

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

The diplomatic jousting between Abraham and Abimelekh over water rights in Be'er Sheva is a fitting background for the hundredth anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. Signed on November 2nd, 1917 and published a week later, this document remains a foundational text for any discussion of the Jewish presence in modern Israel.



Unraveling the contemporary context of the letter is much more difficult. The myth that it was the natural outcome of British benevolence doesn't square with the naked self-interest with which they conquered 25% of the globe. Likewise, it is hardly a coincidence that the Declaration appeared in November 1917, just as General Edmund Allenby turned the tide of the Sinai and Palestine Campaign and marched into the same Be'er Sheva of our Parasha. With the British fighting a pitched battle for mastery of the territory, any public statement about Zionism could be expected to serve their regional ambitions.

Muddying the waters further is the vagueness of the text. What was meant by "national home" a term with no previous history in international language? If the gentiles in this homeland would have "civil and religious rights," what about their political rights? In the wider lens, how did the Balfour Declaration interact with the McMahon-Hussein Correspondence, which seemed to pledge Erets Yisrael to a Saudi-led Arab state in 1916? How did either promise affect the cynical Sykes-Picot agreement, which was leaked by the Russians later that same month to the great embarrassment of the British?

Abraham's example suggests that leaving these doubts unresolved will leave the conflict unresolved. His solution was to push for a new public agreement that reestablished the facts in a way that both sides could validate. It was a bold move that required finesse with a powerful competitor. May God bestow the spirit of this type of leadership on those best positioned to contract a new accord and usher in a welcome era of peace!

Just a single sentence long, its florid words are now imprinted on the hearts of Jews worldwide. Indeed, one report on the centenary featured a young Israeli reciting it by heart with the same solemnity with which American children repeat the Gettysburg Address. I can just imagine the rabbinic masters of gematria assigning special significance to its 67 words in the same way that they do for the text of Barukh She'amar. Something like, "67 has the same value as the word 'yibane,' which heralds the *reconstruction* of Biblical Israel." (Try the math – it really works!)

Many in the Jewish community rightly see the Balfour Declaration as the first serious nod to our national aspirations by a global power player. Looking back on it from the future, it is easy to draw parallels between what we know actually happened and the text's promise that "Palestine" would host "a national home for the Jewish people." Those who successfully lobbied the British government to publish such a letter, including the Haham of the Anglo Sephardi community, achieved a major advancement for the legitimacy of political Zionism.

Parashat Vayera

Rabbi Melhado's

Bar Mitzva Anniversary

Torah: Gen. 18:1–22:24, 147 Pesukim

Hertz 63–76; Stone 78–105

Haftara (§): II Kings 4:1–23

Hertz 76–78; Stone 1134–1135

Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

Reminder: Winter Shabbat Times

The time change makes Shabbat come in very early in November and December. For the next eight weeks...

- Minha on Friday will be at 4:15 pm
- Minha on Saturday will be at 3:45 pm

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 3rd

Minha 5:30 pm
Candle lighting 5:40 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, November 4th

Rabbi Melhado's Bar Mitzva Anniversary

Shaharit..... 8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah 10:15 am
Musaf 11:40 am
Women's Tehillim *right after kiddush*
Minha 5:00 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet 5:45 pm
Arvit 6:30 pm
Havdala 6:42 pm

(Continued on page 2)

A Special Se'uda

Thank You
Jessica Melhado



This past Shabbat, we gathered for a special se'uda shelisheet in honor of the Shabbat Project, which aims to bring Jews together to celebrate Shabbat in a traditional way. Along with our regular crowd, there were another twenty attendees who came especially for this week!

After reading Minha, the group moved upstairs to the playroom to enjoy the Third Meal and hear our guest lecturer. Rebbetzin Jessica Melhado spoke movingly about her experience as an immigrant and baalat teshuva. Born in South Africa, she lived for a few years in a remote part of Canada with her parents until they moved to the United States.

Judaism had always been important to her family, but it wasn't until she became an adult that she began to engage with more Orthodox forms of observance. Her talk used the motifs of Lekh-Lekha to explore the theme of "religious journeys that accompany physical journeys."

Thank you to our speaker and to everyone who attended! Look out for more special speakers and events at seuda shelisheet!

