

Rabbi's Message

By Rabbi Raif Melhado

Tuesday's water district vote was a striking example of how tough it can be to pull off a project in which large numbers of people must co-operate.



At issue is Governor Jerry Brown's dream of boring two massive tunnels from the Sacramento San Joaquin river delta to the Southland. Wide enough to park a turbo jet inside, each enormous structure would cost \$8.5 billion to build, and would run longer than the tunnel that connects England to France.

More than a decade has passed since this idea was first proposed in California, but it continues to face challenges at every turn. The physical tunnels don't even exist, but there are already lawsuits against their impact on the environment and on local water collection efforts. Meanwhile, a major shake-up has occurred about who will foot the bill. Cautious planners have been pushing to confirm all the investors before starting, but a more confident group is willing to risk completing the project at a deficit and recouping the losses later.

Tuesday's vote apparently gave this latter camp the upper hand, but the only reliable outcome at the moment is that progress has stalled again. As long as the uncertainty persists the project may never commence, making us more interested in stories about people trying to stop it than in ones about trying to get it moving.

Whenever I read of such predictable disorder, I renew my amazement at the relatively smooth completion of the Holy Tabernacle. Several whole parashiyot contain nothing but dense construction plans for it, yet somehow the Israelites find a way to pull it off without even having a picture to consult! Logistical infighting of the type affecting the tunnel project seems to be a minor concern next to idolatry, which is basically the only hiccup. By the time we hit the opening parashiyot of Vayikra, an unprecedented building is standing and ready for use, a thumping feat of teamwork by any standards.

What is the root of the Israelites' success? I think it lies in the attitude of Parashat Bahar, when God clearly indicates that everyone with something creative to bring to the table is welcome (Ex. 35:10). Both men and women give openly of their time and resources, so willingly in fact that Moshe and Aharon have to stop them because there is too much (36:5-7). Hence, any conflict is less about how to implement the vision, and more about managing an abundance of willing hands.

Halavai that we could all live up to this worthy example! The work of maintaining a cherished project or vision is tough, and in a synagogue it is all the more vital. Betsalel and Aholiab are so effective because they receive the people's goodwill translated into action. It is really the strength of the people that undergirds the project's success. The leaders' power derives from a pre-existing culture among the nation, a culture that followed words with commitment. It was this that allowed Betsalel and Aholiab to help the Israelites implement their dreams and bring the Mishkan to fruition. If they did it, so can we!

Parashat Shemini

Mahar Hodesh

Torah: Lev. 9:1–11:47, 91 Pesukim

Hertz 443–454; Stone 588–607

Haftara: I Samuel 20:18–42

Hertz 948–950; Stone 1207–1208

Tefillot: Morid Hatal, Hakhrazat Iyar
(Sun & Mon)

Reminder

Minha on Fridays will stay at
6:30 pm from now until September

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, April 13th

Candle lighting	7:04 pm
Minha and Arvit.....	6:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00 pm
14th night since the Omer	

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, April 14th

Shaharit	8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah.....	10:00 am
Speaker, Rabbi Villarreal	during services
Musaf.....	11:40 am
Women's Tehillim.....	5:30 pm
Minha.....	6:30 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet.....	7:15 pm
Arvit	7:55 pm
Havdala	8:09 pm
15th night since the Omer	

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Shabbat Luncheon

is sponsored
in honor of

**the 80th Birthday of
Sunny Jack Sassoon**

by his sister
Louise Nathan
and family

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Rosh Hodesh Iyar

Sunday, April 15th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Talmud Torah..... 9:45 am

Monday, April 16th

Shaharit 6:05 am

Weekdays

Tuesday-Friday, April 17th to 20th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Friday-Saturday, April 20-21

Shabbat Candle lighting 7:10 pm
Friday Minha 6:30 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 6:30 pm
Havdala 8:14 pm

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits from April 14 to 21, 2018. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor loved ones.

30 Nisan / Sunday, April 15th

Yehezkel Jacob *Yehezkel ben Avraham Hayim Yaacov*

Wendy Fay Joseph *Sara bat Avraham*

1 Iyar / Monday, April 16th

Eliyahu ben Mina

2 Iyar / Tuesday, April 17th

Moshe Shiri *Moshi ben Rahma*

3 Iyar / Wednesday, April 18th

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

4 Iyar / Thursday, April 19th

Binyamim Sheff *Binyamim ben Hasia*

5 Iyar / Friday, April 20th

Simon Faraj Iny *Shimon ben Faraj*

6 Iyar / Shabbat, April 21st

Jane Ester Feldman
Cecile Sassoon



Get Your Morning Boost at Shaharit

Kahal's daily prayer group is a warm, brotherly gathering. Anyone can join in the camaraderie of the minyan as we reach together for a special connection with God.

Making sure that this resource is available for your Yahrzeits and special occasions is as simple as showing up and coming back. Any day is a good time to visit, and if it's a Torah reading day there are plenty of mitsvot to go around.

Start your morning with something special, and reap the benefits all day long.

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

Arlette 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

Memouna at Kahal!



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!



Kahal Joseph Congregation



JIMENA and Kahal Joseph Congregation
invite you to an

All-Ages Backgammon Tournament

Sunday, April 22nd
10505 Santa Monica Blvd

10am-4pm

10am: Tournament check-in and warm-up

11am: Tournament begins -- Don't be late!

Enjoy Middle Eastern music and food

Pre-registration: \$10 adults, kids FREE, \$20 Tournament Entry

At the door: \$10 adults, \$5 kids, \$30 Tournament Entry

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

Tickets: bit.ly/kjsheshbesh2018

Share on facebook: bit.ly/kjsheshbesh2018fb

For questions or to register over the phone call Sarah: (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)

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

Purchase tickets online before the prices go up!

www.kahaljoseph.org/events.html

Kahal will get a percentage of the purchase price

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