

# KOL MEBASSER

## Rabbi's Message

Truly this is a week full of blessings! We began it with the sanctification of the moon last Motsa'e Shabbat, when we read these encouraging words from our liturgy:

### ***Keshem she'anu merakedim***

***kenegdekh*** – “Even if we were to spring forward towards you, O moon, we could not touch you. So too may God cause that if others spring forward against us with ill intent, they will not be able to touch us!”

After making this fond request, we spent the next few days engaged with the blessings that emerge from our Parasha. No matter how Balak tries to enlist Bilam's help in cursing the Jews, God arranges it so that the Israelites come out even better than when they started. No expense is too lavish, no equipment too difficult to find, no location too remote to stand in the way of Balak's evil design, yet still God's will dominates the story to our benefit.

The crowning moment of this narrative is Bilam's third blessing of “*Ma tobu ohalekha Ya'akob*” – *how goodly are your tents O Jacob*. The special nature of this famous benediction is even written into the very way that we make the Torah Scrolls. I mentioned last week that most of our Sefarim commence all but a handful of columns with the letter Vav, and one of these



very rare exceptions is the Mem of *Ma Tobu*. Thus, even in scrolls where tremendous intellectual energy went into the elevation of the Vav, this blessing gets pride of place at the top for all to see.

On these holy words that look down from above, the Midrash Yelamedenu comments: “Earthly Tents are better than Heavenly Tents. For the Heavenly tents are the source of great failure among mankind: see how many people worship the sun, moon, and stars! Yet the Earthly Tents are so holy that you cannot find a person who would enter into a synagogue and sin.”

This too reminds me of the blessings of last Shabbat, when Michael Amron spoke so movingly of his gratitude at being able to have an honored place in our communal life at the age of 96! When we spread the Tallet over him and Rabbi Bouskila blessed him with the Birkat Kohanim, I saw the inverse of a heart-warming scene from Shabuot when Mordy Cohen blessed the children with the same berakha under a similar tallet canopy. The first was a scene of the founding generation blessing the generation of his grandchildren, while the second was nearly the mirror image: a younger man showing respect to a beloved elder.

Surely this is a fulfillment of the Midrash above: when our synagogue is so full of communal love and serious worship of God, how deeply we feel the power of the Earthly Tents! *Ma tobu ohalekha Ya'akob!*

## Parashat Balak

Torah: Num. 22:2–25:9, 104 Pesukim  
Hertz 669–682; Stone 856–875  
Haftara: Mic. 5:6–6:8  
Hertz 682–685; Stone 1189–1190  
Tefillot: Morid Hatal, Hakhrazat Hatsom

## KJ Schedule

### Ereb Shabbat

Friday, July 22nd

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am  
**Shabbat Candle Lighting ... 7:43 pm**  
Minha ..... 6:30 pm

### Yom Shabbat

Saturday, July 23rd

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ..... 8:30 am  
Keri'at HaTorah ..... 10:15 am  
Musaf ..... 11:30 am

Women's Tehillim ..... 5:30 pm  
Minha ..... 7:00 pm  
Se'uda Shelisheet ..... 7:45 pm  
Arbit ..... 8:30 pm  
Habdala ..... 8:45 pm

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## Shiba Asar Betamuz

The 17th of Tamuz commemorates several tragic moments in the history of the Jewish people. In our collective memory, it is best known as the day that the walls of Jerusalem fell in the year 70, in the siege that ended with the destruction of the Bet Hamikdash only 3 weeks later on the 9th of Ab.

The day is one of four “minor fasts” that are observed during the daylight hours only. Because it falls on Shabbat this year, it will be observed on Sunday, July 24th.

## KJ Schedule

(continued)

### Shiba Asar Betamuz

**17th of Tamuz**

*Sunday, July 24th*

Fast Begins ..... 4:33 am  
Shaharit..... 7:30 am

Minha w/Torah & Birkat Kohanim. 7:15 pm  
Arbit ..... 8:20 pm  
Fast Ends (earliest for Sephardim) 8:25 pm  
Fast Ends (those who can wait) ... 8:43 pm

### Weekdays

*Monday, July 25th to Friday, July 29th*  
Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

### Ereb Shabbat

*Friday, July 29th*

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am  
**Shabbat Candle Lighting..... 7:38 pm**  
Minha ..... 6:30 pm

## Thank You

Kahal Joseph extends a warm *hazak ubarukh* to the volunteer crew who helped organize the Talmud Torah classrooms and supplies last Sunday! Five hours well spent will make the new year start on a great foot.



