

# BJC Wensa

“WENSA” MEANS “FUN” IN JUDEO-ARABIC!

[WWW.BJCN.YORG](http://WWW.BJCN.YORG)

Sept. 7, 2013

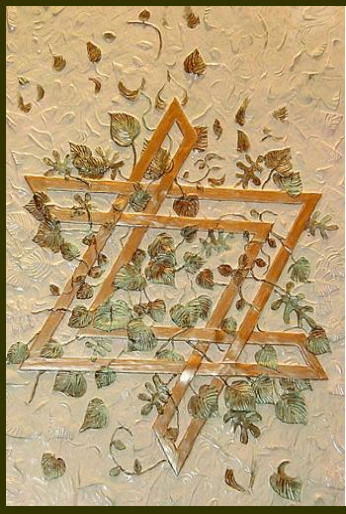
3 Tishrei, 5774

VOLUME 15

HAAZINU

SHABBAT ENDS 7:58PM

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## PARSHA OF THE WEEK...

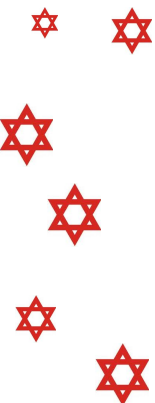
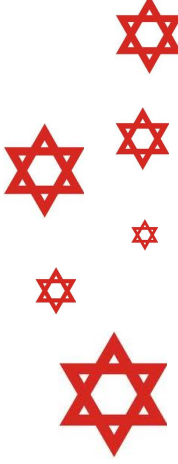
### HAAZINU



The greater part of the Torah reading of Haazinu (“Listen In”) consists of a 70-line “song” delivered by Moses to the people of Israel on the last day of his earthly life.

Calling heaven and earth as witnesses, Moses exhorts the people, “Remember the days of old / Consider the years of many generations / Ask your father, and he will recount it to you / Your elders, and they will tell you” how G-d “found them in a desert land,” made them a people, chose them as His own, and bequeathed them a bountiful land. The song also warns against the pitfalls of plenty—“Yeshurun grew fat and kicked / You have grown fat, thick and rotund / He forsook G-d who made him / And spurned the Rock of his salvation”—and the terrible calamities that would result, which Moses describes as G-d “hiding His face.” Yet in the end, he promises, G-d will avenge the blood of His servants, and be reconciled with His people and land.

The Parshah concludes with G-d’s instruction to Moses to ascend the summit of Mount Nebo, from which he will behold the Promised Land before dying on the mountain. “For you shall see the land opposite you; but you shall not go there, into the land which I give to the children of Israel.”



## PARSHA HAAZINU DISCUSSION....

"Aren't you coming out for recess?" Rachel asked Dina.

"No," replied Dina with a slight air of importance. "Miss Katz said she wanted to speak to me privately in the teachers' room."

Leah, another seventh grader, thought Dina had raised her voice a bit so other girls would hear. As Dina left the classroom, Leah whispered to Rachel, "You know, ever since Dina was chosen as class president, she..."

"Oh, come on, Leah," Rachel interrupted her. "Let's not gossip. Besides, Dina is talented and she's a good organizer. She'll do a lot of nice things for our class."

Yet Leah was right about Dina, and their teacher had sensed it too. That is why she wanted to speak to her. "Dina," began Miss Katz, as the two met in a teachers' room. "I would like to share some thoughts with you from this week's Torah portion."

Dina was a bit surprised. A private Torah class, just for her, on Tuesday? She realized there must be something behind this, and listened intently as Miss Katz continued: "The Torah tells us that both Moses and Joshua recited a song and spoke to the Jewish people. Our sages stress that, at this time, both Moses and Joshua were fulfilling the role of leader."

"Moses arranged for Joshua to speak before the people just as he himself did. Why did Moses do this? We read about many leaders who appointed their successors, but most did not put them in that position during their own lifetimes. "But with Joshua, it was different. You see, Moses was concerned that people might not be sure that Joshua was able to lead."

