

Rabbi's Message

The popular image of the leper is about as bad as can be. To grotesque visual effect, our imaginations have conflated the Torah's depiction of a spiritual skin illness with an actual medical condition known as Hansen's disease. A quick online search for "leprosy" reveals everything from classic art and media representations to photos of real Hansen's patients. These images mostly read as negative, bearing out the Biblical cry of "unclean, unclean" that the affected parties must cry (Lev. 13:44-46).



Even when we emphasize the distinction between *Tsara'at* and Hansen's, the pejorative connotation remains. As presented in the Torah, *Tsara'at* is a physical manifestation of spiritual degeneration, designed to shock the patient into renouncing their problematic lifestyles and returning to God. As a medical condition, Hansen's is a chronic disease that is physically disfiguring and can even cause the total loss of extremities. With either one, it is hard for us to stop the recoil response and instead display feelings of human compassion.

Against this canvas of bad feeling, the Haftara for Parashat Metsora is an important corrective. The action opens as four lepers sit starving at the gates of a besieged city in Samaria. Desperate for food, they defect to the camp of their Aramaean enemies, where they are astonished to discover that it has been abandoned. They gorge themselves on provisions and valuables, but then they remember their sense of civic responsibility. The Israelites must be told of this important military intelligence, and it would be

selfish of them to keep the benefit for themselves. Surmounting the townspeople's prejudices and suspicions, they communicate the news to the King, bringing significant economic relief and the end of the siege. From their humble, even humiliating beginnings, they end the story as heroes.

This Haftara's moral imperative reminded me of a day in New York City when I came up to a train station and realized that there was no elevator for Penny's stroller. As I ruefully contemplated the two full flights of stairs that lay ahead, the angry looking, heavily tattooed young man next to me cracked a big smile and helped me up the steps without even being asked. He had kids of his own, he explained, and he knew how tough it could be. If I had passed him on the street, he might have read as a potential threat, but up close he was actually a nice person. This lesson was driven home all the more at the end of the trip. Shopping at a nearby grocery store, I enquired of a clean-cut man in business casual which line he was waiting in, and he cursed me out in front of 20 flabbergasted customers and staff.

Stories like these burst through the social expediency of judging by appearances. It may indeed be true that reading surface cues helps us assess what is going on behind the scenes. That is why we show up to job interviews in our Shabbat clothes, or why we would mistrust a doctor whose medical offices are shabby. Yet at the same time, carrying this street-savvy to its logical extreme could lead us to become judgmental and harsh. We could get so caught up in the outward optics of a situation that we fail to recognize people's potential for goodness, or to imagine what the world is like from their perspective. If we expect people to look past our own shortcomings, let us make ready to lead by example.

Parashat Tazri'a/Metsora 21st 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

Reminder

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

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, April 20th

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Candle lighting | 7:10 pm |
| Minha and Arvit..... | 6:30 pm |
| Kabbalat Shabbat | 7:00 pm |
| 21st night since the Omer | |

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, April 21st

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Shaharit | 8:30 am |
| Keri'at HaTorah..... | 10:00 am |
| Musaf..... | 11:40 am |

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Women's Tehillim..... | 5:30 pm |
| Minha..... | 6:30 pm |
| Se'uda Shelisheet..... | 7:15 pm |
| Arvit | 8:00 pm |
| Havdala | 8:14 pm |

22nd night since the Omer

(Continued on page 2)

Se'uda Shelisheet

is sponsored
in loving memory of

Saul E. Levi, z"l

by Michelle, Stan, Jenna, Ethan
and family

Condolences

With sorrow we send our deepest condolences
to the family & friends of

Saul E. Levi, z"l

Shaul ben Masouda and Ezra Halevi z"l

He passed away after Shabbat on Rosh Hodesh Iyar, the 30th of Nisan 5778, April 15th 2018. Saul was a devoted Board member and past president of Kahal Joseph.

It's hard to express what a kind, big-hearted gentleman we have lost. He was such a large pillar and patriarch, not only to his family, but to our entire community. His life was devoted to family, friends, our synagogue and his pride in his Sephardic heritage. We will greatly miss his strength and generous example. He will live on through the number of people whom he's touched and inspired.

He is survived by his daughter Michelle (Stan) Levi Kurtz; his grandchildren Jenna (Kyle) Hermans & Ethan Kurtz; his great-grandchildren Leya, Miya, Skye, & Sage Hermans; his longtime partner Marsha Levine; his siblings Florence Levi, Lily Jacob, & Louisa Hostick; extended family & friends.

He was predeceased by his wife Helen, his son Errol, and his siblings Sarah Levi, Aziza Levi, Rachel Joseph, Ellis Levi, Trixie Ezekiel, Mollie Einy Konigsberg, and Tiffany Borenstein.

