

KOL MEVASSER

Passover: A Lesson in Political Science

by Rabbi Daniel Bouskila

Parashat Tzav/Shabbat Hagadol

(Reprinted from this week's Jewish Journal)

Decades ago, before the creation of the State of Israel, David Ben-Gurion gave a brief lesson in Jewish history: "Three hundred years, ago a ship called the Mayflower set sail to the New World. This was a great event in the history of England. Yet I wonder if there is one Englishman who knows at what time the ship set sail? Do the English know how many people embarked on the voyage? What quality of bread did they eat?"

"Yet more than 3,300 years ago, before the Mayflower set sail, the Jews left Egypt. Every Jew in the world, even in America or Soviet Russia, knows what kind of bread the Jews ate — matzah. Even today, the Jews worldwide eat matzah on the 15th of Nisan. They retell the story of the Exodus and all of the troubles Jews have endured since being exiled, saying: This year, slaves; next year, free! This year here — next year in Jerusalem, in Zion, in *Eretz Yisra'el*. That is the nature of the Jews."

Later, on May 14, 1948, Ben-Gurion stood before the provisional government in Tel Aviv and pronounced these historic words: "We hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in *Eretz Yisra'el*, to be known as the State of Israel."

Many take Israel's existence for granted, forgetting the political condition of the Jews before Ben-Gurion's declaration. Lest we forget, this week — Shabbat ha-Gadol, the Sabbath immediately preceding Passover

— presents a good time to start thinking about the Passover story and its powerful lesson in political science.

In its transition from Joseph's death to a new era, the book of Exodus records: A new king arose over Egypt, who did know Joseph (Exodus 1:8). This "new king" proceeded to enslave the Jews.

Who was this "new king"? The Talmud (Sotah 11:a) records a debate between Rav and Shmuel on the meaning of the words "new king." According to Rav, the "new king" was actually a new pharaoh. Never having met Joseph, this new king ignored his predecessor's policy of friendship with the Jews.

Shmuel argued that the "new king" was actually the same pharaoh under whom Joseph served. The word "new" does not imply a "new person," rather "new policies." This means that the exact same pharaoh who was friendly to the Jews ultimately turned on them.

Through their sharp political interpretations of the Passover story, Rav and Shmuel described the political condition of the Jewish people long after the Exodus from Egypt. Rav teaches that cordial relations with one leader in no way guarantee that the next administration will behave the same way. Things are as good as they are today, but in no way can today's policies indicate what tomorrow will bring. Leaders change, and each administration will act in its own political self-interest.

Shmuel's lesson is a bit harsher. When it served the pharaoh's political interests with Joseph, he was friendly toward the Jews. But now that he perceived them as problematic, he changed his policy from

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KJ Schedule Shabbat HaGadol Parashat Tzav

Erev Shabbat HaGadol

Friday, March 27th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am

Shabbat Candle Lighting . 6:51 pm

Minha / Arbit .. 6:51 pm

Shabbat HaGadol

Saturday, March 28th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer 8:30 am

Rabbi Bouskila, Shabbat Speaker &

"Ask the Rabbi?" after kiddush lunch

Minha, Seudah, Arvit 6:15 pm

Motzei Shabbat / Havdala ... 8:01 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, March 29th

Shaharit 7:30 am

Talmud Torah 10:00 am

Monday, March 30 to Wed, April 1

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am

Thursday, April 2nd

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am

Hametz Sale Form due before noon

Bedikat Hametz /Check for Hametz

Search homes for hametz after dark

Erev Shabbat & Erev Pesah

Taanit Bechorot /Fast of Firstborn

Friday, April 3rd

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am

Note: Participation in a Seudat Mitz-

vah exempts firstborns from fasting

Stop Eating Hametz... by 10:49 am

BurnHametz by 11:52 am

Candle Lighting 6:57 pm

Minha, Arbit & Hallel 6:30 pm

First Pesah Seder begins after dark

Thank You
Nira & Pinhas Sayegh
for sponsoring the reception at the
Operation Michaelberg Talk
in memory of his father
Ezra Sayegh, z"l
& thank you to Nira for organizing
the Operation Michaelberg event

