

# Kol Ezras Israel



## Rabbi's Message

When the Torah speaks about Sukkos, it says *ושמחת בחגך אתה ובנך ובתך ועבדך ואמתך והלוי והגר* , *You shall rejoice on your festival, you, your son, your daughter, your slave, your maidservant, the Levi, the convert, the orphan, the widow...* Yet the primary Mitzvah of Sukkos is *בסכת תשבּו שבעת ימים* (פ' אמור כג' : מבי') *You shall dwell in booths for a seven-day period...*; we are commanded to leave the comfort and security of our homes and take residence in a flimsy structure. How do we reconcile the seeming incongruity of observing the mitzvah to rejoice with that of dwelling in a Sukkah? Would it not be more fitting to celebrate the festival of joy in a comfortable and secure setting?

Upon reflecting upon this aspect of Sukkos during the Chag we have just experienced, a thought occurred to me which I would like to share.

The coronavirus pandemic compelled us to decelerate the often-frenetic pace of our lives and to reorient our priorities. We learned to appreciate many features of our existence that we formerly took for granted. We recognized that the constant pursuit of "more", is exactly that; a constant pursuit, a moving target that is neither acquired or reached and rarely, if ever, brings genuine happiness.

Where, then, does happiness lie? As the Mishnah in Avos states , *אִיזוֹהוּ עֹשֵׂי הַשְּׂמֵחַ בְּחֻלּוֹ* , *who is wealthy? One who is happy with his lot.* During those past months of lockdown and isolation we were given the time for reflection and introspec-

tion. Many of us recognized with clarity that less can indeed be more. Many of us recognized that happiness is not contingent upon our material possessions, those that we have or those we do not. Rather, happiness is a state of mind, guided by our thoughts and feelings. Happiness comes from within and radiates outward.

In this vein, we can understand the causative relationship between the mitzvos of dwelling in a Sukkah and celebrating with joy. Leaving our comfortable and secure homes to dwell in impermanent and fragile structures with minimal amenities is indeed a fitting way to celebrate a holiday of joy. For what is *simchah*? Material comforts and enjoyable experiences can and do contribute to our well-being but as the pandemic demonstrated, the wellspring of true *simchah* is within. True *simchah* inspires and enriches. True *simchah* is a state that can be acquired and reached.

The lessons of Sukkos are many. Perhaps we can glean yet another; that the essence of life is not measured by the aggregate material possessions we have accumulated. Rather, by making use of our possessions according to the will of Hashem, our essence becomes what we do and not what we have. Our lives are about being inspired, and inspiring others. And as a result, our lives will be filled with genuine happiness.

Eliezer Kreiser

### **Please note :**

Are you receiving the Rabbi's weekly primer which includes davening times and more? To subscribe, visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ezrasisrael>.

### **Support the Shul**

- Memorialize a loved one with a Plaque or dedicating a Siddur or Chumash
- Sponsor a Weekly Primer

Contact Rachmil Jacobovits at [milujaco@gmail.com](mailto:milujaco@gmail.com) or call 301 461-4984



### President's Message

During my Yom Kippur address to the congregation that gathered for Kol Nidre I discussed the state of our Congregation in the second Yom Kippur of our pandemic-imposed restrictions. The pandemic lockdowns and restrictions, the loss of Ring House members from our Congregation both as valuable and inspiring participants in our services and as a place to gather for daily *shacharit* and *mincha* have certainly taken a toll on the quality and consistency of services, we have been able to provide. Certainly, the Delta variant has caused people to be more cautious about returning to *shul* and we hope now as more of our members get their booster shots and case counts continue to drop *shul* attendance can increase to pre-pandemic levels. After nearly two years in this uncertain state, guided by the best medical advice and best practices of *shuls* like our own, I want to suggest that it is time for all our members and supporters to increase levels of *shul* participation. Not necessarily to pre-pandemic levels, but consistent with a realization that we are shifting to an enduring endemic presence of the COVID virus in our midst, and it's time to take our lives off the holding pattern we have been in for the better part of two years. We are being advised that the SARS COVID virus, in some form, will be as common as annual influenza and just like we have found ways of dealing with the flu: vaccines, treatments, bed-rest and drinking lots of fluids in case we get the flu, so too will it be with COVID. I hear that in the Baltimore Jewish community, the community's *Hatzallah* Service, is routinely administering monoclonal antibody treatments. With a little luck the Merck pill Molnupiravir for treating patients with COVID symptoms, will soon arrive and be one more of the growing number of tools available to the health professionals to secure our return to routine life even while the virus has become endemic.

While each one of us will, of course, make our own decisions based on our doctor's advice, I want to be an advocate for our communal life. In my Kol Nidre appeal I called on each of one of us to make it a personal mission to see our *shul*, our own *mikdash me'at*, thrive materially and spiritually. We know from our tradition that what we as individuals do matters very much. If

we make our mission to more fully self-actualize as observant Jews passing on our rich spiritual heritage of Torah, *mitzvot* and *ma'asim tovim* to our children and to our Rockville and North Bethesda community at large, the impact can reverberate for generations.

For the fall and winter ahead, I wish you good health, good tidings and gatherings in our own newly renovated *mikdash me'at* to *daven* and share happy occasions.

Rachmil

## Mazal Tov

To Eva Au Peter on the engagement of her son.

Beroukhims get two mazal tovs:

First for Lerone's engagement.

Second for Mayan's engagement.

To Sam Hurwitz for being awarded Chatan

Torah by Dovid and Yisroel Kreiser and

Gedalyah Ebstein.

## Yasher Koach

To all participants in our Simchas Torah

Auction.

To Judy Lowitz for sponsoring Simchas Torah Refreshments and for partnering in the Chatan Bereshit award to Rabbi Kreiser.

