

8 Nisan 5779

13 April 2019

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

The concept of a "spiritual disease" lands oddly in our scientific society. Yet that is precisely how the *tsara'at* sickness is presented in the Torah. Symptoms bring the patient to a priest, not a doctor, and the plan of care achieves *tahara* (spiritual purification) rather than *refu'a* (biological healing). Attempts to identify it with known human pathologies are defied by its appearance in clothing and buildings. According to the Midrash, *tsara'at* struck inanimate objects first to encourage a sinner's remorse, and only if that failed to inspire repentance would it enter their bodies (Vayikra Rabba 17:4).

The idea that a building could be spiritually diseased was brought home for me by an arresting series of photos published this week by an old family friend. Her father, Maurice Friedberg, was born in 1929 in Rzeszów Poland, in a building that his mother's parents had built to house their extended family. One of the photos in the series showed the whole structure, followed by a cute shot of five of them crowed onto a little balcony. Sadly, several of those pictured did not survive the Holocaust, perishing along with most of Rzeszów's large Jewish population. Absent the rest of the story, the building would appear as a *metsora*, an eerie remnant of senseless murder.

But the tale didn't end there because some of the family survived and carried on. Maurice – whom I loved dearly as a grandfatherly figure – was a fascinating, impossible man who became an accomplished scholar of Slavic languages and was never wrong. It takes a special combination of luck and assertive personality to come through the war and start anew. He lived a rich life that brought joy and good-natured exasperation



to everyone he knew. He had a joke for every occasion and was renowned in our family for convincing my brother to give him a treasured chocolate chip cookie at the tender age of one. The world was immeasurably richer for his place in it, and I thank God that I was able to have him in my life.

Fast forward to 2019, five years since his death, and there in my Facebook feed was the picture of the building where he was born. Yet alongside it was a new photo of his daughter Edna, who grew up to become a Holocaust historian, standing triumphantly on a balcony from the same building. Her caption read in part, "today I crawled out a window [to] recreate a photo of relatives who didn't survive the war."

Talking to Edna about her post, I learned that her father's family had successfully reclaimed and sold the building after the war. It is now mostly occupied by a psychiatric clinic, but a reluctant staff allowed her to climb onto the balcony one floor above the original photo to take the new one. This drew the attention of the clinic's director, who turned out to be one of the few Jews left in town. She raised a daughter who now lived in Israel, and they called her right there to introduce the great-granddaughter of the building's original owners. While Polish society as a whole still has work to do about its Jewish past, this moment seemed so cleansing. Once a mere relic of destruction, it now also carried a glimmer of redemption, and might just have achieved *tahara*.



Parashat Metsora

Shabbat Hagadol

Korban Gamliel ben Pedatsur

Torah: Lev. 14:1–15:33, 90 Pesukim

Hertz 470–477; Stone 620–635

Haftara: Mal. 3:4–24

Hertz 1005–1008; Stone 1220–1221

Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Nesi'im (Num. 7:54–59), Birkat Halevana

Moving on Up!

On Shabbat, during Friday and Saturday evening minyan, prayer services will move upstairs to allow us to have a warmer, more intimate environment.

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, April 12th

Shabbat Candle lighting.....	7:03 pm
Happy Minyan	5:30 pm
Minha	6:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit.....	6:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, April 13th

Shaharit	8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah	10:15 am
Sermon	11:15 am
Musaf.....	11:30 am
Women's Tehillim	5:15 pm
Minha.....	6:15 pm
Seuda Shelisheet.....	7:00 pm
Arvit	7:55 pm
Havdala	8:08 pm

Sunday, April 14th

Shaharit	7:30 am
Talmud Torah	9:45 am

(Continued on page 2)

Hakhnasat Sefer Torah

*Rededicated for the Yahrzeit of
Kathleen Rosen, z"l*

*who commissioned the sefer
in memory of her father, Aharon Sasson
ben Avraham Hayim ben Aharon David*



Originally from Rangoon, Kathleen moved to Calcutta in 1940, where she spent her childhood in the local Baghdadi community.

She moved to Los Angeles as a young woman, and soon after met her future husband, Irving. They married in 1953 and spent 35 wonderful years together.

During their longtime membership in Kahal Joseph, the couple sponsored several beautiful Torah scrolls, which remain in active use to this very day.

