

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

A few years ago, the Huffington Post's Religion section published an article about the many choices that buyers face when purchasing a Hanukiyah. Reaching for 'hip' Jewish readers, the anonymous author raved over a BuzzFeed list with "18 awesome and unexpected menorahs for Hanukkah," including Hanukiyas made of LEGOs, PEZ dispensers, and even the mythical Kraken monster.



Yet after only a single sentence in praise of these novel designs, the tone turned superior and smug. In (possibly mock-) horror, the article bewailed that "our handmade hanukkiah dreams were shattered as it became clear that not all was kosher on this list of lights." Citing an unsourced kiruv website, it went on to declare fully two-thirds of BuzzFeed's hanukiyas unacceptable. The problem? The candles did not form a mathematically straight line. If we already owned such botched Hanukkah lamps, the joke's on us!

Taking a step back from this judgmental conclusion, we should note that the author did not bring a single primary source of Jewish law. This may have something to do with the fact that the text reads as if he or she had only just learned of the straight-line rule moments before writing it. In an age of Internet Justice, it was apparently easier to dismiss large groups of people than it was to give the benefit of the doubt.

I say "apparently" because I just tried to see if I could find the relevant law (Shulhan Arukh OH 671:4) in English using only non-jargon search

terms that regular people would know. It took only two Google searches and less than 60 seconds, giving me the opportunity to easily quote it here:

If one filled a bowl with oil and surrounded it with wicks — if he covered it with a vessel, each wick counts as one light. If he did not cover it with a vessel, it does not even count as one light, because it is like a bonfire. [Rema:] Therefore one should be careful to place the lights in a straight row and not in a circle, since that is like a bonfire.

Parsing this out may take a little help, but the basic idea is in front of us: the original text of the law only says that Hanukkah candles must be distinct from one another, while a later author known by the acronym "Rema" was the one who added the part about straight lines. The original law quotes an explicit passage in the Talmud (Shabbat 23a), while the gloss is based on a book by a single German rabbi eight centuries after the closure of the Talmud (Minhage Maharil, Hanukkah 6).

As long as we're reading glosses, why not read the other ones that appear in modern editions of the Shulhan Arukh? I'm sure it would interest the HuffPost to know that Rabbi Hizkiyahu da Silva retorts that "we are not concerned about circular Hanukiyas as long as each candle is distinct from the next."

Hanukkah is about the miracle that allowed Jewish culture to survive a brutal foreign occupation. How better to celebrate such an occasion than by studying and disseminating that culture? The Maccabees had enough of being judged: let us honor them by learning the Torah that they died to protect.

Parashat Mikets

Rosh Hodesh Tevet, Hanukkah VI Bar Mitsva of Tyler & Brandon Darvish

T: Gen. 41:1-44:17, Num. 28:9-15, 7:42-47
Hertz 155, 695, 599; Stone 222, 890, 768
H: Zach. 2:14-4:7, Is. 66:1, 66:23
Hertz 987, 944/47; Stone 1210, 1208/10
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Ya'ale Veyavo, Al Hanisim, full Hallel, Musaf of Rosh Hodesh



Shaharit this Shabbat 12/8 will start at 8:15 am to accommodate a Bar Mitsva

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat / Hanukkah Eve VI

Friday, December 7th

Light Hanukkah Candles..... 4:25 pm
Shabbat Candle lighting..... right after
Minha..... 4:15 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit..... 4:45 pm

Yom Shabbat / Hanukkah Eve VII

Saturday, December 8th

Shaharit 8:15 am
Keriat HaTorah..... 10:15 am
Sermon 11:20 am
Musaf 11:30 am
Women's Tehillim..... right after kiddush
Minha 3:45 pm
Seuda Shelisheet..... 4:30 pm
Arvit 5:15 pm
Havdala..... 5:29 pm
Light Candles.....right after

Hanukkah Eve VIII / Sunday, December 9th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Talmud Torah 9:45 am
Light Candles (duress/ideal)..... 3:42/5:26 pm

(Continued on page 2)



Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in honor of the
Bar Mitsva of
Tyler Avi & Brandon Kobi

by Rozita and Simon Darvish

Mazal Tov to
Parents, Rozita and Simon Darvish
Brother, Kian Joseph Darvish
Grandparents, Vajeh Darvish

