

# KOL MEVASSER

## Rabbi's Message

If something is funny, we remember it. There might be other professionals who said it better, or who captured more perspectives or nuance, but the people who most reliably get us to retain information are the comedians.



A case in point in British humorist Peter Kay's bit on misheard song lyrics. While Kay likely did not have Parashat Shelah in mind as he wrote this material, he caused me to understand the story of the 10 Spies in a way that I might never have experienced otherwise. He may not be a Torah scholar, but he has still produced one of the best illustrations of the psychology of the spies that I have ever encountered.

The premise of the bit is that Kay has recently been to a karaoke bar. Unlike most other forms of music consumption, karaoke requires a song's lyrics to be displayed on a screen, and this causes him to realize that he has been singing the words to famous songs incorrectly for much of his adult life.

To make his case to the audience, he brings out a smartphone and plays the songs into his mic for them to judge. First up is Sister Sledge's *We Are Family*, in which Kay claims an important refrain is "just want to staple the vicar." He then plays it, and the hall erupts with laughter as it appears that this is the only possible way to hear the words. Later, he claims that Michael Jackson's *You Are Not Alone* includes the phrase "your burgers are the best," with similarly riotous results.

Kay's audience knows the original songs, and is well aware that the true lyrics are "just want to

state for the record" and "your burdens I will bear." But through the power of suggestion, he is able to twist our minds in such a way that we are primed in advance to mishear them, or even to forget what we already knew about the words.

Had he played the songs first and then said the distorted phrases, it would have clashed with our lived-in experience and we would not have accepted it. At best he would come across as a bumbling fool, funny because he must navigate a reality so opposed to our own. Rather, his magic lies in the fact that he told us what he heard beforehand. With the wrong words ringing in our ears, we are primed to hear the songs in the same distorted way that he did, cracking up because we ourselves have garbled the words of a song we have heard correctly a thousand times before.

This power of suggestion is exactly the issue with the 10 Spies. Though they have positive report of the physical qualities of the Land of Kena'an, they prime the Israelites to defeatism before they have time to judge the issue for themselves. From 10 influentially placed individuals, anguish spreads like wildfire through the encampment, turning their hearts away from God at a moment that the rest of their experience should have assured them would be a triumph.

It takes a special kind of strength to stand up like Joshua and Caleb and remind our fellows that we can actually rise above the hype. Suggestion is no more threatening than our ability to get carried away by it, and that is something that we can master with time and openness to maturation. In the meantime, if we do fall under its sway, may it be for something no more consequential than Michael Jackson's dinner menu.

*Shabbat Shalom*

## Parashat Shelah

Torah: Num. 13:1–15:41, 119 Pesukim  
Hertz 623–634; Stone 798–819  
Haftara: Josh. 2:1–24  
Hertz 635–637; Stone 1184–1185  
Tefillot: Morid Hatal, Hakhrazat Tamuz  
(Sat & Sun)

## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

*Friday, June 16th*

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am  
**Candle lighting..... 7:48 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, June 17th*

**Shaharit / Morning Prayer .....8:30 am**  
Keri'at HaTorah ..... 10:15 am  
Musaf ..... 11:40 am  
  
Women's Tehillim ..... 6:15 pm  
Minha ..... 7:15 pm  
Se'uda Shelisheet..... 8:00 pm  
Arvit ..... 8:40 pm  
Havdala ..... 8:52 pm

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Seuda Shelisheet

is sponsored  
in loving memory of his father

**Mordecai ben Habib, z"l**

by  
Behrouz Eliassi

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*Sunday, June 18th*

Shaharit ..... 7:30 am

*Monday to Friday, June 19th to 23rd*

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

**Next Week / Fri-Sat, June 23-24**

Shabbat Candle lighting ..... 7:50 pm

Friday Mincha ..... 6:30 pm

Shaharit ..... 8:30 am

Saturday Mincha ..... 7:15 pm

Havdala ..... 8:53 pm

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

**Abigail Amron**, daughter of David & Jessica Amron, granddaughter of Michael & Moselle Amron, upon her graduating from Kindergarten from Stephen Wise Temple.

