

KOL MEVASSER

Obama, Bibi & Shabbat Zachor

Rabbi Daniel Bouskila

While the Obama Administration negotiates with Iran over its nuclear program, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu prepares to come to Washington, D.C. to address the U.S. Congress over the same issue next Tuesday, I cannot think of a more fitting place to spend this year's *Shabbat Zachor* than Washington, D.C. I am in D.C. for this year's AIPAC National Policy Conference, where, amongst other things, we will hear from Prime Minister Netanyahu on Monday, the day before his highly anticipated address to congress.

Negotiations with Iran, Bibi's speech in Congress, and the AIPAC Policy Conference are the talk of the town this weekend, and how appropriate that *Shabbat Zachor* is the prelude to all of this.

Shabbat Zachor is the Shabbat that annually precedes the holiday of Purim. Every year, on the Shabbat immediately preceding Purim, we take out an additional Torah scroll in synagogue, and for the *Maftir* aliyah (the last person called to the Torah), we read 3 verses from the Torah, the first of which begins with the word *Zachor* – **remember**. What are we summoned to remember on *Shabbat Zachor*?

“Zachor -- Remember what Amalek did to

you on your way out of Egypt. When they encountered you on the way, and you were tired and exhausted, they cut off those lagging to your rear, and they did not fear God. Therefore, when God gives you peace from all the enemies around you in the land that God your Lord is giving you to occupy as a heritage, you must obliterate the memory of Amalek from under the heavens. You must not forget.” (Deuteronomy 25:17-19)

Why do we annually “remember Amalek” on the Shabbat immediately preceding Purim? The name “Amalek” has become synonymous with anti-Semitism. The Amalekites were a nation who launched a surprise attack against the Jewish people shortly after the Exodus from Egypt. The Torah deemed this unprovoked attack as an act of pure hatred and evil. Beyond this episode, the most powerful and famous expression of Amalekite anti-Semitism came in the person of the most famous Amalekite: Haman, from the Book of Esther.

The Book of Esther tells that Haman was a descendant of Agag, an Amalekite king. Haman the Amalekite was the first to ever conceive of a grand plot to annihilate the entire Jewish people: “*There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed in the kingdom, whose laws are different from all others...if it please the king, let it be written that they be destroyed*” (Esther 3:8-9).

Haman's plot was ultimately foiled, but his name, and that of Amalek, remains a permanent part of

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KJ Schedule Shabbat Zachor Parashat Tetzaveh

Erev Shabbat Zachor

Friday, February 27th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ...6:30 am
Shabbat Candle Lighting . 5:29 pm
 Minha / Arbit5:29 pm

Shabbat Zachor Parashat Tetzaveh

Saturday, February 28th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer8:30 am
 Minha, Seudah, Arvit5:00 pm
 Motzei Shabbat / Havdala....6:33 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, March 1st

Shaharit7:30 am
 Talmud Torah10:00 am

Mon., Tues., & Fri. March 2,3,& 6
 Shaharit / Morning Prayer ...6:30 am

Taanit Esther / Fast of Esther & Erev Purim / Purim Eve

Wednesday, March 4th

Fast Begins5:04 am
 Shaharit w/Torah6:15 am
 Minha w/Torah5:45 pm
 Arvit.....6:15 pm
PURIM MEGILLAH 6:45 pm

Purim Day

Thursday, March 5th

Shaharit & Megillah.....6:00 am
 Late Morning MegillahTBA

Shushan Purim / Erev Shabbat

Friday, March 6th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ...6:30 am
Shabbat Candle Lighting . 5:35 pm
 Minha / Arbit5:35 pm



Kahal Joseph Congregation
presents



Purim Megillah

Wednesday, March 4th
6:45 PM

Listen to the Megillah!
Dress in costume! Sound the noisemakers!
Listen to the age-old story in Shushan, with
Mordechai, Ester, Vashti, and the wicked Haman!



Refuah Shlemah
Moselle Amron • Maurice Ovadia
Abe Abraham • Sassoon Ezra • Tilda Levy

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for February 28 to March 7, 2015. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend services the preceding Shabbat.

9 Adar / Shabbat, February 28th
Irena Stoler

Victoria Levy *Victoria bat Hanina*

10 Adar / Sunday, March 1st

Clara Solomon *Gala bat Masouda*

Menashe Solomon *Menashe ben Shlomo Reuven*
Marcella Aslan *Masooda Aslan*

11 Adar / Monday, March 2nd

Simy Bensabat *Simy ben Mesody*

12 Adar / Tuesday, March 3rd

David Shapiro *Dovid ben Chaim*

13 Adar / Wednesday, March 4th

Esther Jacob D'Cruz *Esther HaMulka bat Rahel*

Elliot Zvi Wyner *Yechiel Zvi ben Yitzhak*
Kodadad ben Yair

14 Adar / Thursday, March 5th

Joseph Mingail *Yosef ben Haim Baruch*

15 Adar / Friday, March 6th

Nurriel Daizadeh *Nurriel ben Yochanan*

Jack Jacob *Meir ben Yaacov*

Hanna Klein *Hanna bat Avraham Hayyim*

Vera Rosenfeld *Vera bat Hannah Hatoun*

Sephardic Mini-Course

Tuesday, March 10th, 2015
at 7:00 pm

Haim Sabato:
Contemporary Sephardic Storyteller

Join Rabbi Bouskila for select readings from
Haim Sabato's bestselling modern
Sephardic novels



