**12 December 2015** 

### KOL MEVASSER

### Rebbetzin's Message

Jessica Melhado on dreams and hope

In Mikets, we continue the story of Joseph, starting with Pharaoh's dreams and ending when the brothers come to Egypt to get food due to the famine. Joseph's dreams from last week are part of what motivated his siblings to want to get rid of him. By contrast, Pharaoh's dreams this week are the mechanism by which Joseph, his family, and all of Egypt are saved.

When Pharaoh calls for Joseph, he is clearly having a crisis. These dreams are plaguing him so much that he gets a man out of prison to help him interpret. It might seem obvious to us — of course fat cows being eaten by thin cows and limp corn eating robust corn must mean famine! But Pharaoh didn't have the advantage of already knowing the outcome. Perhaps the cows meant that strong Egypt was to be taken over by a weaker enemy? Joseph resolves the crisis for Pharaoh, and God's interpretation resonates so much for Pharaoh that he puts Joseph in charge of making sure Egypt survives the next fourteen years.

Although Joseph was there to help Pharaoh, sometimes it can be an internal insight that can solve a crisis. The midrash says that Adam Ha-Rishon (the first man) celebrated the first Hanukkah festival because he realized that the days were getting longer again after slowly getting shorter through the fall. He had no real

knowledge to confirm that the sun would continue to return. Perhaps it was just a fluke, and in a few days the light would go back to getting shorter. Most people would have likely not realized that this was a moment to thank God until much later, when the outcome was fully known. Adam HaRishon was likely blessed both by amazing faith and an internal understanding or prophecy beyond that of a normal person. (See *Abodah Zarah* 8a)

Life can feel very dark when dreams are delayed or deferred, or even become impossible. Two years ago, at Hanukkah, I was beginning to feel as though my dreams were going nowhere. We had been trying to have a baby for almost two years, a harrowing experience that made me feel as though we were somehow being punished for wanting something that should be normal and easily attainable. Not only that, while on vacation with family, we got word that Bettyrose, the woman who had been like a grandmother to me since I was ten years old, had died suddenly from the complications of a broken hip. There was no way to get home in time to get to the funeral, and in her death, another dream had died. I had held in my heart a desire to bring a beautiful baby for her to meet, just as I had been able to introduce her to my future husband and have her dance at our wedding. Our struggle with infertility seemed to have taken another dream from us.

(Continued on page 3)

### **Parashat Mikets**

Hanukkah VI, Rosh Hodesh Tebet
T: Gen. 41:1-44:17, Num. 28:9-15, 7:42-47
Hertz 155, 695, 599; Stone 222, 890, 768
H: Zach. 2:14-4:7, Is. 66:1, 66:23
Hertz 987, 944/47; Stone 1210, 1208/10

Tefillot: Mashib Haruah, Ya'aleh VeYabo Al Hanisim, full Hallel, Musaf R"H

### **KJ Schedule**

### Hanukkah, Ereb Shabbat & Ereb Rosh Hodesh Tebet

### Yom Shabbat, Hanukkah Rosh Hodesh Tebet

(Continued on page 2)

### Seudah Shelisheet

is sponsored in memory of Baruch Iraj ben Yaacov, z"l

> by The Partiyeli Family

### Congratulations

Kahal Joseph wishes
Penny Melhado Mazal Tov
on the special occasion of
her first birthday
May her parents always enjoy
happiness from her as she grows

### **Congratulations**

Kahal Joseph wishes
Senior Hazzan Sassoon Ezra
Mazal Tov on the occasion of
his birthday. We honor him for
over five decades of devoted
service to Kahal Joseph

### Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored by

Rabbi Raif & Jessica Melhado in honor of their daughter Penny's Birthday

&

Louise Nathan & Sunny Sassoon in memory of their father

Jack Sassoon, z"l

### KJ Schedule (continued)

### Hanukkah

Hallakkall
8th Night—Sunday, December 13th
Shaharit
Talmud Torah10:00 am
Sisterhood Children's Party 11:00am
Westwood Synagogues Party 5:00-8:00 pm
Hanukkah Candle Lightingafter 5:30 pm
Oth Day Manday Dagambar 1 1th

