

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

For the past few months, a great controversy has been roiling Anglo Jewry. More than your average tit-for-tat, it has pitted senior rabbinic figures against each other in a bitter public battle that has done little credit to the most outspoken voices.



On one side is my family's erstwhile community in England, the Spanish and Portuguese Jewish congregation Sahar Asamaim. Its new spiritual leader, Rabbi Joseph Dweck, was imported from Brooklyn's Syrian community in 2013, and he has breathed welcome life into the English Sephardi world these past four years.

On the other side is a group of Haredi rabbis who objected to a lecture that Rabbi Dweck recently gave, in which he expressed a welcoming attitude towards our increasing awareness of homosexuality and the issues it may pose. They deemed his position unbecoming of a rabbi in a leadership role, and stridently called for him to be censured or even fired.

At heart, this outcry has revolved around what opinions are acceptable in our public discourse. Where do we draw the line between an edgy contention that gets people thinking and an insolent expression of rebuke for everything we consider holy? And if someone does cross that line, how should the "normative" community respond?

To listen to Rabbi Dweck's critics, his initial "transgression" of compassion gives *carte blanche* to anyone who is trying to keep the Jewish community invested in being Jewish. The faithful are apparently so incapable of forming sound judgments, and so susceptible to the temptations

of the Big Bad World, that they must be protected from even encountering a "problematic" point of view in the first place. If it takes a mendacious character assassination to save more souls by hounding a "heretical" voice from the public square, then the ends justify the means.

I will argue that we need look no further than Parashat Matot to see that the Torah's perspective is utterly opposed to this orientation. Here God has spent three Humashim and four decades taking the Israelites to Eretz Kena'an, yet on the cusp of completing this plan, two and a half tribes declare their interest in settling the country next door! Imagine the *hutsa* that it would take to even ask for something like this! Moshe fumes at them in justifiable anger, comparing them to the 10 spies and questioning their loyalty to God and their fellow Israelites.

But then an incredible thing happens: the tribes take Moses's point of view to heart without backing down themselves. They pledge to serve God in whatever way He asks, and to fight alongside their fellows to conquer Kena'an. But they also remain firm in their intent to return to the far side of the Jordan, and Moses eventually gives his assent.

This conversation was able to happen because the two sides had a baseline level of mutual respect. They didn't shy away from their differences, and they reached a mature compromise in which each relented on some of their initial goals so that they could move forward together.

I am sorry that such a compromise has taken so long to come about between Rabbi Dweck and his opponents. May the peace agreement that Chief Rabbi Mirvis brokered this week usher in a new era in which we can recognize the basic human decency of the people with whom we disagree.

Parashat Matot/Mas'e
2nd Week of Rebuke, End of Devarim
 Torah: Num. 30:2–36:13, 244 Pesukim
 Hertz 702–724; Stone 900–935
 Haftara (§): Jer. 2:4–28, 4:1–2
 Hertz 725–729; Stone 1193–1194
 Tefillot: Morid Hatal, Hakhrazat Av (Mon)

Reminder

This Shabbat, July 22, 2017
Shaharit will start at 8:15 am

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, July 21st

Shaharit	6:25 am
Candle lighting.....	7:43 pm
Minha.....	6:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit	7:00 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, July 22nd

Shaharit / Morning Prayer	8:15 am
Keri'at HaTorah	10:15 am
Musaf	11:40 am
Women's Tehillim	6:00 pm
Minha	7:00 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet.....	7:45 pm
Arvit	8:30 pm
Havdala	8:46 pm

(Continued on page 2)

Mazal Tov

Keren & Jeremy Avitan
on the birth of a baby boy

Besiman Tov
to siblings, Liel & Meir Yaacov
and to grandparents
Jeannot & Rachele Acoca
Yaacov & Barbara Avitan

Mazal Tov

Laura and Sam Shaaya
on the birth of a baby girl

Besiman Tov
to older sister, Sofia
and to grandparents
Sholeh and Moussa Shaaya
Gloria Izaac and Phillip Izaac

Condolences

We send our deepest condolences
to the family and friends of

Rachel Joseph, z"l

Rachel bat Masuda, z"l, is the sister of our past President Saul Levi and the aunt of past President Ron Einy and Board member Michelle Kurtz. Rachel is survived by her siblings Saul Levi, Flo Levi, Lilly Jacob, and Louisa Hostick; sons Ezekiel and Ezra Joseph; twelve grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, and a loving extended family. She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph Joseph; her siblings, Ellis Levi, Trixie Ezekiel, Mollie Einy Konigsberg, and Tiffany Borenstein; and her children, Lillian Steinman & Reuben Joseph. May the family be comforted together with all the mourners of Tsion.

Thank You

The Board of Directors of Kahal Joseph would like to express our deepest gratitude to our many members and friends for their overwhelming support of the Giving Days fundraiser.

