

KOL MEVASSER

A Message from Rabbi

Dear Members and Friends of Kahal Joseph, shalom ubrakhah!

A great deal has transpired in my short time here with you. We have celebrated a full Tishre of holidays together, as well as bar mitzvahs, weddings, beritot milah, and semahot of every kind. We have also seen several of our stalwart members go on to the Next World, and commemorated their lives as a community as we supported their families and friends through their losses.

During the highs and lows of this period, we have been featuring the writings of my colleagues in the Kol Mevasser, and I am particularly grateful to Rabbis Marc Angel and Nathan Lopes Cardozo for filling in. Now, I am excited to be able to introduce my own weekly feature in our newsletter, which will appear in these pages from now on.

Each week starting with this Shabbat, I will share some of the teachings of the Sefer Ben Ish Hai by our Haham, Ribbi Yosef Hayyim (Baghdad, 1834-1909). In its current form, the book is designed to pair the study of orah hayim (Jewish ritual law) with parashat hashabua (the weekly cycle of Torah readings). That way, as we move through the cycle of parashiyot, so too will we re-

mind ourselves of the rhythms of Jewish daily life and holidays. The Sefer Ben Ish Hai also contains notations and tidbits about Jewish practice in Baghdad, which is why it has a reputation as being the “Baghdadi answer to the Kitsur Shulhan Arukh,” a work of similar content and purpose by Rabbi Shlomo Ganzfried (Ungvar, 1804-1886).

Each week, I will take one or two thoughts from among his larger remarks and add an extra reflection or twist of my own. Since this is the first week, I will draw inspiration not from the main text, but from the introduction by Yeshua ben-David Salim, devoted publisher of the Haham’s works.

Salim writes that when the Sefer Ben Ish Hai first came out in 1898, it was much shorter than intended because Ribbi Yosef Hayyim was impeded by financial and practical obstacles to the printing process. The Haham dreamed of a huge work – so fat that it would have filled several volumes – which would have featured his full sermons on the Torah and Haftarat, and a much richer treatment of the halakhic material that would be divided across two annual study cycles. However, because he could not afford it, he published a much smaller work containing only some sermons, nothing on the Haftarat, and a radically abridged treatment of halakhah for the two cycles.

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KJ Schedule Parashat Chaye Sarah

Please Note:

The end of Daylight Savings Time makes all evening services one hour earlier

Ereb Shabbat

Friday, November 6th

Minha 4:30 pm
Candle Lighting 4:38 pm
 Arbit / Kabbalat Shabbat 5:00 pm

Yom Shabbat / Shabbat Day

Saturday, November 7th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer 8:30 am
 Keri'at HaTorah 10:15 am
 Hakhrizat Kislev 11:15 am
 Musaf 11:30 am
 Minhah & Women's Tehillim.... 4:30 pm
 Se'udah Shelisheet 5:00 pm
 Arbit 5:30 pm
 Habdallah 5:40 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, November 8th

Shaharit 7:30 am
 Talmud Torah 10:00 am

Monday to Wednesday, Nov. 9 to 11

Shaharit 6:25 am

Rosh Hodesh Kislev

Thursday & Friday, November 12 & 13

Shaharit 6:15 am

Ereb Shabbat/Friday, November 13th

Minha 4:30 pm
Candle Lighting 4:32 pm
 Arbit / Kabbalat Shabbat 5:00 pm

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Yet even this modest version was wildly popular, and the book was intensely sought after within a short amount of time. Meanwhile, the Haham's persistence would eventually pay off, so that we can now enjoy most of the missing material in separate works including Od Yosef Hai, Mekabtsiel, Benayahu, Ben Yehoyada, and Birkat Hayim. Indeed, so much was published that modern editions of Sefer Ben Ish Hai only contain the halakhic material since the sermons can now be read at much more length in these titles.

To me this provides a powerful inspiration for how to respond to the great challenges of life. Just as the Haham did, we may one day find ourselves in a position where we have worked very hard on something without being able to enjoy the fruits of our labors in the manner we would have liked. Instead of shutting down and getting discouraged, we might consider accepting something imperfect, which could be just good enough for us to carry on and be happy. And who knows – a positive attitude might keep us fueled and moving on to the day when we could follow through on our dreams more completely.

Regardless of whether this last step ever materializes, an attitude of practicality would at least give us something to show for our efforts even though it isn't exactly what we wanted. Perhaps that could free

us from the paralysis that comes with "making the perfect the enemy of the good," bringing more joy and fulfillment into our lives.

May all of the desires of our hearts be fulfilled for good in the can-do spirit of Haham Yosef Hayim!

Torah & Haftarah Readings
Parashat Chaye Sarah in Hertz edition
From Beresheet/ Genesis pp 80-89
Haftarah Kings I /Melachim Alef pp 90-92

Norma & Sam Dabby Jewish Education Center

KJ Talmud Torah & Sunday School

Friends
Creativity Jewish
Learning

To enroll or for
information contact
Mrs. Hanna Elkouby
Talmud Torah Director
424-283-0893



In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries November 7 to 14, 2015. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend Shabbat services.

25 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 7th

Charles A. Lelah *Salah ben Aharon*

27 Heshvan / Monday, November 9th

Sumner Blank

Yehoshua Moshi *Yehoshua ben Moshe*
Nissim Rahamim Yaacov

28 Heshvan / Tuesday, November 10th

Moshe Bebe *Moshe ben Khadoori*

Ezekiel Howard *Yehezkel Howard*

Lulu Masliah *Lulu bat Salha*

Samuel Joseph Zechariah *Shmoel ben Yoseph*

29 Heshvan / Wednesday, November 11th

Shaul Haim Nuriel *Shaul ben Haim*

Mary Saleh

1 Kislev / Thursday, November 12th

William Ekaireb *Shaya ben Ezra Sion*

Abraham Isaac *Avraham ben Eliyahu Yitzhak*

Joe Hai Joseph *Yoseph Hai ben Itzhak Yoseph*

Henry Zekaria *Yehezkel ben Sion*

2 Kislev / Friday, November 13th

Doron Ironi *Doron ben Yosef*

Victoria Kadosh *Victoria bat Reuben*

Ralph Nathan *Raphael ben Mordechai*

Aziza *bat Farha*

Ezekiel Ezra Reuben *Yehezkel ben Reuven Dloomy*

3 Kislev / Shabbat, November 14th

Rebecca Benbeniste *Rivka bat Dudu*

Rachel Jacob *Rahel bat Salha Mattana*

Refuah Shlemah

Abe Abraham • Moselle Amron • Sylvia Cohen
Mordechai Cohen • Esther Duke • Sassoon Ezra
Miriam bat Yetta • Tilda Levy • Maurice Ovadia