

## Guest Message

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, redacted  
from *Covenant & Conversation*



This week we read the *Tochecha*, the terrifying curses warning of what would happen to Israel if it betrayed its Divine mission. We read a prophecy of history gone wrong. If Israel loses its way spiritually, say the curses, it will lose physically, economically, and politically also. The nation will experience defeat and disaster. It will forfeit its freedom and its land. The people will go into exile and suffer persecution. Customarily we read this passage in the synagogue *sotto voce*, in an undertone, so fearful is it. It is hard to imagine any nation undergoing such catastrophe and living to tell the tale. Yet the passage does not end there. In an abrupt change of key, we then hear one of the great consolations in the Bible:

*Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly and to break My covenant with them: for I am the Lord their God. But I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of Egypt in the sight of the heathen, that I might be their God: I am the Lord.* (Vayikra 26:44-45)

This is a turning point in the history of the human spirit. It is *the birth of hope*: not hope as a dream, a wish, a desire, but hope as the very shape of history itself, “the arc of the moral universe,” as Martin Luther King Jr. put it. God is just. He may punish. He may hide His face. But He will not break His word. He will fulfill His promise. He will redeem His children. He will bring them home.

Hope is one of the very greatest Jewish contributions to Western civilisation. Judaism is the “voice of hope in the conversation of humankind.” In the ancient world, there were ‘tragic cultures’ in which people believed that the gods were, at best, indifferent to our existence, at worst actively malevolent. Then there are secular cultures like that of the contemporary West in which the very existence of the universe, of human life and consciousness, is seen as the result of a series of meaningless accidents intended by no one and with no redeeming purpose. For the most part, the Hebrew Bible expresses a quite different view: that there can be change in the affairs of humankind. Judaism insists that the reality that underlies the universe is not deaf to our prayers, blind to our aspirations, indifferent to our existence. We are not wrong to strive to perfect the world, refusing to accept the inevitability of suffering and injustice.

The key text is here at the end of the curses of the *Tochecha*. This is where God promises that even if Israel sins, it may suffer, but it will never die. It may experience exile but eventually it will return. It may undergo the most terrible suffering, but it will never have reason to despair. Israel may betray the covenant but God never will. No defeat is final, no exile endless, no tragedy the story’s last word. This was perhaps the greatest contribution of Judaism

To be a Jew is to be an agent of hope. Every syllable of the Jewish story is a protest against escapism, resignation and the blind acceptance of fate. Jewish faith is written in the future tense. It is belief in a future that is not yet but could be, if we heed God’s call, obey His will and act together as a covenantal community.

### Parashat Behukotai End of Vayikra / Omer 42

Torah: Lev. 26:3–27:34, 78 Pesukim  
Hertz 542–550; Stone 708–723  
Haftara: Jer. 16:19–17:14  
Hertz 551–553; Stone 1179  
Tefillot: Morid Hatal, Hakhrazat  
Sivan (Tue)

## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

Friday, May 31st

Candle lighting .....	7:40 pm
Happy Minyan .....	5:30 pm
Minha .....	6:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit .....	6:30 pm

### Yom Shabbat

Saturday, June 1st

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 .....	8:30 pm
Havdala .....	8:44 pm

### Yom Yerushalayim / Sunday, June 2nd

Shaharit .....	7:30 am
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Monday, June 3rd

Shaharit .....	6:25 am
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## Sponsor a Kiddush or Seuda Shelisheet!

Celebrate a family milestone!  
Honor the memory of a loved one!  
Share a simha with the community!  
Celebrate and commemorate with  
your Kahal Joseph community by  
sponsoring a Kiddush or Seuda  
Shelisheet for all to enjoy

Contact Sarah in the office at  
310.474.0559 to reserve your date

## Membership Benefits Everyone!

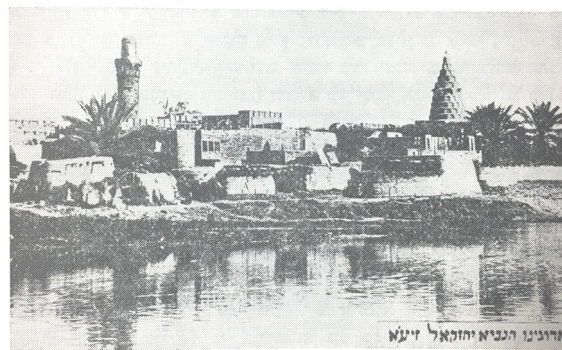
You get...

- \*To be a part of the Kahal family
- \*High Holy Days tickets
- \*Rabbi for lifecycle events
- \*Pastoral counseling
- \*Preferential rates for space  
rentals, Talmud Torah tuition  
and children's programs

You support...

