



Shearith Israel
SPANISH &
PORTUGUESE
Synagogue of Montreal
Est. 1768

SHABBAT BULLETIN

October 7, 2023 | 22 Tishrei, 5784



Dvar Torah Simchat Torah 5784

By: Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis

Simchat Torah is different from other Chagim in many ways: Its name does not appear in the Torah, Yizkor is held on the first and not second day of the Chag and most importantly its Torah reading is unique to Simchat Torah. Every Holiday was assigned a special section from the Torah that we read during the morning prayer service. The section of the Torah that we read for every other holiday besides Simchat Torah is read at some other point in the year as part of the weekly cycle of Torah reading. The reading for Simchat Torah is only ever read once a year and it is on Simchat Torah. As such I want to address the unique section that we will be reading this Sunday morning for the first and last time this year.

The special section of the Torah we read on Simchat Torah is the final of the fifty-four sections the Torah was divided into. It is called Vezot Habracha - This is the blessing. It contains the final blessing that

Moshe blesses the Children of Israel of Israel with and then his death. In the end the whole thing is pretty anti-climatic. For the last two months we have been preparing for Moshe's death and in the end, it passes without ceremony.

The blessings that Moshe gives us are remarkable in their clarity and simplicity. Moshe blesses the Children of Israel together, and he gives them each a unique blessing. Moshe's blessing parallels the blessing that Yakov gave to his sons. In both cases the blessings are exclusive and specific. Every blessing is limited and as such it relies on the other blessings to produce its full effect. Moshe's blessings for the tribes make it clear that each tribe has a unique gift to offer the nation of Israel as a whole, that each tribe is an essential part of the nation. Further Moshe's blessing for each tribe is only beneficial in conjunction with the other blessings to the rest of the tribes. Not only is each tribe a necessary part of the nation of Israel, but the whole project of our bringing blessing to Israel and the whole world falls apart when Israel is not united. When our blessings don't work together, they turn into

curses. This is one of the secrets our holiday's special Parsha. The greatest blessing turns into a curse if we don't know how to accept and share it with others. The more we can share blessings the greater they will be.

The second secret that Moshe shares with us is through his death. If it's true that each one of us is essential and brings a special blessing into this world, then that means that we are irreplaceable. Moshe walked to his death willingly and with a calm heart, knowing that though no other human would ever know G'd the way that he did, that Yehoshua would take his place and others after that. We are all essential, but none of us is irreplaceable. G'd can work miracles through anything he wants, and when we are no longer able to be the tool through which G'd's will is done in this world other people will be able to do it. The secret of Simchat Torah and the source of the joy in this holiday is knowing that while each of us is essential we are not the only ones who can do this work.

Shabbat Shalom and Chag Sameach!

OPINION

SIGNIFICANCE OF RESTARTING OUR YOUTH CHOIR

By: Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo

Enriching Shabbat and Holiday Services:

Dear friends,
Shabbat and holiday services hold a special place in the hearts of Jewish communities worldwide. These sacred gatherings are moments of spiritual reflection, unity, and celebration. To enhance the beauty and depth of these services, one powerful element often overlooked is the inclusion of young children in youth choirs. While traditional prayers and rituals remain at the core of these gatherings, the voices of our youngest members can add a new dimension of joy and vitality. Together we will explore the importance of involving your children and grandchildren in our youth choir and how their participation can transform Shabbat and holiday services.

1. Preserving Tradition Through Song
Shabbat and holiday services are steeped in tradition and history. The melodies and chants of the Spanish and Portuguese tradition will be passed down through generations and connect us to our roots and our faith. By involving your children in the youth choir, we ensure the preservation of these precious traditions. Children learn the sacred songs and melodies from an early age, ensuring that they carry forward the musical heritage of their community.



TUESDAYS 4:30pm at the S&P
Join Reverend Hazan Benlolo in song and beautify our services!
Directed by:
H. Benjamin Harrouch and Marc Ezerzer
Light snacks will be served
to join:
cantorbenlolo@thespanish.org

2. Strengthening Community Bonds
Participation in our youth choir provides children with a sense of belonging

within their community. They form friendships and connections that can last a lifetime. When these young voices come together in harmony during Shabbat and holiday services, it strengthens the bonds within the congregation. The intergenerational aspect of choir participation fosters a sense of unity and shared purpose.

