

# KOL MEVASSER

## Rabbi's Message

No single event rises as high in the Jewish sense of identity as the Exodus from Egypt. As God Himself expects, the story of how the Jewish people came about cannot be told without reference to the Exodus (Deut. 26:5-9). We must pass it down to our children on Pesah, and the text obliging us to do so is written on the parchment inside our Tefillin (Ex. 13:1-10). Several other mitsvot are justified as harking back to Egypt, placing it at the forefront of our covenantal relationship with God.

There are many ways that we can recall the Exodus. In our personal practice, we can think of it when we say the third paragraph of the Shema each day, and when we fulfill the mitsvot for which the Exodus is presented as a justification, such as keeping Shabbat or maintaining ethical business practices (Deut. 5:11-14, Lev. 19:36). In our relationships with others, we can communicate it to the next generation at the Haggada each year, and we can show compassion to the underprivileged because we recall our own suffering in Egypt.

Yet it was not until I was invited to be the Rabbi of Kahal Joseph and began studying the customs of Iraqi Jews that I learned of another creative way to remember the Exodus: by eating a special food on Parashat Beshalah. In his 1910 travelogue *Masa Bavel*, the Anglo-Iraqi bibliophile Rabbi David Solomon Sassoon reports that the Jews in Iraq would make a special dish on Shabbat Shira that physically reenacted Pharaoh's defeat. "Made from wheat, carrots, chicken, and other ingredients, they called it



*'Firoj Rakib Ala Harisa'* – meaning 'pullet riding on grains,' which is an acronym for 'Pharaoh' – in the spirit of 'horse and rider [drowned in the sea]'" (Ex. 15:1, *Masa Bavel* p. 226).

The Israeli scholar Abraham Ben-Yaakov, who wrote a three-volume work on Iraqi Jewish customs at the end of his career and was from Baghdad himself, wistfully notes that by the time of his publication in 1993, this practice had fallen into disuse (*Minhage Yahadut Bavel Bedorot Ha'aharonim*, Vol. 1, p. 127 ff. 2). It seems that in the bustle of the many modern Exoduses that emptied Asia of Iraqi Jews, cultural knowledge of this unique custom survived only in historical reference works.

Yet if I might be permitted a moment of sentimental dreaming, I would make an argument for restoring this tradition to our ranks. The Kiddush of Rosh Hashana, during which we eat symbolic foods to invite a good omen for the new year, is a powerful example of the impact of symbolism on the human soul. Just as our prayers for a good year are enhanced when we can pick them up and eat them, so too might our gratitude for the Exodus be deepened by playing out the imagery of Pharaoh's defeat in food form.

So if you get this message in time this Thursday, why not give it a try? We may not have the recipe anymore, but the basic idea is there: a starchy base with enough liquid for the chicken pieces to "drown" in the soup as we eat. Use chicken, carrots, and whatever seasoning and vegetables you like, and see what it tastes like to bring back a century-old custom from the vanished world of your ancestors!

## 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 18th

Shabbat Candle lighting .....	4:51 pm
Minha .....	4:45 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit .....	5:15 pm

### Yom Shabbat

Saturday, January 19th

Shaharit .....	8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah .....	10:15 am
Sermon .....	11:20 am
Musaf .....	11:30 am
Women's Tehillim .....	right after kiddush
Minha .....	4:15 pm
Seuda Shelisheet .....	5:00 pm
Arvit .....	5:40 pm
Havdala .....	5:55 pm

Sunday, January 20th

Shaharit .....	7:30 am
Tu Bishvat Hike at Will Rogers .....	10:00 am
Community Picnic at Will Rogers .....	11:30 am

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## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored  
in loving memory of

**Shaul Saberi, z"l**  
*Shaul Shimon Haim*

by  
Shimon Saberi &  
Miriam Saberi

## A Song for Shabbat Shira

אֲשִׁיר לָא גָאָה גָאָה. הָרָאָה יְדוֹ הַנִּפְלְאָה.

עַל צַר לִפְנֵי הַתְּגָאָה. וְאָמַר מִי הוּא ה':

אֲזַי שִׁיר מֹשֶׁה יִשְׂרָאֵל. הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת לֵה:

מִרְקָבוֹת פָּרְעָה וְחִילוֹ. בְּמִי אֲדִירִים צָלְלוּ.

שָׁמְעוּ עַמִּים אֲזַי גְּבָהָלוּ. וְאָמְרוּ אֵין אֵל כֵּה:

שְׁמַעַת עַמָּד הַקְּשִׁבָתָה. וַיִּם סוּף לָהֶם בִּקְעָתָה.

וְרֹדְפֵיהֶם בּוֹ טִבְעָתָה. נִלְחַמְתָּ לָהֶם ה':

הַגִּדְלִי מִהֶלֶל לְשִׁמּוֹ. מֹשֶׁה וְיִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ.

עַל סוֹס רֹכְבוֹ יָם בְּסִמּוֹ. אֲזַי שָׁרוּ שִׁירָה לֵה:

הַלְלוּם שָׁרוּ בְּמַחֲלוֹת. כִּי מַצְרִים בָּא בְּמַצּוֹלוֹת.

