

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

When we already dislike someone, it becomes natural to judge them negatively. Because we are primed against them emotionally, it is easier for us to interpret neutral or inconsequential actions in a bad light. Even trivial mannerisms count against an enemy, so we might find ourselves attacking the way someone walks, eats, or sounds when they laugh.

This seems to be the case with the attitude to Laban in our tradition. There is no question that he is an abusive person, and his treacherous behavior to Yaakov says it all. What kind of man would deceive his future son-in-law about which daughter he was to marry, and then think nothing of demanding another seven years' labor for the bride he actually wanted in the first place?!

Yet despite these tangible wrongs, rabbinic literature is harsh on Laban far beyond his actual misdeeds. We may remember the iconic passage at the beginning of the Haggada where he is compared unfavorably to Pharaoh. Based on a minor turn of phrase from the Bikurim ritual in Parashat Ki Tavo, Laban is cast as a fiendish hater of Israel who sought to erase all traces of Judaism from the world. Although the Haggadic text may not be presenting this as a historical fact, it is not exactly a flattering compliment.

This week's parasha has yet another example of Laban being raked over the coals for an apparently ordinary occurrence. After a flare-up of tension is resolved between him and Yaakov,



they agree to make a covenant of peace. The sign of their agreement is a heap of stones by which they share a meal. Yaakov calls it "Gal'ed," which means "heap of testament" in Hebrew, and Laban calls it "Yegar Sahaduta," which has the same meaning in Aramaic.

Outwardly there should be nothing wrong with this. Yaakov is comfortable speaking the Hebrew in which he has forged a strong relationship with God, while Laban speaks the Aramaic of the homeland where he is still living. From Abraham to Ezra there were many holy prophets who spoke Aramaic, and a few of our regulars at Kahal's morning Shaharit speak Neo-Aramaic. Why shouldn't Laban call the heap by the name with which he is most comfortable?

Still, several rabbinic voices use his Aramaic as a means of attack. The Malbim, whose commentary is available in many editions of the Mikraot Gedolot today, cites subtle difference between the Aramaic and the Hebrew to claim that Laban was trying to force lifelong terms on Yaakov. Laban must fear Yaakov's revenge for his shabby treatment, and he uses a slight mis-translation to make the pact eternal, against Yaakov's understanding that it is a one-time agreement.

This approach may be useful rhetorically, but we must remember how easy it is to lose ourselves in the judgment of others. If criticizing an already flawed man helps us face and correct our own moral failings, then it is doing a public service. Yet this technique is only advisable if we can remember the basic good behind many of our neighboring cultures. If it's just about passing judgment, then let us judge ourselves!

Parashat Vayetse Thanksgiving Weekend

Torah: Gen. 28:10–32:3, 148 Pesukim
Hertz 106–117; Stone 144–169
Haftara (Sephardim): Hos. 11:7–12:12
Hertz 135–137; Stone 1139
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Birkat Halevana

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 24th

Minha 4:15 pm
Candle lighting 4:27 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, November 25th

Shaharit..... 8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah 10:15 am
Musaf 11:40 am
Women's Tehillim *right after kiddush*
Minha 3:45 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet 4:30 pm
Arvit 5:15 pm
Havdala 5:30 pm

Sunday, November 26th

Shaharit..... 7:30 am

Monday to Friday, Nov 27 to Dec 1

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

Next Shabbat/ Friday-Saturday, Dec 1-2

Candle lighting 4:25 pm
Friday Minha 4:15 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 3:45 pm
Havdala 5:29 pm

Mazal Tov Natalie and Allan Djalilmand

Besiman Tov

to parents, Suzy and Isaac Assia
Janet and David Djalilmand
brothers, Jonathan Assia
Alex and Aaron Djalilmand
grandmother, Claire Assia
and both extended families

Heartfelt Thanks

Rabbi Melhado personally offers his gratitude to the donors who bought new shelving units for his office.

*Tooraj Aghalar
Glen Benest*

*Doris and Shaoul Moshi
Evelyn and Fuad Salem*

Ruby and Joe Samuels (who organized it all!)

Practical equipment like this makes the job easier to do by creating a more functional workspace. It is a huge improvement that is profoundly appreciated.

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in honor of the marriage of
Natalie and Allan Djalilmand
by
Janet and David Djalilmand



Donate a Day to Kahal!

Kahal appreciates the cheerful assistance of David and Louise Elias, who volunteered for a day this Monday. They helped Rabbi Melhado assemble the donated shelving, sort through our geniza, and organize several storage areas in the library and small synagogue.

If you have a flexible schedule and want to make a difference, your time can be just as impactful as a monetary donation. Help your community and enjoy some pleasant hours with the Rabbi!

In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from November 25 to December 2, 2017. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services in honor of loved ones.

