

Shearith Israel  
SPANISH &  
PORTUGUESE  
Synagogue of Montreal  
Est. 1768

# SHABBAT BULLETIN

March 11, 2023 | 18 Adar, 5783



## Dvar Torah Parashat Ki Tissa Summary & Questions!

By: Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo

The portion begins with instructions for taking a census of the Israelites and collecting a "half-shekel" donation from each person. The half-shekel was to be used for the maintenance of the Tabernacle, the portable sanctuary that the Israelites would use to worship God during their travels. The Tabernacle was to be constructed according to precise specifications, with a courtyard, an outer covering made of goat hair, and an inner covering made of fine linen. The inside of the Tabernacle was to contain a number of sacred objects, including an altar, a table for showbread, and a menorah.

Moses then ascends Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments from Hashem. While he is gone, the Israelites become anxious and ask Aaron to make them a new god to worship. Aaron creates a golden calf, and the people begin to worship it. When Moses returns and sees what has happened, he be-

comes angry and smashes the tablets. He pleads with Hashem to spare the people, and Hashem agrees to forgive them on the condition that they repent and return to faithful worship.

The portion then describes the construction of the Tabernacle in greater detail. Moses appoints Bezalel and Oholiab as master craftsmen, and they lead the construction effort. The portion also includes instructions for observing the Sabbath, making anointing oil and incense for use in the Tabernacle, and appointing the priests who will be responsible for offering sacrifices and performing other sacred duties.

The portion ends with Hashem renewing his covenant with the Israelites and promising to guide them on their journey to the Promised Land. This promise is conditional on the Israelites' continued obedience to Hashem's commands and their faithful worship of him. Overall, Parashat Ki Tissa emphasizes the importance of communal responsibility, faithful worship, and obedience to Hashem's commands, while also highlighting the dangers of idolatry and the need for forgiveness and reconciliation. The portion serves as a reminder of the central role that Hash-

em plays in the lives of the Israelites and the importance of following his guidance in all aspects of their lives.

1. What is the significance of the "half-shekel" donation that is required of every Israelite in Parashat Ki Tisa? How does this commandment reflect the values and priorities of the Israelite community, and what might it teach us about the importance of communal responsibility and mutual support?

2. In Parashat Ki Tisa, Hashem reveals the name "YHVH" to Moses and explains its meaning. What is the significance of this name, and how does it relate to the larger themes of the Torah? In what ways might this name reflect Hashem's attributes or qualities, and how might it inform our understanding of the divine?

3. How does the story of the golden calf challenge our assumptions about the Israelites' relationship with Hashem, and what might it teach us about the nature of faith and belief? What role do faith and belief play in our own lives, and how might we ensure that our beliefs are grounded in truth and justice rather than fear or manipulation?

Shabbat shalom & Purim Sameah

## PURIM

By: Julia Peress



This year we hosted several events on Purim. We kicked off our festivi-

ties with a Pre-Purim Foosball tournament organized by **Marc Hadid**. The event was planned with our teenagers in mind. All those who attended had a great time. Thank you, Jamie & Marc Hadid, for donating a foosball table to the synagogue.

On Monday we welcomed over 150 people for our first of four Megillah readings. **Hazan Sheni Benjamin Harrouch** read the Megillah enthusiastically. He was accompanied on the Bimah by **Marc Hadid, Alfred Bilbul, Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo,**



and a group of spirited young children with noise makers in hand. Following the service, we invited the congregants to join us for a Seudah.

This year, we hosted two separate events on Purim Day. The first, a carnival for our young families. We were thrilled with the turnout. Over 300 children, parents and grandparents celebrated in the Lawee hall. The children had an incredible time. We had Bouncy Castles, a photo booth, face painting, a balloon station, cotton candy arts and crafts. We were also treated to a magic show by The Amazing Toddsy and a Purim sing along led by the very talented **Rabbi Schachar Orenstein**. A big thank



you to our wonderful volunteers **Morah Maayan, Nina Hazzan, the Shinshinim, Anna Ackel, Samara Widgor and Robert Daoud** for their help.

Later that night, we welcomed 150 adults for our Purim Game night. We kicked off the evening with a spirited Backgammon tournament. Congratulations to our winner **Ilan Dallal**, who left with a gift certificate for a one-night stay at the **Ritz Carlton Montreal Hotel** and to the runner up **Elie Hadid** who won a pair of Ray Ban sunglasses. **Menashi Mashaal** managed the Dosa table beautifully; our participants had a wonderful time. We are so grateful to our committee; **Sandra Mashaal, Lucie Shemie**, to our backgammon tournament master **Karen Shebbath** and our MC **Oren Gabbay**. All four worked tirelessly in the weeks leading up to the event. They wanted the party to be perfect and I think everyone who was with us that night would agree, they accomplished their goal.



