

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message Babies Then & Babies Now

Parashat Tazria begins with a tiny chapter on the laws of childbirth. A mere eight verses long, it is the shortest chapter in all of Sefer Vayikra, and appears almost as an afterthought between two much larger topics on spiritual purity.

The text of this chapter has challenged many commentators in the ancient world and today, and we can appreciate why this would be when we examine the details:

When a woman gives birth to a boy, she becomes *teme'ah* (*ritually* impure, which has nothing to do with physical purity or cleanliness) for a week. The *berit mila* is done on the 8th day, and the mother waits 33 more days including that day until she can bring sacrifices and become *tehorah* (ritually pure).

But when she gives birth to a girl, she waits for two weeks plus 66 extra days, for a total of 80 days instead of 40. And although the period of ritual impurity is doubled, the sacrifices are the same: a lamb as a burnt offering and a dove as a sin offering.

Due to space limitations, let us focus on the time difference between boys and girls. Many of the explanations that I have read of this have justified it by pointing to a qualitative difference between men and women. The harsh side interprets the doubled *tum'ah* for girls as a reflection of their lower socio-economic status, while the kindly side reads it as evidence of their higher spiritual status.

This focus on "who is better" is not appealing to some people, which is why I really enjoyed finding a quote from Midrash Tadshe this week that brings a



completely new angle from the Story of Creation: In Sefer Bereshit, Adam was created outside the Garden of Eden and then placed there alone. It was only after God recognized that he had no companion that He went back and made Eve out of some of Adam's body parts. This leads the Midrash to conclude that it took twice as long for Eve to get to the Garden of Eden as it did for Adam.

Applying this to the laws of childbirth, the Midrash is telling us that we should be reminded of the way that humankind first came into the world whenever a new baby is born in our own time. Since our tradition recognizes a fetus as a distinct entity after 40 days, this is how long the mother of a boy waits before going to the Mikdash, which is the closest thing we had to the Garden. And if it took Eve twice as long to get to the Garden, then this is reflected in the doubled period of 80 days that the mother of a girl waits before going to the Mikdash.

I am attracted to this message because Judaism constantly pushes us to look back on where we came from. It is so humbling to be unable to answer the question "who are you?" without having to first talk about someone else besides ourselves. That is the true message of Pesah, when God tells us that without the hard work of past generations, the successes of our own lives would have been impossible.

As I write the rabbi's message this week, I am happy to share that this topic is more than just a theoretical exercise to me. Yesterday, Jessica returned from the doctor with the wonderful news that we are reaching the end of her first trimester of a new pregnancy! After it took so many years to get our Penny, we are so humbled to be working on the newest member of Kahal Joseph. We hope and pray that you will all get to meet him or her around Sukkot, *besha'a toba umutslahat*.

Parashat Tazri'a

Shabbat Rosh Hodesh /Hahodesh

T: Lev 12:1–13:59, Num 28:9-15, Ex 12:1-20

Hertz 460, 695, 253; Stone 608, 890, 348

H: Ezek. 45:18–46:15, Is. 66:1, 66:23

Hertz 1002, 944; Stone 1218, 1208

Tefillot: Mashib Haruah, Ya'ale Veyabo,

Half Hallel, Musaf R"H

KJ Schedule

Ereb Shabbat & Ereb Rosh Hodesh Nisan

Friday, April 8th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Minha..... 6:45 pm

Shabbat Candle Lighting 7:01 pm

Arbit / Kabbalat Shabbat.... 7:15 pm

Yom Shabbat & Rosh Hodesh Nisan

Saturday, April 9th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer.. 8:30 am

Keri'at HaTorah 10:15 am

Musaf 11:30 am

Minha..... 6:15 pm

Se'uda Shelisheet..... 7:00 pm

**Guest Speakers, Simcha Salach
and Brig General Yaron Rosen**

Arbit 7:50 pm

Habdala 8:06 pm

(Continued on page 2)

Class with the Rabbi *Pesah in the Modern Kitchen*

**Thursday, April 14th at
7:30 pm Location TBA**



All are welcome, from singles and professionals to young families to those with many Passovers under their belts.

The rituals and restrictions of Pesah developed in a pre-industrialized world where the pace of life was slower, food spoiled faster, and the level of property ownership that is normal today was outside the reach of common people. As we map the traditions of Pesah onto our glistening modern lives, there is much more to know but also many new conveniences that our ancestors might only have dreamed of. Join Rabbi Melhado for a discussion of some of the main issues that come up in experience of Pesah in modern life. Come to learn something new, ask your own questions and hear how this resonates with your peers. RSVP to RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org

Passover Maot Hittim Food Donations Requested

Amude HaShalom Soup Kitchen in the Pico / La Cienega area provides daily hot nutritious meals to Jewish needy families and food boxes for the holidays. The Soup Kitchen is seeking donations for Passover.

