

Guest Message

Rabbi Dr. Maurice Gaguine (1919-1990)
from *All the Days of My Life*

Parashat Ahare Mot urges us to reflect on what constitutes upstanding behavior. Since it does this negatively, describing sinful behavior and the process of atonement, I was moved to share a positive articulation of the same theme from Rabbi Dr. Maurice Gaguine, z"l.

—Rabbi Melhado

A few days ago my morning paper reported the fall from favour of a political leader who had served his party long and ably, and went on to assess in some detail the impact he had exerted on public affairs.

Glancing through the rest of the paper, my eyes happened to catch a tiny obituary notice tucked away inconspicuously on an inside page. It referred to a character actor who had, for some forty years, played minor roles on stage and screen. The obituary writer dismissed his contribution with a single sentence: 'He was useful in small parts.'

I couldn't help noticing the difference in the degree of publicity given to the two men, both of whom had faithfully served the public for many years. Because one was a distinguished politician, he attracted headlines. Because the other had 'played minor roles' he was relegated to obscurity.

And I couldn't help thinking how this difference reflected the tendency of the modern world to mistake fame for greatness, prominence for performance, semblance for substance.

We are so easily dazzled by externals like glittering presence that we forget to look for qualities such as character and courage, devotion and dignity. Yet hasn't history shown that many a famous figure was fainthearted or petty-minded? And how many

celebrated film stars and pop idols have ended up on the scrap heap of drug addiction or suicide.

No! True greatness is by no means reserved for the famous, the spectacular performers in the circus of life. You also find greatness in little people—the wispy mother who with dogged determination nurses a sick child day after day, week after week, though doctors have told her there is no hope of recovery. You see greatness in devoted children caring for an aged parent who is incessantly demanding or impossibly fractious. You see greatness in voluntary welfare workers feeding and soothing crippled pensioners who are often ill-tempered and sometimes even insulting.

These are among the great people who receive no decorations, don't sit at top tables, get no standing ovations, never have a magazine feature written in praise of their efforts.

The Talmud, that great Jewish repository of learning compiled nearly 2000 years ago, asserts, 'It isn't the office that glorifies the man. It's the man that glorifies the office.' What a wealth of wisdom is compressed into this simple concept! It implies that whatever job you do, it is YOU who makes it what it's worth. You can either aggrandize it or trivialize it, depending on how much of your real self you invest in it.

The character actor who was patronizingly described as 'useful in small parts'—maybe he was, but without his support the stars of the show might have been lost. And what about the scene shifters, the dressers, and the electricians, who didn't even get a mention in the small print of the programme.

We are all indispensable on the stage of life in the part assigned to us by the Master Playwright. It may not be a spectacular role, but it is always one that is vital to the scenario as a whole. To fill that role with dedication and distinction—that surely is true greatness.

Parashat Ahare-Mot Mahar Hodesh / Omer 14

Torah: Lev. 16:1–18:30, 80 Pesukim
Hertz 480–493; Stone 636–655
Haftara: I Samuel 20:18–42
Hertz 948–950; Stone 1207–1208
Tefillot: Morid Hatal, Hakhrizat Iyar
(Sun & Mon)

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, May 3rd

Candle lighting	7:20 pm
Happy Minyan	5:30 pm
Minha	6:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit	6:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, May 4th

Shaharit.....	8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah.....	10:15 am
Sermon	11:20 am
Musaf	11:30 am
Women's Tehillim	5:45 pm
Minha	6:45 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet	7:30 pm
Arvit.....	8:10 pm
Havdala	8:24 pm

Rosh Hodesh Iyar

Sunday, May 5th

Shaharit.....	7:30 am
Talmud Torah.....	9:45 am
Birkat Ha'ılanot.....	11:00 am

Monday, May 6th

Shaharit	6:05 am
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Condolences

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

Jacob Khalili, z"l

Yaakov ben Farha and Avraham (1926-2019)

He passed on Hol Hamoed Pesah, Wednesday, April 24th 2019, the 20th of Nisan.

Jacob was born in Basra and grew up in Iraq. In the wake of Israeli independence, he left for the Jewish state, where he served as a minesweeper in the army. After studying civil engineering in Israel, he joined his brother in Iran and became a successful auto parts supplier.

In Iran, he also met Yvette Hagooli, the love of his life. They married and had three beautiful children together. After the Iranian Revolution, he sent them to Yvette's sister in Los Angeles, joining them himself a year later. Once here, Jacob restarted his business and pursued it diligently until his retirement.

