

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

2016 ended on a note of national melancholy as the passing of several prominent celebrities put a damper on the cultural headlines. In addition to lamenting astronaut and Ohio Senator John Glenn, many Americans felt a personal sense of loss at the departure of cherished performers like Zsa Zsa Gabor, George Michael, and William Christopher.



Perhaps the most arresting was mother-daughter pair Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds, whose story is a true embodiment of Judah's plea in Parashat Vayigash that "the parent's life is bound up with the child's" (Gen. 44:30). There is a doleful poetry to the idea that a family like the Fishers, with its Jewish surname and long experience with uprooted relationships, would meet their maker just as the Jacob-Joseph narrative is unfolding in the Torah.

Here in our Kahal Joseph community, losses were felt much closer to home as we bade farewell to longtime friends and members **Saul Sassoon, Emma Shapiro, Edmond Kamara, and Ronald Meyer**. The celebrations of Hanukka were punctuated by a solemn procession of funerals, shiva minyanim, and graveside visitations, ending several chapters that we would dearly have liked to keep writing. May their memories live on in the hearts of the loved ones who were privileged to know them!

As our community tries to support their families in a meaningful way, I am reminded anew that the practical experience of mourning can be

intimidating. Our tradition is so beautiful for its built-in structures of ritual that make it natural for mourners to have the company of others at an intense emotional time. Yet at the same time, it comes with a bewildering array of customs, traditions, and requirements that can overwhelm those whom the system is designed to help. There are so many arrangements to make and so much to keep in mind that it is challenging for mourners to create and follow the schedule while also giving proper respect to those who passed and actually still have space to grieve!

It is with this in mind that I am going to make a short guide to the Jewish mourning process, to pass out to families facing a loss, *bar minan*. I hope to include material on the unique traditions of Iraqi Jewry, which are not often available in a publicly accessible format, and I am grateful to the National Library of Israel for its assistance in scanning a rare pamphlet from 1893 that will be very helpful.

As a member or friend of Kahal Joseph, you can leave your impression on this idea in one (or both!) of two ways:

- 1) If you have been through the mourning process and have a personal experience of what might have helped you to know in advance, I invite you to share your story with me.
- 2) When you have a free moment, reach out to someone from the families that we've lost. Through a call, email, or visit, tell them that you are thinking about them. Share how the person they are mourning made a difference to your life. A few minutes of your time will bring light to someone at a time when they need it most.

Parashat Vayigash

Torah: Gen. 44:18–47:27, 106 Pesukim
Hertz 169–177; Stone 250–267
Haftara: Ezek. 37:15–28
Hertz 178–179; Stone 1144–1145
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Hakhrazat
Hatsom (Sun.), Birkat Halevana

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, January 6th

Shaharit.....	6:25 am
Candle lighting	4:40 pm
Minha	4:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit	4:45 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, January 7th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah	10:15 am
Musaf	11:45 am
Women's Tehillim.....	right after kiddush
Minha	4:00 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet	4:45 pm
Arvit	5:30 pm
Havdala	5:45 pm

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Morning Minyan Is Where It's At!

There is a warm place for you in the happy camaraderie of morning minyan.

Any day is off to a great start when it begins with prayer and friendship. With a bonus of Torah on Mondays and Thursdays, and Birkat Kohanim on the rest, there is something special every morning.

The best part? It doesn't just feel good, it's a mitsva too!



Mazal Tov

**Andrea and Jeremy Reiz
on the birth of a baby boy**

**Besiman Tov to grandparents
Renee & Norman Reiz
Allison & Jeffrey Haber**

**Great grandmothers
Sylvia Reiz & Dorothy Haber**

**Great grandfather
our dear Hazzan Sassoon Ezra**

Aunts Jennifer Reiz, Farah Reiz, & Lindsay Haber

Great aunts & great uncles, Lulu & Alan Fenster
Nina & Ira Bass, Florette & Ruven Benhamou,
Marlene & Oren Baruch, Norma & Lenny Reiz,
Steven Reiz, Rhoda & Nathan Lichtenstein, Barbara
Ware Gottlieb, Tony Gottlieb, and Sheri Haber

Refu'a Shelema

Moselle Amron • Sally Amron • Haskell Avrahamy
Sylvia Cohen • Simcha bat Rooha • 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
Adam Moshe Chaim ben Olga

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Asara Betevet / 10th of Tevet Fast Sunday, January 8th

Fast Begins.....	5:40 am
Shaharit	7:30 am
Talmud Torah	9:45 am
Minha / Arvit	4:30 pm
Fast Ends (Sephardim)	5:21 pm

Weekdays

<i>Monday, to Friday, January 9th to 13th</i>	
Shaharit	6:25 am

Next Shabbat

<i>Friday & Saturday, Jan 13th & 14th</i>	
Shabbat Candlelighting	4:47 pm
Friday Minha	4:45 pm
Shaharit	8:30 am
Saturday Minha	4:15 pm
Havdala	5:51 pm

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from January 7 to 14, 2017. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

9 Tevet / Shabbat, January 7th

Eddie Jacob Ezra *Yehezkel ben Yaacov Azoori*

10 Tevet / Sunday, January 8th

Shalom Kamara *Shalom ben Menashe*
Hayim Baruch Shalom Mingail *Haim Baruch ben Shalom*

13 Tevet / Wednesday, January 11th

Ester Avrahami *Ester bat Gazala*
Fortuna Sinder *Fortuna bat Suzan*

16 Tevet / Shabbat, January 14th

Khasna bat Rahel
Ezekiel Menashe Ekaireb *Yehezkel ben Moshe*

Shabbat Shalom Umvorakh