

Rabbi's Message

After the Israelites received the Torah on Shabuot, what place did it assume in their society? Did their desert lifestyle leave plenty of time for Torah study because they had no jobs? Or perhaps their wanderings and Tabernacle service burdened them with competing tasks from which Torah study had to be actively claimed?



Given that tradition involves imitating those who came before us, the answers to these questions can inform our attitudes about the place of Torah in our society today. One of the more famous positions on this issue has come down in the writings of Rav Nissim Gaon (990-1062), who argues that the Israelites became extremely learned across wide swathes of society:

A person would read in the Torah "make tsitsit for yourselves," and would say, "this tsitsit is a fringe that we tie onto the corners of the tallet, with each having eight component threads and five knots." In other words, they were instantly familiar with the meaning of tsitsit and could easily recall its minutiae through the tradition they had received. Such was the case for all the commandments: people would simply read the Scripture and comprehend its full details and meanings. – Hakdama Latalmud 1a

This idealized portrayal presumes a deep level of buy-in that other sources don't take for granted. For example, the Mekhilta ascribes statements to God showing that He thinks having to work could be a serious obstacle to our Torah learning:

The Holy Blessed One did not bring them [from Egypt] to Erets Yisrael directly, but rather by way

of the desert, saying: "If I bring them there now, each person will immediately seize their field or vineyard, and they will neglect Torah study altogether. Instead, I will keep them in the desert forty years, eating manna and drinking from the well, so that the Torah will become absorbed into their bodies." – Mekhilta de-Ribbi Yishmael 13:17

An important variant on this theme is brought in the commentary of Samuel David Luzzatto (1800-1865):

God does not change the hearts of mankind quickly, but rather He deals with each person according to his attributes and qualities. When the Israelites left slavery, they lacked the basic capacity for courage necessary to fight the seven nations and inherit their land. Yet even if God had conquered it for them miraculously, they would still have been unable to become an independent nation that rules with wisdom and understanding, for they had just cast off the heavy yoke of slavery... Hence God took them through the desert to educate them in phases and teach them the qualities they would need to stand on their own two feet. – Perush Shadal to Ex. 13:17

While the first two texts speak in black-and-white terms that separate our mundane activities and Torah study into opposite extremes, Luzzatto takes it for granted that living our lives with dignity is an essential component of what the Torah has to teach us. Torah study may appear as a strictly "religious" activity, but our engagement in it actually equips us with the tools we need to thrive in the "secular" world. It is by harmonizing the two – living out the Torah in our daily activities while making a regular practice of studying it from a worldly perspective – that we can access the full impact of its message.

Parashat Naso

Bat Mitsva of Eliana Davoudian

Torah: Num. 4:21–7:89, 176 Pesukim
Hertz 586–601; Stone 748–773
Haftara: Judg. 13:2–25
Hertz 602–604; Stone 1181–1182
Tefillot: Morid Hatal, no Tsidkatekha,
Birkat Halevana

The Sephardic aliyot divisions in the Hertz are for a different minhag

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, June 14th

Candle lighting	7:47 pm
Happy Minyan	5:30 pm
Minha	6:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit	6:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, June 15th

Shaharit	8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah	10:15 am
Sermon	11:20 am
Musaf	11:30 am
Women's Tehillim	6:15 pm
Minha	7:15 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet	8:00 pm
Arvit	8:35 pm
Havdala	8:51 pm

(Continued on page 2)

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored by
Keyvan Davoudian

in honor of
Eliana's Bat Mitsva

Mazal Tov to

**Eliana Davoudian
and
your entire family**

**on your
Bat Mitsva**

Register for Talmud Torah!

At the Norma & Sam Dabby Talmud Torah kids learn Hebrew reading, Jewish & Israel history, Jewish holidays, Torah and prayer/tefillah. And they enjoy learning both traditionally and through art, drama, music, games, and more.

Our teachers strive to impart more than intellectual knowledge; they make Judaism come alive. They teach tolerance and compassionate action. They communicate Jewish values and morals, give kids a place to belong and develop Jewish identity, and model a world in which people want and strive to act ethically.

Our ultimate goal is to have students grow into young adults with a positive understanding of Judaism. If they walk away with the desire to learn more Hebrew, more Torah, more tefillah and with some notion of how to apply these Jewish spiritual lessons in their everyday lives then we will have succeeded.

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!**

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**

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from June 15 to 22, 2019. We light memorial candles, donate tsedaka, and attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

12 Sivan / Shabbat, June 15th

Abraham Lurie *Avraham Lurie*
Abdullah Zekaria *Sion Abdulla Zekaria*

13 Sivan / Sunday, June 16th

Florence Amron *Farha Hanah bat Garzi*
Sulman Soffer *Sulman Sion Soffer*

15 Sivan / Tuesday, June 18th

Isaac Bekhor *Itzhak ben Yaacov*
Daisy Saddick

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

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, June 16th

Shaharit 7:30 am

Monday-Friday, June 17th-21st

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Friday-Saturday, June 21-22

Candle lighting 7:49 pm

Friday Minha 6:00 pm

Shaharit 8:30 am

Saturday Minha 7:15 pm

Havdala 8:53 pm

CONGRATS to our Graduates!

Ariel Amron, daughter of Jessica & David Amron, granddaughter of Moselle & Michael Amron, upon her graduation from Wise School. She will attend The Brentwood School in the fall.

Ella Ashkenazi, daughter of Karen & Avi Ashkenazi, granddaughter of Tikva and Yoel Iny, upon her graduation from Pressman Academy. She will attend Shalhevet High School in the fall.

Mia Hagooli Bolanos, granddaughter of Ruth & Edmund Hagooli, upon her graduation from Franklin Elementary School. She will attend Lincoln Middle School in the fall.

