

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

The past few years have seen Planned Parenthood become a regular guest in political headlines. Since abortion is one of the procedures they provide alongside a long list of other women's health services, the ethical implications of giving them public or private support have become the subject of heated debate.



On one hand, many of the services at the heart of Planned Parenthood's mission are not controversial at all. Few would object to the idea of making it easier for women to be screened for various types of cancer, receive treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, or have affordable access to pregnancy tests.

On the other hand, there is deep division in the religious and secular worlds about the morality of contraception, abortion, and using fetal tissue for medical research, all of which can happen through Planned Parenthood. Some have argued that even supporting a benevolent act like cancer screening with Planned Parenthood is implicitly helping it provide these other services.

In 2011 and again in 2015, activists working from this perspective were caught using deceptive methods to directly harm Planned Parenthood. In both incidents, undercover videos were shot of actors trying to get Planned Parenthood workers to give them unethical advice or agree to participate in illegal acts. When the videos were

released to the public, it reignited the abortion debate and led Congress to consider defunding the organization entirely.

In the aftermath, both sets of videos were found to have left out key information affecting the morality of what was shown, or even to have been deliberately faked. The most favorable reading is that they were distorted in a calculated bid to turn public feelings against Planned Parenthood.

Yet if we enter into the perspective of the pro-life activists, this could theoretically be a moral form of deception. At the time, ethical writers about both incidents pointed to Parashat Shemot as a possible test case. When Pharaoh commanded Shifra and Pu'a to kill all the Israelite baby boys, they lied quite elaborately to avoid participating in murder. If you sincerely believe that abortion is murder, it might well be an act of mercy to non-violently sabotage the funding source of an abortion provider.

As a rabbi, I can understand this perspective on a theoretical level but I cannot endorse it on a practical level. The primary difference between the videos and the story in Shemot is that Shifra and Pu'a lie to avoid a royal order to personally and directly murder someone in a very clear moral case, while the activists did not even work at Planned Parenthood, and a universal moral assessment of abortion may never come about. In the end, winning hearts and minds is best done with integrity and transparency, and any ethical argument will stand the longest if it is made by telling the truth.

Parashat Shemot

Zekaria Torah Rededication

Torah: Ex. 1:1–6:1, 124 Pesukim

Hertz 206–224; Stone 292–317

Haftara (Iraqis): Ezek. 16:1–13

Handout; not in the Hertz or Stone

Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Hakhrazat

Shevat (Sat.)

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, January 20th

Shaharit.....	6:25 am
Candle lighting	4:53 pm
Minha	4:45 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit	5:15 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, January 21st

Shaharit / Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah	10:15 am
Musaf	11:45 am
Women's Tehillim.....	right after kiddush
Minha	4:15 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet	5:00 pm
Arvit	5:40 pm
Havdala	5:58 pm

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~ Ladies! ~ Knead a little love?

Make challah dough to take home and bake

Learn about challah & why we make it

Bring your girlfriends & meet new people

**Challah Making * Sunday, January 29
12:30 PM at Kahal Joseph**

\$18 per person

\$180 Gold Sponsor

\$72 Silver Sponsor

\$360 Women's Circle



**RSVP to Louise at 818-884-0120
by Wednesday, January 25**

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Weekdays / Sunday, January 22nd

Shaharit 7:30 am

Talmud Torah 9:45 am

Monday to Friday, January 23 to 27

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Rosh Hodesh Shevat

Friday & Saturday, Jan 27th & 28th

Shabbat Candlelighting 5:00 pm

Friday Minha 5:00 pm

Shaharit 8:20 am

Saturday Minha 4:30 pm

Havdala 6:05 pm

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
In loving memory of

Mollie Einy Konigsberg, z"l

by
The Einy Family

Condolences

We send our deepest condolences to the
family of **Hershel Bir, z"l**

He is the nephew of our beloved, longtime member Michael Amron and the cousin of our dear member David Amron. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his brothers, children, grandson and his entire family. May they and his loved ones be comforted together with all the mourners of Tsion.



