

# KOL MEVASSER

## Halakhot of Ta'anit Sibur Jewish Laws for Public Fast Days

From *Judaic.org*

### Overview

There are six fast days in the Jewish calendar. One, Yom Kippur, is from the Torah. Four of the five others are from the days of the Prophets specifically referred to by Hashem in a communication to the Prophet Zecharia: "The fast of the fourth month, the fast of the fifth month, the fast of the seventh month, and the fast of the tenth month shall become occasions for joy and gladness, happy festivals for the House of Judah; but you must love emet and shalom" (Zech. 8:19).

These four are associated with the vanquishing of Jerusalem, destruction of the Bet Hamiqdash and the extinguishing of the last flame of the first Jewish Commonwealth in 586 B.C.E. and the corresponding events destroying the Second Temple in 70 C.E. The sixth fast day is associated with Purim.

### 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz

One of these occurs next week—Shib'a Asar B'Tammuz, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the Jewish month of Tammuz. This is the date the Romans broke through Jerusalem's walls in

70 C.E. In 586 B.C.E. the Babylonians broke through Jerusalem's walls on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz, but the fast date was modified to reflect the later destruction, as it is that destruction that still prevails. The Talmud relates that on this day in different years four other national calamities befell the Jewish People: the Tablets of the Ten Commandments were broken by Moshe; the daily tamid sacrifice was terminated in the First Temple; the Roman Emperor Vespasian burned the Sefer Torah, and he placed an idol in the Temple.

### Tisha B'Av

The 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz is related to the upcoming, and more significant, fast day of Tisha B'Av, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the Jewish month of Av. Tisha B'Av occurs exactly three weeks after the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz. The Mishnah relates that on Tisha B'Av the destruction of both the first and second Temples occurred and three other national calamities befell the Jewish People: Hashem's decree denying entry to the Land of Israel to the generation that exited Egypt, because of the transgression associated with the spies, that the people were fearful of proceeding to the land, capture of the great city of Bethar (by the Romans in 135 C. E., crushing the Bar Kokhba revolution) and the ploughing of Jerusalem (see Jer. 26:18).

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## KJ Schedule Parashat Pinhas

### **Erev Shabbat Pinhas / Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup>**

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	7:30 am
Shir Hashirim.....	6:45 pm
Minhah/Arbith .....	7:00 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting .....	7:49 pm

### **Shabbat Pinhas Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>**

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	8:30 am
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit.....	7:00 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah .....	8:56 pm

### **Weekdays Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>**

Shaharit .....	7:30 am
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### **Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>**

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
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### **17 of Tammuz Fast Day Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>**

Fast Begins .....	4:24 am
Shaharit .....	6:15 am
Minha / Arbith .....	7:00 pm
Fast Ends .....	8:34 pm

### **Wednesday to Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>**

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
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### **Erev Shabbat / Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>**

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	7:30 am
Shir Hashirim.....	6:45 pm
Minhah/Arbith .....	7:00 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting .....	7:46 pm

**Weekly Readings: Pinhas**  
Bamidbar / Book of Numbers TBA  
Neviim / Prophets Haftara TBA

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### The Three Weeks

Many European-American Jewish communities restrict activities in the three weeks between 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz and Tisha B'Av; weddings, celebrations, swimming, listening to live music, etc. However, within the Sephardic tradition, such limitations usually commence during the month of Av. Generally, most observe restrictions from the Shabbat preceding Tisha B'Av through the fast day. In the land of Israel, it is common to observe restrictions, including limitations on washing clothes and on consuming meat, poultry or wine, beginning on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Av and a number of Sephardic communities follow this practice.

Yom Kippur and Tisha B'ab are the only 24 hour (plus) fast days; they begin at sunset and conclude the next evening (at 'the appearance of the stars'). The other four fasts on the Jewish calendar, including the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz, begin at dawn (1.2 proportionate hours before sunrise) and conclude at evening. Yom Kippur and Tisha B'ab also each have a number of unique halakhot, or Jewish laws, that relate specifically to those days. The following will deal with the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz and the other three minor fast days only.

### Jewish Laws of Minor Fast Days

Eating and drinking, even of a small measure, is prohibited. Sick and very weak people whose health requires eating or drinking, even if the illness is not life threatening, are exempt. Someone close to be-

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## Rally for Israel

*Stand with Us & Israeli-American Council*

**Date:** Sunday, July 13

**Time:** 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**Where:** Federal Building

(Wilshire & Veteran Blvd. in Westwood)

*Join us this Sunday to show the world:  
We stand united with Israel and support its  
right to protect its citizens. Please invite your  
friends and family. If you do not live in Los  
Angeles, attend a rally for Israel near you.*

*In the last 72 hours, over 300 rockets have  
been fired into Israel's largest cities,  
including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Three and  
a half million Israeli civilians are living under  
fire or in bomb shelters. No country would  
remain passive in the face of hundreds of  
rockets targeting its cities --  
**Israel is no exception.***

### Please Note:

**No restrooms at the site \* Bring water for  
yourself \* Do not engage opposing pro-  
testers if they come \* Stay on sidewalks**

## Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored in memory of

Morad Rafie, z"l  
Mordecai ben Rabbi Eliahu, z"l

by the  
Rafie, Shadi & Talassazan  
Families

### **In Memoriam**

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for July 12 to 19, 2014. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend services the preceding Shabbat.

