

SHABBAT BULLETIN

May 20, 2023 | 29 lyar, 5783



Dvar Torah Bamidbar 5783

By: Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis

This week we start the fourth book of the Torah, Bamidbar. Bamidbar means in the wilderness, it describes both the geographical and psychological state of the newly formed Nation of Israel. Bamidbar is the most difficult book of the Torah to read because we are in the same place at the close of the book as we were at the beginning, in the wilderness. Bamidbar is first and foremost about the risk inherent in freedom. The wilderness is the ultimate starting point, the place of complete freedom. All options are open, every direction is accessible. For the first time we face the freedom trap; though we can go anywhere we want, as soon as we move we collapse all other options, thereby losing our absolute freedom. As Janis Joplin said, "freedom's just another name for nothing left to lose."

The first lesson we need to learn is that freedom is not a noun, it is a verb. Freedom is a tool for achieving a holy life, it is a state to be worked towards because it allows us to act in a moral way. We all too often become enamored with our tools and turn them into our goals. Freedom that is not used to pursue the right and good ends up being a mockery of itself and in the end enslaves us. The pursuit of freedom at all costs makes us slaves to freedom

So where do we lose it, what happens here in the wilderness that makes us slaves of freedom, what lesson are we supposed to learn to avoid being in the same place forty years from now? The answer is alluded to in the first line of our Parsha, where it says that G!d commanded Moshe to take a census of the Children of Israel on the first day of the second month of Israel's second year in the desert. Eighteen verses later we are informed that it was accomplished in one day! Ten chapters later, on the twentieth day of the second month of our second year in the desert, Israel finally strikes

camp, doing their best to actualize the potential that they have been building up for nearly a year in the desert, but it's too late.

The first lesson of Pessah is that lethargy is the enemy of freedom, Matza turns into Chametz by waiting just one second too long. At the beginning of our Parsha we see how quickly Israel can act, performing a national census of over six hundred thousand men in one day. Yet it then takes them another twenty days to finally start their journey as a nation. This week's Parsha clearly demonstrates our ability to organize and execute complex tasks on a national level with great speed and accuracy, but we are only able to do it when the motivation is external. In order to move forward in life, we need to cultivate the ability to motivate ourselves. As long as we leave our motivation to G!d's word we will never be able to realize the freedom he

Shabbat Shalom! and Hag Shavuot Sameah

SHABBAT SHALOM Shabbat Mevarhim

Start/Debut End/Fin 8:04 p.m. 9:18 p.m.

PARASHAT BAMIDBAR HERTZ PAGE 568 HAFTARAH JEREMIAH HERTZ PAGE 582

SHABBAT SERVICES
SHAHRIT: 8:30A MINHA: 7:45P

ROSH HODESH SIVAN

SUNDAY/DIMANCHE MAY 21 MAI 2023

WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday

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

MONDAY (LEGAL HOLIDAY) Shahrit: 8:00A Minha: 6:00P

TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY Shahrit: 7:00A Minha: 6:00P

Thursday (Erev Shavuot) Shahrit: 7:00A Minha: 7:00P

FRIDAY (SHAVUOT I) Shahrit: 8:30A Minha: 7:00P

CHEVRA SHAAS Service Schedule

SHABBOS, May 20TH Schachris 9:30 a.m. SUNDAY, May 21ST 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

Synagogue Office will be closed on Monday, May 22

OPINION

Annual Giving Campaign

By: Julia Peress

We are coming off an incredibly successful year, and we are immensely grateful to our members and friends for their continued support. Our events were very well attended, and our synagogue has become known for its exceptional holiday parties. Our Shabbat Kids program is flourishing, and our Junior Hebrew school is experiencing significant growth. We have become a sought-after destination for young families, and in recent months, we have witnessed the return of our young adults. The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue is alive and thriving, and we are only just getting started!

Looking ahead, we have ambitious plans for the next 12 months. In July, *Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis* will be joining us, bringing with him a wealth of fresh ideas. He has already begun planning programs for the upcoming High Holidays, showcasing his innovative and creative thinking. His aim is to offer something for everyone, with the ultimate goal of

deepening our connection to our Jewish roots, our synagogue, and each other. Together with *Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo* and our leadership, the shared objective is

to support our community through every stage of life. We want to provide engaging programming for our youth, captivate our teenagers, attract our young adults, and support our parents and

support our parents and grandparents. We envision the synagogue as a place where people eagerly want to go—a place they can always count on.

To achieve these goals and fulfill our vision, we need your support. Our programs and events currently run at a deficit, and without our donors, we would be unable to continue offering these vital services to our members and the wider community. It is with this in mind that I am pleased to announce our **3**rd **Annual** Giving Campaign, taking place this June 18th - 19th. We hope we can count on your support. Additionally, we are seeking volunteers to assist the office and fundraising committee.

