

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message Is Email a Good Analogy to Hamets?

In the lead-up to Pesah two years ago, the *Jewish Daily Forward* published an opinion piece about an idea that I found both creative and strange. Written by Opinions Editor Sigal Samuel (a Baghdadi Jew, inter alia), it focused on an extremely liberal congregation in Manhattan called Romemu, which was only five blocks from where I lived at the time. From the article:

"Most of the year, we bemoan but ultimately accept the fact that our work lives require us to be shackled to our smartphones. But as Passover approaches, that reality becomes even more problematic. How can we celebrate our liberation from slavery when we still feel mentally, if not physically, enslaved? How can we rid our houses of chametz, the leavened food that Hasidic masters taught symbolizes everything unessential and over-complicated in our lives, while holding fast to something that complicates our lives more than any breadcrumb ever could?"

The solution proposed by Romemu's leadership was to go entirely off email for the week



of Pesah. Not only would the synagogue stop sending any communal messages for those eight days (as a non-Orthodox synagogue, they could otherwise have used email on Yom Tob), but every single person on staff would not respond to any emails that they received in their accounts. With radical "email silence" imposed for the holiday, congregants would be free to think in new ways that their demanding virtual lives had prevented.

How this idea actually played out in the community was not reported, but Romemu at least identified and named a problem that many people struggle with. Our email accounts do tend to get filled with a jumble of things, some trivial and others vitally important. As our addresses are used in steadily more ways, the inbox becomes more cluttered and must be maintained and checked regularly if we want to stay on top of our responsibilities; a "virtual biur hamets," if you will. Everyone handles this differently, each according to their own situation, preferences, technical knowhow, and self-discipline. While it is reasonable to expect them to succeed, we can understand how some people could find it overwhelming or exhausting.

Reflecting on this, I can see why Romemu would make a comparison between email and hamets, but I will offer a different remedy. Instead of just shutting off the account, how about devoting some set times to a serious

Pesah Days 7 and 8

Regular Yom Tob into Shabbat Yom Tob

Torah P7: Ex. 13:17–15:26, Num. 28:19–25

Orot Sef Pesah: 316–319 (5 aliyot)

Haftara P7: II Sam. 22:1–51

Orot Sef Pesah: 319–321

Torah P8: Deut. 14:22–16:17, Num. 28:19–25

Orot Sef Pesah: 321–324 (7 aliyot)

Haftara P8: Is. 10:32–12:6

Orot Sef Pesah: 324–325

Tefillot: Ps. 107, Half Hallel, Morid Hatal

Omer: Counted daily from the 2nd night of Pesah until Shabuot. The blessing is said only when counting at night (after Tset Hakokhabim), and only if you have counted continuously without missing any days.

consideration of what's actually important to us? The messages in our accounts are just reflections of experiences and desires that we have in our own lives, so perhaps if we can help set our own priorities off-screen, we would be better equipped to deal with the flood of messages that come to us on-screen. The more comfortable we are with our own values and with living in our own skin, the easier it will be to implement those values in a problem that we experience in virtual reality.

With fond greetings of
Moadim Lesimha

Rabbi Raif Melhado

MEMOUNA

CELEBRATION AT KJ



SUNDAY, MAY 1ST

AT 7 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING
IN THE ERROL LEVI SOCIAL HALL

RABBI RAIF MELHADO
RABBI DANIEL BOUSKILA &
THE SISTERHOOD OF KAHAL
invite all members and friends
to celebrate springtime, renewal
and the conclusion of Passover with a
delightful evening among friends

Savor traditional delicacies
Relish intricate rhythms and festive music
Enjoy the warmth of community

\$18 per person RSVP online at
<http://www.kahaljoseph.org/memouna.html>
or by calling Sarah at 310.474.0559
or Elsa at 323.934.3439

Welcome Guest Hazan Jack Hobb

Pesah Days 7 & 8

We welcome Hazan Jack Hobb back to Kahal Joseph this weekend for the last two days of Pesah (**April 29th-30th**). Come to KJ for the opportunity to hear a rising young hazan as he offers us several more times to enjoy his many talents.



