

# KOL MEVASSER

## Shabbat: Our Weekly Liberation from Slavery

(Parashat B'Shalach  
Exodus 13:17 – 17:16)  
Rabbi Daniel Bouskila



The journey to freedom was long and difficult. For 210 years, the Jewish people were an enslaved population in Egypt, living under the sting of the Egyptian taskmaster's whip. They never enjoyed a moment of freedom, nor did they really understand the concept of freedom. Finally, the moment of liberation came, and it happened in grand fashion.

*Parashat B'Shalach* describes the dramatic exodus from Egypt, climaxed by the miracle of the splitting of the *Yam Suf* ("Sea of Reeds" popularly known as the "Red Sea"). This great miracle not only allowed safe passage for the Jewish people, but it also marked the defeat of Pharaoh's army: "The waters turned back and covered the chariots and the horsemen, Pharaoh's entire army that followed them into the sea; not one of them remained" (Exodus 14:28). Right before their eyes, the Jewish people watched in amazement as the Egyptian taskmasters and their whips drowned in the *Yam Suf*. With 210 years of slavery washing away into the sea, the Jewish people erupted into a simultaneous song of thanks and praise to God: *Az Yashir Moshe u-vnei Yisrael et ha-shira hazot*

*I'Hashem – Then Moses and the Jewish people sang this song to God...*

With Egyptian slavery washed away, it was now time to move on. It was time for the Jewish people to turn away from the *Yam Suf*, put Egypt and slavery behind them, and march forward in pursuit of true freedom. But this was easier said than done.

When people are accustomed to a way of life, it's difficult for them to suddenly change. For 210 years, the Jewish people knew nothing but slavery. This was their way of life, and watching Pharaoh's army wash away into the sea was not about to instantly transform them. A slave is a slave, and unless he/she is taught how to live a free life, they will continue to live with the mentality of a slave.

This is why the commentator Rashi teaches that just days after the exodus, and a few months before arriving at Mount Sinai to receive the Torah, God decided to give the Jewish people some sections of the Torah to study, the first of which was the section on Shabbat. It is both logical and symbolic that the first mitzvah given to the Jewish people after the exodus from slavery is the mitzvah of Shabbat. A band of slaves need instruction on how to live in freedom, and the Jewish people had never heard of a "day off." With the commandment to observe Shabbat, God introduces what seems to the newly liberated slaves as a

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## KJ Schedule Parashat Beshallah

### Erev Shabbat

Friday, January 30th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am  
**Shabbat Candle Lighting . 5:03 pm**  
Minha / Arbith ..... 5:03 pm

### Shabbat Shira

Saturday, January 31st

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .... 8:30 am  
Rabbi Daniel Bouskila, Guest Speaker  
Minha, Seudah, Arvit ..... 4:30 pm  
Motzei Shabbat / Havdala ... 6:07 pm

### Weekdays

Sunday, February 1st

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

Monday to Friday Feb 2 to 6

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am

### Tu B'Shvat

Wednesday, February 4th

### Erev Shabbat

Friday, February 6th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am  
**Shabbat Candle Lighting . 5:10 pm**  
Minha / Arbith ..... 5:10 pm

## Torah & Haftara Reading

Torah from Exodus/Shemot  
Parashat Beshallah 265 to 281  
*Haftara from the Prophets*  
*Shoftim / Judges 281 to 287*

**Shabbat Shalom**

## In the LA Community . . .

### JVS Scholarship Available

The Jewish Vocational Service Scholarship is a need-based program for college and graduate school for Jewish students who are permanent residents of Los Angeles County. The online application period for the 2015-2016 academic year begins January 15, 2015, and closes March 15, 2015. Since 1972, Jewish Vocational Service has awarded over \$6.5 million to more than 4,000 financially challenged Jewish students from Los Angeles pursuing higher education. Information is on our website [www.jvsla.org](http://www.jvsla.org).