### 8th Day—Monday, December 14th Shaharit .......6:15 am

### Weekdays

### **Ereb Shabbat**

Friday, December 18th	
Shaharit	.6:30 am
Minha	.4:30 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting	4:28 pm
Arbit / Kabbalat Shabbat	.5:00 pm

### In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from December 12 to 19, 2015. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

- 1 Tebet / Sunday, December 13th
  Saul Mizrahie Shaul ben Eliyahu Mordechai
  Jack Sassoon Yaacov Yoseph ben Sassoon
  Victoria Saul
  - 2 Tebet / Monday, December 14th David ben Ezra
- 3 Tebet / Tuesday, December 15th Isaac Jacob Itzhak ben Yaakov Vicky Messiah Rahma Victoria bat Khatoon
  - **4 Tebet / Wednesday, December 16th** Seemah Meyer *Simha bat Aziza*
- 5 Tebet / Thursday, December 17th
  Mida Judah Masooda bat Dina
  Esther Sales Esther HaMalka bat Rivka
  Elisha Samuel Elisha ben Sassoon Shmuel
  Hacham

**6 Tebet / Friday, December 18th**Raquel Emquies *Rahel bat Clare Levy*Salem Kooby

7 Tebet / Shabbat, December 19th Eliezer David Levy Eliezer ben David HaLevy

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

> > Shabbat Shalom Happy Hanukkah! Hodesh Tob

(continued from page 1)

As we were grappling with how to continue the vacation, a strange thing started happening. We suddenly started seeing rainbows in every direction, multiple times a day, spanning the sky. Despite having vacationed in that exact same spot for fifteen years, we had maybe seen one or two other rainbows. and certainly never multiple or even multiple at once! In a guiet corner of my heart, I acknowledged the small voice that was saying that this was a sign. In Jewish tradition, rainbows symbolize the covenant between God and Noah, that God will never destroy the Earth again. It seemed like maybe all of these rainbows were meant to reassure us that the story was not over yet. Although Bettyrose had died, there was still enough to build more dreams on

Four months later, we found out I was pregnant, and just a few days shy of Bettyrose's first yahrzeit, our daughter was born. Penny's full name, Penina, which means "pearl," was chosen in part to honor the classy style of Bettyrose, who dearly loved her pearls. In hindsight, as we prepare to celebrate Penny's first birthday, I can identify that moment when we heard of Bettyrose's death might have been the low-point in our journey. We did not have a Joseph in our lives to make it completely clear, nor were we as confident as Adam that things were going to work out exactly as we hoped. Rather, we found a glimmer of light in the symbol of the rainbow, and we were beyond grateful when things worked out.

Every life is touched with darkness and struggle, dreams deferred, delayed and

even seemingly impossible. Hanukkah is focused on light – both the act of lighting candles and the fact that we increase the candles each night. Every year, I anticipate the last night, when the hanukkiah blazes with all nine candles lit. It is the iconic image of Hanukkah. As we celebrate Shabbat Hanukkah, and our daughter Penny, it is my new dream that we all find hope and peace, even if it just a whisper, a rainbow in the sky or a small voice telling us to move forward, as well as the wisdom to realize when things are good, and when a dream has been achieved.

Happy Hanukkah!