3. Fostering a Love for Judaism
Children are like sponges, eager to absorb the world around them. By involving them in the youth choir, we expose them to the beauty of Jewish liturgy and music at an early age. This exposure can foster a deep and lasting love for Judaism. Through their participation, children can come to understand the significance of the prayers and songs they sing, forging a meaningful connection to their faith.

4. Building Confidence & Leadership
Joining a youth choir is not just about singing; it's also about personal growth. Children gain confidence in their abilities as they rehearse and perform in front of their congregation. They learn the value of teamwork, responsibility, and commitment. Over time, some

SHABBAT SHALOM

SHMINI ATZERET

Start/Debut 6:07 p.m. End/Fin 7:08 p.m.

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

WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

SUNDAY (SIMCHAT TORAH)
Shahrit: 8:30A Minha: 5:45P
MONDAY (THANKSGIVING)
Shahrit: 8:30A Minha: 5:45P
TUESDAY - FRIDAY
SHAHRIT: 7:00A MINHA: 5:45P

CHEVRA SHAAS Services Schedule

SHABBOS, October 7TH
Schachris 9:30 a.m.
SUNDAY, October 8TH
Schachris 8:00 a.m.



TORAH CLASS
Join ANDRE ROTCHEL every Shabbat after services
Beit Hamidrash-Refreshments

To contact
Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis:
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(514) 970-9932

To contact Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo:
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(514) 892-2859



Synagogue Office will be closed on Monday, Oct. 9 for Thanksgiving.

of these young choir members may emerge as future leaders within their community, taking on important roles in synagogue life.

5. Creating Joyful & Uplifting Services
The presence of young voices in the youth choir brings an element of joy and vitality to Shabbat and holiday services. The innocence and enthusiasm of children can lift the spirits of the entire congregation. Their pure voices remind us of the hope and promise of the future, even as we reflect on the past and the traditions we hold dear.

Incorporating young children into youth choirs can significantly enhance the richness of Shabbat and holiday services. It preserves tradition, strengthens community bonds, fosters a love for Judaism, builds confidence, and adds a layer of joy to these sacred gatherings. As we look to the future, let us recognize the importance of nurturing the musical talents of our youngest members, ensuring that the melodies and prayers of our heritage continue to resonate for generations to come. Please join us!

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SHABBAT KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY:
Arlene & Henri Abitan, in honour of her becoming Eshet Hayil 5784.

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SHABBAT SEUDAH SPONSORED BY:
Evelyn Shahin, Gilda & Morris Abdulezer, Marla & Marvin Shahin and Rita & Jack Shahin, in memory of Anwar Ouri Shahin z'l.

Mazal Tov To Our Hatanim & Eshet Hayil



Hatan Torah, Jack (Isaac) Sachs
Hatan Bereshit, Joseph Amzallag
Eshet Hayil, Arlene Abitan



Muriel Suissa Benlolo, her children & grand-children, wishing a happy 60th birthday to husband, father & grandfather, Daniel Benlolo.

COMMUNITY

Chevra Shaas
Words From
Rabbi Menahem White
SHEMINI ATSERET 5783

Here are some more reflections on my recent trip to Israel (part I appeared in last week’s bulletin.)

I prayed three times at the Jerusalem Great Synagogue: (a) My first Shabbat morning, I went with my son and grandson for davening. They were hoping to hear a world-famous hazzan and rabbi. However, since it was a couple of weeks before RH, I guess the rabbi and hazzan had a vacation. Yet. after the prayers, I gave a warm yishar koach to the man who had been leading the davening, as I told him that it was exactly the nusach that I remembered from my youth minyan when I was in high school. Also, I was honoured to receive an aliya to the Torah.

(b) The following Sunday, my son and I went to mincha/arvit at the Great Synagogue. We prayed in the Sepharadic minyan on the first floor of the Great Synagogue. But in the hallway, we heard some beautiful singing.

Their brilliant musical conductor, Eli Jaffe, was conducting a choir rehearsal in preparation for selichot. We sat there for several minutes and were amazed by his erudite explanation of every nuance in the selichot melodies.