"Our sages tell us that Moses did not want people to question Joshua's leadership, saying: 'Wait a minute -- you never said much during Moses' lifetime, now how can we be sure that you have something to say and can lead us?' So Moses stood Joshua by his side and had him recite the song as a leader."

"But Miss Katz," asked Dina. "Why would people think that Joshua was not a capable leader?" "Our sages tell us that everyone expects a leader to show his importance. But Joshua 'never lifted his head.' He was always humble, attending to Moses like a faithful servant."

"Moses raised up Joshua in his own lifetime, because Joshua never 'raised his head' on his own. Even when he was given the leadership role, he did not feel his importance."

Miss Katz looked at Dina and knew she didn't have to say another word. Dina was as bright and talented, and understood the lesson

# BJC Happenings...

Rosh Hashana celebration with the children at BJC...



# SHABBAT RECIPE

## FROM PERSIA'S "HIDDEN JEWS" OF MASHHAD

### Cholow Nokhodow

*Note:* You can cheat and add canned beans and chickpeas towards the end of the process instead of cooking them from scratch

*Serves 6*

3 pounds Beef chuck, trimmed and cut into large (2-3 inch) cubes

3-4 small marrow/soup bones

1 large onion, peeled

4 medium size kohlrabi, peeled and cut into medium-thin wedges

2 cups dried chickpeas (soaked in cold water overnight)

3 cups white beans (soaked in cold water overnight)

2 bunches of scallions (washed and chopped)

2 bunches of cilantro (washed and chopped)

2 bunches of fresh dill (washed and chopped)

Salt, pepper, turmeric



1) In a medium size pot, combine beef, soup-bones, chickpeas, beans and onion. Cover with water (about 2 inches above ingredients)

2) Bring pot to boil, allow boil to roll for 4-5 minutes. Carefully skim all froth.

3) Lower flame to medium-low and simmer half-covered until beef and beans are tender (3-4 hours)

4) Remove onion and marrow bones from pot, skim fat from top of broth, season broth to taste with salt, pepper and turmeric.

5) Add kohlrabi wedges, allow to simmer for 15 minutes.

6) Add all greens, stirring them gently into the broth, allow to simmer for 15 more minutes.

7) Serve over a bed of steamed high-quality basmati rice, with fresh challah to soak up the remaining broth (yes, it's that good!)

### **Puzzles:**

#### **1) Moische's punishment**

Moische was a naughty teenager and was always getting himself into trouble at school. One week he was so bad that as a punishment he was asked to carry 100 bags of sand from the store room to the long jump pit. He found it a great struggle and after he had taken the first few bags to the pit, he soon realised that he could put something in each bag to make it lighter to carry. The question is:

WHAT COULD MOISHE PUT INTO EACH BAG?

#### **2) Dare Devil Morris**

Morris is a gambler. One day he bets Shlomo \$1,000 that he can jump from a 13 storey building onto the concrete street below without hurting himself. Shlomo thinks Morris is off his head and accepts the bet.

The question is:

HOW DID MORRIS WIN THE \$1,000?

**ANSWER ON THE BACK PAGE**



## Why...

Contributed by: Amnon isaac



**Me:** Ha'Shem, can I ask you a question?

**Ha'Shem:** Sure.

**Me:** Promise you won't get mad?

**Ha'Shem:** I promise.

**Me:** Why did you let so much stuff happen to me today?

**Ha'Shem:** What do you mean?

**Me:** Well, I woke up late.

**Ha'Shem:** Yes.

**Me:** My car took forever to start.

**Ha'Shem:** Okay.

**Me:** At lunch they made my sandwich wrong and I had to wait.

**Ha'Shem:** Hmmm.

**Me:** On the way home my phone went dead just as I picked up a call.

**Ha'Shem:** Okay.

**Me:** And on top of all that, when I got home I just wanted to soak my feet in my new foot massager and relax, but it wouldn't work!!!

