

KOL MEBASSER

Rabbi's Message

When I was studying for my undergraduate degree, I got a call from a gentile friend of mine from middle school. She had become curious about kashrut, and was hoping I could tell her what part of the Torah she could read to get informed. At a time when the Internet was slow and few people had heard of Wikipedia, it was easier for her to ask a real person than to go astray online (imagine that!), so she picked up the phone and said hello.

After we caught up socially, she was surprised to learn that she would miss a large amount of practical information about kashrut if all she did was look in the Torah. "Wait, isn't the Old Testament your book? Where does kashrut come from if not from there?!"

Indeed it is our book, and she could (and did) learn a lot by reading verses on the kashrut of plants (Gen. 1:29), animals (Lev. 11; Deut. 14:1-20) and a constellation of other issues such as cookware, derivative products, and agricultural *mitsvot*. Yet what our conversation revealed to her for the first time was that Jews believe in both a Written Torah from God and a divinely inspired Oral Torah that has been preserved and added to by generations of rabbis over more than 20 centuries. This is actually why we are called "Rabbanite" Jews, as opposed to the "Karaites" who only follow the Tanakh (*Mikra*). If my friend wanted to know about practical kashrut in Judaism, she would have to learn it from English books that summarized the great anthologies of Rabbinic tradition, such as the Talmud, the Shulhan Arukh, and the responsa literature.

Throughout the Omer this year, I found myself thinking back on this conversation because it reflects the exact same debate that went into setting the



date of Shabuot. In Lev. 23:9-16, God tells us that "when you come to the land that I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the first-fruits of your harvest to the priest, and he shall wave the sheaf before God." If you read the Torah like a Karaite, you would notice that God sets the date of Shabuot by saying that we must count 7 weeks "from the day after the Shabbat when you brought the Sheaf of Waving." Because of this, the Karaite *minhag* ensures that Pesah starts on Shabbat every year no matter what. In turn, this will guarantee that the Omer will always be waved on Sunday, and Shabuot will always fall on a Sunday 7 weeks later.

For the Rabbanites, this is not a satisfying explanation because it does not allow us to know which Shabbat of the year is being referred to. As Ramban puts it, reading the verse literally "would imply that at any time of the year when we come into the Land and reap its harvest, the priest shall wave the sheaf the day after the following Shabbat," which doesn't have to be after Pesah at all! Furthermore, "according to this way we would not even know when to begin counting in the years following, but only from the day that we first put the sickle to the standing grain whenever we decided the time was right."

However, by applying the rabbinic method of *geze-
ra shava*, we can use other instances of the word "Shabbat" in the Torah to better understand the word in our case. Since there are many places where the Torah calls Yom Tob a "Shabbaton," we can infer that God must have meant this when He said "from the day after the Shabbat." Hence for Rabbanites, the Omer is always on the day after the first Yom Tob of Pesah no matter what day of the week it falls, and thus Shabuot can fall on a weekday about 75% of the time (see Menahot 65b-66a).

One of the most interesting aspects of this dispute is that Rabbanites would ever allow Shabuot to fall

Parashat Bemidbar Ereb Shabuot / Omer 49

Torah: Num. 1:1-4:20, 159 Pesukim
Hertz 568-580; Stone 726-747
Haftarah: Hos. 2:1-22
Hertz 582-585; Stone 1180-1181
Tefillot: Morid Hatal, no Tsidkatekha at Minha

Shabuot Days 1 and 2

Yom Tob Starts Motsa'e Shabbat

Torah S1: Ex. 19:1-20:23, Num. 28:26-31
Orot Seph Shabuot 254-257 (5 aliyot)
Haftarah S1: Ezek. 1:1-28, 3:12
Orot Seph Shabuot 259-260
Torah S2: Deut. 15:19-16:17, Num. 28:26-31
Orot Seph Shabuot 264-266 (5 aliyot)
Haftarah S2: Hab. 2:20-3:19
Orot Seph Shabuot 266-267
Tefillot: Ps. 68, Full Hallel, Azharot (short version pp. 270-272), Ruth (S1 only)

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on Sunday, just as it does this year. There is no concern that we are being influenced by a Karaite interpretation that we reject; rather, we are confident enough in our own tradition to let it overlap with theirs without losing our sense of self. We are happy in the belief that we have it right, and nobody can take that away from us even if their practices are similar to ours once in a while. So in this year of a Sunday Shabuot, let us celebrate being comfortable in our own skin, wearing our identity proudly on our sleeves, and letting the critics take a back seat to our fulfilling life of Torah!

