

Rabbi's Message

Have you ever greeted people with the phrase "*hag kasher vesameah*" in the lead-up to Pesah? It seems so innocent: after all, it just means that you want the person to have a kosher and happy holiday. Why wouldn't we bless our friends with these ideas, especially given how popular the greeting is?



I grew up hearing this blessing addressed to my family, and cheerfully repeating it to others myself. It was a natural part of my Jewish vocabulary for years, until I began to question it on the grounds that the word "kasher" comes before "sameah."

I had the opportunity to delve deeper into the origins of this blessing for the first time when a friend complained about it online. In a Sephardi debate group of which I am a moderator, he posted an image from Reconnectar that proposed *hag kasher vesameah* as a traditional Sephardi greeting for this time of year. After posting a snarky reply with examples of actual Sephardi greetings, he griped that "the organisation whose stated purpose is to reconnect covert Sephardim with their roots is using super-Ashkenormative Israeli phraseology."

It had never occurred to me who coined the phrase, so I got on the Bar-Ilan Responsa Project and did a search for it. To my great interest, this revealed that the consecutive words "kasher vesameah" do not appear anywhere in classic rabbinic literature, and they are notably absent from the medieval commentaries of the Geonim and Rishonim. It would appear that *hag kasher*

vesameah entered the Jewish lexicon through the Aharonic responsa literature, all of which was composed after 1563. Until quite recently, it was used exclusively by Ashkenazim, who appear to have translated it directly from the Yiddish proverb "*hob a koshern un freylekhn peysekh*."

I have heard too many stories of parents who upend their lives for a month at a time in an endless paranoia of leaven, so that their children come to dread a beautiful holiday that they might otherwise have cherished. I have grown tired of the culture of self-congratulatory *humrot* that doubles the price of Pesah products and fosters an outlook in which it is okay to judge the private religious observance of other Jews. Adding "happy" as an afterthought to "kosher" hardly seems to capture the celebratory mood of the Festival of Jewish Freedom.

Much as our Hazan Sass Ezra inverts the popular phrase "*ya'tik il-umur wal-eif*" so that we pray for health before seeking long life, my solution thus far has been to switch the order of the words. Saying "*hag sameah vekhasher*" – "may your Pesah be happy in the first place, and kosher too" – will be a refreshing reset of our expectations.

Due to the popularity of the original greeting in modern Israel, Sephardic leaders there have now brought it to the lips of our people. Rabbi Ezra Batzri, the father of my predecessor at Kahal, used it in his published writings, as did Rabbi Hayim David Halevi, Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv. Clearly it is here to stay, but the next time you use it, think about all that the words could imply. Consider saying *hag sameah vekhasher*, and if that doesn't tickle your fancy, you can always go with the classic "*moadim lesimha*!"

Pesah Days 7 and 8 Friday and Shabbat

Torah P7: Ex. 13:17–15:26, Num. 28:19–25
Orot Seph Pesah: 316–319 (5 aliyot)
Haftara P7: II Sam. 22:1–51
Orot Seph Pesah: 319–321
Torah P8: Deut. 14:22–16:17, Num. 28:19–25
Orot Seph Pesah: 321–324 (7 aliyot)
Haftara P8: Is. 10:32–12:6
Orot Seph Pesah: 324–325
Tefillot: Ps. 107, Vatikah Miryam (P7 only)
Morid Hatal, Half Hallel
Omer: Counted daily from the 2nd night of Pesah until Shavuot. The blessing is said only when counting at night (after tset hakokhavim), and only if you have counted continuously without missing any days.

KJ Schedule

Hol Hamoed Pesah

Thursday, April 5th—HHM IV

Shaharit 6:05 am

Lel Pesah VII

Thursday, April 5th

Minha and Arvit 6:30 pm

Candle lighting 6:58 pm

6th night since the Omer

Yom Pesah VII

Friday, April 6th

Shaharit 8:30 am

Kids Room 10 am to 12 noon

Lel Pesah VIII & Erev Shabbat

Friday, April 6th

Minha and Arvit 6:30 pm

Candle lighting 6:59 pm

7th night since the Omer

(Continued on page 2)

Condolences

With sorrow we send our deepest condolences to the family and friends of our beloved longtime member

Haskel Avrahamy, z"l

Yehezkel ben Esther & Yosef Avrahamy z"l

He passed away on the 18th of Nisan 5778, April 3rd 2018.

Haskel was born in El Azer Iraq, known as the location of the tomb of Ezra Hasofer. In 1950, he escaped to Israel and settled in Jerusalem. He married Esther in 1957, and they had three beautiful children. The young family then moved to Los Angeles, where they were active members in Kahal Joseph for decades.

Haskel was predeceased by eight siblings, and his wife Esther Avrahamy, z"l.

