

KOL MEVASSER

Finding An Oasis in the Desert

Rabbi Hagay Batzri

Dear Kahal,

This Shabbat we start the fourth book of the Torah, Bamidbar, which means "in the desert." The holiday of Shavuot, which celebrates Hashem giving us the Torah, also takes place this week, the same week that we begin Bamidbar. Of course, we received the Ten Commandments and the Torah at Maamad Har Sinai, at Mt. Sinai in the middle of the desert.

Why does Hashem make the desert such an important place, such a dominant theme in our story of becoming a nation? Why do we receive what is essentially our constitution, the laws and rules that govern and guide us, in the desert? There are a few answers to this question. Here is one of them.

The desert is an important place for spiritual growth. When we want to manage our spiritual life, we can only do it when we divide ourselves from others, when we put ourselves in desert of sorts. We separate ourselves from all outside ideas that may influence us, we focus on our thoughts and actions, on what we ourselves do.

For any action we take, any physical activity we perform, focus and concentration help us achieve our goals. These elements—focus and concentration—are even more essential for our spiritual achievement.

To develop spiritually we need to be where nobody can interrupt us, where nobody can change the course we set for ourselves, influencing us with outside thoughts and ideas. We need to free ourselves of intrusions.

That's why we create a synagogue; that's why we may set aside places for quiet contemplation in our homes. The desert is just a place that allows us to focus. A person who wants to meditate seeks a place that relaxes him or her, a place that is a sanctuary. Once we know what our spiritual goals are, and have a safe place to pursue them, we can go all the way, follow the course we have set, and nourish and challenge our souls.

During most of our lives, Hashem, HaKadosh Barukh Hu, wants us to live fully, in

(Continued on page 3)

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat / Friday, May 10th

Shaharit 6:30 am
Shir Hashirim 6:45 pm
Minha & Arbit 7:00 pm
Candle Lighting..... 7:25 pm
Sefirat Ha'Omer Forty-Sixth Night

Shabbat / Parashat Bamidbar Saturday, May 11th

Shaharit 8:30 am
Class with Rabbi Batzri 6:30 pm
Ladies Tehillim 6:30 pm
Minha/Arbit 7:00 pm
Shabbat Havdallah 8:10 pm
Sefirat Ha'Omer Forty-Seventh Night

Weekdays

Sunday, May 12th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Sefirat Ha'Omer Forty-Eighth Night

Monday & Tuesday, Friday, May 13-14, 17

Shaharit 6:30 am

Erev Shavuot

Tuesday, May 14th

Minha & Arbit 7:00 pm
Shavuot Study Night with Cheesecake
and Ice Cream (free of charge) 9:30 pm
Candle Lighting..... 7:28 pm

Shavuot, First Day Wednesday, May 15th

Shaharit 9:00 am
Pirkei Avoth with Rabbi Batzri 7:00 pm
Minha/Arbit 7:30 pm
Candle Lighting..... after 8:33 pm

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

**Shavuot, Second Day
Thursday, May 16th**

Shaharit 9:00 am
Pirkei Avoth with Rabbi Batzri 7:00 pm
Minha/Arbit..... 7:30 pm
Yom Tov Havdallah 8:33 pm

Erev Shabbat /Friday, May 17th

Shaharit 6:30 am
Shir Hashirim 6:45 pm
Minha & Arbit 7:00 pm
Candle Lighting 7:31 pm

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in memory of

Victoria bat Hanina, z”l
Victoria Cohen, z”l

by
Yvette Dabby

Thank You

Jackie & Asher Shalom

As a special Mother’s Day Treat,
Jackie Shalom will be cooking chulent
for our congregation this Shabbat.
And beer will be provided courtesy of
her husband, Asher Shalom

**KIDS in
Public
School**



**Fun Classes for FREE at KJ's
Norma & Sam Dabby Talmud Torah
Now through June 6th 2013
Thursdays at 4:00, Sundays at 9:30
For information call 310.474.0559 or
e-mail molly@kahaljoseph.org**

Thank You

Mrs. Sigal Feruza

For hosting a New Month celebration for-
Rosh Hodesh Sivan for the women in our
community. And thank you to the ladies of
the Tehillim group led by Rabbanit Orly
Batzri for saying a special prayer for the
children of our community

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for
May 11th to 18th, 2013. It is customary to light a
memorial candle, donate tzedaka, and attend
services the preceding Shabbat.

3 Sivan / Sunday, May 12th

Abraham Blank *Avraham ben Yaacov Dov*
George Sher *Gedaliah ben Moshe Litman HaCohen*

4 Sivan / Monday, May 13th

Victoria Cohen *Victoria bat Hanna*

5 Sivan / Tuesday, May 14th

Aharon ben Shlomo *Godsi*
Ezra Kelly Elias Levi *Ezra Kadoori Eliyahu Levi*
Sara Moses *Sara bat Sarah*
Turan Pourati *Turan bat Aghajan*
Khodadad Zakaryaie *Moshe Haim*

6 Sivan / Wednesday, May 15th

Tahereh Hakimipour *Tahereh bat Kokab*

7 Sivan / Thursday, May 16th

Geulah Khakshoor *Geulah ben Avraham*

8 Sivan / Friday, May 17th

Rivka Kohanzadeh *Rivka bat Shimon*

9 Sivan / Shabbat, May 18th

Ester Bekhore *Ester bat Amam*
Ester Ezekiel *Ester bat Amam*
Aziza Judah *Aziza bat Rachel*

