3 June 2017

## KOL MEVASSER

#### Rabbi's Message

In the hours after Shabuot, I was idly catching up on the news when an unusual item grabbed my attention. It was a report of a letter that was received by a black church from an unnamed former

racist, who felt guilty about their lifetime of bigoted thoughts and actions. Consumed with remorse, the author confessed past sins and included a check for \$2,000 as a healing gesture!

As a self-identifying Christian, this repentant donor may well have been familiar with Parashat Naso's treatment of confession:

"When a man or woman commits any sin that humans commit, making a trespass against the Lord, and that soul be guilty; then they shall confess their sin which they have done, make full restitution for their guilt, and add a further fifth of the value for the wronged party." (–Deut. 5:6-7) we aren't willing to take responsibility (Hilkhot Teshuva 1:1 and 2:1).

Note well Rambam's language of encouragement. He says that even a sinner should be applauded for taking ownership of his sin, possibly earning

Perhaps it was with this very passage in mind that the check was included. While it is hard to put a dollar amount on prejudice, we can infer that the author felt personally responsible for at least \$1,600 of tangible losses to the African American community. A check for \$2,000 would not only restore the wrong, but also fulfill the Biblical directive of the "homesh" payment for unfair losses.

I was moved by this story, with its modern application of an ancient principle. From Biblical times until today, it has always been difficult to

put our own failings into words. Not only must we confront the negative effects of our actions in the world, but we must also invent the very language used to condemn our own behavior and pronounce it ourselves. Before such a challenge, it's no wonder that people avoid facing the music!

Yet as difficult as it may be, the act of confession gives us the power to begin making things right. As Rambam puts it, "the more one confesses, the more praise he deserves," since declaring the wrong before God is the first step towards true repentance. If one has not confessed his failings, how can he perform the next steps in the process, such as restitution, pledging better behavior in the future, or living up to those standards in a similar situation? All of those depend on our basic admission of guilt, and they will ring totally false if we aren't willing to take responsibility (Hilkhot Teshuva 1:1 and 2:1).

Note well Rambam's language of encouragement He says that even a sinner should be applauded for taking ownership of his sin, possibly earning himself praise that he might not have gotten by leading a transgression-free lifestyle. Even more powerfully, the confession fulfills one of the 613 mitsvot of the Torah, opening a new pathway of connection to God during one of his lowest moments! (Sefer Hamitsvot MA:73)

In a year whose reigning slogan seems to be that talk is cheap, we would do well to take inspiration from the mitsva of confession. Rather than conceal our actions with subterfuge, let us have the moral strength to show that confronting what really happened is the best medicine for a healthy society.

#### Parashat Naso Bar Mitsva of Aiden Shashoua

Torah: Num. 4:21–7:89, 176 Pesukim Hertz 586–601; Stone 748–773

Haftara: Judg. 13:2–25

Hertz 602–604; Stone 1181–1182 Tefillot: Morid Hatal: No Tsidkatekha

at Minha; Birkat Halevana

#### KJ Schedule

#### **Erev Shabbat**

Friday, June 2nd

| Shaharit                 | 6:15 am |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Candle lighting          | 7:41 pm |
| Minha                    | 6:30 pm |
| Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit | 7:00 pm |

#### **Yom Shabbat**

Shaharit / Morning Prayer

| Shaharit / Worning Prayer | 0.30 aiii |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Keri'at HaTorah           | 10:15 am  |
| Musaf                     | 11:40 am  |
|                           |           |
| Women's Tehillim          | 6:00 pm   |
| Minha                     | 7:00 pm   |
| Se'uda Shelisheet         | 7:45 pm   |
| Arvit                     | 8:30 pm   |
| Havdala                   | 8:46 pm   |
|                           |           |

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8.30 am

#### Yoma Tava

A Piyut for Bar Mitsva

יּוֹמָא טָבָא דְרַבָּנָן.

מָצְוַת תְּפָלִין כְּתִקְנָן.

פִּי הַבֶּן י"ג זָכָה לְמִנְיָן.

בָּצֵל אֵ־ל שַׁ־דַּי יִתְלוֹנָן: יומא טבא...

**שִ**מְּחָה לָאִישׁ בַּתְּפִּלִּין.

בַּקֹּדָשׁ אוֹתוֹ מַעֲלִין.

בַּזְכוּתוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל נִגְאָלִין.

יומא טבא...

ַן שָׁבוּ בִּנְוַה שַׁאֲנָן:

עָּלְיוֹן אַ־ל נוֹרָא וְאָיוֹם.

לָיֶשַׁע יָ־הּ דְרוֹשׁ פִּדְיוֹם.

לִישׁוּעָתְךּ מְצַפִּים יוֹם יוֹם.

בִּמְהַרָה חִישׁ תִּפְרָקנָן: יומא טבא...

יָּ־הּ לְךָּ תָּבֹא שַׁוְעָתִי.

וְשִׁירָתִי וּתְהַלֶּתִי.

