

KOL MEVASSER

Freedom of a Nation: The Laws of Passover

by Rabbi Gabriel Cohen

SPIRITUAL MEANING OF PESSAH

One of the most meaningful events in Jewish History occurred about 3,300 years ago, when our ancestors were freed from slavery in Egypt. This momentous historical milestone for our people defines for us the beginning of the Jewish Nation. It also marks for us a celebration of the spirit. Freed from the shackles of slavery, the Jews were now ready to celebrate true spiritual freedom when they receive the Torah, forty-nine days later.

We are commanded to remember forever the Exodus from Egypt, to yearn always for better days and to await the Final Redemption. As a nation we have encountered immeasurable stumbling blocks, and powerful waves have overwhelmed us. If our People are loyal to G-d and the Torah, they will merit going from darkness to light, and from sadness to true happiness in the true Redemption to come, Amen.

Pessah is the time of our liberation- “Zeman Herutenu”- which means that this period of the year has a propitious influence on us, towards our spiritual liberation. “I am the Lord your G-d, who brought you out of Egypt to be your G-d” (Numbers 15:41), so that you can keep My commandments given to you for your permanent well-being; and you can live a Judaism which educates a person to free himself from the yoke of evil and curb his bad instincts.

In this vein, our Sages have said (Ethics of our Fathers): “He is free who chooses to live by the Torah”

to teach us that we should eliminate all forces of evil, symbolized by the Hametz, forces which ferment within us. That Hametz means all the evil inclinations, such as a bad temper, flattery, hypocrisy, selfishness and other shortcomings. While we search for the “material” Hametz, we should likewise strive to destroy the Hametz hidden in our hearts, to enable us to serve G-d whole-heartedly.

Pessah is not merely the Festival on which we celebrate our physical liberty. It also marks our spiritual freedom to practice our Torah properly.

[As such,] Pessah, the cornerstone of Jewish faith is replete with traditions and symbols with deep underlying meanings. In preparing for Pessah, many questions come up as to what is Kasher for Pessah and what is not.

Many people think that if they do the chumrot [the special restrictions for Passover] of the Ashkenazim, especially if their spouse is Ashkenaz, they will be considered more religious but they should know that the Bet Yosef the Mehaber of Shulhan Aruch himself did not do those chumrot . . .

Therefore there are Pamphlets and Pessah Guides that, not knowing the true implications of halacha for Sefardim and the clear differences, confuse the Sefardic consumer when according to Halacha there is no room for “Bal Tosif” [an expression for adding unnecessarily to the 613 mitzvot].

For nearly two millennia the Jews have lived flourished and branched out into different cultures and traditions. We had our great sages and luminaries in each generation, which taught us the way of life and

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KJ Schedule Parashat Mezorah

Erev Shabbat Friday, April 4th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim.....	6:45 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting	6:57 pm
Minhah/Arbith	6:57 pm

Shabbat / Parashat Metzarah Saturday, April 5th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit.....	6:30 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah	7:56 pm

Weekdays Sunday, April 6th

Shaharit	7:30 am
Talmud Torah.....	10:00 am

Monday, to Friday, April 7th to 11th	
Shaharit	6:30 am

Monday, April 7th	
Women's Tehillim Group.....	10:30 am

Tuesday, April 8th	
Mommy & Me	10:45 am

Erev Shabbat HaGadol Friday, April 11th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim.....	6:50 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting	7:03 pm
Minhah/Arbith	7:03 pm

Torah & Haftarah Readings
Vayikra / Leviticus: Metzarah 470 to 477
Haftara Melachim Bet / Kings II 477 to 479

Shabbat Shalom U'Mevorach

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the love for Torah laws, customs, and melodies elevating us to unparalleled spiritual heights. When we were dispersed again on our third Exile from previous Exiles to all corners of the earth, in each new land, whether it was from Europe, Middle East or Africa, we regrouped and established new communities. This forced us in our days to strengthen ourselves once more and revitalize our customs, and our link to older generations.