Nothing went right today! Why did you do that?

**Ha'Shem:** Well, let me see. The Death Angel was at your bed this morning and I had to send one of the other angels to battle him for your life.

I let you sleep through that.

**Me:** (humbled): OH...

**Ha'Shem:** I didn't let your car start because there was a drunk driver on your route that would have hit you if you were on the road.

**Me:** (ashamed) Oh ...

**Ha'Shem:** The person who made your first sandwich today was sick and I didn't want you to catch what he has. I knew you couldn't afford to miss work.

**Me:** (embarrassed): Ok...

**Ha'Shem:** Your phone went dead because the person who was calling was going to give false witness about what you said during that call. I didn't even let you talk to them so that you would be covered.

**Me:** (softly) I see, G-d.

**Ha'Shem:** Oh, and that foot massager had a short that was going to throw out all of the power in your house tonight. I didn't think you wanted to be in the dark.

**Me:** I'm sorry G-d.

**Ha'Shem:** Don't be sorry, just learn to trust me in all things, the good and the bad.

**Me:** I will trust you.

**Ha'Shem:** And don't doubt that MY plan for your day is always better than your plan.

**Me:** I won't, G-d. And let me just tell you G-d, thank you for everything today.

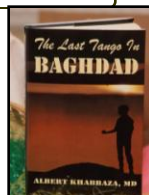
**Ha'Shem:** You're welcome, child. It was just another day being your G-d, and I love looking after my children.

*Always be thankful. Things happen for a reason.  
We may not always understand the reason.*

### *The Last Tango in Baghdad*

by Dr. Albert Khabbaza is available at all online booksellers. For more info visit:

[www.khabbaza.com](http://www.khabbaza.com)



# Date cookies

*B'ab'e b'tamer*



These are savoury biscuits, filled with meltingly soft date centres, and usually served to guests as a snack with tea or coffee, along with cheese *sambousaks* and *malfouf*.

## The dough

This is a basic recipe for dough which you can use for making savoury or sweet snacks. I find plain flour works successfully with the yoghurt. You can add a teaspoon of baking powder to this if you wish or use self-raising instead of plain flour.

## Making the dough

Sieve the flour, fennel and salt into a mixing bowl. Add the butter, cut and rub in. Add the yoghurt and mix. Knead into a malleable dough. (Add some water, if needed). Cover with a damp cloth and leave for about an hour in a warm part of the kitchen.

## Making the filling

Combine the dates with the butter and oil in a saucepan and place on a very low heat. Stir with a fork for about five minutes or until the dates become malleable. Add two or three tablespoons of water to get a smooth paste. Set aside to cool.

Once the paste is cool enough to handle, grease the palm of your hands with a little oil and roll a heaped teaspoonful of the mixture into a ball. Do this with all the date mixture and place the balls on a plate.



## Makes about 45 cookies

500g plain flour  
140g butter (room temperature)  
150g yoghurt (room temperature)  
1 flat teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoons ground fennel  
Some lukewarm water

## The filling

500g soft pitted dates  
15g unsalted butter (room temperature or softer)  
1 tablespoon sunflower oil  
3 tablespoons water

1 egg yolk, beaten (for glazing)  
Some sesame seeds

## Making the cookies

Pre-heat the oven to 180°C/Gas Mark 4.

You will be cutting circles of dough of about 8cm in diameter. You can use a cookie cutter or drinking glass for this purpose. Knead the dough for a few minutes. Take a small portion at a time and roll out with a rolling pin. The dough should be thin, about 6mm thick. Cut as many circular shapes as you can. Gently gather up the leftover dough and set aside in a covered bowl.

Place a date ball in the centre of each circle. Gently gather up the edges of the dough to cover the filling. Press the edges firmly together to seal and gently flatten it with the palm of your hand.

