

KOL MEVASSER

Iraqi Shavuot Customs

Text Selected by Rabbi Batzri

Shavuot falls on the 6th of Sivan (and also on the 7th for those who live outside the Land of Israel) every year. Yet it is the only holiday in the Torah whose date was not specifically mentioned. Rather, we are commanded to celebrate it 50 days after Pesah.

Concerning Shavuot it is not uncommon to hear someone ask: "Is the observance of Shavuot akin to the observance of a Yom Tob such as Rosh Hashanah, or is it of a lesser magnitude, like Purim?". It seems, to many, to be lacking many of the practices associated with other holidays. This is due to the lack of understanding of the importance of the holiday and its customs.

Shavuot, which comes seven full weeks after Pesah, commemorates the receiving of the holy Torah at Mount Sinai. As such, it is one of the greater holidays in the Jewish calendar, whose observance is the same as Pesah, Sukkot, and Rosh Hashanah.

Our Rabbis of blessed memory tell us that the Jewish people merited to receive the Torah only because we said Na'aseh Ve'Nishma (we will do and we will hear). Na'aseh represents the physical performance of each Mitzvah (precept) and Nishma represents its study.

When the Children of Israel said Na'aseh Ve'Nishma, ministering angels (Malakhei Ha-

sharareth) descended and placed two crowns on each person's head. One represented Na'aseh and the other Nishma. But when Israel committed the sin of the golden calf -- which took place while Moshe Rabbenu, 'a"h (Moses) was receiving the Torah -- destructive angels (Malakhei Habbalah) came down and removed them.

The Torah was a precious treasure that was hidden for 974 generations before the creation of the world. When Hashem decided to create the world, the Torah was its blueprint. It was then given to us on the understanding that we would keep every aspect of it. The existence of the Jewish religion and nation and the freedom of its people depend on following the Torah.

On Shavuot we celebrate the receiving of the Torah. In addition, it is also the Festival of the Reaping of the wheat and of the Gift-Offering.

Since we are commanded to count seven full weeks between the onset of Pesah and the arrival of Shavuot, kiddush on the first night occurs after the stars come out. The second night kiddush may be made earlier. The blessing of Sheheyanu is recited on both nights.

After the Se'uddah (festive meal) the men stay up all night reading the prescribed Seder Hallimmud (order of learning) known as Hathimah. It includes portions from the entire Twenty Four Books of the Torah, Prophets and Writings (Tannakh), the 613 Mitzvot, Midrash and Adra Rabba. No other studies should be substituted by

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KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, May 25, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer.....	6:30 am
Minhah/Arbith	6:30 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting	7:37 pm

Shabbat Bamidbar / Erev Shavuot

Saturday, May 26, 2012

Shabbat Shaharit/Morning Prayer.....	8:30 am
Kiddush with Hamin	12:00 pm
Women's Tehillim	after morning kiddush
Early Minha	1:15 pm
<i>Seudah Shlisheet at Your Home</i>	
Arvith	8:00 pm
Shavuot Kiddush & Dairy Dinner	
with David S. Kelly Youth Choir of KJ.....	8:15 pm
Shavuot Family Fun & Tikkun Study Night	
<i>For All Ages</i>	following dinner
Candle Lighting for Shavuot	8:41 pm

Shavuot, First Day

Sunday, May 27, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer.....	9:00 am
Pirkei Avot Class with Rabbi Batzri.....	7:00 pm
Minha and Arbith.....	7:45 pm
Candle Lighting.....	8:41 pm

Shavuot, Second Day

Monday, May 28, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer.....	9:00 am
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Kahal Joseph Congregation
Norma & Sam Dabby
Jewish Learning Center

Hebrew School Open House



& Shavuot Celebration

Sunday, June 10th at 12:00 pm
Free to Public School Kids & Parents

We invite children in Kindergarten through 7th grade to KJ's wonderful Jewish learning program at this festive, fun event. Share in hands-on projects, activities and holiday treats.

*The best-kept secret on the
Westside—KJ's Hebrew School!*

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in
memory of
Mazal bat Rahel
by
The Hagooli Family

Calling All KJ 2012 Graduates!

Parents & Grandparents
Send us your big news!

We will have a special section
congratulating all 2012 KJ Grads on their
accomplishments in June's newsletter.

E-mail pictures, your full name, your
school's name, and if relevant, your major
subject to dafna@kahaljoseph.org

SHABBAT TORAH PORTION

Parashat **Bamidbar** TBA
Haftara TBA

In Memoriam

We remember the following yearzeit annual anniversary of passings, for May 26 to June 2, 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 preceding Shabbat.