## SHABBAT SHALOM Shabbat Parah

Start/Debut 5:35 p.m. End/Fin 6:39 p.m.

PARASHAT KI TISSA  
HERTZ PAGE 352  
HAFTARAH KINGS I  
HERTZ PAGE 369

SHABBAT SERVICES  
SHAHRIT: 8:30A MINHA: 5:15P

### WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday  
Shahrit: 8:30A Minha: 6:00P

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
Shahrit: 7:00A Minha: 6:00P

### CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

SHABBOS, March 11<sup>TH</sup>  
Schachris 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, March 12<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

### SPRING FORWARD

Don't forget to set clocks  
ahead 1 hour at 2 a.m.  
Sunday

## Meet & Greet Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis & Family

SHABBAT, MARCH 17 & 18

Rabbi Ellis was born and raised in Kansas City. He completed his Rabbinic studies at the Shehebar Sephardic Center in Jerusalem and holds a B.A. in Writing and Poetics. He currently resides in Warsaw, Poland where he is the Project Manager for the Chief Rabbi of Poland and the Chief Rabbi of Katowice. He is a seasoned pulpit Rabbi, an accomplished administrator, an innovative educator and an inspiring spiritual leader. Rabbi Ellis will be welcomed with his wife Raisa Ellis and their two beautiful children.



### PROGRAM

Friday Night Services & Dinner  
Dinner RSVP Required - \$18/Adult | \$10/Child  
Topic: The view from Warsaw - Europe,  
refugees and Jews one year into the Ukraine war

RSVP HERE

Shabbat Services  
Study session following Kiddush:  
Shabbat Hachodesh - Vayakhel - Pekudei

Minha/Arvit  
Hendiah from the table to Shul  
Shul following Havdalah service:  
Nissan, Pesach and a love affair

6:30 PM  
8:30 AM  
6:30 PM  
7:55 PM

514-727-3695  
www.thespanish.org

I would also like to thank the office staff, **Francoise Babulot** and **Angelica Torres** and the maintenance team, **Santos** and his crew for their hard work. Four events in 3 days were no small feat. I would like to extend a special thank you to **Viola Tulchinski** who was instrumental in planning and executing these events.

We were very thankful to have Reverend Hazan Benlolo with us for Purim this year. We were not expecting him to be there and in doing so made it very clear that there is nothing he wouldn't do for his community.

**Purim 2023 at the Spanish and Portuguese** was one for the ages. We came together and celebrated like only we can. This synagogue, this community is so important to so many of us. Over the 3 days of celebrations, we were able to see firsthand the strength of our foundation and the beautiful future which we are all working so hard to build.





### S.&P. Shabbat Kiddush Sponsored by:

Betty & Joseph Nezri, in memory of his mother, Simi Nezri z'l.

### S.&P. Seudah Shlishit is Sponsored by:

Hazan Binyamin Harrouch and his brothers, Rabbi Dov & Rabbi Sam, in memory of their mother, Ruth bat Solika z'l.

### C.S. Shabbos Kiddush is Sponsored by:

Dr. Yehoshua & Chana Dvora Haimovici, in memory of our beloved father, father-in-law & grandfather, Yosef Haim Ben-zimra z'l Papa of blessed memory. (11<sup>th</sup> month). And Dr. Yehoshua & Chana Dvora Haimovici, in honour of our wedding anniversary.

Sheila Wimisner & Moe Schwartz, in memory of her mother, Hana Rivkah bat Shlomo Aryeh z'l - and in memory of Moe Schwartz's father, Eliyahu ben Avraham z'l.

### Mazal Tov To



Reverend Hazan Daniel & Muriel Benlolo, are proud to announce to the S&P family the arrival of their new grandson, Russel Miles Reuven Daniel Caplan, son of Eve & Adam Caplan.



Rachel & Jim Archibald, on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Joshua David, son of Abigail & Benjamin Archibald-N.Y.

## Community

### Congregation Maghen Abraham

PERASHA KI TISA

Thoughts: Mayer Sasson

"This shall they give, every one that passes over to the counted ones, half a shekel in the weights of the Sanctuary..."

#### A coin of fire

Rashi writes here per the Midrash: "Hashem showed Moshe a likeness of a coin of fire whose weight was half a shekel and said to him: Thus shall they give. Sages in Israel ask – Why did G-d show Moshe a coin specifically of fire?"

Rabbi Nachman of Breslev explained as follows:

There is a similarity between fire and money: Fire is, undoubtedly, one of important and essential thing for a person and the world cannot exist without it, but that same fire can also destroy the entire world.

The same is with money: It is important and helpful if one knows how to use it properly (charity, kindness, etc.) but at the same time it can be very dangerous – if it falls into bad hands.

SHABBAT SHALOM!!

