

# KOL MEVASSER

## What a Simple Cow Can Do for You...

By Rabbi Hagay Batzri

Doesn't it sound so strange? The name of this Shabbat? "Shabbat Parah" means the Shabbat of "the cow." If I hadn't grown up in a very traditional, observant Jewish home and someone asked me what I associated with "cow" and "Saturday," I might say something like "a rodeo for cowboys" or "a native American celebration for the buffalo."

What do we do on Shabbat Parah? How does it relate to us today? Why do we have Shabbat Parah during the month before Pesah? What is the message here?

Every year, on the Shabbat just before the Jewish month of Nisan begins with Rosh Hodesh, we read an additional section from the Torah. In other words, besides the weekly Torah portion and its Torah scroll, we take out a second Torah scroll, or Sefer Torah. Then, we read a portion from Parashat Hukat that relates to the mysterious topic of the Red Cow.

The Torah states: "This is the statute of the law which the LORD hath commanded,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## President's Message

*Ronald Einy*

My gratitude to my Senior Vice President, Jonathan Kelly and to Molly Jalali, Dafna Ezran, our Sisterhood, and the many volunteers who made this week's Purim Carnival 2012 the most successful carnival in Kahal Joseph history.

With over 250 members of our community attending, the carnival brought so much pleasure to our families and, especially, to our children. We brought out the true spirit of support and togetherness that has always been the focus of what our synagogue is about.

My appreciation also goes to Yvette Dabby for the delicious seasonal baking that she coordinated last weekend, and the happiness it brought to the sick and elderly, and to Rabbi Batzri, whose work with our children's choir has given our synagogue a new level of joy and inspiration.

In a year that has seen us grow from strength to strength spiritually, culturally and socially, it is heart-warming and fulfilling to me to steward this community as we set our sights on new goals and ideas that will see the light in our future. I thank you all.

## KJ Schedule

**Erev Shabbat**

**Friday, March 16, 2012**

Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... 6:30 am  
Shabbat Candle Lighting ..... 6:43 pm  
Minhah/Arbith ..... 6:30 pm

**Shabbat Parah / Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei**

**Birkat HaChodesh**

**Saturday, March 17, 2012**

Shabbat Shaharit/Morning Prayer..... 8:30 am  
Tehillim Women's Reading ..... 12:15 pm  
Shabbat Minhah, Seudah, Arbit..... 6:15 pm  
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah..... 7:48 pm

**Weekdays**

**Sunday, March 18, 2012**

Shaharit/Morning Prayer..... 7:30 am

**Monday to Friday, March 19 to 23, 2012**

Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... 6:30 am

**Erev Shabbat HaChodesh**

**Rosh Hodesh Nisan**

**Friday, March 23, 2012**

Shaharit/Morning Prayer..... 6:30 am  
Shabbat Candle Lighting ..... 6:49 pm  
Minhah/Arbith ..... 6:30 pm

### WEEKLY TORAH PORTION

Parashat **Vayakhel-Pekudei** 373-391

Parashat Parah 652-655

Haftara 999-1001

(Continued from page 1)

saying: Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer, faultless, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke."

The purpose of this is as follows: "And he that burneth her [the red cow] shall wash his clothes in water, and bathe his flesh in water, and shall be unclean until the evening. And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of sprinkling; it [the red cow's ashes mixed with water] is a purification from sin."

Interestingly, we just read last week about the sin of the Golden Calf. The midrash, or explanation, says about that: "the mother [the Red Cow] will come and clean her son's [the Golden Calf's] dirt [in other words, sin]."

Both these readings occur before the month of Nisan, the month during which we celebrate the Exodus from Egypt, to remind us that Pesach is coming. In addition to preparing ourselves for not eating bread or having Hametz in our homes, we need to purify ourselves spiritually and emotionally.

