maayan and Ariel, we invite you to join us for a Pizza Party in our Sukkah on Thursday June 8th from 5:00-7:00pm. While the event is primarily intended for our young children, it holds great significance for our entire community. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together, celebrate our collective achievements, and strengthen the bonds that unite us.





***SPANISH & PORTUGUESE ANNUAL SHABBAT KIDDUSH DONOR:***  
Sam Abdou, in memory of his mother, Victoria Alika Abdoo z'l.

***SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SHABBAT KIDDUSH SPONSORED BY:***  
The Congregation

***SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SHABBAT SEUDAH SPONSORED BY:***  
The Congregation.

***CHEVRA SHAAS SHABBOS KIDDUSH SPONSORED BY:***  
Maggy Cohen & Michael Rubin, in memory of his father,  
Leonard Rubin z'l.

COMMUNITY

Congregation  
Maghen Abraham  
PERASHA NASSO  
*Thoughts: Mayer Sasson*

"G-d make His face shine upon you...." (6,25)  
"There is nothing else except Him".

A wonderful story of the extent of confidence a person must have that "there is nothing else except Him" (that appears in the sefer Tuvcha Yabiu): "A man went with his wife to give birth. Since all the births until now had gone by without problems he was not particularly worried. This time he also thought that the birth would go smoothly. After they told him about the birth of his son, he thought he would go home. Suddenly the doctor came out and told him in a trembling voice that a very serious problem had been revealed by his wife and that she must be transferred to the operating room; he also prepared for the worst." "By nature," the avreich continued, "he has great confidence (bitachon) in G-d. In other situations of pressure that he has had he was known to take control of himself nicely and encourage himself and others. But now his wife's life was in danger, and she was brought into the operating room!" "He was sent several times to bring units of blood again and again until his heart was bursting in fear! This was for an hour and a half or two hours. Once when he was sent to the blood bank to bring more units of blood, he remembered the segulah of Rabbi Chaim of Volozhin and he strengthened himself very much in the knowledge that "only G-d is G-d and there is nothing else except Him"; He has all the powers and wills and no one is able to harm or benefit him or my wife – everything is in His Hands! He reviewed the Rabbi's idea several times and he planted the idea deep into his heart!" "When he came back from the blood bank with the blood the doctors were standing at the entrance of the operating room with shining faces and good news: "You should know that we have no idea how we succeeded in overcoming your wife's serious problem but it was truly a miracle and the danger has passed completely without leaving any traces. We have no explanation for what happened – you have received a wife as a gift!" "He could not stop the flow of tears that streamed down unabated. If only the doctors knew the great secret...." The young man continued his story: "Several days after the birth of his son, his son developed very strong jaundice and the doctors said that his blood has to be changed. Even though that is not dangerous, it was certainly better to do it. The doctors decided that if in another hour there was no improvement, they would change the baby's blood." "Again he went into a side room and strengthened himself in "There is nothing else except Him". Ten minutes later he came out of the room and went to clarify the situation. The story repeated itself. The doctors were waiting for him at the entrance of the baby's room with wonderful news: "A few minutes ago the jaundice began to go down significantly. This has never ever happened by us!" "Therefore, the advice to all our friends and acquaintances," the avreich sums up, "is to keep a copy of Rabbi Chaim of Volozhin's words in their pockets and read through them, especially at times of distress that we hope will not come to any Jew." "In any situation when a person feels he needs Heavenly Assistance he should call out "Ein od milvado" and the minute a person relies only on G-d and not on any other power – he causes all the damaging forces and all the forces that delay salvation to be immediately canceled out – and then he merits great salvation!" Shabbat Shalom!!

Chevra Shaas  
Words From  
Rabbi Menahem White  
NASO' 5783

Michael Rubin observes yahrzeit for his father Lenny (Arye Leib) this coming Tuesday, 17 Sivan. The yahrzeit for my sister Muriel Gerofsky (Menucha Sara) is this coming Friday, 20 Sivan. May their neshamot have aliyot.

