

1 Nisan 5779

6 April 2019

KOL MEVASSER

Guest Message

Condensed from *"The Power of Praise"* by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

From time to time couples come to see me before their wedding. Sometimes they ask me whether I have any advice to give them as to how to make their marriage strong. In reply I give them a simple suggestion.



They have to commit themselves to the following ritual. Once a day, they must each praise the other for something the other has done that day, no matter how small: an act, a word, a gesture that was kind or sensitive or generous or thoughtful. The praise must be genuine: it must come from the heart. And the other must learn to accept the praise. It takes at most a minute or two. But it has to be done, not sometimes, but every day. I learned this in a most unexpected way.

The late Lena Rustin was one of the most remarkable people I have ever met. She was a speech therapist, and she had a unique approach to her work. She focused on relationships, and worked with parents, not just children. Her view was that to cure a stammer, she had to do more than help the child to speak fluently. She had to change the entire family environment. If the child is to lose its stammer, all the relationships within the family will have to be renegotiated. Not only must the child change. So must everyone else.

How do you create a family atmosphere to encourage change and makes it unthreatening? The answer, Lena discovered, was praise. She told the families with which she was working that every day they must catch each member of the family doing something right, and say so, specifically, positively and sincerely. Every member of the family, especially the parents, had to learn to give and receive praise.

Watching her at work I began to realise that she was creating, within each home, an atmosphere of mutual respect and continuous positive reinforcement. She believed that this would generate self-confidence not just for the stammering child but for all members of the family. The result would be an environment in which people felt safe to change and to help others do so likewise. Some of the parents whose children she had worked with said that she had helped save their marriage. So powerful was this one simple ritual that it had transformed the relationship between husbands and wives.

I mention this because a major theme of Parashat Tazria, the skin disease known as *tsaraat*, is seen as a punishment for *lashon hara*: evil, hateful or derogatory speech. The sages said that it kills three people: the one who says it, the one he says it about and the one who listens to it. Judaism has a rigorous and detailed ethics of speech because it believes that "Life and death are in the power of the tongue" (Prov. 18:21). God created the natural world with words and we create or damage the social world with words. Lena Rustin's rule of praise is the opposite of *lashon hara*. It is *lashon hatov*: good, positive, encouraging speech. According to Maimonides, to speak in praise of people is part of the command to "love your neighbour as yourself."

The American sociologist Samuel Heilman wrote that giving and receiving gossip is more or less constitutive of being part of the community. Not gossiping defines you as an outsider. If this is so, it explains why the prohibitions against gossip and *lashon hara* are so often honoured in the breach, not the observance. It persists, as anyone who has ever been part of a human group knows. This is why Lena Rustin's work had profound spiritual implications. Without intending to she had discovered one of the most powerful antidotes to *lashon hara* ever invented. She taught people to develop the habit of speaking well of one another, daily, specifically and sincerely.

Parashat Tazri'a

Rosh Hodesh Nisan / Shabbat Hahodesh Korban Nahshon ben Aminadav

T: Lev. 12:1–13:59, Num. 28:9–15, Ex. 12:1–20
Hertz 460, 695, 253; Stone 608, 890, 348
H: Ezek. 45:18–46:15, Is. 66:1 & 66:23
Hertz 1002, 944; Stone 1218, 1208
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Ya'ale Veyavo, Half Hallel
Musaf R"H, Nesi'im (Num. 7:1–17)

"Happy Minyan" Fridays at 5:30 pm

Every year from March to September, we read Mincha at a fixed time on Fridays. New to this year, we will meet at 5:30 pm for "Happy Minyan," a cheerful gathering of cold cuts and a small lehayim. Join us for the bonding experience, and stay for the services at 6:00 pm sharp!

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, April 5th

Shabbat Candle lighting..... 6:58 pm
Happy Minyan 5:30 pm
Mincha 6:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit..... 6:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, April 6th

Shaharit 8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah 10:15 am
Sermon 11:15 am
Musaf..... 11:30 am
Lunch & Learn (members only) 12:00 pm

Women's Tehillim 5:00pm
Women's Class w/R. Cohen 5:45 pm
Mincha..... 6:15 pm
Seuda Shelisheet..... 7:00 pm
Arvit 7:45 pm
Havdala 8:02 pm

(Continued on page 2)

Condolences

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

Angelica Mendoza, z"l

She is the mother of KJ's custodian, Andres Cantillo, and she passed away on Tuesday, March 26th 2019.

