

KOL MEBASSER

Rabbi's Message

The Torah has been very much on my mind this week, but not the way you'd normally think. This time, I mean the physical object of a Sefer Torah and all of its trappings: the parchment, the lettering, the Tik with its skillfully wrought artwork, and the names of the community members whose lives and memories are fondly preserved in the donor plaques.

Since our annual insurance policy renews every July, I have been blessed with the opportunity to become intimately acquainted with all of the Sifre Torah in our ample collection. To carefully check the condition of each and confirm that the policy correctly describes these most sacred objects of our spiritual and communal heritage. To draw inspiration from an up-close connection with such concentrated holiness.

As I walk into the Ekhal I am greeted by a faint, familiar scent with tones of velvet, precious metals, wood, leather, and a hint of rose water. And as I open each Sefer I am greeted by a special story. With an older Sefer I might notice the country it came from, the artisans who handcrafted the cases and wrote the text, and the unique journeys that brought the scrolls to our community from across Asia. With a newer Sefer I might sense a story of reinvention in a land where our members could thrive, and could give thanks for this success through the gift of a scroll.



Yet an in-depth look at each Sefer has also given me new insight into a narrative that applies across the entire collection. Something that I hadn't particularly noticed until this week is that nearly three quarters of our Sefarim share a set of physical features that make them very similar to one another: they all have 42 lines per column, and 98% of the columns start with the letter Vav.

The custom of starting nearly all the columns with Vav is called "Vave Ha'amudim," a Hebrew pun on Ex. 38:10. In the Shulhan Arukh (YD 273:6) it is brought as an optional practice, and the 13th century commentator Hagahot Maimoniyot even rules against it. His complaint is that "boorish scribes" stretch out the letters or cram them together in a misguided quest for words beginning with Vav, leaving the end result less beautiful than if they hadn't worried about it.

To solve that problem, Rabbi Yehuda Piza of Amsterdam published a book in 1769 called "Ezrat Hasofer," in which he showed how scribes could write a Vave Ha'amudim scroll while keeping the letters to their proper shape. This is a stunning accomplishment in a pre-computer age, and while Ezrat Hasofer has been eclipsed by other works, most modern Torah scrolls are directly influenced by his presentation.

R. Piza's choice of 42 lines per column (apparently following a Shitta Mekubetset that I couldn't locate by the print deadline) is an explicit rejection of Rambam. In the Mishne Torah, he rules that a Sefer must have 48-60 lines per column, and that the Torah he personally wrote had 51 lines

Parashat Hukat

Torah: Num. 19:1–22:1, 87 Pesukim
Hertz 652–664; Stone 838–855
Haftara: Judg. 11:1–33
Hertz 664–667; Stone 1187–1189
Tefillot: Morid Hatal, Birkat Halebana

KJ Schedule

Ereb Shabbat

Friday, July 15th

Shaharit 6:25 am
Shabbat Candle Lighting 7:46 pm
Minha 6:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, July 16th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer 8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah 10:15 am
Musaf 11:30 am
Women's Tehillim 5:45 pm
Minha 7:15 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet 8:00 pm
Arbit 8:35 pm
Habdala 8:49 pm

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(Sefer Torah 7:10 and 9:10). In an ode to the Rambam, we actually have three non-Vave Ha'amudim scrolls with exactly 51 lines, as well as several other scrolls with line counts falling in his permitted range.

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Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in honor of

Michael Amron's
96th Birthday

Mazal Tov!

Mazal Tov

Kahal Joseph congratulates
Arie Kattan, the son of our board
member Orly Kattan and Alan Kattan,
on the celebration of his recent
bar mitsva. May all of the out of town
family double his rejoicing in our
Torah and tradition!

Upcoming Fast Days

The two summer fasts both fall on Shabbat
this year, and will be observed the next
Jewish calendar day.

17th of Tammuz
daytime only
on Sunday, July 24th

9th of Ab
from Motsa'e Shabbat, August 13th to
nightfall on Sunday, August 14th



Happy 96th Birthday
to our beloved member
and friend, Michael Amron.
We wish you the best of health
and happiness always.

KJ Schedule (continued)

Weekdays

Sunday, July 17th

Shaharit 7:30 am

Monday, July 18th to Friday, July 22nd

Shaharit 6:25 am

Ereb Shabbat

Friday, July 22nd

Shaharit 6:25 am

Shabbat Candle Lighting 7:43 pm

Minha 6:30 pm

In Memoriam

We remember yearzeit anniversaries from
July 16 to 23, 2016. It is customary to light a
memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend
Shabbat services.

