

20 Iyar 5779

25 May 2019

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message



In the 1904 edition of *Achiasaf*, a Hebrew periodical from Warsaw, Mr. Y. Goldfarb published a lively account of his experience at the annual Lag La'omer pilgrimage to Meron for the *yahrzeit* of Bar Yohai. The text, which is now available for free on Google Books, begins as follows:

A frenzied tumult reigned on the path ascending from Safed to the Galilean village of Meron. Horses whinnied, mules snorted, and donkeys brayed over the conversations of male and female pilgrims and their prattling children and elders – a raucous, turbulent din! Bedouins, Arabs, Turks, Jews, and Christians – all walked, rode, drove, or otherwise thronged to a single destination. The roadbed was full of boulders, obstacles, hillocks, vales, indentations, and other tripping hazards, yet no one paid any heed... "People – whereto?" "To Meron! To the Tsadik! To the bonfire!" This was the one answer that could be heard from any pilgrim's lips.

This scene is less colorful today in an Israel of modern roads and a more homogeneous population. Yet the pilgrimage to Meron on Lag La'omer is still very much alive, with over half a million visitors inundating the small village each year.

Without questioning the religious sincerity of the pilgrims, one could remark at the unusual nature of this practice. Where else is a *yahrzeit* observed as a festive occasion? The closest I can think of is Moshe Rabbenu's death on the seventh of Adar, which is marked with a program of nighttime Torah study – a much weightier atmosphere than the gaiety at Meron.

According to the Talmud, the Omer became somber because of Ribbi Akiba's students, who died in a mass epidemic during this interval (Yebamot 62b). The text refers unambiguously to the whole period until Shabuot, and it is not until the derashot of Yehoshua ibn Shuaib (ca. 1280-1340) that we hear of the plague ending early. In his sermon for the first day of Pesah, he notes that the custom was to mourn *until the 34th day*, when people would celebrate the first day of the students' survival.

Note that neither of these sources mentions Meron, Bar Yohai, or the 33rd day being a celebration. Those are based on a story reported in *Peri Ets Hayim* (Koretz, 1785), which depicts a group of rabbis visiting Bar Yohai's grave on the 33rd for kabbalistic reasons. At graveside, one of them was overheard reciting a sad passage in the liturgy, leading another to claim that he saw a vision of Bar Yohai's spirit being angry that this was read on "the day of his rejoicing." According to a memorable Seforim Blog post by Eliezer Brodt, a 19th-century printing error in this passage transformed the 33rd of the Omer into the day "on which he died" (שמת vs. שמח). As astonishing as it sounds, this brings the status of Lag La'omer as Bar Yohai's *yahrzeit* into serious doubt!!

Yet perhaps that is a more constructive outcome than it seems. Now, instead of focusing on a man, we can devote ourselves back to our connection with the divine. If our bonfires and other revelry make us feel humble gratitude to God for His many blessings to our people, including the survival of Torah scholarship under Ribbi Akiba's new student body, then we will have truly restored the period of the Omer to its original intent.

Parashat Behar

Bar Mitsva of Aidan Cohen / Omer 35

Torah: Lev. 25:1–26:2, 57 Pesukim

Hertz 531–539; Stone 696–707

Haftara: Jer. 32:6–27

Hertz 539–541; Stone 1177–1178

Tefillot: Morid Hatal

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, May 24th

Candle lighting.....	7:35 pm
Happy Minyan.....	5:30 pm
Minha.....	6:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit.....	6:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, May 25th

Shaharit.....	8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah.....	10:15 am
Sermon.....	11:20 am
Musaf.....	11:30 am
Women's Tehillim.....	6:00 pm
Minha.....	7:00 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet.....	7:45 pm
Arvit.....	8:25 pm
Havdala.....	8:40 pm

Sunday, May 26th

Shaharit.....	7:30 am
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Memorial Day

Monday, May 27th

Shaharit.....	7:00 am
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Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored by
Sunny and Sam Cohen

in honor of
the Bar Mitsva of their son

Aidan

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Tuesday-Friday, May 28th to 31st

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

Next Shabbat

Friday-Saturday, May 31st-June 1st

Shabbat Candle lighting 7:40 pm

Happy Minyan / Minha... 5:30 pm / 6:00 pm

Shaharit..... 8:30 am

Saturday Minha 7:00 pm

Havdala..... 8:44 pm

Mazal Tov

to
Aidan Cohen

Besiman Tov
to

Parents
Sunny & Sam

Siblings
Kevin & Emma

Grandparents
Yael & Ezra Cohen
Shamsi Bidmeshki
Mansour Yaghoubi

and
all the extended family

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from May 25 to June 1, 2019. We light memorial candles, donate tsedaka, and attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

21 Iyar / Sunday, May 26th

Lulu Ezra Azoory *Lulu Khatoon bat Masooda*
Michael David Adrian Meyer *Michael David ben Yoseph Meir*

Murad Saddick *Mordechai ben Sasson*
Maisie Solomon

22 Iyar / Monday, May 27th

Ezekiel Joseph *Yehezkel ben Itzhak Yosef*
Grace Mussry *Grace bat Toba*
Iran Rojhani *Iran bat Monavar*

23 Iyar / Tuesday, May 28th

Moshe Bensabat *Moshe ben Clara*
Sally Saul *Salha bat Simcha*

24 Iyar / Wednesday, May 29th

Judah Freddy Bekhore *Yehuda Faraj ben Yosef*
Simcha Nazarian *Simcha bat Habiba*
Serosh Besharat

