

# KOL MEBASSER

## Rabbi's Message

How could God get us in trouble for asking for something that He commanded us to want? This question stands at the heart of a Midrash on the issue of Jewish kingship that is raised in Parashat Shofetim. Let us explore the problem together:



Now enter the Midrash (Tanaim to Deut 17:14): *“Could it be that [having a Jewish king] is optional? No, for the Torah says, ‘you shall surely set a king over yourself;’ hence we must infer that it is required. Ribbi Yehuda said: because of this verse, it must be a Torah-level mitzva to set up a king over ourselves, but if so then why were they punished at the time of Samuel?”*

The Torah says (Deut. 17:14-15): *“When you come to the land that the Lord your God gives to you... and say ‘I will set a king over myself like all the nations around me,’ you shall surely set a king over yourself whom God will choose for you. You shall set a king over you from among your brethren, and you may not set over yourself a foreigner who is not your brother.”*

That sounds pretty straightforward, but if we jump ahead to when the Israelites actually put this law into practice, God seems to take it very personally. The relevant passage (I Sam. 8) comes at the end of the Prophet Samuel's life, when the people become aware both of his mortality and the unsuitability of his children to replace him as a leader. Their solution is “a king to judge us like all the nations,” but when God learns of this plan, He tells Samuel to “hear the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you but they have rejected Me, that I should not be king over them!” He then proceeds to issue the “Mishpat Hamelekh,” a scathing rebuke of the excesses of kingship that will make the Israelites rue the day they ever asked for a monarch of their own.

Both of the Midrashic answers are intriguing. The first, given by the same Ribbi Yehuda who set up the problem, is that the historical moment was not yet ripe for a king, but the Israelites brazenly pushed God for one anyway to fulfill their misguided sense of their own self-worth. The second, which comes from Ribbi Elazar ben Ribbi Tsadok, is that the Israelite leaders were right to ask for a king at that time, but the everyday people overwhelmed their elders' pure motives with assimilationist dreams of being just like their neighbors.

What both answers share is a theme of contrast between the letter of the law and its spirit. It is one thing to claim credit for following halakha in all of its minutiae, but is this the only thing that makes us “religious” Jews? Of course it is praiseworthy to live up to the technical demands of Judaism, and even one who observes mitzvot thoughtlessly and neutrally has opened the door to himself to one day fulfill them with deep intention. But the Haftara of Yom Kippur (Is. 57:14–58:14) is a powerful reminder that if one observes the ritual mitzvot while contributing to human injustices, the contrast between outward piety and inner corruption does no one any credit. Keeping mitzvot can indeed be our spiritual shield, but if we expect God to look kindly on this, it is our lifelong responsibility to make sure that our motives are pure.

## Parashat Shofetim

### Fourth Week of Consolation

Torah: Deut. 16:18–21:9, 97 Pesukim

Hertz 820–835; Stone 1024–1045

Haftara: Is. 51:12–52:12

Hertz 835–839; Stone 1199–1200

Tefillot: Morid Hatal, Birkat Halebana

## KJ Schedule

### Ereb Shabbat

Friday, September 9th

Selihot.....	5:45 am
Shaharit .....	6:25 am
<b>Shabbat Candle Lighting .....</b>	<b>6:49 pm</b>
Minha .....	6:30 pm

### Yom Shabbat

Saturday, September 10th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .....	8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah .....	10:15 am
Musaf .....	11:30 am
Women's Tehillim.....	right after kiddush
Minha .....	6:15 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet .....	7:00 pm
Arbit .....	7:35 pm
Habdala .....	7:51 pm

(Continued on page 2)

## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in memory of

**Sam Dabby, z"l**

Shimon ben Haskel, z"l

by Karen & Frank Dabby

## Congratulations

**Rabbi Daniel Bouskila**

on the 39th Anniversary of his Bar Mitzva. We thank him for reading the parasha, Shofetim and giving the sermon

## KJ Schedule (continued)

### Weekdays

*Sunday, September 11th*

Selihot .....6:45 am  
Shaharit .....7:30 am

*Monday to Friday, September 12th to 16th*

Selihot .....5:45 am  
Shaharit .....6:25 am

### Next Shabbat

*September 16th-17th*

Friday Selihot .....5:45 am  
Shaharit .....6:25 am

**Shabbat Candle Lighting ..... 6:39 pm**

Friday Minha .....6:30 pm  
Shabbat Minha .....6:00 pm

*Shabbat Shalom Umeborakh*

## In Memoriam

We remember yearzeit anniversaries from September 10 to 17, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