Se'uda Shelisheet in loving memory of Malka bat Menashe Benzion Aghalar, z"l

by Desiree & Tooraj Aghalar
and Family

Mazal Tov Rabbi Raif Melhado on the 22nd anniversary of your Bar Mitsva

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, November 5th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Talmud Torah 9:45 am

Monday-Friday, November 6th-10th

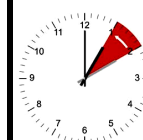
Shaharit 6:25 am

Veterans Day

Friday, November 10th (observed)

Next Shabbat/ Fri-Sat, November 10-11

Candle lighting 4:34 pm
Friday Minha 4:15 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 3:45 pm
Havdala 5:37 pm



Daylight Savings Ends

Remember to set your clocks back one hour this Sunday morning! Enjoy the 25-hour day and get ready for Shabbat to start coming in early!

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from November 4 to 11, 2017. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services in honor of loved ones.

15 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 4th
Eliyahu ben Yaacob Benzaqen

16 Heshvan / Sunday, November 5th
Reuben Jacob Reuben Hayim ben Yaacov

17 Heshvan / Monday, November 6th
Molok Aghalar Malka bat Menashe Benzion
Eric Kelly Eliyahu ben Saleh Moshe Kadoorie
Touba Rangcar Tova Rangcar
Haim Saleh Haim ben Aziza
Mida Simon Masooda bat Ghala

18 Heshvan / Tuesday, November 7th
Yeshaiiah ben Yaacov Shalom
Hazan Gabriel Solomon Gavriel ben Shlomo

20 Heshvan / Thursday, November 9th
Mordechai Harkham Mordechai ben Hacham
David

Victoria Nissan Victoria Zeubaida bat Lulu
Esther Robbins Esther bat Matana

21 Heshvan / Friday, November 10th
Joshua Moses Yehoshua ben Ephraim Moshe

22 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 11th
Khuzna Levi Khuzna bat Esther HaLevi

Refua Shelema

Moselle Amron • Sally Amron • Haskell Avraham • 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 • Moshe Haim ben Sara • Oren ben Aliza

Kahal Joseph Shabbat Children's Program!

Starting Saturday, November 11
Shabbat Haya Sarah

* Singing * Stories * Games *
* Snack * Discussion * & more!



Watch the Kol Mevasser to find out more!
To sponsor or help out - email Jessica@kahaljoseph.org

14TH LOS ANGELES SEPHARDIC

FILM FESTIVAL

OPENING GALA

Sunday, November 5 at 4:00PM

Paramount Studios, 5555 Melrose Ave, LA

RSVP at www.sephardiceducationalcenter.com



SCREENINGS

November 7 - 12

Laemelle's Music Hall Theater

9036 Wilshire Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA

Featuring...

Remember Baghdad - Wed. Nov. 8 at 7:30pm

UK, 2016 - 69 minutes - English, Hebrew & Arabic with subtitles

Q & A following film with Edwin Shuker, star of the film

Join Edwin Shuker as he returns to Baghdad to buy a house - to "plant a seed of hope." After 2600 years, the Jewish community of Iraq vanished in one generation. Follow four families from picnics on the Tigris and royal balls in the early 20th century to hangings, imprisonment and escape in the 1960s. Vivid Testimony, home videos, and news archives bring these turbulent times into focus, while modern footage presents the situation today.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SHABBAT DINNER FRIDAY, November 3 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.

SHESHBESH AT KAHAL



JIMENA and Kahal Joseph Congregation
invite you to an

All-Ages Backgammon Tournament

Sunday, November 12th
10505 Santa Monica Blvd

10am-4pm

10am: Tournament check-in and warm-up
11am: Tournament begins

Enjoy Middle Eastern music and food
Pre-registration: \$10 adults, kids FREE, \$20 Tournament Entry
At the door: \$10 adults, \$5 kids, \$30 Tournament
Prizes for top players and raffle giveaway
(bring your own board for a free raffle ticket!)

Tickets: bit.ly/kjsheshbesh
Share on facebook: bit.ly/kjsheshbeshfb
Questions or purchase over the phone: (646) 894-0052

HANUKKAH SAVE THE DATES

The Kahal Joseph HANUKKAH PARTY

SUNDAY, DEC. 17 - 11AM TO 12:30PM

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS HANUKKAH DINNER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
6PM AT THE RABBI'S HOUSE

Announcing Kahal Joseph's 5778 Speaker Series

"THE TOP TEN CHALLENGES FACING TRADITIONAL JUDAISM"



Rabbi Asher Lopatin

Monday, November 13 at 7PM

Currently the President of YCT Rabbinical School in New York City, Rabbi Lopatin served as the spiritual leader of Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel in Chicago for 18 years.

He was ordained by Rabbi Aharon Soloveichik and Yeshivas Brisk. A Rhodes Scholar, he has an M.Phil in Medieval Arabic Thought from Oxford and has authored many articles.