

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

One of my funniest Plague stories is from about ten years ago when I was living in Chicago. I got a call from Jessica and a friend from work, who had been discussing the Ten Plagues on the train ride home. In the hurly-burly of the commute, they were drawing a blank and could only think of nine. What was the tenth?



I actually used Ribbi Yehuda's simanim of *Detsa"kh Ada"sh Beaha"v* to list them in the correct order, and supplied the missing plague of "Arov." Just as I was feeling satisfied that this memory aid worked in real life, they asked: "but what does Arov mean again?" Accidentally transposing two letters in my mind (Orev vs. Arov), I blurted out "crows?" and instantly lost all credibility. Hilarity ensued on the train as Jessica and her friend imagined scenes from the Great Crow Plague of Egypt. No matter that I had the right answer of "wild beasts" three seconds later, or that it was January and the question had come out of the blue. This marked me for good-natured teasing about crow plagues for the next decade and counting.

After we had a good laugh, we became interested in the plague of Arov. As a concept, it isn't so clear-cut, and "wild beasts" is actually just the most common explanation among several. Technically the word Arov means "mixture," and it gets translated this way because the plague was "a mixture of different types of animals."

In the Midrash Tanhuma (Va'era 14) Ribbi Yehuda argues that each of the plagues was a form of fair retribution. He claims that part of the Israelites' work was to trap bears and lions for the Egyptians to further their abuse, and so it made sense for God to bring a plague of ferocious animals in return. Ribbi Nehemia disagrees with him, and suggests that the Arov was a mixture of hornets and mosquitoes. Although he doesn't say why, this works with tight linguistics. The lexicographer Marcus Jastrow gives "gadfly" as a possible definition of Arov, and the imaginative leap between this and stinging insects is easy to understand.

Even my crows were possible according to one ancient Sage. In Shemot Rabba (Va'era 11:2), the Midrash asks what types of animals were in the Arov, and Resh Lakish gives the following answer: "God said to the Egyptians: 'you persecuted My people in great crowds, and now I will repay you with great crowds of animals from the land and sky,' as it is written 'behold I will send the Arov upon you' – i.e., a *mixture* of birds and beasts." Birds, you say? Check!

The whole experience of teasing each other about the plagues and then seriously inquiring about it is exactly what Pesah hopes to achieve as a holiday. We are meant to question the parts of our tradition that we don't get, and to delve into them out of our own innate curiosity. Let us think "what have I always wanted to understand in Judaism?" and make this the year we actually look it up.

Pesah Days 1 and 2 Shabbat and Sunday

Torah P1: Ex. 12:14–51, Num. 28:16–25
Orot Seph Pesah: 303–306 (7 aliyot)
Haftara P1: Josh. 5:2–6:1, 6:27
Orot Seph Pesah: 308–309
Torah P2: Lev. 22:26–23:44, Num. 28:16–25
Orot Seph Pesah: 311–314 (5 aliyot)
Haftara P2: II Kings 23:1–9, 21-25
Orot Seph Pesah: 314–315
Tefillot: Ps. 107, Full Hallel, Tikun Hatal (on P1 only, Morid Hatal begins at Musaf that day, and Barekheni begins from Arvit on 1st night of Hol Hamoed).
Omer: remember to count it every night from the 2nd seder onward (in Haggada)

Pesah Schedule 5778

Fourteenth of Nisan

Friday, March 30th

Shaharit /Siyum 6:25 / 7:30 am
Stop Eating Hamets before 10:28 am
Burn Hamets before 11:43 am

Erev Shabbat & First Seder Night

Friday, March 30th

Early Minha, Arvit, & Hallel 5:30 pm
Candle lighting 6:54 pm
First Seder Begins.....after 7:58 pm

Yom Shabbat / Pesah I

Saturday, March 31st

Shaharit..... 8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah 10:00 am
Musaf 11:40 am
Minha, Arvit & Hallel (no seuda) 6:30 pm
Havdala *part of Second Night Seder*

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Second Seder Night

Saturday, March 31st

Candle Lighting after 7:58 pm
Prep for Second Seder after 7:58 pm
Second Seder Begins after 7:58 pm
2nd Seder w/Rabbi Melhado 8:30 pm
Prepaid advance RSVP Required
1st Night of Counting Omer at seder

Yom Pesah II

Sunday, April 1st

Shaharit 8:30 am
Minha, Seuda, and Arvit 6:30 pm
Havdala Yom Tov to Hol Hamoed... 7:59 pm
2nd night since the Omer

Hol Hamoed

Monday, April 2nd—HHM I

Shaharit 6:05 am
3rd night since the Omer

Tuesday, April 3rd—HHM II

Shaharit 6:05 am
4th night since the Omer

Wednesday, April 4th—HHM III

Shaharit 6:05 am
5th night since the Omer

Thursday, April 5th—HHM IV

Shaharit 6:05 am

Lel Pesah VII

Thursday, April 5th

Minha and Arvit 6:30 pm
Candle lighting 6:58 pm
6th night since the Omer

Yom Pesah VII

Friday, April 6th

Shaharit 8:30 am



Kiddush on the First Day & Seudah on the Second Day

are sponsored for the
Refua Shelema
of a special person

whoever partakes of the meals
on these days, please take a moment
to pray for the health of

Iraj Avraham Hayim ben Mokhtaram

Lel Pesah VIII

Friday, April 6th

Minha and Arvit 6:30 pm
Candle lighting 6:59 pm
7th night since the Omer

Pesah VIII

Shabbat, April 7th

Shaharit 8:30 am
Minha and Arvit 6:30 pm
Havdala 8:03 pm
8th night since the Omer
Earliest time to Eat sold Hamets 10:00 pm

Condolences

With sorrow we send our deepest
condolences to the family and friends of

Bertine Simon, z"l

Bertine bat Muzli & Tzion

She passed away on Thursday, the 13th of Nisan 5778,
March 29th 2018.