7 Kislev / Shabbat, November 25th

Eliyahu Ezer Eliyahu ben Yoseph

9 Kislev / Monday, November 27th

*Isaac Joseph Itzhak ben Yoseph
Ezra Yitzhaki Ezra ben Reuven
Sholkat Zekharia Sholkat bat Zekharia*

10 Kislev / Tuesday, November 28th

Ruhama bat Chana

11 Kislev / Wednesday, November 29th

*Ludwig Altman
Sassoon Cohen Sassoon Shimon Duek Hacohen
Rachel bat Simha*

12 Kislev / Thursday, November 30th

Yedidyah Yehudah Yedidyah ben Yehudah

13 Kislev / Friday, December 1st

Eliza Maslavi Eliza bat Tifaha

14 Kislev / Shabbat, December 2nd

Helen Levi Haviva bat Farha

Refua Shelema

to Senior Hazan Sassoon Ezra
who is recuperating from a fall



Hebrew-Farsi Tehillim Mehulak

Need a good set of Tehillim
with interlinear Farsi?

Angelina (Ester) Pouldar is
selling sets to raise an offer-
ing for Ohel Moshe. Enjoy Tehillim and sup-
port Israel at the same time!

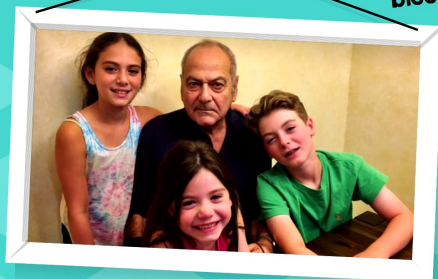
To order a set of 26 divided booklets for \$45,
call 310-709-3518.

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 • Moshe Haim ben Sara

Help our grandfather live
to see us grow up!

He desperately needs a
kidney donor
blood type A or O



For more information on
kidney donation contact



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© R23263@renewal.org

Did you or your parents attend
an Alliance Israelite Universelle school
in the Middle East or North Africa?

Dr. Nadia Malinovich, a scholar of French Jewry, in collaboration
with AIU Library in Paris and the Sephardi Federation in New
York, is looking to interview graduates of the Alliance Israelite
Universelle schools in the Middle East or North Africa.



She has already completed 40 interviews in
Paris and Montreal, and will be in Los
Angeles from January 5 - 13 to conduct
in-person interviews here.

To find out more or to schedule a time to
speak, email her at nmalinovich@gmail.com

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS HANUKKAH DINNER

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

JOIN THE RABBI AND HIS FAMILY FOR AN INTIMATE
DINNER TO CELEBRATE THE SIXTH NIGHT OF HANUKKAH
* HANUKKAH CANDLELIGHTING * LIGHT DAIRY DINNER *
* SPECIAL BELGIAN WAFFLE DESSERT! *

The Kahal Joseph HANUKKAH PARTY



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

Join us for... FUN - CRAFTS
GAMES - FOOD - ACTIVITIES

ISRAEL ON MY MIND

SHABBAT VAYISHLAH
DECEMBER 1 & 2, 2017

Friday, December 1

"Israel's Economy Booming? Maybe Not..."
The Challenges Facing Israel's Economic Future

6:30 PM - Delicious Shabbat Dinner

7:00 PM - Presentation by Dr. Dan Ben-David w/Q&A

8:30 PM - Dessert & mingling

RSVP: \$18 per person at www.kahaljoseph.org/events
or call 310-474-0559 by Wednesday, November 29

Saturday, December 2

Special Sermon by Rabbi Raif Melhado

**"Reaching In and Reaching Out:
How Two Famous Sephardim Helped Build Israel"**

3:45PM - Minha & Festive Seuda Shelisheet

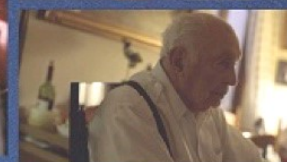


PROFESSOR DAN BEN-DAVID is the President and Founder of the Shores Institute for Socioeconomic Research, an independent, non-partisan policy research center working to improve Israel's economy and conditions of civil society. He is also a senior faculty member of the Department of Public Policy at Tel-Aviv University and the former Executive Director of the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies.

Professor Ben-David earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago and specializes in macroeconomics, economic growth, and international trade. A dynamic educator, he has received teaching awards from Tel-Aviv University, and ranked among the most cited academic economists from 1990-2000.

CUFI PRESENTS

the MIZRAHI project Film SCREENING



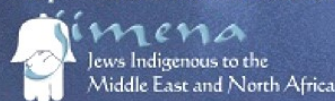
Panel Discussion Featuring:
Mizrahi Community Members
• Mizrahi Dessert Reception •

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 | 7pm

SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER

2701 N. SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CA 90049

This event is presented in collaboration with JIMENA:



As part of our continual effort to stand in solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people, Christians United for Israel (CUFI)'s Diversity Outreach presents a new initiative called, The Mizrahi Project — telling the story of the more than 850,000 Jewish refugees expelled from North Africa and the Middle East. This Jewish community is often referred to as the "forgotten refugees" as their story is unknown to most people.