



Shearith Israel  
SPANISH &  
PORTUGUESE  
Synagogue of Montreal  
Est. 1768

# SHABBAT BULLETIN

September 2, 2023 | 16 Elul, 5783



## Dvar Torah KI TAVO 5783

By: Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis

This week we are in the seventh Parsha in the final book of the Torah, Devarim. Devarim is Moshe's final address to the Children of Israel before they enter the land of Israel and Moshe dies. Seven represents divine unity in our tradition, seven days of creation, seven years of the Shmita cycle. This week's Parsha brings completion and closure to the second part of Devarim, in which Moshe describes what life will look like for us when we finally settle in our land.

Kit Tavo is quite probably the worst Parsha of the Torah. The sixth Aliyah is a list of ninety-eight different curses that will befall us, in our land, when we stop listening to the voice of G'd and fail to follow his path of righteousness. It's such a horrible reading that there is a tradition to read it as fast and quietly as possible and it is often a struggle to find someone willing to say the blessing on this section.

The curses from our Parsha are inherently connected with the nation of Israel's settling in the land of Israel. These curses only occur to us when we are in our home and exercising control over it. The Torah says little about what life will be like for us outside the land of Israel. Why does Moshe place so much emphasis on what will happen to us in Israel and almost none to our future in the diaspora, after all, for most of our history we have been a nation in diaspora?

Moshe is describing to us our national future and in the diaspora, we are unable to act as a nation. In the diaspora every Jew can control their own future and Jewish communities have the ability to organize and mediate the forces that swirl around us, but we have no control over the fate of our nation. We couldn't stop the Spanish expulsion in 1492 regardless of the fact that Don Isaac Abarbenel was the advisor of the queen. In the Diaspora, no matter how powerful or wealthy we become, our fate lies in the hands of others.

When we are in the land of Israel it is

different. When we live in our land and rule over it we take charge of our fate. For better or worse when Jews rule over Israel and sit in Jerusalem our future is in our hands. Regardless of whatever excuses we might choose, Israel is our home and our state, and its challenges and successes belong to us as well.

The blessing and curse from this week's Parsha are that of living in our own home and being responsible for what happens there. Moshe makes clear that our success there is directly tied to our ability to produce the society that G'd demands of us. For the last three week's Moshe has spelled out G'd's demand that we cultivate a society that is sensitive to the needs of its weakest and most disenfranchised members, this week he explains to us that this is the only way we can receive the blessings that G'd holds for us. The greatest blessing and curse from this week's Parsha are responsibility. When we take responsibility for ourselves and our brothers, we fill the world with the peace and the knowledge of G'd, if we refuse it, we are doomed to fail.

Shabbat Shalom!

### OPINION

## Parashat Ki-Tavo

By: Reverend Hazan  
Daniel Benlolo

In Parashat Ki Tavo, which is found in the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses instructs the Israelites about the rituals they should perform upon entering the Promised Land. The parashah contains blessings and curses, rewards and punishments, and focuses on the concept of gratitude.

The key message revolves around the idea of acknowledging and expressing gratitude for the blessings that one receives. This is demonstrated through the ritual of bringing the first fruits (Bikkurim) to the Temple as an offering of thanksgiving. This act is a way of recognizing that all good things come from a higher source and expressing appreciation for the abundance in one's life.

The parashah also reminds the Israelites that their journey from slavery to the Promised Land is a result of divine intervention and guidance. It underscores the importance of humility and not becoming arrogant or complacent in their success. The curses that are mentioned serve as a cautionary re-

minder that neglecting one's responsibilities and forgetting the source of blessings can lead to negative consequences.

In a broader sense, the message from Parashat Ki Tavo encourages us to cultivate an attitude of gratitude in our lives. It teaches us to recognize the blessings we have, whether material or spiritual, and to never take them for granted. This awareness of the good things in our lives can lead to a more positive outlook, improved relationships, and a sense of fulfillment. Additionally, the parashah emphasizes the importance of fulfilling our obligations to God and society, using our blessings to benefit not only ourselves but also others.

Overall, the message of Parashat Ki Tavo is a reminder to approach life with humility, gratitude, and a sense of responsibility for the blessings we receive.

