

KOL MEVASSER

Leadership of Compassion

Rabbi Bradley Artson, AJU

We live in an age that is afraid of compassion. During election season, our politicians compete with each other to demonstrate who is tougher, more hard-nosed, and less willing to make exceptions because of extenuating circumstances.

In race after race, politicians declare that they are more willing to sentence convicts to death, to stand tough against foreign enemies and to battle assertively to get their way. In our personal lives as well, we admire firmness, decisiveness and strength. We reward those postures of power and firmness whenever we can. The last epithet a politician would want associated with his or her name is "compassionate." No one wants to be a wimp.

How striking, then, that 'compassionate' is one of the names Jewish tradition applies to the supreme leader, to God. El Rahum ve-hanun -- God of compassion and mercy -- seems a remnant of an earlier time: a kinder, gentler somewhere else.

Today's Torah portion reveals Moses in a similar light. Faced with the most threatening rebellion of his entire leadership, we expect Moses to react the way most powerful men would to an insubordination. We expect hardness, perhaps even ruthlessness, as Moses reasserts his control over a dangerous insubordination.

We know, from elsewhere in the Torah, that Moses is a man of tremendous passion and force. This is certainly an instance where we might expect him to lash out. Instead, Moses expresses repeated concern for the rebels themselves. Rather than punishing them immediately, he engages in a series of maneuvers to postpone the inevitable clash, hoping all the while that Korach and his followers will back down.

Instead of calling upon God immediately, Moses first summons two of the leaders of the revolt, Datan and Aviram, hoping that their obedience to his call would demonstrate a willingness to renew their loyalty to Moses and to God. When they refuse to come, Moses again postpones the public contest, saying only that "come morning, the Lord will make known who is His."

The Torah records that when first faced with the rebels, Moses "fell upon his face." Rashi understands this to mean that he was dismayed that they would yet again rebel against God. He notes that this is the fourth rebellion -- following the Golden Calf, the murmuring and the recalcitrant spies. Three times, Moses intervenes with God to overlook the rebellion, but now, at the rebellion of Korach, his hands sank down.

This may be compared to a prince who sinned against his father, and the councilor conciliated his father for him once, twice and three times. But when he offended the fourth time, there sank down the hands of the councilor, for he said,

(Continued on page 2)

KJ Schedule

Korah

Erev Shabbat

Friday, June 19th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ... 6:30 am
Minha / Arvit..... 6:30 pm
Candle Lighting 7:50 pm

Shabbat

Saturday, June 20th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ... 8:30 am
Women's Tehillim Group 7:00 pm
Minha & Arvit..... 7:00 pm
Havdalla..... 8:58 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, June 21st

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 7:30 am

Weekdays

Monday to Friday June 22 to 26

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am

Erev Shabbat / Friday, June 26th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ... 6:30 am
Minha / Arvit..... 6:30 pm
Candle Lighting 7:51 pm

Torah & Haftara Readings

Bamidbar / Numbers
Parashat Korah 639 to 648
Haftara /from Prophets
Shmuel A /Samuel I 649 to 651

Shabbat Shalom U'Mevorach

*Wishing you and your family a
Peaceful & Joyful Shabbat*

(Continued from page 1)

"How long can I impose upon the king? Perhaps he will no longer accept advocacy from me!"

Rashi's Midrash, taken from Midrash Tanhuma, illustrates a powerful mode of leadership not often accepted by our contemporaries. Rather than lash out, Moses demonstrates sufficient confidence in his own leadership to try to re-establish a connection with his enemies. Rather than simply use force to impose his will, Moses makes the effort to persuade, to discuss, to negotiate. In our own time, when men are praised for their ability to impose their will, to "get things done," and women are condemned for being "too emotional," the compassionate efforts of Moses can encourage us to examine a higher level of interpersonal accommodation and understanding.

Power need not only be the ability to use force, the might to impose will. Perhaps the ultimate power, as our Rabbis understood so well, was the ability to control our own inner drives, to hold them in check, and to occasionally rise above them.

In the world of international politics, no less than in the world of friendship, family and love, taking the time to persuade, to explain and to educate can produce results whose depth and degree can far surpass a begrudging acquiescence to force.

Don't you agree?

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in honor of
the birthdays of

Noa Tzipora Rahmany and
Georgina & Leora Tabibi

by The Rahmany, Tabibi and
Partiyeli Families

Mazal Tov

Rabbi David & Lauren Rahmany
Orly & Carlo Tabibi and
The Partiyeli Family

on the birthdays of
Noa Tzipora, Georgina and Leora
and on the joy of celebrating
these family smachot together



KJ Women's

Tehillim

*Join our wonderful group of
women as we gather to read the
Psalms and pray for those in
our community*

Shabbat Day @ 7:00 pm

Refuah Shlemah

Abe Abraham • Moselle Amron
Sylvia Cohen • Esther Duke
Sassoon Ezra • Tilda Levy
Maurice Ovadia

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries
June 20 to 27, 2015. It is customary to light a
memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend
Shabbat services.