Turn the cookie over and roll lightly with a rolling pin to flatten it further. Do not press too hard otherwise the filling will ooze out. I like these very thin, so experiment until you find the right

pressure to use.

Repeat until the leftover dough and filling have been used.

Arrange the cookies on a baking tray. Using a fork, prick the surface several times to stop the cookies from puffing up. Brush them lightly with the egg, then sprinkle a few sesame seeds on top. Bake in the preheated oven for about 30 minutes or until golden.

Serve warm or cold.

If you have some dough left it can be kept in the refrigerator or frozen, as long as you wrap it in cling film or foil. You can safely mix it later with a new batch of dough.

Recipe is taken from "Flavours of Babylon" By Linda Dangoor



## MEZUZAH

A man who has finally made it in business treats himself to a new Lamborghini. After buying it, he feels guilty so he goes to the Orthodox Rabbi and asks for a mezuzah for the Lamborghini.

"You want a mezuzah for what?" the Rabbi asks.

"It's a Lamborghini,"

"What's a Lamborghini?" asks the Rabbi.

"A sports car."

"What? That's blasphemy!" the Rabbi shouts. "You want a mezuzah for a sports car? Go to the Conservatives!"

Well, the man is disappointed, but goes to the Conservative Rabbi and asks for a mezuzah.

"You want a mezuzah for what?" the Rabbi asks.

"For my Lamborghini", the man replies.

"What's a Lamborghini?" asks the Rabbi.

"A car, a sports car."

"What kind of sports car?" asks the Rabbi. "Italian."

"What? That is blasphemy!" the Rabbi shouts. "You want a mezuzah for a Goyishe car? Go to the Reform!"

Again, the man feels guilty and disappointed, but goes to the Reform Rabbi.

"Rabbi," he asks, "I'd like a mezuzah for my Lamborghini."

"You have a Lamborghini?" asks the Rabbi.

"You know what it is?" says the man.

"Of course! It's a fantastic Italian sports car. What's a mezuzah?"

## Why G-d Created Children

*To those of us who have children in our lives, whether they are our own, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or students...here is something to make you chuckle.*

After creating heaven and earth, G-d created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was "DON'T!"

"Don't what?" Adam replied.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit." G-d said.

"Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit?"

"Hey Eve...we have forbidden fruit!"

"No Way!" "Yes way!"

"Do NOT eat the fruit!" said G-d.

"Why?"

"Because I am your Father and I said so!" G-d replied.

A few minutes later, G-d saw His children having an apple break and He was ticked!

"Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?" G-d asked.

"Uh huh," Adam replied. "Then why did you?" said the Father.

"I don't know," said Eve. "She started it!" Adam said.

"Did not!" "Did too!" "DID NOT!"

Having had it with the two of them, G-d's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed.

## BUT THERE IS REASSURANCE IN THE STORY!

If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give children wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself. If God had trouble raising children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

1. Grandchildren are G-d's reward for not killing your own children.
2. Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
3. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.

A young Jewish man excitedly tells his mother he's fallen in love and going to get married. He says, "Just for fun, Ma, I'm going to bring over 3 women and you try and guess which one I'm going to marry."

The mother agrees.

The next day, he brings 3 beautiful women into the house and sits them down on the couch and they chat for a while. He then says, "Okay, Ma. Guess which one I'm going to marry."

She immediately replies, "The red-head in the middle."

"That's amazing, Ma. You're right. How did you know?"

"I don't like her."

A priest, a nun and a rabbi are asked the question "When does life begin?"

The priest says: "The moment of conception".

