

## Rabbi's Message

American society has a growing concern with fairness and inclusion. Think tanks and universities research the benefits of leveling the playing field, as well as the harm that comes with denying privileges based on unchangeable characteristics. Grants and fellowships support the work of people who try to overcome social and political boundaries. The phrase "you are disqualified" is basically something that we aren't willing to hear.



it was God Himself Who said it. The best sense that I can make of it is that there was a sociological expectation at the time the Torah was given that the ideal condition of people and animals was to be a healthy, unblemished adult. This is reflected in Mal. 1:7-8, when God argues that if a human ruler wouldn't find favor in blemished sacrifices, then neither should He. Just as we dress our best to meet with world leaders, He says, we should offer sacrifices using fully able public servants, and fully able sacrificial animals (cf. Lev. 22:17-25).

It is important to note that this logic does not carry over outside the Holy Tabernacle. One of the few remaining duties of the Kohanim in post-Temple times is to bless the nation, and our legal system specifically allows Kohanim with all manner of disabilities to participate in the blessing. Mainly the concern is that people might stare at the Kohen's body during the blessing instead of focusing on the message. Since that implies that he is allowed to bless if they don't stare, he can either cover up the injury or rely on the fact that after seeing his condition for 30 days, the townspeople will grow used to him and no longer stare (SA, OH 128:30-32).

I am proud that the rabbis who helped adjudicate and write down Jewish law would arrive at this conclusion. It would have been so easy to fall in lockstep with the Torah's exclusionary nature at the Tabernacle, but they used a logical, merciful perspective to apply our tradition more welcomingly. By making the Tabernacle the ultimate high standard, they opened the door for disabled Kohanim to perform a desirable public service. May their example inspire Jews of all abilities to make the Torah their own!

A ready example from Parashat Emor is the suite of rules that excludes disabled Kohanim from offering sacrifices in the Holy Tabernacle. A whole host of ailments bars them from such duties, including blindness, lameness, chronic sores, or even old wounds that have already healed. Affected Kohanim can still eat the Kodashim foods that are their ancestral right, but the joy of publicly administering the sacrificial cult is something they will never taste (Lev. 21:16-24).

While I may not have chosen this rule myself, I feel obliged to understand it forgivingly because

### Parashat Emor

#### 35th Day Since the Omer

Torah: Lev. 21:1–24:23, 124 Pesukim

Hertz 513–528; Stone 672–695

Haftara: Ezek. 44:15–31

Hertz 528–530; Stone 1176–1177

Tefillot: Morid Hatal

### Reminder

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

## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

*Friday, May 4th*

Candle lighting .....	7:21 pm
Minha .....	6:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat .....	7:00 pm
35th night since the Omer	

### Yom Shabbat

*Saturday, May 5th*

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

Women's Tehillim .....	5:45 pm
Minha .....	6:45 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet .....	7:30 pm
Arvit .....	8:10 pm
Havdala .....	8:25 pm

36th night since the Omer

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored  
in honor of

**the Bar Mitsva Anniversary  
and Birthday of  
Joshua Nourafshan**

by  
The Mashih Family and  
The Nourafshan Family

## 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**

## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits from May 5 to 12, 2018. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor loved ones.

### 21 Iyar / Sunday, May 6th

Lulu Ezra Azoory *Lulu Khatoon bat Masooda*  
Michael David Adrian Meyer *Michael David ben Yoseph Meir*  
Murad Saddick *Mordechai ben Sasson*  
Maisie Solomon

### 22 Iyar / Monday, May 7th

Ezekiel Joseph *Yehezkel ben Itzhak Yosef*  
Grace Mussry *Grace bat Toba*  
Iran Rojhani *Iran bat Monavar*

### 23 Iyar / Tuesday, May 8th

Moshe Bensabat *Moshe ben Clara*  
Sally Saul *Salha bat Simcha*

### 24 Iyar / Wednesday, May 9th

Judah Freddy Bekhore *Yehuda Faraj ben Yosef*  
*Simcha bat Habiba*

### 25 Iyar / Thursday, May 10th

Simkha Nazarian *Simkha bat Michael*

### 26 Iyar / Friday, May 11th

Sarah Elias *Sarah bat Ester*

### 27 Iyar / Shabbat, May 12th

Sassoon Elisha *Sassoon Yoseph ben Elisha*

## Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron  
Sylvia Cohen • Esther Duke • Mehry bat Miriam  
Hakimpour • 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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*Sunday, May 6, 2018*

Shaharit ..... 7:30 am

### **Israel Walk & Festival**

#### **at Cheviot Hills / Rancho Park**

KJ Community & Talmud Torah meet at  
Motor Ave & Pico Blvd at 10:30 am.

Parents must accompany children.

