



Shearith Israel
SPANISH &
PORTUGUESE
Synagogue of Montreal
Est. 1768

SHABBAT BULLETIN

March 18, 2023 | 25 Adar, 5783



Dvar Torah Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei Summary & Questions!

By: Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo

Parshat Vayakhel begins with Moses calling the Israelites together and reminding them of the importance of observing the Sabbath day. He says, "These are the things that the Lord has commanded you to do: On six days work may be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a holy day, a Sabbath of complete rest to the Lord; whoever does any work on it shall be put to death" (Exodus 35:1-2).

Moses then instructs the Israelites to contribute materials for the construction of the Tabernacle, a portable sanctuary for the worship of Hashem. The people respond generously, bringing precious metals, fabrics, and other materials for the project. Exodus 35:21 says, "And everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit moved him came and brought the Lord's contribution for the work of the Tent of Meeting and for all its service and for the sacred garments."

Skilled artisans are then chosen to construct the Tabernacle and its furnishings according to the detailed specifications given by Hashem to Moses. They work diligently and create beautiful and intricate items, such as the Ark of the Covenant, the Table of Showbread, and the Golden Lampstand.

When the work is completed, Moses inspects it and blesses the artisans for their efforts. The parasha concludes with a reminder of the importance of observing the Sabbath day and an account of the Israelites' generous contributions to the Tabernacle. Exodus 36:3-5 says, "And they continued to bring him freewill offerings every morning, so that all the artisans who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task he was engaged in, and said to Moses, 'The people are bringing more than is needed for the tasks entailed in the work that the Lord has commanded to be done.' So Moses had this proclamation made throughout the camp: 'Let no man or woman make further effort toward gifts for the sanctuary!'"

Discussion questions :

1. The parasha emphasizes the role of skilled artisans in creating beautiful and intricate items for the Tabernacle. How

might we understand the symbolic significance of these items, and what do they tell us about the nature of Hashem and the Israelites' relationship with the divine? How might we apply these insights to our own understanding of beauty, craftsmanship, and spirituality?

2. The parasha emphasizes the importance of observing the Sabbath day as a holy day of rest. How might we understand the deeper spiritual significance of rest, and what does this commandment tell us about the nature of Hashem and our relationship with the divine? How might we apply these insights to our own understanding of work, leisure, and the balance between the two?

3. The parasha describes Hashem's detailed instructions for the construction of the Tabernacle and its furnishings. How might we understand the symbolic significance of these instructions, and what do they tell us about the nature of Hashem and the Israelites' relationship with the divine? How might we apply these insights to our own understanding of the importance of following divine guidance and striving for excellence in our work and relationships?

Shabbat shalom

Social Action Update

By: Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo

We are overwhelmed by the response to our Social Action Initiative. We are so grateful to those of you who volunteered and are looking forward to working with you to build a better, stronger community. The goal of our social action initiative is to honor our loved ones who are no longer with us, support the members of our community who are in need, empower teenagers, and engage youth. The way we come together and care for one another is what sets us apart.

Bikur Cholim

We will be meeting over the next two weeks to plan out our next steps. We sent out a survey to those who expressed interest in taking part in this program to better understand their availability, interests, and goals. We are in the process of compiling a list of members who would benefit from the visits and phone calls. We are also

discussing ways we can involve the younger generation. The purpose is to create a program that is rewarding for both the volunteer and the senior.

Children's Choir

We prepared a video specifically for future choir members and sent it out to those who expressed interest in participating. We scheduled a Zoom meeting for parents where we can share our vision for the choir. We are hoping to attract even more future choristers during our next Shabbat Kids Takeover scheduled for April 1st. Marc Ezerzer has graciously offered to help spearhead this initiative.

Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program

We were in the process of developing next year's Bar and Bat Mitzvah program. Our vision for the program is to create a unique program that adds value to the Bar and Bat Mitzvah experience. Our goal is to teach our children that they have the ability to change the world. We want to teach them about their responsibility to Hashem and their communities and show our youth that they are needed and can

make a real difference, even at their young age. We will accomplish this by partnering with other organizations. We do not simply want the students to donate a few hours of their time; we want them to form meaningful connections with the people and organizations where they are volunteering.