10 Tammuz / Shabbat, July 16th

Khanbaba Pouladian *Itzhak ben Avraham*

Hatoon bat Haviva

Isaac Shamash *Itzhak Rahamim ben Abraham*

11 Tammuz / Sunday, July 17th

Joseph Bensabat *Yosef ben Simy Moryousef*

Florence Nathan *Farha bat Toba*

Moshe Sasson *Moshe ben Sasson*

Solomon Leo Sassoon *Shlomo ben Yamin Sassoon*

Esther Levy Solomon *Esther bat Leah Matana*

12 Tammuz / Monday, July 18th

Eshagh Sarraf *Eshagh ben Yehuda*

14 Tammuz / Wednesday, July 20th

Rachel Meyer Judah *Rachel bat Aziza*

15 Tammuz / Thursday, July 21st

Mazal Sawdayi *Mazal bat Rima Cohen*

17 Tammuz / Shabbat, July 23rd

Abdallah Ezra *Abdallah ben Ezra Itzhak*

Refua Shelema

Abe Abraham • Moselle Amron • Sally
Amron • Haskell Avrahami • Sylvia Cohen
Mordechai Cohen • Esther Duke
Sassoon Ezra • Lev Hakak • Tilda Levy
Doris Moshi • Florice Newberry • Maurice
Ovadia • Gracie Tizabi • Katie bat Farha
Miriam bat Yetta • Aliza bat Victoria

Shabbat Shalom U/Meborakh

Rabbi's Message

(Continued from page 1)

"Ma tobu ohalekha ya'akob!" – how beautiful is the habitation of our Sefarim! The unity of so many scrolls across different lands and time periods is as stirring as the uniqueness of the minority of scrolls whose scribes marched to the beat of their own drum. May this balance of promoting conformity while celebrating difference stand behind everything that we do!

**KJ Welcomes
Guest Speaker
Rabbi Khakshoor**
who will give the
derasha for Se'uda
Shelishet



**Women's
Tehillim Group**
5:45 pm Saturday
before Mincha



Thanks to our member Miriam Shadi, the tehillim group is getting new life. Join your fellow Kahal Joseph sisters for community, **coffee & snacks** and reciting the Book of Psalms.

All women are welcome to participate, and whoever arrives first is invited to say the Yehi Ratson & begin reading. When more arrive, we can share the text until we have finished all 150 Psalms. What a great spiritual lift on Shabbat!



**Norma & Sam Dabby
Jewish Education Center**

**ENROLL NOW!
Talmud Torah**

**Classes Begin
Sunday, August 21st**

Nurture Create Celebrate Explore Inspire Share

Call 310.474.0559 for registration or information

Anniversary of Rabbi Menashe Sittehon

c. 1810-1876

This year marks the 140th year since the passing of Rabbi Sittehon, a renowned Sephardic scholar in Syria and Erets Yisrael during the Ottoman period. One of his most famous legacies is the Kenesiya Leshem Shamayim (1874), which helped him and three dozen of his colleagues retire a superstitious exorcism ceremony called "Endulzado." May his leadership in bringing the people back to direct prayer to Hashem earn him a blessed memory.

ספר

כנסיה לשם שמים

הנכנס לבית הכנסת מאז מברך בדרך חסד חרוט.
הדור אתם ראו זה ספר נטועה של שמתה מטעם ה'
כארוס. משום אפרושי מאסורא אוקרה שמעט לעקור
לשרש מעשה כשמים לכל החיים. הני כשי עסקיות
הן תעשה ידיון בלסטיון זכור וקטור אשר אורחותיהם
עקשים ונלחום. חוסר רבא אובל ליתא דע"ו ומרבית
העם עברו ונעששו בידים שנאחזים. ובהסכמה עלו
כל חכמי ויכני ונאיוני הרה"ק ת"ו וז"ו ועוד כמה
מבדולי חכמי ושר"ה: שורקמוס כחכמה ובוראה החרש
והמקור עץ פרי וכל ארוס. לאסור אישר את המעשה
הרע הוא פתחו בקללות האמורות כהר גרויס. החור
יחדל וזמור ורו מעשית רע כדכונת תקורה וחולו על ראשו
וכסבר זאת א' מי יקבץ דמ"ו קיאוים הפרוים. והשכ
העבודה לרבי פיתך ונעשה לפנק גרו עיוס. חבי"ר:

ירושלים תוכב"ה

ברשום איהו ומשה ח"ו בני הרב אברהם שאן זצוק"ל

תרל"ד



MOMMY & ME

Join our next session of Mommy & Me in partnership with PlayCreations Kids! For questions or to register contact Jessica@kahaljoseph.org.

Regular Class, 8 Thursdays for \$215

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We will spend time exploring our 5 senses through new and unique sensory play and art activities each week! We will also engage in music, instrument play, scarves, parachute time and more! For the older kids, we add in science projects!

Babies (12m - 18m) - 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Shabbat Class, 8 Fridays for \$215/\$225

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Kids explore the miracles of Shabbat! Each week we will sing, play and create a sensory/art project such as decorating Shabbat candle holders, making Shabbat dinner with play dough, baking fresh and delicious Challah and much more! We will end each class with our weekly Shabbat blessings, challah, juice and snack! Connect your little ones with their Jewish roots through this fun, interactive class!

Babies (12m - 18m) - 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Toddlers (18m - 2.5 years) - 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Preserve a Piece of Kahal Joseph Heritage

A Special Opportunity to Do a Mitzva



A collector of rare Judaica recently passed away in New York, and his family sold his entire library to Rabbi Melhado's favorite Jewish book dealer, who is now offering them for sale.

For a limited time only, there are about 30 unique printings available from **Calcutta, Bombay, and Baghdad**, many of which are scarce and difficult to find at any price.

If you want to take advantage of this special, tax-deductible opportunity to help Kahal Joseph rescue some of these items to treasure as part of our cultural heritage, contact Rabbi Melhado, who can arrange a discounted rate from the seller.