

# KOL MEVASSER

## Rabbi's Message

Beresheet is full of examples of family dysfunction. Even if we accept polygyny as a socially normal aspect of Biblical society, there is still more than enough bad faith, double-dealing, and long-held grudges to go around.

Take a moment to reflect on our patriarch Abraham, whose inspiring example of positivity and religious sincerity couldn't stop a bitter feud between Sarah and Hagar, resulting in their mutual estrangement and the permanent loss of Ishmael to the Jewish tradition. Meanwhile, the Binding of Isaac did not provide the kind of father-son-bonding that we would have hoped for his remaining child, and there is no record in the Torah that Abraham ever told Sarah about this episode at any point, before or after. The next town over, his nephew Lot's daughters drugged their father to help save humanity under the mistaken impression that they were the last three people alive, siring two peoples who matured into sworn enemies of Israel.

If we branch out further in the extended family, Abraham's great-nephew Laban is a train wreck that would take more than its own dedicated "Rabbi's Message" to pull apart. By the time we get to Egypt only three generations after meeting him, our cup runneth over with uncomfortable stories of Jacob and Esau; Joseph and his brothers; Tamar, Onan, and Judah; Dina, Simeon, and Levi; etc. It's no small wonder that many pre-modern Jewish educational systems began teaching kids Torah from Sefer Vayikra so that they would have a grounding in God's justice before encountering this material.

Far be it from me to undermine the sanctity of Sefer Bereshit—*Rahama-na litslan!* Rather, I mean to highlight the allure of the idea that even the founding fathers of our tradition were flawed characters whose sometimes vindictive behavior invited God's wrath or disappointment. How comforting it is to know that these giants of Judaism experienced failure and the trials of atonement! If people of their stature tasted the shame of wrongdoing and faced the reality that some things cannot be completely mended once broken, it is less daunting for us to undergo similar challenges in our own lives.

How many of us can recall a time when we were emotionally wounded by someone close to us when we should have been able to count on their support? Or perhaps we remember a point when, through good intent or ill, we ourselves were the ones causing the injury? Knowing full well that this could tear a lasting rift along the Isaac/Ishmael model, it is a consolation that cases like Jacob and Esau also exist. What is torn asunder in this week's parasha may take decades to heal, but by the end they both seem to accept their mutual responsibility for what happened, staying more focused on reconciliation than revenge.

Who knows when the time to seek or grant forgiveness may arise? Both demand significant spiritual growth when undertaken sincerely, and both may bring about substantial relief if affected at an appropriate point. When the opportunity knocks, I hope that our ancestors' openly preserved struggles on the same front will serve as a beacon for us all to follow!



## Parashat Toledot

Torah: Genesis 25:19–28:9, 106 Pesukim  
Hertz 93–101; Stone 124–143  
Haftara: Mal. 1:1–2:7  
Hertz 102–105; Stone 1137–1138  
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah. Barekh Alenu  
starts at Arvit on Sun, Dec. 4

## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

*Friday, December 2nd*

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

### Yom Shabbat

*Saturday, December 3rd*

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 ..... 5:28 pm

*(Continued on page 2)*

## The Eruv Truck GoFundMe campaign is now live

[gofundme.com/dedicate-a-new-eruv-truck-for-la](http://gofundme.com/dedicate-a-new-eruv-truck-for-la)

### A Letter from the LA Community Eruv

Twenty two years ago, we set out to create an Eruv for the city of Los Angeles. It took seven years to get approvals from the city, the state and the federal government, to get approvals from rabbinic authorities, to raise the money and to build our eruv.

Our Eruv has been live for over 14 years. It is the largest eruv in America, and has served as the model for more than a dozen others built over the past decade. Our Eruv is over 100 square miles, with 45 miles of fences, walls, doorways and connectors. There is no gap in our perimeter over 10 inches wide, & in 14 years we have only been "down" twice.