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, July 23rd

Shaharit 7:30 am

Rosh Hodesh Av / Monday, July 24th

Shaharit 6:15 am

Tuesday-Friday, July 25th-28th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Friday-Saturday, July 28-29

Shabbat Candle lighting 7:39 pm

Friday Minha 6:30 pm

Shaharit **8:30 am**

Saturday Minha 7:00 pm

Havdala 8:41 pm



Appreciation

Thanks to the volunteers who helped organize the playroom last Sunday. We appreciate your efforts on behalf of our children!

Rabbi and Jessica Melhado; Hagit, Joshua, and Elizabeth Sarabia; Ashkan Shadi, Romina Vosoughi, and David Wyner

In Memoriam

We remember the following yearzeit anniversaries from July 22 to 29, 2017. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

28 Tamuz / Shabbat, July 22nd

Ezra Said Goury *Ezra Said ben Simcha*

29 Tamuz / Sunday, July 23rd

Salim Hanoon *Salim ben Ashair*

1 Av / Monday, July 24th

Aron Philip Blank *Aharon Shraga ben Avraham*

Ezra Ezrapour *Ezra ben Avraham Hayim*

Yohanan ben Yehezkel Shamashian

2 Av / Tuesday, July 25th

Shlomo Dallal

Shimon Sarraf

3 Av / Wednesday, July 26th

Hilda Nawy *Habiba bat Lulu*

David Stoler

4 Av / Thursday, July 27th

Sylvia Aboulafia *Sylvia bat Miriam*

Yaakov Kemareh *Yaakov ben Ezra*

5 Av / Friday, July 28th

Rev Albert Morris *Abdala Faraj ben Moshe*

6 Av / Shabbat, July 29th

Eric Morris *Itzhak Rahamim ben Abdullah Moshe*

Refu'a Shelema

Moselle Amron • Sally Amron • Haskell Avrahamy

Sylvia Cohen • Mordechai Cohen • Esther Duke

Sassoon Ezra • Tilda Levy • Florice Newberry

Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria

Arlette bat Rashel • Chaya Chana bat Batya

Katie bat Farha • Malka bat Rahel

Mehry bat Miriam Hakimipour • Miriam bat Yetta

Miryam bat Malka • Moshe Ezra ben Mazal Tov

Yvonne Moalim • Simcha bat Rooha

FEEDBACK WANTED!

We're sure you have lots to say!



Parents, grandparents, friends, kids!



We're looking to improve the children's programming at Kahal.

What do you like now? What would you like to see us do differently? What new things do you think we should do?

How do you want to be involved in the future?

Email Jessica at jessica@kahaljoseph.org with your thoughts. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

Shabbat Matters: Rules, Rituals and Meaning Mondays at 8PM live on YouTube!

Join Rabbi Melhado for an interactive, online series on all aspects of Shabbat
Email rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org for the direct link

Final Session!

July 24: Crescent & Cross: Shabbat & Non-Jewish Society

Find all the sessions online at
www.kahaljoseph.org/shabbat-matters.html



Register now for fall!

The Sam and Norma Dabby Talmud Torah

*** Hebrew * Fun * Parasha * History *
* Friends * Values * Holidays * Food *
* Mitzvot * and you!**

Contact Molly Jalali at molly@emetek.com or Rabbi Melhado at rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org for more information!

Registration forms at www.kahaljoseph.org/talmudtorah.html

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SHABBAT DINNER FRIDAY, August 18 AT 7:30 PM

Interested in....

a delicious dinner?
meeting new people?
invigorating discussion?



Join Rabbi Melhado and his family at home for a relaxed, joyful Shabbat dinner with good people.

Open to members and friends in their 20s and 30s.
Register now by emailing Rabbi at rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org.

Kahal Joseph's Annual Giving Days

Sunday, July 16 and 23, 2017

To all the members and friends of Kahal Joseph:

Sunday July 16 & July 23 will be our Annual Giving Days, days to give what you can to help our synagogue continue serving our community and enhance its programs for our members and their families.

As you know, we rely on the generosity of our members and friends to supplement our general fund and to continue improving our programs and enhancing our synagogue.

Thanks to an earmarked donation to our Building Fund, renovation is in progress to improve and beautify the building. The lobby will be partially widened and remodeled, the sanctuary will be given a fresh look, the social hall will be modernized and the restrooms remodeled.

Many members of our community have volunteered to take time on our first Annual Giving Day to call you. When you receive the call, please keep in mind that no amount is too small and that any donation you make will be greatly appreciated. If you contribute \$1,000 or more, your name will be listed on the Benefactors' wall in the lobby of the synagogue.

Kahal Joseph has succeeded and flourished due to the generous support of our members throughout the years. I look forward to your support, may Hashem bless you and your families.

Sincerely,

Vette Dabby,
President



Beat the rush! Donate online at www.kahaljoseph.org/donate.html or call at 310-474-0559