

KOL MEVASSER

Guest Message

By Rabbi Joseph Dweck

Following an onslaught of ten powerful plagues, Egypt buckles from the aftermath of its inane obstinance, and the Hebrew slaves see the dawn of freedom breaking over the horizon. Here Moshe's role changes from that of a redeemer to that of a law-giver. Parashat Bo, therefore, presents us with the first twenty mitzvot (commandments) in the Torah.



As we might expect, some of our first mitzvot focus on the nature of liberty and freedom. Two of these prohibit eating or owning hamets (leaven) over Pesah, and command us to eat matzah during that time. The interplay between hamets and matzah is designed to make us mindful and aware of our circumstances. Keeping the mitzvot of hamets and matzah requires us to pay attention and to notice a moment in time that makes an enormous difference.

There is a fine line that separates hamets from matzah. Only a grain that can become hamets can be used to make matzah. This means that while making matzah there is always a danger of it becoming hamets. When flour from wheat, barley, oats, rye or spelt comes into contact with water, it can be made into matzah for the next eighteen minutes. After that, it leavens and becomes hamets. The halakhic change at that point is drastic — one can fulfil a great mitzvah with matzah, but Torah prohibits hamets more severely than it does pork. The point at which the change occurs, however, is only a moment, and it can be easily missed. Therefore, there is a command to carefully watch the process of making matzah.

The mindfulness that is demanded in the production of matzah is the mindfulness that is necessary in order to be truly alive and responsive in life. But the human condition does not make it

easy. We do not usually stay keenly aware of the environment in which we live, nor do we examine our surroundings anew each day. We tend to take familiar circumstances for granted and assume that things are as they always have been. When we are in that state we are not free, but confined by habit and compelled by the recurring patterns of our thoughts. We are, in essence, running on autopilot.

Awareness must be learned and achieved. It requires being fully conscious and connected to the present moment. It takes a good deal of mental focus and energy, but it is worth it. When we become aware of what is happening inside us and all around us, the world comes alive before us as if we are seeing it for the first time. We experience a fullness in life that otherwise would pass us without being noticed. Most important, perhaps, is that when we are cognisant, we allow ourselves to learn from what life brings us, both in hardship and in joy, and we grow. We then become more in touch with the world and with our deeper selves.

Every day the sun shines, trees sway, traffic stops and starts, people are born and they die, they speak and act, and our pulses keep beating. And moment by moment, life comes to us and challenges us to wake up and notice what is happening. Even if we manage to go back to sleep and tune it all out, life keeps knocking.

Matzah demands that our minds are alert and observant. On the festival of our freedom, bread that results from mental lassitude is off limits. Before stepping out of the physical confines of slavery, we had to step out of the confines of a national psyche that had been lulled to sleep over centuries of an entrenched mentality. The act of baking matzah was our first step into awakening. That bread of freedom became the catalyst for a nation that would live by its commitment to feeling and experiencing life, so that it might connect with the world and live and learn from all of its glorious expressions.

Parashat Bo Exodus from Egypt

Torah: Ex. 10:1–13:16, 106 Pesukim
Hertz 248–262; Stone 340–365
Haftara (Iraqis): Is. 19:1–25
Handout; not in the Hertz or Stone
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, January 11th

Shabbat Candle lighting	4:44 pm
Minha	4:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit	5:00 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, January 12th

Shaharit	8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah	10:15 am
Sermon	11:20 am
Musaf	11:30 am
Women's Tehillim	right after kiddush

Minha	4:00 pm
Seuda Shelisheet	4:45 pm
Arvit	5:35 pm
Havdala	5:49 pm

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, January 13th

Shaharit..... 7:30 am
Talmud Torah..... 9:45 am

Weekdays

Monday-Friday, January 14th to 18th

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

Next Shabbat

Friday-Saturday, January 18th-19th

Shabbat Candle lighting 4:51 pm
Friday Minha..... 4:45 pm
Shaharit..... 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 4:15 pm
Havdala 5:55 pm

Volunteers!

KJ Wants You

KJ needs individuals with data entry skills to compile a database, using a provided template, for azkara/yahrzeit information collected from community records.

This task does not require being physically present at Kahal. It may be completed from your home, using your computer.

Skills required: familiarity w/Excel, ability to pronounce/read Hebrew & English.

For information contact Rabbi Melhado at
rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org

Condolences

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

Edmund Sayers, z"l

Ezra Moshe ben Khatoon and Moshe Hai Ezra (1924-2019). He passed away on Shabbat, January 5th 2019, the 28th of Tevet. He is the cousin of our dear members, Myrtle & Rueben Solomon.

Edmund was born and spent his formative years in the Iraqi Jewish community of Singapore. At the outbreak of World War II he fled to India, where he found shelter from the fighting. Returning home after the war, he found that the community he had once known and cherished was very different. His main reason for being there was now Molly, whom he courted and then married in February 1949. Soon after, they left Singapore for Los Angeles, looking for a new life and the American dream.

