

KOL MEVASSER

Lessons from the Fruit of the Land

By Rabbi Hagay Batzri

In this week's Torah portion, Parashat Shelah, an important moment occurs. When Moshe sends scouts into the land of Israel, some of his last words to them are: "V'hitkhazaktem u'lkakhtem mi pri ha'aretz" "And you will strengthen yourselves and you will take from the fruit of the land."

There are two lessons we can glean from this statement. The first message centers around the word "v'hitkhazaktem." Moshe is telling the scouts to strengthen themselves emotionally before entering Eretz Yisrael, the land of Israel.

The scouts were sent off into the desert and they were in a difficult situation. They were strangers scouting the future land of Israel, trying to learn about the inhabitants and the qualities of the land, trying to examine the fruits and carry back samples. Moshe's statement hints at how the scouts should prepare themselves. His words reveal what type of strength they would need. The key clue occurs when he mentions the fruit,



President Ronald Einy and Saul Levi in the historical Board Room as invited guests of Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke last week in Washington D.C.

A fruit is beautiful. But, it does not begin as a thing of beauty. We need to consider how the fruit came into being. Before it became a fruit, or a tree, it was underground during winter, a seed, buried in the earth. It even may have begun to rot a little and was nourished by other fruit, leaves, and sticks rotting in the ground around it. It was on the edge of existence, almost becoming unmoving matter, lifeless. But from that dormant, rotting state sprouted a tree, and

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KJ Schedule

Parashat Shelah

Erev Shabbat / Eve of Shabbat

Friday, May 31st

Shaharit	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim	6:45 pm
Minha & Arbit	7:00 pm
Candle Lighting.....	7:40 pm

Yom Shabbat / Shabbat Day

Saturday, June 1st

Shaharit	8:30 am
Class with Rabbi Batzri	6:10 pm
Ladies Tehillim	6:10 pm
Minha/Arbit	6:55 pm
Shabbat Havdallah	8:28 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, June 2nd

Shaharit	7:30 am
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Monday through Friday, June 3 to 7

Shaharit	6:30 am
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Erev Shabbat

Friday, June 7th

Shaharit	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim	6:45 pm
Minha & Arbit	7:00 pm
Candle Lighting.....	7:44 pm

PARASHAT SHELAH

Torah Portion in Bamidbar 623 to 634
Haftara in Yehoshua/Joshua 635 to 637

Congratulations

Lauren Partiyeli
& David Rahmani
on your engagement

Mazal Tov
to our members, Lauren's parents
Abner and Jaleh Partiyeli

Congratulations

Miriam & Dan Ironi
on the birth of your daughter
Olivia Eli Ironi

Mazal Tov
to great-grandfather Manachi Kemareh
Grandparents Merna Ironi and
Fereshteh & David Kohansedgh

Congratulations

Dr. Michael & Laura Kooby
on the birth of your daughter
Gabrielle Liora

Mazal Tov to grandparents
Yvonne Sheeri Kooby
Dr. Ellis Kooby and
Hayim & Julie Abulafia

Mayfair House
Kahal Joseph and Mayfair
House Los Angeles present
an exclusive Spring 2013 collection by
internationally renowned artist Michael
Aram. One of a kind gift pieces fabulously
priced for our members. Please see the
showcase in our synagogue lobby and select
those pieces that you fall in love with.



Congratulate Your Graduate!

Summer is just around the corner, and the end of the school year is almost here. We are preparing our graduation issue of the newsletter. Send the name of your graduate, photo, school, and degree by Sunday, June 2nd for our special issue! Email information & jpegs (750kb max) to dafna@kahaljoseph.org

Refuah Shlemah

Yocheved bat Rachel, Mazal bat Malka, Dan Herdoon, Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana, Moshe ben Ezra, Sasson ben Rahel/Sassoon Moses, Penina bat Henia, Dov Ber ben Sonia, Maurice Ovadia / Moshe ben Noosha, Prina bat Esther, Vera Levi Yossef ben Jamila, Ruth bat Aliza

Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored in memory of

Daniel Rojhani, z"l

by
The Rojhani Family
& The Shaaya Family

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for June 1st to 8th, 2013. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, and attend services the preceding Shabbat.

23 Sivan / Shabbat, June 1st

Salim Kamara *Salim ben Ezra*

24 Sivan / Sunday, June 2nd

Sarah Davoudian *Sara bat David*
Joseph Hakimpour *Yosef ben Meir*
Edith Judah *Esther bat Chana*

26 Sivan / Tuesday, June 4th

Daniel Rojhani
Samha Zelka

George Sassoon *Khadoory Hai ben Ezra*

27 Sivan / Wednesday, June 5th

Abdallah Joseph *Abdallah Faraj Yoseph Isaac*
Maurice Mathalon *Moshe ben Avraham*

28 Sivan / Thursday, June 6th

Aziz Daniel Pourati *Aziz ben Daniel*

29 Sivan / Friday, June 7th

Eric Jacob Jonah *Ezra ben Yaacov*
Abraham Mashaal *Avraham ben Yehezkel*

30 Sivan / Shabbat, June 8th

Ester Meyer *Ester bat Sofi*

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eventually, the beautiful fruits of the land of Israel.

