

# KOL MEVASSER

## Rabbi's Message

This week the parasha is named for the ladies. The opening line – “*isha ki tazria*” – introduces a chapter of special regulations for women at childbirth, and it all starts with the word “woman.”



In honor of this, I read the commentary on Tazri'a-Metsora by a brilliant female *parshanit*, Dr. Nechama Leibowitz (1905-1997), intending to share from her Torah in my Rabbi's message. It was only after deciding this and beginning to write the column that I learned she passed away on Shabbat Tazri'a. I was astonished that my casual impulse to celebrate her teachings would fall on her 20th anniversary!

The first section of Dr. Leibowitz's commentary explores what she terms “Biblical diseases.” A disorder called “*tsara'at*” is the focus of most of Tazri'a and the beginning of Metsora, and indeed the word “*metsora*” is the name for a person suffering from this illness. But what exactly is it? Are we talking about a medical condition for which the Torah is prescribing treatment? Or perhaps it is a spiritual disease for which a doctor's cure would not be effective?

The symptoms described in the Torah (Lev. 13-14) are open to both interpretations. *Tsara'at* is first presented as a skin condition that could be noticed through surface discoloration or scabbing. The appearance of the disease would change over time, requiring an expert witness to correctly diagnose it. All of this could support the theory that *tsara'at* is a biological sickness, which explains why the word is often translated as “leprosy” in

English. The great Don Isaac Abrabanel clearly adopted this thinking when he celebrated the Torah's wisdom in fighting contagious plagues.

However, there are aspects of *tsara'at* that don't entirely fit this mold. Unlike leprosy, which is spread through a bacterial infection and only manifests in the body, *tsara'at* can be just as visible on clothing or even the walls of our houses. Moreover, the expert witness who diagnoses it is not a doctor with medical credentials, but a Kohen, whose authority derives from spiritual forces. That is why the Rambam argues that *tsara'at* is a spiritual corrective against *lashon hara* – the sin of using words to undermine someone's reputation.

Dr. Leibowitz cites a convincing section from the Yad Hazaka in favor of this view: Among the early sufferers of *tsara'at* is Miriam, who is stricken after she and Aaron speak harshly against Moses. Once she gets the disease, it shocks both of them into realizing that they humiliated their brother and implicitly insulted God for choosing him. As soon as they make amends, the disease is miraculously removed (Num. 12 and Rambam Tum'at Tsara'at 16:10).

For Rambam, this is a warning against the danger of idle talk, which not only harms our fellows but also our Creator and the reputation of the Torah that He gave us. How convenient it might have been for *tsara'at* to be around in modern times! Its miraculous nature and stunning visuals would be a true rallying cry for mending our ways and doing our best for the people around us. With the disease no longer in play, it is now up to us to nurture the maturity and growth to be able to recognize these problems on our own.

## Parashat Tazri'a / Metsora 18th day since the Omer

Torah: Lev. 12:1–15:33, 157 Pesukim  
Hertz 460–477; Stone 608–635  
Haftara: II Kings 7:3–20  
Hertz 477–479; Stone 1172–1173  
Tefillot: Morid Hatal, Tsidkatekha  
resumes at Minha on Saturday

## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

Friday, April 28th

Shaharit..... 6:25 am  
**Candle lighting..... 7:16 pm**  
Minha ..... 6:30 pm  
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit..... 7:00 pm  
Young Professionals Shabbat ..... 7:30 pm  
at Rabbi Melhado's home

### Yom Shabbat

Saturday, April 29th

**Shaharit / Morning Prayer ..... 8:30 am**  
Keri'at HaTorah ..... 10:15 am  
Musaf ..... 11:40 am

Women's Tehillim ..... 5:45 pm  
Minha w/Guest Rabbi Khakshoor ... 6:45 pm  
Se'uda Shelisheet..... 7:30 pm  
Arvit ..... 8:05 pm  
Havdala ..... 8:20 pm

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## Mazal Tov

Lauren and Michael Salem  
on the birth of a baby girl  
Emma Arielle

Besiman Tov  
to grandparents  
Evelyn and Fuad Salem  
Deborah and Steven Lebowitz

## Condolences

We send our deepest condolences  
to the family and friends of

### Nassim Hay Mussry, z"l

Nassim was a longtime member of Kahal Joseph. He is survived by his loving wife Majdoline; his children Jack (Adele) Mussry, Grace (Kayvan) Nahai, Sol (Natalie) Mussry, and Ruth (Anthony) Molinari; his twelve grandchildren; his sisters Mary Mussry and Elsa Singman, and his brother David Mussry; and his large extended family around the world. May the family be comforted together with all the mourners of Tsion.

