

KOL MEVASSER

President's Message

Dear members and friends,

We are nearly done preparing our homes. We have been busy cleaning and getting rid of leavened foods made from wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt. Some of us are now unpacking special Passover dishes; others are readying the symbolic foods for the Seder plate. Soon we will set our tables and welcome family and friends. Passover brings us together.

On Passover we share joy, good food, songs; we tell our history and offer blessings. And we share a message, an ancient message that still resounds. We celebrate Passover for a reason. We celebrate the momentous change our ancestors experienced, the transformation from slavery to freedom. We recognize that freedom is a gift, not a given. At the Seder, we thank God for continuing to give us this wondrous gift.

This year, after the celebration ends, may we keep that moment with us. May we each continue to appreciate freedom's gift, and use it wisely, throughout the year. Wishing you a happy, peaceful Passover,

Ronald Einy, President
Kahal Joseph Congregation

What's the Difference?: American Liberty vs. the Freedom of Passover

By Rabbi Hagay Batzri

Dear Kahal,

What is freedom? Are we free today? If the answer is "no," then why do we celebrate the holiday of freedom, Passover?



Passover is also known as "Chag HaCherut." The Hebrew word "cherut" means "redemption" or "freedom." Freedom from what? What type of freedom are we celebrating?

Is it the same freedom people celebrated when communism fell in Russia? Is it the freedom experienced in Germany and Japan after World War II? Is it the freedom so many people feel when they leave other countries and come to find a home in America? In the end, is the American brand of freedom found here real?

When people first come here from places where living is hard and difficult, they appreciate freedom fully. But after a generation or two, when their children and grandchildren grow up, appreciating freedom becomes more challenging. Many times, their children don't feel happy in the United States. They are not

(Continued on page 3)

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat HaGadol Friday, March 22, 2013

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim	5:35 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting.....	6:48 pm
Minhah/Arbith	6:48 pm

Shabbat HaGadol Saturday, March 23, 2013

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	8:30 am
<i>Rabbi Shlomo Seidenfeld will give a talk during services on "Questions are the Answer"</i>	
Women's Tehillim	5:00 pm
<i>A Class with Rabbi Hagay Batzri:</i>	
<i>Preparing for Passover</i>	<i>5:30 pm</i>
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet	6:00 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah	7:30 pm

Sunday, March 24, 2013

Shaharit	7:30 am
Checking for Hametz	after 7:38 pm

Erev Pesach / Passover Eve Monday, March 25, 2013

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:00 am
Siyyum Masechet	after Shaharit
Stop Eating Hametz	before 10:56 am
Burn Hametz.....	before 11:57 am
Candle Lighting.....	6:51 pm
Minhah/Arbith & Hallel	6:30 pm
First Night Seder.....	after dark

(Continued on page 2)

SHABBAT HAGADOL READINGS
Torah Portion 429-438 Haftara 1005-1008

(Continued from page 1)

Second Seder / Passover First Day
Tuesday, March 26th

Shaharit 8:30 am
A Class: AVOT with Rabbi Batzri 5:30 pm
Minha, Arbit and Hallel Hagadol 6:30 pm
Candle Lighting after 7:47 pm
Second Seder **after dark**
Sefirat Ha'Omer First Night

Passover, Second Day
Wednesday, March 27th

Shaharit 8:30 am
A Class: AVOT with Rabbi Batzri 5:30 pm
Minha & Arbit 6:30 pm
Havdallah, Yom Tov to Chol Hamoed 7:40 pm
Sefirat Ha'Omer Second Night

Chol HaMoed, Passover Third Day
Thursday, March 28th

Shaharit 6:30 am
Sefirat Ha'Omer Third Night

Erev Shabbat Pesach / Passover Fourth Day
Friday, March 29th

Shaharit 6:30 am
Shir Hashirim 6:40 pm
Candle Lighting 6:54 pm
Minha & Arbit 6:54 pm
Sefirat Ha'Omer Fourth Night