Please call Ifat at 323-449-8184 or visit their website at www.amude-hashalom.com

KJ Schedule (continued)

Weekdays

Sunday, April 10th

Shaharit..... 7:30 am
Talmud Torah 10:00 am

Monday to Friday, April 11 to 15

Shaharit 6:25 am

Ereb Shabbat / Friday, April 15th

Shaharit 6:25 am
Minha 6:45 pm

Shabbat Candle Lighting 7:06 pm

Arbit / Kabbalat Shabbat 7:15 pm

Condolences

for Family of Gamra Dallal, z"l

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Gamra Dallal, z"l, mother of our member, Mark Dallal. Our condolences go to her family, especially her children Edmond, Frank, Mark, Dan and Del; and her granddaughters Dahlia & Tracy on their loss. May Hashem comfort them together with all the mourners of Tzion

Condolences

for Family of Ellen Bell, z"l

Ellen Bell, z"l, sister of our dear member, Karen Dabby, passed away peacefully a few months ago on December 18, 2015, following a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. Ellen, z"l was a pioneer in the field of working with autistic children, and edited scholarly books on the subject. She is survived by her loving sons, Steven and Jeffrey; her sister, Karen Dabby; her sister-in-law, Phyllis Loeb; and many nieces and nephews. May Hashem comfort them together with all the mourners of Tzion.

In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from April 9 to 16, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

1 Nisan / Shabbat, April 9th

Lotfollah Nassi

Clara Saltoon *Gazala bat Ester*

Sydique Charlie Zakoo *Sadik Salah ben Ezra Zakoo Halevi*

2 Nisan / Sunday, April 10th

Sharlo Benbeniste *Shlomo ben Moshe*

Aaron Yosef Eliyahu *Aharon Yosef Eliyahu ben Amouna*

Sarina Levy *Sara bat Khatoon*

3 Nisan / Monday, April 11th

Hilwa Farha Ezair *Hilwa Farha bat Tiffahah*

Jalal Kohan

Naim Sassoon *Naim ben Sasson*

4 Nisan / Tuesday, April 12th

Sammy Dallal

5 Nisan / Wednesday, April 13th

Moshe Somekh *Moshe ben Shemuel*

6 Nisan / Thursday, April 14th

Mordechai ben Mattatya

Edmond Somekh *Edmond ben Moshe*

8 Nisan / Shabbat, April 16th

Ada Ezra *Ada bat Mindel Okin*

Carolyn Frances Ezra *Carolyn Frances bat Norman*

Ezra Sayegh

Allan Norman Steiner *Alexander Nahum ben Mordechai*

Refuah Shelemah

Abe Abraham • Moselle Amron

Sally Amron • Tilda Levy • Esther Duke

Mordechai Cohen • Sylvia Cohen • Lev Hakak

Maurice Ovadia • Florice Newberry

Doris Moshi • Miriam bat Yetta • Sassoon Ezra



Interactive Family Haggadah

Sunday, April 17 @ 12 pm

Kids, parents & grandparents, join us for an interactive presentation of the Passover story with something for toddlers through grade schoolers.

Enjoy a delicious lunch, and make a craft to use at your seder! Email Jessica at Jessica@kahaljoseph.org for more information or to RSVP



Guest Hazan, Jack Hobb Shabbat Hagadol, April 15th-16th and on the last days of Pesah, April 28th-30th

Hazan Jack Hobb is an LA native from a Sephardi family with deep roots in the city. He is named after his grandfather Jack, who helped start the Maimonides / Sephardic Hebrew Academy and was a vital part of Congregation Magen David at its old location on Vista. Hazan Hobb grew up with the Yerushalmi Sephardic melodies and is having fun rediscovering his Syrian musical heritage, including the Maqamat which he studied with his East Coast family and Rabbi Ariel Ovadia. He has been a reader and bar mitzvah tutor for the past decade, making the circuit around several area Sephardi synagogues for Shabbatot, semahot, and the High Holy Days.

- ◆ We look forward to welcoming him to Kahal Joseph next week for Shabbat Hagadol (April 15th-16th). Come for Friday night or Shabbat morning for the opportunity to hear a rising young hazan.
- ◆ He will also be joining us again for the last days of Pesah (April 28th-30th), giving us several more times to enjoy his many talents.

Mommy & Me

starting Thursday, April 14!



Kahal Joseph and PlayCreations Kids are thrilled to announce *Mommy and Me* classes starting in two weeks on Thursday, April 14 in the Kahal Joseph playroom. Each class will start with 30 minutes of music, instruments, scarves, and parachute time, followed by a sensory art project, like finger painting or edible sand. Each class is divided into age groups, and is carefully thought out to engage all five senses, and encourage development of motor and language skills.