## Condolences

We express our deepest condolences  
to the family and friends of

### Maurice Ezra Ovadia, z"l

Maurice was a longtime member of Kahal Joseph. He is survived by his loving wife Suheila; his children Ronnie Ovadia and Stella & Omid Ezer; and his grandchildren Michael, Mathew, Marc and Sabrina Ezer. May the family be comforted together with all the mourners of Tsion.

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### Sunday, April 30th

Shaharit ..... 7:30 am

Talmud Torah ..... 9:45 am

### Community Yom Hazikaron @ Saban

4:30 pm doors open / 5:15 pm program

### Yom Hazikaron

Monday, May 1st

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

### Yom Ha'atsmaut (Day Of)

Tuesday, May 2nd

Shaharit w/Hallel ..... 6:25 am

### Wednesday-Friday May 3-5

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

### Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, May 5-6

Shabbat Candle lighting ..... 7:22 pm

Friday Minha ..... 6:30 pm

Shaharit ..... 8:30 am

Saturday Minha ..... 6:45 pm

Havdala ..... 8:26 pm

### Yom Ha'atsmaut (Observed w/Kahal)

Sunday, May 7th

### Refu'a Shelema

Moselle Amron • Sally Amron  
Haskell Avrahamy • Sylvia Cohen  
Simcha bat Rooha • Mordechai Cohen  
Esther Duke • Sassoon Ezra • Tilda Levy  
Florice Newberry • Katie bat Farha  
Miriam bat Yetta • Aliza bat Rahel  
Aliza bat Victoria • Yvonne Moalim  
Miryam bat Malka • Malka bat Rahel  
Moshe Ezra ben Mazal Tov  
Chaya Chana bat Batya

Shabbat Shalom Umvorakh

## In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from April 29 to May 6, 2017. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

### 3 Iyar / Shabbat, April 29th

Nedat Joshua Farahi Yehoshua ben Yehezkel  
Sassoon Benjamin Gemal Sassoon ben Binyamin

### 4 Iyar / Sunday, April 30th

Binyamin Sheff Binyamin ben Hasia

### 5 Iyar / Monday, May 1st

Nedat Joshua Farahi Yehoshua ben Yehezkel

### 6 Iyar / Tuesday, May 2nd

Jane Ester Feldman

Cecile Masliah

Sophie Moses Tifaha bat Mazal

### 7 Iyar / Wednesday, May 3rd

Ezra Baruch Ezra ben Yaacov Baruch

Aaron A. David Aharon Sasson ben Avraham Haim

Ezra Jacob Barukh

Ellis Levi Eliyahu ben Ezra Kadoori Halevi

Rachel Moses Rachel bat Mazal Tov

### 8 Iyar / Thursday, May 4th

Toba Mussry Toba bat Aziza

Salim Ezra A. Haim

### 9 Iyar / Friday, May 5th

Menashi Jiji

Haim Moche Moshi Haim ben Yehoshua Moche

Sima Sassoon Simcha bat Hannah

### 10 Iyar / Shabbat, May 6th

Ramah Ezra Rahmah bat Lulu Khatoon

Abraham Shaye Abraham Amir Saed Zoghee ben

Asher Michael

## Omer Counting Cards

This year, we received only 90 copies of the Omer counting cards, so Rabbi Melhado is handing them out in person. For those who cannot get one from him, we have it available as a PDF.

# Save the Date!

## Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner

**Friday, April 28 at 7:30 PM**

Join Rabbi Melhado and his family at home for an interesting discussion and a really delicious Shabbat meal. Open to members and friends in their 20s and 30s.