Cemetery Beautification

We have a few volunteers but are looking for more. We believe strongly in this initiative as it offers participants a meaningful way to honor the loved ones they have lost. It's also a beautiful way to connect with our deep history and to show respect to the people who helped build our synagogue. We set aside three days for this initiative and intend to start in May.

We are so proud of our community, the way we come together, and the way we support one another. It's our connection to one another that makes the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue so unique and special. Let's use these connections to shape our future and make our community a better place for all.

Shabbat shalom

SHABBAT SHALOM Shabbat Hahodesh

Start/Debut 6:44 p.m. End/Fin 7:49 p.m.

PARASHAT VAYAKHEL-PIKUDEI
HERTZ PAGE 373 / 253
HAFTARAH EZEKIEL (SPECIAL)
HERTZ PAGE 1002

SHABBAT SERVICES
SHAHRIT: 8:30A MINHA: 6:30P

חוק חוק ופתיח

ROSH HODESH NISSAN
Thursday/Jeudi March 23 mars

WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

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

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

CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

SHABBOS, March 11TH
Schachris 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, March 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



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

People may not remember exactly what you did or what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel.

| Aish HaTorah

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE ANNUAL SHABBAT KIDDUSH DONOR:
Carole & David Nathaniel, in memory of his father,
Heskel ben Saleh Nathaniel z'l.

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SHABBAT KIDDUSH SPONSORED/CO-SPONSORED BY:
Shoula & Raymond Gabbay, in honour of their Bar Mitzvah grandson,
YOEL, son of Dr. Moshe & Hagit Gabbay.
Valérie Msika-Saadoun, à la mémoire de sa mère, Claude Ninette
Scemama bat Louise Scemama z'l.

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SHABBAT SEUDAH SPONSORED BY:
Penina & Claude Helwani, in memory of his father, Haim Helwani z'l.

CHEVRA SHAAS SHABBOS KIDDUSH CO-SPONSORED BY:
Shulamit & Stephen Foxman, on the upcoming wedding of his grandson, Moshe
Yehuda to Esty Jacobson and in memory of his mother, Chaya Necha bat Yaacov z'l.
David Langleben, in memory of Prof., Pillip Langleben z'l.
David Zilbert & Marc Zilbert, in memory of their father, Allan Zilbert z'l.

Community

Congregation
Maghen Abraham
PERASHA Vayakel Pikudei
Thoughts: Mayer Sasson

PERASHA VAYAKHEL

"And Moshe erected the Tabernacle..." (40,18)

I fell and I stood up

Our Sages ob'm say on the verse in the Torah (Bamidbar) "And it came to pass on the day that Moshe finished setting up the Tabernacle..." that it does not say "on the day Moshe set up the Tabernacle" to teach us that for all the seven days of the Miluim Moshe would erect the Mishkan and take it apart - but on that day he erected it and did not take it apart and therefore it says "erected" – for on that day the erections were finished.

Our Sages ob'm say that the dismantling of the Tabernacle and its erection every day during the seven days of the Miluim come to teach us not to fall in our spirits during the exile, for it says "For the righteous will fall seven times and stand up" and it says "And Your nation are all righteous". This means that despite all the times that the Children of Israel fall from their level, in the future they will stand up from the fall, strengthen themselves and win.

This is what is said in the holy Zohar concerning the erection of the Mishkan: "Rabbi Yehuda began – Your enemies should not be happy about me, for I fell but I stood up." Everyone wondered, what is the connection between this verse and the erection of the Tabernacle?

According to what we have explained, this is understood: Just as Moshe Rabeinu dismantled the Mishkan and erected it every day anew, so this alludes to us that despite falls, Klal Yisrael will rise and will have an everlasting recovery, just as the Mishkan did.

SHABBAT SHALOM!!



Chevra Shaas
Words From
Rabbi Menahem White
Vayaquel-Pequdei 5783

Dear mitpallelim,

The Zilbert brothers David and Marc observe yahrzeit for their father Aharon ben Nisan, on the 27th of Adar. I observe for my wife Sarah Devorah bat Yehoshua on the 2nd of Nisan. May their memories be for a blessing.

I have often noticed the similarity between the beginning and end of a weekly parasha. This is what literary scholars call an "inclusio." Yet, the other day, I noticed something interesting about the entire Book of Exodus.

