



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

# SHABBAT BULLETIN

May 13, 2023 | 22 Iyar, 5783



## Dvar Torah Behar Behukotai 5783

By: Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis

Rabbi Ellis has graciously offered to share his Divrei Torah with us starting this week. We are looking forward to getting to know our future Rabbi and learning from him.

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This week we finish Vayikra, the third book of the Torah, and not on the happiest note. This week's double section is best known for its end, which is a list of forty-nine curses that are bound to befall Israel when we stray from the path of Torah, Mitzvot and an equitable society. The curses are horrible and though we do our best to

read them as fast as possible, when it comes to thinking about the Parsha almost all of our attention is devoted to them. This makes sense as the curses are spelled out in excruciating detail while the blessings that proceed them are given only in generalities. We all rubber neck the car crash while barely noticing how well traffic proceeds the other ninety-nine percent of the time.

Upon rereading the blessings, I noticed an interesting detail. In one of the verses of blessing, 26:6, we are promised peace in our land and immediately in the next two verses, 26:7-8, we are told that we will be successful at war. G'd's blessing does not preclude war, it merely keeps it from crossing our borders. After living for more than a year with a war on our eastern border this verse takes on a different relevance. I understand why being blessed entails that we

have peace in our land, but why not everywhere, why does the part of the blessing have to keep war in our world?

A friend recently complained to me that after spending a day doing everything his kids asked for, they were unappreciative and uncooperative, as if they deserved all the privileges that were showered upon them. The human psyche has the unique ability to normalize almost any experience. Anything repeated often enough becomes normal and then banal. A life of privilege and access can become a burden if we don't have the ability to contextualize it. G'd's promise at the beginning of our Parsha is not just a life full of blessing, but as well a world that gives us the context to understand just how great our blessings are.

Shabbat Shalom!

### SHABBAT SHALOM

<b>Start/Debut</b> <b>7:56 p.m.</b>	<b>End/Fin</b> <b>9:09 p.m.</b>
<b>PARASHAT BEHAR BEHUKOTAI</b> <b>HERTZ PAGE 531</b> <b>HAFTARAH JEREMIAH</b> <b>HERTZ PAGE 551</b>	
<b>SHABBAT SERVICES</b> <b>SHAHRIT: 8:30A MINHA: 7:45P</b>	



#### WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

<b>Sunday</b> Shahrit: 8:30A Minha: 6:00P
<b>MONDAY - FRIDAY</b> Shahrit: 7:00A Minha: 6:00P

<b>CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule</b>
<b>SHABBOS, May 13<sup>TH</sup></b> Schachris 9:30 a.m.
<b>SUNDAY, May 14<sup>TH</sup></b> Schachris 8:00 a.m.

THE SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SYNAGOGUE  
IN OUR 255<sup>TH</sup> YEAR  
INVITES YOU TO OUR 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL

## Living Campaign LAUNCH

JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 | 7:00 P.M.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
The Right Honourable  
**STEPHEN J. HARPER**  
22<sup>nd</sup> Prime Minister of Canada

PREMIUM SEATING: \$72 | GENERAL SEATING: \$54  
ONLINE AT [THESPANISH.ORG/EVENT/AGG25.HTML](https://thespanish.org/event/agg25.html)

VALET PARKING  
DESSERT RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

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## Message from the President Charles Shemie

Dear Members and Friends

I am delighted to announce that **Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis** will be joining our community as our spiritual leader. We are excited to welcome him and his family, and we know that he will bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to our synagogue.

Rabbi Ellis was born and raised in Kansas City. He completed his Rabbinical studies at the Shehebar Sephardic Center in Jerusalem. He is a seasoned pulpit Rabbi, an accomplished administrator, an innovative educator, and an inspiring leader. Rabbi Ellis has served communities in the United States, Israel, and Poland, and we are confident that his experience, expertise and compassion will be a tremendous asset to our synagogue.

While Rabbi Ellis will officially begin his duties on July 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be sharing his Divrei Torah in our bulletin and introducing some of his programs over the coming weeks. He will be offering classes and workshops throughout the year and something specific to each holiday. His programming ideas are innovative and relevant. Though young adults and their families are his focus, he is committed to making sure that we have something for everyone. He plans on drawing on the many resources our synagogue and broader community to make the programs comprehensive and meaningful as possible.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our search committee and our Board

of Trustees for their support during the engagement process. Their guidance and input were invaluable, and we are grateful for their contributions.