A Special Sermon 75th Anniversary of the Farhud

Join Rabbi Melhado this Shabbat
Saturday, June 11th

Some of the most meaningful stories about our past are the ones that explain how we got where we are today. They become a part of our identity, helping us define who we are, and shaping how we pass that heritage along to our children.

But what happens when the mission of historians to neutrally reconstruct the past comes into conflict with communal "memory" and modern politics? Can this change the stories at the core of our self-understanding?

Join Rabbi Melhado for an exploration of these questions as they apply to the Farhud. This uprising against the Jews of Baghdad took place on Shabuot in 1941, and now that 75 years have passed, the question of the Farhud's legacy is still very much alive.



Tree of Life Milestones Dedications Available

What a great opportunity to commemorate a happy occasion—an anniversary, wedding, birth, or bar or bat mitzvah! Engrave a Milestone for a donation of \$1800.
Contact Sarah at 310.474.0559

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in memory of

Mazel bat Rahel, z"l

by

The Hagooli Family



Guest Hazan Rabbi Hay Haim Benesty *Next Shabbat*

Parashat Naso

June 17th-18th, 2016

Hazan Rabbi Benesty was born and trained in Israel, where he enjoyed counting the Iraqi synagogue of Mekor Haim in Rishon Letzion as one of the places he worshiped. Since moving to Las Vegas four years ago, he has worked in a variety of positions in the for-profit and non-profit sectors, and has been an enthusiastic participant in the local Jewish community. His passion for hazanut is but one of a broad array of interests, including his recent completion of a pilot training program. He is also the adoring husband of Sarit, with whom he has five children who will also join us at Kahal during his visit. Don't miss this chance to meet the whole gang on their upcoming visit to LA!

In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from June 11 to 18, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

5 Sivan / Shabbat, June 11th

Avraham Godsi *Avraham ben Shlomo*
Ezra Kelly Elias Levi *Ezra Kadoori Eliyahu Levi*
Sara Moses *Sara bat Sarah*
Turan Pourati *Turan bat Aghajan*
Khodadad Zakariyaie *Moshe Haim*

6 Sivan / Sunday, June 12th

Tahereh Hakimipour *Tahereh bat Kokab*

8 Sivan / Tuesday, June 14th

Rivkah Kohanzadeh *Rivkah bat Shimon*

9 Sivan / Wednesday, June 15th

Ester Bekhore *Ester bat Amam*
Esther Ezekiel *Ester bat Amam*

10 Sivan / Thursday, June 16th

Mazli Hagooli *Mazel bat Rahel*
Kay Massouda *Massouda bat Khatoun*
Mozelle Lelah *Mazal Tov bat Ester*

12 Sivan / Shabbat, June 18th

Abraham Lurie *Avraham Lurie*
Abdullah Zekaria *Sion Abdullah Zekaria*

Refuah Shelemah

Abe Abraham • Moselle Amron
Sylvia Cohen • Maurice Ovadia
Sally Amron • Tilda Levy • Esther Duke
Mordechai Cohen • Lev Hakak
Gracie Tizabi • Florice Newberry
Katie bat Farha • Miriam bat Yetta
Sassoon Ezra • Doris Moshi
Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria

We Honor Our Legacy
& the Survivors on the
75th Anniversary
of the Farhud



17th Annual Jewish Community Day at Dodger Stadium

**Los Angeles Dodgers
v. Chicago Cubs**

**Sunday, August 28, 2016
Game time 1:10 PM**

Seats are limited and may be
purchased through Sarah at
the Kahal Joseph office by
calling 310.474.0559.



**Tickets are in the Infield
Reserve @ \$34 each & include a
Dodgers T-Shirt**

The last day to purchase tickets is
Monday, June 20th 2016.