Shabbat Kiddush
is sponsored in memory of
their father
Avraham Asher ben Ezra
z"l
by **Yvette Dabby &
Rosy Nissan**

Congratulations
Maryam & Jack Shadi
on your
30th Wedding Anniversary
Mazal Tov to the entire family

Thank You Jacob Jahan
of Pico Cleaners
For cleaning all the tallitot
In preparation for Pesah

KJ Maot Hittim Tzedakah for Pesah
Maot Hittim is a special mitzvah that en-
ables everyone to have Matzah and
food on Pesah. Donations go to organi-
zations like Tomchei Shabbat or Global
Kindness. We suggest a donation of \$18
or more. Call Sarah at 310.474.0559

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

In Memoriam
We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for
March 28 to April 4, 2015. It is customary to light a
memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend ser-
vices the preceding Shabbat.

8 Nisan / Shabbat, March 28th
Ada Ezra *Ada bat Mindel Okin*
Carolyn Frances Ezra *Carolyn Frances bat Norman*
Ezra Sayegh
Allan Norman Steiner *Alexander Nahum ben Mordechai*

9 Nisan / Sunday, March 29th
Malka Lurie

10 Nisan / Monday, March 30th
Gohar Mashallah *Gohar bat Aga*
Aziza Sassoon *Aziza bat Miriam*

11 Nisan / Tuesday, March 31st
Kitty Israel Messiah *Khatoon bat Simha*
Abraham G. Solomon *Avraham ben Shlomo Reuven*

12 Nisan / Wednesday, April 1st
Flora Cohen *Farha Mitana bat Rahma*
Ralph Ferris *Rafal ben Itzhak Faraj HaCohen*
Luna Kadoorie *Luna bat Mazal Cohen*
David Levi Solomon *David ben Shlomo Halevi*

13 Nisan / Thursday, April 2nd
Abraham Asher Ezra *Atraghi Avraham Asher ben*
Ezra

15 Nisan / Shabbat, April 4th
Tillie Shansky *Tillie bat Evellyn*
Naima Shashoua *Naima bat Zvida*
Eyob Yehuda *Eyob ben Yehuda*

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

KJ Pesah Talks with Rabbi Bouskila

Sermon on Shabbat HaGadol (March 28)
Leaving Egypt: Past, Present & Future

& "Ask the Rabbi About Passover"

*A special session in the sanctuary on Shabbat HaGadol
following a light Kiddush luncheon at no charge*

Passover is all about questions, so bring Rabbi Bouskila all of your Passover questions. He will strive to address your concerns at the session.

Families, teens and kids welcome

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friendship to enslavement. Shmuel reminds us that even while in power, the same leader who acted as our friend yesterday can change his policies at the drop of a dime.

Rav and Shmuel never lived in Egypt under the pharaoh. They offered their interpretations thousands of years later, through the lenses of their own political reality in third-century C.E. Babylonia. They were Diaspora Jews whose people had by now been exiled from their homeland twice. Jewish self-determination was gone, replaced with prayers for the government that reflected our innermost political fears: "May the supreme King of Kings in His mercy put into the hearts of all officials to deal kindly with us." We recited these prayers with the hope that "new kings" would not arise — neither Rav's version nor Shmuel's version.

We went on to see many "new kings who did not know of Joseph." In medieval Spain, we went from the Golden Age to expulsion, and in Germany we were intellectual elites who became concentration camp inmates.

In light of our experiences in the Diaspora at the mercy of different leaders and governments, it is peculiar that in 1948, after Ben-Gurion's historic declaration of the State of Israel, the rabbis did not change the opening words of the Haggadah to reflect our new political reality: "*Last year* — slaves, *this year* — free. *Last year* in exile, *this year* in Jerusalem, in Zion, in Eretz Yisra'el."

