

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

Two and a half years ago, UC Berkeley professor John Efron published a book entitled *German Jewry and the Allure of the Sephardic*. It is a fascinating study of the ways that German speaking Ashkenazim saw themselves on the eve of Jewish modernity. Faced with a European context that placed a value on appearances, they became embarrassed by their own Ashkenazi aesthetic, and looked for sources of universally recognized beauty in the Jewish past to recreate themselves in a new image.



A perfect candidate for bygone Jewish glory was the Sephardi community of medieval Iberia, on which German Jewry looked back as a Golden Age worth imitating. To differentiate themselves from the "primitive" *Ostjuden* in neighboring Poland-Lituania and Russia, they eagerly took up the mantle of Sephardic culture, creating the image of the refined, punctilious *Yekke* for which they are still known today.

"Across the German-Jewish social and cultural spectrum, [there was a celebration of all things Sephardic. In] both high and vernacular Jewish culture, a portrait was drawn of both Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jews that promoted an image of the former as authentic, desirable, attractive, and worthy of emulation, while the culture of Ashkenaz was most frequently considered regrettable and in need of radical correction... German Jewry struggled with the felt need to distinguish itself from the rest of Ashkenazic Jewry, namely their brethren to the East, and they enlisted the Sephardim to help them achieve their liberation" (Introduction, p. 8).

Much like the intense longing for quail in Parashat Beha'alotekha, there was an unhealthy quality to

this appetite for Sephardi culture. Focused as it was on appearances and an imagined Sephardic superiority, it was weak on penetrating moral inspiration. And while it may have been nourishing in the sense that it was used to process the German Jewish experience of modernization, too much of a good thing can also be damaging: this particular pathway to a place in the cultural sun required substantial negativity about themselves, and also paved the way to see Eastern European Jews as a foreign species worthy of derision.

Until this very day, appetite for this "Sephardi quail" remains. In Sephardi discussion forums online, the thinnest family tales and unreliable DNA tests are treated as proof positive of royal Sephardic ancestry, entitling their progeny to look down their noses at everyone else. And now that Spain and Portugal are offering citizenship to the descendants of expellees, the number of people peddling dubious Sephardi origins has skyrocketed. In my capacity as Rabbi of Kahal, I have been asked on more than one occasion to provide a letter of Iberian Jewish status to parties with no verifiable Sephardic ancestry.

I argue that it is better to have a humble orientation in which no one *eda* is better than any other. Perhaps the older aesthetic of the Holy Tabernacle is a better place to go: each tribe is weighted equally in the public square, and privileges are balanced with higher responsibilities and restrictions. For aesthetic beauty it cannot be lacking, as it inspired artists from many religions throughout the ages. Yet it also comes with all the moral imperatives of the Torah, a manual for approaching God and our fellow humans with dignity. May we all – Ashkenazim and Sephardim – reach those lofty objectives!

Parashat Beha'alotekha

Torah (§): Num. 8:1–12:16, 136 Pesukim
Hertz 605–619; Stone 774–797
Haftara: Zach. 2:14–4:7
Hertz 620–622; Stone 1182–1184
Tefillot: Morid Hatal

Reminder

Sephardim end the 5th aliya at 10:28 because the Talmud interprets 10:34 negatively (Shabbat 116a).

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, June 1st

Candle lighting	7:41 pm
Minha	6:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, June 2nd

Shaharit	8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah.....	10:00 am
Musaf.....	11:40 am
Women's Tehillim	6:00 pm
Minha.....	7:00 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet.....	7:45 pm
Arvit	8:30 pm
Havdala	8:45 pm

(Continued on page 2)

Seuda Shelisheet

is sponsored
in memory of

Ezat bat Avraham, z"l

by
The Partiyeli Family

Condolences

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

Maurice David Sassoon, z"l

Menashe ben Hababa and David, z"l. He
passed away in Los Angeles on the 8th of
Sivan 5778, May 22nd 2018.

Maurice was born on December 28, 1926 in
Rangoon, Burma and came to the United
States with his family in 1959. He worked for
the US Railroad and wrote novels over the
course of his life. He was a family oriented
man, always caring and supporting his wife,
parents, siblings, nieces, nephews, and any-
one else who needed it. He was kind, giving,
and truly a light in this world.

Maurice is survived by his wife Hilda Sas-
soon; his brother Elias Sassoon; nieces and
nephews including Sepora Joseph, Herschel
Goldscher, Allan Goldscher; extended family
and friends.

He was predeceased by his sisters Azie
Judah and Tabby Goldscher.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his
family and loved ones. May they be comfort-
ed together with all the mourners of Tsion.
Min hashamayim tenuhamu.

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**



Volunteers Needed!

*Wednesday June 6th
at 9:30 am*

Make a difference at KJ!

Strapping young volunteers needed to
help reorganize our Mahzorim on the
bookshelves in Kahal's beautiful lobby.

Assist Rabbi Melhado in giving our
special siddurim a home between the
Jewish holidays.

Sunday, June 3rd

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

Monday-Friday, June 4th to 8th

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Friday-Saturday, June 8-9

Shabbat Candle lighting..... 7:45 pm
Friday Minha 6:30 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 7:00 pm
Havdala 8:48 pm

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits from June 2nd to
9th, 2018. It is customary to light memorial
candles, donate tzedaka and attend Shabbat
services to honor loved ones.

22 Sivan / Tuesday, June 5th

Rebecca Litvac *Rivka bat Esther*

23 Sivan / Wednesday, June 6th

Lily Judah *Lulu bat Toba*

Salim Kamara *Salim ben Ezra*

24 Sivan / Thursday, June 7th

Joseph Meir Hakimpour *Yosef ben Meir*

Edith Judah *Esther bat Chana*

26 Sivan / Shabbat, June 9th

Daniel Rojhani

George Sassoon *Khadoory Hai ben Ezra*

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



Prints of Babylon

Recommended Reading on the Iraqi Jewish Diaspora

**“Arabs of the Mosaic Faith:
Chronicle of a Cultural Extinction Foretold”
by Reuven Snir**

As a boy growing up in Israel, Reuven Snir was taught to hate his family's Arabic cultural heritage. Adopting the Ashkenormative thought patterns of the schoolyard, he recoiled from his parents' longings for their lost Iraq, and wondered why they should even care for its "inferior" language. With a cruelty fueled by adolescent embarrassment, he forbade them to speak Arabic in public or listen to Arab music.

Much later in life, Snir began coming to terms with his own role in suppressing what he now recognizes as a beautiful Jewish way of life. As a historian and literateur, he seeks to document and critically analyze the Judeo-Arabic world, celebrating its accomplishments and mourning its destruction. Knowing all too well that it is too late undo the damage, he presents the idea of "Jewish Arabs" to Israeli and Muslim-Arab publics for both of whom this term is a shocking anathema.

Citation: "Arabs of the Mosaic Faith": Chronicle of a Cultural Extinction Foretold." In *Die Welt des Islams*, New Series, Vol. 46, Issue 1 (2006), pp. 43-60.

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 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

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 or Rabbi Melhado at
rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org for more information!

Registration forms at 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