

## Rabbi's Message

Israel's exciting Eurovision victory was a bright spot in an otherwise difficult week. Free of politics, it could truly be celebrated as a cultural achievement with cachet in the community of nations. *Toy* is body-positive and driven by a confident female presence: just the language for our modern moment. Netta deserves every credit for an accomplishment that only three other Israelis have achieved!



The thing that is saddest for me to read as a rabbi is the callousness towards the other that permeates these pieces. Those at the extremes paint their opponents as fiendish enemies barely deserving of human compassion, while the centrists despair of ever seeing nuanced approaches implemented in real life. The result is *kol de'alim gebar* – “nobody understands me, but since I'm fighting for my life I'll just take what's mine even if the other side loses.”

This approach is morally corrosive no matter whom it serves. For proof we need look no further than this week's haftara, when the faithless Israelites are likened to a wife who has committed adultery. Her husband has every right to feel betrayed, and this leads him to pursue cold, hard vengeance. Yet after he engineers her affliction, what is the end game? Ultimately he must either take her back or send her away, and he cannot just live to impose punishment forever. By the closing lines, he realizes that although he is in the moral right, he would be happier if he could invite her forgiveness and be ready to accept it when it comes.

I am not wise enough to find Israel a way to be free of Gaza. We cannot step away without a reliable security guarantee, but imposing a blockade indefinitely because we have no such guarantee is a losing proposition too. How I long for a paradigm shift where we do not need to be so tough to keep ourselves safe! This Shavuot, I pray that God bring a new redemption to Israel, free of the mutual exhaustion of an endless standoff.

The rest of the time, our beloved state was primarily in the news for the US embassy opening in Jerusalem and the Great March of Return demonstration in Gaza. The former simply recognizes what has been the political reality of the past seven decades, while the latter is just the latest interchange in an 11-year stalemate. Yet both have been appropriated by almost anyone with a strong opinion about the region, and the quality of discourse has been extremely poor.

After reading dozens of news and opinion pieces on these two incidents, I have seen precious few that neutrally and critically assess the background causes without editorializing. Strongly liberal outlets take Israel's wrongness for granted, while strongly conservative sources paint any well-intended scrutiny as a betrayal. Those attempting to hold some sort of middle course still propose value-laden statements as self-evident facts. Many commentators seem mystified that their correct perspective isn't obvious to everyone else, whose lack of understanding shows that they are misguided or worse.

### Parashat Bemidbar

#### Shabbat Kalla / Omer 49

Torah: Num. 1:1–4:20, 159 Pesukim

Hertz 568–580; Stone 726–747

Haftara: Hos. 2:1–22

Hertz 582–585; Stone 1180–1181

Tefillot: Morid Hatal, no Tsidkatekha

### Shavuot Days 1 and 2

Torah S1: Ex. 19:1–20:23, Num. 28:26–31

Orot Seph Shavuot 254–257 (5 aliyot)

Haftara S1: Ezek. 1:1–28, 3:12

Orot Seph Shavuot 259–260

Torah S2: Deut. 15:19–16:17, Num. 28:26–31

Orot Seph Shavuot 264–266 (5 aliyot)

Haftara S2: Hab. 2:20–3:19

Orot Seph Shavuot 266–267

Tefillot: Ps. 68, Full Hallel, Azharot (short version pp. 270–272)



*Shaharit on Shabbat 5/19 and on the first day of Shavuot 5/20 will be at 8:15 am.*

### KJ Schedule

#### Erev Shabbat / Friday, May 18th

Candle lighting..... 7:31 pm

Minha ..... 6:30 pm

Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:00 pm

#### Yom Shabbat / Saturday, May 19th

Shaharit..... 8:15 am

Keri'at HaTorah ..... 10:00 am

Musaf ..... 11:40 am

Minha (after Kiddush) ..... 12:45 pm

Women's Tehillim ..... off this week only

Se'uda Shelisheet ..... off this week only

Havdala ben kodosh lekodesh..... 8:36 pm

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Happy Birthday Jessica Melhado

## Dr. Lev Hakak

Guest Speaker

Next Shabbat, May 26th  
during morning services



## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits from May 19th to 26th, 2018. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor loved ones.

### Lel Shavuot / Saturday, May 19th

Arvit of Shavuot .....	8:30 pm
Kiddush and Refreshments .....	8:45 pm
Midrash Mania .....	9:30 pm
Book that Keeps Us Up All Night .....	10:30 pm

### Yom Shavuot I / Sunday, May 20th

Shaharit .....	8:15 am
Kids Program .....	10 am to 12 pm
Keri'at HaTorah .....	10:30 am
Megillat Ruth .....	11:30 am
Musaf .....	11:45 am
Azharot .....	6:40 pm
Minha (no se'uda) .....	7:00 pm

### Lel Shavuot II / Sunday, May 20th

Plag Haminha .....	6:11 pm
Arvit .....	7:30 pm
Tset Hakokhavim .....	8:36 pm

### Yom Shavuot II / Monday, May 21st

Shaharit .....	8:30 am
Kids Program .....	10 am to 12 pm
Keri'at HaTorah .....	10:30 am
Musaf .....	11:30 am
Azharot .....	6:40 pm
Minha .....	7:00 pm
Seuda Shelisheet .....	7:30 pm
Arvit .....	8:20 pm
Havdala .....	8:37 pm

### Tuesday-Friday, May 22nd to 25th

Shaharit .....	6:25 am
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### Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, May 25-26

Shabbat Candle lighting .....	7:36 pm
Friday Minha .....	6:30 pm
Shaharit .....	8:30 am
Saturday Minha .....	7:00 pm
Havdala .....	8:40 pm

יום יום אודה לאל אשר בחר בנו.

