

Rabbi's Message

When Jessica and I leased the New York apartment where we lived during my years of rabbinical school, a curious item came to our attention. As part of the process of due diligence, we looked up the landlord's management company to see if there were complaints. He owned enough property that there had been several legal actions against him, and we read through them in detail.

One grievance that stuck out was a tenant who had inadvertently made an extra rent payment after moving out. The company takes hundreds of such payments, and so they duly cashed the check without realizing that he no longer lived there. When he noticed the error, he asked for the money back, and they refused. He sued, and the court found with the landlord: the payment was unsolicited, and they had every right to keep it. Ouch!

Now that we knew of this case, how were we to assess whether to sign the lease? On the one hand, the story implied that the landlord was a shrewd person, and his office processed paperwork quickly. On the other hand, the morally best thing to do would have been to return the money, and he had not. In the end we felt that it was a risk worth taking, and it ultimately paid off. We had a good relationship with the landlord, and our time in the apartment included many milestones and important memories.

I am thinking back to this story because due diligence seems surprisingly absent from the



covenant of Parashat Nitsavim. The terms themselves seem enticing – we pledge to be God's people and He promises to be our God (Deut 29:9-12) – but implementing the agreement doesn't include the opportunity to assess the terms and make an informed decision about whether we want to go through with it.

Even if you argue that this did happen but is simply not recorded by the Torah, God explicitly states that "I make this oath and covenant not with you alone, those standing here today, but also with those who are not standing here today" (ibid., 13-14). Most commentators understand this to mean "future generations of Jews," and hence the covenant of Nitsavim is imposed on millions of people who were not even born at the time it was enacted. As a rabbi, this bothered me because it doesn't sound like something God would do. His message is about fairness and justice, "so how can the Judge of all Earth be unrighteous"? (Gen 18:25).

Happily I found a persuasive solution in the writings of Rabbi Moshe Alshikh (1508-1593). Alshikh notes that in Jewish cosmology, the souls of the unborn already exist, waiting in heaven with God until they are assigned to a body. Meanwhile, Moshe is down below on Earth with all the Israelites who possess both body and soul. The covenant is thus enacted by God through two agents: Moshe brings it to the people below in His name, and God Himself brings it to the unborn souls on high. In this way it is true that *everyone* "was gathered (nitsavim) before God this day." When I stand before God this Rosh Hashana, it will be with renewed feeling that I chose to do so with my full heart!

Parashat Nitsavim Seventh Week of Consolation

Torah: Deut. 29:9–30:20, 40 Pesukim
Hertz 878–883; Stone 1086–1093
Haftara: Is. 61:10–63:9
Hertz 883–886; Stone 1202–1204
Tefillot: Morid Hatal

Join us for Selihot!

Selihot are a great way to start the day!
5:30 am on weekdays, 6:30 am Sundays.

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, September 7th

Candle lighting	6:52 pm
Minha	6:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat.....	7:00 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, September 8th

Shaharit.....	8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah	10:00 am
Sermon	11:20 am
Musaf	11:30 am
Women's Tehillim	5:15 pm
Minha	6:15 pm
Se'uda Shellsheet	7:00 pm
Arvit	7:40 pm
Havdala	7:54 pm

(Continued on page 2)

Schedule Information

Rosh Hashana and Days of Awe
please see page 5

Shabbat Shuva: please see page 2

Mazal Tov

**Farah Reiz and
Pejman 'Sharone' Noghreheian
on your marriage**

Besiman Tov to

Parents

Renee and Norman Reiz
Parvin and David Noghreheian

Grandparents

Senior Hazan Sassoon Ezra
Sylvia Reiz
Ben Eliyahu Mohabber
Gohar Noghreheian

and all the extended family

Mazal Tov

**Gabriella Mussry
on your Bat Mitsva**

Besiman Tov to

Parents

Adele and Jacob Mussry

Siblings

Noah and Benjamin

Grandmothers

Majdoline Mussry
Melina El-Ani

and all the extended family

Help Our Shabbat Services Run Smoothly

There is a great spiritual value in reading the Musaf Amida aloud with Birkat Kohanim on Shabbat. When the priestly families ask God to bless our congregation during its maximum attendance, it is a favorable time for requests.

**To make this happen while still ending
on time, we ask that . . .**

1) **If you need to say a personal prayer** such as a Hashkaba, Refua Shelema, or Birkat Hagomel, please ask for an Aliya for yourself or a male relative or friend. All other blessings of this type will be read in full at Mincha on Shabbat afternoon.

