

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

I have many fond memories of playing “telephone” in my elementary school’s After School Child Care Program (ASCCP). It was always so revealing to see that even with a group of eight or ten kids, we had real difficulty with transmitting a message from ear to ear. By the time it got to the end, there was always at least a small number of alterations, to say nothing of the times that someone deliberately replaced the initial message with something completely different.

This children’s game is reflected to some degree in one of Adam’s first interactions involving both God and Eve in Gan Eden. Before God created Eve, He commanded the then-single Adam: “you may eat from all the trees of the garden, but you may not eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, for on the day you do, you will become mortal” (Gen. 2:16-17).

It was only after this interaction that God made Eve out of Adam’s side, leaving him to explain the *mitsva* to his new wife himself. But when Adam transmitted God’s directive, he changed it just a little bit, telling Eve that God said “you may not eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, *nor may you touch it*, lest you become mortal” (this is evident from how she repeats it to the serpent in Gen. 3:2-3).

According to the Abot Deribbi Natan, a later collection of Midrashim that is often printed in the Talmud with the “Minor Tractates,” it was this misrepresentation of God’s word that caused the young couple to be banished from the garden. Adam’s motives were pure: he wanted to increase the boundary that God gave him for Eve’s sake,

to make it less likely that one of them would break the commandment. However, his delivery was lacking in that he did not explain the difference between his personal, manmade *humra* (stricture) and the actual *mitsva* from God Himself.

The Midrash says that the serpent understood that this failure would give him the opening he needed to get at Eve. Speaking to her for some time, he coaxed her to explain that it was forbidden to touch the tree on pain of death, and then he personally touched it without perishing. In fact, he shook the tree so hard that some of its fruit fell down within Eve’s reach, and when she saw that the second part of Adam’s description of the *mitsva* didn’t come true, she was convinced that there was no reason to worry about the first part either.

The take-home from this Midrash is very powerful, for it lays the blame for our banishment from Gan Eden on Adam rather than Eve. While she may have been the one who committed the first transgression and tempted her husband to follow her, he created the conditions for this by passing on a stricter form of Judaism than the one he was taught without explaining the difference. Had he been honest with her, perhaps she would have been equipped to stand up to the serpent!

In our own, post-Garden era, when we transmit Judaism to those around us, let us make a *tikkun* for Adam’s mistake by explaining what is the core and what is a stricture. While there is no inherent ill to *humra* and even some benefit, we owe it to ourselves to be transparent about the difference between the two.



Parashat Beresheet

Torah: Gen. 1:1–6:8 (§), 146 Pesukim
Hertz 2–20; Stone 2–29
Haftara: Isaiah 42:5–21
Hertz 21–23; Stone 1130
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Hakhrizat
Heshvan (Tue-Wed)

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, October 28th

Shaharit 6:25 am
Candle Lighting 5:45 pm
Minha 5:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit 6:00 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, October 29th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer 8:30 am
Keri’at HaTorah 10:15 am
Musaf 11:45 am
Women’s Tehillim right after kiddush

Minha 5:00 pm
Se’uda Shelisheet 5:45 pm
Arvit 6:35 pm
Havdala 6:48 pm

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Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in honor of

**Shai Elghanian's
Bar Mitsva Anniversary**

by
Sherry, Sam, & Aaron Elghanian
and the Mizrahi Family

Congratulations Shai Elghanian

on your
Bar Mitsva Anniversary

Mazal Tov to
Sherry, Sam, & Aaron Elghanian
and the Mizrahi Family

Congratulations

**Maximus Edwin Jonah
on his Bar Mitsva**

the son of Joy and Michael Jonah.
He will be celebrating his Bar Mitsva
November 3rd at the Kotel in Jerusalem.