**14 Tammuz / Shabbat, July 12th**  
Rachel Meyer Judah *Rahel bat Aziza*

**15 Tammuz / Sunday, July 13th**  
Mazal Sawdayi *Mazal bat Rima Cohen*

**17 Tammuz / Tuesday, July 15th**  
Abdallah Ezra *Abdallah ben Ezra Itzhak*

**18 Tammuz / Wednesday, July 16th**  
Naamat Zelkha *Naamat ben Simha*

**20 Tammuz / Friday, July 18th**  
Rachel Pourati *Rahel bat Leah Nahid*

### **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

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coming sick, who by fasting might become sick, is also exempt. Someone who is able to fast but must take medicine may do so providing it is not pleasant tasting and he doesn't take water (or any drink) with it.

Pregnant women are exempt as are those who gave birth within twenty four months before the fast. Children are discouraged from fasting these fasts before becoming obligated in mitzvot (twelve years of age for girls, thirteen for boys). If one mistakenly ate, regardless of how much, he should continue the fast from the moment he remembered. Taking showers and wearing fresh clothing are permitted. Brushing teeth and gargling mouthwash are permitted.

A special selection is read from the Torah in shahrit and mincha from Perashat Ki Tissa recounting Moshe Rabenu's prayer after Israel's transgression of the golden calf and Hashem's favorable response to Moshe's prayer. Bircat Kohanim, the priestly blessing, is recited in mincha when mincha is prayed close to sunset. A kohen who is not fasting does not recite Bircat Kohanim in mincha.

#### Spiritual Intention During the Fast

The fast days offer us a chance to separate from habitual concerns and reflect. This should, hopefully, foster repentance, change our thoughts for the better, and increase our commitment to positive actions. We receive guidance and learn how to improve our path in the world by following Hashem's mitzvot and studying Torah. We wish you an easy and meaningful fast. Shabbat Shalom

## **Famous Sephardic Poets: Shmuel HaNagid**

also known as Shmuel HaLevi ben Yosef Ibn Nagrela 993-1056 CE

*Shmuel HaNagid, or Samuel the Prince, was a Talmudic scholar, grammarian, philologist, soldier, politician, patron of the arts, and an influential medieval Hebrew poet who lived in Iberia at the time of the Moorish rule. His poetry was only one area in which he was well known. He was perhaps the most influential Jew, politically, in Muslim Spain. He rose from obscurity due to his facility with languages, his excellent ability in writing Arabic script and his talent for kind yet effective statesmanship. Over time he developed a close relationship with the Granada royal court, and was eventually promoted to the position of vizier, becoming the virtual ruler of Granada. He also became the top general in the Granada army, a historical anomaly because he was a Jew, and as such, a dhimmi. That a Jew would command the Muslim army, having them under his authority, was an astonishing feat.*

*A Hebrew poet of the Middle Ages, as well a patron of many other poets, Shmuel HaNagid was well known. His unique application of Arabic poetic conventions to Hebrew poetry and biblical motifs helped expand the Hebrew poetic tradition. He also wrote poetry in the battlefield. When he defeated the allied armies of Seville, Malaga and the Berbers in 1047 at Ronda, he wrote a Hebrew poem of gratitude for his deliverance. His main poetic works include "Ben Tehillim" (Son of Psalms), "Ben Qoheleth" (Son of Ecclesiastes), and "Ben Mishlei" (Son of Proverbs), each of which imitates the original work. A devoted supporter of secular scientific knowledge and Torah scholarship, he provided manuscripts to poor students to enable the advancement of knowledge. He also founded the Yeshiva that produced such brilliant scholars as R' Yitzhaq ibn Ghiath and R' Maimon ben Yosef, who was the father of Maimonides.*

### **The Hour**

*by Shmuel HaNagid*

She said: "Be happy that God has helped you reach  
The age of fifty in this world," not knowing  
That to me there is no difference between my life's  
Past and that of Noah about whom I heard.  
For me there is only the hour in which I am present in this world:  
It stays for a moment and then like a cloud moves on.

*Translated by Leon J. Weinberger*

*from Jewish Prince in Moslem Spain: Selected Poems of Samuel ibn Nagrela.  
(Tuscaloosa and London: The University of Alabama Press, 1997).*



**This Sunday!**  
**July 13, 2014 @ 11:30 am**  
 Roxbury Park in Beverly Hills

Bring your family and friends to  
 a great day of relaxation and fun  
 under the trees and sun!

**Kids come prepared with  
 sand toys, trucks, balls, jump ropes and  
 more! Grown-ups bring your  
 backgammon sets and cards!**

And bring a parve, kosher dessert  
 to share after the BBQ!



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