

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

Given how tough some of the world's problems are, it is normal for us to respond with feelings of helplessness. "What can I do?" we might say. "I am just one individual. Even if I spend all my free time and resources fighting this, I'll never be able to beat it!"



Whenever an Israelite made a sacrifice, the Levites could claim some of the choice parts, thereby earning food and bartered goods with which to make ends meet. Each time they received a gift, it was from an individual Israelite who was too small to affect the Levites' financial solvency. But when a large group of Israelites all agreed to make a habit of these gifts, the impact of this collective decision kept an entire tribe afloat.

The primary advantage of this response is that it gives us a defense mechanism against the trauma of knowing what's at stake. Setting up the expectation that we can personally change the world is exhausting when we are confronted by the sheer size of the challenges before us. Any one person is unlikely to single-handedly beat ISIS or bring an end to social ills like poverty, disease, pollution, or human trafficking, and we need ways to carry forward while society remains broken.

Yet a major drawback of this thinking is that it becomes easy to avoid responsibility for doing anything meaningful. If we grow accustomed to being resigned and defeated, we slowly numb to the issues and might even stop caring about them at all. This not only holds back the energy that we should be applying to helping others, but it also cuts off our capacity for empathy and basic goodness.

In striking a balance between realism and idealism, we would do well to follow the example of the Israelites in Parashat Shofetim. The tribe of Levi, who served in the Mishkan, had no land in Biblical Israel, and therefore no innate means of earning a living. Without any economic platform they would have suffered in poverty and desperation, but God steps in by establishing a social support network for them.

A more recent example of exactly this model is the Sephardic Victory Club, which was a deeply moving Jewish response to World War II. While it was beyond the power of New York's Sephardim to stop the Holocaust, they nevertheless took it upon themselves to sell bonds for the US war effort. Astonishingly they sold \$4.5 million in bonds their first year, enough to buy an entire heavy bomber for the US Air Force, and the next year they financed a Landing Tank Craft.

The supposed powerlessness of American Jewry during the war is defied by the image of a plane dropping bombs on the enemy with the words "Sephardic Victory Club" emblazoned on its nose. This was made possible not by a single hero with unattainable powers of achievement, but rather by a large, faceless mass of people who were drawn to the idea of doing something bigger than themselves for the collective good.

The next time you see something horrible on the news, give it a try. Instead of putting up your emotional walls and scrolling down the screen, take a little time to do something about it. Donate to a cause which is working. Sign a petition. Call your Representative or sign up to volunteer. You'll rest a little easier knowing that you own a small piece of the solution.

Shabbat Shalom

Parashat Shofetim

Fourth Week of Consolation

Torah: Deut. 16:18–21:9, 97 Pesukim

Hertz 820–835; Stone 1024–1045

Haftara: Is. 51:12–52:12

Hertz 835–839; Stone 1199–1200

Tefillot: Morid Hatal

Reminder: Selihot

Selihat take place before Shaharit every morning throughout the month of Elul.

For detailed schedule, see p.2

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, August 25th

Selihat	5:45 am
Shaharit	6:25 am
Candle lighting.....	7:09 pm
Minha	6:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit	7:00 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, August 26th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah	10:15 am
Musaf	11:40 am
Women's Tehillim	5:30 pm
Minha	6:30 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet	7:15 pm
Arvit	7:55 pm
Havdala	8:11 pm

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Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in memory of

Sam Dabby, z"l

by
Karen and Frank Dabby

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Sunday, August 27th

Selihot / Shaharit 6:45 am / 7:30 am
Talmud Torah Open House 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Monday-Friday, August 28-September 1

Selihot / Shaharit 5:45 am / 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, Sept 1-2

Shabbat Candle lighting 7:01 pm
Friday Minha 6:30 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 6:15 pm
Havdala 8:02 pm

Refua 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 • Yvonne Moalim
• Katie bat Farha • Malka bat Rahel •
Mehry bat Miriam Hakimipour • Miriam bat Yetta
Miryam bat Malka • Moshe Ezra ben Mazal Tov •
Moshe Hooman ben Sara • Simcha bat Rooha