Pessah is for all of us, a special time of the year, when families gather around the Seder Table to celebrate a holiday that will instill in the hearts of our children a revival of the exodus for decades to come.

WHAT IS HAMETZ

The Torah prohibits any product made with the five grains if they become Hametz. The five grains are wheat, barley, rye, oats, and spelt. The prohibition extends to three prohibitions;

- not eating Hametz
- not deriving any pleasure from Hametz physically or financially and
- not owning any Hametz during Pessah including not accepting any.

In addition, any mixture made during Pessah with Hametz even the least minute amount is [forbidden] even 1/1000th. If the mixture happened before Pessah, a mixture of up to 1/60th is allowed. Therefore products that are "Kasher for Pessah" means those which do not contain any trace of Hametz.

If a person receives hametz during Passover he should refuse it and if it comes by mail he should

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Thank You
to the ladies & gentlemen
who gave their time and energy to
clean & polish the cases of KJs
Torah Scrolls last Sunday morning

Shabbat Chulent / Hamin

is sponsored by
Jacalyn & Asher Shalom

in honor of
the new month of Nisan



David Kelly YOUTH CHOIR

Rabbi Batzri, Director
Passover Break

Next meeting April 27th at 11:30 am

Kahal Joseph Congregation

Norma & Sam Dabby Jewish Learning Center

Mommy & Me

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 1st @ 10:45 am

Developmentally appropriate music, art and
play for children 18 months to 2 1/2 years.

For information contact Dafna at
dafna@kahaljoseph.org or 310-502-8548

In Memoriam

We remember yearzeit anniversaries for April 5 to 12, 2014. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend services the preceding Shabbat.

5 Nisan / Shabbat, April 5th

Moshe Somekh *Moshe Shemuel*

6 Nisan / Sunday, April 6th

Mordechai ben Mattatya
Edmond Somekh *Edmond ben Moshe*
Rahmatollah Rahamim

8 Nisan / Tuesday, April 8th

Ada Ezra *Ada bat Mindel Okin*
Carolyn Frances Ezra *Carolyn Frances bat Norman*
Ezra Sayegh
Allan Norman Steiner *Alexander Nahum ben Mordechai*

9 Nisan / Wednesday, April 9th

Malka Lurie

10 Nisan / Thursday, April 10th

Gohar Mashallah *Gohar bat Agar*
Aziza Sassoon *Aziza bat Miriam*

11 Nisan / Friday, April 11th

Kitty Israel Messiah *Khatoon bat Simha*
Abraham G. Solomon *Avraham ben Shlomo Reuven*

12 Nisan / Shabbat, April 12th

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

Refuah Shlemah

Rahel bat Marcel

Mordechai Cohen / Mordecai ben Avraham
Moselle Amron/Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana
Tilda Levy / Tilda bat Miriam
Joseph Sharaf / Yossef ben Jamila
Maurice Ovadia / Moshe ben Noosha
Pnina Herzbrun / Pnina bat Esther
Michael Herzbrun / Michael Baruch ben Sarah
To change a name please call 310-474-0559

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not bring it into the house.

THE SELLING OF HAMETZ

We may not keep Hametz in our possession over Pessah. Hametz, which was in our possession during Pessah, not sold to a non-Jew, may not be used ever.

..

If a substantial amount of Hametz is left over before Pessah, one may leave it in a closet or a special place in his house or store, provided it is sold in time to a non-Jew. This is not meant to be a fictitious sale, but a real business transaction.

MATZA

The Matzot we consume during Pessah, even though they are made from the five grains, because they are flat cakes made from unleavened dough they are permitted. All Matza dough may not exceed 18 minutes from the second the flour is mixed with water till the Matza is completely baked. There is a special Mitzvah to eat Matza during the Seder night.

