

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

This past Sunday, the Times of Israel reported a juicy news item that became an instant magnet for *Schadenfreude* – a German word for “taking pleasure in the misfortunes of others.” It seems that Muhammad Walid al-Quqa, a Palestinian fighter in the Hamas terrorist movement, accidentally blew himself up with a bomb that he was making to kill Israelis.

By his 30s, al-Quqa was already infamous as the “Explosives Chief” of Hamas’s military wing, the El-Qassam Brigades. The leader of an entire unit devoted to ordinance, he taught his fellow terrorists how to make the rockets and bombs which Hamas directed at Israel over three wars and the feeble “cease-fires” between them.

The comments on the article reveal the raw public response to what happened to him. A choice sample includes gems like: “Hollywood could not have scripted this more perfectly,” “Sorry, but I have to laugh,” and “You don’t ‘mourn’ the death of a guy like this, you celebrate.” Other users posted gleeful emojis and sarcastic memes, all applauding the loss of a man who richly deserved his fate.

Yet however understandable this reaction may be, does it fit the ethical system of our Torah? A Talmudic passage in Tractate Sanhedrin (39b) gives us a window into God’s personal expectations:



Rab Aha bar Hanina said: Proverbs 11:10 states that “when it goes well with the righteous, the city exults; and when the wicked pass away, there is joy.” Yet is this really so? Just look at I Kings 22:36, which describes the praise offered to God when Ahab was killed at Ramot. Why are the expected words “He is good” skipped in this prayer of thanksgiving? Because the Holy Blessed One does not rejoice in the downfall of the wicked!

This teaching is then hammered home with a direct reference to Parashat Beshalah: “What is meant by the verse (Ex. 14:20) “the one did not touch the other all night”? – It shows that at the Splitting of the Sea, the Angels of the Heavenly Host asked God if they could sing His praises. God retorted, “my creations are drowning in the sea, yet you would rejoice in song?!” and the angels refrained from tapping one another to start the praise.”

From our taskmasters in ancient Egypt to modern-day terrorists like al-Quqa, we have known generations of wicked people whose absence from this world has brought us relief and security. Yet in our legitimate rejoicing that they can no longer inflict pain and loss on us, we have a moral responsibility to remember their basic humanity.

The world’s oppressors have succeeded in part by dehumanizing their victims. They are desensitized to the horror of their crimes because they do not think of certain kinds of people as “real” people. If we truly want the world to be a better place, then we can lead by example and remember that even the terrorist who killed himself trying to murder us was a person too.

Parashat Beshalah

Shirat Hayam / Tu Bishvat

Torah: Ex. 13:17–17:16, 116 Pesukim
Hertz 265–281*; Stone 366–393
Haftara (§): Judg. 5:1–31
Hertz 283–287; Stone 1153–1154
Tefillot: Vatikah Miryam, Mashiv Haruah

The Sephardic divisions of the aliyot in the Hertz are for a different minhag

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, February 10th

Shaharit.....	6:25 am
Candle lighting	5:14 pm
Minha	5:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit	5:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Tu Bishvat

Saturday, February 11th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Keri’at HaTorah	10:15 am
Musaf	11:45 am

Women’s Tehillim.....	4:00 pm
Minha	4:30 pm
Se’uda Shelisheet	5:15 pm
Arvit	6:00 pm
Havdala	6:18 pm

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Tu Bishvat!

Today marks Tu Bishvat, the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shvat. Known as the birthday of the trees, in ancient times, it marked when the produce of a tree could be used. In 16th century Tzfat, the ritual of the Tu Bishvat seder was developed. Like the Pesach seder, there are four cups of wine. Each cup represents the transition from winter to summer, moving from all white wine to all red wine. In addition, there is a tradition to eat the seven species of Israel, wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. Almonds and carob were also often featured as important produce of Israel.

When modern Zionists began returning to Israel, Tu Bishvat became an opportunity to focus on rebuilding the ecology of Israel, particularly through tree planting drives through the Jewish National Fund. Many groups in the diaspora took a cue from that and also participated in tree planting at home. Modern celebrations include appreciations of nature, lessons on ecology and conservation, and sustainable eating.

This year, join us at Kiddush as we partake in the fruits associated with Tu Bishvat, and for the Community Hike in appreciation of nature (details on the next page) tomorrow.

