

# KOL MEVASSER

## The Golden Calf Today

Written by Rabbi Hagay Batzri

Edited by D. Ezran

The highlight at the center of this week's Torah portion is the amazing story of the Golden Calf. At first glance, it looks as though, just 40 days after G-d revealed himself at Sinai, the Jewish people are going to replace Him and Moses with another god made of gold.

It's true that many Torah commentators explain that the Golden Calf was really created by the "Erev Rav" the group of nations who joined the Jewish people when they left Egypt to obtain the benefits of being Jewish. According to these commentators, the Israelites did not intend to replace G-d. Rather, they intended to worship G-d through a symbol, through something that inspired them to worship G-d.

But, no matter how we look at this incident, we know that G-d considered the Golden Calf idolatry, and He punished the nation of Israel big time. The punishment was so great that it wasn't a one-time punishment. It was experienced for many generations. As our sages say, there is no collective suffering that the Jewish people have experienced that does not have some connection to the

sin of the Golden Calf, no suffering that is not in some way a partial payment for that sin.

The Ben Ish Hai explains the basis for this in the Zohar. He says that the reason the sin of the Golden Calf continues in every generation is that in every generation we continue to commit the same sin, even today. Sometimes we do it with good intentions. But moving away from the path of Torah and halakha can end in terrible tragedy, in a huge mistake.

For example, some people decide on their own not to join services in synagogues. They feel that in another atmosphere, like that of their home or of the natural environment they can be more focused and pray with truer intention or "kavanah" and with an open heart. That sounds like a very good reason in theory and one with good intentions, but G-d commanded us to gather as a minyan and build houses of worship or "Beth Knesset." Why?

Prayers impact different people in different ways. So, yes, we need to get together and unite for one purpose when we pray. Coming together makes our prayers more powerful; we all need the benefit of others' tefilla. Also, by praying together we learn to accept other people and that, in fact, is the first step

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## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

*Friday, March 9, 2012*

Shaharit/Morning Prayer 6:30 am  
Shabbat Candle Lighting 5:38 pm  
Minhah/Arbith 5:30 pm

### Shabbat / Parashat Ki Tissa

*Saturday, March 10, 2012*

Shabbat Shaharit/Morning Prayer 8:30 am  
Guest Speaker: Rabbi Avraham Frish  
Tehillim Women's Reading 12:15 pm  
Shabbat Minhah, Seudah, Arbit 5:00 pm  
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah 6:26 pm

### Weekdays

*Sunday, March 11, 2012*

Shaharit/Morning Prayer 7:30 am  
**KJ Purim Carnival 11 am to 4 pm**  
KJ Youth Choir Rehearsal TBA

*Monday to Friday, March 12 to 16, 2012*  
Shaharit/Morning Prayer 6:30 am

### Erev Shabbat

*Friday, March 16 2012*

*NOTE DAYLIGHT SAVINGS CHANGES*  
Shaharit/Morning Prayer 6:30 am  
**Shabbat Candle Lighting 6:43 pm**  
Minhah/Arbith 6:30 pm

### WEEKLY TORAH PORTION

Parashat *Ki Tissa* 352—368  
Haftara 369—372

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to connecting with G-d. This is what Hashem wants.

In reality, all through history, when Jewish people have divided themselves from the community, something negative has happened one or two generation later.

This act of choosing to pray in our home or in nature or in simply any place that inspires us (even if we pray in front of a picture of Jerusalem or of a great spiritual leader such as the Baba Sale or of beautiful artwork incorporating G-d's name) is in fact turning towards a golden calf.

Of course, if this is the only way a person will pray, then it is better to pray somewhere than not to pray at all. But, as the Rabbi of Kahal Joseph I'm telling that our synagogue will be the best place to pray and our community will be the right choice for you to belong as a member and to feel at home. I say this especially to someone who tells me, when I ask them why I haven't seen them for a while, that "You know, Rabbi, I can't stand this person" or "I don't feel accepted" or even "I don't like people talking in middle of services, God forbid, saying Lashon Hara and bad things about others."