KITNIOT

Kitniot includes any of the following: soybeans, kidney beans, lima beans, sesame, rice, green beans, peas, chickpeas, millet, corn, mustard, lentils, tofu, string beans, sunflower seeds, poppy seeds, kasha, kimmel cumin, and lecithin. Some have the custom to check Rice (three times) in order to ensure that there is no grain mixed with it. Due to the stringency of not eating Hametz on Pessah, for the Ashkenazim and some Sephardim a custom has been developed not to eat some Kitniot, legumes. There are 3 reasons for this custom:

- Because when made as a cereal it looks like grain cereal.

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- It is possible to grind Kitniot and make a loaf similar looking to bread.
 - Since they were usually sold in bags next to each other, maybe some wheat or flour got mixed with the Kitniot.

In Kitniot, there are three customs:

- Those that permit all Kitniot.
- Those that don't use rice, millet or any dried legumes but permit all fresh.
- The Ashkenazim that don't consume any in any shape or form.

However the first two customs permit mixtures of Kitniot and its derivatives such as: corn syrup, oils, lecithin glucose and emulsifiers etc. and definitely mixtures of Kitniot.

Legumes are permitted for most Sephardic Jews who, for various historical reasons, did not adopt this custom of refraining from Kitniot consumption on Pessah. Therefore Israeli or foreign Hechsherim for Pessah are found on candies, jams, mustard, and other products containing legumes. These products may be usable on Pessah by Sephardim. For those that don't eat Kitniot, the mixtures are permitted even if the Kitniot are 49% of the mixture. . .

The supervising companies that certify Kasher mixtures of corn syrup and legumes (including for Ashkenazim) are correct according to certain opinions in Halacha and it does not mean they are lenient in the law. They have studied it thoroughly to enhance the Pesach happiness and accommodate those that cannot afford the high priced items for Pessah.

There is a very important rule we learnt in Halacha decisions: The Rabbi should be stricter on

himself but for others he must follow the law strictly especially when it could mean a financial loss. "Hatora hassa al mamonom shel yisrael" The Torah is careful not to waste the money of Bene Yisrael. A great Rabbi said it is as great a mitzvah to be lenient when it is the law as it is to be strict when it is the law.

AN IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL DISTINCTION [There is an important additional point] regarding the supervision of all foods that are specifically kosher for Pessah for the Sephardim. ... [D]ue to so many detailed laws of what is included in the ingredients and their origin we must be very cautious in matters of chametz on Pesach, buy only food that do not have any doubt of leavened mixture, and were under responsible supervision.

All items containing Hametz that are not edible even by a dog lose their status of Hametz. If the product is made before Pessah it is permitted, such as Play dough etc.

Our best wishes for a very happy and Kasher Pessah Holiday.

--Rabbi Gabriel Cohen

THE LAST JEWS OF BAGHDAD
END OF AN EXILE
BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY

A FILM BY
CAROLE BASRI . ADRIANA DAVIS . BRYAN DURR

Thursday, May 1st at 7:00 pm
Kahal Joseph Congregation
Filmmaker Carole Basri will be present

*You haven't heard the whole story of Iraq until you meet **The Last Jews of Baghdad**. Take a historical journey into their world of persecution, torture, escape and exile.*

Today, only 5 Jews remain in Iraq from a population of 160,000. It is most shocking considering there has been a Jewish community in Iraq since 586 BCE This year, 2014 is exactly the 2600 year anniversary of the destruction of the first temple and the beginning of the Babylonian exile. This film asks the question, "Why did the Iraqi Jews leave?" The answer is found in the discriminatory laws and policies enacted by Iraq's government and leaders against these formerly important members of Iraqi society who today still consider themselves "Iraqi Jews". "The Last Jews of Baghdad" offers personal recollections from members of this exiled group, contextualizing the country's complicated political history. Through the words of those who survived discrimination, persecution and even hangings, we are painted a picture of what it meant to be a Jew in Iraq - from joyous picnics on the Tigris to the unbearable terror of life under the Saddam Hussein that came to define their lives.

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
before Sunday, April 13, 2014 at 7:00 pm.*

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 _____, 2014.

Signature _____ Date _____