Angelica was born in Guatemala, where she met her future husband Raoul, originally from Columbia. They came to Los Angeles in 1963 and made their home here together. According to her family, Angelica was the best woman in the world. She was great with children and renowned for taking care of everyone in the neighborhood.

She is survived by her children Blanca Juarez, Dina (George) Bojorquez, and Andres (Martha) Cantillo; 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren

She was predeceased by her husband, Raoul Cantillo, z"l.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and loved ones. May they be comforted with God's divine love. Min hashamayim tenuhamu.



Kahal Joseph donated \$468 to the Od Yosef Chai Matanot Le'evyonim initiative on Purim Day

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Sunday, April 7th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Talmud Torah 9:45 am

Monday-Friday, April 8th to 12th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat

Friday-Saturday, April 12-13

Shabbat Candle lighting 7:03 pm
Friday Minha 6:00 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 6:15 pm
Havdala 8:08 pm

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from April 6 to 13, 2019. We light memorial candles donate tsedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

1 Nisan / Shabbat, April 6th

Lotfollah Nassi Lotfollah ben Binyamin

Clara Saltoon Gazala bat Ester

John Melhado Yona ben Yona

Sydique Charlie Zakoo Sadik Salah ben Ezra Halevi

2 Nisan / Sunday, April 7th

Sharlo Benbeniste Shlomo ben Moshe

Aaron Eliyahu Aharon Yosef Eliyahu ben Amouna

Sarina Levy Sara bat Khatoon

3 Nisan / Monday, April 8th

Hilwa Farha Ezair Hilwa Farha bat Tiffahah

Jalal Kohan Jalal ben Netanel Hakohen

Naim Sassoon Naim ben Sasson

4 Nisan / Tuesday, April 9th

Sammy Dallal

5 Nisan / Wednesday, April 10th

Moses Judah

Moshe ben Shemuel Somekh

6 Nisan / Thursday, April 11th

Mordechai ben Mattatya

Moselle Sopher

8 Nisan / Shabbat, April 13th

Ada Ezra Ada ben Mindel Okin

Carolyn Frances Ezra Carolyn Frances bat Norman

Ezra Sayegh Ezra ben Yaakov & Lulu

Allan Norman Steiner Alexander Nahum ben

Mordechai

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 Habiba bat Farha • Meir Ezra ben Rahel • Dina bat Rahel Chaya Rachel bat Simcha • Rahel bat Ramah Regina Eti Esther bat Fortuna • Karen bat Chana Rabbi Eliahu Shalom ben Avigayil Ezran Arie Yaacov ben Shlomo

Pizmon for Shabbat Rosh Hodesh

שִׁירוּ לֹא-ל נְבוֹנִי. שִׁירֵי רִנָּנִי. שֶׁבַת וְרֹאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ. יוֹם זֶה לִּי:

יְקַר שְׁמוֹ הוֹדִיעֵנו. לְכָל וְהַשְׁמִיעֵנו. זְמַרוּ הָרִיעֵנו. לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ יי:

עֲזֹר לֹא בְּמִקְדָּשׁוֹ. תִּנְנוּ חוּשׁוֹ לְדָרְשׁוֹ: הִתְהַלְלוּ בְּשֵׁם קֹדֶשׁוֹ. יִשְׁמַח לֵב מְבַקְשֵׁי יי:

קְדוּשִׁים שְׁמֶךָ יוֹדוּ. וְחִסְדֶּיךָ יַגִּידוּ. אֵף יִהְיֶה לָנוּ וְיִזְדּוּ. שָׁמַיִם פִּלְאָךָ יי:

בָּאתִי וְקִדְשְׁתִּי. שְׁמֶךָ וְשִׁירֵי שְׁרָתִי. וְאַלֶּה הַגִּשְׁתִּי. בְּכוּרִים לִּי:

Four Special Shabbatot

The weeks leading up to Pesah contain several distinctive Shabbatot called the “Arba Parashiyot.” Their goal is to emphasize themes from the Israelites’ experience during the Exodus as we get closer to the Pesah holiday that celebrates our freedom.