### Chevra Shaas

Words From Rabbi Menahem White KI TISSA' 5783

Dear congregants,

I trust that you had a happy Purim. I missed not reading the megilla in Chevra Shaas at night, and in Hertz during the day. Nevertheless, I was able to perform a mitsvah, as my son-in-law and I traveled to the Lower East Side of Manhattan where we shared responsibility for reading the megilla for his parents, whose health makes them unable to attend the reading at a shul.

We davened maariv in the impressive Bialystoker shul. It was built in 1826 as a church but purchased in 1905 to serve as a shul for the Jews who had come from Bialystok in Poland. The women's section is located in the balcony. There, in the balcony there is a ladder, that leads to an attic. It is told that the attic was used as a hiding place for runaway slaves in the underground railroad, on their way to freedom in Canada.

After the building's conversion to a shul, several large murals depicting Jewish themes were painted, and are clearly visible.

While we are still thinking about Purim, as we eat our remaining

hamantashen, here is an interesting question. What kind of a leader was Achashveirosh? When I would read the Megillah for my students, I would try to have my voice depict him as a fool, who had been manipulated by Haman. However, in the first chapter of Talmud Masechet Megillah, there are two different evaluations. One indeed has him being manipulated. But there is another approach that depicts him as a clever antisemite, who had Haman do the dirty work for him. And there is also a tradition in the Talmud that when he made the great feast, as described in the first chapter of Esther, he was prancing around in the garments of the kohen gadol, that had been captured by Nebucadnezer. So, any way you look at it, he wasn't a nice guy.

And, by the way, have you heard that in the new woke edition of the megillah, Ha-man's name has been changed to Ha-person. (LOL)

We pray for peace in Erets Yisrael, and in the world.

Shabbat shalom,

### PARNASS HAYOM BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI

**SHABBAT 18 ADAR - MARCH 11**  
Famille Nezri, à la mémoire de leur mère, Simi Nezri ז"ל

**SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 19 ADAR - MARCH 12**  
Rita & Victor, Sasha & Samantha, Tania & Adam Guindi, à la mémoire de Joseph Meir Zilkha ז"ל

Edna & Victor Mashaal, in memory of her father, Albert Gareh ז"ל

**WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI 22 ADAR - MARCH 15**  
Peress Family, in memory of their mother Naima Peress ז"ל

Famille Tauby, à la mémoire de Yaacov ben Latifée Tauby ז"ל

**THURSDAY/JEUDI 23 ADAR - MARCH 16**  
Sylvia Shahin, in memory of her sister, Amal Akairib ז"ל.

Linda, Max, Eric & Daniel Amzallag, in memory of father, father-in-law & nonno, André Supino ז"ל

Yael & Edmond Shahin, in memory of her father, Yaacov Zilkha ז"ל

**FRIDAY/VENDREDI 17 ADAR - MARCH 10**  
Famille Bensimon, à la mémoire de leur mère, Mazaltov bat Zohra ז"ל

## Purim



## Upcoming Events



**THURSDAY, MARCH 16 | DOORS OPEN 7:00P TOURNAMENT 7:30P**  
YASP Backgammon In Babylon  
Bring your backgammon set if you have one.  
**WINNER GETS A PRIZE!** TEA & BISCUITS WILL BE SERVED.  
Chevra Shaas Hall

More information, visit [thespanish.org](http://thespanish.org)



**FRIDAY, MARCH 17 | 6:30 - 11:30P & SHABBAT, MARCH 18**  
MEET & GREET WITH OUR GUESTS, RABBI YEHOSHUA ELLIS & FAMILY. Friday evening dinner, please join in welcoming Rabbi Ellis & his family, who have come all the way from Poland. "The View from Warsaw: Europe, Refugees & Jews One Year Into the Ukraine War"  
**\$36 ADULT & \$18 CHILD.**

Registration: [www.thespanish.org](http://www.thespanish.org) OR (514) 737-3695

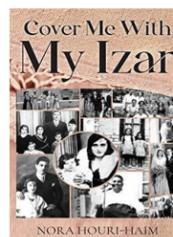


**SUNDAY, MARCH 26 | 10:30A - 12:00P**  
SISTERHOOD BOOK REVIEW: Homegoing by: Yaa Gyasi - Reviewer: to be advised - Battat Hall  
**\$5 FOR SISTERHOOD MEMBER & \$8 FOR NON-MEMBERS**



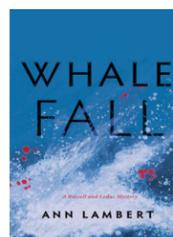
**SHABBAT, APRIL 1 | 10:00A - 1:00P**  
SPY KIDS SHABBAT HAGADOL TAKEOVER  
Join us for a fun song filled, children led service. Followed by a kid friendly kiddush.

Please contact Julia Peress [julia@thespanish.org](mailto:julia@thespanish.org) if your child would like to participate in the service.



**TUESDAY, 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**



**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**