Aaron Elghanian, son of Sherry & Sam Elghanian, grandson of Shirin Elghanian, upon his graduation from Westwood Charter Elementary School. He will attend Paul Revere Middle School in the fall.

Joshua Farhamy, son of Pantea & John Farhamy, upon his graduation from Kindergarten at Ateret Israel.

Emma Gazal, granddaughter of Diana & Ike Gazal, upon her graduation from middle school. She will be attending high school in the fall.

Juliana Gazal, granddaughter of Diana & Ike Gazal, upon her graduation from high school. She will attend UCLA in the fall.

Daniel Itzhakov, son of Dalia & Moshe Itzhakov, upon his graduation from Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy. He will attend YULA Boys High School in the fall.

Daniel Ironi, son of Melissa & Dan Ironi, grandson of Merna Ironi, upon his graduation from preschool.

Isaac Kahtan, son of Mickey & Haim Kahtan, upon his graduation from Shalhevet High School. He will be in Israel at Bar Ilan in the fall.

Michael Kahtan, son of Mickey & Haim Kahtan, upon his graduation from Shalhevet High School. He will be in Israel at Bar Ilan in the fall.

Daniel Salem, grandson of Evelyn & Fuad Salem, upon his graduation from Franklin Elementary School. He will attend Lincoln Middle School in the fall.

Eliana Salem, granddaughter of Evelyn & Fuad Salem, upon her graduation from Franklin Elementary School. She will attend Lincoln Middle School in the fall.

Claire Samuels, granddaughter of Ruby & Joe Samuels, upon her graduation from Center University with BSc Cum Laude in Psychology.

Gabrielle Sarraf, daughter of Sandra & Eddy Sarraf, upon her graduation from de Toledo High School. She will attend CU Boulder.

Ryan Sarraf, son of Sandra & Eddy Sarraf upon his graduation from de Toledo High School. He will attend UC Davis.

Avi Shadi, son of Maryam & Jack Shadi, upon his graduation from Irving Middle School. He will attend John Marshall High School in the fall.

Ryan Shiri, son of Sandy & Danny Shiri, grandson of Widad Shiri and Hanina Mathalon, upon his graduation from Chapman University with a BA in Political Science.

Andrea Shahrabani, daughter of Edna & Ronny Shahrabani, upon her graduation from UCLA with a BA in Anthropology and Psychology.

Olivia Farrah Solomon, daughter of Elizabeth & Michael Solomon, granddaughter of Florence & Meyer (Sonny) Nathan, upon her graduation from the University of California at Berkeley School of Public Health with a Masters (MPH) in Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Yaniv Wozniak, son of Ronit & Jerome Wozniak, grandson of Hildegard & Karl Wozniak, upon his graduation from elementary school.

Jasmine Yashar, daughter of Azita & Jack Yashar, upon her graduation from Webster Middle School. She will attend University High School in the fall.

Natanel Ezra Young, son of Dafna & Rex Young, upon his graduation from Barnette Magnet School in Fairbanks. He will attend West Valley High School

Join Kahal Joseph at the Ball Park!

Jewish Community Day at Dodgers Stadium!
Sun., July 7 at 1:10 PM - Dodgers v. San Diego Padres



Group tickets \$36 including a
LA Dodgers Kippah!

RSVP ASAP - email Rabbi Melhado at RabbiMelhado@gmail.com
If we get 20 tickets, Kahal's name will be on the Jumbotron!



Explore Jewish India!

By Rahel Musleah

If you are like me, your roots are important to you. We Baghdadi Jews have branched out all over the world, but we remain grounded in our glorious heritage. We can't go back to Baghdad, but we can still travel to India and delight in all it has to offer.

Some of you might know my family. My father was the rabbi of the Calcutta community, and we moved to the United States when I was six years old. India enchanted me from a distance for most of my life. When I returned to India twice as a guest of the Government of India Tourist Office, not only did Calcutta become "real" to me, but I also discovered the treasures of Bombay, Cochin and Delhi, about which I had previously known very little. Since then, I have made it my mission to open a window on our Baghdadi and Indian communities. As a journalist, author, educator, singer, I share our history, customs and music at synagogues and organizations across the United States.

Five years ago, I decided to create a Jewish heritage tour so others could explore India's vibrant beauty and wondrous architecture, extraordinary cultural richness and religious diversity. I teamed up with Joshua Shapurkar, a member of the Bene Israel community of Bombay, who has been leading general and Jewish tours for almost thirty years. Together we have an intimate knowledge of the Indian Jewish communities and close relationships with its members. We eat, pray and mingle with local community members; explore the sites of ancient shipwrecks and stunning maharajahs' palaces; shop in colorful bazaars; revel in magnificent spiritual sites. Highlights always include Shabbat services and feasts at Bombay's Kneseth Eliyahoo and Calcutta's Maghen David synagogues.

For Kahal Joseph's own Lulu and Allan Fenster, who traveled with me in February 2018, the tour was an "extraordinary journey." Here's what Lulu says: "Visiting the Maghen David synagogue in Calcutta where my parents were married and singing on the bimah were moments I will cherish forever. We met the most wonderful group of people and learned so much about the history and culture of our Jewish, Indian and Iraqi heritage."

Each tour is a homecoming for me. Whether you are Baghdadi, Indian, or from another background, you will be treated as part of the family.

Recommended by KJ Members

By Ron Einy

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for anyone who loves to see parts of this world that you may not normally travel to.

The historical and beautiful legacy of the Jews of India will be uncovered for you by the most knowledgeable and interesting guide, Rahel Musleah.

Don't miss this important chance to experience this most fascinating and colorful part of the world.

INDIA!

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CALCUTTA-BORN RAHEL MUSLEAH

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