



Reaffirmation of our Traditions

Throughout the many generations of our community, our ancestors have made numerous sacrifices to maintain our identity, our religious integrity and to protect the foundations of our Jewish faith.

Under the harshest religious persecution of the Allahdadi from 1839-1925, the exodus from Iran during the 1979 Revolution, and the ensuing years of resettlement around the world, we have managed to keep the Mashadi Jewish Community united and true to our heritage.

Recognizing the threat and the alarming rate of assimilation in the general Jewish community, where young Jews marry non-Jews, sometimes with an effort for conversion to Judaism; upon consultation with the Rabbis, elders and leaders of our community, and other Jewish communities, we have decided to reaffirm our traditions and to protect our identity, the strong foundations of our faith, our Halacha (Jewish law), and our Minhagim (traditions) which we have maintained for many generations.

THEREFORE, the Religious Council, the Board of Trustees and the Central Board of the United Mashadi Jewish Community of America, together with the Boards of Shaare Tova, Mashadi Jewish Center-Shaare Shalom, Young Mashadi Jewish Center-Ohr Esther, Shaare Rachamim and all other Mashadi organizations around the world, have come together to reaffirm our community's heritage and pledge ourselves to uphold and enforce these traditions as per the UMJCA by-laws.

NO male or female member of our community may intermarry with non-Jews. Converts for marriage are not allowed according to Sephardic Halacha, and therefore, once determined as such by the Religious Council, are forbidden according to the UMJCA by-laws (Article I / Section 3).

Adoptions, however, are acceptable when done according to Halacha.

Further, no present or future Rabbi of our community will convert male or female non-Jews who seek to marry into our community.

OUR COMMUNITY does not accept any converts for marriage, male or female.

OUR RABBIS will not perform any religious ceremonies for such couples.

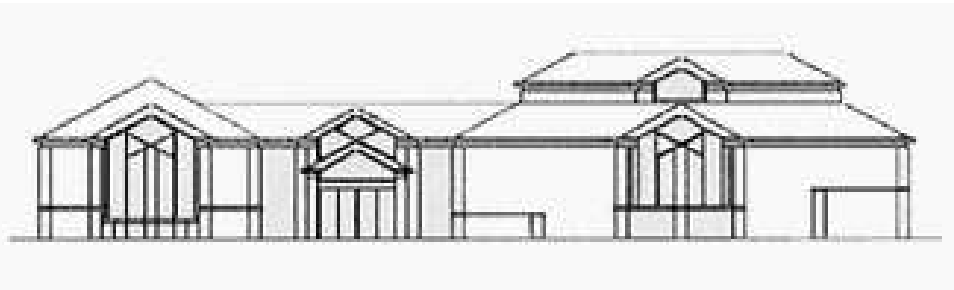
OUR GABBAYIM are not allowed to grant any honors to such couples, such as offering an Aliyah to the Sefer Torah, opening the Heichal, taking out the Torah, being the "Shaliach Tzibur", or any similar honors, in our synagogues.

SUCH COUPLES will not be allowed to use any of the community's premises for any private religious or social purposes.

IN FACT, all community services shall be banned to them, regardless of financial consideration.

Any Halacha issues shall be addressed by the Religious Council.

We pledge to protect our family and community values by taking our guidance from the Torah, by promoting Jewish Education, and by conducting all our activities on the basis of the Jewish faith according to Sephardic Halacha, and in accordance with the customs and practices of the Mashadi Jewish Community.



THE EVENT THAT BONDED THE MASHADI COMMUNITY FOREVER THE ALLAHDADI INCIDENT

The year was 1740, when the **Persian King Nader** declared the city of **Mashad** in the north- eastern region of Iran as the capital of his empire, and decided to move the scholars, artisans, as well as selected businessmen of the country to that city in order to further develop his capital. He had heard about a small community of about 40 Jewish families, residing mainly in the city of **Ghasvin** located in the center of the nation, who had the highest reputation for trustworthiness, so he ordered them to moved to his capital and take charge of managing and safeguarding his enormous treasury. **These 40 families were destined to become the foundation of a much larger community, called the “Anuseh Mashad”, in the years to come.**

By 1747 the last year of King Nader’s life, this community began to arrive in Mashad, but with the assassination of the king and fall of the regime, they lost their financial support, and were forced to settle in a down-scale neighborhood of this extreme Islamic city, called **Eidgah.**

For the next 100 years this Mashadi Jewish community was forced to live under constant threat from the Moslems and in the most difficult conditions. Jewish prayer services and kosher slaughters were conducted secretly, and life among the extremely prejudiced and cruel Moslems was as hard and bitter as it could be. **Finally on the 12th of Nissan, 3 days before the holiday of Pesach (March 27, 1839),**

came the day that Mashad's Moslem population's hatred for the Jewish Community reached its highest point. On that day, after having falsely accused the Jewish community of several crimes, they attacked the Jewish neighborhood. On that bloody day, later to be known as "Allahdadi", 32 members of our community (and by another count 36 people) were killed. Many were injured and synagogues, homes and businesses were destroyed and burned. Furthermore, the 400 men of the Mashadi Jewish Community were ordered to convert to Islam or face an immediate death.