5 Sivan / Shabbat, May 26

Aharon Godsi *Aharon ben Shlomo*
Ezra Kelly Elias Levi *Ezra Kadoori Eliyahu Levi*
Sara Moses *Sara bat Sarah*
Turan Pourati *Turan bat Aghajan*
Khodadad Zakaryaie *Moshe Haim*

6 Sivan/ Shavuot, Sunday, May 27

Tahereh Hakimipour *Tahereh bat Kokab*

7 Sivan / Shavuot, Monday, May 28

Geulah Khakshoor *Geulah ben Avraham*

8 Sivan/ Tuesday, May 29

Rivkah Kohanzadeh *Rivkah bat Shimon*

9 Sivan / Wednesday, May 30

Ester Bekhore *Ester bat Amam*
Ester Ezekiel *Ester bat Amam*
Aziza Judah *Aziza bat Rahel*

10 Sivan / Thursday, May 31

Mazli Hagooli *Mazal bat Rahel*
Kay Massouda *Massouda bat Khatoun*
Mozelle Lelah *Mazal Tov bat Ester*

12 Sivan / Shabbat, June 2

Abraham Lurie *Avraham Lurie*
Abdullah Zekaria *Sion Abdulla Zekaria*

KJ Volunteers Needed

The Religious Committee seeks volunteers to welcome members by: 1) Serving on a Shabbat welcoming committee, with each volunteer representing a specific seating section. 2) Reading aloud English and Hebrew sections of the Shabbat prayers during services. Women are encouraged to participate as well. 3) Calling ten members when we have an event.

Contact Neil Sheff, Vice President of Religious Affairs at neil@sheffimmigration.com

Refuah Shlemah

Gerry Shapiro • Yocheved bat Rachel •
Rachamim ben Sarah • Hinah Titza bat Itah •
Yitzhak ben Abdullah • Mazal bat Malka
Dan Herdoon

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Sephardim and no Mishnah should be read on this night. Some Ashkenazi congregations have lectures or other forms of study.

Immediately following the Seder Hallimood, Sha-harith (the morning prayer) should be prayed. Appropriately, the Torah reading on the first day includes the portion of the Ten Commandments. This is preceded by the singing of the song of praise Yom Yom Odeh (Every Day Will I Give Thanks). Sepharadim remain seated for all Torah readings, including the Ten Commandments. The Ashkenazi custom is to stand for Commandments.

Dairy foods are an essential part of the meal during the day on Shavuot. Many varieties are eaten by Sepharadim, including rice cooked with milk and cucumbers in yogurt. Some reasons are:

The numerical value of the Hebrew word for milk (Halab) is 40, which is compared to the 40 days and nights of the giving of the Torah. Another reason is that the Torah has the power to turn sins into merits, to "whiten" and cleanse them until we are pure as milk. As it says: "Eem Yihyu Hata-ekhem Kashaneem, Kashelegh Yalbeenu (If your sins are red, they will be made as white as snow)".

A third reason is that just as the first food that a newborn tastes when he enters the world is milk, and the desire for milk remains in the child even when eating other foods, so too the Torah must be more sweet in our eyes than all the other pleasures of the world. And just as a baby drinks milk whenever it wishes with no preset times, so too the study of the Torah must be constant, as it is written: "We Hagheetha Bo Yomam Valayla (and you shall study it day and night).

The Minhagh of eating pastry fried in butter fulfills the requirement of dairy food, but in addition, it is representative of another important aspect of the festival of Shavuot, that of the Gift Offering. As it is written in the Torah: "You shall bring...two tenth

Yom Yom Odeh La'El Each Day I Thank G-d

This piyut was composed anonymously and is traditionally sung in the Iraqi Jewish tradition on Shavuot. The piyut is sung primarily at the arrival of dawn after "Tikkun Lel Shavuot," the long night of Torah learning held on the eve of Shavuot. The piyut describes how the Jewish people stood in a suspended state, ready to receive the Torah at Mount Sinai. Listen to my dear cousin R. Yehuda Ovadya Petaya: <http://www.piyut.org.il/textual/151.html>