וַיִּכְסּוּמוּ הַתְּהוֹמוֹת. אֲזַי הֶאֱמִינוּ בֵּה:

חֲזַק הָשֵׁב שְׁכִינָתְךָ. עַל הַר צִיּוֹן נִחַלְתָּךְ.

מְקוֹם מְבוֹחַ לְשִׁבְתְּךָ. כּוֹנֵנִי יְדִידֵךְ ה':

## Condolences

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

**Joe Meyer, z"l**

*Yosef ben Esther and Abraham (1922-2019).* He passed away on Sunday, January 13th 2019, the 7th of Shevat. Joe was close to our dear members Mordi Cohen, z"l and Fiona Cohen, and was loved like a grandfather by the Steiner and Isaac families and their children.

Joe was born in Bombay in August of 1922. In his youth in India, he served in the British Army, and also met his wife and began a family. He and Ramah were like two love birds.

Together, they immigrated to Los Angeles in the early 1960s along with their two children and Joe's mother. Once here, he worked as a sales representative for Gulf Oil and served his whole career with them.

Joe was a private, quiet and intelligent fellow who was devoted to his family. Once he got to know someone, they discovered what a delightful, amusing person he was, full of interesting stories to tell.

He is survived by his wife Ramah Meyer, his daughter Linda Meyer, extended family & friends.

He was predeceased by his son, Michael Meyer, z"l. Our thoughts & prayers go out to his family & loved ones. May they be comforted together with all the mourners of Tsion. *Min hashamayim tenuhamu.*

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## Tu Bishvat & MLK Day

Monday, January 21st

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

Tuesday-Friday, January 22nd to 25th

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

## Next Shabbat

Friday-Saturday, January 25th-26th

Shabbat Candle lighting ..... 4:58 pm

Friday Minha ..... 4:45 pm

Shaharit ..... 8:30 am

Saturday Minha ..... 4:15 pm

Havdala ..... 6:02 pm

## In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from January 19 to 26, 2019. We light memorial candles, donate tsedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

### 13 Shevat / Shabbat, January 19th

Sheila Cohen *Sulha Khatoon bat Rivka*  
Nanejan Davoudian *Nanejan bat Hacham Mola Rebbe*  
Alex Sassoon

### 14 Shevat / Sunday, January 20th

Shaul Saberi *Shaul Shimon Haim*  
Albert Harry Saltoun *Avdala ben Eliyahu*

### 15 Shevat / Monday, January 21st

Joseph Mussry *Yoseph ben Yaacob Saleh*  
David Sarraf *David ben Ezra*

### 16 Shevat / Tuesday, January 22nd

Yehudah Hai Judah *Yehudah Hai ben Yehudah*  
Menashe Sarraf *Menashe ben Yousef*  
Yehudah Sarraf *Yehudah ben Mordechai*

### 17 Shevat / Wednesday, January 23rd

Ashraf Nassi *Ashraf bat Hayim Moshe*  
Simon Irani *Shimon ben Eliyahu*

### 18 Shevat / Thursday, January 24th

Raphael Mizrahie *Raphael Hai ben Eliyahu Mordehai*  
Menashe Kamara *Menashe ben Ezra*

### 19 Shevat / Friday, January 25th

Doris David Shemtov *Doris bat Kahela*  
Sassoon Moshe Sassoon *Sassoon ben Moshe*

### 20 Shevat / Shabbat, January 26th

Edward David *Ezra ben Meir Shemtov*  
Nissim Moondani *Nissim ben Moodani*  
Georgette Solomon

## 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 VI - Musaf

Once the Torah scrolls are returned to the Ekhal, a new service begins called Musaf. This name emphasizes that it is “additional” to the Shaharit service, which on a weekday would have been the only morning prayer that was read.

The baseline service schedule each day mirrors the sacrifice schedule in the Holy Temple. As long as it stood, we would offer one Tamid sacrifice in the morning, a second Tamid in the afternoon (Num. 28:1-8), and the unconsumed portions of the earlier sacrifices could be offered all night. From this, the Talmud infers that the Shaharit and Minha services should take place when the Temidim were offered, and Arvit can be prayed all night (Berakhot 26b).

That system is sufficient for a weekday, but on special occasions the Torah commands that we offer many extra sacrifices beyond the daily regimen (Num. 28:9-30:1). In modern times we can't make any of these offerings because the Temple no longer stands, so instead we append an additional service to Shaharit in which we describe them in detail.

The times when this is necessary are Shabbat, Rosh Hodesh, Pesah, Shavuot, Rosh Hashana, Kippur, Sukkot, and Shemini Atseret. The structure of the Musaf Amida is to begin and end in the normal way (see Part IV of this series), and use the middle portion to describe our longing for the lost cult of sacrifice.

On Shabbat, we open that section with a poetic description of the day and how the sacrifices fit into it. We ask that God allow us to once again have the spiritual merit to offer them, and then we quote the passage in the Torah that describes what we would offer on Shabbat.

After the Hazan's repetition we round out the Amida with Pitum Haketoret, which describes the daily Tamid and incense offerings. At Alenu, we remind ourselves how good it feels to be praying to the One True God, and then we go out to enjoy the Kiddush!

## Save the Date!

# Adult Bat Mitzvah

**Saturday, February 9**

**4 Adar I, 5779**

**Parashat Teruma**

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**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](mailto: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