Hakhnasat Sefer Torah

Join us next Shabbat
September 2, 2017
for the rededication of
Saul E. Levi's family sefer torah
which has been lovingly restored

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries August 26 to September 2, 2017. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

4 Elul / Shabbat, August 26th

Edward Kelly

5 Elul / Sunday, August 27th

Aharon Shalom Elisha Arkie Hacohen

Lil Bir Leah bat Girji

7 Elul / Tuesday, August 29th

Yaacov Aboulafia Yaacov Aboulafia ben Sarah

8 Elul / Wednesday, August 30th

Yamin Sassoon Yamin ben Sassoon

Rachel Ezra Jacob Rahel bat Lulu

Naji Ezra Helali Naji ben Avraham

Clara Mekies Clara bat Rachel

9 Elul / Thursday, August 31st

Sam Dabby Shimon ben Haskel

Hilda Deborah Habiba bat Farha

Rachel Hayim Mingail Rachel bat Miriam

Selihot for Elul!

Kahal Joseph welcomes you to the special selihot prayers before Shaharit over the next few weeks.

These unique services begin the process of spiritual cleansing in the lead-up to Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. We come early to synagogue in the morning twilight, at the time when the Talmud says that God is most inclined to be merciful, and pour out our hearts before Him. *Hatanu lefanekha, rahem alenu* - "we have sinned before You, have mercy upon us!"

Sephardi tradition calls for rousing melodies that are sung with the full devotion of our hearts. Poetic favorites like *Anenu*, *Im Afes*, and *Avinu Malkenu* are interspersed with supplications and the 13 Attributes of God, making a diverse palate of prayers that puts us in the best frame of mind for repentance.

Make this a great start to your day any morning from Rosh Hodesh Elul until Yom Kippur.

Month of Elul, from 8/24

Weekdays: 5:45 am

Sundays: 6:45 am

Labor Day (9/4): 6:15 am

Days of Awe, from 9/24

Fast of Gedalia: 6:30 am

Weekdays: 5:30 am

Sundays: 6:30 am

Renovation in Progress



It's been an exciting five weeks.

A great team of workmen under the supervision of both Abe Kamara and our President Yvette Dabby have reconfigured and enlarged the lobby. We appreciate their hard work and dedication.

May the final product help bring new life to our events for years to come!





The Sam and Norma Dabby Talmud Torah

FAMILY OPEN HOUSE
SUN. 8/27, 10:30 TO NOON

**KOSHER BRUNCH * MEET THE
TEACHERS * EXPLORE THE SCHOOL *
REGISTER FOR CLASSES * ART &
BAKING ACTIVITIES * & YOU!**

RSVP to Molly at Molly@kahaljoseph.org



FREE Jewish Children's Books!



Do you know or love a Jewish child?

They can get a FREE Jewish-themed book in the mail
every month - award-winning, amazing and FREE!

SIGN UP HERE

PJ Library - 6 months to 8 years - www.pjlibrary.org

PJ Our Way - 9 to 11 years old - www.pjourway.org

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, the
Harold Grinspan Foundation & local donor families

Membership Benefits Everyone!

You get...

- *To be a part of the Kahal family
- *High Holy Days tickets
- * Rabbi for lifecycle events
- *Pastoral counseling
- *Preferential rates for space
rentals, Talmud Torah tuition
and children's programs

You support...

- *Adult Education programs
- *Social events
- *Children's education & programs
- *Prayer minyanim
- *Keeping Kahal here for you
when you need it!

Contact the office at 310-474-0559 or speak to Rabbi Melhado to join!



500th Anniversary of the Rabbinic Bible, 1517-2017

In every Jewish bookstore, synagogue, or yeshiva there sits a humble set of books so common that we have forgotten just how special they are. This is the *Mikra'ot Gedolot* or "Rabbinic Bible," famous for making Torah commentary accessible to ordinary people.

Opening each volume is a satisfying experience, artistically and spiritually. A typical page lays out a passage of the Tanakh in an attractive, crisp font, and decorates it with columns of commentaries and notes from the finest rabbinic minds.

For the first time, scholarship written over five centuries from Spain to Syria was gathered together in one place. All that readers had to do to access the best fruits of Torah scholarship was to flip through the pages of a single work.