### 7 Elul / Shabbat, September 10th

Yaacov Aboulafia *Yaacov Aboulafia ben Sarah*

### 8 Elul / Sunday, September 11th

Rachel Ezra Jacob *Rahel bat Lulu*

Naji Ezra Helali *Naji ben Avraham*

Clara Mekies *Clara bat Rachel*

Yamin Sassoon *Yamin ben Sassoon*

### 9 Elul / Monday, September 12th

Sam Dabby *Shimon ben Haskel*

Hilda Deborah *Habiba bat Farha*

Rachel Hayim Mingail *Rachel bat Miriam*

### 12 Elul / Thursday, September 15th

Menasseh Saltoon *Menasseh ben Nissim*

### 13 Elul / Friday, September 16th

Isaac Ferris Abraham *Yitzhak Faraj*

Sophie Solomon *Simhah bat Khatoon*

### 14 Elul / Shabbat, September 17th

Nathan Assia

*Haim ben Haim Elazar*

Harry Brook Moses *Haim Baruch ben Moshe*

*Ezra*

## Kahal Joseph Talmud Torah

Norma & Sam Dabby Jewish Education Center

*Introducing for 2016-17 / 5776-5777*

*Mrs. Ziva Zeharya, Talmud Torah Director*



## ENROLL NOW!

Classes Meet Sundays for Ages 4 to 13

**Create Celebrate Explore Inspire Share**

Classes Just Starting for the Year

**EXTENDED HOURS 9:45 am to 12:30 pm**

*Call 310.474.0559 for registration information*



For more information, go to <http://www.kahaljoseph.org/talmud-torah.html>

## Refua Shelema

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



## New Round of Mommy & Me starts in September!

Heard great things about our Mommy & Me programs?  
Missed out on the last ones?

We are now registering for a new set of courses starting in September!

### Mixed Ages Sensory Class, starting September 6th

Tuesdays, 10 - 11 AM, 12 to 18 months

In this class, the babies will interact with a wide variety of ages through sensory play, music and art activities. All activities are geared towards playful sensory and motor skill development.

### Music and Sensory Play Class, starting September 8th

Thursdays, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, 12 to 18 months

Thursdays, 1:15 PM to 2:15 PM, 6 to 12 months

Explore & engage your baby's five senses through new and unique sensory and art activities each week. We will engage in music, instruments, crafts, and more in this creative class!

### Shabbat Mommy & Me, starting September 9th

Fridays, 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM, 18 months to 2.5 years

Fridays, 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM, 12 to 18 months

Join the Shabbat fun with favorite songs and a couple of new ones. We will do new art projects as well as favorite ones, plus a special one for Rosh Hashanah! Each class ends with candle lighting, challah, grape juice and a special blessing for the children!

All classes are \$215 per session per child, special arrangements for multiple classes per week or multiple children. Registration at [www.kahaljoseph.org/mommy-and-me.html](http://www.kahaljoseph.org/mommy-and-me.html). For additional information, contact [Jessica@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:Jessica@kahaljoseph.org)



## Tickets for the High Holy Days

Kahal Joseph welcomes you to celebrate Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur in our beautiful High Holy Day services!

Tickets are available to members and non-members, as are wristbands for the special kids' programming.

### Membership comes with...

- ◆ Two tickets for families
- ◆ One ticket for singles
- ◆ Free tickets (if preregistered) for teens through high school
- ◆ Free wristbands (if preregistered) for children under bar mitsva
- ◆ Favorable rates for members' children in college.

Non-member tickets covering both holidays are available too!

- ◇ \$300 for adults
- ◇ \$150 for children, bar mitsva through college
- ◇ \$50 for children under bar mitsva
- ◇ The cost of non-member tickets can also be applied towards a new membership!

To reserve your tickets, you can either visit [www.kahaljoseph.org/high-holy-days](http://www.kahaljoseph.org/high-holy-days) or call the office at **310-474-0559**. If you'd rather stop by in person, we'd love to see you!



## Women's Tehillim Group Right After Kiddush

Join your Kahal Joseph sisters right after kiddush for community, coffee & tea, 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 will share the text until we have finished all 150 Psalms. What a great spiritual lift on Shabbat!



# High Holy Day Kids' Programming

**REGISTER NOW!**

## Rosh Hashana

Monday, Oct. 2 and Tuesday, Oct. 3, 10AM to 2PM

## Yom Kippur

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 5:30 - 9:30

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 10AM - 2PM, 3:30PM - 7:00PM

Join us this year as your children explore the meaning of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur with creative programming and engaging children's services. Fun snacks and a holiday-themed class from mini yogi round out the new offerings.

**Torah Tots** (1 to 4 yrs) - *Parents welcome, but babysitting also provided*

**Yeladenu** (Pre-K to 2nd) - *Activities, children's service, and snacks*

**Club Noar** (3rd to 6th) - *Activities, children's service, and snacks*

Free for members! \$25 per holiday for non-members!  
EVERYONE must register to get a wristband! Registration forms will be in the ticket mailing OR you can register online at [www.kahaljoseph.org/hhd-kids.html](http://www.kahaljoseph.org/hhd-kids.html)



Questions? Email Jessica at [jessica@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:jessica@kahaljoseph.org).

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## Volunteer with the Kids Program!

Parents, grandparents, younger adults, older adults! Take a break from praying to do another kind of mitzva - helping out with the children's programming. Shifts are as short as 45 minutes, allowing you to both help out and still get to pray. All materials/activities provided, just bring yourself and your enthusiasm.

Please contact Jessica ASAP to volunteer ([jessica@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:jessica@kahaljoseph.org)) or if you'd like to get involved in a more substantial way (planning, coordinating volunteers, etc).

**Come for Dinner  
& Stay to Learn!**  
RSVP by Tuesday



Share Great  
Company & Enjoy  
Good Conversation

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!

- Sep 07: The Sephardic Selihot
- Sep 14: Rosh Hashana
- Sep 21: Yom Kippur
- Sep 28: Comparison to Ashkenazim

All Classes on Wednesday at 7:00 pm

*Dinner Available for \$15 with RSVP by Tuesday*

KAHAL JOSEPH CONGREGATION

10505 SANTA MONICA BLVD

310.474.0559

[kahaljoseph.org](http://kahaljoseph.org)