(Continued from page 1)

Hanukkah Eve VIII / Sunday, December 9
KJYP Dinner & Waffle Party..... 6:30 pm

Hanukkah Day VIII / Monday, December 10
Shaharit 6:05 am

Tuesday-Friday, December 11-14
Shaharit 6:25 am

Letters from Baghdad, PBS Tu12/11@9 pm

Next Shabbat / Friday-Saturday, Dec 14-15
Shabbat Candle lighting 4:26 pm
Friday Minha 4:15 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 3:45 pm
Havdala..... 5:30 pm

Seuda Shelisheet

is sponsored
in loving memory of

Iraj Baroukh
ben Yaghoub Partiyeli

by
The Partiyeli Family



KJ Guest Speaker Rabbi Joobin Shemtov

Shabbat Day, 12/15

Rabbi Joobin Aaron Shemtov served as rabbi and hazzan of the Iraqi Jewish Association in Toronto, and worked for the Associated Hebrew

Schools there for more than a decade. For over 14 years, he has been involved with Jewish and Persian communities in California, and has led High Holy Day services for the **Elite Entrepreneur Organization** and the **Iranian American Jewish Cultural Organization** for the past 8 years.

Born in Tehran, Rabbi Shemtov immigrated as a young man to Vienna, where he performed as a chazzan. In 1998, he moved to Toronto, where he became involved in Jewish, Israeli and *kiruv* communities. He supported Israel through organizations such as NCSY, Sephardic Outreach, and Birthright. He graduated from York University with honors and received *semikha* from *Yeshivat Mikdash Melech* in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Shemtov is married to Daniela and together they have three children: Shyli, Lielle, and their newest addition, Liam Natanel.

3 Torah Scrolls

It is a rare treat to have so many Sefarim out at once. This typically occurs only a few times per year – over more than 200 Shabbat and festival days since Rabbi Melhado arrived at Kahal, it has happened only 8 times.

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from December 8 to 15, 2018. We light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

1 Tevet / Sunday, December 9th

Saul Mizrahie *Shaul ben Eliyahu Mordechai*
Jack Sassoon *Yaacov Yoseph ben Sassoon*
Victoria Saul *Victoria Saul*

2 Tevet / Monday, December 10th

David ben Ezra

3 Tevet / Tuesday, December 11th

Isaac Jacob *Itzhak ben Yaakov*
Vicky Messiah *Rahma Victoria bat Khatoon*

4 Tevet / Wednesday, December 12th

Seemah Meyer Simha bat Azizah

5 Tevet / Thursday, December 13th

Mida Judah *Masooda bat Dina*
Esther Sales *Esther HaMalka bat Rivka*
Elisha Samuel *Elisha ben Sassoon Shmuel*
Hacham Sassoon

6 Tevet / Friday, December 14th

Raquel Emquies *Rahel bat Clare Levy*
Salem Kooby *Salem Kooby*

7 Tevet / Shabbat, December 15th

Eliezer David Levy *Eliezer ben David Halevi*

Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron
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 • Habiba bat Farha • Meir Ezra ben
Rahel • Dina bat Rahel • Chaya Rachel bat Simcha
Rahel bat Ramah Regina • Eti Esther bat Fortuna

Hanukkah: Halakhot and Blessings

- **Where should I light?** The aim is *persume nissa*, or "publicizing the miracle." Therefore, the candles should ideally be placed where they will be seen by passersby.
- **When should I light?** The candles should be lit as soon as it is fully dark; if that is not possible, they may be lit all night. Either way, they should burn for at least 30 minutes.
- **How many lamps?** Sephardim have a custom of lighting one Hanukkah lamp per household. Ashkenazim have the custom of having one per person, even for children.
- **How do I assemble the lamp?** Place the candles from right to left, but light from left to right.
- **On Shabbat?** Light first, then the Shabbat candles. After Shabbat, read Havdala and then light.

How to light:

On all nights of Hanukkah, light the shamash and then say:

ברוך אתה ה'. אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו. וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר חֲנֻכָּה:

Ba-ROOKH a-TA a-do-NAI e-lo-HE-nu ME-lekh ha-o-LAM a-SHER ki-de-SHA-nu
be-mits-vo-TAV ve-tsi-VA-nu le-had-LIK NER ha-nu-KA

You are blessed O Lord, our God and King of the Universe, Who made us holy with Your commandments and required us to light the Hanukkah lamp.