Jacob was known as a "happy warrior" who reinvented himself many times, working with whatever situation life presented. In Iran, he was a respected leader in the Iraqi Jewish community at the Bahar Club. Everyone trusted him and considered him both wise and honest in his relationships. At work, people thought of him as a father figure and friend. He never complained or feared what the next day would bring.

A smiling, happy, welcoming person, he loved hosting guests, entertaining, and playing cards. In his final years, he and Yvette spent much time together, during which she selflessly and loyally took care of him.

He is survived by his wife Yvette Khalili; his children Tony (Ladan) Khalili, Tanya (Joseph) Sofer, Teddy (Katy) Khalili; his grandchildren Ryan, Ariana, Stephanie, Andrew, Sabrina, and Camelia

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

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in loving memory of

Saul E. Levi, z"l

by
**Michelle & Stan Kurtz
and Family**



goes up for the Aliyat Levi for the first time this Shabbat.

Another Levite in the Family

Saul's Levi's son-in-law Stan Kurtz recently learned that he is also a Levite! Family lore from another branch of Kurtzes led him to a cemetery in Pennsylvania, which documents that his paternal great-grandfather was a Levite.

Rabbi Melhado has verified his findings in consultation with a Dayan. We welcome him back to the family tradition as he

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Weekdays / Tue-Fri, May 7th to 10th

Shaharit 6:25 am
Community Yom Hazikaron 7:30 pm

Yom Hazikaron / Wednesday, May 8th

Yom Ha'atsma'ut / Thursday, May 9th

Next Shabbat / Friday-Saturday, May 10-11

Shabbat Candle lighting 7:25 pm
Happy Minyan / Minha 5:30 pm / 6:00 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 6:45 pm
Havdala 8:29 pm

In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from May 4 to 11, 2019. We light memorial candles, donate tsedaka, and attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

29 Nisan / Shabbat, May 4th

Eliyahu Drori

30 Nisan / Sunday, May 5th

Saul E. Levi *Shaul ben Ezra Halevi*
Yehezkel Jacob *Yehezkel ben Avraham Hayim*
Wendy Fay Joseph *Sara bat Avraham*

1 Iyar / Monday, May 6th

Eliyahu ben Mina

2 Iyar / Tuesday, May 7th

Moshe Shiri *Moshe ben Rahma*

3 Iyar / Wednesday, May 8th

Nedat Joshua Farahi *Yehoshua ben Yehezkel*
Sassoon Benjamin Gemal *Sasson ben Binyamin*
Hanina Cohen *Hanina bat Chahla*

4 Iyar / Thursday, May 9th

Binyamin Sheff *Binyamin ben Hasia*

5 Iyar / Friday, May 10th

Simon Faraj Iny *Shimon ben Faraj*
Avigayil Ezran *Avigayil bat Sa'ada Shloush*

6 Iyar / Shabbat, May 11th

Jane Ester Feldman
Cecile Masliah *Aziza bat Habiba*
Sophie Moses *Tifaha bat Mazal*

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
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 • Chaya Rachel bat Simcha
Dina bat Rahel • Rahel bat Ramah Regina • Karen
bat Chana • Meir Ezra ben Rahel • Eti Esther bat
Fortuna • Eliahu Shalom ben Avigayil



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!

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

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 at KJ!



Shavuot is coming!

Erev Shavuot & Tikkun Leil Shavuot
Saturday, June 8

Shavuot I - Sunday, June 9

Shavuot II - Monday, June 10

Blessings for Counting the Omer

Counted each evening after dark between the second night of Passover and Shavuot

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵנוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל

סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר: הַיּוֹם _____ לְעֹמֶר שָׁהִים :

הֶרְחַמְנוּ הוּא יַחְזִיר עֲבוֹדַת בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ לְמִקְוָה בְּמַהֲרָה בְּיָמֵינוּ. אָמֵן:

Ba-rukh a-ta a-do-nai, e-lo-he-nu me-lekh ha-o-lam, a-sheer kee-de-sha-nu
be-meets-vo-tav, ve-tsee-va-nu al se-fi-rat ha-o-mer.

Ha-yom _____ la-o-mer, she-hem _____.

Ha-ra-ha-man hu ya-ha-zeer a-vo-dat bet ha-meek-dash
leem-ko-ma beem-he-ra ve-ya-me-nu a-men.

You are blessed, O Lord, our God and King of the Universe, Who made
us holy with Your commandments and required us to count the Omer.

Today is the _____ day since the Omer, which is [insert weeks and days].

May the Merciful One restore the Temple service, promptly
and in our lifetimes, Amen!