Refuah Shlemah

Yocheved bat Rachel, Mazal bat Malka, Dan Her-
doon, Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana, Moshe ben
Ezra, Sasson ben Rahel/Sassoon Moses,
Penina bat Henia, Dov Ber ben Sonia, Maurice
Ovadia/Moshe ben Noosha, Pnina bat Esther

Women's Tehillim

with Orly Batzri, Shabbat Afternoon
Saturdays at 5:00 pm before Minha

Shabbat Kiddush

is co-sponsored by
Sigal and Jonathan Kelly

in memory of
Luna Kadoorie, z"l

Shabbat Kiddush

is co-sponsored by
Yvette and Joseph Dabby

in memory of
Avraham Asher ben Ezra, z"l
Asher Atraghji, z"l

Rabbi Shlomo Seidenfeld

will be giving the Dvar Torah Talk
Shabbat HaGadol
Saturday, March 23, 2013
during morning services on
**"Questions are the Answer:
An Approach to Passover"**

KJ YOUTH CHOIR

Directed by Rabbi Hagay Batzri
will resume after Passover on
Sunday, April 7th@11 am

**Rabbi Batzri's
Passover Hotline**

As we prepare for Passover, Rabbi Batzri has established a hotline to assist those with questions and concerns regarding how to make the kitchen kosher for Passover, how to purchase foods for the holiday and more.

Don't wait! Give him a call. He is waiting for your calls and happy to receive them. He will try to answer them on the spot.

If the line is busy, just leave a message and he will call you back as soon as he can. He will show you how easy Passover can be!

**310.717.8707 or
hbatzri@gmail.com**

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for March 23rd to 30th, 2013. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, and attend services the preceding Shabbat.

12 Nisan / Shabbat, March 23rd

Flora Cohen *Farha Mitana bat Rahma Regina*
Ralph Ferris *Raful ben Itzhak Faraj Hacohen*
Luna Kadoorie *Luna bat Mazal Cohen*
David Levi Solomon *David ben Shlomo HaLevi*

13 Nisan / Sunday, March 24th

Abraham Atraghji *Avraham Asher ben Ezra*

15 Nisan / Tuesday, March 26th

Tillie Shansky *Tillie bat Evelyn*
Naima Shashua *Naima bat Zvida*
Eyob Yehuda *Eyob ben Yehudah*

16 Nisan / Wednesday, March 27th

Errol Levi *Ezra ben Shaul HaLevi*
Sanford Norman Levine *Shlomo Nachmun ben Yaacov*
John Nahai *Homayoun Yonatan Nahai*

(Continued from page 1)

satisfied with their lives. Often, they are controlled by desires for gambling, pornography, food, anger, and other bad habits or addictions.

And it is difficult for these later generations to make a living in the United States. Even those who succeed feel challenged by health issues or by finding a good education for their children.

As a rabbi, I can tell you that the liberty of America is limited. When you get to know a little bit about the inside of the community, when you face the reality of what's going on inside these homes every day, you don't see people happy. I am not talking about the community that appears when we come together to celebrate on Shabbat, on holidays, or at joyous occasions, when people dress up and present their best selves. This is not what is really going on with people. This is not the day-to-day reality of most people.

And this is not the freedom that is celebrated on Passover. This is not the freedom that Hashem refers to. If the freedom we rejoice in on Passover was the same as what we call American freedom, we would not need a Jewish holiday to recognize it.

If you were to ask me what kind of freedom I would choose for myself, for my children and family, it would be the freedom to make clear choices in my life. And this is where Passover comes in. When we don't know how to deal with our physical freedom, how to manage our lives with all the freedom we have, we need Passover. Passover is the gift we received from the Torah, from G-d, to help us cope with freedom.

Passover teaches us how to take the freedom we have and manage it, to make it really effective so that our spirits will also be free, and not just our bodies. Passover teaches us that investment, hard work, and valuing life will help us learn self-control, so that we do not compromise our morals and ethics. Those ethics and morals guide us and we will learn to restore the balance between physical and spiritual freedom in our lives.



