

## Rabbi's Message



Many of us can name jobs that we recognize as dangerous. We know that there is a certain basic level of risk in, say, joining the police force or serving as a miner or construction worker. In both urban and rural settings, we recognize that a meaningful slice of the labor force is fulfilling vital duties at the risk of their personal wellbeing. When the system works, we show them our gratitude with higher pay and enhanced *kabod*.

Perhaps less clear are the invisible disabilities of high-stress jobs. KPCC recently ran a moving story about the challenges faced by first responders, who encounter severe trauma and heartache as a normal expectation of the workplace. They followed one young man who had no language to express how being a firefighter was hurting his soul, and had turned to drugs for comfort. After nearly losing his wife and career, he entered a program that diagnosed his condition and helped him build coping mechanisms. When he was interviewed a year later, he was a changed man: he knew how to take care of himself, his probation was about to end, and he could resume his life as a trusted member of the team.

Although the story ran a few months ago, my thoughts turned to it again while reading Parashat Naso. Somehow the numbers didn't seem to add up for the censuses of Kehatites: only last week their male population over the age of one month was counted, and the number recorded at that point was a respectable 8,600

(Num. 3:27-31). Yet barely a chapter later (4:34-37), a census was taken of the males aged thirty to fifty in this same group, and only 2,750 could be found! Even granted the demographic assumption that many Kehatites were children or elderly, this still seems to be a significant reduction in their overall population. What happened?!

The answer of the Midrash on this point is surprisingly harsh: *"2,750 was the number of Kehatites according to their families' – this is the origin of the phrase 'the Ark of the Covenant was lethal to the Children of Kehat,' for when they were counted over one month they numbered 8,600, and when they were counted over thirty they did not even reach one third"* (Bemidbar Rabbah 6:7). How shocking that their divinely mandated role in the service of the Tabernacle was so deadly! Though they must have accepted responsibility for the Holy Ark with awe and pride, there were many crushed petals in that bed of roses. What must their families have thought of the frightful risks that these men undertook for the public benefit?

I imagine that it was not much different from how military spouses must feel as they see their partners off to war: The nail-biting anxiety for their loved ones' wellbeing mixed with admiration for the work they are about to do. The reality of living independently while their all is half a world away. The sheer ecstasy of homecoming ... and the gut-punching horror of two men knocking on the door with the news that no one wants to hear. This Memorial Day, let us not forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. From the era of Kehat until our own times, they deserve to be remembered.

## Parashat Naso

### Memorial Day Weekend

Torah: Num. 4:21–7:89, 176 Pesukim  
Hertz 586–601; Stone 748–773  
Haftara: Judg. 13:2–25  
Hertz 602–604; Stone 1181–1182  
Tefillot: Morid Hatal, no Tsidkatekha,  
Birkat Halevana

## Reminder

*The Sephardic aliyot divisions  
in the Hertz are for a different minhag*

## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

Friday, May 25th

Candle lighting ..... 7:36 pm  
Minha ..... 6:30 pm  
Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 7:00 pm

### Yom Shabbat

Saturday, May 26th

Shaharit ..... 8:30 am  
Keri'at HaTorah ..... 10:00 am  
*Guest Speaker, Professor Lev Hakak*  
Musaf ..... 11:40 am  
Women's Tehillim ..... 6:00 pm  
Minha ..... 7:00 pm  
Se'uda Shelisheet ..... 7:45 pm  
Arvit ..... 8:25 pm  
Havdala ..... 8:40 pm

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## Kahal Joseph Welcomes Guest Speaker Dr. Lev Hakak



UCLA Professor of Hebrew  
Language and Literature

*Dr. Hakak will speak on the topic of*

***"Making Our Peace"***

*This Shabbat, Saturday May 26th  
during morning services*



## Mazal Tov

Ruth and Anthony Molinari  
on the birth of a baby girl

### Besiman Tov to

#### Siblings

Lorenzo David and  
Matteo Moses Molinari

#### Grandparents

Majdoline Mussry  
Grace and William Molinari

#### Aunts and Uncles

Jacob (Adele) Mussry, Sol (Natalie) Mussry,  
Grace (Kayvan) Nahai, Christina (James)  
Nester, & William (Brigette) Molinari  
and all the extended 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**

## 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!**

## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits from May 26th to June 2nd, 2018. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor loved ones.

### 12 Sivan / Shabbat, May 26th

Abraham Lurie *Avraham Lurie*  
Abdullah Zekaria *Seon Abdulla ben Zekaria*

### 13 Sivan / Sunday, May 27th

Florence Amron *Farha Hanah bat Garzi*  
Sulman Soffer *Sulman Sion Soffer*

### 15 Sivan / Tuesday, May 29th

Isaac Bekhor *Itzhak ben Yaacov*

## 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 • Dina bat Rahel

*(Continued from page 1)*

### Sunday, May 27th

Shaharit..... 7:30 am

### Memorial Day / Monday, May 28th

Shaharit..... 7:00 am

### Tuesday-Friday, May 29th to June 1st

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

### Next Shabbat / Friday-Saturday, June 1-2

Shabbat Candle lighting ..... 7:41 pm

Friday Minha ..... 6:30 pm

Shaharit ..... 8:30 am

Saturday Minha ..... 7:00 pm

Havdala ..... 8:45 pm



# Prints of Babylon

## Recommended Reading on the Iraqi Jewish Diaspora

"Initial Pathways to Modernization of the Jews of Babylon from the 19th c. to 1914"  
Dafna Tsimhoni

Issue 36 of *Pe'amim: Studies in Oriental Jewry* is devoted to the process of modernization among the Jews of Iraq and its eastern diaspora. The second article analyzes the sociological and historical backdrop of this phenomenon, which is addressed in four central themes:

- 1) Urbanization of Iraqi Jews from the mid-19th century, resulting in a large role in Baghdad's economy.
- 2) Influence of the Ottoman Tanzimat Reforms, both in Iraqi society and the internal Jewish community.
- 3) Jewish investment in British colonial interests in the Far East, which fostered satellite kehillot of which Baghdad assumed the global leadership.
- 4) Penetration of modern educational opportunities.

Citation: "קווים לראשית המודרניזציה של יהודי בבל במאה ה-19 עד שנת 1914" פעמים 36 (תשמ"ח) עמ' 7-34

## 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!



## 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)**



## Join Kahal Joseph at the Ball Park!



Jewish Community Day at Dodgers Stadium!  
Sun., Aug. 5 at 1:10 PM - Dodgers v. Houston Astros

← Group tickets \$36 including a  
Dodgers in Hebrew baseball tee

RSVP by July 5 - call the office at 310-474-0559  
If we get 20 tickets, Kahal's name will be on the Jumbotron!



## Register now for fall!

### *The Sam and Norma Dabby Talmud Torah*

\* Hebrew \* Fun \* Parasha \* History \*  
\* Friends \* Values \* Holidays \* Food \*  
\* Mitzvot \* and you!

Contact Molly Jalali at [molly@emetek.com](mailto:molly@emetek.com) or Rabbi Melhado at  
[rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org) for more information!

Registration forms at [www.kahaljoseph.org/talmudtorah.html](http://www.kahaljoseph.org/talmudtorah.html)



KAHAL JOSEPH  
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS  
& YOUNG AT HEART

## Wines of Israel Social

Wine tastings from vineyards all around Israel  
Come join us for a lechaim & some ya'yin!

July 12, 2018  
7:30 PM

Advanced Reservation \$26.00  
At the Door \$30.00  
Per Person

RSVP  
Call 310.474.0559



10505 Santa Monica Boulevard ~ Los Angeles ~ California 90025