- \*Educational programs
- \*Social events
- \*Prayer minyanim
- \*Keeping Kahal here for you  
when you need it!

Contact the office at 310-474-0559  
or speak to Rabbi Melhado to join!



*Tomb of the Prophet Ezekiel in the Iraqi village of  
Al-Chifel, a popular pilgrimage site on Shavuot.*

## Shavuot is Next Weekend!

*Starting Motsa'e Shabbat  
Saturday, June 8th*

Highlights of KJ's Shavuot schedule  
are on page 3. The full schedule and  
rsvp's for Tikkun Lel Shavuot Dinner  
are available online at:

[www.kahaljoseph.org/shavuot.html](http://www.kahaljoseph.org/shavuot.html)

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**Rosh Hodesh Sivan / Tuesday, June 4th**  
Shaharit ..... 6:05 am

**Wednesday-Friday, June 5th-7th**  
Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

**Next Shabbat / Erev Shavuot**  
*Friday-Saturday, June 7th-8th*  
Shabbat Candle lighting ..... 7:44 pm  
Happy Minyan / Minha ... 5:30 pm / 6:00 pm  
Shaharit ..... 8:30 am  
Saturday Early Minha ..... 1:00 pm  
Havdala (Kodesh Lekodesh) ..... 8:48 pm

## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from June 1 to  
8, 2019. We light memorial candles, donate tsedaka, and  
attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved  
ones.

**27 Iyar / Shabbat, June 1st**  
Sassoon Elisha Sassoon Yoseph

**28 Iyar / Sunday, June 2nd**  
Hannah Sassoon *Hannah Khatoon bat Mozelle Tov*  
Joseph Hai Ezra Simon Yoseph Hai Ezra Shimon

**29 Iyar / Monday, June 3rd**  
Rashel Maslavi *Rachel bat Nuna*

**1 Sivan / Tuesday, June 4th**  
Ezra Shalom Avraham *Ezra Shalom Avraham*

**3 Sivan / Thursday, June 6th**  
Abraham Blank Avraham ben Yaacov Dov  
George Sher Gedaliah Moshe ben Litman Hacohen

**4 Sivan / Friday, June 7th**  
Victoria Cohen *Victoria bat Hanina*  
Pary Arnov Cohen *Tzipora bat Rahel*

**5 Sivan / Shabbat, June 8th**  
Ezra Kelly Elias Levi *Ezra Kadoori Eliyahu Levi*  
Sara Moses *Sara bat Sarah*  
Turan Pourati *Turan bat Aghajan*  
Khodadad Zakariyaie *Moshe Haim*

## 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 LeI Shavuot - June 8

1:00 PM Minha after Kiddush, no Seuda Shellsheet

8:45 PM - Arvit

9:00 PM - Dinner

RSVP at [www.kahaljoseph.org/shavuot.html](http://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 - Shaharit

6:00 PM - Azharot

10 - 12 - Kids Room

6:20 PM - Minha

11:20 - Book of Ruth

6:50 PM - Arvit

### Shavuot II - Monday, June 10

8:30 AM - Shaharit

7:15 PM - Minha


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](mailto: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. אֱלֹהֵנוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל

סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר: הַיּוֹם \_\_\_\_\_ לְעֹמֶר שָׁהֵם \_\_\_\_\_ :

הֶרְחַמְנוּ הוּא יִחְזִיר 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!

**This Shabbat!**  
**Saturday June 1, 2019**

**Meet Rabbinical Candidate**

# Rabbi Daniel Cavalier



A native of Los Angeles, Rabbi Daniel Cavalier was born and raised in California. He graduated from YULA High School here, and then from Ner Israel Rabbinical College in Baltimore Maryland, where he received a B.A. in Talmudic Law while pursuing his interest in Psychology at the University of Maryland. Subsequently, he received a Master's Degree in Jewish Philosophy from Darchei Hora'ah Institute in Jerusalem, Israel.

Rabbi Cavalier's semicha (rabbinical ordination) was granted by the Rishon Letzion and Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu, z"l. For several years Rabbi Cavalier has served as a rabbi of the vibrant Young Sephardic Community Center minyan housed on Pico Boulevard where he is also the Hazan.

Trained in Sephardic musical traditions, Rabbi Cavalier blends melodies and customs from diverse Jewish cultures. He strives to include the richness of our heritage in his prayers, incorporating Egyptian, Syrian, Iraqi, Moroccan, Persian, Spanish, French, Eastern European, and American Jewish strands in his hazzanut.

Currently, Rabbi Cavalier resides in the Pico-Robertson area with his wife Rachel and their four beautiful children.

***Rabbi Cavalier will participate in Morning & Evening Services on Shabbat Day***