

KOL MEBASSER

Rabbi's Message

The wide world of gentile society is enchanting to everyday Jews like you and me. It is lush with benefits as well as some hazards, both of which call to us seductively and welcome us to join in.



This dynamic preoccupies the Jewish community today, which frets about how to pass on our traditions to the next generation while competing against a slick new world of technology, entertainment, and instant gratification. Yet while we face this anxiety in the bustle of our modern lives, the past two parashiyot remind us that it is actually is one of the oldest fears in the book.

Just look at the dramatic tableau that is Parashat Kedoshim: As the Biblical Israelites stand poised to enter Erets Yisrael after our enslavement, we are at the cusp of completing our dream to become a nation. One might think that God's revelations so far would have been enough to show us how to be good people once we got settled, but instead He puts the entire takeover of Canaan on hold to warn us about the problems with the previous residents. It takes almost 40 commandments to describe what was wrong with the societies they created, and God urges that in order to be holy, we must avoid going down the same primrose path.

Although this message comes from a judgmental place, it is possible to read it in a way that

inspires us. If we understand the gentile world through a depersonalized filter, it could work as an allegory for everything we strive not to be like, which at heart is really a conversation about ourselves. What we *don't* want to be is just a mirror image of the ideals that we *do* want to live up to, and holding that mirror up to ourselves to see how we measure up can be a powerful motivator to push us to the next level.

But on the other hand, we must remember that framing moral problems as an "external issue" works as a homiletical metaphor only. There are so many excellent people and benefits that have come from the gentile world, which after all accounts for 99% of the total human experience. Meanwhile, many recent news stories have shown that even devoutly practicing Jews can behave amorally, a phenomenon that was already documented during the time of the Talmud (menuval birshut haTorah). This makes it clear that it's not really about "us vs. them" but rather about the greater question of "what makes a good person?"

Hence, on this Shabbat of Kedoshim, let us remember that the ultimate goal of this conversation is to clean up our own house. We may experience these challenges through our contact with others, but if we hone true to the ideals of our tradition, then contact with the outside world will not hurt us. And in the unfortunate event that it does hurt us, the first place to look for solutions is to fix what's wrong with ourselves. Henceforth, let our inner holiness prove that there is nothing to fear from participating in the world around us!

Parashat Kedoshim

Omer 21

Torah: Lev. 19:1–20:27 64 Pesukim

Hertz 497–508; Stone 656–671

Haftarah: Ezek. 20:2–20

Hertz 511–512; Stone 1175–1176

Tefillot: Morid Hatal, Birkat Halebana

KJ Schedule

Ereb Shabbat

Friday, May 13th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Shabbat Candle Lighting 7:28 pm

Minha 6:30 pm SHARP

Count Omer 8:32 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, May 14th

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 8:15 pm

Habdala & Omer 8:32 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, May 15th

Shaharit..... 7:30 am

Talmud Torah 10:00 am

Israel Walk & Festival at Rancho Park

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Hazan Hobb Back at Kahal May 20-21

We look forward to celebrating another Shabbat with Hazan Jack Hobb on Parashat Emor, May 20th-21st. His smiling presence and powerful voice made an impression at Pesah, so if you missed him a few weeks ago you'll enjoy another chance to hear him soon.

We expect that Hazan Hobb will be visiting us on a regular basis this spring and summer, serving as guest hazan about once a month. Look out for reminders to keep up with when he's coming!

KJ Schedule

(continued)

Monday to Friday, May 16th to 20th
Shaharit 6:25 am
23rd to 27th Days of the Omer begin on the previous evening at nightfall (e.g. count 23 days of Omer on Sun night 5/15)

Ereb Shabbat

Friday, May 20th

Guest Hazan Jack Hobb

Shabbat Candle Lighting..... 7:30 pm
Minha 6:30 pm SHARP
Count Omer 8:37 pm



New Milestones

Dedicate One on KJ's Tree of Life!
Stones now available at the roots of our welcoming Tree of Life in the lobby.
What a great opportunity to commemorate a happy occasion—an anniversary, wedding, birth, or bar or bat mitzvah! Have your contribution to Kahal Joseph recognized in perpetuity. Engrave a Milestone for a donation of \$1800. Contact Sarah at 310.474.0559

Mommy & Me

First Round SOLD OUT!