2) **Please tell us of your need as soon as you arrive** – speak to Albert Nissan or David Kohan. Our Gabbaim will be avoiding Delugim, so asking early will make it more possible for you to get the mitsva.

3) **Please have the names ready** in your mind or on a piece of paper when you get your Aliya.

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
Habiba bat Farha • Meir Ezra ben Rahel
Dina bat Rahel • Chaya Rachel Bat Simcha
Eti Esther bat Fortuna
Mordecai ben Yaacov v'Joya

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits from September 8 to 15, 2018. We light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

28 Elul / Shabbat, September 8th

Samuel Hallegua *Shmuel ben Haim*
David Kelly *David Shalom ben Silas*
Moshe ben Moondani

29 Elul / Sunday, September 9th

Berdy Glass *Berindal bat Riba Rahel*
Eric Hanin *Ezra ben Aharon*
Isaac Solomon *Itzhak ben Shlomo*

1 Tishre / Monday, September 10th

Aaron Aslan
Hannah Cohen *Chana bat Rachel*
Mozelle Elisha
Julian Raymond Kelly *Yacob Rahamim ben Saleh*
Moshe Kadoorie
Edward Sassoon
Farha Sassoon *Farha bat Aziza*

4 Tishre / Thursday, September 13th

George Sassoon Aaron
Naima Atraghji

5 Tishre / Friday, September 14th

Seemah Manasseh *Simhah bat Salhah Ekaireb*
Naim Mezrahi *Naim ben Ephraim*
Ester Sarne *Ester bat Toba*

(Continued from page 1)

Shabbat Shuva

Friday-Saturday, September 14-15

Shabbat Candle lighting	6:43 pm
Friday Mincha	6:15 pm
Shaharit	8:30 am
Saturday Mincha	6:00 pm
Havdala	7:45 pm



Thank you
to our wonderful Torah cleaners!

Ben Elias
David and Louise Elias
Benjamin, Radine
& Rojan Gabayan
Fariba Goharchin
Shoshana Goury
Mehry Hakimipour
Barukh Isaac
Judy Lurie
Sam Lurie

David Lurie
Fereshteh Mastour
Roya Najibi
Amy Phillips
Nasrin Saroudi
Diana Solomon
Tammy Stockfish
Shula Wyner
Rita Zakoo
Mahnaz Zoleikhaeian



High Holy Days Children's Programming



All families with elementary school age children are invited to join Rabbi Melhado for an engaging service!

Rosh Hashanah - Monday, Sept. 10

Playroom Hours - 10am to 2pm

****NEW** 11:15am - Special Children's Service**
led by Rabbi Melhado & Barukh Isaac

Tues., Sept. 11 - Playroom Hours: 10am to 2pm

Yom Kippur - Tues/Wed, Sept. 18 & 19

Kol Nidre - 6pm to 10 pm

Morning - 10am to 2pm



****NEW** 11:15am - Special Children's Service**
led by Rabbi Melhado & Barukh Isaac

Neila - 3:45pm to 7:30pm



**JIMENA and Kahal Joseph
invite you to the Fall 2018
All-Ages Backgammon Tournament
Sunday, October 21 - 10am to 4pm**

10am - Tournament check-in
11am - Tournament begins (don't be late!)

Preregistration (ends 10/19) - \$20 tournament entry, \$10 adults, kids free

At the door - \$30 tournament entry, \$20 adults, \$5 kids

Middle Eastern food! Music! Raffle giveaway!

Grand prize for the winner of the tournament!



Order your Arba Minim!

Order your lulav and etrog through Kahal Joseph!

All sets are strictly kosher

Regular - \$42 Fancy - \$60 - higher grade etrog
\$8 extra for hoshanot

www.kahaljoseph.org/arba-minim
by Tuesday, September 18 at noon

Pick up on Sunday, September 23 at Shahrut or that evening at Arvit



Sukkot Family Dinner

Join the rabbi and family for a delicious dinner in Kahal's Sukkah, located in the playroom

**Sunday, September 23
7:00 PM**

Adults - \$15 * Kids 5 to 12 - \$10
Under 5 free - RSVP at
www.kahaljoseph.org/sukkot



Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner in the Sukkah

**Join our members & friends in their 20s and 30s
for a delicious dinner & great discussion, all in
Kahal's amazing Sukkah!**

