

## KOIL MEVASSER

KAHAL JOSEPH CONGREGATION • 10505 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, LOS ANGELES, CA 90025 • 310.474.0559 • WWW.KAHALJOSEPH.ORG

## A Kingdom of Priests

Rabbi Hagay Batzri

For several weeks we have been immersed in Torah portions dealing with the building of the Mishkan, also known as the holy Tabernacle. For weeks the readings have dealt with all the details—from the Kelim or utensils used in the sanctuary, to special objects like the menorah, showbread table, and altars, to the tapestries and curtains, to the apparel of the Kohanim or priests.

Now, we start a new book, the third book of the Torah, entitled Vayikra (or, Leviticus, in English). Our sages had another name for Vayikra—Torat Kohanim, teachings for the Kohanim, or priests. This book begins to deal with what happens inside the Mishkan. The Mishkan is defined as the place where Hashem's presence rests among the Jewish people. In Vayikra, we contemplate and learn how we are to behave in Hashem's house and how we will fulfill its purpose.

Moshe Rabenu who up until was in charge of the work of building the Mishkan, temporarily assumes the position of

the High Priest, also known as the Kohen Gadol. For eight days, until the grand opening of the Mishkan, Moshe prepares to inaugurate the tabernacle and transfer power—he gets everything ready. After these eight days, Moshe will give the Kehuna, or priesthood, to Aharon his brother. At this moment in time, during the Jewish people's journey, Moshe is on a higher spiritual level than most humans will ever reach; he is a man closer to Hashem than nearly anyone in history.

Moshe's holy work and his closeness to Hashem is expressed in the parasha by its first words—especially the word “vayikra.” “Vayikra” means that God called Moshe, He personally summoned Moshe to be close to Him, before beginning to impart information—that comes later, with “vaydaber.” This is the highest level of Nevuah, or prophecy—being called and addressed by Hashem. At other times, God revealed himself with signs or with dreams. There are many different way to reach some level of prophecy and spiritual knowledge. However, God's call is the highest form of summons. As the pasuk (the

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## Prayer Schedule

## SHABBAT

## PARASHAT VAYIKRA

Friday, March 11th

Minhah &amp; Arbit 5:30 pm

Candle Lighting 5:39 pm

Saturday, March 12th

Shaharit 8:30 am

Tehillim before Minhah

Minhah &amp; Arbit 5:00 pm

Motzei Shabbat 6:43 pm

## WEEKDAYS

Sunday, March 13th

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Shaharit 7:30 am

## Purim Baking &amp; KJ Baskets

10:00 am and on

## Mitzvah Girls Group (13-16)

drop in 9 am to 1 pm

## TA'ANIT ESTHER FAST DAY

Thursday, March 17th

Fast Begins 5:47 am

## Selihot &amp; Hatarat Ayin Hara

remove curses, etc. 5:30 pm

Minha &amp; Arvit 6:44 pm

Fast Ends 7:22 pm

Monday to Friday

Shaharit 6:30 am

## TALMUD TORAH CLASSES

Tuesday &amp; Thursday 4:00 pm

## EREV SHABBAT

## PARASHAT ZAKHOR

Friday, March 18th

Minhah &amp; Arbit 5:30 pm

Candle Lighting 6:44 pm

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verse) says: "Velo kam navie od Kemoshe." Never before and never since then has there been a prophet like Moshe. As Hashem talked to him "Panim Bepanim," or face-to-face, the voice of God came through Moshe's mouth.

The message here is that Moshe made himself available to Hashem—Moshe made his body and his will open to God, as well as directing his actions in the service of Hashem through the construction of the mishkan. We should strive to do the same. Moshe is a role model for all of us. He opened himself completely to the positive, transformative power of Hashem. He made his personality and his free will sites wherein Hashem's Shechina could enter.

In our daily spiritual work, we should also strive to reach toward Hashem. The avodat Kohanim, or work of the priests, in the mishkan, is now accomplished by each of us through prayer—both communal and individual. God called us MAM-LECHET KOHANIM, a kingdom of priests. Every one of us, every one of the Jewish people, inherits this legacy.

Shabbat Shalom



**NEW TIME!**

## Kahal Joseph Congregation Purim Celebration & Seudah

**Sunday, March 20th  
at 5:30 PM**

**DINNER! BAR DRINKS!  
LIVE MUSIC & BAND!  
MAGICIAN! ENTERTAINMENT!  
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM!**

### TICKETS

**\$40 / ADULT** dinner, entertainment, & 2 drinks  
**\$20 / CHILD** dinner & children's program  
RSVP 310.474.0559

Seudat Purim Celebration

## Purim

Baking for Community Gift Baskets



**Sunday, March 13th**

Starting at 10:00 am

Do a Mitzvah—or Two!

Give a few hours and have some fun baking treats for Kahal Joseph's beautiful Purim gift baskets. We personally deliver these cheery baskets to many appreciative members of our community. Donations in support of the Purim Baskets mitzvah project are welcomed. Please send your check to:

Kahal Joseph Congregation—Purim Baskets  
10505 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A. CA 90025.