Dans la Parashat Ki Tavo, qui se trouve dans le livre du Deutéronome, Moïse instruit les Israélites sur les rituels qu'ils doivent accomplir en entrant dans la Terre promise. La parasha contient des bénédictions et des malédictions, des récompenses et des punitions, et se

concentre sur le concept de gratitude.

Le message clé tourne autour de l'idée de reconnaître et d'exprimer sa gratitude pour les bénédictions que l'on reçoit. Ceci est démontré à travers le rituel consistant à apporter les prémices (Bikkurim) au Temple en guise d'offrande de remerciement. Cet acte est une façon de reconnaître que toutes les bonnes choses viennent d'une source supérieure et d'exprimer son appréciation pour l'abondance dans sa vie.

La parasha rappelle également aux Israélites que leur voyage de l'esclavage à la Terre promise est le résultat de l'intervention et de la direction divines. Cela souligne l'importance de l'humilité et de ne pas devenir arrogant ou complaisant dans leur réussite. Les malédictions mentionnées rappellent que négliger ses responsabilités et oublier la source des bénédictions peut entraîner des conséquences négatives.

Dans un sens plus large, le message de la Parashat Ki Tavo nous encourage à cultiver une attitude de gratitude dans nos vies. Cela nous apprend à reconnaître les bénédictions que nous possédons, qu'elles soient matérielles ou spirituelles, et à ne jamais les prendre

## SHABBAT SHALOM

**Start/Debut**      **End/Fin**  
**7:14 p.m.**      **8:17 p.m.**

**PARASHAT KI TAVO**  
**HERTZ PAGE 859**  
**HAFTARAH ISAIAH**  
**HERTZ PAGE 874**

**SHABBAT SERVICES**  
**SHAHRI: 8:30A    MINHA: 7:00P**

### WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY & MONDAY** Selihot: 7:30A  
Shahrit: 8:30A    Minha: 6:00P

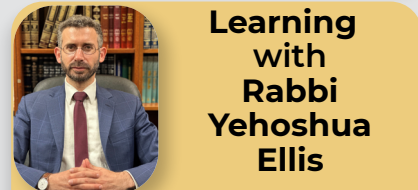
**TUESDAY - FRIDAY** Selihot: 6:00A  
Shahrit: 7:00A    Minha: 6:00P

### CHEVRA SHAAS Services Schedule

**SHABBOS, September 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
Schachris 9:30 a.m.

**SUNDAY, September 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
Schachris 8:00 a.m.

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



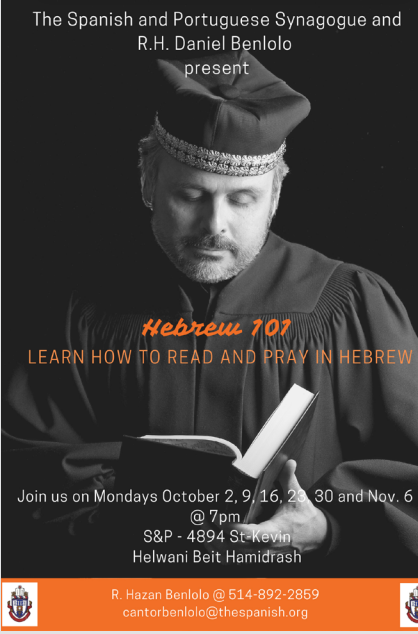
**Learning  
with  
Rabbi  
Yehoshua  
Ellis**

**HISTORY AND EVOLUTION  
OF THE TORAH**  
*Shabbat 1 p.m.*

**RAMBAM'S LAWS  
OF REPENTANCE**  
Every Shabbat  
45 minutes before Minha  
Beit Hamidrash  
**Welcome all!**

**PARASHAT HASHAVUA**  
*Sunday 9:30 a.m.*

*To contact*  
**Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis:**  
**rabbiellis@thespanish.org**  
**(514) 970-9932**



pour acquises. Cette conscience des bonnes choses de notre vie peut conduire à une attitude plus positive, à de meilleures relations et à un sentiment d'épanouissement. De plus, la parasha souligne l'importance de remplir nos obligations envers Dieu et la société, en utilisant nos bénédictions au profit non seulement de nous-mêmes mais aussi des autres.

Dans l'ensemble, le message de la Parashat Ki Tavo nous rappelle d'aborder la vie avec humilité, gratitude et sens des responsabilités pour les bénédictions que nous recevons.



**SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SHABBAT KIDDUSH IS CO-SPONSORED BY:**

Valerie & Albert Tauby, in memory of her father, **Leon Cattan z'l** and his mother, **Mariam Tauby z'l**.

**SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SHABBAT SEUDAH SPONSORED BY:**

The Congregation.

**COMMUNITY**

## Got a Question for Reverend/Hazan Daniel Benlolo?

Dear Danny, It is said that on Rosh Hashanah, God predetermines each individual's wealth and parnassa. Is it so and why?

Dear reader, The concept you're referring to is often associated with the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah, which is the Jewish New Year. During this time, there is a belief that God reviews and judges the deeds of every individual over the past year. This judgment is often depicted metaphorically as a "book of life" in which one's actions are recorded.

The idea of God determining an individual's fate, including wealth and livelihood, stems from the belief in divine providence. Divine providence suggests that God is actively involved in the world, guiding and influencing events, including individual circumstances. This belief can be traced back to various texts within Jewish tradition, such as the Talmud and various teachings of rabbis and scholars over the centuries.

The connection between Rosh Ha-

shanah and wealth can be understood as follows: If God is reviewing and judging one's actions during this time, it's believed that one's financial matters are included in this evaluation. Thus, the financial outcomes of the coming year are thought to be influenced by God's judgment based on one's behavior, intentions, and overall conduct in the previous year.

However, it's important to recognize that interpretations of religious beliefs can vary among different Jewish denominations and individual believers. Some may take a more literal view of this concept, while others might see it as symbolic or allegorical. Additionally, the concept of divine providence raises questions about free will and determinism, which have been subjects of philosophical and theological discussions for centuries.

In summary, the belief that God predetermines an individual's wealth and livelihood on Rosh Hashanah is rooted in the idea of divine judgment and providence within Jewish tradition. It reflects the notion that God's assessment of one's actions during this period can impact various aspects of their life in the coming year. Until next time...

## Mazal Tov To



**Doris & Eli Ambar**, on the engagement of their granddaughter, **Joanna**, daughter of **Darlene Ambar & Jonathan Singerman**, to **Brandon**, son of **Lydia & Joel Korman**.

## Our Condolences To



**Albert & Nilly Levy** and **Jimmy & Joelle Levy**, on the loss of their mother, **Sylvia Noémi Levy (née Elofer) z'l**.

**Community**

## Congregation Maghen Abraham

PERASHA KI TAVO

*Thoughts: Mayer Sasson*

"And you shall take from the first of all the fruit of the soil..." (26,2)

Gratitude

On the verse "And you shall take from the first of all the fruit of the soil" Rashi says "From the first" - A person goes down to his field and sees a fig that has ripened, he ties a band around it as a sign and says, - This is bikurim."

The source is from the Mishna: "How does one put aside bikurim? A person goes down to his field and sees a fig that has ripened, a cluster that has ripened, a pomegranate that has ripened, he ties a band around it and says - These are bikurim."

We must understand this. If a person ties a linen thread around them or a cotton thread as a sign- are they disqualified? They are certainly kosher. So why does the Mishna use the word גָּמִי ?

It says in Likutei btar likutei in the name of Rabbi Moshe Leib Sassov ob'm that the reason that G-d commanded to bring bikurim is as follows: A person works in his field and sees that through his efforts the ground brings forth beautiful fruits/vegetables and he becomes haughty over his efforts and says: Mine are the best of everyone! And how did I achieve this high-quality produce more than anyone? Because I know how to work! I know how to invest efforts. He thereby becomes haughty as it says "My strength and the strength of my hands has brought me this valor". Therefore G-d tells him: The first fruits that you were so proud of - bring to me as bikurim - and thereby you will remember that I am the cause and not you.

That is what Rashi comes to teach us: A person ties a גָּמִי around the fruit as a sign. The letters of גָּמִי allude to "גְּדוּלַּת מַעֲשֵׂי ה'" - Great are G-d's deeds - to remind a person that he only made the efforts (planting, plowing, reaping, etc.) to bring down the Divine prosperity and that everything is from G-d and he should not be haughty.

SHABBAT SHALOM!!!

