

KOL MEVASSER

Sukkot, Joy in Insecurity

Rabbi Nathan Lopes Cardozo

When contemplating the festival of Sukkot, we are confronted with a remarkable paradox. The sukkah symbolizes our life span in the world. For what is it but a frail structure in which we must dwell for seven days? Many commentators remind us that these seven days represent the average duration of man's life, which is about seventy years. This was stated by King David when he wrote: "The days of our years are seventy years, and with strength eighty years" (1). Indeed, under favorable circumstances, we may prolong our stay in this world into our eighth day, which is symbolized by Shemini Atzeret (a separate festival immediately following the seven days of Sukkot).

How frail our life is! Not only short, but also unreliable. As long as we live under favorable and healthy circumstances, life is a pleasant experience and, just like the sukkah, it seems to protect us and make us feel safe. But as soon as life brings serious problems, or seems to turn against us, we realize how little protection it really does offer and how unstable our existence actually is. Like the sukkah, life is far less secure than we imagine.

It is therefore perplexing that the festival of Sukkot is considered to be the highlight of joy and happiness. Speaking specifically of Sukkot, the

Torah states: "And you shall rejoice on your festival" (2). This means that we should experience the most exalted form of happiness as we dwell in a structure that emphasizes our lack of security.

In fact, Jewish law makes it abundantly clear that the sukkah must be built in such a way that makes it unable to stand up against a strong wind, that its roof will leak when it rains, and that it must contain more shadow than sunlight.

These conditions should theoretically make us feel distressed, since the sukkah seems to represent the vulnerability of man. So why command us to be joyful precisely at a time when we are confronted with all that can go wrong in life?

Here, another question comes to mind. Since the sukkah teaches us about life's handicaps, we would expect Jewish law to require that its interior reflect a similar message. The sukkah should be empty of anything that provides comfort. It should contain nothing more than a few broken chairs, an old table and some meager cutlery with which to eat one's dry bread.

Surprisingly, we find the contrary in Jewish law, which stipulates that the sukkah's interior must reflect an optimistic lifestyle. Its frail walls should be adorned with beautiful art, paintings and other decorations. The leaking roof, made from leaves or reeds, should look attractive by having colorful

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KJ Schedule Parashat Ha'azinu SUKKOTH

Erev Shabbat

Friday, September 25th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ...	6:30 am
Minha	6:00 pm
Arvit	6:30 pm
Candle Lighting	6:28 pm

Shabbat

Saturday, September 26th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ...	8:30 am
Keriat Torah.....	10:15 am
Musaf.....	11:30 am
Women's Tehillim	6:00 pm
Minha	6:00 pm
Arbit	7:15 pm
Havdallah	7:30 pm

Erev Sukkoth

Sunday, September 27th

Shaharit	7:30 am
Minhah.....	6:00 pm
Candle Lighting	6:25 pm
Arbit	6:30 pm
Sukkoth Dinner w/Rabbi.....	7:30 pm
<i>Advance Reservation Required</i>	

Sukkoth, First Day

Monday, September 28th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ..	8:30 am
Minha / Arbit	6:00 pm
Candle Lighting	after 7:27 pm

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SUKKOTH DINNER WITH THE RABBI

We are so excited for you to get to know Rabbi Melhado and his family!

In order to help this along, we have put together a series of special dinners. Each meal will have around twenty people and will be for a discounted rate. The first one will take place on Sunday, September 27 at 7:30PM. Registration is limited, first-come, first-serve at www.kahaljoseph.org/sukkot-dinner-with-the-rabbi.html.

Future dinners will take place once a month through June. Upcoming dates include October 30, November 20 and December 18. More dates for January through May will be announced later in the fall!

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in memory of their mother
Hilda Sassoon, z"l

by her children
**Sunny Sassoon and
Louise Nathan
& Family**



Arba Minim For Sale at KJ

Kahal Joseph is offering arba minim (lulav & etrog) for sale online and has a few extra sets available for latecomers at www.kahaljoseph.org/arba-minim.html

The first 20 sets are available at a subsidized price of only **\$36**, after which they cost **\$46**. Orders must be received and completed as soon as possible.

The sets will be available for pickup at Kahal Joseph at services on Sunday, September 27th

Condolences to the family of Hilda Sassoon, z"l

Our thoughts and prayers are with her children, Sunny Sassoon & Louise Nathan; her brothers, Edward Mussry, Nassim Hay Mussry, & David Mussry; her sisters, Elsa Singman and Mary Mussry; her grandchildren & great-grandchildren
May Hashem comfort them together with all the mourners of Tzion

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries September 26 to Oct 3, 2015. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend Shabbat services.

14 Tishri / Sunday, September 27th

Sarah bat Simcha

Naji Shaaya

Regina bat Haviva

17 Tishri / Wednesday, September 30th

Salim ben Amin

19 Tishri / Friday, October 2nd

Penina bat Eliyahu Klein

Refuah Shlemah

Abe Abraham • Moselle Amron
Sylvia Cohen • Mordechai Cohen •
Esther Duke • Tilda Levy
Sassoon Ezra • Miriam bat Yetta
Maurice Ovadia • Habiba bat Mazli

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fruits hanging from it. We are required to bring our best furniture into the sukkah, if possible to place a carpet on the ground, and have nice curtains hanging from its windows. We are to eat from the most beautiful plates and use our best cutlery. Meals should include savory delicacies, making them more elaborate than usual; and singing should accompany the meals. All of this seems to reflect a feeling that this world is a most pleasant place, made for our enjoyment and recreation!