Friday, September 28 at 7:30PM

RSVP to RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org

Celebrate Simhat Torah!
Monday, October 1, 2018
** Joy * Friendship * Family * Torah *
* Dancing * Singing **

Mincha - 6:00 pm

Arvit - 6:45 pm

Join us for Hakkaftot, followed by a light Israeli dinner

Sponsored by Louise Nathan, Sunny J. Sassoon & family



Sephardic Educational Center



presents our annual

Selihot Concert

Sunday, September 16th, 2018

Doors open at 6:00 pm

Program begins at 7:00 pm

Kahal Joseph Congregation
10505 West Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90025

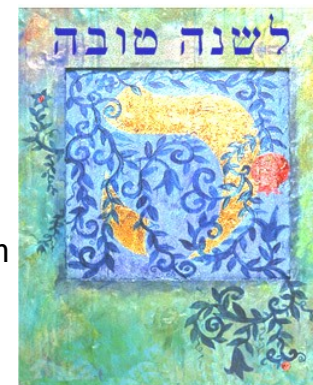
\$15 per person

Refreshments will be served

Valet parking provided

For more information or to make reservations,
please email info@secjerusalem.org

Rosh Hashana 5779



Erev Rosh Hashana

Sunday, September 9th

Selihot 6:30 am

Shaharit & Hatarat Nedarim 7:30 am

Minha / Arvit 6:15 pm

Candle lighting 6:50 pm

Rosh Hashana, First Day

Monday, September 10th

Shaharit 8:00 am

Children's Room 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Tashlikh (meet at Westholme & Santa Monica) 5:30 pm

Minha / Arvit 6:15 pm

Candle lighting for Second Day *after* 7:52 pm

Rosh Hashana, Second Day

Tuesday, September 11th

Shaharit 8:00 am

Children's Room 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Minha / Arvit 6:15 pm

Havdala (Gefen and Hamavdil) 7:50 pm

Days of Awe

Tsom Gedalia / Fast of Gedalia

Wednesday, September 12th

Fast begins 5:19 am

Selihot / Shaharit 5:15 am / 6:25 am

Minha with Birkat Kohanim 6:15 pm

Fast ends (Sephardim) 7:25 pm

Fast ends (for those who wait) 7:44 pm

Thursday-Friday, September 13th-14th

Selihot 5:15 am

Shaharit 6:25 am

Join us for High Holy Days at Kahal!

High Holy Day Tickets

Members - Look for your tickets in the mail!

Guests - Order your tickets now!

Online ordering - www.kahaljoseph.org/high-holy-days

Call the office at 310-474-0559 or stop by!

MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- Two adult tickets with family membership
OR one adult ticket with single membership
- Free tickets for pre-registered teens
- Free children's program wristbands for
pre-registered children under bar mitsva age
- Favorable rates for members' children in college

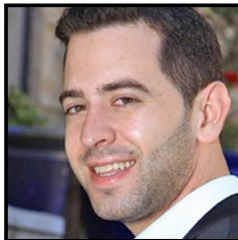
GUEST TICKET RATES

*Remember, your ticket package can be applied to the
cost of membership!*

- \$300 for adults
- \$150 for teens bar mitsva age through college
- \$50 for children under bar mitsva age

Welcome Back Hazan Ben Atar!

We are thrilled that the wonderful voice of Hazan Michael Ben Atar will once again grace us from Jerusalem for the High Holy Days. Born into two Iraqi families, the Hazan has made music the centerpiece of his professional life. In addition to hazanut, he performs at semahot, plays the oud & violin, and teaches music to children & adults.



Calendar

Rosh Hashanah

September 9 to 11

Yom Kippur

September 18 to 19

Sukkot

September 23 to 30

Shemini Atzeret & Simhat Torah

September 30 to October 2

Mitsvot

Many mitsvot are available for purchase during the High Holy Days, and are on a first-come, first-served model. Your pledges support the important work of the synagogue all year long.

To reserve your mitsva:
call the office at 310.474.0559
or go to
www.kahaljoseph.org/high-holy-days

Children's Program

Registration required! See the forms in the mailing
or register online at www.kahaljoseph.org/hhd-kids
Free for members, \$25 per holiday for non-members

Rosh Hashanah

September 10 - 10AM to 2PM

Yom Kippur

September 18 - 6PM to 10PM

September 19

September 11 - 10AM to 2PM 10AM to 2PM & 3:45PM to 7:30PM

Join us for engaging activities, lively entertainment,
healthy snacks and fun games.

Interested in volunteering? Email jessica@kahaljoseph.org