

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

It is no small task to find a wife for your employer's son. While the rewards of success might be great, so are the costs of failure. If your choice doesn't meet the boss's approval, could you lose your job? It seems like a blurring of personal and professional boundaries for which few people would willingly sign up, yet this is exactly the challenge undertaken by Abraham's servant (whom we'll call "Eliezer" according to rabbinic traditions such as *Pirke DeRibbi Eliezer* ch. 16).

The two must have had tremendous trust in one another to set up this arrangement. Abraham risked Eliezer bringing back an unsuitable match or simply absconding with the bridal trousseau, while Eliezer faced the possibility that even achieving success on a difficult mission would only provide a direct competitor for his own relationship with his master (cf. Gen 15:2).

Yet the deep mutual confidence that allowed them to carry forward in spite of these very real concerns provided Eliezer with no clear methodology for how to make his choice: once he arrived at Aram Naharayim, how would he know whom to pick? What human qualities should he seek in Isaac's bride-to-be? How might he build the trust that it would take for the lucky young lady to agree to go back to Kena'an with him to wed a perfect stranger?

His solution is another huge leap of faith, not only in God, but also in the basic goodness of at least one woman among the Aramaean ladies. He places all his eggs in the basket of simple human kindness, asking God to identify Isaac's future wife by her selfless capacity to minister not only

to his needs, but that of his entire retinue.

Incredibly, God responds by making Eliezer the first of only three people in the entire Tanakh to have his prayer answered as soon as he has finished praying it (the other two are Moses in Deut. 16:31 and Solomon in II Chron. 7:1). There could be no clearer sign of the high value that God places on helping others: if Eliezer can recognize this character trait as the yardstick to assess Isaac's future bride, then God will demonstrate His approval by rushing to confirm the match!

A beautiful Midrash in *Bereshit Rabba* (60:5) argues that this divine vote on behalf of loving-kindness reached miraculous proportions: a precise reading of Gen 24:16 shows that the Torah does not record Rebecca actually drawing the water from the well like the other women. The text only says "she went down to the well and filled her pitcher," leading the Midrash to infer that the water leaped into the pitcher in its haste to assist in the performance of a good deed.

With the relish of Thanksgiving still in our mouths, let us rise to the bar set by this story of Eliezer and Rebecca. If we have been blessed with plenty, what are some tangible ways that we can pay it forward? If we have enjoyed a weekday feast, let us ensure that others who are less fortunate can experience the delight of overeating in cleanliness and comfort. Through a donation or volunteering, let our actions inspire the resources we need to jump together with excitement for a worthy mitsva well performed!



Parashat Haya Sarah Thanksgiving Weekend

Torah: Gen. 23:1–25:18, 105 Pesukim
Hertz 80–89; Stone 106–123
Haftara: I Kings 1:1–31
Hertz 90–92; Stone 1136–1137
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Hakhrizat
Kislev (Ths)

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 25th

Shaharit 6:25 am
Candle Lighting 4:26 pm
Minha 4:15 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit 4:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, November 26th

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

Minha 3:45 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet 4:30 pm
Arvit 5:15 pm
Havdala 5:29 pm

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Weekdays

Sunday, November 27th

Shaharit 7:30 am

Monday to Wednesday & Friday

November 28--30 & December 2

Shaharit 6:25 am

Rosh Hodesh Kislev

Thursday, December 1st

Shaharit 6:15 am

Next Shabbat

Friday & Saturday, December 2nd & 3rd

Candle lighting **4:25 pm**

Friday Minha **4:15 pm**

Shaharit 8:30 am

Saturday Minha 3:45 pm

Havdala 5:28 pm

Congratulations

Melissa and Dennis Ironi
on the birth & berit of a baby boy

Darren Menashe Ironi

Mazal Tov

older brothers, Matthew and Daniel
grandparents, Merna Ironi
Phyllis and David Bilboul

and the entire family

Shabbat Shalom U'Mevorakh

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored by

Saul E. Levi

in honor of
his great-grandson

Sage Kayden Hermans

Congratulations

to Jenna and Kyle Hermans
on the birth of their son
Sage Kayden Hermans

Mazal Tov

Great Grandfather
Saul E. Levi

Grandparents

Michelle and Stan Kurtz
Jenny and Rene Hermans
Rik and Sindi Zelman

Kahal Joseph Talmud Torah

Norma & Sam Dabby
Jewish Education Center

Now Enrolling • 310.474.0559
www.kahaljoseph.org/talmud-torah

In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from November 26 to December 3, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