ברוך אתה ה'. אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבֹּתֵינוּ. בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵה הַזֶּה:

Ba-ROOKH a-TA a-do-NAI e-lo-HE-nu ME-lekh ha-o-LAM she-a-SA ni-SIM la-a-vo-TE-nu
ba-ya-MIM ha-HEM ba-ze-MAN ha-ZEH

You are blessed O Lord, our God and King of the Universe, Who performed miracles for our forefathers, both in times of old and now.

On the first night of Hanukkah only (or the first time you light if you didn't light on the first night):

ברוך אתה ה'. אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ. וְקִיָּמָנוּ. וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵה הַזֶּה:

Ba-ROOKH a-TA a-do-NAI e-lo-HE-nu ME-lekh ha-o-LAM she-he-ye-NA-nu ve-ki-ye-MA-nu
ve-hi-gi-A-nu la-ze-MAN ha-ZEH

You are blessed O Lord, our God and King of the Universe, Who gave us life, and sustained us, and brought us to this season.

From left to right, light the candles. After you have begun lighting the candles, sing:

הַנִּרְוֹת הַלְלוּ אֱנַחְנוּ מְדַלִּיקִין. עַל הַנִּסִּים. וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת. וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת. שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבֹּתֵינוּ.
עַל יְדֵי כְּהֵנִיד הַקְּדוּשִׁים: וְכָל־שְׁמוֹנֶת יָמֵי חֲנֻכָּה הַנִּרְוֹת הַלְלוּ קֹדֶשׁ. וְאִין לָנוּ רְשׁוֹת לְהַשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ
בָּהֶם. אֲלֵא לְרֹאוֹתָם בַּלְבָּד. כְּדִי לְהוֹדוֹת לְשִׁמְךָ. עַל נִסֶּיךָ. וְנִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ. וְיִשְׁוּעוֹתֶיךָ:

Ha-ne-ROT ha-LA-lu a-NAH-nu mad-li-KIN AL ha-ni-SIM ve-AL ha-te-shu-OT ve-AL
ha-nif-la-OT she-a-SI-ta la-a-vo-TE-nu AL ye-DE ko-ha-NE-kha ha-ke-do-SHIM ve-KHOL
she-mo-NAT ye-ME ha-nu-KA ha-ne-ROT ha-LA-lu KO-desh ve-EN LA-nu reh-SHOOT
le-hish-ta-MESH ba-HEM E-la lir-o-TAM bil-VAD ke-DEY le-ho-DOT lish-ME-kha AL
ni-SE-kha ve-nif-le-o-TE-kha vi-shu-o-TE-kha

We light these candles for the miracles, rescues, and wonders that You did for our forefathers through Your holy Kohanim. During all eight days of Hanukkah, these lights are sacred. We may not use them but can only look at them, giving thanks to Your name for Your miracles, rescues, and wonders.

Pizmon for the Bar Mitzvah

יֹמָא טָבָא דְרַבָּנָן. מִצְוֹת תְּפַלֵּין כְּתֻקָּנָן.

כִּי הֵבֵן י"ג זָכָה לְמִנְיָן. בְּצֵל אֶ שְׂדֵי יתְלוֹנָן:

עֲמִיחָה לְאִישׁ בְּתַפְלִין. בְּקִדְשׁ אוֹתוֹ מַעְלִין.

בְּזִכּוֹתוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל נִגְאָלִין. וַיֵּשְׁבוּ בְּנוֹה שְׁאָנָן:

עֲלִיּוֹן אֶ נֹרָא וְאִיּוֹם. לְיִשְׁעָה יְהִי דְרוֹשׁ פְּדִיּוֹם.

לְיִשׁוּעָתְךָ מִצְפִּים יוֹם יוֹם. בְּמַהֲרָה חַיֵּשׁ תִּפְרָקָנָן:

יְהִי לְךָ תְּבֵאָה שְׁוֹעָתִי. וְשִׁירָתִי וְתַהֲלָתִי.