Rebbetzin Melhado can be reached at <u>jessica@kahaljoseph.org</u>

The Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph

invites the children of our community to a



### **Hanukkah Celebration**

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 11:00 am

featuring wonderful entertainment



### Clown & Balloon Art Amazing Magician

Sweets & Treats for the Children & Fun for the Whole Family

**RSVP** Requested by Dec. 11th

Elsa at 323.934.3439 Louise 818.884.0120 Hannie 310.247.0220



Norma & Sam Dabby Jewish Education Center

KJ Talmud Torah & Sunday School

Friends Creativity
Jewish Learning

For information contact
Mrs. Hanna Elkouby, Director
424-283-0893

### Lighting the Hanukkah Lamp – Sephardi Instructions Kahal Joseph Congregation, 5776 Rabbi Raif Melhado

The purpose of lighting the Hanukkah lamp is to publicize the miracle of the oil, which burned for eight days when there was only enough for one day. This miracle is also a symbol of Jewish culture's "drive to survive" against all odds. Hence, we light our lamps in a place and time that passersby will be likely to see them and be reminded of these themes.

The Talmud declares that "the commandment of Hanukkah applies from sunset until there are no wayfarers in the street." (Shabbat 21b) Because of the uncertainty about what "sunset" means in Judaism, there is a dispute about whether the Talmud is telling us to light from the beginning of sheki'ah (sunset) or from tset hakokhabim (when three stars of medium brightness are visible in the sky). The Ben Ish Hai, an important codifier of Iraqi customs, calls for us to light at tset hakokhabim. Rabbi Yosef Caro, the author of the premier work of Jewish law, rules that if there is no alternative, one may light as early as pelag haminhah (the final period of daylight). Similarly, if one missed the end of the preferred time entirely, the lamp can be lit as long as it is still night. (BIH, Hanukkah 7; SA, OH 672:1-2)

It is the custom among many Sephardim to light exactly one lamp per household regardless of the number of people living there. By contrast, Ashkenazim light one lamp per family member, even including children under the age of majority.

Ideally, a Hanukkah lamp should be placed just outside a doorway that faces the street, on the side of the door opposite the mezuzah. However, because this can be unsafe or impossible for many people, the prevalent custom is to simply place it in a location where it would be most likely to be witnessed by others.

We light the lamp after it has been placed in the location where it will burn, using candles or oil capable of burning for half an hour or more. Because the lights can only be used to publicize the miracle, we light one extra candle called a *shamash* (Syrians have two *shamashim*).

On the first night, we say all three blessings, and thereafter, we say the first two only. If one missed the first night, the third blessing can be said on the first night that a properly lit Hanukkah lamp is encountered. We light the candles directly after saying the blessings, and begin reading hanerot halalu immediately after lighting the first candle.

The candles are assembled from right to left as we face the Hanukkah lamp. Hence, only the rightmost candle is lit on the first night, the rightmost two on the second night, and so on. However, the direction of lighting goes from left to right, i.e., from the newest candle to the oldest. Those who have a family tradition of lighting the other direction may do so, since it is validated in several medieval and early modern sources.

On Friday evening, the Hanukkah lamp must be lit before sunset, and many opinions also hold that it must be lit before the Shabbat candles. On Saturday evening, Habdalah must be read before lighting the Hanukkah lamp. Some synagogues allow lighting the Hanukkah lamp first on Saturday evening during the service because of atah honantanu (the Habdalah that is read in the amidah). (BIH, Hanukkah 21)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה'. אֶ־לֹהֵינוּ מָלֶךְ הָעוֹלְם. אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשְׁנוּ בְּמָצְוֹתְיו. וְצַוְּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר חַגְּבָּה: bah-ROOKH ah-TAH ah-doh-NAI eh-lo-HEY-nu MEH-lekh hah-oh-LAHM ah-SHER kee-deh-SHAH-nu beh-meets-voh-TAHV veh-tsi-VAH-nu leh-hahd-LEEK NER hah-nu-KAH

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who has sanctified us with His commandments, and ordained that we kindle the Hanukkah light.