### Film on Gett Refusal Screens Feb 15th

Join Get Jewish Divorce Justice for a benefit screening of the acclaimed Israeli film "Gett – The Trial of Viviane Amsalem" on Sunday morning February 15, 2015 at 10:00a.m. Panel discussion to immediately follow at the Laemmle Royal Theatre 11523 Santa Monica Blvd. L. A. 90025. For details and to purchase tickets visit [getjewishdivorce.org](http://getjewishdivorce.org)

### Theater Discount for "Train to Zakopane"

*Train to Zakopane* plays Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 pm, and Sundays at 5:00 pm. The Edgemar Center for the Arts would like to offer KJ members \$10 dollars off of their regular ticket price any weekend through March 29th. Please RSVP by calling this number (310) 392-7327. You can also purchase tickets online using the discount code "shalom" at <https://www.vendini.com/> or through The Edgemar Center at <http://www.edgemarcenter.org/theater-and-film-events-in-los-angeles/current/train-to-zakopane/>

### Happy Tu B'Shvat

This Wednesday, the 15th of the Jewish month of Shvat, is the Birthday of the Trees

## We want you to be a member!

*Did you join us for one of KJ's community or holiday events?*

*Have you enjoyed our wonderful Shabbat guest speakers, kids programs or Lunch & Learns?*

*Consider joining our community with an annual membership. Call Sarah at 310.474.0559*

## Shabbat Kiddush is sponsored in memory of Shaul ben Shimon Chaim z"l

by  
**Shimon Saberi &  
Miriam Saberi**

## Welcome Shabbat Guest Speaker Rabbi Daniel Bouskila

*Celebrating Shabbat Shira (where we read the parasha about the Exodus from Egypt) and in commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz this past week, Rabbi Bouskila will deliver a sermon titled:*

**"Exodus: From Egypt to  
Auschwitz, Let Freedom Ring"**

## Congratulations Michelle & Michael Spatafore on the birth of a baby girl Lennon Emma Leia

*Mazal Tov to Grandmother Linda Elias  
& great grandparents Rylla & Ben Elias  
and to the entire family*

## Refuah Shlemah

Moselle Amron • Maurice Ovadia  
Abe Abraham • Michael Herzbrun  
Saul Sassoon • Sassoon Ezra • Tilda Levy

## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for January 31 to February 6, 2015. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend services the preceding Shabbat.

### 11 Shvat / Shabbat, January 31st

Malacj Khamani *Serah bat Simcha*

### 12 Shvat / Sunday, February 1st

Abraham M. Cohen *Avraham Shalom Mordechai  
Yitzhak HaCohen*

Matthew Ellenhorn *Matityahu ben Shmuel*  
Maurice Kadoorie *Moshe ben Saleh Kadoorie*  
*Rachel bat Masooda*

### 13 Shvat / Monday, February 2nd

Sheila Cohen *Sulha Khatoon bat Rivka*  
Nanejan Davoudian *Nanejan bat Hacham Mola Rebbi*  
Alex Sassoon

### 14 Shvat / Tuesday, February 3rd

Shaul Saberi  
Albert Harry Saltoun *Avdala ben Eliyahu*

### 15 Shvat / Wednesday, February 4th

Ezekiel Albert *Yehezkel ben Abdullah Yehezkel*  
Joseph Mussry  
David Sarraf *David ben Ezra*

### 16 Shvat / Thursday, February 5th

Yehudah Hai Judah *Yehudah Hai Yehudah*  
Menashe Sarraf *Menashe ben Yousef*  
Yehudah Sarraf *Yehudah ben Mordechai*

### 17 Shvat / Friday, February 6th

Simon Irani *Shimon ben Eliyahu*  
Ashraf Nassi

### 18 Shvat / Shabbat, February 7th

Manachi Kemareh  
Raphael Mizrahie *Raphael Hai ben Eliyahu Mordehai*

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radical, revolutionary concept. They are now instructed – and even commanded – to rest one day out of seven.