יִוֵם אוֹדָה לְאֵל אֲשֶׁר בָּרַךְ בָּנוּ. מִן הַעַמִּים לְמַגְלָה לוֹ לְקַדְשׁוֹ. עַל הַר סִינַי אֲתִיתְוֹתָנוּ הַתְּהִלָּה. עֲשֵׂתָה הַבְּרוּחַ קָדְשׁוֹ הַשְּׁמַיְוֹת:	יִוֵם	
מָרוֹם תְּבוֹתִים יָרְדוּ עִמּוֹ. בָּעֵת אֲשֶׁר נִגְלָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל עַמּוֹ. מִסִּינַי בָּא וְנָחַ מִשְׁעֵיד לָמוֹ. בְּקֹל שׁוֹפָר חָק כָּאֵר עֲנִינוּ:	צָבָא	
וְרָגוּ הַר סִינַי עִת־בִּיאָתוֹ. לְהַנְחִיל דַּת לְיִשְׂרָאֵל מְגִלָּתוֹ. עַל־יָד מִשָּׁה עָבַר אֶל נְאֻמָּן בִּיתוֹ. וְשָׁם עֵין בְּעֵין רָאִתָּה עֵינֵינוּ:	תָּרַד	
כִּי תִגְלָה מִלְּטִיתְךָ עָלַי. לְמַקְדְּשֵׁי שִׁבְתָּה וְשָׁם תִּתֵּן אֶת־לֶחֶם וְלֵי הַפֶּה שְׁלוֹם כְּכִי נָהַר אֵילַי. וְעֵינֵינוּ יִרְאוּ וְשִׂמְחָה לִבְנוֹ: וְעֵינֵינוּ דְּרָאוּ וְשִׂמְחָה לִבְנוֹ	קָדוֹשׁ	

parts of fine flour...they shall be baked with leaven...for first fruits unto the L-rd."

Meghillath Ruth, Azharoth (a poem enumerating the 613 Mitzvot) and Tehillim (Psalms) are read over the two days of Shavuot. Aqdamuth, which is read in Ashkenazi synagogues on Shavuot, is not read by Sepharadim.

The Tehillim have a special importance on Shavuot because their author, King David, a"h, died on this day. In general, all the above are read at home, though some congregations read them in synagogue in the afternoon.

We wish you all Tizkoo Leshaneem Rabboth and Hagh Shavuot Sameyah.
Following the customs of the Ben Ish Hai, from the writings of Hakham Ya'aqob Menashe

Yom, yom odeh la'El asher bakhar banu
Min ha'amim li'sgulah lo l'kakhanu
Al Har Sinai et Torah-toh hinkhilanu
Aseret dibrot kodshanu, hishmi-anu
Tzva marom ribotayim yardu imo
B'et asher niglah l'Yisrael amo
Mi'Sinai ba ve'zarakh mi'Seir lamo
Beh'kol shofar khazak meh-od ya-anenu
Kharad ve'ragaz Har Sinai et bi-atoh
Le'hankhil dat le'Yisrael segulatoh
Al yad Moshe eved El ne'emam beh-toh
Ve'sham ayin b'ayin ra-ata eyneynu
Kadosh, k'az tegaleh malkhutkha alai
Le'mikdashi shuvah ushkhon tokh ohalai
Ve'li ha-te shalom ke'mei nahar ulai
Ve'enenu yir-u ve'yismakh libenu

Each Day I Thank G-d

Each day I thank G-d who selected us
Who took us, from the nations to be close to Him
On Mt. Sinai He bequeathed His Torah to us
The Ten Commandments, His Holiness resounded
At the moment that He revealed Himself to Yisrael,
His nation

From Sinai He came and shone from Seir
With the strong voice of the shofar He will answer us
Mt. Sinai trembled and shook at the time of His arrival
To give faith to Yisrael His [nation] gathered round Him
At the hand of Moshe, one devoted to G-d, His
trusted servant

And there, eye to eye, we saw
Holiness. Like then, reveal your Kingship to me
To my Holy place return & reside inside my tent
And grant me peace, like the waters of a river
And our eyes will see & our hearts will celebrate.

Kahal Joseph presents

Shavuot Family Torah Study Night

Saturday, May 26

8:00 pm Dairy Dinner
Cheesecake & Ice Cream Sundaes

TIKKUN

Enjoy a traditional Iraqi custom! Learn special Torah texts on Shavuot



Dads & Sons,
Moms & Daughters
Learn Torah &
Stay Together

A "tikkun" involves staying up late to study specially selected texts for the holiday. We will have a special, family-friendly program for moms & daughters, dads & sons including a dairy dinner, cheesecake, ice cream sundaes, Bet Midrash, fun games, and prizes.

Fun, Games, & Prizes



Legacy of Kindness Gala Dinner 09.09.12

The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of Kahal Joseph Congregation are pleased to announce our annual Legacy of Kindness Gala Dinner.

The gala and our community will honor Rylla and Benjamin H. Elias for their love, devotion, and dedicated service to our synagogue. The fete will take place this September 9, 2012.

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Pirkei Avoth Class with Rabbi Batzri 7:00 pm
Minha and Arbith 7:45 pm
Candle Lighting 8:41 pm
Shavuot Ends 8:42 pm

Weekdays

Tuesday to Friday, May 29 to June 1, 2012
Shaharit/Morning Prayer 6:30 am

Erev Shabbat Naso

Friday, June 1, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer 6:30 am
Minhah/Arbith 6:30 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting 7:41 pm

Hag Sameah Happy Shavuot