

KOL MEVASSER

Eden on Earth

By Rabbi Hagay Batzri



Dear Kahal

I'm happy to be back home, to be with you.... The energy that exists in this week's Torah portion, Parashat "Beshalach" is also seen in the special name given to this Shabbat, "Shabbat Shirah" or the Shabbat of Song. During the Torah reading we feel the energy of songs as we chant the song of joy sung by the Jewish people after Hashem rescued them on the shores of the Red (or, more correctly, the Reed) Sea, "Az ya-shir Moshe" shirat hayam: "And then Moses sang" the song of the Sea.

From the time I was a child in Jerusalem, the way Shabbat Shira was treated by my family and the Rabbis in my neighborhood was amazing. When the words Shabbat Shirah were mentioned I immediately felt elevated. I experienced deep happiness and a sense of belonging as if I were in the garden of Eden, where birds were singing, perching on beautiful trees, and all my senses were full of joy, security, and purity. My Neshama was just filled up with smell of this garden for the senses.

Even when I think of Shabbat Shira in my memory, these feelings come over me. It is as though a wind from this garden is blowing over me when I just think about this Shabbat in Jerusalem. What kind of powerful experience was that?

Where did it come from? Was I the only one who experienced this kind of unexplained joy? What really happened there?

In my childhood, even before Shabbat Shira everyone knew it was coming. Even in the "shuk," the old market called "Mahane Yehuda," located in the center of Jerusalem, we could hear the sound of sellers calling out their products and encouraging people to buy special things in honor of the Shabbat table of Shabbat Shira. Vendors inherited this tradition and learned these special calls from their fathers. And, in one neighborhood people started a "Marathon Bakashot" that took place in Bet Keneset Ades. Residents invited everyone to take part and hear the greatest Hazzanim start singing on Shabbat Shira beginning at 2 am in the morning

Yes! It was two o'clock in the morning when the singing started! Hundreds of people would get ready for it. The excitement was unbelievable, and there was a holy atmosphere. Boys and fathers would come in the middle of the night to sing ancient songs from the soul for five hours. Girls with their mothers would join us in the "ezrat nashim" or women's section, watching us from 2nd floor. Everyone was singing. The Hazzanim sang solos in between the community's songs. And no instruments were involved.

I experienced that since I was 3 years old every Shabbat Shira, until I became a teenager, I

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KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, February 3, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer.....	6:30 am
Shabbat Candle Lighting	5:06 pm
Minhah/Arbith	5:00 pm

Shabbat Beh'shalach

Saturday, February 4, 2012

Shabbat Shaharit/Morning Prayer.....	8:30 am
Tehillim Women's Reading	after kiddush
Shabbat Minhah, Seudah, Arbit.....	4:30 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah.....	6:11 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, February 5, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer.....	7:30 am
KJ Youth Choir Rehearsal	11:00 am

Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 6:30 pm

Tu B'Shvat Celebration with KJ Youth Choir, Kabbala Seder, Live Music	6:30 pm
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Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Women's Tehillim Group	10:00 am
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Monday to Friday, Feb. 6 to 10, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
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Erev Shabbat

Friday, February 10, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer.....	6:30 am
Shabbat Candle Lighting	5:13 pm
Minhah/Arbith	5:00 pm

KJ Youth Choir

Sunday, February 5th
11:00 am



Come practice with our children's choir, open to kids ages 6 to 12. At choir, kids learn beautiful songs in our tradition, Jewish concepts and Sephardic culture. We ask parents and children to be prompt!



Shabbat Guest Speaker Lucien Chocron PhD

Next Weekend!
February 11 & 12, 2012

Dr. Chocron specializes in adapting therapy techniques to the religious community. In addition to teaching at Touro College of Los Angeles, Dr. Chocron directs the Nurith Community Counseling Center, lectures on parenting issues, and runs seminars on maintaining healthy relationships. He speaks four languages and is a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association



WOMEN'S TEHILLIM GROUP WITH RABBANIT ORLY BATZRI Shabbat after Morning Services & Wednesdays at 10 am in the KJ Library

Ladies enjoy insights into the weekly Torah portion given by Rabbanit Orly Batzri and your efforts will help support those healing in our community. Bring yourself and a friend! If you would like to host our next Rosh Hodesh contact orlybatzri@gmail.com.

Kol Mevasser Newsletter

Kahal Joseph Congregation, Los Angeles, CA
310.474.0559 or dafna@kahaljoseph.org

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored by

Ruth & Edmond Hagooli

in honor of the marriage of
Yelena & Ben Hagooli

Mazal Tov to the parents
Ruth & Edmond Hagooli
Kate & Michael Perelmutter-Mendlyuk

Seudah Shlisheet

We want to thank Joseph Hanokae for contributing towards part of this week's afternoon Shabbat meal in memory of Yaghoub Hanokae, z"l



KAHAL JOSEPH TREE OF LIFE

Help fill our tree with life! Celebrate your loved ones by ordering a leaf—a donation of \$126 a leaf. Order 4 leaves & get the 5th free. For information contact Yvette Dabby at ydabby@sbcglobal.net

Refuah Shlemah

Gerry Shapiro
Eliezer Hai Saltoon ben Roz Saltoon

Rabbi Hagay Batzri

Editor & Graphic Designer Dafna Ezran
Adminstrator Sarah Bouchoucha

In Memoriam

We remember the following yahrzeits, the annual anniversary of passings, for the week of February 4th to 11th, 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 Shabbat preceding the yahrzeit. To update information call 310.474.0559.