(c) On selichot night, I went with Ron Gehr and his family to hear traditional pre-RH selichot. I was impressed by the large number of people who came to participate, by the beautiful music of the hazzan and choir, and by the boundless energy of the choir leader (the aforementioned Eli Jaffe.) But I did have one complaint: although I am knowledgeable about selichot, I did have some trouble figuring out where they were “holding.” I innocently asked: “why didn’t they announce pages?” The emphatic answer that I received was that “no one announces pages in

Israel!” Perhaps that is something the Israelis could learn from us!!

One wonderful experience that I had was the evening when I met with several former Herzliah students of mine who had made aliya. UTT/Herzliah should be very proud of this accomplishment.

[Sadly, I met one shabbat with the daughter of our student the late Dr. Nahum Kovalsky zichrono livracha.

I was told that 2 former students of Herz have been in the Knesset: Michal Cotler and Dan Illouz. When I proudly mentioned this to the men in my brother’s shul in Netanya, they all responded that the Knesset is the worst place to be. It has become a forum for disrespect and shouting. We must direct our prayers that there should be shalom IN Israel: We have enough problems with our enemies: let’s have peace among ourselves!

I happen to be rereading now the great novel of Shai Agnon, “Temol Shilshom.” [I first read it the year after graduating from high school!] So, it was a real thrill to pray in the shul where the Gehrs go, as it as called the Agnon shul, since he used to daven there and lived on the next block!

A wonderful experience in Netanya was going to the Mediterranean, after walking through the kanyon [that is, the big shopping mall.] No, I didn’t swim, but I was able to make the beracha: “barukh ‘attah HaShem,” “who made the great sea.”

On Rosh haShanah, between Mincha and Maariv, all of us shul goers climbed up a hill, from where we could see the beautiful blue of the Mediterranean, in order to say tashlikh. With all due respect to the kiddie’s pool opposite the Spanish, it can’t compete with tashlikh overlooking Yam HaTichon!

Chag Sameah and shabbat Shalom

Our Condolences To



Sylvia Mashal on the loss of her husband, Maurice H. Mashal z'l.
Lisa & Henry Mashal, on the loss of his father, Maurice H. Mashal z'l.
Fred Haron Mashaal, on the loss of his brother, Maurice H. Mashal z'l.

Community

Congregation
Maghen Abraham

SUKKOT
Thoughts: Mayer Sasson

"...because of the hand that was sent out to Your temple" (Machzor, Succot)

Whose hand?

Concerning the words in the Succot prayers "Because of our sins we were exiled from our land... because of the hand that was sent out to Your temple" the Jewish Sages ask, what does the verse mean by "...because of the hand that was sent out to Your temple" Which hand? Seemingly it should have been written "Because of our sins we were exiled from our land... because of the wicked gentiles who destroyed our Temple".

But first we must explain why the holiday of Succot is the one called "the time of our happiness" (as we say in the prayers "And G-d our L-rd gave us in love... this holiday of Succot the time of our happiness"). The holiday of Shavuot is more suitable for this title of "time of our happiness". After all, on Shavuot the holy Torah was given and we know that this gladdens people's hearts, as it says, "The statutes of G-d are straight, gladdening the heart." The holiday of Pesach seems also more suitable to the "time of our happiness" for we were redeemed from slavery to eternal freedom and at the Seders we sit back comfortably in our homes with beautiful dishes, like kings. While on the holiday of Succot we live in a succah made of simple planks of wood and a roof of leaves or bamboo that is open to the winds and burning sun – certainly the succah does not have the great comfort of a house. If so, how can we say "the time of our happiness" on Succot?

In addition, why did the Torah add on by Succot "And you should rejoice in your holiday... and you should be only אֲנִי-- happy"? The word אֲנִי comes to exclude as it says in the Yerushalmi "The words אֲנִי and אָנֹכִי come to exclude". Therefore, why does it say by Succot "And you should be only אֲנִי happy"? If אֲנִי comes to exclude something, should we be less happy on this holiday?

We can say that the answer to all of these is written in Shir Hashirim (5) "I got up to open for my loved one (G-d) and my loved One evaded and left." In other words, the Nation of Israel says to G-d "I got up to open" but you, my loved One, evaded me and left. This seems to be not understood. G-d says to the Nation of Israel in the Midrash (Shir

Hashirim 5) "My sons, open a small opening for me of repentance the size of a needle head and I will open gates for you where wagons and carriages can go through." If so, when the Nation of Israel says to G-d "I woke up to open for my loved One", why did G-d evade them and leave them, not accepting their repentance?