בָּרוֹךְ אַמָּה ה'. אֶ־לֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלְם. שֶׁעֶשֶׂה נְפִּים לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ. בַּיָמִים הָהַם בַּזְּמֵן הַזְּה: bah-ROOKH ah-TAH ah-doh-NAI eh-lo-HEY-nu MEH-lekh hah-oh-LAHM sheh- ah-SAH nee-SEEM lah-ah-vo-TEY-nu bah-yah-MEEM hah-HEM bah-zeh-MAHN hah-ZEH

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who has performed miracles for our forefathers, in the days of old and in this season.

בָּרוֹךְ אַמָה ה'. אֶ־לֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלְם. שֶׁהָחֲיָנוּ. וְקִיְמְנוּ. וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַוְּמֵן הַזְּה hah-ROOKH ah-TAH ah-doh-NAI eh-lo-HEY-nu MEH-lekh hah-oh-LAHM sheh-heh-heh-YAH-nu veh-kee-yeh-MAH-nu ve-hee-gee-AH-nu lah-zeh-MAHN hah-ZEH Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who has given us life and sustained us, and brought us to this happy occasion.

הַבּרוֹת הַלְּלוּ אֲנַחָנוּ מַדְלִיקִין. עַל הַנָּסִים. וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת. וְעַל הַנְּפְלָאוֹת. שְׁעֲשִׁיתְ לָאֲבוֹתֵינוּ. עַל יְדֵי כֹּהְנִיךְ הַקְּדוֹשִׁים: וְכָל־שְׁמוֹנַת יְמֵי חָנֻכָּה הַבַּרוֹת הַלְלוּ קֹדְשׁ. וְאֵין לְנוּ רְשׁוּת לְהִשְׁתַּמֵשׁ בָּהָם. אָלָא לְרְאוֹמָם בִּלְּכָד. כְּדֵי לְהוֹדוֹת לְשְׁמֶךְ. עַל נְסִיךְ. וְנִפָּלְאוֹמִיךְ. וִישׁוּעוֹמִיךְ:

hah-neh-ROT hah-LAH-lu ah-NA<u>H</u>-nu mad-lee-KEEN AL hah-nee-SEEM veh-AL hah-nee-Iah-OHT sheh-ah-SEE-tah lah-ah-voh-TEY-nu AL yeh-DEY koh-hah-NEH-kha hah-keh-doh-SHEEM veh-KHOL sheh-moh-NAHT yeh-MEY <u>h</u>ah-nu-KAH hah-neh-ROT hah-LAH-lu KOH-desh veh-EN LAH-nu reh-SHOOT leh-heesh-tah-MESH bah-HEM EH-la leer-oh-TAHM beel-VAHD keh-DEY leh-hoh-DOT leesh-MEH-kha AL nee-SEH-kha veh-neef-leh-oh-TEH-kha vee-shu-oh-TEH-kha

We kindle these lights to mark the miracles, salvation, and wondrous deeds that You did for our forefathers through Your holy Kohanim. For all eight days of Hanukkah, these lights are sacred, and we are not permitted to use them, but rather only to look at them so as to give thanks to Your name for your miracles, wondrous deeds, and salvation.

### Psalm 30

(1) A Psalm of David, a Song at the Dedication of the Temple. (2) I will extol You. O Lord, for You raised me up. and did not let my enemies rejoice over me. (3) O Lord my God, I cried to You, and You healed me. (4) O Lord, You שַׁרְעַתִּי אַלִיךָ וַתְרְפָאַנִי: (ד) ה' הַעַלִּיתָ מָן שָׁאוֹל brought up my soul from the netherworld; You kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit. (5) Sing praises to the Lord, righteous ones, and give thanks to His holy name. (6) For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but joy comes in the morning, (7) I had said in my security: 'I will never falter! (8) In Your favor You established my mountain as a stronghold; you hid Your face and I was afraid. (ש) I called to you O Lord, and made supplication to my ק'רָד ה' אַקרָא רוֹנִי אַתְחַנָּךְ: (י) מָלִידָּ ה' אַקרָא God: (10) What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You?! Will it declare Your truth?! (מ) שׁמַע ה' וֹחַנַנִי ה' הָיָה עוֹר לִי: Your truth?! (מ) שׁמַע ה' וֹחַנַנִי ה' הָיָה עוֹר לִי: Lord, be my helper! (12) You turned my mourning into dancing; You loosened my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness (13) So that my glory may sing praise to You, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever!