11 Shevat / Shabbat, February 4

Malacj Khamani *Serab bat Simcha*

12 Shevat / Sunday, February 5

Abraham M Cohen *Avraham Shalom Mordechai Yitzhak*

Maurice Kadoorie *Moshe ben Saleh*

Matthew Ellenhorn *Matityahu ben Shmuel*

Rachel Ellis *Rahel bat Masooda*

13 Shevat / Monday, February 6

Sheila Cohen *Sheila Cohen*

Nanejan Davoudian *Nanejan bat Hacham Mola Rebbe*

Alex Sassoon *Alex Sassoon*

14 Shevat / Tuesday, February 7

Shaul Saberi *Shaul Saberi*

Albert Harry Saltoun *Avdala ben Eliyahu*

15 Shevat / Wednesday, February 8

Ezekiel Albert *Yehezkel ben Abdullah Yehezkel*

Joseph Mussry *Yosef Mussry*

David Sarraf *David ben Ezra*

16 Shevat / Thursday, February 9

Yehudah Hai Judah *Yehudah Hai Yehudah*

Menashe Sarraf *Menashe ben Yousef*

Yehudah Sarraf *Yehudah ben Mordechai*

17 Shevat / Friday, February 10

Simon Irani *Shimon ben Eliyahu*

Ashraf Nassi *Ashraf Nassi*

18 Shevat / Shabbat, February 11

Raphael Mizrahie *Raphael Hai ben Eliyahu Mordechai*

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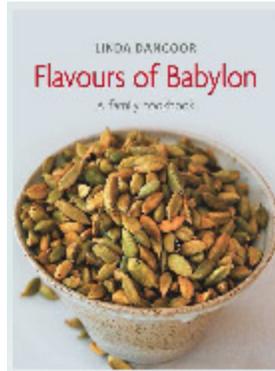
used to attend with my father or my older brother Moshe. I woke them up early as 1 o'clock in the morning and we would walk to the synagogue through the Jerusalem winter even though the temperature was near freezing. This week when I visited Jerusalem I saw many advertisements posted on the walls inviting the public to these special services of "bakashot" or poetic songs sung by the greatest hazzanim.

Ar"y Hakadosh said that the whole purpose of this world is to get to the level of singing "shirah," a song to the Almighty with the angels, the animals, and the birds singing too. They sing because they feel compelled to sing; that's how they were created.

However, human beings may face many obstacles in life—difficulties that make them feel they cannot sing. Then, we should remember David HaMelech. King David sang to Hashem even—maybe especially—when he was facing difficulty. Like King David, we should make the effort to sing always at all times. Hashem promises that if we sing for Him in this world, we will sing for Him in the world to come.

Shabbat Shalom U'Mevurach

Wishing You and Your Family a Peaceful and Blessed Shabbat



Flavours of Babylon

An Iraqi Cookbook by Linda Dangour

Dear Friends,

I am very excited to introduce you to a very good cookbook of traditional Jewish Iraqi recipes and much more. Over the years I have built a library of Iraqi and Middle Eastern cookbooks. I find this book is one of the best in my library and a favorite of mine. I am sure you too will find this book very useful and a great addition to your library of cookbooks. It is very easy to follow, very well designed and illustrated—no surprise, since the author is also a talented artist.

How many times has a young one in your family asked you to teach them to cook their favorite dish? This book will make a great gift for young adults in your family.

My gratitude and thanks to the author Linda Dangour who is donating 20% of proceeds from sale of the book to Kahal Joseph. I encourage you to reserve your copy now.

Yvette Dabby

\$25 per copy in the KJ Office

For information contact Yvette Dabby at ydabby@sbcglobal.net or call 310.474.0559

Purim



Baking for Community Gift Baskets

Sunday, March 4th starting at 10 am

Do a Mitzvah—or Two!

Give a few hours and have some fun baking treats for Kahal Joseph's beautiful Purim gift baskets. We personally deliver these cheery baskets to many appreciative members of our community. Donations in support of the Purim Baskets mitzvah project are welcomed. Please send your check to:

Kahal Joseph Congregation—Purim Baskets
10505 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A. CA 90025.

For more information call the office at 310.474.0559
or e-mail ydabby@sbcglobal.net.

Purim Sameah! ♦♦♦ Happy Purim!

Parashat Beshalach Weekly Torah Portion

Parasha in Hertz
265 to 281
Haftara
281 to 287

NOTICE TO PARENTS

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

Kahal Joseph Tu B'Shvat Seder



The Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph and Rabbi Hagay Batzri invite the community to an experience of renewal and celebration. Listen to our children's voices blossom, as we bless the fruits, bless our lives, and invite in the goodness of the year.

Tuesday, February 7th
at 6:30 pm

- KJ Youth Choir
- Iraqi Kabbalistic Tradition
- Live Music
- Fruits, Desserts, Wine

Kahal Joseph Congregation

Tickets Free to Members and \$18 for Guests
RSVP 310.474.0559

Thank you to our generous sponsors: Tooraj Aghalar, Ron Einy, David Kohan (in memory of his brother Yousef Saied ben Jalal, z"l), Fred Maslavi, Joseph Samuels, Joseph Tizabi, and Faride Zakaryaie

KJ PURIM CARNIVAL



Sunday, March 11th
11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Kahal Joseph Congregation
10505 Santa Monica Blvd. L.A. 90025

Game Booths • Fun Rides
Great Food • Prizes