He is survived by his sister Shula Shemesh;

His children Ronit (Michael) Cohen, Yigal (Jenny) Avrahamy, and Yosi (Esther) Avrahamy

His grandchildren Jamie (Rami) Assouline Jonathan (Mimi) Cohen and Jessica Cohen Joseph, Jacob, and Emma Avrahamy Miriam, Sara, Bobby, and Ella Avrahamy

His great-grandchildren, Eliana & Ariella Assouline Gabriela, Talia, & Samuel Cohen

Extended family and friends

Our thoughts & prayers go out to his family & loved ones. May they be comforted together with all the mourners of Tsion. *Min hashamayim tenuhamu*

Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron
Sylvia Cohen • Esther Duke • Mehry bat Miriam
Hakimipour • Tilda Levy • Yvonne Moalim • Florice
Newberry • Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria
Ariette bat Rashel • Chaya Chana bat Batya • Katie
bat Farha • Malka bat Rahel • Miriam bat Yetta
Miryam bat Malka • Moshe Ezra ben MazalTov • Simcha
bat Rooha • Moshe Hooman ben Sara • Habiba bat Farha
Moshe Haim ben Sara • Meir Ezra ben Rahel

Condolences

With sorrow we send our deepest condolences to the family and friends of
Yolanda Anguiano, z"l

wife of our dear staff member, Jose Anguiano. She passed away on Monday, March 26th 2018.

Yolanda was born in Mexico into circumstances that required her to work from age 10. She met Jose in her early teens, and they built an enjoyable life together that ultimately took them to Los Angeles. She loved being with her family, and was a happy matriarch of four children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She enjoyed traveling, and recently caught up with some of her relatives in their large extended family. She will be dearly missed by many who had looked forward to her future visits.

Yolanda is survived by her husband, Jose Anguiano; her mother, Maria Reyes; her children, Jose, Enrique, Angie, and Angel Anguiano; her grandchildren Jose Christopher, Desiree Marie, Marty Anthony, and Alyssa Naomi Anguiano, Sabrina Inez, Marlene Renee, and Enrique Anguiano, Jr., Adrean and Ashton Anguiano; her great grandchildren Ezekiel Anthony & Adrian Arjon Anguiano; extended family and friends.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones. May they be comforted with God's divine love. *Min hashamayim tenuhamu*

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits from April 7 to 14, 2018. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor loved ones.

22 Nisan / Shabbat, April 7th

Edward Ezrapour *Eliyahu ben Ezra Avraham Hayim*

25 Nisan / Tuesday, April 10th

Frederick Tizabi *Yehezkiel ben Avraham*

27 Nisan / Thursday, April 12th

Aharon Isaac Levy *Aharon Yitzhak HaLevi*

Sponsor a Kiddush or Seuda Shelisheet!

Celebrate a family milestone!

Honor the memory of a loved one!

Share a simha with the community!

Celebrate and commemorate with your Kahal Joseph community by sponsoring a Kiddush or Seuda Shelisheet for all to enjoy

Contact Sarah in the office at 310.474.0559 to reserve your date

(Continued from page 1)

Pesah VIII & Shabbat

Saturday, April 7th

Shaharit 8:30 am
Kids Room 10 am to 12 noon
Minha and Arvit..... 6:30 pm
Havdala 8:03 pm
8th night since the Omer
Earliest time to eat sold Hamets 10:00 pm

Sunday, April 8th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Memouna! *with rsvp* 7:30 pm

Monday-Friday, April 9th to 13th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Yom Hashoah / Thursday, April 12th

Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, April 13-14

Shabbat Candle lighting 7:04 pm
Friday Minha 6:30 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 6:30 pm
Havdala 8:09 pm



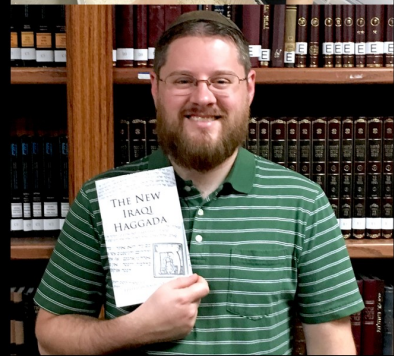
Second Night Seder with Rabbi Melhado

Twenty-three members and friends of Kahal Joseph joined together on the second night of Passover for a wonderful Seder! This was the first official use of the New Iraqi Haggada, edited by Rabbi Melhado. It includes all the special piyutim said by Iraqi Jews, as well as an original English translation. Several people commented on the ease of following the Seder.

A great discussion was generated from participant questions, as well as extra material provided by Rabbi Melhado and Jessica. The delicious food from Lieder's, supplemented by the Melhados, added to the festive atmosphere. Definitely an evening to be remembered.

Special thanks to Rosa Maldonado for all her help, and to Fuad & Evelyn Salem for the loquats for the shehecheyanu.