25 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 26th

Charles E. Lelah *Salah ben Aharon*

27 Heshvan / Monday, November 28th

Sumner Blank

Yehoshua Moshi *Yehoshua ben Moshe*
Nissim Rahamim Yaacov

28 Heshvan / Tuesday, November 29th

Moshe Bebe *Moshe ben Khadoori*

Ezekiel Howard *Yehezkel Howard*

Lulu Masliah *Lulu bat Salha*

Samuel Joseph Zachariah *Shmoel ben Yoseph*

29 Heshvan / Wednesday, November 30th

Mary Saleh

Shaul Haim Nuriel *Shaul ben Haim*

1 Kislev / Thursday, December 1st

William Ekaireb *Shaya ben Ezra Sion*

Abraham Isaac *Avraham ben Eliyahu Yitzhak*

Joe Hai Joseph *Yoseph Hai ben Yitzhak Yoseph*

Henry Zekaria *Yehezkel ben Sion*

2 Kislev / Friday, December 2nd

Doron Ironi *Doron ben Yosef*

Victoria Kadosh *Victoria bat Reuben*

Ralph Nathan *Raphael ben Mordechai*

Aziza *bat Farha*

Ezekiel Ezra Reuben *Yehezkel ben Reuven Dloomy*

Refu'a 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 • Simcha bat Rooha

Tribute to Abe Abraham

Friends and well-wishers can send memories and words of comfort to abetribute@gmail.com

Mr. Abraham was in many ways inspirational, especially in spirituality, not only to me and my family, but to everyone I know who knew him. I was shocked to hear about his passing and I cannot begin to recognize how his family must be feeling.

The first time I saw Mr. Abraham was several years ago, but I did not get to know him personally until my father's passing some 5.5 years ago. Going to Kahal Joseph synagogue every day for the kaddish, Mr. Abraham and I got to know each other well. He always insisted that I call him Abe, yet I never permitted myself to do that despite our closeness, due to the utmost respect I had for him.

Mr. Abraham and I spent some quality time with each other, we had moments we laughed together, we experienced moments we cried together and developed a strong spiritual connection, one that I felt highly privileged about. He once showed me a passage from the Torah that said: **"Blessed is the man who puts his trust in God."** I keep re-reading this to myself. Thanks to Mr. Abraham!

He will be greatly missed by myself, my family and his friends and colleagues at Kahal Joseph. My thoughts are with his family at this time. May he Rest in Peace.

With deepest sympathies,

Frank Rafie



Yom Kippur Appeal

There is still time to send in your donations!

So far there has been a nice response to the Yom Kippur Appeal. A big Kahal Joseph thank you goes to each person who honored their generous pledges!

If you haven't made payment arrangements or want to join onto the appeal from scratch, there is still time to send in donations. They can be addressed to Kahal with "Yom Kippur Appeal" in the memo line, or you can fulfill your pledge on our secure online form at <http://www.kahaljoseph.org/donate>.



The funds raised will be evenly divided between Kahal Joseph and Yad Eliezer, a charity in Israel that provides food and social services to the poor. Even a small amount can relieve stress and bring joy to families who are struggling to meet their basic needs.

The success of our Yom Kippur appeal reminds us how we may accomplish amazing things when we join together. Collaborating towards a common goal enables each of us to contribute in our own way. The Yom Kippur appeal will not only help Kahal Joseph thrive, but also will bring a lot of happiness to poor people in Erets Yisrael.



Tsitsit Tying Class

The tsitsit in this picture was tied by Rabbi Melhado at last week's class according to the special method of the Ben Ish Hai

Mon 12/12 @ 7:00 pm

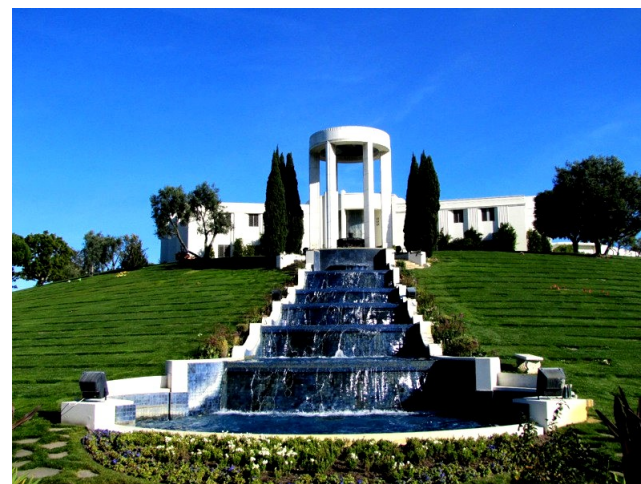
Dinner with RSVP

Second round for those who missed the first!

Want to know how to tie your own tsitsit? Ever wondered why fewer and fewer talletot are available at Kahal on Shabbat?

At Rabbi Melhado's tsitsit tying class, you can try your hand at this mitsva by helping to refurbish the torn and broken tsitsit on our house talletot. What a great opportunity to do a mitsva for your community and learn a useful Jewish skill at the same time!

Dairy dinner is available for \$15 to all who RSVP by 10 pm on Sunday, December 11th. Register at <http://www.kahaljoseph.org/tsitsit.html>



Join the A-Team!

Like doing a mitsva? Have a flexible schedule? Join the **Azakara Team** and let us know when you could help make minyan for a graveside kaddish.

It is very comforting for mourners to read the kaddish at the cemetery, but **it takes a quorum of 10 men to make that happen** and not every family can muster this number on short notice. Your simple presence can make all the difference in the world at a raw time in someone's life.

People generally seek minyanim for a Shiva, Sheloshim, unveiling, or Yahrzeit. Rabbi Melhado hopes to inspire a base group of at least 20 men to sign up so that even if some people can't make it, we still have a good chance of finding 10 commitments.

Sign-up with our convenient online form at <http://www.kahaljoseph.org/a-team>