**Sarit Ashkenazi**, daughter of Karen & Avi Ashkenazi, granddaughter of Yoel & Tikva Iny and Sara & Isaac Ashkenazi, upon graduating from Shalhevet High School. She will be in Israel next year, followed by Chapman University.

**Matthew Ironi**, son of Melissa & Dan Ironi, grandson of Merna Ironi, upon graduating from Pressman Academy ECC. He will attend Kindergarten at El Rodeo.

**Zachary Joyce**, son of Brian & Lisa Joyce, grandson of Yvette and Joe Dabby, upon graduating from Brentwood Presbyterian Preschool.

**Michael Kamara**, son of Ourite & Abe Kamara, grandson of Claire Assia, upon graduating from Boston University with a BA in Business.

**Samuel Lurie**, son of Judy & Fred Lurie, grandson of Rabbi Elias (z"l) & Vera Levi, upon graduating from California State University, Northridge with a BS in Mathematics.

**Ethan Shiri**, son of Sandy & Danny Shiri, grandson of Widad Shiri, upon graduating from Indiana University with a BA in Business/Economics.

**Maurice Zekaria**, son of Leon & Sylvia Zekaria, grandson of Alice Zekaria & Shirin Elghanian, upon graduating Summa Cum Laude from Loyola High School.

## In Memoriam

We remember the following yahrzeit anniversaries from June 17 to 24, 2017. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

### 23 Sivan / Shabbat, June 17th

Lily Judah *Lulu bat Toba*  
Salim Kamara *Salim ben Ezra*

### 24 Sivan / Sunday, June 18th

Joseph Meir Hakimpour *Yosef ben Meir*  
Edith Judah *Esther bat Chana*

### 26 Sivan / Tuesday, June 20th

Daniel Rojhani  
George Sassoon *Khadoory Hai ben Ezra*  
Samha Zelkha

### 27 Sivan / Wednesday, June 21st

Abdallah Joseph *Abdallah Faraj Yoseph Isaac*  
Maurice Mathalon *Maurice Moshe ben Avraham*

### 28 Sivan / Thursday, June 22nd

Rostame Eliassi *Mordecai ben Habib*  
Aziz Daniel Pourati *Aziz ben Daniel*

### 29 Sivan / Friday, June 23rd

Eric Jacob Jonah *Ezra ben Yaacov*  
Abraham Mashaal *Abraham ben Yehezkel*

### 30 Sivan / Shabbat, June 24th

Ester Meyer *Ester bat Sofi*

## 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  
Arlette bat Rashel



Join Kahal Joseph at the *Ball Park!*  
**Dodger's Jewish  
 Community Day**  
**Sunday August 13 at 1:10PM**

Los Angeles Dodgers

v.

San Diego Padres

Group tickets \$34 including  
 Hebrew Dodgers hat!

RSVP by **Wednesday, July 5**  
 by calling the office at 310-474-0559



# Shabbat Matters!

**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](mailto:rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org) for the direct link

## Session I:

**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 II:

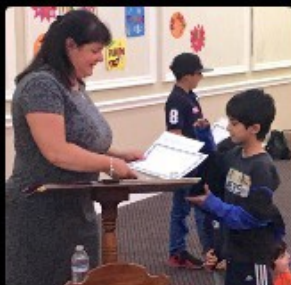
**July 3:** What are we resting from: The 39 Labors

**July 10:** Is that Practical? Food & Transportation

**July 17:** Bend Me, Break Me: Shabbat & Other Values

**July 24:** Crescent & Cross: Shabbat & Non-Jewish Society





## Talmud Torah Year End Celebration



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\* Friends \* Values \* Holidays \*  
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Contact Molly Jalali at [molly@emetek.com](mailto:molly@emetek.com) or Rabbi Melhado at [rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org) for more information!

Registration forms at [www.kahaljoseph.org/talmudtorah.html](http://www.kahaljoseph.org/talmudtorah.html)