The early 16th century was an important time in the history of Jewish texts. Handwritten documents as essential as the Talmud were difficult to find, and only Christians had the right to print books. Yet despite these limitations, major areas of Jewish knowledge could be preserved by cooperating with Catholic businessmen.

The *Mikra'ot Gedolot* is the first of many unique accomplishments pioneered at the press of Daniel Bomberg (d. 1549). It took 30 years for the book to start taking the form we now recognize, and over three centuries before the most commonly printed editions saw the light of day. Who knows what the collection will look like when this wonderful project reaches its thousandth year!



Rabbinic Bible to the Book of Numbers, Third Bomberg edition: Venice, 1546-1548

FORGOT YOUR HEBREW? NEVER LEARNED ANY? HEBREW FOR BEGINNERS WITH RABBI MELHADO

Enhance your prayer experience
Start from the beginning with a small group
Enjoy a mix of online & in-person lessons

Email Rabbi Melhado at
RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org to join!

Hajla!

High Holy Day Musicale

An evening of Israeli & Arabic songs
featuring Hazan Ben Atar and his band

Sunday, Sept. 24 at 7:30PM

Refreshments will be served

Tickets: \$40 in advance, \$50 at the door
RSVP by Sept. 20 to the office or online at
www.kahaljoseph.org/events.html



Find your way through the High Holy Days

Join Rabbi Melhado online as we explore
the meaning of the High Holy Days
and prepare spiritually



Monday, Sept. 11 at 8PM

Reflect on Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 8PM

Prepare for Yom Kippur

RSVP to RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org

**Honor a
loved one.**

**Celebrate a
milestone.**

**Place an ad
in the
High Holy Day
Booklet!**

Donate \$18 or
more to Kahal to
put a 140
character greeting,
milestone or
memorial in the
booklet

Visit
www.kahaljoseph.org/hhd-booklet
by Wednesday,
September 13

CELEBRATE HIGH HOLY DAYS WITH KAHAL!

High Holy Day Tickets

Members - look for your tickets in the mail soon!

Guests - order your tickets now!

Order online at www.kahaljoseph.org/high-holy-days.html,
call 310-474-0559 or stop by in person!

MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- * Two adult tickets with family membership OR one single ticket with single membership
- * Free tickets for preregistered teens
- * Free playroom wristbands for preregistered children
- * Favorable rates for members' children in college

GUEST TICKET RATES:

Remember, your ticket package can be applied to the cost of a new membership!

* \$300 for adults

* \$150 for teens from bar mitzva through college

* \$50 for children under bar mitzva age



Children's Program



Join us for our exciting High Holy Days children's programming. We'll have engaging activities, lively entertainment, nutritious snacks, and an age-appropriate exploration of the holidays.

Registration required! Registration forms are in the mailing, or register online at www.kahaljoseph.org/hhd-kids.

Free for members, \$25 per holiday for non-members.

ROSH HASHANAH

Thursday, Sept. 21 - 10AM - 2PM

Friday, Sept. 22 - 10AM - 2PM

YOM KIPPUR

Friday, Sept. 29 - 5:45 - 10PM

Saturday, Sept. 30 -
10AM - 2PM, 3:45PM - 7:30PM

Welcome Back Hazan Ben Atar

We are thrilled that the wonderful voice of Hazan Michael Ben Atar will once again grace us from Jerusalem for Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur. He will join our beloved Hazanim Sassoon Ezra and Saeed Jalali, so that our prayers will be as beautiful to our own ears as they are to God.

Born into two Iraqi families, the Hazan avidly follows Mizrahi cantors Moshe Habusha, David Halabi, and Gourgy Yair. After studying at Yeshivat Oz Meir, he made music the centerpiece of his professional life. He plays the oud & violin, performs hazanut and at semahot, and teaches music to children and adults.



FALL HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Rosh Hashanah
September 20-22

Yom Kippur
September 29-30

Sukkot
October 4 - 11
Shemini Atzeret/
Simhat Torah
October 11-13

Mitsvot

Make a donation to reserve your
mitsva for the High Holy Days!

Call the office at 310-474-0559