Eight sessions, starting this Thursday, April 14th

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - 6 months to 1 year

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM - 1 year to 18 months

Cost: \$215 for 8 weeks

Classes are limited in size, so register early! To register or for more information, contact Jessica at jessica@kahaljoseph.org or 217.972.8993. Information about PlayCreation Kids is available at playcreationkids.com

FIDF Event for Yom Hazikaron

Tuesday, May 10th 2016
Saban Theatre

FIDF (Friends of Israel Defense Forces) in partnership with Temple of the Arts, the Wiesenthal Center and Moriah Films will be hosting the 2nd annual Yom Hazikaron Community Wide Night of Remembrance at the Saban Theatre. Kahal Joseph Congregation, along with dozens of different schools, shuls and organizations will be joining together as community partners for this event. We encourage you to attend in honor of those who have defended the Jewish people throughout the ages.



Rabbi Raif Melhado,
Rabbi Daniel Bouskila, and
Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph
invite all members & friends

Memouna Celebration

*Sunday, May 1st at 7 o'clock in the evening
in the Errol Levi Social Hall*

*Come enjoy a delightful evening of music, food,
friendship and fun with your community.*

\$18 per person Please RSVP to Sarah at 310.474.0559

Seder Matching :)

Hosting?

If you are planning on hosting a seder, please consider offering even just one space at the meal.

Email Jessica@kahaljoseph.org to let Jessica know you'd like some guests!

Ready to be Hosted?

If you would like to be hosted for a seder, email Jessica at Jessica@kahaljoseph.org.



Kashering and Seder Planning

Kashering your house and need some advice?
Specific question about a food? Need some seder tips?
Rabbi Melhado would love to answer your questions and give you resources. Contact him at
rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org or 310.474.0559.

This Shabbat at KJ!
Guest Speakers at
Seudah Shlisheet

Brigadier General
Yaron Rosen

with

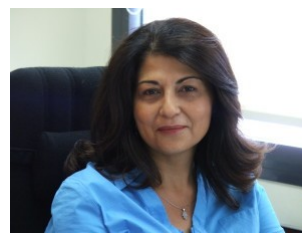
Simcha Salach

IAFC Foundation Director



7:00 pm on Shabbat Day, April 9th 2016

Brigadier General Yaron Rosen was born in Israel in 1967. He graduated from the Israel Air Force Academy as a helicopter fighter pilot and has taken part in many missions ranging from Special Ops in the 1st and 2nd Gulf Wars to Operation Protective Edge in 2014. Since 2013 he has been the Air Support & Helicopter Air Division Commander responsible for all helicopter operations and training, and reporting directly to the IAF Commander. Recently, Brig. General Rosen was appointed IDF Cyber Command Chief of Staff.



Ms. Simcha Salach was born in Israel to parents who immigrated from Iraq. Following military service, she studied at Tel Aviv University and holds a Masters degree in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Prior to becoming the Executive Director of the IAF Center Foundation, she was Managing Director of the Yad Vashem Foundation.

Sephardic Educational Center
presents

**Sephardic Passover
Seminar 2016**
with Rabbi Daniel Bouskila

Featuring intriguing insights for your Seder
from classic Sephardic commentators...
plus a review of traditional
Sephardic Passover customs.

Monday, April 11, 2016 at 7:00 pm
Jewish Federation Building
6505 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90048

NO CHARGE, but RSVP A MUST!!
To reserve, email info@secjerusalem.org
or call Katie at (323) 272-4574



Shabbat Shalom U'Meborakh & Hodesh Tov

USC

university of southern california
casdeninstitute
for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life

The USC Casden Institute,
The Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles, and
The UCLA Center for Jewish Studies

Present

The 2016
Burton Lewis Lecture

*Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews in America:
Diverse Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Perspectives*



A Discussion Moderated by
Dr. Saba Soomekh
Associate Director of Research at the
UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies
with Featured Panelists

Rabbi Daniel Bouskila >
International Director of the
Sephardic Educational Center



Jessica Marglin
Ruth Ziegler Early Career Chair in Jewish Studies
and Assistant Professor of Religion at USC

Gina Nahai >
Best-selling Iranian-American author
and frequent lecturer
on Middle-East politics



Shula Nazarian
Founder, Shulamit Nazarian Gallery,
specializing in contemporary Middle Eastern art

David Suissa >
President of Tribe Media/Jewish Journal.
2014 Winner, First Prize for Editorial Writing
by the Jewish Press Association



Sunday, April 17, 2016

Dessert Reception 6:15 – 7 PM
Panel Discussion 7 – 8:30 PM

Sinai Temple, 10400 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California
Free Admission – Free Onsite Parking

Reservations Required – RSVP Please respond by April 10
online at usc.edu/esvp (code: lewislecture) or by telephone 213.740.1744

USC Dornsife
Dana and David Dornsife
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

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SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE MAURICE ANASTO FOUNDATION

Kahal Joseph congratulates the Jews of Curacao on 284 years of continuous Jewish life in their synagogue.

