



Bavajadas de Benadam

Leni Lamarche

The leaves are starting to turn brilliant colors which tells us that the High Holidays are right around the corner for the year 5769. So much to look forward to! On October 10th, I will celebrate my 87th birthday (mashala!) which comes the day after Yom Kippur. It will be nice to see many of you dear friends at kehila over the coming weeks...si kere el Dio.

And now a "Walk Down Memory Lane" with a Best of Bavajadas article published in the Clarion in 1989. Did you attend the American Sephardi Convention hosted in Seattle back then? I did and it was great! Come along with me now on a tour of Jewish Seattle almost two decades ago.

Buses were reserved for a tour of our old neighborhood during our 1989 American Sephardi Convention. Our guests were truly impressed. Every six-months or so, I make a pilgrimage to the old neighborhood and, if the homes and street could only talk, what a tale they would tell! Which of you make a trip like that once in a while? It's surprising as to how many of us take the "Sentimental Journey" which is especially meaningful when I look at the building that once housed our synagogue and reminisce about the rich traditions in our homes.

In your home, did you pasar la tabla, de mucho y de lo bueno (pass on the tray with the best treats to your guests)?

Maybe, dulsuria de cayese (whole apricots)? Or sharopee, Portugal (with toasted almonds and grated orange peel.) Dulce de kunja (a black rose petal preserve, culled at dawn with the dew still fresh on the bloom), Dulce de eego (a fig preserve), Dulce de Gazo (grapefruit), Dulce de pera (small green sickle pears), Dulce de Bembriyo (quince preserve), Masapan (ground almonds), Baklava, cupeta de susam (sesame seeds and honey), Travados (almond turnovers), Mustachudos (almond macaroons), Ashuplados (kisses), Pinyonante (my favorite), Biscocho clusters, with biscocho dough and boiled in honey. Ummmm, my mouth waters just in thinking about all these luscious Sephardic delicacies.

Now back to the bus tour. With help from the bus list provided by the American Sephardi Federation, here are just a few of the highlights from our "Jewish Seattle" tour. If you become lost, just give me a call.

1. Pike Place Market -- there were several of our pioneers from both the Island of Rhodes and the Island of Marmara who as young men in their native lands were acquainted with the fish business. Four of these Sephardic Jews, Solomon Calvo, Jack

Policar, Nessim Alhadeff, and David Levy started making a living with a pushcart going around the neighborhood selling fish from house to house. Calvo and Alhadeff, after a few years of struggle, started retail and wholesale fish places on the waterfront. David Levy decided to open up a fish market in this location, and his children and grandchildren still run this place. Jack Amon started a fish market about 65 years ago and his children are still running it.

Many of our pioneers started out by opening up a fruit and vegetable stand in the Pike Place Market and when they were doing better they hired many Sephardic young men to work for them. They had a very hard time in the beginning, working 16 hours a day. This market used to be open from seven in the morning until eleven at night (closed on Sundays). Some of the names of our pioneers who worked in the market or owned a place were: Marco Franco, Dr. Harry Tarica, Joseph Caston, Morris Hanan, Solomon Adatto, Carpets, Isaac Altaras, Mossafer.

There were at least five kosher restaurants run by Sephardic people (not at the same time). The names of Baba Alhadeff, Akrish, Tacher, Altabet, and Marco Levy would be very familiar to our old pioneers. Let's not forget that sandwiches did not exist in those days, and almost everyone who worked downtown used to go and have lunch in one of these restaurants. Avicas con aroz, came de codredo.

2. Western Avenue -- there were two of our pioneers who started a wholesale fruit and vegetable establishment. The Capeloto brothers were kitty-corner from John Calderon's on Western Avenue. Both of these families started out by opening a small fruit stand on First Avenue.

3. Waterfront -- as we mentioned there were two gentlemen (Alhadeff and Calvo) who started retail and wholesale fish businesses on this waterfront. Their establishments were on a dock and the boats loaded with fish used to unload their goods. Both of these fish brokers used to hire many Sephardic people as their workers. Boats with four or five kinds of fish including salmon, halibut, snapper, sole, etc. used to come either from Puget Sound or Alaska. In the old days, there were big holes in the docks where all the heads and unwanted parts of the fish were dumped into the water. Ecology in those days? 4th and Jackson -- railroad depots; almost all the Sephardic Jews came through these two railroad stations in the early 1900's. Kingdome: 65,000 spectators. 12th and Jackson Restaurant.