This inner preparation enables us to receive more of the benefits that Pesach can bestow upon us. In the time of the Temple, in order

(Continued on page 3)

## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in memory of  
**Nissim ben Yaacov, z"l**

by  
Tooraj & Desiree Aghalar

## Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored in memory of  
**Yaacov ben Avraham, z"l**  
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## Refuah Shlemah

Gerry Shapiro • Eliezer Saltoon *Eliezer Hai ben Roz* • Yocheved bat Rachel • Rachamim ben Sarah • Hinah Titza bat Itah



### Rabbi Batzri's Hotline

*Plan Your Next Shabbat Dinner ...*

Discuss your Jewish home and learn the secrets that create a Jewish environment. Rabbi Batzri offers explanations of Jewish matters for young families and the entire family. Contact him at 310-717-8707 or write him at [hbatzri@gmail.com](mailto:hbatzri@gmail.com). *Now, let's set your table ...*

## In Memoriam

We remember the following *yahrzeits*, the annual anniversary of passings, for the week of March 17th to 24th, 2012. It is customary to light a memorial candle and donate *tzedakah*. Family members are encouraged to attend prayer services in honor of loved ones on the Shabbat preceding the *yahrzeit*.

**23 Adar / Shabbat, March 17**  
Bernard Amron *Yonatan ben Mishael*  
Eliyahu Kattan *Eliyahu ben Salim*  
*Elisha ben Nassim Nany*

Rachel Jonah  
*Moshe Ezra ben Raphael Moshe*

**25 Adar / Monday, March 19**  
*Elisha ben Nassim Nany*  
*Sarah bat Gurjiyee*

**26 Adar / Tuesday, March 20**  
Moses Solomon Noah *Moshe ben Shlomo*  
Yaghoub Partiyeli *Yaghoub Partiyeli*  
Salomon Emquies *Shlomo ben Messod*

**27 Adar / Wednesday, March 21**  
Kitty Bar *Kitty Bar*  
Elias M. Judah *Eliyahu Hayim ben Meir Yehuda*  
Achajal Aghalar *Nisim ben Jacob*  
Saul K. Masliah *Shaul ben Hacham Moshe Yakob*

**28 Adar / Thursday, March 22**  
Moshe Haim Navid *Moshe Haim Navid*  
Tefaha Perry *Tefaha bat Salima*  
Rahmatollah Rahamim *Rahmatollah Rahamim*

**29 Adar / Friday, March 23**  
Lulu Raymond *Lulu bat Matooka*  
Mordechai Sarraf *Mordechai ben Yehuda*  
Tefara Menashe *Tefara bat Ezra*

**1 Nisan / Shabbat, March 24**  
Lotfollah Nassi *Lotfollah Nassi*  
Clara Saltoun *Ghala bat Esther*  
Sydique Charlie Zakoo *Sadik Salah ben Ezra Halevi*

## Shabbat Song: *El Adon*

Listen to Rabbi Batzri chant *El Adon* on YouTube at  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUGJID6pw9M>

אל אָדון על כל המעשים. בָּרוּךְ וּמְבוֹרָךְ בְּפִי כָל הַנְּשָׁמָה: גָּדְלוֹ וְטוּבוֹ מֵלֵא  
עוֹלָם. דַּעַת וְתוֹבָנָה סוֹבְבִים הוֹדוּ: הַמִּתְנַגֵּאָה עַל חַיּוֹת הַקֹּדֶשׁ. וְנִהְיֶה בְּכַבּוֹד עַל  
הַמְרַכְבֵּה: זָכוֹת וּמִשׁוֹר לִפְנֵי כְסָאוֹ. חֶסֶד וְרַחֲמִים מֵלֵא כְבוֹדוֹ: טוֹבִים מְאֹד  
שְׁבָרָאָם אֱלֹהֵינוּ. יִצְרָם בְּדַעַת בְּבִינָה וּבְהַשְׁכֵּל: כַּח וּגְבוּרָה נָתַן בָּהֶם. לַהֲיוֹת  
מוֹשְׁלִים בְּקֶרֶב תְּבִל: מֵלֵאִים זִיו וּמִפִּיקִים גִּבּוֹ. נָאָה זִיוֹם בְּכָל הָעוֹלָם: שְׂמֵחִים  
בְּצִאתָם שְׁשִׁים בְּבוֹאָם. עוֹשִׂים בְּאֵימָה רְצוֹן קוֹנֵיהֶם: פֶּאֶר וְכַבּוֹד נוֹתְנִים לְשִׁמּוֹ.  
צָהֳלָה וְרָנָה לְזָכֶר מַלְכוּתוֹ: קָרָא לְשִׁמְשׁ וַיִּזְרַח אוֹר. רָאָה וְהִתְקִין צוּרֵת הַלְבָנָה:  
שְׂבַח נוֹתְנִים לוֹ כָּל צְבָא מְרוֹם. תִּפְאָרֶת וּגְדוּלָה שְׂרָפִים וְחַיּוֹת וְאוֹפְנֵי הַקֹּדֶשׁ:

El adon al kol hama-asim, barukh um'vorakh b'fi kol ha'neshama:  
Godlo v'tuvo maleh olam, da'at ut'vunah sov'vim hodo:  
Hamitga-eh al hayot ha-kodesh, v'nedar b'khavod al ha-merkavah:  
Z'khut u-mishor lifnei khis-o, hesed v'rahamim maleh kh'vodo:  
Tovim m'orot sheh-bra-am eloheinu, y'tzaram b'da-at b'vinah uv'haskel:  
Ko-ah ug'vurah natan bahem, li'hyot moshlim b'kerev tevel:  
M'le-im ziv um'fikim nogah, na-eh zivam b'khol ha-olam:  
S'mehim b'tzetam v'sasim b'vo-am, osim b'eimah r'tzon konehem:  
P'er v'khavod notnim lish'mo, tzahalah v'rinah l'zekher malkhuto:  
Kara la-shemesh va-yizrah or, ra-ah v'hitkin tzurat halevanah:  
Shevah notnim lo kol tz'vah marom  
Tiferet ug'dulah, s'rafim v'hayot v'ofanei hakodesh:

### Events at Kahal Joseph Congregation

#### **Pesach Class with Rabbi Batzri**

*Monday, April 2nd, 7:15 to 8:15 pm*

#### **Maurice Zekaria Backgammon Tournament**

*Sunday, April 22nd at 2:00 pm*

#### **Women's Tehillim Group**

*Shabbat Day, March 17th at 12:15 pm*

*Thursday, March 22nd at 10 am RSVP Requested, Location TBA*

#### **KJ Talmud Torah: Afterschool Program**

*Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:00 to 6:00 pm*

*(Continued from page 2)*

to eat the Passover offering, people had to be “tahor” or pure. Today, to eat that first piece of matza on the Seder night and to accept Pesach, we similarly have to be prepared—as though we had been cleansed by the water and ashes of the Red Cow.

The reason we do this particular mitzvah is not clear to us; there is not a logical thought process that leads us to understand the mitzvah of the Red Cow—or of Pesach, for that matter. To paraphrase King Solomon, ‘This is a mitzva that, the more I search deeply for its reason, the more it eludes my understanding and wisdom.’ In other words, the key to the redemption that Pesach offers is accepting the rules of nature and the rules of God; to stop asking “Why?” and to stop complaining or resisting. We are each like one of the four sons who question their parents in the Haggadah’s Passover story, asking “What is this that you do?” We do not dictate the guiding principles of this world, no more than a child directs the order or “seder” of Pesach or of his home—even if the order of a home is chaotic, that is at the discretion of the parent, a result of his or her neglect.

The evil son looks at the home created by his parents and feels that he could do better; just as the arrogant person who is full of himself feels that he could create a better world than God. He acts as if he is God. Yet, the smart son asks almost the same question. But he does so differently. The smart son asks because he wants to understand what his parents are doing and wants to know how to do things himself. He accepts their authority and wisdom, just as we strive to accept everything that the Creator, Hashem, has done, on Pesach. The smart son does not question the rules in order to be freed from them or to be released from responsibility or obligation. No, the smart son asks in order to participate, so that he may learn how to be closer

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

to the source of creation and part of the way of Bore Olam, He Who Creates the world because he knows and understands the world He made better than we do.

This acceptance of even what we do not understand in the Torah is one of the 613 mitzvot of "knowing Hashem." Acceptance offers us redemption from our negative inclinations and destructive habits. Accepting Hashem's guidance as offered in the Torah, including mysterious passages such as that of the Red Cow and sometimes perplexing holidays and celebrations such as Pesah, is the way to gain control of our minds, our senses, and our emotions.

Welcome the Red Cow, the mother cow, who will help cleanse us as if she is taking care of her calves, her babies. Accepting Hashem's mothering can help us out of our slave mentality in which we follow many different idols, or Golden Calves. Instead we can assert control of our lives, choose to follow Hashem, and experience the beauty of true, inner freedom, liberation, and redemption.

Shabbat Shalom  
*Have a Peaceful Day of Rest*

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## Thank You Purim Carnival Volunteers

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