As you sit down to your Passover Seder, contemplate the magnitude of Ben-Gurion's declaration of Jewish independence. He may not have caused a change to the words of the Haggadah, but his historic words certainly changed the political course of the Jewish people. Had this been all Ben-Gurion did for us — *Dayenu*.

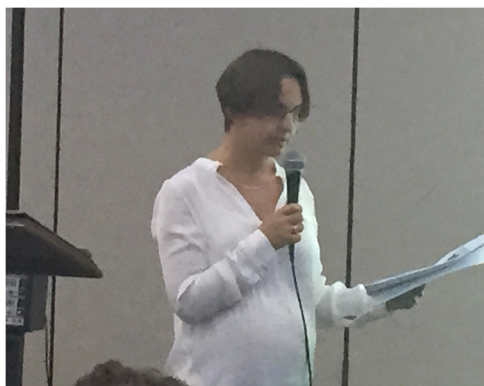
Operation Michaelberg: A Talk with Noa Geffen

By Joseph Dabby

Last night's talk about Operation Michaelberg by Noa Geffen sponsored by Nira and Pinchas Sayegh

in memory of Ezra Sayegh, z"l, was attended by around eighty people.

The presenter, Noa Geffen, from the Society for Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites, was graciously introduced to the audience by Rabbi Bouskila and Nira Sayegh. Ms. Geffen spoke to our community about a covert operation that was used to fly young Jews out of Iraq and to Israel in 1947. At that time Jewish immigration to Israel was prohibited by the British.



Ms. Geffen also showed a short video about the operation and talked about the efforts of the Society to preserve and publicize this history. A question and answer period followed her presentation.

It was an enjoyable and informative evening.

Our very special thank you to Nira Sayegh for organizing this wonderful event.

Thank you also to Rabbi Bouskila for running the program and to Rabbi Avi Navah for reading excerpts from his book, "Between the Palm Trees," and donating copies of his book with full proceeds of sales going to Kahal Joseph.



Torah & Haftara Readings

Parashat Tzav 429 to 438

Haftara Shabbat HaGadol 1005 to 1008

KAHAL JOSEPH MEMOUNA CELEBRATION

with Rabbi Daniel Bouskila

Sunday, April 12th @ 7 pm
The Errol Levi Social Hall

Come enjoy with your community
a delightful evening of Live Middle Eastern Music
Food, Friendship, & Fun

\$18 per person Please RSVP to Sarah 310-474-0559

Selling of Hametz / Mekhirat Hametz Form

***We must receive this form by fax or mail
before Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 12:00 noon***

Know all by these present that I _____, do hereby
authorize Kahal Joseph Congregation, 10505 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025, to sell, transfer and assign all Hametz of whatever kind and nature, of which I am possessed and seized, or in which I may have an interest, wheresoever situated, in my residence at _____
_____ my place of business, or any other place, without reservation and limitation. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this on date _____, 2015.

Signature _____ Date _____

Kahal Joseph Congregation
10505 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025
310.474.0559 phone 310.441.4059 fax



Join the SEC for our Yom HaShoah Observance 2015

A Screening of the film "God on Trial"

Facing their inevitable extermination in Auschwitz, a group of inmates contemplate how God could allow for so much suffering. With death and genocide surrounding them, they proceed to put God on trial, exploring faith in the most horrific of situations.



Wednesday Night, April 15, 2015

**Doors open at 6:30pm - Program at 7:00pm sharp
The Jewish Federation Building
6505 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048**

(Evening will include a brief Yom HaShoah memorial service and a discussion led by Rabbi Daniel Bouskila following the film).

**No Charge, but RSVP an absolute must!
To RSVP or for more information, email
info@secjerusalem.org or call 323-272-4574**

**Shabbat Shalom Have a Peaceful Shabbat
& Wishing You a Happy & Kosher Passover
Hag Pesah Kasher v'Sameah**