Refuah Shlemah

Yocheved bat Rachel, Mazal bat Malka, Dan Her-
doon, Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana, Moshe ben
Ezra, Sasson ben Rahel/Sassoon Moses, Penina
bat Henia, Dov Ber ben Sonia, Maurice Ovadia /
Moshe ben Noosha, Pnina bat Esther, Vera Levi
Yossef ben Jamila, Ruth bat Aliza

SHABBAT READINGS

Torah Portion 568-580, Haftara 582-585

Mayfair House

*Kahal Joseph and Mayfair
House Los Angeles present*



*an exclusive Spring 2013 collection by
internationally renowned artist Michael
Aram. One of a kind gift pieces fabulously
priced for our members. Please see the
showcase in our synagogue lobby and select
those pieces that you fall in love with.*

(Continued from page 1)

the city as it were, engaged with our family, with business, with the world in all its fullness. Hashem wants us to be a part of the world. But, when it comes to our spiritual lives, sometimes we need, within the city, a place that is like a desert, a place where we can go to focus and meditate, a place for peace and self-improvement.

Shabbat Shalom and Hag Sameah

Yom Yom Odeh La'El: A Song for Shavuot

(Continued from page 4)

*With the strong voice of the shofar He will answer us
Mt. Sinai trembled and shook at the time of His arrival
To give faith to Yisrael His [nation] gathered round Him
At the hand of Moshe, devoted to G-d, His trusted servant
And there, eye to eye, our eyes saw
Holiness. Like then, reveal your Kingship to me
To my Holy place return and reside inside my tent
And grant me peace, like the waters of a river
And our eyes will see and our heart will celebrate.*

המרכז החינוכי הספרדי
SEPHARDIC EDUCATIONAL CENTER
CENTRO EDUCATIVO SEFARDI
CENTRE EDUCATIF SEPHARADE

**SEC Hamsa Teens 2013...
The Hottest Summer Israel Trip**

Deadline to sign up: Friday, May 31, 2013 Space is limited!
For information (323) 272-4574 or programs@secjerusalem.org
To apply . . . Find us on Facebook at SEC Hamsa Israel
SEC Hamsa Teens is sponsored in part by Jewish Federation of Los Angeles

The Sisterhood of the Kahal Joseph Congregation
Presents
A NIGHT IN INDIA
Dinner & Dancing
Sunday, June 2 at 6:30 PM
Performing
Shazia & Arshad Ali (singers) & Indian Dancers
Yosi Levi - M.C. and Host
Kahal Joseph Congregation
The Errol Levi Ballroom
10505 Santa Monica Blvd. L.A., CA 90025
\$75 per Person – No-Host Bar
Valet Parking Available
RSVP by May 26, 2013
For Reservations please call:
Elsa Singman 323.934.3439 Hannie Kelly 310.247.0220
Rita Hanin 310.839.4206 Louise Elias 818.884.0120
Please make checks payable to:
Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph Congregation
c/o Diana Solomon
257 S. Reeves Drive, #303
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

Yom Yom Odeh La'El

Selected by Rabbi Hagay Batzri

This piyut was composed anonymously and is sung in the Iraqi Jewish tradition on Shavuot, primarily at the arrival of dawn after "Tikkun Leil Shavuot," the long night of Torah learning held on the eve of Shavuot. It's already not night, and yet it is not quite day either. Similarly, the piyut describes how the Jewish people stood in a suspended state, ready to receive the Torah at Mount Sinai, just before the momentous event. For this reason, the piyut is also sung on Shabbat days when the Ten Commandments are read in Parashat Yitro and Parashat Va'et-hanan.

Yom, yom odeh la'El asher bakhar banu
Min ha'amim li'sgulah lo l'kakhanu
Al Har Sinai et Torah-toh hinkhilanu
Aseret dibrot kodshanu, hishmi-anu
Tzva marom ribotayim yardu imo
B'et asher niglah l'Yisrael amo
Mi'Sinai ba ve'zarakh mi'Seir lamo
Beh'kol shofar khazak meh-od ya-anenu
Kharad ve'ragaz Har Sinai et bi-atoh
Le'hankhil dat le'Yisrael segulatoh
Al yad Moshe eved El ne'eman beh-toh
Ve'sham ayin beh'ayin ra-ata eyneynu
Kadosh, k'az tegaleh malkhutkha alai
Le'mikdashi shuvah ushkhon tokh ohalai
Ve'li ha-the shalom ke'mei nahar ulai
Ve'enenu yir-u ve'yismakh libenu

Every Day I Thank G-d

*Each day I thank G-d who selected us
Who took us, from the nations to be close to Him
On Mt. Sinai He bequeathed His Torah to us
The Ten Commandments, His Holiness resounded
At the moment He revealed Himself to Yisrael, His nation
From Sinai He came and shone from Seir*

(Continued on page 3)

Kahal Joseph presents

Shavuot Torah Study Evening & Dessert

Free Evening Program

Tuesday, May 14
9:30 pm to 12:00 am
Cheesecake & Ice Cream

TIKKUN

613 Mitzvot Quiz Game With Rabbi Batzri

Fun Torah Learning

Free of Charge
Refreshments
Traditional Iraqi Program
Torah & Mitzvot