For more information  
call the office at  
310.474.0559 or e-mail  
ydabby@sbeglobal.net.



**Purim Sameah! ♦♦♦ Happy Purim!**

## Ta'anit Esther

*Special Prayers  
Against the Evil  
Eye & Curses*



Thursday, March 17th  
5:30 pm

**Selichot Service and  
Hatarat Ayin Hara**

6:44 Mincha & 7:00 Arvit  
7:22 Fast Ends

*Ta'anit Esther is a day of fasting that occurs before Purim. On Ta'anit Esther, Rabbi Batzri will be holding a special prayer service in the evening for removing the evil eye, curses, oaths, black magic, and other negative forces.*

## In Memoriam Community News

It is customary to light a memorial candle in the evening and to donate tzedakah. Family members are encouraged to attend prayer services in honor of loved ones.

**Sunday / 7 Adar II**  
Farha bat Hanina

**Monday / 8 Adar II**  
Itzhak ben Yaacov Yonah  
Abraham Shalom Naji ben Itzhak  
Yoseph  
Yoachim David ben Micha  
HaCohen

**Wednesday / 10 Adar II**  
Gala bat Masouda\*  
Menashe ben Shlomo Reuven\*

**Friday / 12 Adar II**  
Dovid ben Chaim

**Shabbat / 13 Adar II**  
Koadad ben Yair

*To update, please call the office  
at 310.474.0559.*

### Refuah Shlemah

Yonatan ben Alizah • Mazal Tov  
bat Sulha Mitana • Matilda  
Louisa • Yaheskel ben Regina •  
Ayala bat Naomi • Khayah Noa  
bat Sara • Haim ben Mordechai •  
Pnina bat Esther • Yosi ben  
Esther • Victor ben Latif • Ramah  
Regina bat Farha • Aziza bat Sara  
Judith bat Malka • Ofek ben Yochai  
• Efrayim Zev ben Fayga • Sulha  
Matana bat Mozelle • Gershon ben  
David • Farangis Miriam bat  
Touran • David ben Leah •  
Avraham Haim ben Miryam •  
Yaakov ben Freda • Rachel bat  
Mazal Tov

### PURIM MITZVAH:

#### MATANOT L'EVYONIM

GIFTS TO THE LESS FORTUNATE  
Abe Abraham will be collecting  
donations for Tomchei Shab-  
bat, a Jewish food bank. Please  
send your contribution before  
Thursday, March 17th

### MAZAL TOV

Dana and Oscar Bolanos  
on the birth of your son

Congratulations  
to the grandparents  
Ruth and Edmond Hagooli

### SHABBAT KIDDUSH

is sponsored by  
Ruth and Edmond Hagooli

In honor of the birth of  
their grandson

### WELCOME

Abe Sher  
past Board Member  
of Kahal Joseph  
who is visiting us from  
Miami, Florida

### MAZAL TOV

Abe Abraham  
on being named  
the Honorary Gabay  
of Kahal Joseph Congregation

Abe chaired the Religious Com-  
mittee for 34 years and has  
given tirelessly to our religious  
services. May you continue to  
serve us with happiness.

### THANK YOU

Miriam and Jack Shadi

for hosting Kahal Joseph's  
Rosh Hodesh Adar II Celebration

for women in your home  
this past week

### Women's of Kahal

Join us each month for Tehillim and a  
Rosh Hodesh Celebration. Rosh Ho-  
desh is a special time for women—  
learn more about how to take care of  
yourself during these special days. For  
more information, or if you would like to  
host the next Rosh Hodesh for the Jew-  
ish month of Nisan, please contact Orly  
Batzi at [orlybatzi@gmail.com](mailto:orlybatzi@gmail.com).

### SHABBAT MITZVOT

We offer for donation the following Mitzvot.

- 1. Petichat Hechal** opening of the ark;
- 2. Carrying of the Sefer Torah & Sefer Haftara;**
- 3. Hakamat Sefer** lifting of the Torah;
- 4. Mashlim\*** The seventh aliya to the Torah who recites Kaddish;
- 5. Maftir\*** The last aliya to the Torah which includes the Haftara (read by the clergy unless member reading is preapproved). We suggest a minimum donation of \$126 or multiples of \$18 or \$26. You will receive confirmation before Shabbat to confirm if you will receive the aliya. Members may reserve in advance by calling the office. Non-members reserving aliyot should contact the office for availability at 310.474.0559. We appreciate your support.

**BEST GAME  
BOOTHS!  
COSTUME CONTEST!  
GREATEST PRIZES IN  
TOWN!**



Kahal Joseph's  
**PURIM  
CARNIVAL**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 27TH  
11 A.M. TO 3 P.M.**



1/2 off price of last year's wristbands  
\$25 / WRISTBAND (\$20 each for 3 or more)  
*Wristbands valid for games only—not food.*

**SNOW CONES! COTTON CANDY! BBQ!**  
10505 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A. 90025