26 Iyar / Friday, May 31st

Sarah Elias *Sarah bat Ester*
Ezra Ellis

27 Iyar / Shabbat, June 1st

Sassoon Elisha *Sassoon Yoseph*

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 • Chaya
Chana bat Batya • Katie bat Farha • 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





Shavuot

June 8, 9 & 10

Tikkun LeL Shavuot - June 8

1:00 PM Mincha after Kiddush, no Seuda Shellsheet

8:45 PM - Arvit 9:00 PM - Dinner

RSVP at www.kahaljoseph.org/shavuot.html

9:45 PM - Midrash Mania

10:45 PM - Five Centuries of the Printed Talmud

Shavuot I - Sunday, June 9

8:15 AM - Shacharit

6:00 PM - Azharot

10 - 12 - Kids Room

6:20 PM - Mincha

11:20 - Book of Ruth

6:50 PM - Arvit

Shavuot II - Monday, June 10

8:30 AM - Shacharit

7:15 PM - Mincha


10 - 12 - Kids Room

7:45 PM - Seuda

6:50 PM - Azharot

8:35 PM - Arvit

8:49 PM - Havdala



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 15 Kol Mevasser!

Blessings for Counting the Omer

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

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי. אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל

סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר: הַיּוֹם _____ לְעֹמֶר שָׁהֵם _____ :

הֶרְחַמְנוּ הוּא יִחְזִיר עֲבוֹדַת בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ לְמִקְוָמָה 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!



Being Deborah*

A History of Jewish Women
Creating Change in Los Angeles

Please join Event Co-Chairs Los Angeles City Councilmembers
Bob Blumenfield and David E. Ryu,
Event Sponsors Mayor Eric Garcetti, Controller Ron Galperin,
Councilmembers Paul Koretz, Paul Krekorian, and Greig Smith,
The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and
The Jewish Historical Society of Southern California

— in celebration of —
Jewish American Heritage Month

May 29, 2019

Los Angeles City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street
3rd Floor, Council Chambers, Los Angeles, CA 90012

10:00 AM: City Council presentation and special
performances by the Jewish Women's Theatre
and The Shalvet ChoirHawks

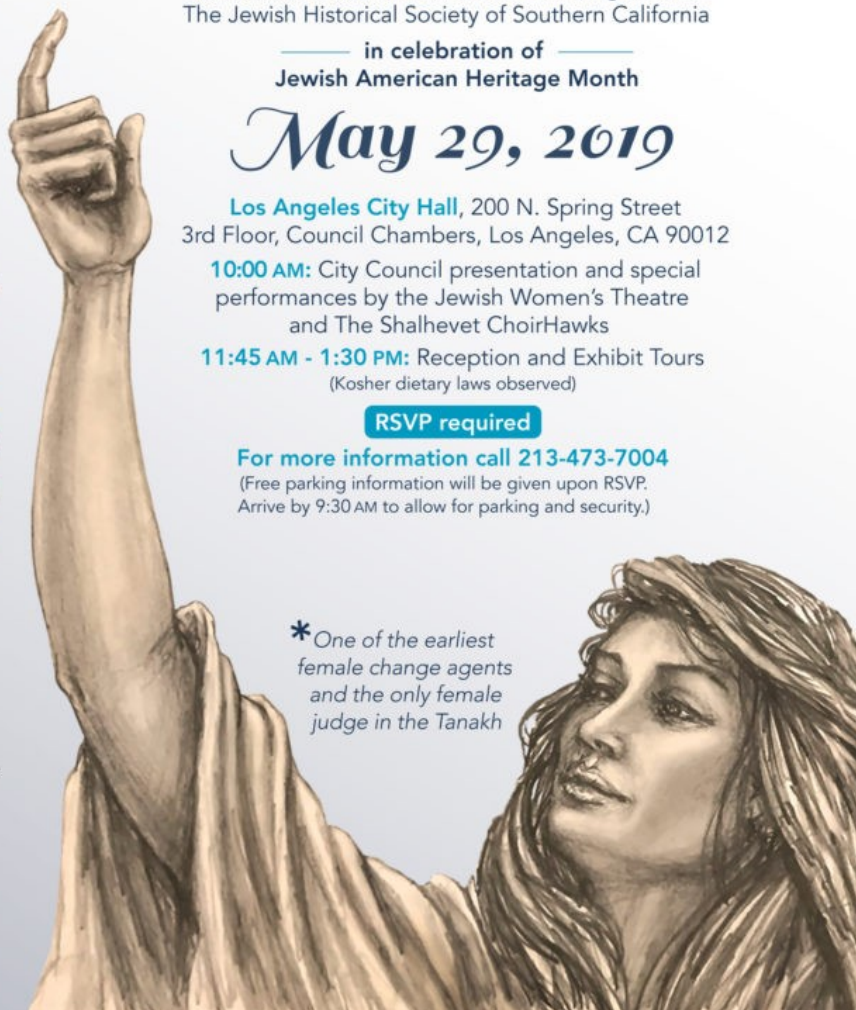
11:45 AM - 1:30 PM: Reception and Exhibit Tours
(Kosher dietary laws observed)

RSVP required

For more information call 213-473-7004

(Free parking information will be given upon RSVP.
Arrive by 9:30 AM to allow for parking and security.)

*One of the earliest
female change agents
and the only female
judge in the Tanakh



RON GALPERIN
LA CONTROLLER



Yom Ha'atsmaut with KJ