My answer to such statements is that every person needs to face such challenges. People who cannot tolerate other people have found a great spiritual challenge and should

meet it. When we feel this way, we need more than ever to work to change our own behavior first. This is our challenge. As we all know, without challenges we do not learn anything, especially when it comes to accepting others as they are. This is the key to getting the most out of our prayers and to building our community. Shabbat Shalom

## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in memory of  
**Nazy Solymani Radfar, z"l**  
and  
**Yonah Solymani Radfar, z"l**  
by  
The Radfar Family

## Refuah Shlemah

Gerry Shapiro • Eliezer Saltoon *Eliezer Hai ben Roz* • Yocheved bat Rachel • Rachamim ben Sarah • Hinah Titza bat Itah



## Rabbi Batzri's Hotline

*Plan Your Next Shabbat Dinner ...*

Discuss your Jewish home and learn the secrets that create a Jewish environment. Rabbi Batzri offers explanations of Jewish matters for young families and the entire family. Contact him at 310-717-8707 or write him at hbatzri@gmail.com. *Now, let's set your table ...*

## In Memoriam

We remember the following yahrzeits, the annual anniversary of passings, for the week of March 10th to 17th, 2012. It is customary to light a memorial candle and donate tzedakah. Family members are encouraged to attend prayer services in honor of loved ones on the Shabbat preceding the yahrzeit.

**17 Adar / Sunday, March 11**

Ester Solomon *Ester bat Amnah*

**18 Adar / Monday, March 12**

Naim Moshi *Naim ben Yeboshua*  
Nazay Radfar *Nazeh bat Nisan*

**19 Adar / Tuesday, March 13**

Eliyahu Sasson Samuel *Eliyahu ben Sasson*  
*Kodadad ben Yair*

**20 Adar / Wednesday, March 14**

Yona Radfar *Yona ben Shlomo*  
Edward Wyner *Itzhak ben Simba*

**21 Adar / Thursday, March 15**

Gershoon Doustar *Gershoon Doustar*  
Itzhak Rahmin *Itzhak Rahmin Pinbas*

**23 Adar / Shabbat, March 17**

Bernard Amron *Yonatan ben Mishael*  
Eliyahu Kattan *Eliyahu ben Salim*  
*Elisha ben Nassim Nany*  
Rachel Jonah  
*Moshe Ezra ben Raphael Moshe*

## Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored in memory of  
**Moshe ben Michael Shemtov, z"l**  
by The Shemtov Family

## Shabbat Song: *El Galil*



לחן: יא גמיל יא גמיל

מלים: ר' יצחק סונה הי"ד

**אֵל**  
גָּלִיל אֵל גָּלִיל אֵל גָּלִיל. אֲשֶׁרִיךְ אֶרֶץ הַגָּלִיל. כְּמִתָּה  
נִפְשִׁי לָךְ הַגָּלִיל. אֵל גְּדוּלְךָ צְדִיקִים. אֵל קְדוּשְׁתְּךָ  
תְּמִימִים. מִגֵּן צִנָּה הֵם עַל אֲחֵים. הַיּוֹם הֵם בְּתוֹכֵנוּ. מְרוּיִם  
אֵת צְמֵאוֹנֵנוּ:

**עֲרֵךְ**  
שְׁלַחַן לְעַמִּי. יוֹסֵף הוּא גֵזֶר תִּפְאָרְתִּי. חֲדָשׁ הַכֵּין הַצִּפְתִּי.  
בְּזִכְרוֹתוֹ עָמַד עוֹלָם. מְרוּמָם הוּא מְבַלֵּם. נְסִים עָשָׂה לִי  
בְּזִכְרוֹת אֱהוֹב:

**שִׂמַּח**  
לְעַם בְּשִׁירָיו. לְכָה דוּדֵי לִירְאֵיו. תִּקַּן שְׁלֹמֹה בְּעַמּוּיו:  
בְּזִכְרוֹתוֹ

**עֲלָה**  
אֵרִי וְגוּרָיו. מוֹשֶׁה דַרְשָׁן וְעֵנִי. אֲשֶׁרִי הַדּוֹר חָזָה פָּנָיו:  
בְּזִכְרוֹתוֹ

El galil, el galil, el galil. Ashrayikh eretz ha'galil. Kam-ha naf-shi lakh ha'galil. El gdolayikh tzadikim kedoshayikh temimim. Magen tzina hem al akhim. Khayim hem betokhenu. Marvim et tzimonenu.  
*G-d of the Galil, G-d of the Galil, G-d of the Galil. Your joy is the land of the Galil. My soul went up in the Galil. To your great Tzadikim [holy people]. To your holy, innocent ones. They are a shield for their brothers. They live in us. The satiate our thirst.*

Arokh shulkhan l'ami. Yosef hu nezer tifarti. Khidesh hekhin hatzfat. Biz-khuto amad olam. Meromam hu mikhulam. Nissim aseh li biz-khut ahuv.  
*Set a table for my nation. Joseph is the crown of my hope and salvation. He renewed my higher values. By his merit the world stands. He is high above everyone. Miracles were made for me by merit of the cherished one.*

## Events at KJ

### KJ Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 11th, 11 am to 4 pm

### Maurice Zekaria Backgammon Tournament

Sunday, April 22nd at 2:00 pm

### Ongoing Events

#### Women's Tehillim Group

Shabbat Day at 12:15 pm

#### KJ Talmud Torah: Afterschool Program

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:00 to 6:00 pm

## WELCOME

to our special Guest Shabbat Speaker  
Rabbi Avraham Frish

Simakh l'am b'shirav. Lekha dodu lire-am. Tiken Shlomo b'amav. Biz-khuto amad olam. Meromam hu mikhulam. Nissim aseh li biz-khut ahuv.

*Rejoice for the nation in its song. Show the way to those in awe. He placed [King] Solomon in his nation. By his merit the world stands. He is high above everyone. Perform miracles for me by merit of the cherished one.*

Ala ari v'gurav. Moshe darshan v'anav. Ashrei ha'dor khaza panav. Biz-khuto amad olam. Meromam hu mikhulam. Nissim aseh li biz-khut ahuv.

*A lion and his cubs rose up. Taught by Moses and humble. Joy to the generation that witnessed his presence. By his merit the world stands. He is high above everyone. Perform miracles for me by merit of the cherished one.*

## Thank You Purim Baking Volunteers

### Yvette Dabby, Coordinator

Faye Aharonov • Jilla Arastehnanesh  
Caroline Azouz • Isabelle Azouz • Lulu  
Benhamou • Ela Berookhim • Chaya  
Bakhash • Nadine Dabby • Eva Dloomy •  
Esther Duke • Letizia Einy • Miranda Einy •  
David Elias • Louise Elias • Sassoon Ezra •  
Rita Hanin • Flossie Jacob • Marcelle  
Joseph • Sally Joseph • Yudith Levy •  
Jennifer Loveman • Shanna Loveman •  
Judy Lurie • Rivka Mangoli • Hanina  
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Norman Reiz • Melanie Rosenberg • Jackie  
Saks • Aviva Sagi • Amira Saraf • Guiti  
Sawdayi • Wahid Sedaghat • Florence  
Shamash • Yvonne Sheeri-Kooby • Widad  
Shiri • Elana Soffer • Susan Zadeh

## Thank You Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph

For generously providing Purim Gift Bags  
for our lovely Choir children who  
performed at the Megillah Reading.

### And Thank You

To the children for singing their hearts out  
and to their parents for bringing them to  
rehearsals and helping them learn, and to  
the community for supporting them.

### KJ Purim Carnival Needs YOU!

Morning Shift: 10:45 am to 1:45 pm, Afternoon Shift: 1:15 pm to 4:15 pm  
To volunteer contact Dafna or Molly, [dafna@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:dafna@kahaljoseph.org) or [molly@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:molly@kahaljoseph.org)

# KJ PURIM CARNIVAL



**Sunday, March 11th**  
11:00 am to 4:00 pm

*Kahal Joseph Congregation*  
10505 Santa Monica Blvd. L.A. 90025

*Game Booths • Fun Rides*  
*Great Food • Prizes*