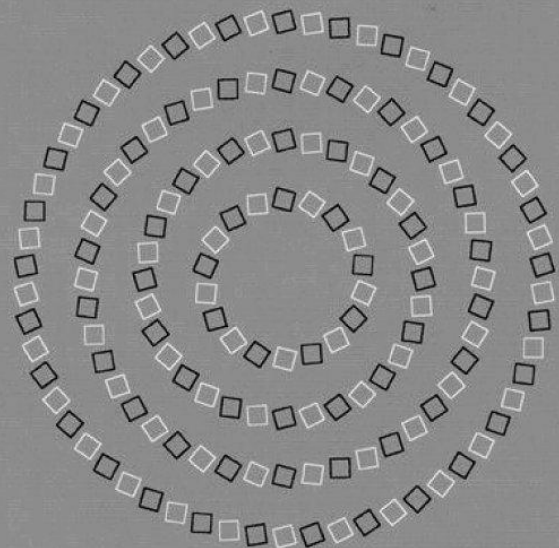
The nun replies: "The moment of birth".

The rabbi replies: "The moment the kids are married and the mortgage has been paid off."

## You tube videos in Judeo ARABIC: Iraqi actor in museum of Babylon jews

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XyrUpem2wU>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLboAL-MMsE>



4 Perfectly Round Circles

imgur



## Jewish Joke

For years, Morty Goldberg spent his Saturdays golfing. But when his wife died, he regularly began attending Saturday morning services so that he could say kaddish for her.

Once the period had passed, the ritual chair asked Morty if he would like an aliyah the following Saturday. Morty said he'd be honored.

But when folding up his tallis after the service, he realized if he was going to have an aliyah, he really should have his tallis cleaned.

So on his way to work Monday morning, he figured he'd stop at Cohen's Dry Cleaning and drop off the tallis. He pulls into the parking lot and proceeds to blanché when he sees the sign on the door: Achmed's Dry Cleaning.

He goes in and asks the owner, "What happened to Cohen?"

"Sir," said Achmed, "Mr. Cohen has retired. I spent many years working for him, and I bought out his business. And I am proud to say that many of his best customers still use my services."

Morty shows him that tallis and asks if he can have it clean by Friday.

"Friday is my sabbath," explained Achmed. "But I can have it ready for you Thursday."

Even better, Morty thinks, so he leaves the tallis with him.

Thursday he comes to pick it up, and sure enough, it's ready and hanging on a hanger inside a protective plastic overcover. "How much do I owe you?" he asks.

"\$49.95 plus tax," Achmed answers.

"\$49.95!" screams Morty. "Cohen never charged me more than five bucks to clean my tallis."

"Ah yes, Mr. Goldberg," said Achmed, "but did Mr. Cohen ever manage to get all the knots out?"

## Today's Gigue

contributed by Mirra Zara

A group of 15-year old guys discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Dairy Queen next to the Ocean View Restaurant because they only had \$6.00 between them and Jane Johnson, that cute girl in Social Studies, lives on that street and they might see her and they can ride their bikes there.

Ten years later, the group of 25-year-old guys discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because the beer was cheap, they had free snacks, the band was good, there was no cover and there were lots of cute girls.

Ten years later, at 35 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because the booze was good, it was right near the gym and if they went late enough, there wouldn't be too many whiny kids.

Ten years later, at 45 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because the martinis were big, and the waitresses wore tight pants.

Ten years later, at 55 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because the prices were reasonable, the wine list was good, and fish is good for your cholesterol.

Ten years later, at 65 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because the lighting was good and they have an early bird special.

Ten years later, at 75 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because the food was not too spicy, and the restaurant was handicapped accessible.

Ten years later, at 85 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because they had never been there before.



Answer to puzzle:

- 1) Moishe put a hole in each sandbag
- 2) Morris jumped from a ground floor

### FAMILY SHABBAT DATES:

OCT. 12, 2013  
NOV. 9, 2013  
DEC. 14, 2013  
JAN. 25, 2014  
MAR. 1, 2014  
APRIL 5, 2014  
MAY 10, 2014  
JUNE 14, 2014



**Larger Than Life**  
Annual Gala - Long Island Chapter  
October 22, 2013

**VOCAL PEOPLE** As Seen  
On Broadway

Temple Israel of Great Neck - 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023

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