Want to sign up? There are two groups, one for 6-12 months and one for 12-18 months. **The next round begins in June, so to reserve email Jessica@kahaljoseph.org**

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 Moshie • Gracie Tizabi • Aliza bat Rahel

In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from May 14 to 21, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

6 Iyar / Shabbat, May 14th

Jane Ester Feldman
Cecile Masliah
Sophie Moses *Tifaha bat Mazal*

7 Iyar / Sunday, May 15th

Ezra Baruch *Ezra ben Yaacov*
Aaron A. David *Aharon Sasson ben Avraham Haim*
Ellis Levi *Eliyahu ben Ezra Kadoori Halevi*
Rachel Moses *Rahel bat Mazal Tov*

8 Iyar / Monday, May 16th

Toba Mussry *Toba bat Aziza*
Ezra A. Haim Salim

9 Iyar / Tuesday, May 17th

Menashi Jiji
Haim Moche *Moshi Haim ben Yehoshua*
Sima Sassoon *Simcha bat Hannah*

10 Iyar / Wednesday, May 18th

Ramah Ezra *Rahmah bat Lulu Khaton*
Abraham Shaye *Avraham Amir Saed Zoghee ben Asher Michael*

11 Iyar / Thursday, May 19th

Irving Rosen
Elias Raymond Solomon *Eliyahu Rahamim*

12 Iyar / Friday, May 20th

Sara Ephraim *Sarah bat Sarah*
Molly Moses *Masuda bat Aziza*
Aaron Sassoon *Aharon ben Elisha*
Rabbee Shadi

13 Iyar / Shabbat, May 21st

Devorah Lubovsky *Devorah bat Aharon*
Joseph Robert Saul
Violet Aziza Sheeri

The Baghdadi Jewish Community of Mumbai

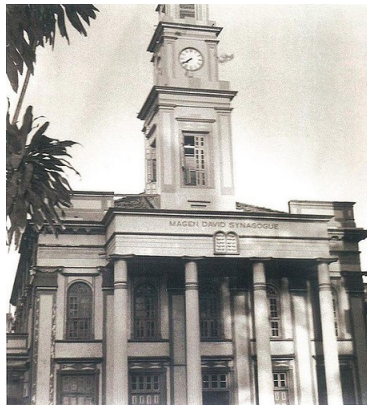
From the website Scroll.in

With a fortune of 13.1 billion pounds, British business tycoons David and Simon Reuben have made it to the top of Britain's *The Sunday Times* rich list for 2016. Like the Hinduja brothers who came in second on the list, the Reuben brothers also have a strong connection with India: they were born, in the 1940s, in Mumbai's small but wealthy community of Baghdadi Jews.

The Baghdadi Jews, as the name suggests, are of Iraqi origin, and sections of the community began to settle in colonial India, particularly the city of Bombay, during the 18th and 19th centuries. Two other distinct Indian Jewish communities – Cochin Jews and Bene Israelis – had migrated centuries before and had assimilated themselves with many aspects of Indian culture. The Baghdadi Jews, while retaining their Iraqi Jewish culture, also went on to establish themselves as wealthy businessmen and philanthropists in Mumbai.

David and Simon Reuben were born in 1941 and 1944 respectively, at a time when Mumbai's Baghdadi Jews were at their peak, with a population of around 5,000. Their family had migrated from Iraq to Mumbai in the mid-1800s and ran businesses across the Indian subcontinent. In the early 1950s, the young Reuben brothers migrated to London and eventually made their fortune in metal trading and real estate.