3 Tammuz / Shabbat, June 20th

Joseph Moses *Yosef ben Aharon Moshe*
Habibollah Rokhsar *Habib ben Mordecai*

4 Tammuz / Sunday, June 21st

Aaron Saul Levy *Aharon Shaul Levi*

6 Tammuz / Tuesday, June 23rd

Eliyahu Irani *Eliyahu ben Moshe*

8 Tammuz / Thursday, June 25th

Isaac Shamsi *Izthak ben Shemuel*

10 Tammuz / Shabbat, June 27th

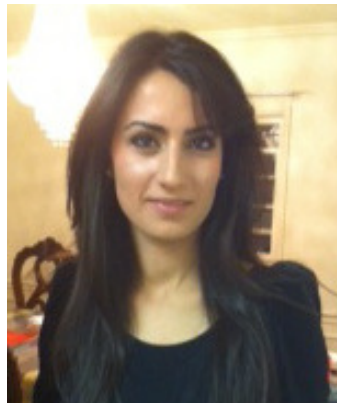
Khanbaba Pouladian *Itzhak ben Avraham*
Hatoon bat Haviva

Condolences to the Family of Rostame Eliassi, z"l

We send our condolences to the family and
friends of Rostame Eliassi, z"l, father of our
member, Behrouz Eliassi and his siblings
Cyrus, Kouroush, and Mehry, on their loss.
*May Hashem comfort them together with all
the mourners of Tzion.*

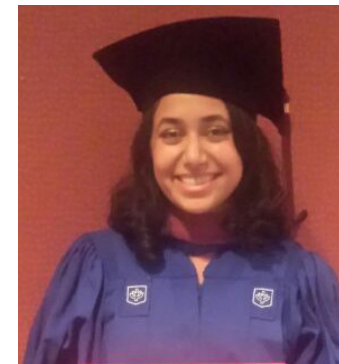
Congratulations to the Class of 2015

We congratulate all members of the Class of 2015 on reaching this milestone in your lives. We wish you joy, peace, fulfillment and satisfaction in your future endeavors, and look forward to seeing you flourish and succeed. May you recognize and thank those who have supported, nurtured and brought you to this moment and may you share your newly acquired skills and accomplishments with the communities you choose to join. Mazal Tov to you, your friends, and dear families as you celebrate!



Mastaneh Haykani
Loma Linda University

Mastaneh Haykani, the daughter of Bijan Haykani, graduated from Loma Linda University this month with a degree as a Physician's Assistant



Doreen Sayegh
De Paul University

Doreen Sayegh, daughter of Nira and Pinhas Sayegh, graduated with Distinction from Goodman School of Drama, The Theatre School at De Paul University in Chicago with a Master's Degree in Arts Leadership



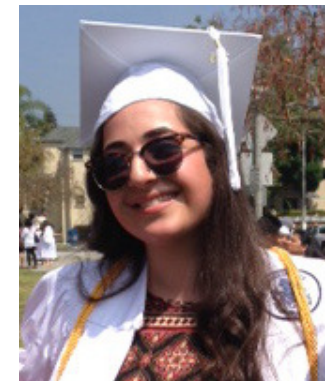
Rebecca Hannah Benest
University of California, San Diego

Granddaughter of Ruby and Joe Samuels, Rebecca Hannah Benest graduated from UC San Diego, Magna Cum Laude, with Honors & Distinction in her chosen Major in International Studies, emphasis in Sociology; a Major in Linguistic Studies, as well as a Minor in Religious Studies



Claire Samuels
Bowling Green High School

Granddaughter of Ruby and Joe Samuels, Claire Samuels graduated with Honors from Bowling Green High School. In the Fall of 2015 she plans to attend Center College in Danville, Kentucky.



Andrea Tal Shahrabani
Beverly Hills High School

Daughter of Edna and Ronny Shahrabani, Andrea graduated from Beverly Hills High School on May 29, 2015

Norma & Sam Dabby Jewish Education Center

KJ Kids Talmud Torah & Sunday School

*Nurture Creativity
Celebrate, Explore & Inspire
Share Friends & Community*

***Drama, Music, Art
Jewish History
Hebrew for Prayer
Shabbat & Holidays
Games & Fun
Torah & Tefillah***

*First Day of Class is Sunday, August 16th
To register or for information contact Dafna at
dafnayoung@gmail.com or call 310-502-8548*

