

KOL MEBASSER

Rabbi's Message

Zekhor Hashem meh haya lanu – oy! Remember, O God, what befell us – o woe!

The words from the classic lament for the 9th of Ab hovered in my ear as I read a doleful editorial in Ha'aretz by Drs. Hasia Diner and Marjorie Feld.

It pained me to see their piece including judgmental sentences like *"I feel a sense of repulsion when I enter a synagogue in front of which the congregation has planted a sign reading, 'We Stand With Israel'"* (Diner), or *"I saw that that Israel fit neatly into my broader understanding of Western colonialism"* (Feld).

No ideology can be implemented perfectly in the physical world, which means that a loving criticism of the project of Zionism could help refine it and make it better. Yet not only is this editorial embittered and harsh, it appears more calculated to discredit Israel than to do it any good.

Habita ur'e et herpatenu – oy meh haya lanu! Look and behold our chagrin – o woe for what befell us!

The timing of the piece naturally evoked comparisons with the destruction of the Temple, which spoke to me even though an attack on Zionism is not the same thing as the loss of Judaism's holiest site. In this week's special Haftara to prepare



for Tisha Be'ab, the climactic verse (Jer. 2:13) offers an analysis of Bene Yisrael's faults that would seem to apply to the Ha'aretz piece:

Ki shtayim ra'ot asa ami – "My people have committed two ills: they have forsaken Me, the Fountain of Living Waters; and they have hewed out broken cisterns that can hold no water." If we apply this to the editorial, its authors can be said to have forsaken Zionism, a reasonable font of Jewish national identity, and replaced it with arguments that offer no alternate means of addressing the problems for which Israel was dreamed up as a solution.

To the first point, they claim that their status as professional historians gives them a special burden to comment on the major issues facing the Jewish people, even if they are "shaking the foundations" of a cherished ideology. That might be, but a call to upend a cornerstone of our peoplehood should be done only when the methodology on which it is based is rock solid. I have read some of Dr. Diner's work with interest, and even quoted her in at least one sermon this past year. Would this week's editorial withstand the kind of professional review that her excellent book on American Holocaust commemoration had to undergo before publication?

To the second point, a focus on tangible alternatives would have provoked a richer discussion than the present piece. If Drs. Diner and Feld are disenchanted with Zionism, could they say why in a way that spells out the specific issues?

(Continued on page 2)

Parashat Matot/Mas'e

2nd Week of Rebuke; End of Debarim

Torah: Num. 30:2–36:13, 244 Pesukim

Hertz 702–724; Stone 900–935

Haftara: Jer. 2:4–28, 4:1–2

Hertz 725–729; Stone 1193–1194

Tefillot: Morid Hatal

KJ Schedule

Ereb Shabbat

Friday, August 5th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Shabbat Candle Lighting ... 7:31 pm

Minha 6:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, August 6th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer 8:30 am

Keri'at HaTorah 10:15 am

Musaf 11:30 am

Women's Tehillim 5:15 pm

Minha 6:45 pm

Se'uda Shelisheet 7:30 pm

Arbit 8:20 pm

Habdala 8:34 pm

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Could they offer a prescription for what would win back their hearts? Or, if they are too far gone, could they more deeply evaluate the historical and political context that created the Israel we know today?

The Haftara concludes with a call to return from the path that was criticized in the verse I quoted above. Drs. Diner and Feld likely still have noteworthy contributions to make to our communal discourse. I'm looking forward to seeing them come back to a forgiving tone that uses positive modeling of the future they imagine.



Thank You

Kahal Joseph extends a warm *hazak ubarukh* to the volunteer crew who helped with a second round of organization for the Talmud Torah last Sunday! Another five productive hours has doubled the storage capacity of the Talmud Torah office.

Barukh Isaac & Rita Zakoo
Jessica & Rabbi Melhado
Anita Wozniak
David Wyner

KJ Schedule (continued)

Weekdays

Sunday, August 7th

Shaharit.....7:30 am

Monday to Friday, August 8th to 12th

Shaharit6:25 am

Ereb Shabbat

Friday, August 12th

Shaharit6:25 am

Shabbat Candle Lighting 7:24 pm

Minha6:30 pm

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 Minha



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!

In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from August 6 to 13, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

2 Ab / Shabbat, August 6th

Shlomo Dallal • Shimon Sarraf

3 Ab / Sunday, August 7th

Hilda Naway *Habiba bat Lulu*

David Stoler

4 Ab / Monday, August 8th

Sylvia Aboulafia *Sylvia bat Miriam*
Yaakov Kemareh *Yaakov ben Ezra*

5 Ab / Tuesday, August 9th

Rev Albert Morris *Abdala Faraj ben Moshe*

6 Ab / Wednesday, August 10th

Eric Morris *Itzhak Rahamim ben Abdullah Moshe*

7 Ab / Thursday, August 11th

Suzanne Azincott

Jacob Ronen Hakak *Yaacov Ronen ben Lev*
Looloo Khazzoom

8 Ab / Friday, August 12th

Albert Jacob *Abdullah ben Avraham Hayim*
Sally Meyer Judah *Salha bat Aziza*

9 Ab / Shabbat, August 13th

Alice Acoca *Alice bat Esther*
Aziza Jacob *Aziza bat Farha*
Amalia Mussry *Amalia bat Rahel*
Mary Nathan *Mariam bat Bolisa*

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
Albert Nissan • Maurice Ovadia
Gracie Tizabi • Katie bat Farha
Miriam bat Yetta • Aliza bat Victoria

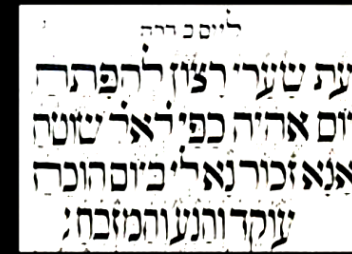


Tell Your Story for the History Books

Did you grow up in North Africa or the Middle East? Do you remember going to a French school called the Alliance Israélite Universelle?

If the answer to both of these questions is “yes,” then this is your chance to leave your personal mark on the history books! Dr. Nadia Malinovich, a professional historian of French Jewry, wants to interview people who were educated in the Alliance school system in Arab lands. To volunteer, or to recommend your friends and colleagues from these schools, you can email her directly at nmalinovich@gmail.com

For more information on the Alliance, see Aaron Rodrigue’s *French Jews, Turkish Jews: The Alliance Israélite Universelle and the Politics of Jewish Schooling in Turkey 1860-1925* or Michael Laskier’s *The Alliance Israélite Universelle and the Jewish Communities of Morocco, 1862-1962*.



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



New Round of Mommy & Me starts in September

Heard great things about our Mommy & Me programs?

Missed out on the last ones?

Don't worry - we are now accepting registration for a new set of courses starting in September!

There is regular Mommy & Me on Thursdays and Shabbat-themed Mommy & Me on Fridays. For both, there are separate groups for babies (12-18 mo) and toddlers (18 mo - 2.5 yr). The price is \$225 for an 8 week course, and members get \$10 off the Shabbat course. To register, contact Jessica@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.