

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

Have you ever used expressions like “the powers that be,” “a moment in time,” or “fight the good fight”? Along with a lot of other idioms that we use on a daily basis, they first entered English through the writing of William Tyndale (1494-1536), a Christian whose translation of the Torah ended up costing him his life.



Part of a broader movement to reclaim Biblical texts for regular people, he was the first person to translate the Torah into English from the original Hebrew. To present the grand story of the Bible faithfully, he ended up inventing new words and phrases that became permanent additions to the English language. Yet because Catholic doctrine required specific translations of certain words, a convention that Tyndale didn't follow, he was sentenced to death as a heretic. Like many Jews of his day he was burned at the stake, without truly understanding the impact he had on society.

By translating the Torah into a more commonly spoken language, Tyndale followed in the footsteps of a Jewish tradition dating back to the first century of the Common Era. Targum Onkelos, named after a Roman pagan who converted to Judaism and wrote the translation, is still found in the Stone *humash* in use at Kahal, next to the Hebrew original and Rashi's commentary. Think of the countless generations this early work has helped to understand the Torah more clearly!

As an international people, we have reshaped and reimagined ourselves through contact with

the outside world in many lands and ages. If you have ever learned about Judaism from a teacher or rabbi, you can thank Yitro for suggesting the concept of Talmud Torah in today's *parasha*. If you have ever quoted a passage of that Torah by chapter and verse, you can thank Archbishop Stephen Langton and Robert Stephanus, both Christians, for coming up with this system. Daniel Bomberg, another Christian, gave us our method for finding passages in the Talmud, and the centrality of that Talmud to our religion was made possible through the global spread of the Islamic Caliphate.

This is not to say that such contact has always been positive. Since it has sometimes been painful, or even deadly, we have been very good at remembering the downsides of interacting and learning from other cultures. While we must honor that reality and its message of caution, we should also be mindful of the fuller picture, in which meeting others has enriched ourselves and those we touch.

On one of the few *parashiyot* named after someone who isn't Jewish, let us take a moment to appreciate the gentiles who have made a difference in our lives. Maybe it's a close relationship – Yitro, we must remember, was Moses' father-in-law – or it could be the positive interaction with a colleague, friend, or coworker. Perhaps it's broader still: a thinker whose philosophy challenges us, an inventor who helps make Shabbat more pleasant to observe, or the technological breakthroughs that make modern life possible. In all of these cases, we have benefited as individual Jews and as a people. While we may justifiably set boundaries to preserve our Jewishness, let our eyes not be clouded to the real, true good that interactions with our neighbors can bring.

Parashat Yitro

Decalogue / Presidents' Day Weekend

Torah: Ex. 18:1–20:23, 75 Pesukim

Hertz 288–301*; Stone 394–415

Haftara (§): Is. 6:1–13

Hertz 302–304; Stone 1154–1155

Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

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

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, February 17th

Shaharit.....	6:25 am
Candle lighting	5:20 pm
Minha	5:15 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit	5:45 pm
Young Professionals Dinner (20s & 30s) with Rabbi Ben Hassan	6:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, February 18th

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 w/Rabbi Hassan.....	5:15 pm
Arvit	6:10 pm
Havdala	6:25 pm

(Continued on page 2)

Mazal Tov
to the Sassoon family
on the birth of
Orli May Sassoon

Lincoln and the Jews: In Honor of Presidents' Day

Abraham Lincoln is famous for presiding over the American Civil War and the abolition of slavery. Yet few outside the Jewish community remember his many Jewish connections, which lasted until an assassin's bullet took his life on Hol Hamo'ed Pesah.

One of several ways he supported our people during his presidency was to push for Jews to be able to serve as military chaplains. On December 14, 1861 he wrote to Rabbi Arnold Fischel:

My Dear Sir: I find that there are several particulars in which the present law in regard to Chaplains is supposed to be deficient, all of which I now design presenting to the appropriate Committee of Congress. I shall try to have a new law broad enough to cover what is desired by you in behalf of the Israelites.

The President made good on this promise, passing the law in 1862. He went on to appoint three rabbis as the first Jewish hospital chaplains: Jacob Frankel, B. H. Gotthelf, and Ferdinand Sarner. *Yehe Zikhro Barukh!*

KJ Welcomes Rabbi Ben Hassan

Scholar in Residence
who joins us for this Shabbat
Parashat Yitro from
Sephardic Bikkur Holim in Seattle

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in loving memory of
Norma Dabby, z"l
by Karen and Frank Dabby

Se'uda Shelisheet

is sponsored
in loving memory of
Edward Mussry, z"l
by The Mussry Family

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
Adam Moshe Chaim ben Olga

In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from February 18 to 25, 2017. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

23 Shevat / Sunday, February 19th

Victoria Elie *Victoria Elie bat Caden*
Maurice Shamash *Menashe Hayim Shamash*
Carl Zekaria *Katsuri ben Sion*

24 Shevat / Monday, February 20th

Rachel David *Rahel bat Regina*

25 Shevat / Tuesday, February 21st

Norma Dabby *Naima bat Farha*
Abraham Sales *Avraham ben Sassoon*
Morton Raymond Einy *Mordecai ben Rahamim*

26 Shevat / Wednesday, February 22nd

Moshe Solomon *Moshe Hai ben David*
Abraham Haim Yaacov *Avraham ben Haim*

27 Shevat/ Thursday, February 23rd

Ezra Avrahamy *Ezra ben Yosef*
Nathan Bass *Nathan ben Yisrael*

28 Shevat / Friday, February 24th

Hilda Jacob *Haviva bat Masooda*
Nassim Shamash *Nassim ben Sarah Khatoun*

29 Shevat / Shabbat, February 25th

Ramah Duke *Rahma bat Salha Khatoun*
Georgia Jiji
Mordechai Sassoon *Mordehai Hayim ben Moshe*

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, February 19th

Shaharit 7:30 am

Monday to Friday, February 20th to 24th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Fri & Sat Feb 25th & 26th

Shabbat Candle lighting 5:27 pm

Friday Mincha 5:15 pm

Shaharit 8:30 am

Saturday Mincha 4:45 pm

Havdala 6:31 pm

TU BISHVAT HIKE: KAHAL JOSEPH AND TALMUD TORAH



Top Row
Enjoying
soccer
and lawn
bowling



Right Side
Hiking up
to Inspira-
tion point



Left Side
Sharing a
picnic
lunch
together



Middle
Group
pictures, &
learning
Torah at
Inspiration
Point



Purim Save the Date

Saturday, March 11

7:30 PM - Megilla Reading

Sunday March 12

10:00 AM - Megilla Reading

11:00 AM - 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.

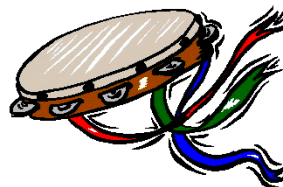
Purim Baking!

Sunday, March 5 * 10:00 AM

Bake traditional Iraqi treats with friends for the KJ Purim baskets.

Whether you're a novice or experienced baker, make a mitzvah with us!

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