The book began by listing the names of the "Children of Israel:" Reuven, Shimon, Levi, etc. And now, as we conclude the reading of Sefer Shemot, the last verse reads "kol beit Yisrael," the entire house of Israel. We have coalesced from individual tribes to a whole nation. Our success as a nation is when we are unified.

As we read about the bitterness that, in the last few weeks, has divided the Jewish inhabitants of the modern State of Israel, we must pray that they can reach a unifying compromise, as we approach the 75th anniversary of the miraculous founding of the State.

And, speaking of the conclusion of the Book of Shemot, it has been noted that there are a total of 164 "parashiyot," i.e., paragraphs, in the Book. Although I am not a numerologist, how can we not mention the masoretic note that the numerical value of the word "yis`adeka," meaning "God will support you" is 164, as in the verse in Psalms 20:3 "u-mitsiyon yis`adeka." In other words, the Psalmist is saying that our support comes from Zion, Jerusalem. Indeed, our inspiration comes from Israel: a strong, unified Israel is for our benefit also.

To clarify the gematria: yod = 10; samekh =60; `ayin = 70; dalet = 4; kaf = 20. total = 164

Shabbat shalom

Mazal Tov To



Proud grandparents, Shoula & Raymond Gabbay, honouring their Bar Mitzvah grandson, YOEL, son of Dr. Moshe & Hagit Gabbay.

Our Condolences To



Connie Tambasco Oiknine & Family, on the loss of her husband, Meyer Oiknine z'l.

PARNASS HAYOM
BEIT HAMIDRASH
HELWANI

SHABBAT 25 ADAR - MARCH 18
Solly Arazi, à la mémoire de sa mère, Adele Arazi ז"ל

Emile Sayegh & Family, in memory of his borthor, Isaac ben Avraham Sayegh ז"ל

SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 26 ADAR - MARCH 19
Albert Cohen, à la mémoire de sa mère, Estrella Cohen ז"ל

Penina & Claude Helwani, à la mémoire de son père, Haim Helwani ז"ל

François Bloch, à la mémoire de son père, Leon Bloch (Yehufa ben Meir) ז"ל

Famille Abittan, à la mémoire de leur mère, Aicha Abittan ז"ל

Victoria Nathaniel & Family, in memory of Heskel Nathaniel ז"ל

MONDAY/LUNDI 27 ADAR - MARCH 20
Famille Malka, à la mémoire de David Malka ז"ל

Mr. & Mrs. Simantob Darwiche, in memory of Itshak ben Rivka ז"ל

TUESDAY/MARDI 28 ADAR - MARCH 21
Rouben Shemie Family, in memory of Rouben Kadouri Shemie ז"ל.

WEDNESDAY/MERcredi 29 ADAR - MARCH 22
Michel Dahan, à la mémoire de sa grand-mère, Zohra Dahan ז"ל

Armand Moyal, à la mémoire de sa mère, Fibi bat Simha ז"ל

THURSDAY/Jeudi 1 NISSAN - MARCH 23
Albert Mann, in honour of his family.

FRIDAY/VENDREDI 2 NISSAN - MARCH 24
Manny Touaty, in honour of his family.



Upcoming Events

Meet & Greet
Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis & Family
SHABBAT, MARCH 18

Rabbi Ellis was born and raised in Warsaw, Poland. He was the youngest of six children, and his family moved to Israel in 1967. He is currently the President of the Jewish Community of Warsaw, and he is also the President of the Jewish Community of Krakow. He is a frequent speaker at Jewish events, and he is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community of Warsaw.

PROGRAM

7:00 PM - 7:30 PM: Meet & Greet with Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis & Family

7:30 PM - 8:00 PM: Kiddush & Song

8:00 PM - 8:30 PM: Shema Shalom

8:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Havdala

SHABBAT, MARCH 18
MEET & GREET WITH OUR GUESTS, RABBI YEHOSHUA ELLIS & FAMILY. 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"

HOME GOING

YAA GYASI

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

SPY KIDS
SHABBAT
HAGADOL TAKEOVER

Join us for a fun song filled, children led service. Followed by a kid friendly kiddush.

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.

Cover Me With
My Izar

NORA HOURI-HAIM

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