I think we can all agree that the past year has been a very memorable one at the Spanish. Our Shabbat services are beautiful and very well attended. Our events have been by all measures a huge success. We are very grateful to Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo for his effort and incredible energy. We also want to thank Hazan Sheni Benjamin Harrouch for his commitment and passion. Hazan Benlolo expressed his excitement about having Rabbi Ellis as part of our team and is looking forward to working closely with him.

During the interview process, Rabbi Ellis expressed not only his honour at being considered for such a position but also his deep excitement to be part of our tight knit, storied, and special community. His sentiment serves as a powerful reminder not to take our incredible community for granted. Let us continue to build, nurture, and support our synagogue. Let's continue to do everything in our power to ensure that our children and grandchildren feel the same sense of pride and comfort when they walk into their synagogue as we do.

Please join me in welcoming **Raissa, Rabbi Yehoshua, their children, Daniel, and Hannah Ellis** to the Spanish and Portuguese synagogue family.

Brukhim Haba'im v'B'Hatzlakha.

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Chers Membres et Amis

Je suis heureux de vous annoncer que le **Rabbin Yehoshua Ellis** rejoindra notre communauté comme no-

tre chef spirituel. Nous sommes ravis de l'accueillir, lui et sa famille, et nous savons qu'il apportera une richesse de connaissances, d'expériences et d'enthousiasme à notre synagogue.

Le Rabbin Ellis est né et a grandi à Kansas City. Il a terminé ses études rabbiniques au Shehebar Sephardic Center à Jérusalem. Rabbin en chaire expérimenté, il est également un administrateur accompli, un éducateur innovateur et un leader inspirant. Le Rabbin Ellis a servi des communautés aux États-Unis, en Israël et en Pologne, et nous sommes convaincus que son expérience, son expertise et sa compassion seront un atout considérable pour notre synagogue.

Quand le Rabbin Ellis entrera officiellement en fonction le 16 juillet, nous partagerons ses Divrei Torah dans notre bulletin et présenterons certains de ses programmes au cours des prochaines semaines. Il proposera des cours et des ateliers tout au long de l'année, ainsi que des programmes plus spécifiques à chaque Fête. Ses idées de programmation sont novatrices et pertinentes. Même si les jeunes adultes et leurs familles restent sa priorité, il s'engage à faire en sorte que nous ayons quelque chose pour tout le monde. Il prévoit de puiser dans les nombreuses ressources de notre synagogue et de la communauté au sens large pour rendre les programmes aussi complets et significatifs que possible.

Je profite de l'occasion pour remercier notre comité de recherche et notre conseil d'administration pour leur soutien au cours du processus de recrutement. Leurs conseils et leurs

commentaires ont été inestimables et nous leur en sommes reconnaissants.

Je pense que nous pouvons tous convenir que l'année écoulée a été très mémorable à la Spanish. Nos services de Shabbat sont magnifiques et très fréquentés. Nos événements ont été à tous points de vue d'énormes succès. Nous sommes très reconnaissants envers le Révérend Hazan Daniel Benlolo pour ses efforts et son incroyable énergie. Nous tenons également à remercier le Hazan Sheni, Benjamin Harrouch, pour son engagement et sa passion. Le Révérend Hazan Daniel Benlolo a exprimé son enthousiasme à l'idée d'avoir le Rabbin Ellis dans notre équipe et se réjouit de travailler en étroite collaboration avec lui.

Au cours du processus d'entretien, le Rabbin Ellis a non seulement exprimé son honneur d'être considéré pour un tel poste, mais aussi son profond enthousiasme de faire partie de notre communauté soudée, légendaire et exceptionnelle. Ce sentiment est un important rappel à ne pas prendre notre incroyable communauté, pour acquise. Continuons à construire, entretenir et soutenir notre Synagogue. Continuons à faire tout ce qui est en notre pouvoir pour que nos enfants et petits-enfants ressentent le même sentiment de fierté et de confort, que nous ressentons, lorsqu'ils entrent dans leur Synagogue.

Veuillez-vous joindre à moi pour souhaiter la bienvenue à **Raissa, au Rabbin Yehoshua, à Daniel et à Hannah Ellis**, dans la famille de la Synagogue Spanish & Portugese.

Bruchim Haba'im v'B'Hatzlacha.



