

KOL MEVASSER

Shabbat: Our Weekly Gift of Freedom

by Rabbi Daniel Bouskila



Parashat B'Shalach describes the dramatic exodus from Egypt, climaxed by the miracle of the splitting of the *Yam Suf* ("Sea of Reeds" popularly known as the "Red Sea"). This great miracle not only allowed safe passage for the Jewish people, but it also marked the defeat of Pharaoh's army: "The waters turned back and covered the chariots and the horsemen, Pharaoh's entire army that followed them into the sea; not one of them remained" (Exodus 14:28). Right before their eyes, the Jewish people watched in amazement as the Egyptian taskmasters and their whips drowned in the *Yam Suf*. With 210 years of slavery washing away into the sea, the Jewish people erupted into a simultaneous song of thanks and praise to God: *Az Yashir Moshe u-vnei Yisrael et ha-shira hazot l'Hashem – Then Moses and the Jewish people sang this song to God...*

With Egyptian slavery washed away, it was now time to move on. It was time for the Jewish people to turn away from the *Yam Suf*, put Egypt and slavery behind them, and march forward in pursuit of true freedom. But this was easier said than done.

When people are accustomed to a way of life, it's difficult for them to suddenly change. For 210 years, the Jewish people knew nothing but slavery. This was their way of life, and watching Pharaoh's army wash away into the sea was not about to instantly transform them. A slave is a slave, and unless he/she is taught how to live a

free life, they will continue to live with the mentality of a slave.

This is why the commentator Rashi teaches that just days after the exodus, and a few months before arriving at Mount Sinai to receive the Torah, God decided to give the Jewish people some sections of the Torah to study, the first of which was the section on Shabbat. It is both logical and symbolic that the first mitzvah given to the Jewish people after the exodus from slavery is the mitzvah of Shabbat. A band of slaves need instruction on how to live in freedom, and the Jewish people had never heard of a "day off." With the commandment to observe Shabbat, God introduces what seems to the newly liberated slaves as a radical, revolutionary concept. They are now instructed – and even commanded – to rest one day out of seven.

This concept is reflected in this verse from Deuteronomy: *"And you shall remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God freed you from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to observe the Sabbath day" (Deuteronomy 5:15).*

In his classic work "The Sabbath," Abraham Joshua Heschel calls Shabbat a "Palace in Time," a palace that has endured numerous persecutions and attempted destructions of the Jewish people, something that, in Heschel's words, "neither the Romans nor the Germans were able to burn."

From moments after the Exodus to this very day, Shabbat remains the greatest gift we have ever received.

Parashat Beshalah

Shabbat Shira

Torah: Ex. 13:17–17:16, 116 Pesukim
Hertz 265–281*; Stone 366–393
Haftara (§): Judg. 5:1–31
Hertz 283–287; Stone 1153–1154
Tefillot: Vatikah Miriam, Mashiv Haruah,
Birkat Halevana

**Reminder: The Sephardic aliyot divisions in the Hertz are for a different minhag*

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, January 26th

Candle lighting 4:59 pm
Minha 4:45 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit 5:15 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, January 27th

Shaharit 8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah 10:15 am
Musaf 11:40 am
Women's Tehillim right after kiddush
Minha 4:15 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet 5:00 pm
Arvit 5:50 pm
Havdala 6:03 pm

Sunday, January 28th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Talmud Torah Meet at Hike... 10:00 am
Tu Bishvat Hike and Picnic.. 10:00 am
at Will Rogers State Park

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Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in loving memory of
Shaul ben Shimon Chaim
Saber, z"l

by
Mahin Saber and
Shimon Saber

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Monday-Friday, January 29– February 2
Shaharit..... 6:25 am

Tu Bishvat / Wednesday, January 31st

Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, February 2-3
Shabbat Candle lighting 5:06 pm
Friday Minha 5:00 pm
Community Shabbat Dinner w/rsvp
Games & Tea 6:15 pm / Dinner 6:45 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 4:30 pm
Havdala 6:10 pm

Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron
Haskell Avrahamy • Mordechai Cohen
Sylvia Cohen • Esther Duke
Mehry bat Miriam Hakimipour • Tilda Levy
Yvonne Moalim • Florice Newberry
Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria
Arlette bat Rashel • Chaya Chana bat Batya
Katie bat Farha • Malka bat Rahel
Miriam bat Yetta • Miryam bat Malka
Moshe Ezra ben Mazal Tov • Simcha bat Rooha
Moshe Hooman ben Sara • Habiba bat Farha
Moshe Haim ben Sara

Appreciation

Kahal Joseph thanks Rabbi Yosef
Khakshoor for his interesting sermon last
Shabbat. We wish him success in the next
exciting phase of the Kol Torah Center.

A Song for Shabbat Shira

פזמון לשבת שירה

אֲשִׁיר לְאֵל גָּאֵה גָּאֵה. הָרָאָה יְדוֹ הַנִּפְלְאוֹת.
עַל צֶר לִפְנֵי הַתְּנָאָה. וְאָמַר מִי הוּא ה':
אִזְיִיר מֹשֶׁה יִשְׂרָאֵל. הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת לֵה':

מִרְכָּבוֹת פָּרָעָה וְחִילוֹ. בְּמִי אֲדִירִים צִלְלוֹ.
שָׁמְעוּ עַמִּים אִזְ נִבְהָלוּ. וְאָמְרוּ אֵין אֵל כֵּה': אִזְ יִשִּׁירָה...

שִׁוְעַת עֲמָדָה הַקְשִׁבְתָּ. וַיֵּם סוּף לָהֶם בְּקַעֲתָ.
וְרוֹדְפֵיהֶם בּוֹ טִבַּעֲתָ. נִלְחַמְתָּ לָהֶם ה': אִזְ יִשִּׁירָה...

