

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

Sukkot is a time when our Jewish identity is more noticeable to the general public. Properties around the neighborhood start sporting booths on every terrace, and skullcapped Jewish men can be seen walking around with long bags of plants.

The high visibility and ceremony of the Lulav and Etrog each year raises the question of the meaning of this symbol. If we're going to invest so much in the Four Species and tote them around with us in a way that reveals our identity in public, it is critical to know the purpose of the objects in our hands.

Among the more commonly cited explanations for the Lulav and Etrog is a Midrash from Vaykira Rabba (30:12) that highlights the special bond that each Jew feels towards the other. The text draws a comparison between the physical qualities of the Species and types of human merits: while fragrance is seen as a symbol of good deeds, taste is understood as representing Torah scholarship.

Just as each of the Four Species has different combinations of fragrance and taste, so too do individual Jews have different combinations of worthy acts and pious study. Some of us have one or the other, some have both, and some have none. By commanding us to tie these plants together, God reminds us of our responsibility for the spiritual welfare of our fellow Jews, whose fate is bound up with our own.

As I was looking up the source of this Midrash to post on our website, I found another explanation

within the same text (30:2) that takes a very different approach:

"Rabbi Avin said: this is like two people who come before a judge... and we only learn that the winning side has won when he emerges from court with a palm frond in his hand. So too is it with the Jews and the gentiles: they come to trial before God on Rosh Hashana... and we only learn that the Jews have won when they go from before God with their Lulavim and Etrogim in their hands."



It is impressive that such a radically different presentation of the Four Species appears within the same collection. Whereas the first is a humble reminder that we aren't perfect and need to use our strengths to shore up our fellows' weaknesses, the second is a triumphalist argument that we have the truth and the rest of the world is riding down the wrong track.

This dissonance suggests that the true meaning Four Species is that they can spiritually invigorate us no matter what situation we are in. At times, our problems may be internal, and we might need a message of pluralism and mutual respect to come through it. Other times, we could be disheartened by the wide world around us, and we might need a shot of national pride to make us feel great about being Jewish.

Just as the physical Lulav flexes during the waving, may the meaning behind it stay pliable enough to touch our souls no matter what we are going through!

Parashat Ha'azinu

Torah: Deut. 32:1–32:52, 52 Pesukim
Hertz 896–903; Stone 1100–1111
Haftara: II Sam. 22:1–51
Hertz 904–908; Stone 1205–1207
Tefillot: Morid Hatal

Sukkot Days 1 and 2

Torah: Lev. 22:26–23:44; Num. 29:12–16
Orot Sef. Sukkot 353–356 (5 aliyot)
Haftara S1: Zach. 14:1–21
Orot Sef. Sukkot 357–358
Haftara S2: I Kings 8:2–21
Orot Sef. Sukkot 361–362
Tefillot: Ps 42–43, Morid Hatal, Netilat Lulav, Full Hallel, Hoshanot

Shabbat Hol Hamo'ed Sukkot

Torah: Ex. 33:12–34:26; Num. 29:26–31
Orot Sef. Sukkot 731–734 (7 aliyot)
Haftara: Ezek. 38:18–39:16
Orot Sef. Sukkot 735–736
Tefillot: omit Ps. 42–43; Morid Hatal, Full Hallel without Netilat Lulav; Hoshanot without circuits around a Torah scroll

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat / Haazinu

Friday, October 14th

Shaharit 6:25 am
Minha 5:45 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting 6:01 pm
Arvit / Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30 pm

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Yom Shabbat / Haazinu

Saturday, October 15th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah	10:15 am
Musaf	11:40 am
Women's Tehillim	right after kiddush
Minha	5:15 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet	6:00 pm
Arvit	6:45 pm
Havdala	7:03 pm

Erev Sukkot

Sunday, October 16th

Shaharit	7:30 am
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Lel Sukkot I

Sunday, October 16th

Candle Lighting	5:59 pm
Minha	5:30 pm
Arvit	6:00 pm

Sukkot Dinner w/rsvp only 7:00 pm

Sukkot I

Monday, October 17th

Shaharit	8:30 am
Hallel & Hakkafot	9:45 am
Keri'at HaTorah	10:30 am
Musaf	11:40 am

Lel Sukkot II

Monday, October 17th

Minha	5:30 pm
Arvit	6:00 pm
Candle Lighting	after 7:01 pm

Sukkot II

Tuesday, October 18th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Hallel & Hakkafot	9:45 am
Keri'at HaTorah	10:30 am
Musaf	11:40 am

Motsa'e Sukkot II

Tuesday, October 18th

Minha & Rabbi's class	5:30 pm
Arvit	6:45 pm
Havdala	7:00 pm

Hol Ha'Moed- Weekdays

Wed., October 19th to Fri., October 21st

Shaharit	6:15 am
Hallel & Hakkafot	6:45 am

Erev Shabbat Hol Ha'Moed Sukkot

Friday, October 21st

Minha/Arvit	5:45 pm
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Shabbat Sukkot