KJ Shabbat & Shabuot Schedule

**Full Schedule of Shabbat and Yom Tob
Friday, June 10th - Monday, June 13th**

Shabbat Bemidbar

Lel Shabbat

Friday, June 10th
49th day of the Omer
Candle Lighting: 7:46 pm
Minhah/Arbit: 6:30 pm SHARP
Complete the Omer: after 8:50 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, June 11th
Shaharit: 8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah: 10:15 am
Musaf: 11:30 am
Minha: right after Kiddush

Shabuot - Day I

Tikkun Lel Shabuot

Saturday, June 11th
Habdala Kodesh Lekodesh: 8:50 pm
Kiddush: after 8:50 pm

Arbit of Shabuot: 8:45 pm
Kiddush & refreshments: 9:00 pm
Class with Rabbi Melhado: 9:30 pm
Traditional Shabuot readings: 10:30 pm
More at Westwood Kehilla: 11:30 pm

Yom Shabuot I

Sunday, June 12th
Shaharit: 8:30 am
Kids' program: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Keri'at HaTorah: 10:30 am
Megillat Ruth: 11:30 am
Musaf: 11:45 am

Azharot: 7:00 pm
Minha (no se'uda): 7:15 pm

Shabuot - Day II

Lel Shabuot II

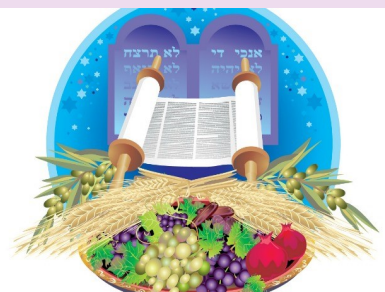
Sunday, June 12th
Arbit: 7:45 pm
Tset Hakokhabim: 8:50 pm

Yom Shabuot II

Monday, June 13th
Shaharit: 8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah: 10:30 am
Musaf: 11:30 am

Azharot: 7:00 pm
Minha: 7:15 pm
Discussion with Rabbi Melhado: 7:45 pm
Arbit: 8:35 pm
Habdala Kodesh Lehol: 8:50 pm

Shabbat Shalom, Hag Sameah U'Moadim L'Simha



Shabuot Program for Kids Passing Down the Torah

*1st Day of Shabuot during services
Sunday, June 12th, from 10 am to 12pm*

On Shabuot, we commemorate receiving the Torah. What better way to do it than to help pass Judaism on to our kids? Join us and bring a friend for a fun morning with special dairy snacks!

Torah and Tots - ages 0 to 4

Tots & guardians (at least 18, please) join together for stories, activities, songs & games on Shabuot. Special snack included!

Yeladenu - ages 5 to 12

Find out what Shabuot is all about! The morning will include special snacks and a raffle for prizes!



Special Programs for Shabuot

Reading of the Book of Ruth

Sunday, June 12th after morning Torah Reading

Azharot of Shelomo ibn Gabirol

Sunday, June 12th and Monday, June 13th at 7:00 pm



Tikkun Lel Shabuot

Saturday Night, June 11th

8:45-11:30 pm

What better way is there to ring in the anniversary of God giving us the Torah than to stay up at night studying it?

Kahal Joseph invites you to an evening of learning, food, and readings that celebrates our covenant with God and the incredible texts that He has given us.

8:45 pm--Services

The tikkun begins with Arbit since Minha on Saturday will take place after kiddush. Come for the services, stay for the Torah and treats!

9:00 pm--Se'udat Mitsva

The whole family is welcome for a light Shabuot meal including kiddush, hamotsi, and birkat hamazon. After we fulfill all these beautiful mitsvot together, anyone is welcome to continue snacking during the rest of the night's program.

9:30 pm--Class with Rabbi Melhado

"The Green Thumb of Shabuot." Many synagogues have the custom to decorate the Bet Keneset with flowers and greenery on Shabuot. What are the origins of the custom, and how do they square with the meaning of the holiday?

10:30 pm--Traditional Shabuot readings

The historical Tikkun Lel Shabuot consisted of actually reading parts of the Torah, Prophets, Writings, and Rabbinic and Kabbalistic literature. While this once filled the entire night, we will use a shortened version that makes for a satisfying romp through the Jewish library in just one hour!

11:30 pm--More next Door

Ready to keep going? Our friend Rabbi Yosef Khakshour will be teaching next door at the Westwood Kehilla, and we have timed our services in a way that our participants can still attend his class.