הַגִּדִּילוֹ מִהֲלֵל לְשִׁמוֹ. מֹשֶׁה וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל עֲמוֹ.
עַל סוֹס רֹכְבוֹ יָם כְּסָמוֹ. אִזְ שָׁרוּ שִׁירָה לֵה': אִזְ יִשִּׁירָה...

הָלֹוִים שָׁרוּ בְּמַחֲלוֹת. כִּי מִצְרִים בָּא בְּמִצְוֹת.
וַיְכַסּוּמוּ הַתְּהוֹמוֹת. אִזְ הָאֲמִינוּ בֵּה': אִזְ יִשִּׁירָה...

חֲזַק הָשֵׁב שְׂכִינְתָּךְ. עַל הַר צִיּוֹן נִחַלְתָּךְ.
מְקוֹם מְכוֹן לְשִׁבְתָּךְ. כּוֹנֵנֵנוּ יְדִידֵךְ ה': אִזְ יִשִּׁירָה...

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries
from January 27 to February 3, 2017. It is cus-
tomary to light memorial candles, donate tzed-
aka & attend Shabbat services in honor of
loved ones.

11 Shevat / Shabbat, January 27th
Malacj Khamani Serah bat Simcha

12 Shevat / Sunday, January 28th
Abraham M. Cohen Avraham Shalom Mor-
dechai Yitzhak HaCohen
Matthew Ellenhorn Matatehu ben Shmuel
Maurice Kadoorie Moshe ben Saleh
Rachel bat Masooda

13 Shevat / Monday, January 29th
Sheila Cohen Sulha Khatoon bat Rivka
Nanejan Davoudian Nanejan bat Hacham Mola
Rebbi
Alex Sassoon

14 Shevat / Tuesday, January 30th
Shaul Saber
Albert Harry Saltoun Avdala ben Eliyahu
Saltoon

15 Shevat / Wednesday, January 31st
Joseph Mussry
David Sarraf David ben Ezra

16 Shevat / Thursday, February 1st
Yehudah Hai Judah Yehudah Hai Yehudah
Menashe Sarraf Menashe ben Yousef
Yehudah Sarraf Yehudah ben Mordechai

17 Shevat / Friday, February 2nd
Simon Irani Shimon ben Eliyahu
Ashraf Nassi

18 Shevat / Shabbat, February 3rd
Manachi Kemareh Abraham ben Khatoon
Raphael Mizrahie Raphael Hai ben Eliyahu
Mordehai

Challah Bake

in Memory of Anita Wozniak, z"l

Learn the art of Challah making and hear an inspirational speaker

Thursday, February 1

7:00 PM - Light fare & Dessert

8:00 PM - Baking begins

\$18 prepaid RSVP or \$26 at the door

RSVP to Sharon Gomperts 310.621.5419/sharongomperts@gmail.com

or Esther Avrahamy 818.469.5622/avrahamy@sbcglobal.net

Kahal Joseph Congregation

10505 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025

The Norma & Sam Dabby
Talmud Torah invite you

Tu Bishvat Community Hike

Will Rogers State Park

Sunday, January 28

10:00 AM - Inspirational Hike

11:30 AM - Community Picnic

Bring your picnic lunch and your sense of fun!

RSVP to Jessica at jessica@kahaljoseph.org

FORGOTTEN YOUR HEBREW? NEVER HAD ANY?

HEBREW FOR BEGINNERS
WITH RABBI MELHADO

NEXT MEETING

WED. JAN. 31 AT 6:30PM

Adult Bat Mitzvah Class

Next Meeting

Wed. Jan. 31 at 7:30PM

Women with all levels of Hebrew &
Jewish knowledge welcome!

Contact Yvette Dabby at YvetteDabby@gmail.com
to sign up for either class or both!

Community
Shabbat Dinner
in honor of Tu Bishvat

Friday, February 2 <sup>Limited
space!</sup>

6:15pm - Tea & Games

6:45pm - Delicious Shabbat Dinner

\$18 for adults - Under 5 free

RSVP by Wed. January 31

www.kahaljoseph.org/tu-bishvat

or 310-474-0559

Sponsored in memory of Soleiman Mizrahi, who would have
turned 99 this Tu Bishvat, by his children and their families



KAHAL JOSEPH INVITES YOU TO

THE PURIM CARNIVAL

Games! Food! Fun! Prizes!

Sunday, February 25

11:00AM - 3:00PM

Event Chairs: Jonathan Kelly, Molly Jalali, Jessica Melhado



KAHAL'S

Children's Shabbat



FIRST SHABBAT OF THE MONTH

FEB 3 - MAR 3 - APR 7 - MAY 5 - JUNE 2

PLAYROOM OPENS AT 10:00 - PROGRAM BEGINS AT 10:30

EXPLORE THE WEEKLY PARASHA WITH US!

START THE MORNING WITH PRAYER

PARTICIPATE IN GAMES & ACTIVITIES

ENJOY A PARASHA-THEMED SNACK

TORAH TOTS - 0 to 5 **TORAH & ME - 6 to 12**

Email Jessica at Jessica@kahaljoseph.org for more information or to volunteer!

Purim Baking!

Sunday, February 18


10AM until the dough is done

Bake traditional Iraqi treats for the KJ Purim baskets, which are distributed to members of our congregation.

Can't make it?

Make a dough-nation!

Send a check to the Kahal Joseph office, call 310-474-0559 or www.kahaljoseph.org/donate




Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner

Friday, February 16 at 7:30 PM

RSVP to RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org

Members & friends in your 20s & 30s!

Join Rabbi Melhado at home for a delicious Shabbat meal and an amazing discussion.

Bring your appetite! Bring your friends!

Bring your questions!