But their early years in Mumbai were spent in the midst of the Baghdadi Jewish community's cosy settlement in south Mumbai's Byculla area. In his book *Bombay: Exploring the Jewish Urban Heritage*, author Shaul Sapir describes the lifestyle of the Baghdadi Jews of Byculla: "The Baghdadi community of Byculla had a large compound, fenced in by a wall, which included all of its public structures."



The cultural and religious centre of this large Jewish compound was the Magen David synagogue one of the two Baghdadi Jewish synagogues in Mumbai. The other is the Keneseth Eliyahu synagogue in Colaba, painted in a distinct pale blue like its counterpart in Byculla.

The Jewish compound also included warehouses, a club house, a park known as Jew Garden and two schools set up by the Sassoon family, perhaps the best-known philanthropists of Mumbai's Jewish community. Both the EEE Sassoon High School and the Sir Jacob Sassoon High School remain reputed schools in Mumbai today.

Despite their small numbers, Baghdadi Jews developed a

strong youth culture focused on preserving their unique identity. For school-going children, there was the Habonim League Youth Movement established in 1933 by Albert Manasseh and Solomon Ezra. Its members met either in the Jewish compound or the Keneseth Eliyahoo synagogue, for activities that included, according to Sapir's book, "Hebrew classes, Israeli songs and folk dances, sports such as volleyball, running, high vault jumping and long jumping. Local Indian games also were part of their pastime, such as *bug bug dolla*, *lungri*, marbles, *gili dandu*."

Another youth club, called the Judean Club, operated from the Jewish compound specifically for graduates of the Sir Jacob Sassoon school.

These clubs began to die out gradually in the late 1950s and '60s, as more and more Jews from India began to migrate, either to newly-formed Israel or other European countries. The Reuben brothers were among many young Baghdadi Jews to leave India in the '50s. Today, there are barely a few dozen Baghdadi Jews left in Mumbai.



A Letter from the Friends of the IDF to the Kahal Joseph Community

On behalf of Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, Western Region, the Temple of the Arts, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center, I want to thank you once again for your partnership in our Yom Hazikaron Community Wide Night of Remembrance and for sharing our event.



Last night, on the eve of Israel's Memorial Day, Yom Hazikaron, over 54 partnering organizations and over 1,000 members of the Los Angeles community gathered together at The Steve Tisch Cinema Center at The Saban Theatre to commemorate, mourn, and remember the fallen soldiers of Israel and the lives that were tragically lost to terror. This year we commemorate 23,447 men and women who have died in uniform or as victims of terror attacks. The past year saw 68 Israeli soldiers and police die in the line of duty, as well as 32 civilians killed in terror attacks.

May the memories of the fallen always be blessed, and may Israel experience countless birthdays for decades and centuries to come. Today and always we carry with us the memory of Israel's fallen. Thank you for your partnership and your support. Am Yisrael Chai,

Jenna Griffin, Deputy Director

Kahal Joseph honors the members of our community who served in Israel's forces

Suzy & Isaac Assia, Jeannot Acoca, Rabbi Daniel Bouskila
Sandra & David Daniel, Shaul & Shoshanna Goury
Ruth & Edmond Hagooli, Lev Hakak, Sigal Kelly, Ruth & Zamir
Mordechai, Shimon Saberi, Joe Samuels, Yoel Stoler
David Volvovic, Karl Wozniak, Shula Wyner, & many others.
Help us complete our listing of courageous individuals. Send names to dafna@kahaljoseph.org or call 310.474.0559.



17th Annual Jewish Community Day at Dodger Stadium

Los Angeles Dodgers v. Chicago Cubs
Sunday, August 28, 2016
Game time 1:10 PM

Seats are limited and may be purchased through Sarah at the Kahal Joseph office by calling 310.474.0559.

Tickets are in the Infield Reserve @ \$34 each and include a commemorative Dodgers T-Shirt



The last day to purchase tickets is Friday, June 3rd 2016.
Please remember to call before noon.

What a fun day for the KJ family to enjoy the great American pastime! What a great way to savor summer and join together with the Jewish Community of Los Angeles!