SAVE THE DATE!

Scholar-in-Residence

February 18-19, Parashat Yitro

Rabbi Ben Hassan

Rabbi of Sephardic Bikur Holim,
Seattle

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from January 21 to 28, 2017. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

23 Tevet / Shabbat, January 21st

Kovkah Cohen *Kovkah bat Yaacov Hachohen*
Pinchas Khalili *Pinchas ben Nissan*
Emma Moses *Amuma bat Farha*

24 Tevet / Sunday, January 22nd

Rev Moses Hai Abraham *Moshe Hai ben Avraham*
Louise Jacob
Sulman Sheeri *Sulman ben Yosef*
Shather Shokri *Shather bat Jacob*

26 Tevet / Tuesday, January 24th

Ronnie Assia *Ronnie ben Naji*

27 Tevet / Wednesday, January 25th

Sassoon Elias
Stanley Feinberg *Stanley ben Jesse*

28 Tevet / Thursday, January 26th

Maurice Zekaria *Moshe ben Seon*

29 Tevet / Friday, January 27th

Mollie Einy Konigsberg *Mazaltov bat Masooda*

1 Shevat / Shabbat, January 28th

Mozelle Solomon *Mozly bat Haviva*

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



ZEKARIA TORAH REDEDICATION!

With immense joy, we welcome the Zekaria family Sefer Torah back to Kahal Joseph after a full restoration!

This Sefer was commissioned in the early 1980s in memory of family founders Sion and Lulu Zekaria. For three decades, their son Maurice and his family took devoted care that its continued use in worship could be a tribute to their departed loved ones.

A great loss was felt in our community when Maurice himself passed away six years ago. He is dearly missed, and using the Sefer that he commissioned has become a fond way to remember him as well.

It is a credit to his family how eagerly they rose to the challenge when a problem was noticed in the text. Finding an issue in a Torah scroll is an opportunity to bring it back to its best self, and when this process is completed, it is a time of great joy and delight.

We are particularly blessed to rededicate this Sefer on Maurice's yahrzeit in the presence of his wife Alice, their children Mary, Leon, and Ike, and their daughters-in-law Sylvia and Lara.



Above: Maurice Zekaria with the Sefer on the day of it's dedication in the early 1980s. A young Leon joins the celebration (right, white slacks).

Left: The restored Sefer on Erev Shabbat Shemot, 5777 at KJ



TU BISHVAT COMMUNITY HIKE

*Join our community and
the Talmud Torah for a
meaningful walk in the wild*

**Sunday, February 12, 10AM
Will Rogers State Historic Park**

**Inspirational Hike * Games * Raffle
Wear walking shoes * Bring your own lunch**

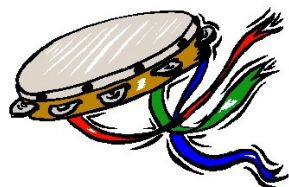
**RSVP to Jessica at
Jessica@kahaljoseph.org**



Purim Extravaganza!

COMING SUNDAY, MARCH 12!

**Carnival * Morning Megillah
Board elections**



MOMMY & ME

Winter Session

Thursdays - Music & Movement

10:00 - 11:00 - 18 to 24 months

11:30 - 12:30 - 9 to 16 months

1:15 - 2:15 - 8 to 14 months

Fridays - Shabbat

10:00 - 11:00 - 18 to 30 months

11:30 - 12:30 - 11 to 17 months

8 sessions starting January 19 * \$225 per child per session

Questions? Jessica@kahaljoseph.org

To register www.playcreationskids.org

SAVE THE DATE

Purim Baking!

Sunday, March 5 * 10:00 AM

**Bake traditional Iraqi treats
with friends for the KJ Purim
baskets. It's a mitzvah!**

Monetary donations to the Purim Baskets may be made to the Kahal Joseph office.