So why sit in a weather-beaten hut?

The message could not be any clearer. No matter how powerfully the *outside* walls and the leaking roof reveal our vulnerability and uncertainty, *inside* these walls we need to make our life as attractive as possible and enjoy its great benefits and blessings.

This should not be lost on us. Instead of becoming depressed and losing faith in our lives when major tragedies take place, or when hearing the ongoing calls for the destruction of Israel, we should continue to approach life on the optimistic note that is conveyed to us by the beautiful interior of the sukkah.

True, the growing phenomena of Iran's threats, global anti-Semitism and the de-legitimization of Israel; the many earthquakes, floods, and horrific attacks on our fellow humans (even in countries that believed they could provide their citizens with great security); all these prove how vulnerable we really are and how shaken are the outer walls of our "sukkah"! But none of this should

hold us back from enjoying life as much as possible.

To be happy when all is well is fairly easy. But to be fully aware of the dangers surrounding us, while simultaneously continuing our lives "with song and harp" — that is what makes humans great and proud.

We would do well to discourage people from speculating about "the end of days," or reading kabbalistic and other sources informing us that the messianic days are very close and that the wars preceding the coming of the *Mashiach* are imminent. There is no way of knowing. Just as in the days of Shabbetai Tzvi, such speculations, however tempting, could cause a strong backlash and inflict great damage. Instead, we should keep our feet firmly planted on the ground and make sure we live up to our moral and religious obligations.

The ongoing attacks by terrorist organizations on people everywhere should encourage all of us to unite and display more sensitivity to each other's needs. Jew and gentile alike should build strong family ties and create solid and pleasant homes, just as in the case of the sukkah. People should be inspired to go to synagogue and church, creating cohesive communities, because these are among the most important "decorations" in our lifelong sukkah.

Indeed, the walls of our worldly sukkah may be shaking, but let us not forget that we have an obligation to decorate its interior.

Shabbat Shalom
& Hag Sameah

Sukkoth, Second Day

Tuesday, September 29th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ... 8:30 am

Minha / Arbit..... 6:00 pm

Habdallah..... 7:25 pm

Hol Ha'Moed Sukkot

Wed., Sept 30 to Fri., Oct 2

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am

Erev Shabbat of Sukkot

Friday, October 2nd

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ... 6:30 am

Minha 5:45 pm

Candle Lighting 6:18 pm

Torah Readings & Haftara Portions

Parashat Haazinu

From Devarim / Deuteronomy
pp. 896 to 903

Haftara from Prophets

From Shmuel Bet / Samuel 2
Pp 904 to 908

Sukkot Torah Readings

First & Second Day

from Vaykira / Leviticus

XXII:26 to XXIII pp 5218 to 525
and

From Bamidbar / Numbers

XXIX:12-16, p. 697

Haftara, First Day

Zecharia pp 972 to 976

Haftara, Second Day

Melachim Alef / Kings I

pp 977 to 978



A Conversation Between

AMBASSADOR JOHN BOLTON

Former U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and
Under-Secretary of State for arms control and international security

&

BRIGADIER GENERAL ISRAEL (RELIK) SHAFIR

Legendary Israeli flying ace who participated in the mission
to destroy Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981

The Future of the Strategic Alliance

America, Israel, and The Middle East in Turmoil

Moderator
SIMCHA SALACH

Executive Director, Israel Air Force Center Foundation

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2015

Beth Jacob Congregation
9030 W. Olympic Blvd., Beverly Hills

Dessert Reception - 7:00 p.m.

Program - 7:30 p.m.

Tickets \$36.00

Dietary Laws Observed

RSVP AND REGISTER BY OCTOBER 22

Call: 310.274.2314 or Email: admin@iafcenterfoundation.com or

Register online at: www.iafc-foundation.org

The IAF Center Foundation partners with the Israel Air Force to strengthen Israeli society
and cultivate future leaders. Learn more at www.iafc-foundation.org



Discovery and Recovery:

Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage

*An exhibit of rescued & restored artifacts
from the Iraqi Jewish Archive will be at
Nixon Presidential Library & Museum
September 4 to November 15, 2015*

Save these Dates!

Sunday, October 11, 2014

KJ Tour of the Exhibit

Call the Kahal Joseph office at 310.474.0559 to
register for this group tour of the archive.

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Maurice Shohet, President WOJI
presents the film "Forgotten Refugees"
Maurice Shohet, President of "World Organization
of Jews from Iraq" (WOJI) will be at the library to
present the documentary film: "Forgotten Refu-
gees" which recounts the mass exodus of Jews
from Arab lands. Following the showing one of the
documentary producers will be available on Skype
from New York for a Q & A session.