We observe the Arba Prashiyot by bringing out a second Torah scroll for an extra reading on the week’s theme, followed by a unique Haftara that replaces the regular Prophetic selection for that week. In the Iraqi tradition, it is customary to commemorate these Shabbatot with special songs, which we print in the Kol Mevasser so everyone can participate.

Shabbat Shekalim is the Shabbat before Rosh Hodesh Adar, or Adar II in leap years. Its reading discusses the half-shekel tax that funded the sacrifices in the Holy Tabernacle. This reminds us of our responsibility to maintain places of spiritual worship as a free people.

Shabbat Zachor is the Shabbat before Purim. Its reading recounts that the nation of Amalek attacked the us from the back as we left Egypt, preying on the weak. Even as a free people, we must remember what it felt like to be victimized, and blot out any remnant of the aggressors.

Shabbat Para is two Shabbatot before Rosh Hodesh Nisan. Its reading discusses the rituals that cleanse and purify us spiritually, a state we had to achieve to offer the Paschal lamb. Alas, it is unavailable in modern times because of the destruction of the Holy Temple.

Shabbat Hahodesh is one Shabbat before Rosh Hodesh Nisan. Its reading announces that the month of Nisan is the foremost month, with Pesah as the preeminent holiday. Tishre may be when we count the years, but the months roll over in time for Pesah.

A fifth day called “Shabbat Hagadol” is observed the Shabbat before Pesah. It has no unique Torah reading, but does include a special Haftara and Iraqi songs. Historically, communal Rabbis would save their most impactful sermons for Shabbat Hagadol.

Pizmon for Shabbat Hahodesh

מֶלֶךְ גּוֹאֵל וּמוֹשִׁיעַ. אֶנְעִרְךָ בְּסוֹד קְדוּשִׁים.
וְלֹאִין אוֹנִים עֲצָמָה יִרְבֶּה. מַחְזִיק רִפְיוֹן יְדֵי רָשִׁים.
כִּי הוֹצִיא בְּחֹדֶשׁ אָבִיב. בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל חֲמוּשִׁים.
הוֹדוּ לָא כִּי הַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה. לָכֶם רֹאשׁ חֲדָשִׁים:

שְׁמוּ יַחְדוֹ נְרוֹמְמָה. עָלֵי גִבֹּל וְעָלֵי עֲשׂוֹר.
כִּי זָכַר אֶת־דְּבַר קְדָשׁוֹ. וַיּוֹצִיא עָמוֹ מִמִּצְוֹר.
וְהוּא צֹוֶה אֵלֵי עָמוֹ. קָחוּ לָכֶם שָׁה בְּעֲשׂוֹר.
לְהוֹדִיעַ כִּי הוּא יֵשׁוּר. עַל אֱלֹהִים וְאַנְשֵׁים: הוֹדוּ...

הָעַם עָשׂוּ אֶת־פְּסָחֵיהֶם. בְּלֹתִי פֶחַד מִמִּצְרַיִם.
בְּשִׁירֵי זְמֶרָה וּתְהִלָּה. בְּשִׁלְשׁ כְּתוּבֹת מַחְנִים.
אֲכָלוּ אוֹתוֹ עָלֵי מִצּוֹת. וּמִרְוֵרִים בְּהַעֲרִיבִים.
בְּלֹתִי מִבְּשָׁל בְּמִים. וְנָא כִּי אִם צָלִי אִישִׁים: הוֹדוּ...

חֹסֶן יֵשַׁע יְמִינוֹ. הִרְאָה לְהוֹשִׁיעַ לָמוֹ.
כִּי הִשְׁקִיף מִמַּעֲוֹן קְדָשׁוֹ. הָעַם מִתְּבוּסָס בְּדָמוֹ.
דָּם פֶּסַח וְדָם הַמָּלָה. אֲזִי עֶבֶר הוּא בְּעֲצָמוֹ.
לְמִצְרַיִם וְאֶת־עָמוֹ. הוֹצִיא מִעֲבָדוֹת לְחֻפְשִׁים: הוֹדוּ...