## Farewell

To Yahoodain Family on their move to California. You will be missed.

## Hanukah Recipes

### Hanukah Latkes (Parve)

You will need: 3-4 large baking potatoes, peeled

- 1 small onion, minced
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/3 cup matza meal or all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon baking powder
- Vegetable oil for frying

Steps: 1. Grate the potatoes into a bowl of cold water. Then squeeze out all the liquid.

2. In a medium bowl, mix well grated potatoes, onion, eggs, matza meal or flour, salt, baking powder.

3. In a large skillet, heat ½ inch oil over medium-high heat until very hot.

4. Drop potato mixture by tablespoonfuls into hot oil, flattening each with a spatula. Cook 2-3 minutes on each, until brown and crisp, turning once and if necessary reduce heat a little.

5. Remove cooked latkes to paper towels to drain. Repeat steps 4-5 until you have used all of the potato mixture.

As a variation: Substitute 1-1/2 pounds sweet potatoes, peeled and grated for ½ of the white potatoes. Add a dash of ground cinnamon, nutmeg or ginger.

Serve with sour cream (dairy) or apple sauce (Parve).

### Chesed Cards

Are available for happy and sad occasions

Call **June Graff** at 301 770-7129

### Cemetery Plots

Are available at Gan Zikaron (Garden of Remembrance)

Contact **Gene Tartakovsky** at 301 300-1999 or **Rachmil Jacobovits** at [milujaco@gmail.com](mailto:milujaco@gmail.com) or 301 461-4984

## Tu B'Shvat (15<sup>th</sup> of Shevat) Seder

This is a great activity for a group to participate along with you making it a shared experience. Because of COVID restrictions, zip lock bags with individual portions make it safe to share. Everyone probably has a song or poem to contribute as well.

You will need Red Wine, White Wine or substitute Sparkling Catawba Grape Juice and Concord Grape Juice.

Fruit with a hard outer skin: Orange, Almonds, Cashews, Walnuts

Fruit with an inner pit that is not eaten: Dates, Apricots, Peaches, Olives, Cherries, Plums

Fruit with a hard outer skin that is not eaten and an inner pit: Mango, Papaya, Avocado, Carob

Fruit that can be totally consumed: Figs, Grapes, Apples, Pears, Cranberry, Strawberry Blueberry

Some cookies or baked goods.

A selection of your favorite poems or songs about trees and fruits

Step: 1. First cup of wine is white (winter). Recite the *Bracha*.

2. First category of fruit. The almond, orange, etc. group. Recite the *Bracha*.

Perhaps the song *Hashkeidiah Porahat* or a poem

3. Second cup - Mix a bit of red with the white wine. Recite the *Bracha*.

4. Second category of fruit. The date or apricot group. Recite the *Bracha*.

The song *Eretz Zavot Halav udVash* would be nice here.

5. Fill the third cup with red wine and add a bit of white. Recite the *Bracha*

6. Eat from the third category of fruit. The mango or avocado group. Recite the *Bracha*.

7. Time for a cookie or some cake. *Bracha M'zonos* and perhaps some poems.

8. Fourth cup of wine is all red. Recite the *Bracha*.

9. Fourth category of fruit figs, grapes etc. Recite the *Bracha*.

If any fruits are being eaten for the first time this year, don't forget *Sheheheyanu*.

*L'Shanah Ha Ba B' Yerushalayim.*

Date	Day	Parsha – Chag - Event	Candle Lighting	Friday Erev Shabbat Mincha	Shabbat/ Yom Tov Mincha	Shabbat/ Yom Tov Ends
Oct 15-16	Fri-Sat	Lechlecha	6:11	6:10	6:00	7:10
Oct 22-23	Fri-Sat	Vayera	6:01	6:00	5:50	7:00
Oct 29-30	Fri-Sat	Hayyei Sarah - Mevorchim Kislev - Friday	5:52	5:50	5:40	6:52
Nov 5-6	Fri-Sat	Toledot	5:45	5:45	5:35	6:44
Nov 12-13	Fri-Sat	Vayetze	4:38	4:40	4:26	5:38
Nov 19-20	Fri-Sat	Yayishlach	4:33	4:35	4:20	5:34
Nov 26-27	Fri-Sat	Vayeshev - Mevorchim Tevet - Friday	4:30	4:30	4:20	5:31
Nov 28	Sun	1 <sup>st</sup> Night of Hanukah	--	--	--	--
Dec 3-4	Fri-Sat	Miketz - Rosh Hodesh - Tevet	4:28	4:30	4:15	5:30
Dec 10-11	Fri-Sat	Vayigash	4:27	4:25	4:15	5:31
Dec 14	Tue	Fast of the 10 <sup>th</sup> of Tevet from 5:53 AM to 5:30 PM	--	--	--	--
Dec 17-18	Fri-Sat	Vayechi	4:29	4:30	4:20	5:33
Dec 24-25	Fri-Sat	Shmot	4:32	4:30	4:20	5:36
Dec31-Jan1	Fri-Sat	Vaera - Mevorchim Shvat - Monday	4:37	4:35	4:25	5:41
Jan 7-8	Fri-Sat	Bo	4:44	4:45	4:35	5:47
Jan 14-15	Fri-Sat	Beshalach	4:51	4:50	4:40	5:54
Jan 17	Mon	Tu B'Shvat	--	--	--	--
Jan 21-22	Fri-Sat	Yitro	4:58	5:00	4:45	6:01

**Shabbat at Ezras Israel: Call 240-627-1661 for Eruv status Shacharit 9:00 a.m. COVID Protocols in Effect**

# Kol Ezras Israel

**Ezras Israel Congregation**

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