

Shavu'ot in Baghdad, 1941

By Joe Samuels

In Baghdad, the temperature in summer rises to over 110 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade. Growing up in the 1930's and 1940's, sun eclipses during the summer days were very common. We were not only in total darkness, but it was hard to breathe. The desert heat, influenced by strong winds generated thick sand storms.

Then, there was the hottest summer I remember. The year was 1941. The temperature rose to 120, 130 or 150 degrees Fahrenheit. This devastating heat affected only one group of citizens, the largest and oldest minority in Baghdad—the Jewish community. The heat began on April 22nd. I was 11 years old. At this time a pro-Nazi coup headed by Rashid Ali, aided by Al Husaini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, deposed the government. King Faisal and the Regent fled. The media, all controlled by the new Junta, began a campaign of anti-Semitism.

Newspaper articles describing the Jews as spies and traitors began to appear daily. News on

Radio Baghdad featured the capture of Jews directing British planes with flashlights. Random arrests and torture brought deep fear to our hearts and raised the temperature of our blood. My older brother, Aboudi, 27, was beaten up at night by Muslim youths while on his way home. He developed a high fever and started hallucinating.

I was overwhelmed with fright and stricken with panic. My father and my older brothers, trying to protect me and my younger brother, were always whispering. They asked me not to be present when they talked. This increased my anxiety. I couldn't sleep at night, and I cried for no reason. I could sense danger to my family and my life.

When British troops arrived at the outskirts of Baghdad, the coup leaders fled the country. For some unknown reason, the British waited two days to enter Baghdad. That created a power vacuum. The boiling heat was reached on June 1 and 2, 1941, days on which fell the feast of Shavuot—Shavuot, when Jews around the world celebrate receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai some 3500 years ago. This Shavuot in Iraq, soldiers and policemen

in civilian clothes joined by slum dwellers began looting and burning Jewish homes and businesses, killing any Jew in sight, and raping women. The Farhud, as it is known in Arabic ("violent dispossession"), was as significant as Kristlenacht in Germany, and demonstrated the hatred exported to the Middle East by Hitler and his generals. Baghdad was in smoke. It was another eclipse with no sand storm.

We bolted our front door and reinforced it with heavy furniture. My older brother, Eli, electrified the fence over the garden wall. My uncle's house was looted. But, we were saved. Life went on, influenced by the philosophy in the Jewish survival kit: we began to live with hope and refused to act as victims.

After 19 years of living under occupation with fear, and unpredictable conditions, I took the train to Basra. From there, I was smuggled out of Iraq by boat to Iran. The boat behind the one I was in—captured. Those unlucky boys and young men were tortured and worse. But we escaped. On March 2, 1950, I tasted freedom for the first time when I touched the ground in Israel.

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Prayer Schedule

SHABBAT

PARASHAT BAMIDBAR

PARASHAT NASO

Friday, June 3rd, 2011

Shaharit 6:30 am
Minhah & Arbit 6:30 pm
Candle Lighting 7:42 pm

Saturday, June 4th, 2011

Shaharit 8:30 am
Tehillim 6:00 pm
Class w/R. Batzri 6:15 pm
Minhah & Arbit 6:45 pm
Motzei Shabbat 8:46 pm

WEEKDAYS

Sunday, May 29th

Shaharit 7:30 am

Monday-Friday

EREV SHAVUOT

Tuesday, June 7th

Minha 7:00 pm

Shavuot Study Night Fathers & Sons—Tikun

We'll learn all 613 Mitzvot!

10:00 pm to Midnight

SHAVUOT, FIRST DAY

Wednesday, June 8th

Shaharit &

Reading of Aseret HaDibrot

The Ten Commandments

9:00 am

Class with Rabbi Batzri on

Megillat Ruth 6:00 pm

Minha & Arvit 7:00 pm

SHAVUOT, SECOND DAY

Thursday, June 9th

Shaharit 9:00 am

Class w/Rabbi Batzri 7:00 pm

Arvit 8:00 pm

EREV SHABBAT

PARASHAT BE'HAALOTKHA

Friday, June 10th, 2011

Shaharit 6:30 am
Minhah & Arbit 6:30 pm
Candle Lighting 7:45 pm

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I compare my life in Baghdad to a kumquat. Its skin is bittersweet, and the interior is sweet and sour. Discontent, disappointments, and distress mix with happy times, blissful events and pleasant memories. Now, living in the present drowns the unpleasantness of the past and brightens my outlook towards the future. Living with hope is like making this small citrus fruit into marmalade, with a provocative flavor, inspiring aroma and cheerful texture.

June 1 & 2, 2011 mark the 70th anniversary of the Farhud. I join with all those who seek, cherish, and appreciate freedom, to stand up against anti-Semitism. I join my community to commemorate my Jewish brothers and sisters who were murdered and injured, and offer compassion to those whose homes were looted and lives destroyed. I pray that we will never again see such episodes, and Israel will dwell in peace.

Hag Samaiah

SHABBAT KIDDUSH

is sponsored by
Asher Shalom

in honor of his wife
Behnaz Shalom's
Birthday

NOTICE TO PARENTS

1. Children under 5 years old must be supervised by a parent when using our KIDS ZONE upstairs.
2. No child is allowed to remain in the synagogue lobby without the constant supervision of a parent or guardian.
3. We are not responsible for unsupervised children walking out the front door.