A team of rabbis inspects the perimeter every week, and our construction crew spends Thursday nights making repairs, workarounds and upgrades. Our crew relies upon a monster lift truck to reach the poles, fences trees and other structures that connect the eruv. Our truck is 45 years old, and has served faithfully. But earlier this month it finally surrendered. We need to provide our crew with the tools they need to keep the eruv working for you and your family. We have identified a truck at a great price and have put down a deposit to hold it. Now we need to raise \$46,000 to pay for it.

Please donate today.

## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored by

**Louise Nathan**

in loving memory of her husband

**Ralph Nathan, z"l**  
Raphael ben Mordechai, z"l

*(Continued from page 1)*

### Weekdays

*Sunday, December 4th*

*Beginning at Arvit time today, December 4th,  
we switch to Barekh Alenu in the Amida.*

Shaharit ..... 7:30 am

*Monday to Friday, December 5th to 9th*

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

### Next Shabbat

*Friday & Saturday, December 9th & 10th*

**Candle lighting** ..... 4:25 pm

**Friday Mincha** ..... 4:15 pm

Shaharit ..... 8:30 am

Saturday Mincha ..... 3:45 pm

Havdala ..... 5:29 pm

## 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

## In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from December 3 to 10, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

### 3 Kislev / Shabbat, December 3rd

Rebecca Benbeniste *Rivka bat Dudu*  
Rachel Jacob *Rahel bat Salha Matana*

### 5 Kislev / Monday, December 5th

Elias Ezekiel Isaac *Eliyahu ben Yehezkel Itzhak*  
Silas Moshe Kadoorie *Silas ben Moshe*  
Nassim Reuben Suleiman

### 6 Kislev / Tuesday, December 6th

Maggie Dabby *Marjorie bat Sam*

### 7 Kislev / Wednesday, December 7th

Eliyahu Ezer *Eliyahu ben Yoseph*

### 9 Kislev / Friday, December 9th

Isaac Joseph *Itzhak ben Yoseph*  
Ezra Itzhaki *Ezra ben Reuven*  
Sholkat Zekharia *Sholkat bat Zekharia*

### 10 Kislev / Shabbat, December 10th

*Ruhamah bat Chana*



GET  
JEWISH  
DIVORCE  
JUSTICE

### Get Real:

## Revisiting Classical Approaches to Resolving Agunah Cases

The evening will include a short film plus an interview with Rabbi Lieberman, founder of a new Bet Din dedicated to resolving difficult cases

December 15th @7 pm

Program will take place at Nessah Synagogue  
RSVP required for security—[www.nessah.org](http://www.nessah.org)



# 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>***



## **JIMENA Presentation Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries @LA City Council**

Wednesday, December 7th  
at 10:00 am

Featured Speaker  
Joseph Samuels, KJ Member

Reception to follow in the Rotunda

L.A. City Hall Council Chambers  
3rd Floor, 200 N. Spring Street  
(Pedestrian entrance on Main)

## **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 [www.kahaljoseph.org/a-team](http://www.kahaljoseph.org/a-team)



# The Kahal Joseph HANUKKAH PARTY



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18  
11:00 AM TO 12:30 PM

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Join us for...  
**FUN - FOOD - GAMES**  
**ACTIVITIES - CRAFTS**  
**MUSIC**

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RSVP AT [JESSICA@KAHALJOSEPH.ORG](mailto:jessica@kahaljoseph.org)  
OR CALL THE OFFICE AT 310.474.0559

# FAMILY HANUKKAH DINNER WITH THE RABBI



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 AT 5:30 PM  
KAHAL JOSEPH UPSTAIRS PLAYROOM



JOIN THE RABBI AND HIS FAMILY FOR AN  
INTIMATE DINNER TO CELEBRATE THE  
SECOND NIGHT OF HANNUKAH!

\*HANUKKAH CANDLELIGHTING \* LIGHT DAIRY DINNER\*  
\*SPECIAL BELGIAN WAFFLE DESSERT!\*

ADULTS: \$10 | CHILDREN 5-12: \$5  
UNDER 5: FREE

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RSVP BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 AT  
[WWW.KAHALJOSEPH.ORG/HANUKKAH](http://WWW.KAHALJOSEPH.ORG/HANUKKAH)  
OR CALL THE OFFICE AT 310.474.0559