מן העמים לסגלה לו לקחנו.

על הר סיני את תורתו הנחילנו.

עשרת דברות קדשו השמיענו:

צבא מרום רבותים ירדו עמו.

בעת אשר נגלה לישראל עמו.

מסיני בא וזרח משעיר למו.

בקול שופר חזק מאד יענינו:

חרד ורגז הר סיני עת ביאתו.

להנחיל דת לישראל סגלתו.

על יד משה עבד אל נאמן ביתו.

ושם עין בעין ראתה עינינו:

קדוש באז תגלה מלכותך עלי.

למקדשי שובה ושכון תוד אהלי.

ולי הטה שלום כמי נהר אולי.

ועינינו יראו וישמח לבנו:

### 5 Sivan / Shabbat, May 19th

Ezra Kelly Elias Levi Ezra Kadoori Eliyahu Levi  
Sara Moses Sara bat Sarah  
Turan Pourati Turan bat Aghajan  
Khodadad Zakaryaie Moshe Haim

### 6 Sivan / Sunday, May 20th

Tahereh Hakimipour Tahereh bat Kokab

### 8 Sivan / Tuesday, May 22nd

Rivkah Kohanzadeh Rivkah bat Shimon

### 9 Sivan / Wednesday, May 23rd

Ester Bekhore Ester bat Amam  
Ester Ezekiel Ester bat Amam

### 10 Sivan / Thursday, May 24th

Mazli Hagooli Mazal bat Rahel  
Massouda Kay Massouda bat Khatoun  
Mozelle Lelah Mazal Tov bat Ester

### 12 Sivan / Shabbat, May 26th

Abraham Lurie Avraham Lurie  
Abdullah Zekaria Seon Abdulla ben Zekaria

## 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



# Prints of Babylon

**Recommended Reading on the Iraqi Jewish Diaspora**

**"The Baghdad Community Torn  
Between Rabbis Samoha and Dangoor "  
by Yaron Harel**

Many rabbinic histories serve as motivational pieces that show off how virtuous and inspiring our great sages were.

Hence it is refreshing to read the work of Yaron Harel, who paints a more realistic portrait of his subjects that includes their missteps and imperfections. Indeed, all eleven of the rabbis featured in the book were dismissed by their communities on at least one occasion.

The fourth chapter follows Baghdad's Chief Rabbi, Sason Elijah HaLevi Samoha, and a prolonged campaign to replace him with Rabbi Elisha Dangoor. After 6 years of ugly politics that ultimately crossed the desk of the Sultan himself, neither rabbi was able to retain the position, which remained vacant from 1885-1905.

During the controversy, the Ben Ish Hai was a keen opponent of Rabbi Samoha, who describes him as a bitter, lifelong enemy. To find out why, you'll have to read the chapter!

Citation: *Intrigue and Revolution: Chief Rabbis in Aleppo, Baghdad, and Damascus 1744-1914*. Oxford: Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2005, pp. 79-111.

## Save the Date

KAHAL JOSEPH YOUNG PROFESSIONALS  
& YOUNG AT HEART

### ISRAELI WINE TASTING

JOIN US FOR A L'CHAIM  
FEATURING WINES FROM  
VINEYARDS ALL OVER ISRAEL

THURSDAY, JULY 12  
7:30 PM

\$26 WITH RSVP OR \$30 AT THE DOOR



## Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner

**Friday, June 8 at 7:30PM**

**Join Rabbi & Jessica Melhado at their  
home for an interesting discussion and  
amazing meal for members and friends in  
their twenties and thirties.**

**Bring your questions, your appetite  
and your friends!**

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



# 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

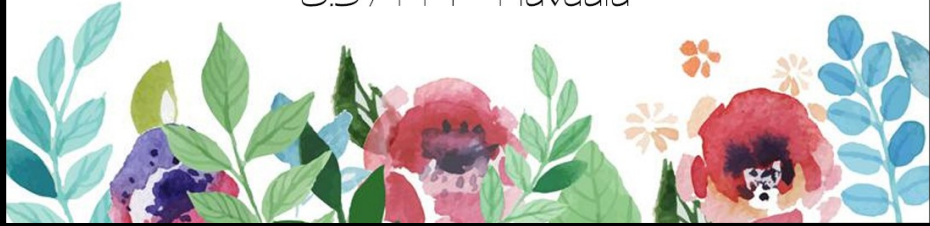
10 - 12 - Kids Room

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!

## CONGRATULATE Your Graduate!

Don't let your graduate go unnoticed!

Let's celebrate the success and accomplishments of all our graduates from preschool to PhD.

Email the name, school and field of study of your graduate to [jessica@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:jessica@kahaljoseph.org) and they will be mentioned in the June 16 Kol Mevasser!