Jessica Cavanagh-Melhado
Program Coordinator



Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in loving memory of
Yudit bat Shalom, z'l
Gracy Tizabi, z'l
by The Tizabi Family

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Sunday, February 12th

Shaharit 7:30 am
**Talmud Torah Meet at Will Rogers Park for
Tu Bishvat Hike w/Community .. 10:00 am**

Monday to Friday, February 13th to 17th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Fri & Sat Feb 17th & 18th
Visiting Scholar, Rabbi Ben Hassan

Shabbat Candle lighting 5:20 pm
Friday Minha 5:15 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 4:30 pm
Havdala 6:25 pm

Condolences

We send our sincere condolences to the family of **Gracy Tizabi, z'l** who passed away on the 7th of Shevat. She was the wife of Yehazkel Frederick Tizabi, of blessed memory. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her sons Frank, Joseph (m. Laleh), William, and Rafi Tizabi; to her grandchildren Ethan, Eyal, Jonathan, and Lauren Tizabi; to her great-grandchildren Jacob and Madison Tizabi; and her niece Mona Tizabi who teaches in our Talmud Torah. May they and her loved ones be comforted together with all the mourners of Tsion.

In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from February 11 to 18, 2017. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

15 Shevat / Shabbat, February 11th

Joseph Mussry
David Sarraf *David ben Ezra*

16 Shevat / Sunday, February 12th

Yehudah Hai Judah *Yehudah Hai Yehudah*
Menashe Sarraf *Menashe ben Yousef*
Yehudah Sarraf *Yehudah ben Mordechai*

17 Shevat / Monday, February 13th

Simon Irani *Shimon ben Eliyahu*
Ashraf Nassi

18 Shevat/ Tuesday, February 14th

Manachi Kemareh
Raphael Mizrahie *Raphael Hai ben Eliyahu*
Mordehai

19 Shevat / Wednesday, February 15th

Doris Shemtov David *Doris bat Kahela*
Sassoon Moshe Sassoon *Sassoon ben Moshe*

20 Shevat/ Thursday, February 16th

Edward David *Ezra ben Meir Shemtov*
Nissim Moondani *Nissim ben Moondani*
Georgette Solomon

Condolences

We send our sincere condolences to the family of **Edward Mussry, z'l** (Haskel Ezra ben Toba), z'l, who passed away in Sydney, Australia on the 12th of Shevat. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his children Sylvia, Judith, Esther, Meyer and Ronald; to his surviving siblings Mary Mussry, Nassim Hay Mussry, David Mussry, and Elsa Singman; and to the entire Mussry clan. May they and his loved ones be comforted together with all the mourners of Tsion.

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
Katie bat Farha • Miriam bat Yetta • Aliza bat Rahel
Aliza bat Victoria • Yvonne Moalim



Scholar in Residence

February 17 - 18
Parashat Yitro

Rabbi Ben Hassan

Sephardic Bikkur Holim, Seattle

Born in Manchester, England, Rabbi Hassan received semikha from Rabbi Riskin and Rabbi Zalman Nechemia Goldberg after studying at Yeshivat Hamivtar in Israel.

After being the rabbi at Sassoon Yehuda Sephardi Synagogue in Melbourne, Australia, he came to Sephardic Bikkur Holim in August 2013.

**“Lo Tahmod/Do Not Covet -
Come on God, Give me a Break!”**

Young Professionals (20s & 30s) Shabbat Dinner
Friday, February 17 at 6:30PM

Join Rabbis Hassan and Melhado and their families for a delicious dinner and an interesting discussion. Free! RSVP to rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org.

**Saturday, February 18 -
Special Seuda Shelisheet**

Meet us at the park! Tu Bishvat Community Hike

Sunday, February 12 at 10AM
**Will Rogers State
Historical Park**

**Play games, enjoy a hike on the gentle
incline of the Inspiration Loop, learn about
Judaism & nature, see friends and more!**

10:00 AM - Outdoor games

10:30 AM - Inspirational Hike

**11:30 AM - “Appreciating Nature”
with the Melhados & Mora Molly**

12:00 noon - BYO Picnic Lunch

**Bring your lunch, water, sunglasses,
sunscreen, a hat, hiking clothes & Shoes, a
picnic blanket and your sense of fun!**

RSVP to Jessica at Jessica@kahaljoseph.org



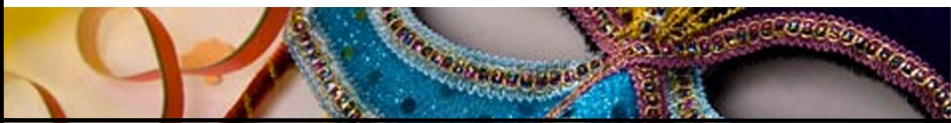
Purim Save the Date

Saturday, March 11

Megillah Reading & more after Shabbat

Sunday March 12

Morning Megillah & Purim Carnival



Living Room Learning



Got a pressing Jewish question?
Something on your mind? A topic of interest?

Host Rabbi Melhado in your home for a class to explore a topic of your choice, or work with the rabbi to find something that interests you. Invite your friends, and learn together with the rabbi in a relaxed environment.

Interested? Questions?

Email the rabbi at RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org.

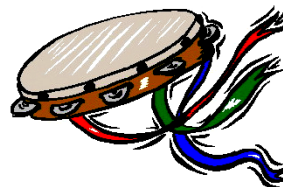
SAVE THE DATE

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.



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