**Purchase extra festival tickets at**  
**[www.kahaljoseph.org/events](http://www.kahaljoseph.org/events)**

*Monday-Friday, May 7th to 11th*

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

### **Next Shabbat / Friday-Saturday, May 11-12**

Shabbat Candle lighting ..... 7:26 pm

Friday Minha ..... 6:30 pm

Shaharit ..... 8:30 am

Saturday Minha ..... 6:45 pm

Havdala ..... 8:30 pm

## Membership Benefits Everyone!

### You get . . .

- ◆ To be part of the Kahal family
- ◆ High Holy Days tickets
- ◆ Rabbi for lifecycle events
- ◆ Pastoral counseling
- ◆ Preferential rates for space rentals, Talmud Torah tuition, & children's programs

### You support . . .

- ◆ Educational programs
- ◆ Social events
- ◆ Prayer minyanim
- ◆ Keeping KJ here for you when you need it!

**Contact the office at 310-474-0559  
or speak to Rabbi Melhado to join!**



# Shavuot

## May 19, 20 & 21

### Tikkun LeI Shavuot - May 19

12:45 Minha after Kiddush, no Seuda Shelisheet

8:30 PM - Arvit

8:45 PM - Dinner

RSVP at [www.kahaljoseph.org/shavuot.html](http://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 - Shaharit

6:40 PM - Azharot

10 - 12 - Kids Room

7:00 PM - Minha

11:30 - Book of Ruth

7:30 PM - Arvit

### Shavuot II - Monday, May 21

8:30 AM - Shaharit

7:00 PM - Minha

10 - 12 - Kids Room

7:30 PM - Seuda

6:40 PM - Azharot

8:20 PM - Arvit

8:37 PM - Havdala



## Shavuot Kids Program

Sunday, May 20

10:00<sup>AM</sup> to 12:00<sup>PM</sup>

Games, activities &  
snacks!



## 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!**

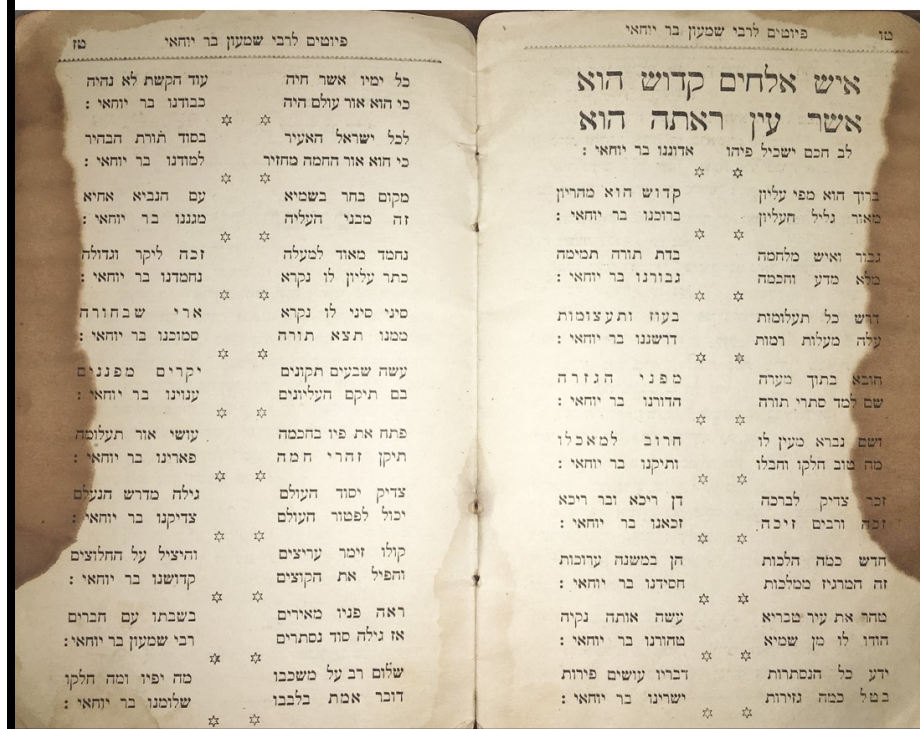
**RSVP to Rabbi Melhado at [rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org)**



# Lag La'Omer BaMizrah

The image below is from a small book from Tehran. Creased, stained and scribbled with pious dedications and idle math, it is a fragile testament to Iranian Jewish life at the close of World War II. "Tefillat Yescharim" (Prayers of the Virtuous) is a guide to key moments in the Jewish year and the life cycle, in Hebrew, Aramaic and Judeo-Farsi.

In this book of only 22 pages, a ballad called "Ish Elohim Kadosh Hu" gets a surprising amount of space. Penned by Rabbi Yosef Hayim of Baghdad (1835-1909), it focuses on Ribbi Shimon bar Yohai, whose Hilula on Lag La'Omer was a popular Kabbalistic festival. The presence of this poem in an Iranian prayerbook is a tribute to the long history of cultural exchange between Jewish communities of the East.



# 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](http://www.kahaljoseph.org/events.html)

Tickets purchased at the gate are \$30