Saturday, October 22nd

Shaharit	8:30 am
Minha/Seuda/Arvit	5:15 pm
Havdala	6:55 pm

Hoshana Rabba

Saturday, October 22nd

Nighttime readings	10:00 pm
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Sunday, October 23rd

Shaharit	7:00 am
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Erev Shemini Atseret

Sunday, October 23rd

Candle Lighting	5:51 pm
Minha	5:45 pm
Arvit	6:15 pm

Yom Shemini Atseret

Monday, October 24th

Shaharit	8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah	10:15 am
Musaf	11:45 am

Lel Simhat Torah

Monday, October 24th

Minha /Arvit	5:15 pm / 5:45 pm
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Festive Hakkafot and Israeli Dinner

Candle lighting	after 6:53 pm
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Yom Simhat Torah

Tuesday, October 25th

Shaharit	8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah	10:30 am
Musaf	11:45 am

Motsa'e Simhat Torah

Tuesday, October 25th

Minha & Rabbi's class	5:15 pm
Arvit	6:35 pm
Havdala	6:52 pm

In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from October 15th to 29th, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

14 Tishri / Sunday, October 16th

Georgina Sara Moses *Sarah bat Simcha*
Naji Shaaya

Regina Shaby *Regina bat Haviva*

15 Tishri / Monday, October 17th

Raina Murad Aslan David Sulman Aslan

17 Tishri / Wednesday, October 19th

Salim Yoseph Meir *Salim ben Yoseph Meir*
Ezekiel Moses *Yehezkel ben Sasson*
Salim Youssefmir *Salim ben Amin*

18 Tishri / Thursday, October 20th

Jacob Ephraim *Yaacov ben Ephraim*
Rosy Hyam *Rosy bat Mazli*
Paul Hyman *Yaacov Pesah ben Yitzhak*

19 Tishri / Friday, October 21st

Girjee Ezra *Gurjiyee bat Sarah*
Peninna Klein *Peninna bat Eliyahu*
Regina Mizrahie *Regina bat Habiba*

21 Tishri / Sunday, October 23rd

Menashe Ezra Allon Iny
Menashi Jacob *Yaacov ben Menashe Yaacov*

22 Tishri / Monday, October 24th

Ezra Hayim Ezra *Ezra Hayim ben Norman*
Joyce Jacob *Ester bat Sarah*
Solomon Moses *Salman ben haskel*

23 Tishri / Tuesday, October 25th

Naima Somekh *Naima bat Lulu Somekh*

24 Tishri / Wednesday, October 26th

Flora Cohen *Farha bat Salha*
Solomon Miriam *Miriam bat Rachel*

25 Tishri / Thursday, October 27th

Farha Ezrapour *Farha bat Rachel*

26 Tishri / Friday, October 28th

Moshe Duewk *Moshe ben Aharon Duewk HaCohen*
Irving Saber *Yitzhak ben Aharon*

27 Tishri / Shabbat, October 29th

Abraham Kattan *Abraham ben Eliahu Kattan*

Appreciation from the Rabbi

So many people have been giving me positive feedback about their experiences of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. They felt the services were spiritually meaningful, and they enjoyed reconnecting with their community, traditions, and melodies.

As much as I am delighted to hear this, there is no way it could have happened without a devoted team working together towards a common goal. I am humbled to call them my colleagues, coworkers, and community leaders; and my appreciation for their part in the High Holy Days is boundless.

I thank Senior Hazan Sassoon Ezra, Hazan Saeed Jalali, and Guest Hazan Michael Ben Atar for their tireless devotion to our special liturgy. This was supported by the skilled *gaba'ut* of Albert Nissan and David Kohan, and the many congregants who put a flare of individual participation on the Selihot.

As this was going on, new children's activities were being created by our Rebbetzin Jessica as Program Coordinator. My mother Lee Melhado personally helped Jessica staff this program throughout the High Holy Days, and Baruch Isaac was a great help with engaging the children in the themes and meaning behind the High Holy Days. With over 50 children at peak times, a great staff of teachers, sitters, and volunteers really brought our kids' programming to a new level.

These wonderful experiences upstairs and in our sanctuary were made possible by hundreds of hours of behind-the-scenes work from our office staff, community leadership and volunteers. I especially thank our administrative staff Sarah Bouchoucha, Penina Meghnagi Solomon, and Dafna Young for all of their hard work; and Jose, Rosa and their teams for their support. I am also deeply obliged to the entire board of directors, including President Ronald Einy, Chairman Joseph Dabby, Hazanut Committee Jonathan Kelly and Dror Ironi, and all those who put their time and effort into making the Holy Days a beautiful reality.