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

Condolences

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

Eliyahu Drori, z"l

He passed away on Shabbat, the 29th of Nisan 5778, April 14th 2018. Eliyahu was the great-nephew of our members Rosy Nissan, Yvette Dabby, and Ezra Atraghji.

Just twenty years old, Corporal Eliyahu Drori was serving in the Israeli Army when he lost his life. He perished and his three comrades were seriously injured when their tank overturned and burst into flames.

He is survived by his parents Ronnie and Monica Drori; his siblings Ovadia, Miriam, Naomi, and Devorah; his grandmother Rachel Drori; extended family and friends.

Our thoughts & prayers go out to his family and loved ones. May they be comforted 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
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

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Monday-Friday, April 23rd to 27th

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Friday-Saturday, April 27-28

Shabbat Candle lighting 7:15 pm

Friday Minha 6:30 pm

Shaharit 8:30 am

Saturday Minha 6:30 pm

Havdala 8:19 pm

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits from April 21 to 28, 2018. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor loved ones.

6 Iyar / Shabbat, April 21st

Jane Ester Feldman

Cecile Sassoon

Sophie Moses *Tifaha bat Mazal*

7 Iyar / Sunday, April 22nd

Ezra Baruch *Ezra ben Yaacov*

Aaron David *Aharon Sasson ben Avraham Haim*

Ellis Levi *Eliyahu ben Ezra Kadoori Halevi*

Rachel Moses *Rachel bat Mazal Tov*

8 Iyar / Monday, April 23rd

Toba Mussry *Toba bat Aziza*

Salim Ezra A. Haim

9 Iyar / Tuesday, April 24th

Menashe Jiji

Haim Moche *Moshi Haim ben Yehoshua*

Sima Sassoon *Simcha bat Hannah*

10 Iyar / Wednesday, April 25th

Ramah Ezra *Rahmah bat Lulu Khatoon*

Abraham Shaye *Abraham Amir Saed Zoghee ben Asher Michael*

11 Iyar / Thursday, April 26th

Irving Rosen

Elias Raymond Solomon *Eliyahu Rahamim*

12 Iyar / Friday, April 27th

Sara Ephraim *Sarah bat Sarah*

Molly Moses *Mesuda bat Aziza*

Aaron Sassoon *Aharon ben Elisha*

Rabbee Shadi

13 Iyar / Shabbat, April 28th

Deborah Lubovksy *Devorah bat Aharon*

Joseph Robert Saul

Violet Aziza Sheeri

Shavuot

May 19, 20 & 21

Tikkun Le Shavuot - May 19

12:45 Mincha after Kiddush, no Seuda Shellsheet

8:30 PM - Arvit 8:45 PM - Dinner

RSVP at www.kahaljoseph.org/shavuot.html

9:30 PM - Midrash Mania

10:30 PM - The Book That Keeps Us Up All Night

Shavuot I - Sunday, May 20

8:15 AM - Shacharit

6:40 PM - Azharot

10 - 12 - Kids Room

7:00 PM - Mincha

11:30 - Book of Ruth

7:30 PM - Arvit

Shavuot II - Monday, May 21

8:30 AM - Shacharit

7:00 PM - Mincha

10 - 12 - Kids Room

7:30 PM - Seuda

6:40 PM - Azharot

8:20 PM - Arvit

8:37 PM - Havdala



Yom Ha'atzmaut

Left, morning minyan participates in joyful tefilla for the day

Above, Rabbi Melhado & Penny celebrate at Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy

Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner

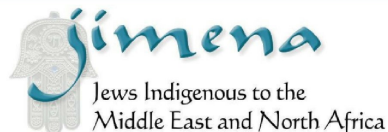
Friday, May 11 at 7:30PM

"Everything I Needed to Know about Judaism. I learned after my Bat Mitzvah"

Join Rabbi & Jessica Melhado at their home for an interesting discussion and amazing meal for members and friends in their 20s and 30s.

Bring your questions, your appetite and your friends!

RSVP to Rabbi Melhado at rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org



Jews Indigenous to the
Middle East and North Africa

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

Celebrate Israel LA

The largest Jewish happening in Los Angeles!

Sunday, May 6, 2018



Salute to Israel Walk

Meet at Pico and
Motor at 10:30AM

Show your support for
Israel and rally with
the community!

Celebrate Israel Festival!

12PM to 7PM, Cheviot Hills Rec Center
(Rancho Park)

Join 15,000 Jews for an amazing event!

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

Purchase tickets in advance to get a discount and the
Festival will give Kahal a percentage of sales!

www.kahaljoseph.org/events.html

Tickets purchased at the gate are \$30