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We wish much hatslacha to Rabbi Ellis. "barukhim ha-ba'im."  
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Some of you probably remember my granddaughter, Rosy. Last week, I had the pleasure of traveling to Brooklyn College (well, the lengthy travel over the GW Bridge and the highways is not a pleasure!) to attend the graduation ceremony where she received, with distinction, her Masters in Speech Pathology. As the poet Virgil would have said, "mirabile dictu," she accomplished this while raising two young children. Her department was most accommodating. At the reception following the graduation, even though there were only a few students who kept kosher, there was abundant kosher food available. Unfortunately, other branches of the City University system were not as philo-Semitic. You may have heard that at the graduation of the City University law school, the young lady who had been chosen to deliver the grad speech, Miss Fatima Mohammed, used her talk as an opportunity to spew hatred, as she condemned capitalism, the "fascist" NY police department, the US military, and the US legal system, which, she claimed, is geared to white supremacy. The icing on the cake was Ms. Mohammed's diatribe against Israel, which she accused of indiscriminately raising bullets and bombs on Palestinians, murdering young and old, settler colonialism, attacking worshippers, funerals, and graveyards. She encouraged the fight against Zionism. Most sadly, her speech was applauded.

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Shavuot has passed. We all know that Shavuot is the holiday of the giving of the Torah. And is why most shuls now give the children ice cream on Shavuot, because, according to one tradition after we received the Torah, we saw that our dishes were treif, so we had to eat dairy.

But wait a second: if Shavuot is the holiday of receiving the Torah, why is there no mention of that in the Torah itself? Of course, the Shulhan Aruch, after the laws of Pesach, tells us that Shavuot is the day of the giving of the Torah, and that's why the Torah portion read in synagogue is the reading of the 10 Commandments. But the Torah itself never connects Shavuot with the giving of the Torah. Why not? The Torah connects Shavuot with the wheat crop. (Shemot chap. 34, Vayiqra chap. 23, BaMidbar 28) The great Spanish commentator Abarbanel explained that the Torah had to emphasize the importance of the harvesting the wheat crop. My understanding of Abarbanel: You see, nowadays, if you wish a loaf of bread, you can drive down to Kosher Quality, Kosher City, IGA, etc. But in the ancient times, you would have to grow the grain, harvest it, grind it, bake it. Wheat was indeed the "staff of life." That is why the Torah had to stress the importance of the wheat crop. Our tradition teaches us, besides the physical sustenance of wheat, the Torah is what gives us the strength to survive in this world. Shabbat shalom.

Mazal Tov To



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

Our Condolences To



**Renée Azoulay & Family**, on the loss of her husband, **Haim Azoulay z'l.**  
**Deborah, Johanna & Danielle Azoulay**, on the loss of their father, **Haim Azoulay z'l.**

Got a Question for  
Reverend/Hazan  
Daniel Benlolo?

Cher Danny, **Chaque fois que j'essaie d'aider mon enfant adolescent, nous semblons nous éloigner davantage. Comment puis-je nous ramener là où nous étions?**

Cher lecteur, Merci de poser une question aussi pertinente que je crois universelle ! Le premier conseil est : Limitez vos attentes !

Moins vous avez d'attentes pour vos enfants adolescents, moins vous risquez d'être déçu lorsqu'ils prétendent qu'ils sont si occupés par leurs nouvelles connaissances, leur nouvel amour trouvé et leur nouvelle vie. Soyez prêt à accepter le fait que recevoir un appel ou une visite aussi souvent que vous le souhaitez appartient au passé.

Repensez un instant à votre jeune âge adulte. Combien de temps avez-vous réservé dans votre vie sociale bien remplie à passer avec vos propres parents ?

La plupart des adolescents, sinon tous, se sentent proches de leurs parents, mais ils peuvent être tellement occupés par les exigences de la construction d'une vie indépendante qu'ils ne remarquent pas le temps qui passe.