וְתִשְׁלַח הַגּוֹאֵל לְקִרְאָתִי. מִזִּיו אוֹרְךָ תִּנְהַר לִּי:

חֲזָק הַלְלוּהוּ בְּקִדְשׁוֹ. וְהַדּוּר נִגָּה בְּלָבוּשׁוֹ.

וְגַם תְּפַלֵּין בְּרֵאשׁוֹ. הֵא מֶלֶךְ צוּר נִגְאָמָן:

Pizmon for Shabbat Rosh Hodesh Tevet

תְּרוֹעְעוּ אֶף יִשְׁירֵנוּ. לְךָ בְּנִיב שְׁפָה זָכָה.

אוֹמֵר שׁוּבוּ בְנֵי אָדָם. עַד תֵּשֵׁב אֲנוֹשׁ עַד דְּכָא.

חֲסִין קְדוֹשׁ רוֹפֵא חֲנָם. מְקַדִּים רְפוּאָה לְמַכָּה.

לֹא יִנָּתֵק חוּט הַמְשָׁלֵשׁ שַׁבָּת. חֹדֶשׁ וְחֲנֻכָּה:

וְתִיק עֲוֹנָה בַּעַת צְרוּת. מִן הַמִּצָּר קִרְאָתִי יְהִי.

לֹא עֲזַב חֲסִדוֹ וְאַמְתּוֹ. מִמֶּנּוּ שׁוֹכֵן עָלֶיךָ.

שְׁלַח פְּדוּת מִתּוֹךְ עֲבָדוֹת. בְּיַד יוֹחָנָן בֶּן מַתְתִּיָּה.

עֲשֵׂה לִּי חֶרֶב פִּיפְיוֹת. זֶרֶת רַחֲבָה כָּפֹל אֲרַכָּה: לא ינתק...

סוֹמֵךְ וְעוֹזֵר לְדָלִים. אֲדִיר בְּגִבּוֹרָה נִגְאָה.

מִמְכּוֹן שַׁבָּתוֹ הַשְּׁגִיחַ. בְּקוּם עָלֵינוּ הָאֲכֹר.

נִשְׁפָּה בָּהֶם וַיִּבְשׁוּ. וְכָל מַחְנוֹתָם פִּזָּר.

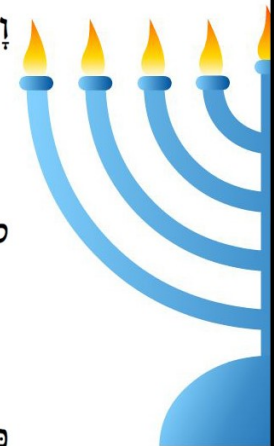
הַצִּיל לְאוֹם בּוֹ נוֹשָׁעָה. אֲשֶׁר הִיא יוֹשְׁבָה וּמַחֲכָה: לא ינתק...

פְּתַחְתִּי פִּי בְּקֶהֱל רַב. לְהַלֵּל מִמִּית חֲזָקִים.

גְּדוֹל עַד שְׁמִים חֲסִדוֹ. אֲמֹנָתוֹ עַד שְׁחָקִים.

יִשְׁלַח מְשִׁיחַ בְּמַהֲרָה. וּמַלְכוּת בֵּית דָּוִד יָקִים.

יַעְרוֹךְ שְׁלָחָן לְצִדִּיקִים. יִמְשׁוֹךְ לוֹיָתָן בְּחֻכָּה: לא ינתק...



We need your help! Keep the Iraqi Jewish Archives in the US

On May 6, 2003, just days after the Coalition forces took over Baghdad, 16 US soldiers entered the flooded building of Saddam Hussein's Intelligence agency, the Mukhabarat. In the basement, under four feet of water, they found tens of thousands of books, artifacts and documents belonging to the Jewish community of Iraq – materials that had been seized from synagogues, schools and other institutions.

The archive includes a 400-year-old Torah, a book of sermons from 1692, a 200-year-old Talmud, and thousands of books printed all over the Jewish world, as well as the writings of the late 19th century Baghdadi interpreter of Jewish Law, Rabbi Yossef Hayim, known as the Ben Ish Hai. The collection was moved to the US with the agreement of the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and painstakingly restored, preserved and digitized by the National Archives and Records Administration at great cost.

