

# KOL MEVASSER

## A Letter from Rabbi Melhado

To the wonderful Kahal Joseph Congregation, *shalom uvrakhah!*

With the holiday of Shavuot coming up soon, I would like to take a few moments to express my humble excitement that you have asked me to join you as your new rabbi. I feel privileged at the chance to plant my budding family among yours and grow together as a community. Jessica, Penny, and I look forward to getting to know you all, and to sharing many special occasions together.

Shavuot is a time of extraordinary anticipation. Our ancestors, the ancient Israelites, left behind slavery in Egypt to receive the Torah, but God did not give it to us immediately. Rather, He waited for 50 days so that we could prepare ourselves for the incredible transformation that we were about to undergo. In order to be truly ready, we had to make an important mental shift between being forced to serve a taskmaster and freely serving God. The Shibbole HaLeket quotes a Midrash that the Israelites were so excited to make this transition that they counted up each day towards the time when they could come to know the Torah: “now one day has passed; now two days have passed,” and so on until Shavuot. It is in remembrance of this, says



the Midrash, that counting the Omer was established for all Jews in all times.

Reading this story during this year’s Omer, I feel an extra sense of identity with our forefathers. In roughly 50 days, I will pack up my life in New York – which was no slavery, but still quite rigorous – and move to a new life of sharing Torah with you in Los Angeles. I will cross a real desert just like the

Israelites, and come to a land where a thriving Jewish community was built by immigrants. Most exciting of all, I will be invited to partake in the beautiful Baghdadi rite that has been preserved across many countries and family migrations, and lovingly cherished at Kahal.

I have a dual sense of reverence and animation at being asked to take part in the communal life of this outstanding kehillah, and I warmly thank every single person who had a hand in bringing me there. I am literally counting up the days to be able to join you, and to share in the Torah whose anniversary we will be celebrating this coming Yom Tov.

With fond blessings,

Rabbi Raif Melhado

## KJ Schedule Bamidbar/Shavuot

**Erev Shabbat / Friday, May 22nd**  
Shaharit / Morning Prayer ... 6:30 am  
Minha / Arvit..... 6:30 pm  
Candle Lighting ..... 7:34 pm  
Sefirat Ha'Omer, Forty-ninth Night

### Shabbat / Erev Shavuot

*Saturday, May 23rd*  
Shaharit / Morning Prayer ... 8:30 am  
**Eyewitness Panel: Where Were You When the Farhud Happened? .....**  
*.....during morning services*  
Minha & Arvit ..... 6:30 pm  
Havdalla Kodesh I'Kodesh .. 8:43 pm  
Shavuot Candle Lighting ..... 8:43 pm  
Tikkun Lel Shavuot.. 10 pm to 12 am

### Shavuot

*Sunday, May 24th*  
Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 8:30 am  
Minha & Arvit ..... 6:30 pm  
Candle Lighting ..... 8:44 pm

### Monday, May 25th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 8:30 am  
Minha & Arvit ..... 7:15 pm  
Havadallah Kodesh I'Hol ..... 8:45 pm

### Weekdays

*Tues to Friday, May 26 to 29*  
Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am

### Erev Shabbat

*Friday, May 29th*  
Shaharit / Morning Prayer ... 6:30 am  
Minha / Arvit..... 6:30 pm  
Candle Lighting ..... 7:39 pm

## Tikkun LeI Shavuot

Saturday, May 23 • 10 pm to 12 am

Refreshments are sponsored by  
**Rebecca & David Kohan**

in memory of  
**Yosef ben Jalal, z"l**

## Mazal Tov

**Jackie and Asher Shalom**  
on the wedding of  
their daughter

Shabbat Shalom & Hag Sameah

## Refuah Shleimah

Moselle Amron • Maurice Ovadia • Tilda Levy  
Esther Duke • Abe Abraham • Sassoon Ezra

## In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries May 23 to 30, 2015. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend Shabbat services.

### 5 Sivan / Shabbat, May 23rd

*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 / Sunday, May 24th

*Tahereh Hakimipour Tahereh bat Kokab*

### 7 Sivan / Monday, May 25th

*Geulah Khakshoor Geulah bat Avraham*

### 8 Sivan / Tuesday, May 26th

*Rivkah Kohanzadeh Rivkah bat Shimon*

### 9 Sivan / Wednesday, May 27th

*Ester Bekhore Ester bat Aman*

*Ester Ezekiel Ester bat Amam*

*Aziza Judah Aziza bat Rachel*

### 10 Sivan / Thursday, May 28th

*Mazli Hagooli Mazal bat Rahel*

*Massouda Kay Massouda bat Khatoun*

*Mozelle Lelah Mazal Tov bat Ester*

### 12 Sivan / Shabbat, May 30th

*Abraham Lurie Avraham Lurie*

*Abdullah Zekaria Sion Abdulla Zekaria*

## Torah & Haftara Readings

**Shabbat** Bamidbar / Numbers 568 to 580

Haftara /from Prophets Hoshia/Hosea 582 to 585

**Shavuot First Day** Shmot / Exodus 290-301; Bamidbar / Numbers 696; Haftara Yehezkel 1027-1031

**Shavuot Second Day** Devarim / Deut. 814-818; Bamidbar / Numbers 696; Haftara Habakuk 1032-1035

## Shavuot Weekend

Shabbat, May 23, 2015, during Morning Services

### Where Were You When the Farhud Happened?

### An Eyewitness Panel on the Anniversary



### **Keynote Speakers: Joseph Samuels, Charles Dabby, Fuad Salem**

Coinciding with Hag HaShavuot, the 74th Anniversary of the Farhud, the Jewish Journal will feature Mr. Samuels, Ruth Pearl and Mr. Dabby in an article by Jane Ulman in the May 21st edition. At Kahal Joseph, on Shabbat morning, May 23rd, during morning services, Mr. Samuels will talk briefly about the history of Jews in Iraq, especially in Baghdad, and about the events that led to the Farhud. He will also speak briefly about his experiences as an 11 year boy at the time. Our other panel members, Charles Dabby and Fred Salem, will also share their experiences. Then, Mr. Albert Nissan will talk about his life in Baghdad during the 1967 Six Day War and also in general. We look forward to learning from them.