We can say that the answer to this question is "I woke up to open for my loved one" because in Hebrew the word I is superfluous, and it can be written אנני without אני. And what is that addition of אני- I?

Cont'd. on our website under clergy blogs

COMMUNITY

PARNASS HAYOM
BEIT HAMIDRASH
HELWANI

SHABBAT 22 TISHREI - OCTOBER 7
Selim Sasson, à la mémoire de sa mère, Rosa Sasson ז"ל.

Yvette Marsh, à la mémoire de son père, Jacques Bensoussan ז"ל.

SUNDAY/DIMANCHE 23 TISHREI - OCTOBER 8
Khadoury Family, in loving memory of Elliot Khadoury ben Ruth ז"ל.

MONDAY/LUNDI 24 TISHREI - OCTOBER 9
Raphael Ohayon, en l'honneur de ses Enfants & Petits Enfants.

Joy, Lisette & Alain Murad, in memory of their mother, Juliet Menashi Yamein Murad ז"ל.

Penina & Claude Helwani, in honour of their granddaughter, Kaia Dina Ohayon.

TUESDAY/MARDI 25 TISHREI - OCTOBER 10
Edna & Victor Mashaal, in memory of her mother, Marcelle Gareh ז"ל

WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI 26 TISHREI - OCT. 11
Community of Babylonian Iraqi Jews, in memory of Anwar Ouri Shahin ז"ל

Penina & Claude Helwani, in honour of their granddaughter, Claire Penina Helwani.

Maurice Cohen & Famille, à la mémoire de leur père, Jacques Cohen ז"ל.

THURSDAY/JEUDI 27 TISHREI - OCTOBER 12
Jack, Gilda & Marvin, in honour of their mother, Evelyn Shahin.

FRIDAY/VENDREDI 28 TISHREI - OCTOBER 13
Selim Sasson, à la mémoire de son père, Mayer Sasson ז"ל.

Evelyn Shahin, in memory of her husband, Anwar Ouri Shahin ז"ל.

Upcoming Events



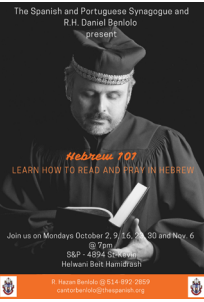
Every Shabbat from October 7 - December 30
History of the Oral Torah with Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis.

Join us every Shabbat for 45 minutes after Kiddush in Lawee Hall for a weekly session on the fascinating origins of the Oral Torah.



Every Shabbat from October 7 - December 30
Rambam's Mishneh Torah with Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis.

Join us every Shabbat for 45 minutes before Minha, to delve into Maimonides' YAD H- HAZAKAH in Helwani Beit Hamidrash.



Mondays, October 9, 16, 23, 30 & November 6 | 7:00P
Hebrew 101 - Learn how to Read & Pray in Hebrew with Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo - Helwani Beit Hamidrash.

R. Hazan Benlolo (514) 892-2859
cantorbenlolo@thespanish.org



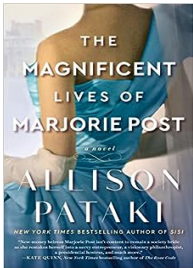
Tuesday, October 10 | 10:30A - 12:00P
Sisterhood Book Review "Honor" by Thrity Umrigar
Reviewer: Pamela Iny - Battat Hall - All Welcome!

RSVP: sisterhood2020@hotmail.com
\$5 Sisterhood Members & \$8 Non-members.



Wednesday, October 18 | 10:00A - 12:00P
WLG: Nature, Horses & Royalty with London photographer Henry Dallal. Presentation of photos & stories from his collection.

Meeting ID: 849 4697 5701 Passcode: FALL22023
Reserve & Donate: 514-737-3695 - gladys@mooallem.ca



Tuesday, November 28 | 10:30A - 12:00P
Sisterhood Book Review "The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post" by Allison Pataki
Reviewer: Taff Chitayat - Battat Hall - All Welcome!

RSVP: sisterhood2020@hotmail.com
\$5 Sisterhood Members & \$8 Non-members.