*Jessica Melhado checks the rice for the seder
Rabbi Melhado holds a copy of the completed Haggada*



פזמון לשירת הים

יְשִׁיר יִשְׂרָאֵל שִׁיר נֹעֵם. יוֹדָה אֶל בְּטוֹב טַעַם. בְּיוֹם בּוֹ הִקְשִׁיב קוֹל שׁוֹנֵעַם. בְּשִׁלַּח פְּרַעֲה אֶת הָעָם:

שִׁירֵנוּ לְאֵל גָּאֹה גָּאֹה. וְעַל הַיָּם גָּדְלוֹ הִרְאָה. יוֹדוּ יְדוֹ הַנִּפְלְאוֹת. וִירוֹמְמוּהוּ בִּקְהֵל עָם:

רַב עֹז שֹׁמֵר חֲזוֹן אֵיתָן. וְהוֹצִיא גֹי מִגֹּי אֵיתָן. וּבְרֹב חֲסִדֵּיו אֵין נִתֵּן. עֹז וְתַעֲצוּמוֹת לְעָם:

אֵין נִבְהָלוּ אֵילֵי מִזְבֵּחַ. וּבְשָׁרָם עָלִיהֶם יִכָּאֵב. בְּרִאוֹת עֲצָמוֹ רַחֲמֵי אָב. יִחְזוּ יְבוֹשׁוּ קִנְיָת עָם:

לְכֵן אוֹמְרָה אֵין כְּמוֹהוּ. בְּאֵלִים עֲצָמוֹ וְנִבְהָו. אִם יָקוּם עָלֵי אוֹרְהוּ. לֹא אֵירָא מִרְבָּבוֹת עָם:

הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה לָנוּ נִוְרָאוֹת. וּכְאֵן יִרְאֵנוּ נִפְלְאוֹת. אֵין לְכָל עַם נִהְיָה לְאוֹת. יִשְׂאוּ הָרִים שְׁלוֹם לְעָם:

Kahal Joseph's 5778 Speaker Series

Rabbi Devin Villarreal Shabbat Parashat Shemini - April 13-14

"Judaism: Powered by the People?" Young Professionals Dinner Friday, April 13 at 7:30PM

Members and friends in your 20s and 30s! Join Rabbi Villarreal at Rabbi Melhado's home for a delicious dinner and a fascinating discussion.

Who decides where Judaism is going? Rabbis? Scholars? The people? Get the surprising answer of the first rabbi in the Americas as we explore the future of Judaism.

Bring your questions! Bring your friends!
Bring your appetite! RSVP to Rabbi Melhado at
RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org

"Making Life a Symphony"

Saturday, April 14 during services
What Sephardic rabbis and philosophers teach us about
every day Jewish practices to make life sing



Currently the Jewish Studies Department Chair at de Toledo High School in the valley, Rabbi Villarreal earned his semikha from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, where he received the prestigious Wexner Graduate Fellowship. He has a Bachelors in the Study of Religion from UCLA and a Master's Degree in Teaching from American Jewish University. He recently received the Pomegranate Prize from the Covenant Foundation for emerging leaders in Jewish education. An engaging teacher and speaker, Rabbi Villarreal is looking forward to visiting Kahal!



Memouna!

Sunday, April 8 at 7:30PM

Kahal Joseph Congregation &
The Sephardic Educational Center
invite all our members and friends!
Savor traditional delicacies! Enjoy festive music!
Relish the warmth of community!

\$18 per person - advanced registration requested

RSVP at www.kahaljoseph.org/memouna.html
or call Sarah at 310.474.0559

JIMENA and Kahal Joseph invite you to an All-Ages Backgammon Tournament

Sunday, April 22nd - 10AM-4PM

10AM - Tournament Check-in and Warm Up

11AM - Tournament Begins (don't be late!)

Preregistration (ends 4/20) - \$20 Tournament entry, \$10 adults, kids free

At the Door - \$30 Tournament entry, \$10 adults, \$5 kids

Enjoy Middle Eastern food and music!

Prizes for top players and a raffle giveaway
(Bring your own board for a free raffle ticket!)

Tickets - bit.ly/KJSheshbesh2018

Share on Facebook - bit.ly/KJSheshbesh2018FB



Jews Indigenous to the
Middle East and North Africa

For questions or to register over the
phone, call 310-474-0559

YOM HAZIKARON COMMUNITY-WIDE NIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE



BEVERLY HILLS
TEMPLE OF THE ARTS
AT THE SABAN THEATRE



TUESDAY
APRIL 17, 2018

Doors open at 6:45pm | Program begins promptly at 7:30pm

*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



Celebrate Israel Festival,
the largest Jewish
happening in Los Angeles.

Sunday, May 6, 2018, 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM
at Cheviot Hills Recreation Center (Rancho Park)

Over 15,000 community members will celebrate
the State of Israel with live entertainment,
interactive activities, culture, food & art.

Kosher Food * Live Entertainment * Vendors of
Israeli Goods * Amusement Rides * Petting Zoo
and lots more!

Join us at 10:30 AM for the Salute to Israel Walk
and then enjoy all the festivities!