Bertine is survived by her children Maurice Simone,
Sima Doron, and Hazel Gordon; her grandchildren
Netanel, Michael, Gavriel, Ariel, and Refael Doron;
Anna, Albert, and Gideon Gordon; Avital and Tamar
Simone; extended family and friends. She was prede-
ceased by her husband, Yehezkel Simon, z"l.

Our thoughts & prayers go out to her family & loved
ones. May they be comforted together with all the
mourners of Tzion.

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits from March 31 to April 7,
2018. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate
tzedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor loved ones.

15 Nisan / Shabbat, March 31st

Tillie Shansky *Tillie bat Evelyn*
Naima Shashoua *Naima bat Zvida*
Eyob Yehudah *Eyob ben Yehudah*

16 Nisan / Sunday, April 1st

Errol Levi *Ezra ben Shaul Halevi*
Sanford Norman Levine *Shlomo Nachmun ben Yaacov*
John Nahai *Homayoun John Nahai*

21 Nisan / Friday, April 6th

Ester Avrahamy *Ester bat Batia*
Eliyahu ben Ruth
Hanini Horesh Suleiman

22 Nisan / Shabbat, April 7th

Edward Ezrapour *Eliyahu ben Ezra Avraham Hayim*

Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron
Haskell Avrahamy • Sylvia Cohen • Esther Duke
Mehry bat Miriam Hakimpour • 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 MazalTov • Simcha
bat Rooha • Moshe Hooman ben Sara • Habiba bat Farha
Moshe Haim ben Sara • Meir Ezra ben Rahel



Memouna!

Sunday, April 8 at 7:30PM

Kahal Joseph Congregation &
The Sephardic Educational Center
invite all our members and friends!
Savor traditional delicacies! Enjoy festive music!
Relish the warmth of community!

\$18 per person - advanced registration requested

RSVP at www.kahaljoseph.org/memouna.html
or call Sarah at 310.474.0559



YOM HAZIKARON COMMUNITY-WIDE NIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE



BEVERLY HILLS
TEMPLE OF THE ARTS
AT THE SABAN THEATRE



TUESDAY

APRIL 17, 2018

Doors open at 6:45pm | Program begins promptly at 7:30pm

*Free admission. No RSVP necessary.
Free parking at the La Cienega Tennis Courts.*

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

8440 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90211



Kahal Joseph's 5778 Speaker Series



Rabbi Devin Villarreal

Shabbat Parashat Shemini - April 13-14

“Judaism: Powered by the People?”

Young Professionals Dinner

Friday, April 13 at 7:30PM

Members and friends in your 20s and 30s! Join Rabbi Villarreal at Rabbi Melhado's home for a delicious dinner and a fascinating discussion.

Who decides where Judaism is going? Rabbis? Scholars? The people? Get the surprising answer of the first rabbi in the Americas as we explore the future of Judaism.

Bring your questions! Bring your friends!
Bring your appetite! RSVP to Rabbi Melhado at
RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org

“Making Life a Symphony”

Saturday, April 14 during services

What Sephardic rabbis and philosophers teach us about every day Jewish practices to make life sing



Currently the Jewish Studies Department Chair at de Toledo High School in the valley, Rabbi Villarreal earned his semikha from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, where he received the prestigious Wexner Graduate Fellowship. He has a Bachelors in the Study of Religion from UCLA and a Master's Degree in Teaching from American Jewish University. He recently received the Pomegranate Prize from the Covenant Foundation for emerging leaders in Jewish education. An engaging teacher and speaker, Rabbi Villarreal is looking forward to visiting Kahal!

Thank you!
to our Torah cleaners

Ben F. Elias
David Elias
Louise Elias
Farah Harouni
Barukh Isaac
Sigal Kelly
Judy Lurie
Margot Lurie

Sam Lurie
Roya S. Najibi
Gracie Nathan
Louise Nathan
Angelina Pouldar
Diana Solomon
Shula Wyner
Mahnaz Zoleikhaeian



Thank you also to those who helped the Rabbi catalog
our beautiful collection of parochets

David Elias
Louise Elias
Farah Harouni

Barukh Isaac
Margo Lurie
Roya S. Najibi

Angelina Pouldar
Shula Wyner
Mahnaz Zoleikhaeian



Talmud Torah Model Seder

On Sunday, March 25
the Talmud Torah
students participated
in a fun rehearsal for
the Seder night.
Exciting games and
activities explained the
rituals, blessings and
special foods.

JIMENA and Kahal Joseph invite you to an All-Ages Backgammon Tournament

Sunday, April 22nd - 10AM-4PM

10AM - Tournament Check-in and Warm Up

11AM - Tournament Begins (don't be late!)

Preregistration (ends 4/20) - \$20 Tournament entry, \$10 adults, kids free

At the Door - \$30 Tournament entry, \$10 adults, \$5 kids

Enjoy Middle Eastern food and music!

Prizes for top players and a raffle giveaway
(Bring your own board for a free raffle ticket!)

Tickets - bit.ly/KJSheshbesh2018

Share on Facebook - bit.ly/KJSheshbesh2018FB



For questions or to register over the
phone, call 310-474-0559