After working through night school, he got his professional break as an accountant with the oil company that would become ARCO. He served them with distinction over many decades, retiring in 1981.

Throughout his life, Edmund was a reliable, dependable man renowned for the love he showered on his immediate and extended family. A quiet, generous, modest soul, he gave without expecting anything in return.

He is survived by his wife

Molly Sayers

his children

Rick Sayers

Jeffrey (Marjorie) Sayers

and his grandchildren

Melody, Erin, Amanda, and Justin Sayers.

He was predeceased by his sister, Olga Simon.

Our thoughts & prayers go out to his family and loved ones. May they be comforted with all the mourners of Tsion. *Min hashamayim tenuhamu.*

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from January 12 to 19, 2019. We light memorial candles, donate tsedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

6 Shevat / Shabbat, January 12th

Albert Gaub Avner Abraham ben Khatoon

Maurice Jacob Jonah Maurice ben Yaacov

8 Shevat / Monday, January 14th

Ezra Ekaireb Ezra Sion ben David

F. Ellis Meyer Eliyahoo Faraj ben Avraham Shalom

Rebecca Mizrahie Rivka bat Toba

Edward Shashoua Sion ben Elisha

9 Shevat / Tuesday, January 15th

Saul Zakoo Shaul Hai ben Ezra Halevy

10 Shevat / Wednesday, January 16th

Naima Dabby Naima bat Chahla

11 Shevat / Thursday, January 17th

Malacj Khamani Serah bat Simcha

12 Shevat / Sunday, January 18th

Abraham M. Cohen Avraham Shalom Mordechai

Yitzhak Hacohen

Matthew Ellenhorn Matatehu ben Shmuel

Maurice Kadoorie Moshe ben Saleh

Rachel bat Masooda

13 Shevat / Shabbat, January 12th

Sheila Cohen Sulha Khatoon bat Rivka

Nanejan Davoudian Nanejan bat Hacham Mola Rebbe

Alex Sassoon

Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron • 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 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 • Karen bat Chana



Prayers of the Heart

Getting to Know the Shabbat Morning Tefilla

Part V - The Torah Service

After the Hazan's repetition of the Amida, the Shaharit service concludes and a new service called "Keri'at Hatorah" begins. As its name suggests, this part of the Shabbat morning prayers is devoted to reciting a section from the Torah aloud in public.

The Torah is the part of Hebrew Bible that we believe is God's literal Word, so we devote great fanfare to the ritual of reading it. We keep the handwritten scroll in a lavish decorative box called a Tik, which holds it upright for the recital. We store the collection of Tiks or "Sefer" in an ornamental cabinet called the Ekhal. When the time comes to take one out, the many roles associated with bringing the Torah to the Teba are distributed among the congregants as high honors. Pious worshippers jockey for position to kiss and touch it on its way.

Every week, an average of 110 verses of the Torah are read aloud during the Torah service. Each such reading is called a "Parasha," and by having 54 Parashiyot we finish the entire Torah exactly once per Jewish calendar year. Each Parasha is further subdivided into seven Aliyot, and a succession of men from the congregation are called up to read them. Historically, the honorees would personally read from the Sefer, but due to the difficulty of preparation, our current custom is to have a professional Hazan read on their behalf.

After the Torah reading has been completed, we recite a parallel reading called a "Haftara" from the Books of the Prophets. On regular Shabbatot except in the summer, the Haftara follows a theme that explores one of the issues raised in the Torah reading. On our major and minor holidays, as well as during the leadup to the High Holy Days, the Haftara takes its cue from the meaning of the occasion. Once the Torah and Haftara readings have concluded, we recite special prayers for the congregation and return the Sefarim to the Ekhal with due pomp and circumstance.

Save the Date!

Adult Bat Mitzvah

Saturday, February 9

4 Adar I, 5779

Parashat Teruma

**Ladies are invited
to the
upstairs synagogue
for a
Torah service
to celebrate
the**

**Adult Bat Mitzvah class's
momentous achievement!**

**Celebratory Kiddush to
follow in the Social Hall**

*The Norma & Sam Dabby
Talmud Torah invites you*

**Tu Bishvat Community Hike
Will Rogers State Park
Sunday, January 20**

*10:00 AM - Inspirational Hike
11:30 AM - Community Picnic*

**Join the Talmud Torah for a special
enrichment day at Will Rogers State Park
to learn about and celebrate Tu Bishvat.**

**Don't miss this wonderful lesson on
nature and its role in Judaism!**

Meet at the parking lot at Will Rogers

*Please bring your lunch, water,
sunglasses, sunscreen, hats, hiking
clothes & shoes and your sense of fun!*

**RSVP to Mora Molly at
molly@emetek.com**

KAHAL JOSEPH INVITES YOU TO

PURIM CARNIVAL

Games! Food! Fun! Prizes!

Sunday, Mar. 10

11 AM - 3 PM

\$20 WRISTBAND

UNLIMITED RIDES & GAMES

All proceeds benefit Kahal!

Purim Baking

for Kahal gift baskets

Sunday, March 17

