

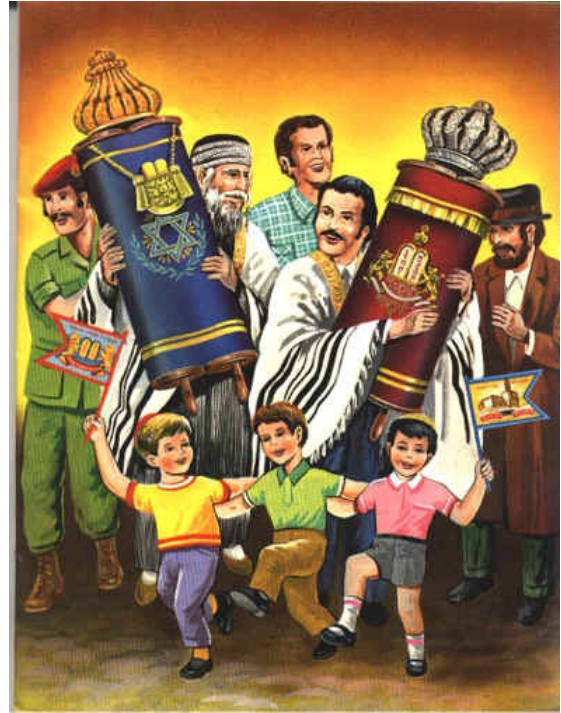
# SIMHAT TORAH

## Together We Stand

By Rabbi Benarroch  
SEC Jerusalem

One of the more beautiful Jewish symbols is the "Four Species" that we shake during the festival of "Sukkot". The "Four Species" consist of the "Lulav" (Palm Branch), "Etrog" (Citron), "Hadasim" (three Myrtle Branches), and "Aravot" (three Willow Branches). Today I would like to touch upon some insights into the "Lulav and Etrog".

Without a doubt the most important of the "Four Species" is the "Etrog". The Torah refers to the "Etrog" as "Pri Etz Hadar", which not only means a fruit of the citrus family, but a fruit that is beautiful. The word "Hadar" in Hebrew is also used to denote beauty. Because of this Jewish law requires us to go the extra mile to purchase the most beautiful "Etrog".



The centrality of the "Etrog" standing out from the other species does not end with the Torah. The Rabbis also make a big deal about the "Etrog" claiming that it is the only one of the "Four Species" that has both good taste and smell. These two qualities, they explain, represent the ultimate Jew who possesses both Torah knowledge (good taste) and good deeds (good smell).

With all of this in mind I would like to pose a simple question. With the performance of all commandments, be-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Prayer Schedule

### HOSHANA RABA Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 21 Tishri

Shaharit ..... 6:30 am  
Minhah/Arbit... 6:00 pm  
Candle Lighting 6:09 pm

### SHEMINI ATZERET & EREV SIMHAT TORAH Shabbat, October 10<sup>th</sup> 22 Tishri

Shaharit ..... 8:30 am  
Minhah ..... 6:00 pm  
Arbit ..... 7:30 pm  
Candles.....after 7:03 pm  
*Hakafot Tonight*

### SIMHAT TORAH Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> 23 Tishri

Shaharit ..... 8:30 am  
Minhah & Arbit 6:00 pm  
Yom Tov Ends... 7:09 pm

*(Continued from page 1)*

fore we perform the act a blessing is recited. The blessing always reflects the gist of the Mizvah. So for example on Rosh Hashanah before the blasting of the Shofar we recite the following blessing, "Blessed are you Hashem our G-d and the King of the world that you have commanded us to hear the sound of the Shofar". Since hearing the sound of the "Shofar" is central to Rosh Hashanah it stands to reason that we mention the "sound of the Shofar" in the blessing. This is true of all blessings.

Yet when it comes to the "Four Species" this is not the case. The blessing we recite over the "Four Species" is, "Blessed are you Hashem our G-d and the King of the world that you have commanded us to shake the Lulav".

If the "Etrog" is the most important of the "Four Species" then why do we not say, "Blessed are you Hashem our G-d and

the King of the world that you have commanded us to shake the Etrog". Why is it that the blessing singles out the "Lulav"? At best we should have ended the blessing by saying, "Who has commanded us to shake the Four Species".

It seems to me that although the Torah and the Rabbis single out the "Etrog" as the most important of the "Four Species", the blessing seems to be saying that it is the "Lulav" that is most central. What can we learn from the "Lulav"?

I once heard a very beautiful answer to this question. While it is true that the "Etrog" is the most important and the most beautiful of the "Four Species" it nevertheless remains separate from them. It is not tied onto the "Lulav" but placed in a separate place and only when we shake the "Lulav" do we bring it next to the "Lulav" and shake them together.

The "Lulav" on the other hand has everything tied on to it. The "Hadasim" (Myrtle Branches) and the "Aravot" (Willow Branches) are tied onto the "Lulav". In fact Jewish law requires what's called and "Egged", which means that the species must be bound and tied onto the "Lulav". The "Etrog" remains separate placed in its own box and only during the time that the "Lulav" is shaken do we touch the "Etrog" to the "Lulav".

While the "Etrog" remains separate, the "Lulav" unifies all the species together. The "Lulav" stands tall and its message is that unless everything is connected together in unity and harmony then the Mizvah cannot be performed.

I believe that there is also a great philosophical message here. The holiday of Sukkot in general is all about unity. We leave the comforts of our homes and enter into the "Sukkah". The "Sukkah" is a place

where we venture out and bring in guests to celebrate with us. "Sukkot" is about community, and it is not uncommon to engage in what's called "Sukkah hopping" where people visit each others "Sukkot".

The symbol that best captures the idea of unity is the "Lulav" and so when it comes to making the blessing, it is the "Lulav" that is emphasized and not the "Etrog".