Mazal Tov to his grandparents
Mark E. Jonah, Patricia Jonah
& Pauline Leong

Congratulations Rabbi Raif & Jessica Melhado

on the birth of a baby girl
on October 17th

Mazal Tov to sister Penny
grandparents Lee & Evan Melhado
and Bill & Annette Cavanagh

The baby naming will take place
Sunday, October 30th at 2:30 pm

We invite the whole community
to attend [Click here to RSVP](#)

Welcome

to KJ's new member
Joyce Dallal

Daughter of our longtime members
Fortunate and David Dallal, z"l

Congratulations

Naima & Gershon Gannon-Ogara
on the birth of a baby girl

Mazal Tov
Grandmother Joyce Dallal
and the entire family

Congratulations Jenna & Kyle Hermans on the birth of a baby boy Sage Kayden

Mazal Tov
Great Grandfather Saul Levi
Grandparents Michelle & Stan Kurtz
Siblings Leya, Miya & Skye
Uncle Ethan Kurtz
and the entire family

In Memoriam

We remember yearzeit anniversaries from October 29
to November 5, 2016. It is customary to light a memo-
rial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

27 Tishri / Shabbat, October 29th

Abraham Kattan *Abraham ben Eliahu Kattan*

28 Tishri / Sunday, October 30th

Georgina Amron *Girji Hoogi bat Farha*

29 Tishri / Monday, October 31st

Elias Aslan

David Isaac *David ben Eliyahu Itzhak*

Jack Jonah *Yaakov ben Yitzhak*

30 Tishri / Tuesday, November 1st

Irving Patrick Henry *Yitzhak ben Moshe*

1 Heshvan / Wednesday, November 2nd

Nissan Gad *Nissan ben Avraham*

Joseph Aaron Judah *Yoseph ben Aharon Yehudah*

2 Heshvan / Thursday, November 3rd

Ovadia Drori *Ovadia ben Avraham*

Khalil Naghdi *Matatyahou ben Eliyahu*

David ben Yaacov Shalom

3 Heshvan / Friday, November 4th

Yaacov Levy *Yaacov ben Shaul*

Sassoon Solomon *Sassoon Yaacov Yosef Shlomo*

4 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 5th

Sam Bekhor *Shmuel ben Yaacob*

Hilda Gillis *Haviva bat Sarah*

Grace Saltoon *Garziee bat Masouda*

Refua Shelema

Moselle Amron • Sally Amron
Yehezkel Avrahamy • Haskell Avrahami
Sylvia Cohen • Mordechai Cohen • Esther Duke
Sassoon Ezra • Lev Hakak • Yoel Iny • Tilda Levy
Florice Newberry • Maurice Ovadia • Grace Tizabi
• Katie bat Farha • Miriam bat Yetta • Aliza bat
Rahel Aliza bat Victoria • Devora bat Patricia

Shabbat Shalom U'Mevorakh



Celebrate Shabbat at Kahal

One of the best ways to sustain our relationships with friends and loved ones is to celebrate Shabbat together. Uniting to worship God and reconnect after a full week is just the thing to recharge our batteries!

You can personally nourish the joy, peace, and spirit of Shabbat at Kahal by supporting these activities.

- ◆ You can dedicate a se'uda (meal) in honor of a happy life event or in memory of a cherished family member or friend. Kiddushim can usually be arranged between \$350-\$700 and Se'uda Shelisheet for \$180-360.
- ◆ Aliyot to the Torah may also be requested in honor or memory of someone special. The rabbi will read a personal blessing for them, and your contribution will associate their name with the core work of our community.

Just call the office at 310.474.0559 by the Wednesday before the Shabbat you wish to celebrate and make arrangements with Sarah.

We can't wait to see you in synagogue!



Kahal Joseph Talmud Torah

Norma & Sam Dabby
Jewish Education Center

ENROLL NOW!