We are honoured to announce that this year's campaign will be inaugurated by a special

guest, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, who will address our community in our very own Mashaal sanctuary. We are humbled to have someone of his stature share his thoughts and answer our questions. Many of you have already purchased tickets, but if you have not, strongly encourage you to do so. This is a remarkable opportunity to hear one of our great leaders speak and a chance to showcase the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue to the Montreal community. Following the address, all guests are welcome to join us for an elegant dessert reception.

We are making a significant effort to broaden our programming and to create events that we feel will add value to our membership. We cannot think of a better way to start this endeavor than by bringing in an esteemed former prime minister to speak to us. We really hope this will be the first in a series of similar events at our synagogue. Please help us by buying tickets, inviting your friends and family, and sharing our posts on social media. This is a huge step for our synagogue and a step we cannot take alone. The success of this significant event lies in your hands.

Shabbat Shalom.



SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SHABBAT KIDDUSH CO-SPONSORED BY:

Edmond Fhima & Family, in memory of his father, Simon Fhima z'l.

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SHABBAT SEUDAH SPONSORED BY:

Rose Simon Schwartz, in memory of her husband, Jacques Schwartz z'l.

CHEVRA SHAAS SHABBOS KIDDUSH CO-SPONSORED BY:

Stanley Goldstein, in honour of the anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah!

Julie Bacrie Cohen & Marc Zilbert,

in honour of their twin's **Liya** & **Yael**'s Bat Mitzvah.

COMMMUNITY

Congregation Maghen Abraham

PERASHA BAMIDBAR
Thoughts: Mayer Sasson

In the merit of Kriyat Shma

"From twenty years old and upward every one that goes out into the public service ... shall you... count them" (1, 3)

On the verse "From twenty years old and upward...shall you... count them" the Kisa Harachamim says, "This verse alludes to the fact that one who says Kriyat Shma on his bed (before going to sleep at night) is like one who holds a double headed sword in his hand and the bad spirits and bad angels cannot harm him, as it says in the Gemara "He who says Kriyat Shma on his bed the harmful spirits run away from him as if he was holding a double headed sword in his hand."

It is said – the Kriyat Shma has 248 words like the amount of limbs in a person and it has a special power to distance and kill harmful spirits that cause a person to sin.

The Kisa Harachamim adds, "and he will not dream bad dreams and his soul will arise above to the Heavens and with its breath will burn all the destructive powers, and then he (the one who reads Kriyat Shma on his bed) will sleep peacefully."

This is alluded to in the words "מבן קשרים" -"From twenty years old and upward" – has the initials "שמע" and instead of reading -"שֶּנָה"-years, we can read" - sleep ---going "upward". "Every one that goes out" – those whose souls go out of them at night when they sleep and go upward to Heaven – the souls go up and sign on what the people did that day, for better or for worse.

The words "תפקדו אותם" – "you shall count them" is written in the plural alluding to the destructive angels and harmful spirits. A person who reads the Kriyat Shma burns them with his breath and this is alluded to in the word "תפקדו" which has the letters "קדו". In numerology ז"ח is 480, the same as the bad spirit היליליה. The letters "קדו" refer to burning. A person who reads Kriyat Shma on his bed burns up the bad group of לילית and will therefore not come to sin.

SHABBAT SHALOM!

Mazal Tov To



Michelle Sasson & Joseph Daly, on their upcoming wedding.

Proud parents Murielle & Mayer Sasson and Nomy & Abe Daly.

Delighted grandparents, **Andrée & Selim Sasson** and **Yafa Benisti** and **Leony Daly** and **Heskel Shebath**.

The late **Joseph Benisti**; **Joseph Daly** and **Klara Shebath.**

Chevra Shaas Words From Rabbi Menahem White Ba-midbar 5783

Mazal tov to Raya Sukonik, who has become a great grandmother due to the birth of a grandson to her daughter Maya of Scranton, (who used to daven with us when we were on Bourret and Lavoie) and husband Volvi Polatchek. The mother is Etel Perel, who spent the summer with her grandmother in Montreal a few years ago and came to us at Chevra Shaas.

Julie Bacrie Cohen & Marc Zilbert, on the Bat Mitzvah of their twins, *Liya & Yael*.

Stanley Goldstein on the anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mr. Erdstein observes yahrzeit for his mother Yachet bat Shlomo Tzvi HaKohen on 3 Sivan. May her memory be for a blessing.

Friday is 28 lyyar. 28 in Hebrew gematria is "koach," strength." On this day back in '67, with the help of HaShem, the Israeli army unified Jerusalem. By the end of the brief war, they had pushed back the advances of 3 Arab armies, who had been determined to push Israel into the sea.