Perhaps this is also why the festival of "Sukkot" comes four short days after "Yom Kippur". After all on "Yom Kippur" we not only are forgiven by G-d for our sins, but we also forgive each other and mend the rifts that separated us from each other. The forgiveness of "Yom Kippur" paves the way for a more harmonious world. That harmony is what we bring into the festival of "Sukkot". The "Lulav" stands tall in symbolizing that harmony.

*Published courtesy of  
the SEC*

## In Memoriam

It is customary to light a memorial candle in the evening and donate tzedakah. Family members are encouraged to attend services.

### Shabbat / 22 Tishrei

Ezra Hayim ben Norman  
Ester bat Sarah  
Salman ben Haskel

### Sunday / 23 Tishrei

Naima bat Lulu Somekh

### Monday / 24 Tishrei

Farha bat Salha  
Miriam bat Rachel

### Tuesday / 25 Tishrei

Farha bat Rachel

### Wednesday / 26 Tishrei

Moshe ben Aharon Duwek  
HaCohen

### Thursday / 27 Tishrei

Abraham ben Eliyahu Katan

### Friday / 28 Tishrei

Girji Hoogi bat Farha

### Shabbat / 29 Tishrei

David ben Eliyahu Itzhak  
Yaakov ben Yitzhak

## Community News

### Refuah Shlemah

*Please include these individuals in your prayers for healing:*

Yonatan ben Alizah • Mazal Tov bat Sulha Mitana • Matilda Louisa • Jack Wickett • Yaheskel ben Regina • Ayala bat Naomi • Khayah Noa bat Sara • Victor ben Pauline • Haim ben Mordechai • Moshe ben Naji • Pnina bat Esther • Yosi ben Esther • Victor ben Latif • Ramah Regina bat Farha • Chanan Velvel Simcha ben Bryna • Aziza bat Sara

### MAZAL TOV

to  
Sharon and Ofir  
Dangor

on the  
Bar Mitzvah  
of their son  
Ben

### SIMHAT TORAH LUNCHEON

is sponsored by  
Hannie Kelly  
& Family

to honor  
the memory of  
David Kelly, z"l

## Announcements

### *Spice Readers Club w/Saeed*

Wouldn't you like to chant from the Torah Reserve your haftara portion at 310.474.0559. Schedule time with Saeed and learn your haftara with authentic Baghdadi ta'amim, Iraqi melodies for Torah reading

### Kahal Joseph Norma & Sam Dabby Talmud Torah

*Classes have started. Register now!* For more information call 310.474.0559 or e-mail [molly@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:molly@kahaljoseph.org)

### *Talmud Torah Simhat Torah*

All Talmud Torah students and parents are invited to a pre-party then join the hakafot & ice cream downstairs. Meet upstairs at 6:00 pm.

## *KJ Community Hakafot & Ice Cream Party on Erev Simhat Torah*

Saturday, October 10th.

Arbit at 7:30, Hakafot & Ice Cream to Follow  
Sing & dance ! Enjoy Kahal's beautiful Sifrei Torah!  
Bring your own mini-Torah! Build an ice-cream treat!



*Hebrew Classes for Beginners . . .*  
*Because Hebrew is More*  
*than a Language*

with Rabbi Hagay Batzri  
 at Kahal Joseph Congregation

**An Eight Class Series**  
**Wednesday Evenings, 7 pm to 8 pm**

*Learn Hebrew at Kahal Joseph! Rabbi Hagay Batzri will lead this informative and insightful class for beginning Hebrew learners. Reading and writing will be covered, as well as some conversation. The course starts in October and continues through December 2009. Appreciate our beautiful, poetic language in all its fullness--*

***Class Schedule***  
**October 14th & 21st**  
**November 11th, 18th, & 25th**  
**December 2nd, 9th, & 16th**

**To sign up, please call the Kahal Joseph office at 310.474.0559.  
 Or e-mail [hbatzri@gmail.com](mailto:hbatzri@gmail.com).**

Dear Congregants:

Many of you love to show your love for our beautiful Torahs by embracing them and kissing them. In light of public health concerns about spreading germs with the imminent flu season, and for general hygienic reasons, and the courtesy we want to extend to all members, we ask that you refrain from putting your mouth on our Torahs or on our books, refrain from embracing the Torahs as they pass you. Also, please do not push others out of the way just in order to reach the Torah. This is very dangerous to our congregants and the one carrying the Torah. You can show your respect by touching your hand or tallit to the Torah and kissing it that way, or just by raising your hand from afar in the direction of the Torah. Or, you can visit the Torahs in the Hechal after the Services. Please follow these rules during your visits to the Torahs in the Hechal after services as well. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

The Religious Committee

The Sisterhood of the Kahal Joseph Congregation  
*Presents*

# **INTERNATIONAL NIGHT**

**Dinner & Dancing**

**Sunday, November 8, 2009 at 6:30 PM**

*Featuring:*

*The Music of Yosi Levy and The Sabras*

*And from Spain, Bobbie Revas and The Latin Connection*

*From Greece, The Mykonos Duo with Shayas on the bouzouki*

*& the Sound of Napoli – Tony Aviani*

Kahal Joseph Congregation

The Errol Levi Ballroom

10505 Santa Monica Blvd. L.A., CA 90025

**\$60 per Person – No-Host Bar**

**Valet Parking Available**

**RSVP by October 31, 2009**

**For reservations please call: Elsa Singman 323.934.3439**

**Louise Elias 818.884.0120 Rita Hanin 310.839.4206**

**Please make checks payable to:**

**Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph Congregation**

**c/o Diana Solomon**

**257 S. Reeves Drive, #303, Beverly Hills, CA 90212**