The Jewish Federation Bldg—Parking Available
No Charge, but RSVP a must! To reserve call
323-272-4574 or e-mail info@secjerusalem.org

Welcome
Shabbat Speaker
Rabbi Avraham Navah
on Shabbat Zachor / Parshat Tetzaveh

Congratulations
Miriam & Danny Ironi
on the birth of a baby girl
Mazal Tov to big sister Olivia
Grandparents Merna Ironi and
Fereshteh & David Kohansedgh
and the entire family

Torah & Haftara Readings
Parashat Tetzaveh 339 to 349
Shabbat Zachor 856 to 857
Haftara Samuel I / Shmuel Alef 995 to 998

Sponsor a Booth@ KJ's Carnival
Full Booth—\$500 Half Booth—\$250
Call Sarah@310.474.0559

HAPPY PURIM!
PURIM SAMEAH!



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Jewish consciousness as the root of genocidal anti-Semitism.

Interestingly, the 3 *Shabbat Zachor* verses begin with the word “Zachor – remember,” and conclude with the words “*Lo Tishcach – Do not forget.*” Why would the Torah seemingly repeat itself? Isn’t it sufficient to say “Zachor”? We read these 3 verses on the Shabbat before Purim in order to remind ourselves of what was attempted and done to us in the past (*Zachor*), and to raise our awareness and caution us of what the present and future might hold (*Lo Tishcach*). Remember the past, and do not forget what world you live in today and where it’s headed.

In December 1961, in the shadow of the Eichmann trial, Israeli author and Nobel Laureate S.Y. Agnon wrote a review of William Shirer’s book *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany*. In his review, Agnon praises Shirer’s book for placing before our eyes the “horrific events that emerged from one small nation, who in the beginning we dismissed as if they were no big deal.”

From this powerful sentence, Agnon continues: “*This lack of caution on the part of the world is one of the fatal flaws of the world community, and is especially a flaw of the Jewish people -- a people well versed in such flaws -- as we convince ourselves to ignore those who hate and threaten us, and end up being hit and injured by them, sometimes to the point where there is no remedy for the injury.*” Agnon’s words send a chilling reminder (appropriately for *Shabbat Zachor*) that today’s politicians who negotiate with tyrannical regimes risk

making the same fatal error as some did before World War II, where “*we dismissed (Nazi Germany) as if they were no big deal... as we convince ourselves to ignore those who hate and threaten us, and end up being hit and injured by them, sometimes to the point where there is no remedy for the injury.*”

Obama and Bibi will not meet in D.C., and really – who cares? In a world that is so hyper sensitive to politically correct behavior, it’s refreshing to see a world leader place the interests of his country (and of the entire world, in this case) above politically correct concern over ruffling political feathers. Some issues are larger than political protocol.

Mr. Netanyahu is here to deliver a bold message to Congress, and to the world, that we, the Jewish people, who have experienced persecution and genocide from Haman to Hitler, and today stand proudly as citizens promoting a free world safe from tyranny and oppression, are no longer able, nor can we afford, to “convince ourselves to ignore those who hate and threaten us.”

Let’s say Bibi decides to nonetheless contact President Obama, even only by text message. What might their exchange look like?

Bibi: *Hi Mr. President – Zachor – Remember and Lo Tishcach, Do not forget. Talk soon – Bibi.*

Obama: *Bibi, really, give me one good reason why you felt so compelled to buck protocol and deliver your address to congress?*

Bibi: *Mr. President--Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it. Take care...*



We thank our generous Purim Carnival Sponsors who have already pledged support for KJ’s amazing annual event!

Desiree & Tooraj Aghalar
Yvette & Joe Dabby
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Sass Ezra & Family
Ruth & Edmond Hagooli
Tikva & Yoel Iny
Hannie Kelly
Michelle & Stan Kurtz
The Mussry Family
Eddie & Sandra Sarraf

An Evening of Cards & Backgammon Purim Style



With Purim Treats to Eat!

Wednesday, March 11th
at 6:00 pm

Kahal Joseph
Errol Levi Social Hall
Ten Dollar Entry



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 purchased separately.

For more information call 310.474.0559

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



Volunteer for KJ's Purim Carnival

KJ's Purim Carnival is a festive annual event and a wonderful fundraiser for our community. Each year, our amazing volunteers help organize, set up and run game booths, rides, and food stands.

*Bring the joy of Purim to kids young and old.
E-mail dafnayoung@gmail.com or call 310.474.0559*