KJ Prayer Schedule

Hol Hamo'ed IV Sixth Day of Pesah

Thursday, April 28th

Shaharit 6:15 am

Ereb Yom Tob

Thursday, April 28th

Minha and Arbit 6:30 pm

Erub Tabshilin before 7:16 pm

Candle Lighting 7:16 pm

6th night of the Omer

Yom Tob, Passover Seventh Day

Friday, April 29th

Shaharit 8:30 am

Guest Hazan, Jack Hobb

Minha and Arbit (no Seuda) 6:30 pm

Candle Lighting 7:17 pm

7th night of the Omer

Shabbat & Yom Tob, Eighth Day

Saturday, April 30

Shaharit 8:30 am

Guest Hazan, Jack Hobb

Minha, Seuda, Arbit 6:30 pm

Habdala 8:17 pm

8th night of the Omer

In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from April 30 to May 7, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

22 Nisan / Shabbat, April 30th

Edward Ezrapour *Eliyahu ben Ezra Avraham Hayim*

25 Nisan / Tuesday, May 3rd

Frederick Tizabi *Yehezkiel ben Avraham*

27 Nisan / Thursday, May 5th

Aharon Isaac Levy *Aharon Yitzhak Levi*

Refuah Shelemah

Abe Abraham • Moselle Amron
Sally Amron • Tilda Levy • Esther Duke
Mordechai Cohen • Sylvia Cohen
Lev Hakak • Maurice Ovadia
Florice Newberry • Katy bat Farha
Miriam bat Yetta • Sassoon Ezra
Doris Moshi

Isru Hag

Sunday, May 1st

Memouna at 7:00 pm

9th night of the Omer

Weekdays

Mon, May 2nd to Wed, May 4th

Shaharit 6:25 am

10th to 12th nights of the Omer

Yom Hashoah / Holocaust Day

Thursday, May 5th

Shaharit 6:25 am

13th night of the Omer

Ereb Shabbat

Friday, May 6th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Minha and Arbit 6:45 pm

Candle Lighting 7:23 pm

14th night of the Omer

KJ Interactive Family Haggadah Program

The Interactive Family Haggadah was another great kids' program at Kahal Joseph. On Sunday, April 17th, 20 parents and kids came and acted out an improv play of the Exodus from Egypt, complete with paper bag puppets of each plague. Once we 'crossed the sea' of blue balloons, everyone enjoyed a last chance at a hamets lunch of pizza and fruit. A fun afternoon wound down with a craft project in which each child (and some parents!) got to make their own Pesah-themed matsa covers.

If you're interested in attending or helping to run a program like this, email Jessica Melhado at Jessica@kahaljoseph.org.

The next program coming is for Shavuot, so look out for information in the coming weeks.

Photo Collage (clockwise from top)

- 1) Kids had paper bag puppets of each of the plagues
- 2) The kids acted out the Exodus
- 3) Ethan Joyce on the floor in a scene of "the death of the firstborn"
- 4) Rabbi Melhado pointing to the blood of the Pesah on the doorpost
- 5) Crossing the Re(e)d Sea of blue balloons
- 6) Creating artistic Pesah crafts



WE CARRY WITH US THE MEMORY OF ISRAEL'S FALLEN.
HELP US HONOR THESE HEROES.



BEVERLY HILLS
TEMPLE OF THE ARTS
AT THE SABAN THEATRE



FIDF, Temple of the Arts, Simon Wiesenthal Center and Moriah Films Present

YOM HAZIKARON COMMUNITY WIDE NIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE

*Join us for the second annual Night of Remembrance as we stand together
to commemorate Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror*

TUESDAY
MAY 10, 2016

6:30pm Doors Open | 7:30pm Program Begins

Free admission. No RSVP necessary.

Beverly Hills TEMPLE OF THE ARTS | STEVE TISCH CINEMA CENTER
at the SABAN THEATRE

8440 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90211

M O R I A H
FILMS

*Featuring a Screening of Moriah Films Production,
the film division of the Simon Wiesenthal Center:*

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FIDF Western Region Board of Directors

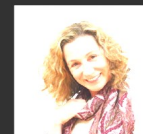
The Sephardic Educational Center invites you to our annual Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial Program



featuring the premiere screening of
"Yadja: Maybe She Was Never Here at All"

Based on a true story, this one-woman performance illuminates the depth of a Holocaust survivor's struggle to live in the present while still experiencing vivid and painful memories of her past.

Starring Efrat Lavie, winner of Israel's best actress award for her performance in *My Michael*, co-star of *Kazablan*, and accomplished stage, film and TV actress.



A discussion with Efrat Lavie and
Rabbi Daniel Bouskila will follow the film.

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Doors open at 7:00 pm - Film Screening begins at 7:30 pm sharp

The Jewish Federation Building 6505 Wilshire Blvd., LA, CA 90048

No Charge, but RSVPs are a must

To reserve, email info@secjerusalem.org or call Katie at (323) 272-4574



The Sephardic Educational Center presents the Los Angeles

Premiere screening of *Mekonen* (by the makers of *Beneath the Helmet*)

Yom Ha'Atzmaut - Thursday May 12th

7:30pm (doors open at 7pm)

Laemmle Music Hall

9036 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills CA 90211