Moshe as a leader encouraged and strengthened the people of Israel, reminding them that in any situation in life, they needed to look at the fruit, the results, at what would be produced by the situation. They needed to remember that the beauty and sweetness of life cannot come without the process of rotting in the ground, without the difficulty and darkness that causes things to sprout and grow, bit by bit. They have to remember that people may need to grow slowly and gather strength before blooming and giving fruit. They have to keep their sense of hope and stay positive.

Unfortunately for the Jewish people, ten of the twelve scouts did not manage to keep this positive outlook. Only the future leader of the Jewish people, Joshua (Yehoshua bin Nun), and

Caleb stood up for the land of Israel and believed that the Jewish people would be able to overcome its inhabitants and settle there. The other ten lost faith and scared the people, instilled fear in the people, leading to, among other things, our wandering in the desert for 40 years before finally reaching Israel.

This brings us to the second lesson of Parashat Shelah, which is a commentary on leadership. A leader is supposed to encourage those around him. As a leader, a person should always strengthen others and give them support in hard times.

Moshe was often frustrated with Am Yisrael, the people of Israel. Yet most of the time, even as he felt challenged by the people, he remained empathetic and had compassion for them. He kept in mind who they were and took into account what they were going through. He was guided by his love for them, even in their worst moments, such as when they worshipped the Golden Calf.

We as parents, business people, volunteers, and community leaders who are in positions of authority need to remember this. As leaders, we should always encourage others who are experiencing a time of difficulty. When our children, our employees, or the

communities we serve complain, we have to look past the negative. We must encourage them; we must give them strength and hope.

When they despair the most, when they are ready to give up, we have to remind them to keep their eye on the fruit that will grow in the future. We have to help them remember the beauty that can come from these difficult times. Then, with Hashem's help, they may emerge into the light, just as the seed grows up and pushes out of the earth. Shabbat Shalom



David S. Kelly Youth Choir Summer Break

The Youth Choir is on vacation!
We will resume on August 25th. We thank our kids, our parents, our devoted volunteers, and Rabbi Batzri who all put so much into this program to make it great. Enjoy your summer!

Thank You
to the Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph
& Elsa Singman for producing this wonderful event

The Sisterhood of the Kahal Joseph Congregation
Presents
A NIGHT IN INDIA
Dinner & Dancing
Sunday, June 2 at 6:30 PM

VISITING SCHOLAR SERIES

KAHAL JOSEPH CONGREGATION



UCLA Professor Lev Hakak

Reading & Booksigning
with a Musical Program of Piyutim & Oboe
Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 7:00 pm

Fascinating stories, theories & readings from works of modern Jewish Iraqi literature.

• **A musical program of Iraqi piyutim & virtuoso oboe**

• **Complimentary copies of Dr. Hakak's book Equivocal Dreams: Studies in Modern Hebrew Literature**

For decades, it was presumed that Near Eastern Jews did not produce secular, Modern Hebrew Literature that could be incorporated into the history of Hebrew Literature. Most research on Modern Hebrew Literature focused on works produced in Europe.

However, Lev Hakak, a Professor of Hebrew Language and Literature at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), undertook the challenge. He researched the blossoming of Modern Hebrew creativity in Babylon, now known as Iraq, during the years 1735-1950.

While he did discover Hebrew books published during this period in Babylonia that focused upon religious law, homiletic interpretation of the Bible, commentaries and liturgical poetry, he also unearthed volumes of Hebrew poetry, newspaper and magazine periodicals, literary anthologies and academic books.

Sharing his discoveries, Professor Hakak published five books describing Hebrew culture in Babylon during the two centuries leading to the Modern period: *Budding of Modern Hebrew Creativity in Babylon* (Hebrew, 2003); *The Collected Essays of Rabbi Shelomo Bekhor Hutsin* (Hebrew, 2005); *A Pious Man Faces Sinners - The Book of Moral Reproof by Ezra Habavli* (Hebrew, 2008); *The Emergence of Modern Hebrew Creativity in Babylon, 1735-1850* (English, 2009); *Beneath the Sugarcoating: The Voice of Mirth by Sasson Mordekhai Mosheh* (Hebrew, 2012).

A selection of books will be available for purchase & signing.

**Tuesday
June 18, 2013**

**7:00 pm
Errol Levi Social Hall**

KAHAL JOSEPH CONGREGATION

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