חֲזֵק חוּשָׁה שְׁלַח זָרִים. לִבְנֵי אֲדוֹם וּפִילָגְשִׁים.
שִׁימָם כְּמִהֲפַכַת עָרִים. עָרֵי אֲשׁוּרִים וּלְטוּשִׁים.
וְתַכְנִיעַ גָּאוֹן זָרִים. וּשְׁלַח לָעַם לֶךְ דּוֹרָשִׁים.
הָאֲדוֹן אֲשֶׁר מִבְּקָשִׁים. בְּנִסָּן רֹאשׁ הַחֲדָשִׁים: הוֹדוּ...




Sell your Hamets

Guaranteed if received by Thurs., April 18 at noon!

Sell your excess hamets through Rabbi Melhado!

Forms available in the lobby or click this image to download & print the form

Return the form via email (rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org), fax (310.410.4059), mail them to Kahal Joseph, drop it off at the office, or hand it to Rabbi Melhado



THE NEW IRAQI HAGGADA

edited by Rabbi Melhado, is now available!

\$15 a copy, or 4 for \$52

Featuring:

- A summary of Iraqi customs
- All traditional texts & instructions not found in other books
- A new, easy-to-read English translation by Rabbi Melhado

Order by Wednesday, April 10 by contacting Rabbi Melhado at rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org



Seder Matching

Passover is coming!
First night seder is Friday, April 19

On your own for the seders?
We can help!

Do you have an extra seat at your seder table?
We can fill it!

Simply email Jessica at jessica@kahaljoseph.org by Fri. April 12 to be matched!



BIRKAT HAILANOT

Join us to bless God for the flowering fruit trees in this celebration of spring!

Sunday, May 5 - 30 Nissan 5779
11:00 AM

Mildred E. Mathis Botanical Garden, UCLA
at the Hilgard Entrance

RSVP to Jessica at jessica@kahaljoseph.org



Memouna!

Sunday, April 28 at 7pm
RSVP deadline Wed. April 24!

Kahal Joseph Congregation &
The Sephardic Educational Center
invite all our members and friends!

Savor traditional delicacies! Enjoy festive music!
Relish the warmth of community!



Featuring
the music of
Asher Shasho-Levy
and Jamie Papish
of the Aram Soba
Ensemble

\$36 per person
advanced registration requested

RSVP at www.kahaljoseph.org/memouna.html
or call Sarah at 310.474.0559



Thank you to our Torah Cleaners!

Leticia Einy
Louise & David Elias
Shoshana Goury
Mehri Hakimipour
Farah Harouni
Barukh Isaac &
Rita Zakoo
Sigal Kelly
Judy Lurie
Edmund Najibi

Louise Nathan
Hagit, Elizabeth and
Joshua Sarabia
Diana Solomon
Nasrin Soroudi
Tammy Stockfish
Jessica Wolford
Shula & David Wyner
Mahnaz Zoleikhaeian

Rabbi Salomon Cohen-Scali

Meet a Candidate for Kahal Joseph's Rabbinical Position

Rabbi Cohen was born in Melilla Spain, and he comes from a long line of Sephardic Rabbis and Sofrim (Scribes). He earned his rabbinic ordination from Rabbi E. Abergel, head of the Supreme Rabbinical Court in Jerusalem, and by the Rabbis of the Shehebar Sephardic Center. He himself is a Sofer (scribe), a Mohel, and a Shochet.

Rabbi Cohen received a B.A. with honors in Jewish studies at Jews' College of London and was awarded his degree by the National Council for Academic Awards of England. Rabbi Cohen's wife, Raquel has a Masters degree in Industrial Chemistry. In addition, Rabbi Cohen speaks fluent English, Hebrew, Spanish, and has a good knowledge of French.

Currently, Rabbi Cohen is the rabbi of Union Israelita del Peru. In the past he has served as spiritual leader of Sephardic Congregation "Ezra Bessaroth", Seattle, Washington; the head rabbi of the Jewish Orthodox Community of Barcelona, Spain; and the rabbi and co-founder of the Jewish community of Torremolinos, Spain.



Friday April 5, 2019

Minha & Arbit 5:45 pm

Saturday April 6, 2019

Shaharit 8:30 am

Torah Reading 10:15 am

Sermon 11:15 am

"Small Mitzvot and the Jewish Future"

Musaf following Sermon

Lunch and Learn (members only) 12:00 pm

"Jews and Gentiles: A Complex Relationship"

Class for Women 5:45 pm

Minha 6:15 pm

Seudah & Dvar Torah 7:00 pm

Arbit 7:45 pm