(Continued from page 1)

Monday-Friday, April 15th to 19th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Thursday, April 18th

Hamets Forms Due promptly at noon

Search for Hamets..... after 8:12 pm

Friday, April 19th

Shaharit /Siyum 6:25 / 7:30 am

Stop Eating Hamets before 10:15 am

Burn Hametsbefore 11:34 am

Next Shabbat (1st Day Pesah)

Friday-Saturday, April 19-20

Shabbat/Pesah Candle lighting..... 7:09 pm

Friday Early Minha w/Hallel 5:30 pm

First Seder..... begins after 8:13 pm

Shaharit 8:30 am

Saturday Minha (no seuda)..... 6:30 pm

Havdala (part of 2nd Seder) ... after 8:13 pm

Condolences

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

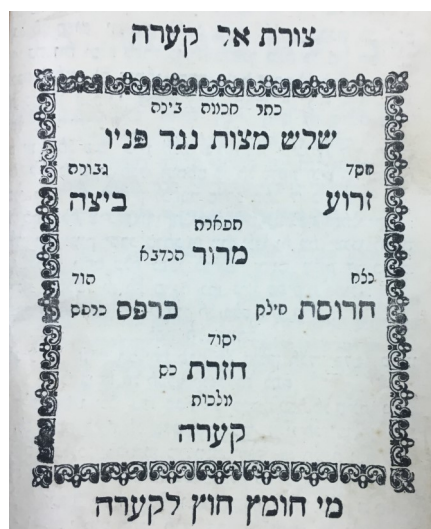
Dietrich Brubaker, z"l

who passed away at a young age on April 1st.
He is the cousin of our dear Rabbi Raif Melhado.

Dietrich was born and raised in Philadelphia, and attended college at Albright University & Gettysburg College. During his life, he worked primarily in the hospitality service industry, most recently as a bartender.

Though Dietrich faced many challenges, he crafted a life and made a difference in the worlds of those who knew him. Among his great passions were Philadelphia sports, especially the Eagles and Phillies. It is clear from his friends' written tributes how much Dietrich's presence affected their lives, and how many people he impacted.

He is survived by his parents Sarah Beth Garner and Robert Brubaker; his aunts and uncle Gaye, Lee, Keith, Robyn, Kathy, Kim, Marya, and Heidi; his cousins Amy, Asa, Raif, Ashley, Alex, Hillary and Blaise. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones. May they be comforted with God's divine love. *Min hashamayim tenuhamu.*



Arrangement of Seder Plate
from the Haggada of Ezra Mordekhai Hai David
Baghdad, 1902

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from April 13 to 20, 2019. We light memorial candles donate tsedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

8 Nisan / Shabbat, April 13th

Ada Ezra Ada bat Mindel Okin

Carolyn Frances Ezra Carolyn Frances bat Norman

Ezra Sayegh Ezra ben Yaakov and Lulu

Allan Steiner Alexander Nahum ben Mordechai

9 Nisan / Sunday, April 14th

Malka Lurie

10 Nisan / Monday, April 15th

Gohar Mashallah Gohar bat Aga

Aziza Sassoon Aziza bat Miriam

11 Nisan / Tuesday, April 16th

Kitty Israel Messah Khatoon bat Simha

Abraham G. Solomon Avraham ben Shlomo Reuven

12 Nisan / Wednesday, April 17th

Flora Cohen Farha Mitana bat Rahma Regina

Ralph Ferris Raful ben Itzhak Faraj Hacohen

Luna Kadoorie Luna bat Mazal Cohen

David Levi Solomon David ben Shlomo Halevi

13 Nisan / Thursday, April 18th

Bertine Simon Bertine bat Muzli

Abraham Atraghji Avraham Asher ben Ezra

15 Nisan / Shabbat, April 20th

Tillie Shansky Tillie bat Evelyn

Naima Shashoua Naima bat Zvida

Eyob Yehudah Eyob ben Yehudah

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 • Rahel bat Ramah Regina Eti Esther bat Fortuna • Karen bat Chana Rabbi Eliahu Shalom ben Avigayil Ezran Ayelet bat Hana • Arie Yaacov ben Shlomo

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 Zakhor 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 HaGadol

שִׁבְתָּ זֶה שַׁבַּת הַגָּדוֹל. בּוֹ יְשׁוּעוֹת מִלְכוֹ מְגִדּוֹל.
הָאִיר בּוֹ מְאוֹר הַגָּדוֹל. לְבֵן בְּכוֹר רָם וְגִדּוֹל:

שָׁלַח מֹשֶׁה הָאִישׁ גָּדוֹל. וְאָף הֵן עוֹד הַיּוֹם גָּדוֹל.
פָּדָה עִם עֲצוֹם וְגִדּוֹל. לְמִקְטָן וְעַד גָּדוֹל:
שבת זה...