However, in the last several years, the Iraqi government has been asking for the archives back. There is a coalition of Jewish organizations, of which Kahal Joseph is one, as well as a bipartisan group of politicians working tirelessly to ensure that the archive remains in the United States where its protection can be guaranteed, and it can be accessible to the community from whom it was stolen.

As you might expect, these efforts come at a cost. Please consider donating to keep the IJA in the US – every dollar counts, and time is of the essence. Donate online at www.kahaljoseph.org/iraqi-archives or you can send a check into Kahal with the note "Keep the IJA in the US."

Yvette Dabby
President, Kahal Joseph

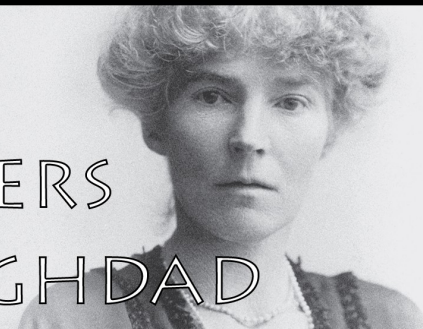
Young Professionals Hanukkah Dinner

Join the rabbi and his family for an intimate dinner to celebrate the eighth night of Hanukkah!

Sunday, December 9 at 6:30pm

Hanukkah Candelighting - Light Dairy Dinner
Special Belgian Waffle Desserts!

LETTERS *from* BAGHDAD



Airing
Tuesday,
Dec. 11
at 9PM
on PBS

"Letters from Baghdad" is the story of a true original, Gertrude Bell, sometimes called the female "Lawrence of Arabia." More influential and famous in her day than her colleague Lawrence, Bell was an explorer, spy, archaeologist and diplomat who helped shape the Middle East after World War I and established the Iraq Museum, infamously ransacked in 2003. The first feature-length documentary on Gertrude Bell, the film explores the choices that trail blazing women make, and how decisions made by Bell and her colleagues continue to influence current events in the Middle East and the world today.

Kahal Joseph Hanukkah Party!

Sunday's Hannukah celebration was a huge success! The Norma & Sam Dabby Talmud Torah students joined with children and families from across the community in games, projects, food, and music that really brought out that special holiday spirit. The projects included hanukiyas, both edible and functional, Hanukkah gift bags, personalized pictures frames and more. Pizza & donuts were enjoyed by all!

Special thanks to our sponsors: Hannie, Jonathan, and Sigal Kelly
Talmud Torah staff: Molly Jalali, Es-haugh Dayan, Jessica Eyshi, Avital Pedoeim, & Mona Tizabi
Kahal staff & volunteers: Rabbi & Jessica Melhado, Rachelle Neshkes & Aaron Rosenfield



The Untold Stories: Jewish Refugees from Arab Lands and Iran

Every year on the week of November 30th, Israel and its consular system remember the ancient Jewish communities of the Middle East that were forcibly closed in the 1950s to 1970s.

This year's event featured testimonials from Larry Clumack, an Egyptian Jew who was expelled after the 6-Day War, and Amir Kashfi, a first generation Iranian American and Israel advocate. The keynote address was by Sarah Idan, Miss Universe Iraq, who was forced to flee after posting a contest selfie with Miss Israel.

Banquet in Honor of Moselle & Michael Amron A Celebration of Love and Devotion

Kahal Joseph was honored to host a sumptuous banquet last Sunday in recognition of Moselle and Michael Amron. Held officially to dedicate the new gallery in their honor, its true purpose was a heartfelt tribute to everything that this inspiring couple stands for. Guests showered their love and praises on the dynamic duo, with Michael graciously saying that it was one of the most memorable nights of his life.

After the speeches, festivities kicked into high gear with delicious food including the sisterhood's world-famous Singaporean and Indian favorites. Savoring full bellies and a happy toast, we danced the night away to the band's infectious enthusiasm. Michael proved once again that his award-winning moves are still very much in force, leaving smiles on every face, and hearts that are still warmed for the experience a week later.

Event Chairs: Yvette Dabby, Ron Einy, and Dafna Young

Staff: Rabbi Melhado, Sarah Bouchoucha, and Penina Meghnagi Solomon

Catering & Décor: Diana Gazal and Elsa Singman

Band: Yosi Levy and the Sabras

Supporters: the Amron family and everyone who contributed to Kahal in their honor