Que nous enseigne le judaïsme ? Le roi Salomon, l'homme le plus sage, exhortait les enfants à respecter leurs parents (Proverbes 1:8; 13:1; 30:17). Bien que nous ne soyons plus directement sous leur autorité, nous ne pouvons pas dépasser le commandement de D'ieu d'honorer nos parents.

Nous devons chercher à honorer nos parents de la même manière que nous nous efforçons d'apporter la gloire à D'ieu, dans nos pensées, nos paroles et nos actions. Pour un jeune enfant, obéir aux parents va de pair avec les honorer. Cela inclut écouter, tenir compte et se soumettre à leur autorité. Une fois que les enfants ont mûri, l'obéissance qu'ils ont apprise dans leur enfance leur servira bien à honorer d'autres autorités telles que le gouvernement, les forces de l'ordre et les employeurs.

Maintenant, prochaines étapes à suivre. Restez en contact avec vos enfants de manière significative pour eux. Soyez cool!

Utilisez les courriels, les SMS, Facebook, Instagram, oui, même les tweets. Ils seront "époustouffés" par votre volonté de "suivre" avec le temps. Vous serez au courant de chacun de leurs mouvements, de chacun de leurs amours, de leurs déceptions, de leurs défis et de chaque étape importante. Leurs photos publiées vous donneront une fenêtre sur leur nouvelle vie retrouvée, en retour des publications parmi les vôtres.

Vous remarquerez tous qu'il y aura toujours une sensation spéciale et unique lorsque vous vous réunirez pour un repas fait maison avec l'agitation de l'activité familiale autour de la table de Shabbat ou de Fête. Gardez ces sentiments vivants et vos enfants ne quitteront "jamais" vraiment la maison.

PARNASS HAYOM  
BEIT HAMIDRASH  
HELWANI

**SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 15 SIVAN - JUNE 4**  
Khamara Family, in memory of  
Selim Khamara ז"ל

Sam Abdou, in memory of his mother,  
Victoria Abdoo ז"ל

**TUESDAY/MARDI 17 SIVAN - JUNE 6**  
Chella Safra, in memory of her  
husband, Moïse Y. Safra ז"ל

Famille Moryoussef, à la mémoire  
de leur père,  
Chalom Éliyyahou ben Hanina ז"ל

**WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI 18 SIVAN - JUNE 7**  
Famille Sananes, à la mémoire de  
Solomon Sananes ז"ל

**THURSDAY/JEUDI 19 SIVAN - JUNE 8**  
Famille Abittan, à la mémoire de leur  
père, Israël Abittan ben Rivka ז"ל

Famille Saleh, à la mémoire de leur  
fils, Yossi Saleh Halevi ז"ל

Famille Fhima, à la mémoire de  
Moïse Fhima ז"ל

**FRIDAY/VENDREDI 20 SIVAN - JUNE 9**  
Sélim Sasson Family, in honour of  
their Children & Grandchildren.



Upcoming Events



**TUESDAY, JUNE 6 | 12:00P**  
**SISTERHOOD CLOSING EVENT 2023:** Bringing our community together - Game Day & Lunch in the Sukkah (weather permitting). Bring your set & try to arrange your table.  
RSVP by June 1<sup>st</sup> noon - space limited.  
\$5 Sisterhood member - \$12 Non-Members  
[www.thespainish.org/form/Sisterhood-Closing-Meeting-2023.html](http://www.thespainish.org/form/Sisterhood-Closing-Meeting-2023.html)



**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7 | 10:00A - 12:00P**  
**WOMEN'S LEARNING GROUP:** La Danse Israélienne d'hier, au temps des Pionniers à aujourd'hui, au 21<sup>ème</sup> Siècle - avec Maurice Peretz  
Zoom ID: 849 4697 5701 - Passcode: SPRING2023  
RSVP/Donate: office 514-737-3695 x101 [gladys@mooallem.ca](mailto:gladys@mooallem.ca)