

# KOL MEBASSER

## Rabbi's Message

A few weeks ago, a prominent Sephardic politician in Israel opposed the date of Yom Hashoa in a radio interview, declaring that the Israeli public holiday has no religious sanctity and "does not obligate us as Haredi Jews."

As reported in the Hebrew press, his criticism of the date of the 27th of Nisan for Yom Hashoa breaks down into three parts. First, Nisan is supposed to be a happy month in which common forms of public mourning are forbidden. Second, the Israeli politicians who chose the 27th of Nisan were secular Jews whose decisions are religiously invalid. And third, the date of the 27th of Nisan was chosen due to its connection with the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, an event that sparked deadly persecution because it symbolized Jewish resistance.

His alternative for a religiously acceptable Yom Hashoa was the 10th of Tebet. In 1948, the Chief Rabbinate declared that this fast day should serve as the "Yom Hakadish Hakelali," meaning that surviving relatives of Holocaust victims could use it as the Hazkara for family members if they did not know when they were killed. This seemed to resolve all of our politician's problems with the current Yom Hashoa: the date is three months before Nisan, it was chosen by Orthodox rabbis, and it had no connection to rash attempts at resistance.

How do these comments stand up to scrutiny? Looking first to the history, we see that the 10th of Tebet is by no means free of liberal Jewish hands. According to Dr. Hasia Diner, the single strongest organization in the US that pushed to make it Yom Hashoa was the Synagogue Council of America,



which has been described as "the only Jewish religious group in the nation in which the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform movements were represented." The SCA reportedly considered its success with the 10th of Tebet as "one of its most important achievements," and it resisted the Knesset's decision about the 27th of Nisan for many years.

I also wonder what our Sephardic politician would say about the origins of the Fast of Tebet, which commemorates the failure of an act of resistance by King Zedekiah against the murderous Nebuchadnezzar (see II Kings 24:18-25:4). While the Biblical account criticizes Zedekiah, we still mourn the collapse of his revolt on religious grounds. This logic might actually be quite comparable to a more recent event of similarly historic proportions, and even if the date were in Nisan, the Shulhan Arukh at least opens the door for exceptions to the rule against mourning (OH 429:2).

In fairness to our politician, there is an attraction to the idea of using the Jewish language of an ancient fast day to commemorate new tragedies. His positive arguments are on-point, which is why even the liberal American Jewish community supported the 10th of Tebet in the beginning.

But the question before us now is one of a post-facto nature: given that the Israeli government has held Yom Hashoa on the 27th of Nisan for over 60 years, what should be the response of Orthodox Jews in general, or of Sephardim in particular? Do we want our brand associated with belittling others and suppressing something that they cherish emotionally? Or do we want to find a way to build community at a moment when our fellow Jews are most vulnerable? I hope very much that the second answer carries the day, and that we respond to the destruction of our fathers by being constructive towards our brothers.

## Parashat Ahare-Mot

### Shabbat Mahar Hodesh / Omer 14

*Torah:* Lev. 16:1–18:30 80 Pesukim

Hertz 480–493; Stone 636–655

*Haftarah:* I Samuel 20:18–42

Hertz 948–950; Stone 1207–1208

*Tefillot:* Morid Hatal, Hakhrazat Iyar (Sun-Mon); Tahanun resumes Tue

## KJ Schedule

### Ereb Shabbat

*Friday, May 6th*

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

**Shabbat Candle Lighting 7:23 pm**

Minha ..... 6:45 pm

Arbit / Kabbalat Shabbat .... 7:15 pm

### Yom Shabbat

### & Ereb Rosh Hodesh Iyar

*Saturday, May 7th*

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 8:30 am

Keri'at HaTorah ..... 10:15 am

Musaf ..... 11:30 am

Minha ..... 6:45 pm

Se'uda Shelisheet ..... 7:30 pm

Arbit of Rosh Hodesh ..... 8:10 pm

Habdala & Omer ..... 8:27 pm

### Rosh Hodesh Iyar

*Sunday, May 8th*

Shaharit..... 7:30 am

Talmud Torah ..... 10:00 am

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored  
in memory of

Shimon Faraj Iny, z"l

by  
Yoel Iny and Family



## First Round of Mommy & Me SOLD OUT!

Kahal is excited to report that the Mommy and Me group made a strong beginning with 20 mommies & 20 babies. There are two groups, one for 6-12 months and one for 12-18 months, and the parents loved it. **Want to sign up?** The next round will begin in June, so email [Jessica@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:Jessica@kahaljoseph.org) to reserve your spot! There has also been a lot of interest in a Shabbat-themed Mommy and Me for Friday mornings.

For more info, email  
[Jessica@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:Jessica@kahaljoseph.org)

## Hol Hamoed Pesah Video Series Launch a Success!

This Pesah, Rabbi Melhado was excited reach out to our membership through their computers with a series of four short videos (5-7 mins), one for each day of Hol Hamoed.