The Ten Commandments (which we read next week, in Parashat Yitro) appear twice in the Torah: once in Exodus 20:1-14, and again in Deuteronomy 5:6-18. Both versions include the commandment of Shabbat, but the reasons given for why God commands Shabbat differ from one version to the other. The version in Exodus gives the famous reason:

*“For in six days God made the heavens and earth and sea, and all that is in them, and He rested on the seventh day; therefore God blessed the Sabbath day and sanctified it” (Exodus 20:11).*

The version in Deuteronomy presents a different reason for the commandment of Shabbat, one that is directly related to the “slavery to freedom” paradigm:

*“And you shall remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God freed you from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to observe the Sabbath day” (Deuteronomy 5:15).*

Both reasons – the Creation and the Exodus -- are reflected in the Kiddush we recite at the Shabbat table every Friday night: *“Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us*

*through His commandments and has taken pleasure in us, and with love and favor gave us His holy Shabbat as a heritage, a remembrance of the creation. For it (Shabbat) is the first amongst all of our holy days, a memorial to the Exodus from Egypt.” (Shabbat Kiddush Prayer).*

The power of Deuteronomy’s reason for Shabbat, as well as its allusion in the weekly Kiddush, points to the fact that as Jews, our greatest expression of “remembering the Exodus” is not at our annual Passover Seder, but during our weekly Shabbat observances. Annually on Passover, we spend the time recounting and studying the story of the Exodus, but weekly on Shabbat – by resting and devoting our time to family, community, prayer and Torah study – we actualize the life of “having been liberated from slavery to freedom.” More than Passover itself, our weekly observance of Shabbat is the ultimate statement that we are no longer slaves.

In his classic work “The Sabbath,” Abraham Joshua Heschel calls Shabbat a “Palace in Time,” a palace that has endured numerous persecutions and attempted destructions of the Jewish people, something that, in Heschel’s words, “neither the Romans nor the Germans were able to burn.”

From moments after the Exodus to this very day, Shabbat remains the greatest gift we have ever received. Shabbat Shalom

*Reprinted with permission from the Sephardic Educational Center’s “SEC Torah Thoughts.”*

## Sephardic Mini-Course

Four Enlightening Evenings Exploring  
the History, Culture and Traditions  
of Sephardic Jews  
with Rabbi Daniel Bouskila

Please join Rabbi Bouskila in celebrating Tu B'Shvat on **February 3rd**. Prior to his lecture Rabbi Bouskila will be conducting a traditional **Sephardic Tu B'Shvat Seder**. We look forward to seeing you!

**Tuesday, February 3rd**

**Sephardi or Mizrahi: Is There a Difference?**

Lecture by Rabbi Bouskila

**Tuesday, February 10th**

**“From Toledo to Jerusalem”**

A one hour film starring Yehoram Gaon with English subtitles, followed by Q&A with Rabbi Bouskila

**Tuesday, February 17th**

**Arabic Music in Synagogue?**

Exploring the Judeo-Arabic Maqam &  
Piyyut Cantorial Tradition

Lecture & audio excerpts with Rabbi Bouskila

**Tuesday, February 24th**

**Haim Sabato:**

**Contemporary Sephardic Storyteller**

Select readings from Sabato’s bestselling novels  
and discussion with Rabbi Bouskila

All evenings begin at 7:00 pm at

The Jewish Federation Building

6505 Wilshire Boulevard, LA CA 90048

NO CHARGE, but RSVP A MUST

323.272.4574 or [info@secjerusalem.org](mailto:info@secjerusalem.org)

**Refreshments will be served**



# Purim

## Baking for Community Gift Baskets



Sunday, March 1st

10:00 am to ?

Do a Mitzvah! Help others!

Give on Purim!

Have fun & bake treats for KJ's Purim gift baskets!

Baskets are delivered to many appreciative members!

Donations in support of KJ Purim Baskets are greatly appreciated. Please send 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  
yvettedabby@gmail.com



### Errol Levi Social Hall & Ballroom

Kahal Joseph has one of the most beautiful ballrooms on the Westside for events up to 200 guests. Contact Sarah 310.474.0559

### RIDES & GAMES

BEST Prizes, Prizes, PRIZES!

Hot Dogs! **FALAFEL!** Hamburgers!  
Snowcones, Candy & MORE!

### Kahal Joseph Congregation



# Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 8th

11 am to 4 pm



Game & Ride Wristbands \$20/ person • Tickets \$1

Wristbands are good for games and rides only.

Tickets for food and special services are purchased separately.

For more information call 310.474.0559