

# KOL MEVASSER

## Rabbi's Message

Samuel Pepys was an English naval official who lived from 1633-1703. In his own day, he was famous for being the Chief Secretary of the British Admiralty, a position of international importance. But after his world faded into history, he became better known for a diary that he kept as a young man, in which he was an eyewitness to great people and events of the seventeenth century.

The Jews owe him a debt too, for in October 1663, he paid a visit to the Sephardic synagogue in London and wrote about his experience for posterity. Over three and a half centuries later, we can now enjoy the following little gem, which contains a glimpse of Sephardic life from a bygone age:

*"After dinner my wife and I, by Mr. Rawlinson's conduct, to the Jewish Synagogue: where the men and boys in their vayles, and the women behind a lettice out of sight; and some things stand up, which I believe is their Law, in a press to which all coming in do bow; and at the putting on their vayles do say something, to which others that hear the Priest do cry Amen, and the party do kiss his vayle. Their service in all a signing way, and in Hebrew. And anon their Laws that they take out of the press are carried by several men, four or five several burthens in all, and they do relieve one another; and whether it is that every one desires to have the carrying of it, I cannot tell, thus they carried it round about the room while such a service is singing. And in the end they had a prayer for the King, which they pronounced his name in Portugall; but the prayer, like the rest, in Hebrew."*

This sounds like a beautiful scene that many of us would recognize today. The "vayles" are *talletot*, the "lettice" is the *mehitsa*, and the classic Hebrew service and high honor bestowed on the Sifre Torah would seemingly do credit to the decorum of our prayers even at that early date...



Yet Pepys was apparently unaware that his visit was to take place on Simhat Torah, and the passage above concludes with a profound sense of shock at seeing these rare moments of letting loose without any background explanation:

*"But, Lord! to see the disorder, laughing, sporting, and no attention, but confusion in all their service, more like brutes than people know the true God, would make a man forswear ever seeing them more; and indeed I never did see so much or could have imagined there had been any religion in the whole world so absurdly performed as this."*

It is perhaps a little much to expect Pepys to be so far ahead of his time as to give us the benefit of the doubt. Yet his extreme reaction does beg the question: what kind of rejoicing should we be having?

The broader Jewish community has many different examples of celebration on Simhat Torah, which extend from simple, open-hearted joy at completing the Torah to dangerous extremes of excess. As we celebrate this year, let our model of sincere celebration be something that we would be proud for any visitor to witness and write about for future generations!

**Shemini Atseret / Simhat Torah**  
 Torah SA: Deut. 15:19–16:17; Num. 29:35–30:1  
 Orot Sefh. Sukkot 363–365 (5 aliyot)  
 Haftara SA: I Kings 8:54–66  
 Orot Sefh. Sukkot 365–366  
 Torah ST: Deut. 33:1–34:12; Gen. 1:1–2:3; Maft  
 Orot Sefh. Sukkot 366–71 (5 olim, 3 hatanim)  
 Haftara ST: Jos. 1:1–9  
 Orot Sefh. Sukkot 372  
 Tefillot: Ps. 12, Full Hallel, Tikkun Hageshem  
 (SA only); Mashiv Haruah begins at Musaf that day, but Berekh Alenu is delayed until Arvit on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

## KJ Schedule

### 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 24<sup>th</sup>

Minha ..... 5:15 pm  
 Arvit ..... 5:45 pm  
**Festive Hakkafot and Israeli Dinner**  
 Candle lighting ..... after 6:53 pm

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Seuda Shelisheet

on Shabbat Sukkot

was sponsored in memory of  
Menashe Ezrapour, z"l

by the Ezrapour Family

*(Continued from page 1)*

## 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

## Congratulations Rabbi Raif & Jessica Melhado

on the birth of a baby girl  
on October 17th

Mazal Tov to sister Penny  
grandparents Lee & Evan Melhado  
and Bill & Annette Cavanagh

The baby naming will take place  
Sunday, October 30th at 2:30 pm

We invite the whole community  
to attend [Click here to RSVP](#)

## Congratulations Jonathan and Amy Hirschman

on the birth & brit of a baby boy  
**Shimshon Henry**

Mazal Tov to the grandparents  
Edward & Penina Solomon  
Alan and Laurie Hirschman

## In Memoriam

We remember yearzeit anniversaries from October 22nd to 29th, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

### 21 Tishri / Sunday, October 23rd

Menashe Ezrapour  
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*

## 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

*Hag Sameah v' Moadim L'Simha*

## Lel Simhat Torah

Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

Minha 5:15 pm / Arvit 5:45 pm

### Festive Hakkafot & Israeli Dinner

Celebrate the yearly Torah cycle  
with dancing, singing, sharing a meal,  
and rejoicing together!

*Program sponsored*

*in memory of Jack and Hilda Sassoon, z"l  
by Louise Nathan & Family and Sunny J. Sassoon*