As of when the Kol Mevasser went to press, we had over 150 views! Share with your friends or take another look at

[www.kahaljoseph.org/5776pesahvideos](http://www.kahaljoseph.org/5776pesahvideos)

### KJ Schedule (continued)

**Rosh Hodesh Iyar / Monday, May 9th**  
Shaharit ..... 6:15 am

**Weekday & Ereb Yom Hazikaron**  
*Tuesday, May 10th*  
Shaharit ..... 6:25 am  
FIDF Community Remembrance .... 7:30 pm

**Yom Hazikaron / Israel Memorial Day**  
*Wednesday, May 11th*  
Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

**Yom Ha'atsmaut / Israel Independence Day**  
*Thursday, May 12th*  
Shaharit ..... 6:25 am  
SEC Film Screening, Mekonen..... 7:30 pm

**Ereb Shabbat / Friday, May 13th**  
Shaharit ..... 6:25 am  
**Shabbat Candle Lighting** ..... 7:28 pm  
Minha ..... 6:45 pm

### In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from May 7 to 14, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

**30 Nisan / Sunday, May 8th**  
Yehezkel Jacob *Yehezkel ben Avraham Hayim Yaacov*

Wendy Fay Joseph *Sara bat Avraham*

**1 Iyar / Monday, May 9th**  
Marcus Hayim Abraham *Mordechai Haim ben Moshe Hai*

Eliahou Nazarian *Eliahou ben Meir*

**2 Iyar / Tuesday, May 10th**  
Moshe Shiri *Moshi ben Rahma*

**3 Iyar / Wednesday, May 11th**  
Nedat Joshua Farahi *Yehoshua ben Yehezkel Sassoon Benjamin Gemal Sasson ben Binyamin*

**4 Iyar / Thursday, May 12th**  
Binyamin Sheff *Binyamin ben Hasia*

**5 Iyar / Friday, May 13th**  
Simon Faraj Iny *Shimon ben Faraj*  
Louise Mendel *Aziza bat Nouna*

**6 Iyar / Shabbat, May 14th**  
Jane Ester Feldman  
Cecile Masliah  
Sophie Moses *Tifaha bat Mazal*

### Refuah Shelemah

Abe Abraham • Moselle Amron  
Sally Amron • Tilda Levy • Esther Duke  
Mordechai Cohen • Sylvia Cohen  
Lev Hakak • Maurice Ovadia  
Florice Newberry • Katy bat Farha  
Miriam bat Yetta • Sassoon Ezra  
Doris Moshi • Grace Tizabi

Shabbat Shalom U'Meborakh



## Memouna Photo Gallery

Memouna was another fun collaboration between Kahal Joseph and Rabbi Bouskila, and the social hall was packed with friends and well-wishers who were excited to share this great Moroccan post-Pesah tradition. Young and old came out for sweet mufletta, a taste of arak, and a live Sephardi band that welcomed dancing and audience participation. Good times were had by all, with smiles and djellabas aplenty!



## MEMOUNA





WE CARRY WITH US THE MEMORY OF ISRAEL'S FALLEN.  
HELP US HONOR THESE HEROES.



*FIDF, Temple of the Arts, Simon Wiesenthal Center and Moriah Films Present*

## YOM HAZIKARON COMMUNITY WIDE NIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE

*Join us for the second annual Night of Remembrance as we stand together  
to commemorate Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror*

TUESDAY  
**MAY 10, 2016**

6:30pm Doors Open | 7:30pm Program Begins

*Free admission. No RSVP necessary.*

**Beverly Hills TEMPLE OF THE ARTS | STEVE TISCH CINEMA CENTER  
at the SABAN THEATRE**

8440 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90211

**M O R I A H**  
FILMS

*Featuring a Screening of Moriah Films Production,  
the film division of the Simon Wiesenthal Center:*

## OUR BOYS

SPONSORED BY

FIDF Western Region Board of Directors

For our Yom Ha'atzmaut observance this year, Kahal Joseph looks forward to joining with the SEC for a screening of *Mekonen*. This interesting film follows the current life and back story of an Ethiopian immigrant to Israel, including a soul-searching visit to his native land that allows him to process his past and embrace his future in the Jewish state.



The Sephardic Educational Center presents the Los Angeles  
Premiere screening of *Mekonen* (by the makers of *Beneath the Helmet*)

**Yom Ha'Atzmaut - Thursday May 12th  
7:30pm (doors open at 7pm)**

**Laemmle Music Hall**

**9036 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills CA 90211**

*Mekonen: The Journey of an African Jew* follows the inspirational story of Mekonen Abebe, a young African-Israeli Jew, once a young shepherd in Africa and now a commander in the IDF paratroopers.

**Discussion with Rabbi Daniel Bouskila following the screening**

**\$50 Screening Sponsorship**

(Reserved seat plus special wine and hors d'oeuvres  
reception at La Gondola Restaurant following the screening)

\$18 General Admission in advance

\$20 General Admission at the door

\$10 Student Admission

**To purchase tickets call Katie at (323) 272-4574  
visit [www.secjerusalem.org/mekonen.html](http://www.secjerusalem.org/mekonen.html)  
or email [info@secjerusalem.org](mailto:info@secjerusalem.org)**