Barukh Isaac  
Jessica Melhado  
Rabbi Melhado  
Roya Najibi  
Elizabeth Sarabia  
Joshua Sarabia  
Yuhlianna Sarabia



Anita Wozniak  
Danny Wozniak  
Eden Wozniak  
Yoni Wozniak  
David Wyner

**Shabbat Shalom U/Meborakh**

## In Memoriam

We remember yearzeit anniversaries from July 23 to 30, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

**17 Tammuz / Shabbat, July 23rd**

*Abdallah Ezra Abdallah ben Ezra Itzhak*

**18 Tammuz / Sunday, July 24th**

*Naamat Zelkha Naamat ben Simha*

**20 Tammuz / Tuesday, July 26th**

*Rachel Pourati Rahel bat Leah Nahid*

**22 Tammuz / Thursday, July 28th**

*Abraham Shamash Abraham ben Eliyahu*

**23 Tammuz / Monday, July 29th**

*Shalom Jacob Yaacov Shalom ben Yeshaiah  
Lulu Farha Zekaria*

**24 Tammuz / Shabbat, July 30th**

*Aaron David Aharon David ben Avraham Haim  
Elias Joseph Eliyahu ben Yitzhak*

## Refua Shelema

Abe Abraham • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron • Haskell Avrahami • Sylvia Cohen  
Mordechai Cohen • Esther Duke • Sassoon Ezra • Lev Hakak • Yoel Iny • Tilda Levy  
Doris Moshi • Florice Newberry • Maurice Ovadia • Gracie Tizabi • Katie bat Farha  
Miriam bat Yetta • Aliza bat Victoria

## Upcoming Fast Day: Tisha B'Ab / 9th of Ab

from Motsa'e Shabbat, August 13th to  
nightfall on Sunday, August 14th

## Women's Tehillim Group

5:45 pm Saturday  
before Mincha



Thanks to our member Miriam Shadi, the tehillim group is getting new life. Join your fellow Kahal Joseph sisters for community, **coffee & snacks** and reciting the Book of Psalms.

All women are welcome to participate, and whoever arrives first is invited to say the Yehi Ratson & begin reading. When more arrive, we can share the text until we have finished all 150 Psalms. What a great spiritual lift on Shabbat!



*Miranda Einy in peaceful  
contemplation at the Kotel*



Norma & Sam Dabby  
Jewish Education Center

**ENROLL NOW!**  
**Talmud Torah**

Classes Begin  
Sunday, August 21st

**Nurture Create Celebrate Explore Inspire Share**

*Call 310.474.0559 for registration or information*

**MOMMY & ME**



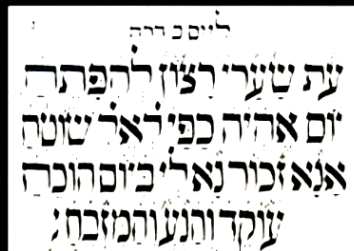
Join ongoing sessions of Mommy & Me in partnership with PlayCreations Kids!

**Regular Class on Thursdays**, Babies (12 m -18 m), 11:30 am-12:30 pm

**Shabbat Classes on Fridays** Babies (12m—18m), 10:00 am-11:00 am  
Toddlers (18m—2.5 years) 11:30 am-12:30 pm

For questions or to register contact [Jessica@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:Jessica@kahaljoseph.org)





RABBI MELHADO'S NEW CLASS

# YOU'VE GOT THE "RITE" STUFF, BABY

## PRAYERS OF THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

Our daily prayers are a beautiful ceremony on their own, but for 40 days a year we really bump them up to the next level for the High Holy Days.

This deepens the spiritual force of our tefilla, but it is a lot to handle for worshipers who only see these special texts once a year.

Want to know the meaning of the prayers? Have questions? Join Rabbi Melhado for a 5-session mini series on Wednesday evenings in September!

Aug 31: Structure of the Daily Tefillot  
Sep 07: The Sephardic Selihot  
Sep 14: Rosh Hashana  
Sep 21: Yom Kippur  
Sep 28: Comparison to Ashkenazim

**KAHAL JOSEPH CONGREGATION**

**10505 SANTA MONICA BLVD**

**310.474.0559**

**kahaljoseph.org**

## Preserve a Piece of Kahal Joseph Heritage

*A Special  
Opportunity  
to Do a Mitzva*



A collector of rare Judaica recently passed away in New York, and his family sold his entire library to Rabbi Melhado's favorite Jewish book dealer, who is now offering them for sale.

For a limited time only, there are about 30 unique printings available from **Calcutta, Bombay, and Baghdad**, many of which are scarce and difficult to find at any price.

If you want to take advantage of this special, tax-deductible opportunity to help Kahal Joseph rescue some of these items to treasure as part of our cultural heritage, contact Rabbi Melhado, who can arrange a discounted rate from the seller.