Abe Abraham, z"l, 1925-2016

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the passing of our beloved member Abe Abraham, z"l, this Yom Kippur after Kol Nidre.



Abe was a stalwart contributor to all facets of life at Kahal Joseph for decades. He was a board member, an educator, a loyal protector of Baghdadi customs and melodies, and a charismatic personal presence in all our communal services and activities. But most of all, he was a warm friend and mentor to many through thick and thin: in the words of one member, "he would just walk up to you and be with you in a way that made you really feel that he understood what you were going through."

Nafela ateret Roshenu

O woe for our fallen crown! (-Lamentations 5:16)

An outpouring of love and support is already starting to flow in, and we would like to collect people's memories and stories about Abe to send to his family. If you are one of the many whose lives he touched, email abetribute@gmail.com or write a letter to the office. We will collect responses throughout the Sheloshim.

Abe is survived by his wife Batsheva and his six siblings: in Canada, his sister Mozelle Kanner; in Israel, his sisters Cissy Flegg and Gertie Reingold; and in America, his brother Mickey Abraham and sisters Leah Bald and Rachel Sultan. He is also survived by his son Ronnie Abraham and daughters Ramona Harari and Rachel Weber, and his extended family of grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Abe was predeceased by his parents and his brother Ezekiel.

On behalf of the entire congregation who misses him dearly, we wish words of comfort and blessings to his family. *Min hashamayim tenuhamu* - may you be consoled from the Lord of Heaven Who shaped so much of Abe's life.

Berakhot in the Sukkah

Community members who do not have access to a sukkah at home on the first two days are welcome to use the Kahal Joseph sukkah, located upstairs. Since it is a mitsva to say blessings in a sukkah during Sukkot, we invite you to say Kiddush, Hamotsi and Birkat Hamazon following prayer services.



Refua Shelema

Moselle Amron • Sally Amron • Yehezkel Avrahamy
Haskell Avrahami • Sylvia Cohen • Mordechai Cohen
Esther Duke • Sassoon Ezra • Lev Hakak • Yoel Iny
Tilda Levy • Florice Newberry • Maurice Ovadia
Grace Tizabi • Katie bat Farha • Miriam bat Yetta
Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria • Devora bat Patricia



Lel Simhat Torah

Monday, October 24th

Minha 5:15 pm

Arvit 5:45 pm

Festive Hakkafof &
Israeli Dinner

**Celebrate the yearly Torah cycle with
Hakkafof, dancing, singing, and
a festive Israeli dinner**

Program sponsored by Sunny J. Sassoon & Family



Thank You

Our Yom Kippur services culminated in an outpouring of generosity for our final appeal. Thank you to each person who contributed!

Please send donations to Kahal with "Yom Kippur Appeal" in the memo line, or [click here to fulfill your pledge on our secure online form](#).

The funds raised will be evenly divided between Kahal Joseph and [Yad Eliezer](#), a charity in Israel that provides food and social services to the poor. Even a small amount can relieve stress and bring joy to families who are struggling to meet their basic needs.

The success of our Yom Kippur appeal reminds us how we may accomplish amazing things when we join together. Collaborating towards a common goal enables each of us to contribute in our own way. The Yom Kippur appeal will not only help Kahal Joseph thrive, but also will bring a lot of happiness to poor people in Eretz Yisrael.

Kids Programs at KJ

Children are the future of our congregation and Judaism as a whole. That's why I'm so glad that improving and expanding our offerings for families and children will be a continuing priority in 5777.

Starting in February with Tu Bishvat, we began our series of family holiday programs, which brought parents, grandparents and children together to celebrate and learn. At Shavuot in June, we had our first children's holiday program, which brought 25 children to Kahal for the first day, and included a special priestly blessing by founding Kahal member Mordy Cohen. We also expanded our offerings for our youngest members, with a new Mommy & Me class, in conjunction with PlayCreations Kids. In mid-summer, we added a Friday morning, Shabbat-themed program that includes Hebrew songs, candles, challah, juice and more.

For the fall, we are thrilled to have hired a new Talmud Torah director, and we expanded the hours of the program to 9:45AM to 12:30PM on Sunday mornings. We also now have a preschool program, for children 4 and up. Classes resume Sunday, October 30, so check out the website at www.kahaljoseph.org/talmud-torah and register your children!

We also expanded our offerings for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur children's programming, and added programs for Sukkot and Simhat Torah mornings. Be on the lookout as we expand our children's offerings on Shabbat over the coming year.

Volunteers, parents and grandparents are integral in allowing these programs to bloom and flourish. If you're interested in helping out, sponsoring an event or simply have an idea for something interesting to try, please be in touch. Together, we can create a love of Judaism that goes from generation to generation.

Jessica C. Melhado
Rebbetzin & Program Coordinator