Note that the expression "Yom Yerushalayim," "Jerusalem Day," has a very negative context in the Bible. In Psalm 137, it is used to describe the desire of the Edomites and Babylonians to raze Jerusalem to its very foundations. I don't know who thought of the name Yom Yerushalayim for 28 lyyar, but it clearly is an expression of gratitude to HaShem for turning history around!

Yom Yerushalayim: as the poet Hayyim Hefer wrote in his beautiful Hebrew poem, this kotel had seen many things: it saw R. Yehudah HaLevi being trampled alive, etc., etc., but it never before had seen parachutists crying. [i.e., tears of happiness, having taken over the kotel.]

Sunday is Rosh Hodesh Sivan, meaning that we are preparing for "matan Torah," the time that we were, as Rashi explains, when we received the Torah, as "one nation with one heart." May the people of Israel come together, so that we can face our common enemy with unity.

Got a Question for Reverend/Hazan Daniel Benlolo?

Dear Danny, I would like to celebrate Shavuot this year, but I'm not sure how to do it properly. Could you provide some guidance on how to celebrate this holiday? What are some traditional customs or rituals that I should follow? Thank you for your help.

Shavuot is a joyous holiday that celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, and there are several customs and rituals that you can follow to observe the holiday.

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Study Torah: Shavuot is traditionally associated with Torah study. Many people stay up all night studying Torah on the first night of the holiday, in a practice called "Tikkun Leil Shavuot." If you are unable to stay up all night, you can still make an effort to study Torah during the holiday. 2. Eat dairy foods: It is customary to eat dairy foods on Shavuot. This tradition comes from the fact that the Torah is compared to milk and honey, and also because the Israelites did not have time to prepare kosher meat after receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai. Some popular dairy foods include cheesecake, blintzes, and quiches. 3. Attend synagogue: Many synagogues hold special services on Shavuot, which often include the reading of the Ten Commandments. You can also recite special prayers and participate in Torah study sessions at your local synagogue. 4. Decorate your home: It is customary to decorate homes and synagogues with flowers and greenery to symbolize the lush mountain on which the Torah was given. 5. Give to charity: Shavuot is a time to celebrate the giving of the Torah, which includes the commandment to care for those in need. Consider donating to a charity or volunteering your time to help others during the holiday.

I hope that these suggestions are helpful in guiding your celebration of Shavuot. Wishing you a happy and meaningful holiday.

Until next time...

PARNASS HAYOM BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI

SHABBAT 29 IYAR - MAY 20 Leila Khamara, in honour of her Children & Grandchildren.

SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 1 SIVAN - MAY 21 Famille Pinto, à la mémoire de leur père et frère, Leon Yehuda Pinto 5^{rt}

MONDAY/LUNDI 2 SIVAN - MAY 22 Sélim Sasson Family, in honour of their Children & Grandchildren.

TUESDAY/MARDI 3 SIVAN - MAY 23 Khamara Family, in honour of Helwani Beit Hamidrash.

WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI 4 SIVAN - MAY 24 Rosette Rossano, à la mémoire de son frère, Joseph Revah ז"ל

THURSDAY/JEUDI 5 SIVAN - MAY 25 Robert Meer, in memory of his mother, Georgette Meer ""

FRIDAY/VENDREDI 6 SIVAN - MAY 26 Comm. of Babylonian Iraqi Jews of Mtl., in commemoration of the Farhoud.

Lydia, Vivian, Jack, Carmen & Families, in memory of their mother, Marcelle Corin "T

Corin Grandchildren, in memory of Marcelle Corin 5"1

SISTERHOOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Amanda Battat, Shella Chahine, Linda Ischayek, Wilma Mashal and Danielle Mashaal

"Should you want to join the Sister-hood Executive/Board for the 2023-24 year, please email sisterhood2020@ hotmail.com or contact any member of the committee by May 31st 2023. Positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Financial Secretary, or a board member"

Upcoming Events



WEDNESDAY, MAY 24 | 10:00A - 12:00P

Women's Learning Group: Healthy Hair & Nails with Dr. Alfred Bilbul, Dermatologist

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



THURSDAY, MAY 25 | 9:00P - 1:00A (*FIRST SPEAKER 9:30*) EDUCATION & RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE: Tikkun Leil Shavuot Join us for a traditional Shavuot night of study with engaging guest speakers. Refreshment. More details to come. Battat Hall.

Must Register: https://www.thespanish.org/event/tik-kun-leil-shavuot html

<u>kun-leil-shavuot.html</u>



WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 | 10:00A - 12:00P

WOMEN'S LEARNING GROUP: The Importance of Having a Will with Maître Alain Murad.

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



SUNDAY, 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 1st noon - space limited. \$5 Sisterhood member - \$12 Non-Members www.thespanish.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^{ème} Siècle - avec Maurice Peretz

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



WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 | 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