וַיְהִי שֵׁם לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל. בַּחֲשָׁד רָאוּ אוֹר גָּדוֹל.
וַיִּזְצִיאוּם בְּרִכּוּשׁ גָּדוֹל. בְּמוֹפְתִים וּבְמוֹרָא גָּדוֹל:

נַחֵם בֶּן אֵינָנו גָּדוֹל. וְלֹא תִהְיֶה פְּנֵי גָדוֹל.
יִתְקַע בְּשׁוֹפָר גָּדוֹל. וַיִּמָּן יְיָ דָּג גָּדוֹל:
שבת זה...

אֲשִׁירָה נָא לֵא גָדוֹל. וְלוֹ אֶקְרָא בְּקוֹל גָּדוֹל.
כִּי חֲסִידְךָ עָלֵי גָדוֹל. כַּפָּרֶת הַנֶּהָר הַגָּדוֹל:

מָה חָרִי הָאֵף הַגָּדוֹל. אַחֵר אֶת יוֹם הַגָּדוֹל.
אִם חֲטָאִי מִנְּשָׂא גָדוֹל. עֲשֵׂה לִּשְׁמֶךָ הַגָּדוֹל:
שבת זה...

גִּדְּלוּ לִי אֶתִּי. גָּדוֹל יְהִי כְבוֹד בֵּיתִי.
תִּסּוֹב תִּרְבַּ גְּדֻלָּתִי. וְתִלָּךְ הַלּוֹךְ וְגִדּוֹל:

עוֹשֶׂה אֵין חֶקֶר גְּדוּלוֹת. לֵךְ יְיָ הַגְּדֻלוֹת.
הִרְאֵה מַסּוֹת הַגְּדוּלוֹת. לְעַם קָטָן וְשֵׁם גָּדוֹל:
שבת זה...



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

Fifth Annual Yom HaZikaron Community Night of Remembrance

Tuesday, May 7, 2019
7:30 pm

Saban Theater
8440 Wilshire Blvd




Consulate General of Israel
in Los Angeles



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 6 - 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



Join Kahal Joseph at the Celebrate
Israel Festival on May 19, 2019!
Cheviot Hills Recreation Center,
Rancho Park

Vendors! Kosher Food!
Lots of great entertainers!

Buy tickets through this link to benefit
Kahal Joseph:

<https://www.Purplepass.com/celebrateisrael?SID=KehillatJoseph>

An event not to be missed!



KJ Pesah Schedule 5779 / 2019

Fourteenth of Nissan

Thursday, April 18

Shaharit – 6:25 AM

Hamets forms due – 12:00 noon

Search for hamets – after 8:12 PM

Friday, April 19

Shaharit – 6:25 AM

Siyum with Rabbi Melhado – 7:30 AM

Stop eating hamets – before 10:15 AM

Burn hamets – before 11:34 AM

First Days

Friday, April 19 – 1st Seder Night

Early Minha, Arvit & Hallel – 5:30 PM

Candle lighting – 7:09 PM

1st Seder begins – after 8:13 PM

Saturday, April 20 – Yom Shabbat Pesah I

Shaharit – 8:30 AM

Candle lighting – after 8:13 PM

Prep for 2nd seder – after 8:13 PM

Havdala is part of the 2nd seder

Saturday, April 20 – 2nd Seder Night

Minha, Arvit & Hallel (no seuda) – 6:30 PM

Second Seder begins – after 8:13 PM

1st night of counting the Omer – at seder

Sunday, April 21 – Yom Pesah II

Shaharit – 8:30 AM

Minha, Seuda, Arvit – 6:30 PM

Havdala: Yom Tov becomes Hol Hamo'ed – 8:14 PM

2nd night since the Omer

Hol Hamo'ed

Monday, April 22 – HHM I

Shaharit – 6:05 AM

3rd night since the Omer

Tuesday, April 23 – HHM II

Shaharit – 6:05 AM

4th night since the Omer

Wednesday, April 24 – HHM III

Shaharit – 6:05 AM

5th night since the Omer

Thursday, April 25 – HHM IV

Shaharit – 6:05 AM

Candle Lighting - 7:13 PM

Last Days

Thursday, April 25 - Leil Pesah VII

Minha and Arvit – 6:00 PM

Candle Lighting – 7:13 PM

6th night since the Omer

Friday, April 26 - Yom Pesah VII

& Leil Shabbat Pesah VIII

Shaharit – 8:30 AM

Candle Lighting – 7:14 PM

Minha and Arvit – 6:00 PM

Candle Lighting – 7:14 PM

7th night since the Omer

Saturday, April 27 - Yom Pesah VIII

Shaharit 8:30 AM

Minha, Seuda, Arvit – 6:30 PM

Havdala – 8:18 PM

8th night since the Omer

Earliest time to eat sold hamets – 10:00 PM