The mitzvot, the customs of Passover—when we all gather as a family and share the messages of the night, when we hold the matzah and say “this is the poor bread of affliction that our forefathers ate,” when we hear the questions the kids ask—these things teach us how to appreciate and manage the physical freedom that we have. When we handle our freedom well, we do not become slaves to our ego, to desires, anger, addictions, or other habits that are easy to fall victim to in this country.

We say, during the Passover Seder, that we are all like a royal family, “bne melakhim.” On Passover, everyone is a king.

The word “king” in Hebrew is “melekh.” The letters, mem-lamed-khaf, are an acronym for the Hebrew phrase “**m**oach **l**ev **k**haved” which translates as “mind heart liver.” What does this have to do with Passover? Each one of these parts of our body represents one part of our being. The mind represents our thoughts; the heart represents our emotions; and the liver represents our physical being and desires.

Preparing for and celebrating Passover is a methodical and meaningful process that teaches self-discipline of the mind, body, and spirit. We clean, sort, and organize the house. We scour the kitchen, shop in advance, thoughtfully invite guests, plan and cook the holiday meals. We review the laws of Passover and the saga of the Jewish people's redemption from Egypt. We set up the Seder plate and explore its symbolism. We go through the orderly steps of the Haggada, relearning our ancestors' history through the generations, developing empathy for others oppressed, listening to and teaching our children. And of course, we refrain from eating bread and hametz for a whole week.

These are just a few steps in the Passover process that help us train our mind, our feelings, and our physical desires.

When we understand and manage each of these elements in ourselves well—our thoughts, our emotions, and our body—we make positive choices and we enjoy self-control. When we have that much control and direct our existence in a constructive manner, then we are kings. Passover offers us these tools to use in our lives, so that we may live each day like a king.

So I wish all of us, and all of Am Yisrael, the Jewish people, to be “bne melakhim”—like the sons of royalty, princes at ease and able to choose a positive path in life—in our freedom. For this Passover, I wish everyone true “cherut,” real freedom—freedom from without and, equally important, freedom from within.

Happy Passover, Hag Sameah,

Rabbi Hagay Batzri

Kahal Joseph Congregation

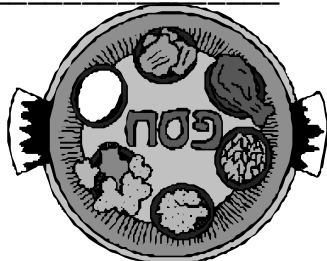
10505 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025
310.474.0559 phone 310.441.4059 fax

Selling of Hametz Mekhirat Hametz Form

***We must receive this form by fax or mail
by or on Sunday, March 24, 2013.***

Know all by these present That I _____, do hereby authorize Rabbi Hagay Batzri, at Kahal Joseph Congregation, 10505 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025, to sell, transfer and assign all Hametz of whatever kind and nature, of which I am possessed and seized, or in which I may have an interest, wheresoever situated, in my residence at _____ my place of business, or any other place, without reservation and limitation. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this on date _____, 2013.

Signature _____ Date _____



Mayfair House

*Kahal Joseph and Mayfair House
Los Angeles present an exclusive
Passover collection by internationally
renowned Israeli artist Michael Aram.*

*One of a kind gift pieces fabulously
priced for our members. Please see
the showcase in our synagogue lobby
and select those pieces that you fall in love with.*



Congratulations to our Members

Congratulations to Neil Sheff, New Chairman of the SEC
We wish Mazal Tov to Neil Sheff, Board Member at Kahal Joseph for many years, on his new appointment as the Chairman of the Sephardic Educational Center.

Congratulations Joe Samuels on Article in Times of Israel
We wish Mazal Tov to Joe Samuels, our longtime member, on publishing his essay, "My Escape from Iraq," in the Times of Israel. To read the article visit <http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/my-escape-from-iraq/>

Congratulations Vera & Jacob Helali on 13th LA Marathon
We congratulate Vera and Jacob Helali on participating in and running the Los Angeles Marathon for the thirteenth time.
You make us all feel young!