The community leaders realizing the severity of the situation had no other choice but to allow them (under the harshest threats) to verbally declare their acceptance of Islam, while everyone still secretly remained fully devoted and committed to the Jewish faith and traditions. **Incredibly, the Mashadi community under the most intolerable pressures managed to secretly survive as Jews for over 100 years. The biggest threat was, of course, intermarriage. Once seen as peers, the Moslem population often requested the hand of the Jewish girls. Our ancestors, many times risking their lives, managed to handle the situation and avoided completely intermarrying into the Moslem population. They went as far as 'marrying' their newborn baby to another Mashadi child in order to protect their future Jewish identity.**

Today, Thank G-d, we are witnessing the fruits of their sacrifices. We are honoring our ancestors who even under the threat of death refused to abandon the laws of Torah and their Jewish tradition.

A MODEL OF EIDGAH ILLUSTRATING THE WAY OF LIFE OF THE BRAVE MASHADI JEWS THROUGHOUT THAT HISTORIC ERA IS ON DISPLAY IN SHAARE SHALOM SYNAGOGUE'S HALLWAY.



اظهار قطعی و تأکید مجدد رسوم و سنت های جامعه

در طول نسل ها اجداد ما برای حفظ هویت یهودی و برای نگهداری اصول مذهبی و اعتقادات ما از خود گذشتگی های بسیار نموده اند. تحت سخت ترین شرایط زندگی، آزار و اذیت های مذهبی در دوران الله دادی، خروج جمعی از ایران بعد از انقلاب ۱۹۷۹ و پراکندگی های دنبال آن در سراسر جهان، جامعه ما توانسته است که همچنان اتحاد خود را حفظ کند و از میراث خود حفاظت نماید.

از آنجا که خطر بسیار زیاد ازدواجهای مختلط جوامع یهودی را تهدید می کند و جوانان یهودی به نسبت بسیار بالائی با غیر یهودی ازدواج می کنند و حتی در بعضی موارد سعی می کنند که سایرین را بمنظور ازدواج به یهودیت گرایش دهند، انجمن مرکزی بعد از مذاکره با شورای مذهبی، بزرگان، رهبران جامعه و سایر جوامع یهودی آمریکا تصمیم گرفته است که مجدداً رسوم و سنت های دیرینه جامعه را تأکید کرده و پشتیبانی کامل خود را از اصول مذهبی و هلاخاها و مینهاگ های جامعه اظهار نماید.

از اینرو اعضای شورای مذهبی، اعضای هیئت امانا و انجمن مرکزی همراه با بورد کنیسه های شعره طوا در کوئینز، مشهدی جوئیش سنتر، شعره شالوم، یانگ مشهدی جوئیش سنتر، اور استر، کنیسه های شعره رحیم و سایر سازمان های جامعه مشهدی در سراسر دنیا، به اتفاق یکدیگر پشتیبانی خود را از میراث جامعه بطور قطعی اظهار می دارند و متعهد می شوند که از سنت ها و رسوم دیرینه جامعه، بر طبق اساسنامه انجمن مرکزی مشهدی های آمریکا حفاظت نمایند.

• هیچ مرد یا زن جامعه مشهدی نمی تواند با غیر یهودی ازدواج کند. کسانی که به منظور ازدواج به دین یهود گرویده اند بر طبق هلاخای سفارادی به رسمیت شناخته نخواهند شد و ازدواج با چنین اشخاصی، بعد از تشخیص شورای مذهبی، بر طبق اساسنامه جامعه (ماده یک قسمت ۳) ممنوع می باشد.

• به فرزندی گرفتن (اداپشن) در صورتی که بر طبق هلاخا صورت گرفته باشد قابل قبول می باشد.

• هیچ ربای حال و آینده جامعه مرد یا زن غیر یهودی را بمنظور ازدواج با اعضای جامعه به یهودیت گرایش نخواهد داد.

• جامعه ما هیچ مرد یا زنی را که بمنظور ازدواج به یهودیت گرویده باشد قبول نخواهد کرد.

• ربانیم جامعه هیچگونه مراسم مذهبی را برای اینگونه زوج ها انجام نخواهد داد.

• گبائیم کنیسه ها مجاز نخواهند بود که به چنین اشخاصی براخای تورات (علیا)، باز کردن پرده هیخال، بیرون آوردن سفر تورا، پیش نمازی (شالیح صیپور) و انجام سایر آئین مذهبی را اهداء کنند.

• چنین زوجهایی اجازه نخواهند داشت که از تشکیلات و ساختمانهای جامعه برای برگزاری مراسم مذهبی و یا گرد هم آئی های شخصی استفاده نمایند.

• در واقع کلیه سرویسهای اجتماعی بدون در نظر گرفتن موقعیت مالی این افراد از آنها سلب خواهد شد. کلیه امور مذهبی تحت نظر شورای مذهبی جامعه بررسی خواهد شد.

ما متعهد می شویم که ارزش های فامیلی و جامعه را با رعایت اصول تورات حفظ کنیم، تحصیلات یهودی را در جامعه ترویج دهیم و کلیه فعالیت های جامعه را بر اساس قانون یهود و بر طبق هلاخای سفارادی با حفظ سنت ها و رسم و رسوم جامعه مشهدی انجام دهیم