וְתִשְׁלַח הַגּוֹאֵל לְקְרָאתִי.

מָזִיו אוֹרְךְ תַּנְהִיר לָן: יומא טבא...

קָּזָק הַלְּלוּהוּ בְקָּדְשׁוֹ.

וָהֶדוּר נָאֶה בִּלְבוּשׁוֹ.

וְגַם תְּפָלִין בְּרֹאשׁוֹ.

הָאַ־ל מֶלֶהְ צוּר נֶאֱמֶן: יומא טבא...

#### **Shabbat Kiddush**

is sponsored in honor of

#### Aiden's Bar Mitsva

by Keren and Elisha Shashoua

Mazal Tov to his parents Keren and Elisha Shashoua his sibling, Ori and his grandmother, Esperance Shashoua

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Sunday, June 4th

Shaharit ......7:30 am

Monday to Friday, June 5th to 9th
Shaharit ......6:25 am

Monday, June 5th **Shabbat Matters**, online class ..... 8:00 pm

#### **Next Shabbat**

Fri-Sat. June 9-11

| 7:45 pm |
|---------|
| 6:30 pm |
| 8:30 am |
| 7:15 pm |
| 8:49 pm |
|         |

#### **Condolences**

We send our condolences to the family of Rashel Maslavi z"I, Rachel bat Nuna (Yaacov) who passed away May 25, 2017, the 29th of lyar. She is survived by her loving family, daughter Blanche (Farid) and son Isaac, grandchildren Roy and Lisa Maslavi, step-grandchildren Sally Maslavi and Dr. Saul Maslavi.

May her loved ones be comforted together with all the mourners of Tsion.

#### In Memoriam

We remember the following yahrzeit anniversaries from June 3 to 10, 2017. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

**9 Sivan / Shabbat, June 3rd** Ester Bekhore *Ester bat Amam* Ester Ezekiel *Ester bat Amam* 

10 Sivan / Sunday, June 4th
Mazli Hagooli Mazal bat Rahel
Massouda Kay Massouda bat Khatoun
Mozelle Lelah Mazal Tov bat Ester

**12 Sivan / Tuesday, June 6th**Abraham Lurie *Avraham Lurie*Abdullah Zekaria *Sion Abdullah Zekaria* 

13 Sivan / Wednesday, June 7th Florence Amron Farha Hanah bat Garzi Sulman Soffer Sulman Sion Soffer

15 Sivan / Friday, June 9th Isaac Bekhor Itzhak ben Yaacov

#### Refu'a Shelema

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

#### **Condolences**

We send our condolences to the family of
Pary Arnov Cohen z"I, Tzipora bat Rahel (Barukh)
who passed away May 29, 2017, the 4th of Sivan.
She is survived her loving family: children Mitra
(Moshe) Irani, Samy (Shan) Cohen, Moti (Moshe)
Sina, and Batish (Wiseman) Lahiji; ten grandchildren
including Michael and Sandy Rachel Irani, and fifteen
great-grandchildren. May her loved ones be
comforted together with all the mourners of Tsion.



Don't let your graduate go unnoticed! Let's celebrate the success and accomplishments of all our graduates from preschool to PhD.

Email the name, school and field of study of your graduate to jessica@kahaljoseph.org and they will be mentioned in the June 16 Kol Mevasser!



Express your creativity!
Connect with friends, new and old!

A variety of pottery pieces will be available, tons of paint colors, and a Color Me Mine staff member.

Stay tuned for more information!



SAVE THE DATE!

### Dodger's Jewish Community Day

Sunday August 13 at 1:10PM

LA Dodgers

V.

San Diego Padres

Group ticket info coming soon!



## Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner Friday, June 16 at 7:30 PM

Interested in....

a delicious dinner? meeting new people? an interesting discussion?



Join Rabbi Melhado and his family at home for a relaxed, joyful Shabbat dinner with good people.

Open to members and friends in their 20s and 30s. Register now by emailing Rabbi at rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org.

# Living Room Learning

#### Got a pressing Jewish question? Something on your mind? A topic of interest?

Host Rabbi Melhado in your home for a class to explore a topic of your choice, or work with the rabbi to find something that interests you. Invite your friends, and learn together with the rabbi in a relaxed environment.

Interested? Questions? Email the rabbi at RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org.

## SDaddens: Madddens:

### Rules, Rituals and Meaning Mondays at 8PM live on YouTube!

Join Rabbi Melhado for an interactive, online series on all aspects of Shabbat

Email rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org for the direct link

#### Session II

May 22: What's it all about? The Philosophy of Shabbat
May 29: Get the Spirit: Honoring & Protecting Shabbat
June 5: Who/What/Why? Candles, Kiddush, Meals & Havdala
June 12: Trumped! Shabbat v. Special Circumstances



#### Session III

July 3: What are we resting from: The 39 Labors
July 10: Is that Practical? Food & Transportation
July 17: Bend Me, Break Me: Shabbat & Other Values
July 24: Crescent & Cross: Shabbat & Non-Jewish Society