

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message *Status of Jerusalem*

Wednesday was a truly historic day. Even at my young age of 35 I thought that I would not live to see the US make any meaningful declarations about the status of Jerusalem. It was a surreal moment to hear those unbelievable words from President Trump:

"I have determined that it is time to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. While previous presidents have made this a major campaign promise, they failed to deliver. Today, I am delivering. I've judged this course of action to be in the best interests of the United States of America and the pursuit of peace between Israel and the Palestinians... That is why, consistent with the Jerusalem Embassy Act, I am also directing the State Department to begin preparation to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem."

There is poetry to this announcement being made the week of Parashat Vayeshev, when Yosef first tasted the intense skepticism that his unconventional visions were even plausible. "What sort of dream is this?!" his father asked. "Did you really expect that it would ever come to pass?!" Yosef lived for decades before the events turned all reasonable expectations on their head and proved him right. To be precise, 22 years passed between his first dream and its fulfillment, the exact same amount of time that elapsed



between the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 and the President's announcement in 2017.

If nothing else, Trump's abrupt reversal of long-standing policy precedent commands attention. Reaction has ranged from the full-throated approval of Jewish intellectuals like Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks to the ire of world leaders predicting blowback from Palestinian supporters. No matter what side people are on, everyone is talking about it.

Only a few days after the announcement, the jury is still out on how destabilizing this move will actually be. In Israel this week, there have been clashes with the Palestinians, but a deep judgment can only be made by examining the long-term consequences, which we don't yet know. The same can be said of other parts of the world where Jewish synagogues and businesses have been vandalized: it is a regrettable secondary outcome of the announcement, but the wide-angle lens will be the one to reveal the policy's lasting legacy.

Ultimately, this will also be a significant test case for the integrity of the United Nations. As an idea, it has extremely noble goals: promoting peace, enhancing relations between countries, and solving international problems. As an organization that operates in the real world, it is as flawed as its constituent parts, with a track record that has not always lived up to its ideals. How will this vital but imperfect forum handle the recent shake-up? It has long given a platform for actual ethnic cleansers to tar Israel with a brush that they themselves have wielded. Let's see how it responds when the tables are turned.

Parashat Vayeshev

Torah: Gen. 37:1–40:23, 112 Pesukim
Hertz 141–151; Stone 198–221
Haftara: Amos 2:6–3:8
Hertz 152–154; Stone 1142–1143
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, December 8th

Minha 4:15 pm
Candle lighting 4:25 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, December 9th

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 5:29 pm

Sunday, December 10th

Shaharit..... 7:30 am
Talmud Torah..... 9:45 am

Monday & Tuesday, December 11-12

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

Hanukkah Eves 1 to 3

Tuesday to Thursday, December 12-14

Candle lighting (ideal)..... after 5:28 pm
Candle lighting (duress) ..not before 3:46 pm

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Israel on My Mind

Almost sixty congregants and friends of Kahal Joseph gathered together on Friday night last week to share in a communal Shabbat meal, and hear Dr. Dan Ben-David speak.

Following minha and arvit, people played sheshbesh and schmoozed as everyone arrived. After Shalom Alekhem led by David Kohan and kiddush by Rabbi Melhado, we enjoyed a delicious meal catered by Lieder's. The relaxed atmosphere allowed people to enjoy both their food and the company of their fellow attendees.

At the end of a lovely meal, Dr. Dan Ben-David spoke about the challenges and opportunities facing Israel's economy now and in the future. A question and answer session rounded out his talk, and then dessert ended a wonderful evening.

Special thanks to everyone who made the event possible: Dr. Dan Ben-David and Karen Springer from Shores; Kahal staff Rabbi and Jessica Melhado, Sarah Bouchoucha, Jose Anguiano, and Rosa Maldonado; volunteers David Kohan and Bijan Zadeh; and Lieder's Catering for the delicious food.

We look forward to doing another Friday night soon! Interested in sponsoring a night like this? Contact Rabbi Melhado at rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org.

Special Hanukkah Weekday Shaharit

Weekdays Dec. 13 -15 & 18 - 20 at 6:15 AM

Sunday, Dec. 17 at 7:30 AM



Join us each morning as we read Shaharit with Hallel, do a unique Torah reading for each day of Hanukkah, and light the menorah to celebrate the miracle of the oil.

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in loving memory of

Haim Saleh, z"l

Mary Saleh, z"l & Saleh Saleh, z"l

by Viva and Charles Rabbie

Mazal Tov

Terra Shapiro Jonah & Jonathan Jonah
on the birth of a baby boy
Izzo Jack Jonah

Besiman Tov to Grandparents

Jack Jonah, z"l, and Helen Jonah
Karen Brooks, Howard Shapiro
Aunts Rebecca Jonah & Taya Leman
the Jonah, Mizrahie, & Mussry families
and all the extended family



Volunteer with Cheer

Thank you to Margot Lurie, who is spearheading the reorganization of the Kahal library with the rabbi. To help Rabbi Melhado with this or other projects, email

rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org.

Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron Sylvia Cohen • Haskell Avrahamy • Florice Newberry Mordechai Cohen • Esther Duke • Tilda Levy • Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria • Miryam bat Malka Arlette bat Rashel • Chaya Chana bat Batya • Yvonne Moalim • Katie bat Farha • Malka bat Rahel Mehry bat Miriam Hakimipour • Miriam bat Yetta • Moshe Ezra ben Mazal Tov • Simcha bat Rooha Habiba bat Farha • Moshe Hooman ben Sara • Moshe Haim ben Sara

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Hanukkah, Days 1 to 3

Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 13-15

Shaharit (with Hallel) 6:15 am

Next Shabbat Hanukkah

Friday-Saturday, Dec. 15-16

Light Hanukkah candles before Shabbat candles

Shabbat Candle lighting 4:27 pm

Friday Minha 4:15 pm

Shaharit **8:30 am**

Saturday Minha 3:45 pm

Havdala 5:31 pm

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits from December 9 to 16, 2017. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services in honor of loved ones.