In Memoriam

It is customary to light a memorial candle and to donate tzedakah. Family members are encouraged to attend prayer services in honor of loved ones.

Sunday / 3 Sivan

Avraham ben Yaacov Dov
Gedaliah ben Moshe Litman
HaCohen

Tuesday / 5 Sivan

Ezra Kadoori Eliyahu Levi
Aharon ben Shlomo Godsi*
Sar bat Sarah*
Turan bat Aghajan*
Moshe Haim*

Thursday / 7 Sivan

Geulah ben Avraham*

Friday / 8 Sivan

Rivkah bat Shimon*

Shabbat / 9 Sivan

Ester bat Amam*
Aziza bat Rahel*

*To update, please call the office
at 310.474.0559.*

Refuah Shlemah

Yonatan ben Alizah • Mazal Tov
bat Sulha Mitana • Matilda
Louisa • Yaheskel ben Regina •
Ayala bat Naomi • Khayah Noa
bat Sara • Haim ben Mordechai •
Pnina bat Esther • Yosi ben
Esther • Victor ben Latif • Ramah
Regina bat Farha • Aziza bat Sara
Judith bat Malka • Ofek ben Yochai
• Efrayim Zev ben Fayga • Sulha
Matana bat Mozelle • Gershon ben
David • Farangis Miriam bat
Touran • David ben Leah •
Avraham Haim ben Miryam •
Yaakov ben Freda • Rachel bat
Mazal Tov • Avraham ben Rab-
bie • Mazal Sigalit bat Rivkah •
Orit bat Tikvah • Yaakov ben
Aliyah • Chana Leah bat Reiza •
Victoria Cohen • Avraham
Moshe ben Miriam • Mordecai
Haim ben Hanna



Early Bird Discount

\$50 off Registration

if your child enrolls
before June 16, 2011

2011-12 Tuition & Fees

Registration \$150

Tuition \$150/month

plus KJ Membership

Second Child Discount

Associate Membership &

Scholarship Application available

Norma & Sam Dabby Jewish Education Center

Kahal Joseph Hebrew School

Torah Studies! Hebrew Language! Jewish History! Holiday Celebrations! Prayer!

Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:30 to 6:30 pm • Ages 5 to 13, K to 8th Grade

Near Westwood & Century City, 10505 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 90025

Molly Jalali, Director 310.474.0559, molly@kahaljoseph.org

Torah Readings

Parasha 586-601

Haftara 602-604

**SPONSOR
SHABBAT KIDDUSH
or SEUDAH
SHLISHEET**



To sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush or a Seudah Shlisheet, an afternoon meal, in honor of a special occasion for a family member or friend, please contact Sarah in our office at 310.474.0559. We ask that you notify us 1-2 weeks in advance of the date so that we may honor your generous tribute. Thank you!

ADVERTISEMENTS

in the Kol Mevasser now available
Let the community know about your business or simcha through us!

Ad Donation Rates
Members \$200 for 4 issues
Non-members \$300 for 4 issues

Advertising Deadline is 6 pm on Tuesdays. Size of advertisement is 3 1/2" x 4"; Ad design and layout available at \$50/hour. Or, send ready-to-use copy in *pdf or jpeg* format to dafna@kahaljoseph.org.

Read the Haftarah

Wouldn't you like to chant the concluding section of the Torah read on Shabbat—the Haftarah? Reserve a haftarah portion at 310.474. 0559. Then, schedule time with Saeed & learn your haftarah with authentic ta'amim—the Iraqi melodies for reading the Torah.



**Tehillim Reading & Torah Study
For Women Only w/Rabbanit Orly Batzri**

in the KJ Library, Mondays at 10:30 am & Shabbat Day, before Minha, at 6:00 pm

Kahal Joseph presents

Party & Shavuot Learn-In

Sunday, June 12
6:00 pm Games, Prizes, Yummy Jewish Stuff & a Movie

RSVP
Call Dafna to save your spot—limited number of places, Event location to be arranged—RSVP to dafna@kahaljoseph.org or 310.502.8548

**|For|Post|
|Bat|& |Bar|
Mitzvah Teens
ONLY**

Figure out what these clues have in common to enter for a prize drawing—
a) aseret ha'dibrot; b) chag ha'katzir
c) zman matan torateinu d) bikurim e) bet hamikdash f) chalav g) shivat haminim
(Hints at babganewz.com/search . . .)



Kahal Joseph Congregation
presents

**FATHER & SON
SHAVUOT
613 MITZVOT STUDY
NIGHT**

with Rabbi Hagay Batzri

What: A Jewish Tradition
with Cheesecake & Ice Cream
& A Night of Songs

When: Tuesday, June 7, 2011

Time: 10:00 PM to midnight

Where: Kahal Joseph Congregation
10505 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Fathers and sons of all ages welcome!



Tikkun Lel Shavuot is a tradition! Our Father and Son Shavuot Study Night includes all 613 Mitzvot—Jewish guidelines for living a fulfilling, happy life.

Learn life's secrets early, use them as you grow, & enrich your world. Refreshments & delicious cheesecake will be served. Ice cream for boys 8-13!

To reserve contact Sarah at 310. 474. 0559.