(א) מזמור שיר חנכת הבית לדוד: (ב) ארוממה ה' כּי דליתני וַלֹא שֹּמחַתּ אֹיָבי לי: (ג) ה' אַ־לֹהָי נַפָּשִׁי חָיִּיתַנִי מָיָרְדִי בוֹר: מוֹ זַמָּרוּ לַה' סַסִידְיוּ והודו לוַכֶר קַדְשׁוֹ: מוּ כִּי רַגַע בָּאַפּוֹ חַיִּים בַּרצוֹנוֹ בַּעַרב יַלִּין בַּכִי וַלְבֹּקר רָנָה: מּ וַאַנִי אַמַרתִּי בַּשַׁלְוִי בַּל אַמּוֹט לְעוֹלָם: מוּ בַּרְצוֹנָדְּ הַעֲמַדְמָה לְהַרָרִי עוֹ הְסְתַּרְתָּ פָנֶיךְּ הָיִיתִי נִבְקָל: בָּצַע בָּדָמִי בָּרִדְתִּי אָל שְׁחַת הַיוֹדְךְּ עָפָר הָיַגִּיד (יב) הפכת מספדי למחול לי פתחת שקי ותאזרני שִׂמֹחָה: (יג) למַצַן יוַמַּרְדָּ כָבוֹד וַלֹא יִדֹּם ה' אַ־לֹהִי לְעוֹלֵם אוֹדָב:

### Ma'oz Tsur

Rock of my salvation! It is pleasant to sing Your praises. Restore my house of prayer, and there we will give thanks. When You will have completed the barking foe's demise, Then we will sing a psalm of the altar's dedication.

My soul was sated with misery, my strength spent with grief. They soured my life with hardship when enslaved in Egypt. But God took out His treasured people with a mighty hand, While Pharaoh's entire host sank like a stone into the deep.

He brought me to His holy abode, yet I found no rest there. The oppressor exiled me because I served strange gods, And drank of their cup. Yet scarcely had I gone into exile, When Babylon fell, and within seventy years I was saved!

Haman ben Hamedata plotted to cut Mordecai down, But it proved a snare to him, and his insolence was silenced. You raised the Jews' heads and erased the enemy's name; And hanged his many sons and household upon the gallows.

The Greeks gathered against me, in days of the Hasmoneans. They broke my towers' walls, and defiled all the oils. But from the last flask a miracle was wrought for the Jews! Hence the Sages ordained these eight days for joyful song.

O bare Your holy arm and hasten the time of salvation. Wreak vengeance on the evil nation for Your servants. For salvation is long delayed; the evil days are endless. Push them to the shadows, and set up our deliverance!

מַעוֹז צוּר יִשׁוּעָתִי. לְדְּ נָאַה לְשַׁבַּחַ: מַבּוֹן בַּית מִפַּלְתִי. וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נָזָבַחָ: לְצַת מָּכִין מַסְבַּחַ. מִצֶּר הַמְנַבַּחַ: אַז אָגָמֹר בָּשִּׁיר מִזְמוֹר. חַגָּכַּת הַמִּזְבַּחַ:

רעות שבעה נפשי. ביגון כחי כלה: חַיַּי מַררוּ בָקשִׁי. בַּשִּׁעבּוּד מַלְכוּת עגלָה: וּבַיַדוֹ הנָּדוֹלָה. הוֹציא אַת הסגלַה: חיל פַרעה וכָל זַרעוֹ. יָרְדוּ כָּאָכָן בָּמצוּלָה:

דָבִיר קָדְשׁוֹ הָבִיאַנִי. וְגָם שָׁם לֹא שַׁקַטְתִּי: וּבַא נוֹגַשֹּׁ וְהָגַלְנִי. כִּי זַרִים עַבַדְתִּי: ויין רעל מסכתי. כמעם שעברתי: קַץ בָּבֶל זַרָבָּבָל. לְקַץ שָׁבָעִים נוֹשַׁעְתִּי:

בָּרוֹת קוֹמַת בָּרוֹשׁ בִּקַשׁ. אַנְגִי בָּן הַמְּדָתָא: ונָהַיָּמָה לוֹ לְפַח וּלְמוֹקַשׁ. וְגַאַוְתוֹ נָשׁבַּמָה: ראש ימיני נשאת. נאויב שמו מחית: רֹב בָּנְיו וְקִנְיָנָיו. עַל הָעַץ מַלִּים:

יַנְנִים נָקָבָּצוּ עָלַי. אַזִי בִּימֵי חַשְׁמַנִּים: וּפָרצוּ חוֹמוֹת מָגַדְלַי. וְטָמָאוּ כָּל הַשְּׁמָנִים: ומנותר קנקנים. נעשה נס לשושנים: בָּנֵי בִינָה יָמֵי שׁמוֹנָה. קַבְעוּ שִׁיר וּרְנָנִים:

סשוף זרוע קדשף. וקרב קץ הישועה: נָקֹם נָקְמַת עַבָּדִיךָ. מַאַמָּה הָרְשַׁעָה: כִּי אַרְכָה הַשְּׁעָה. וְאַין קַץ לִימֵי הָרְעָה: דָחָה אַדְמוֹן בָּצֵל צַלְמוֹן. הָקָם לְנוּ רוֹעִים שָׁבַעָה:



### Eight Days of Lights!

Celebrate Hanukkah with K!

Hanukkah Weekdays—Special Hanukkah Shaharit Friday, December 11 & Monday, December 14 - 6:15 AM Sunday, December 13 at 7:30 AM

Join us each morning as we read shaharit with Hallel, do a special Torah reading, & light the menorah to celebrate the miracle of Hanukkah

Day 6 - Saturday, December 12—Shabbat Hanukkah Kiddush We will have a special Hanukkah kiddush, sponsored by Rabbi Melhado & family in honor of Penny's first birthday, and by Louise Nathan & Sunny Sassoon in memory of their father, Jack Sassoon.

> Day 7 - Sunday, December 13-Parties! Talmud Torah Hanukkah Party, 10:00 AM Raffles, prizes, food & surprises!

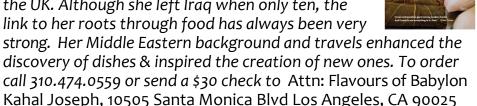
Sisterhood Hanukkah Celebration, 11:00 AM Clown & balloon art! Magician! Sweets and treats for the children! It'll be fun for the whole family. RSVP by Dec 11th

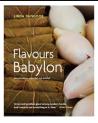
Westwood Synagogues Hannkkah Block Party, 5:00 PM-8:00 PM In front of the Westwood Jewish Center -

Westwood Ave. and Massachusetts. Join us for a DJ, food and menorah lighting, with friends from all of the Westwood-area synagogues.

### Flavors of Babylon

\$30, 2nd ed., Reserve a Copy Linda Dangoor was born in Baghdad and settled in the UK. Although she left Iraq when only ten, the link to her roots through food has always been very





# LIGHT UP THE WORLD A SMALL CANDLE CAN DISPEL A LOT OF DARKNESS



### Celebration Traino

Sunday General, Mr. Matthieu Clo French Deputy Consul

Councilman Paul Koretz

## December 13th, 5:00-8:00 PM

### 1651 Westwood Blyd

Street Closure on Westwood & Massachusetts Blvd

- Food for purchase
- Moonbounce

•Grand Menorah Lighting

Live Music

- •Dancing Free admission
- For more info (310) 312-5617



Kahal Joseph congregation