4. 12th and Yesler -- Papu Aronin Furniture; this Papu Aronin was a good buy and many of our pioneers furnished their houses with furniture (mostly used) from this old Ashkenazic gentleman. Dollar down, dollar a week; he trusted them all. Condiotti's Candy Shop.

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5. 13th and Washington -- Sephardic Bikur Holim purchased the synagogue from the Ashkenazim who built a new one on 17th and Yesler in 1914. There was a big parade carrying the Sefer Torah to the new Synagogue. The Sephardim stayed in this Kahal until 1929. Now it's a school named after an old Jewish Seattle pioneer, Bailey Gatzert, mayor of Seattle in 1888. Remember Collins Playfield (city park)? This Educational Center was a substitute for our JCC.

6. 14th and Yesler -- grocery owned by Morris Tacher and restaurant by Isaac Altabet, avicas con aroz always on the menu.

7. 14th and E. Fir -- Washington Hall, all the old Ladino plays; grocery of Israel Fis (one of the first).

8. 15th and E. Fir -- Congregation Ezra Bessaroth; built in 1915 by Sephardic Jews from the Island of Rhodes.

9. 15th and Yesler -- Reverend Behar, Rabbi Abraham Maimon, David Levy

10. 16th and E. Fir -- Romey's Butcher Shop; Rabbi Shapiro's synagogue, now a church.

11. 17th and E. Fir -- Ahvath Ahim congregation, mostly from Marmara and Galipoli and a few from 'Stanbul, started 1924 to 1942.

12. 18th and Yesler -- Brenner's first bakery.

13. 18th and Alder -- Mikvah.

14. 19th and E. Fir -- Avram Barlia lived here. He was the Shamash of the Sephardic Bikur Holim for 50 years and don't forget Gai's Bakery (Italian) located next door to Leni (Mateo Peha) LaMarche's house.

15. 20th and E. Fir -- Bikur Holim sanctuary built in 1929, sold in 1962; very tough time to pay the mortgage during the depression of the early 1930's.

16. 20th and E. Spruce -- Herzl Synagogue built by orthodox Jews but later became Conservative.

17. 23rd and Yesler -- Lippman's Bakery; Alhadeff bakery, drugstore, library.

18. 24th and Yesler -- 24th Avenue Market started in 1933 until 1965; Jack Funes and Sam Maimon, then Isaac Maimon. Romey's Butcher; Cornell Butcher; Varon Butcher; Swans Auto Repair.

19. 25th and E. Fir -- solid block of Sephardic Jews; Reverend Scharhon built a couple of extra rooms in back which were used to conduct a Talmud Torah.

20. 26th and E. Fir -- Rabbi Shapiro's synagogue Machzikai Hadath.

21. 23rd and E. Spruce -- Reverend Behar's Talmud Torah.

22. 23rd and Jefferson -- Garfield High School; many of the sons and daughters of our pioneers graduated from this institution; some of us remember when this building was a bunch of bungalows.

23. 25th and E. Cherry -- Seattle Talmud Torah.

24. 27th and E. Cherry -- White Kosher Market, Brenner's second location.

25. 28th and E. Cherry -- Kosher butchers Nessim Azose, Chiprut and Varon's Kosher Meats; drugstore.

26. To Seward Park via Lake Washington Blvd.; three orthodox synagogues: Congregation Ezra Bessaroth, Sephardic Bikur Holim, Ashkenazic Bikur Cholim Machzikay Hadath Congregation. We have hundreds of people who come to services in each of these orthodox synagogues on Saturdays. Each synagogue has its own social hall where Kiddush and banquets are held.

27. Caroline Kline Galland -- on the shores of Lake Washington, the one and only Kosher home for the aged in Seattle, and recipient of many prestigious awards.

28. Evergreen Bridge -- UW Stadium -- 72,000 capacity; UW 35,000 to 40,000 students; Museum of History and Industry.

Ladino Thoughts for the Month:

DAME GODRURA I TI DARE HERMOZURA.
(In this case, godrura is used in the sense of abundance!)
Show me fat and I will show you beauty.

DE LA CAVESA FIEDE EL PESHKADO
When the head of a fish smells foul, (excuse the pun!) the entire fish is bad.

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