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
or for more information go to
www.kahaljoseph.org/talmud-torah**

Mommy & Me

**Heard great things
about our Mommy &
Me programs?**

**Missed out on the
last ones?**

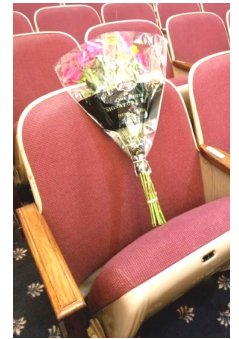


**We will start registering for a new
set of courses soon!**

Registration at
www.kahaljoseph.org/mommy-and-me
For additional information, contact
Jessica@kahaljoseph.org

Abe Abraham, z"l, 1925-2016

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of our beloved member Abe Abraham, z"l, this past Yom Kippur after Kol Nidre.



Abe was a stalwart contributor to all facets of life at Kahal Joseph for decades. He was a board member, an educator, a loyal protector of Baghdadi customs and melodies, and a charismatic personal presence in all our communal services and activities. But most of all, he was a warm friend and mentor to many through thick and thin: in the words of one member, "he would just walk up to you and be with you in a way that made you really feel that he understood what you were going through."

Nafela ateret Roshenu

O woe for our fallen crown! (-Lamentations 5:16)

An outpouring of love and support has flowed in, and we would like to continue to collect people's memories and stories about Abe to send to his family. **If you are one of the many whose lives he touched, email abetribute@gmail.com or write a letter to the office.** We will collect responses throughout the Sheloshim.

Abe is survived by his wife Batsheva and his six siblings: in Canada, his sister Mozelle Kanner; in Israel, his sisters Cissy Flegg and Gertie Reingold; and in America, his brother Mickey Abraham and sisters Leah Bald and Rachel Sultan. He is also survived by his son Ronnie Abraham and daughters Ramona Harari and Rachel Weber, and his extended family of grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Abe was predeceased by his parents and his brother Ezekiel.

On behalf of the entire congregation who misses him dearly, we wish words of comfort and blessings to his family. *Min hashamayim tenuhamu* - may you be consoled from the Lord of Heaven Who shaped so much of Abe's life.



The nighttime learning on Hoshana Rabba was a great success! We had a lovely evening of friendship, food, singing, and selihot in the Sukka together!

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Weekdays

Sunday, October 30th

Shaharit 7:30 am
 Talmud Torah 10:00 am

Monday through Friday, Oct. 31 to Nov. 4

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat

Friday & Saturday, November 4 & 5

Candle lighting 5:39 pm
 Friday Minha 5:30 pm
 Shaharit 8:30 am
 Saturday Minha 5:00 pm
Sunday, Nov. 6th Daylight Savings Ends

What a successful holiday season for Kahal Joseph’s kids!



Throughout October, over seventy children enjoyed the activities that were offered in our community. On Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur, we had a full program with snacks, activities, educational programming, and entertainment. These days were both very well attended, and many children told our staff and volunteers how much they enjoyed it. For the first time, we also had programming on Sukkot and Simhat Torah mornings, which were appreciated by all who participated.

We were very pleased to see more families taking part our evening activities for the holidays as well. On the first night of Sukkot, several families with young kids joined the rabbi and our family in the Kahal Joseph Sukkah, where a tasty meal and the joyful voices of playing children were enjoyed by all. At the Lel Simhat Torah service and hakafot the next week, large numbers of children came to play, dance with the Torahs, and wave flags – so many that the Sisterhood ran out of treats!

Be on the lookout for new family programs and expanded Shabbat offerings! Here’s a great start to our year!

Looking for

Book-Loving Volunteers!

Rabbi Melhado requests any members and friends of our community who love books to contact him. Kahal Joseph’s mahzor storage and library need some tender care. Call the rabbi at KJ’s office at 310.474.0559 or email him at RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org

Thank You

A big thank-you is in order to all those who worked on making the High Holy Day children’s programming a reality. Hazak ubarukh to Rebbetzin Jessica Melhado for planning the entire program; to Jessica and Lee Melhado, Baruch Isaac, the new childcare professionals, and Rosa and her crew for staffing it; to our administrative staff Sarah Bouchoucha, Penina Meghnagi Solomon, Dafna Young and the Board of Directors for support behind the scenes; and to everyone who brought their children to enjoy the program!