Space is limited, so register now by emailing Rabbi at rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org.

## *Blessings for Counting the Omer*

Count after dark each evening between the second day of Pesah and the beginning of Shavuot

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם. אשר קדשנו במצותיו. וצונו על  
ספירת העמר:

היום \_\_\_\_\_ לעמר. שהם \_\_\_\_\_:

הרמקון הוא יחזיר עבודת בית המקדש למקומה במהרה בימינו. אמן:

Ba-ruk h a-ta a-do-nai, e-lo-he-nu me-lekh ha-o-lam,  
a-sheer kee-de-sha-nu be-meets-vo-tav, ve-tsee-va-nu al  
se-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Ha-yom \_\_\_\_\_ la-o-mer, she-hem \_\_\_\_\_.

Ha-ra-ha-man hu ya-ha-zeer a-vo-dat bet ha-meek-dash  
leem-ko-ma beem-he-ra ve-ya-me-nu a-men.

Blessed are you, God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with  
His commandments, and directed us to count from the Omer.

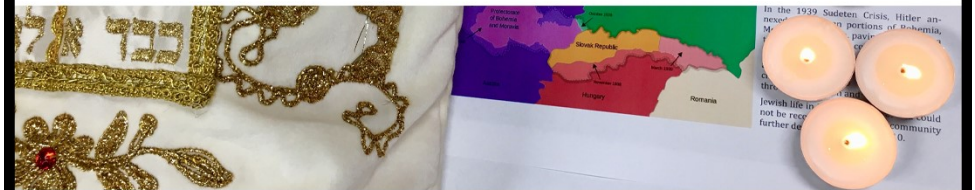
Today is the [blank] day of the Omer, which is [insert weeks and days]

May the Compassionate One, restore the service of the Temple to us  
promptly and in our lifetime. Amen.



## Yom HaShoa - Service of Remembrance

Thank you to the Rosen Family and the Memorial Scrolls Trust for allowing us to display a Sefer Torah that was rescued from the Holocaust. The scroll was presented with information about the Jews of Bohemia and Moravia, and Rabbi Melhado read the hashkaba for the victims of the Holocaust.



## A Special Afternoon with Rabbi Khakshoor

This Shabbat! Starting at 6:45PM

**Kahal Joseph welcomes Rabbi Yosef  
Khakshoor as guest rabbi for the Shabbat  
afternoon prayers.**

**Join us for Mincha, Arvit, and inspiring words  
of Torah at Se'uda Shelisheet!**



**Like us on facebook!**

[facebook.com/kahaljoseph.congregation](https://facebook.com/kahaljoseph.congregation)





# YOM HAZIKARON COMMUNITY WIDE NIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE

## יזכור



BEVERLY HILLS  
TEMPLE OF THE ARTS  
AT THE SABAN THEATRE



**FIDF, TEMPLE OF THE ARTS & CONSULATE GENERAL OF ISRAEL PRESENT**

**Yom Hazikaron Community Wide Night of Remembrance**

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

**SUNDAY**

# APRIL 30, 2017

4:30pm Doors Open | 5:15pm Program Begins

*Free admission. No RSVP necessary.*

*Free parking at the La Cienega Tennis Courts.*

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

8440 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90211

**REMARKS BY SAM GRUNDWERG**

*Consul General of Israel*

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*For more information, please contact FIDF Western Region at  
323-843-2690 or email [rachel.blankstein@fidf.org](mailto:rachel.blankstein@fidf.org)*

## Join Kahal Joseph for

# CELEBRATE ISRAEL LOS ANGELES

**Sunday, May 7, 2017**

**10:00 AM**

## Salute to Israel Walk

**2551 Motor Ave (Pico & Motor)**

Register by emailing [jessica@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:jessica@kahaljoseph.org)

**11:00 AM**

## Celebrate Israel Festival

**Admission: \$15, kids under 3 free**

**Purchase Tickets:**

<https://www.israeliamerican.org/celebrate-israel-festival-LA>



**IAC**

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LOS ANGELES