22 Kislev / Sunday, December 10th

Joseph Israel Yosef ben Rabbia

Ezekiel Isaac Raymond Yehezkel ben Mulla Rahamim

Meir Sawdayi Meir ben Shaul

23 Kislev / Monday, December 11th

Gorjeh Youssefzadeh

24 Kislev / Tuesday, December 12th

Regina David Regina bat Salha Matana

Lily Jacob Leah bat Masooda

Mansour Sedaghat Mansour ben Benayahu

Joseph Hayim Yaakov Yossef Hayim Yaacov

25 Kislev / Wednesday, December 13th

Rachel Moses Rachel bat Hannah

26 Kislev / Thursday, December 14th

Dan Darwish Daniel ben Rahamim

Sassoon Jacob Jonah Sassoon ben Yaakov

Yitzhak Sinder Yitzhak ben Shimon

27 Kislev / Friday, December 15th

Yoseph Rahamim ben Yaacov Shalom

28 Kislev / Shabbat, December 16th

Joseph Jacob Yosef ben Avraham Hayim Yaacov

Habeeba bat Aziza

Kahal Joseph's LIGHT IT UP FAMILY HANUKKAH PARTY

IN ASSOCIATION WITH JIMENA AND NUROOTS

Sunday, December 17
11:00AM to 1:00PM

MOROCCAN LANTERN
MAKING! ACTIVITIES!
MUSIC! FOOD!
HANUKKAH CRAFTS!
AND YOU!

RSVP at

WWW.KAHALJOSEPH.ORG/HANUKKAH

Food and Hanukkah crafts sponsored by
Hannie, Jonathan & Sigal Kelly



Jews Indigenous to the
Middle East and North Africa



Powered by NuRoots

Part of Infinite Light, a
citywide celebration
powered by NuRoots with
generous support of the
Jewish Federation of
Los Angeles



Joe Samuels, David Menashri, Rabbi Dr. Tal Sessler,
Israeli Consul General Sam Grundwerg, Manny Dahari



Kahal Board Member Nathaniel Malka, Rabbi Raif Melhado,
JIMENA Program Coordinator Odin Ozdil & JIMENA members

TELLING OUR STORY TO THE GREATER JEWISH COMMUNITY

The Untold Story of Jewish Refugees Displaced from Arab Lands & Iran

On November 30, member Joe Samuels and others joined together at an event hosted by Sephardic Temple to tell the story of Jewish refugees from the Middle East to raise awareness. As a direct result of those events, two articles appeared in the Jewish press.

Push Underway to Keep Jewish Artifacts from Returning to Iraq

Oren Peleg, Jewish Journal

<http://jewishjournal.com/news/nation/228342/push-underway-keep-jewish-artifacts-returning-iraq/>

You Can't Make it Up: Saved Iraqi Jewish Collection to Go Back to Iraq

Nurit Greenger, News Blaze

<https://newsblaze.com/world/israel/you-cannot-make-it-up-saved-iraqi-jewish-collection-to-go-back-to-iraq-99864/>

Eruv & Fire Information

The Los Angeles Eruv is UP.

However, because of the Skirball Fire, the LA Eruv was down for several days this week. For information on how to observe Shabbat without an eruv, please go to www.kahaljoseph.org/eruv

Several fires are burning in Southern California, including one in West LA a few miles from Kahal.

We offer our love and support to everyone who is affected, and we ask for God's protection and blessings in this hour of need.

For more information on the fires and how to protect your family, please see the following websites:

Emergency Alerts & Information: <http://emergency.lacity.org/>

Air Quality Alerts: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>

What to do if you need to evacuate: <http://www.mysafela.org/go/>

 **Kahal Joseph's 5778** 
Speaker Series

Professor Nadia Malinovich
Saturday, January 6, 2018



Professor Malinovich received her bachelors in History from Oberlin College and her PhD in History from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. After a Post-doctoral Fellowship at New York University, she began teaching in France.

Now an Associate Professor of American Studies at the Universite Picardie-Jules Verne, she has a special interest in French Jewish History, about which she has written extensively.

Her current project is an exploration of the lives of graduates of the Alliance Israelite Universelle schools in the Middle East and North Africa, both pre- and post-immigration to France, Canada and the United States.

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

In addition to speaking at Kahal, Dr. Nadia Malinovich will be in Los Angeles from January 5 to 13 to conduct in-person interviews with people who graduated from the Alliance Israelite Universelle schools in the Middle East or Africa.

In collaboration with the AIU Library in Paris and the Sephardi Federation in New York, she has already completed 40 interviews in Paris & Montreal. Now, she looks to the Los Angeles community.

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! *

JANUARY
Children's Shabbat



SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 - PARASHAT SHEMOT

PLAYROOM OPENS AT 10:00 - PROGRAM BEGINS AT 10:30

EXPLORE THE STORY OF MOSES WITH US!

START THE MORNING WITH PRAYER
PARTICIPATE IN GAMES & ACTIVITIES
ENJOY A PARASHA-THEMED SNACK

TORAH TOTS - 0 to 5

TORAH & ME - 6 to 12

Email Jessica at Jessica@kahaljoseph.org for more information or to volunteer!