## PARNASS HAYOM BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI

**SHABBAT 16 ELUL - SEPTEMBER 2**

Famille Dana, à la mémoire de leur père, Raffaele Dana ז"ל

Carolla Family, in memory of their father, Marc Carolla ז"ל

**TUESDAY/MARDI 19 ELUL - SEPTEMBER 5**

Famille Tauby, à la mémoire de Eliahou Cattan ז"ל

**WEDNESDAY/MERCREDI 20 ELUL - SEPT. 6**

Famille Nahmiash, à la mémoire de Esther Nahmiash ז"ל

**THURSDAY/JEUDI 21 ELUL - SEPTEMBER 7**

Famille Amzallag, à la mémoire de Simon Amzallag ז"ל

**FRIDAY/VENDREDI 22 ELUL - SEPTEMBER 8**

Leila Khamara & Family, in honour of Dina's Birthday.

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue of Montreal Presents

# HIGH HOLY DAYS

## INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

with **Rabbi Yehoshua Ellis**  
*Develop the tools to make the High Holy Days as meaningful as possible*

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**Jennifer Abdulezer Mashaal**  
*Dietitian & Nutritionist*

**Dr. Melanie Bilbul**  
*Psychiatrist*

**DATE**  
5 SEPTEMBER

**TIME**  
7 PM - 9 PM

**LOCATION**  
BATTAT & CHEVRA SHAAS

514-737-3695  
support@thespanish.org  
www.thespanish.org

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY HELWANI BEIT HAMIDRASH

Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue  
Annual High HolyDays Cemetery Visit

Dear Friends and Congregants,

Please join our clergy at the Spanish and Portuguese cemetery to pray for your loved ones. We hope this will provide you and your family solace and comfort leading up to the High HolyDays. Let us take the time to honor their memories, as you reflect on shared experiences and find comfort in the physical presence of their resting place.

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**  
@ 10 AM  
1250 CHEMIN DE LA FORET, OUTREMONT, MONTREAL, QUEBEC H2V 4T6

FOR INFO PLEASE CONTACT:  
REVEREND HAZAN BENLOLO  
CANTORBENLOLO@THESPANISH.ORG  
(514) 892-2859

**To contact Reverend Hazan Daniel Benlolo:**  
cantorbenlolo@thespanish.org  
(514) 892-2859

The Synagogue Office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4 for Labour Day.

# Upcoming Events

**Sisterhood**  
Bringing Our Community Together

**EMERGENCY FIRST AID COURSE AND CERTIFICATION**  
Let's Help Save Lives

**ELITE MEDIC**  
**ANDREW LAWEE**

Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Small breaks in between

Price \$85 taxes included  
At the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue  
Registration is required

Register and pay online at: [sisterhood2020.com](https://www.sisterhood2020.com) or contact Wilma at 514-993-5903

**Thursday, August 31 | 9:00A - 4:00P**

(small breaks in between)

**Sisterhood** Emergency First Aid Course & Certification  
Let's help save lives with Andrew Lawee - Elite Medic

Price: \$85 taxes included - Max number of people: 16  
sisterhood2020@hotmail.com OR Wilma 514-993-5903

**HONOR**

THIRTY UMRIGAR

Book Review

**Tuesday, October 10 | 10:30A - 12:00P**

**Sisterhood** Book Review "Honor" by Thrity Umrigar  
Reviewer: Pamela Iny - Battat Hall - All Welcome!

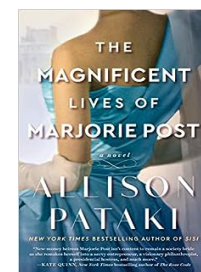
RSVP: sisterhood2020@hotmail.com  
\$5 Sisterhood Members & \$8 Non-members.



**Thursday, November 9 | 7:00P - 9:00P**

**Sisterhood** L'Dor Vador Challah Bake with Guest Speaker: Dr. Samantha Balass BSc, MDCM, CCFP Women's Health & Prevention

\$52 age 26 plus - \$36 Sisterhood Members - \$18 25 & under  
Register: the Spanish 514-737-3695 OR  
<http://www.thespanish.org/challah-bake-2023>



**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.

**CALL TO RESERVE YOUR HIGH HOLIDAY SEATS. 514-737-3695 DON'T DELAY!**