

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

For the past few weeks, my every errand has been met with Christmas music. Simply crossing the threshold of any store, I hear a repeating loop of carols and ballads, and I cannot forget that an important holiday is coming up for other people.



The rather comical outcome is that, despite being an Orthodox rabbi who has trouble remembering secular song lyrics, I can name and sing along with dozens of popular Christmas carols. From *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (1739) to *All I Want for Christmas is You* (1994), there is a full repertoire of music incised into my mind that has no spiritual or emotional meaning for me.

As Jews living in a country where 70% of the population identifies with some branch of Christianity, we are guaranteed a basic amount of Christian literacy. Even if we may not know the ins and outs of the denominations, we can hardly walk around in the wintertime without being aware that there is a major holiday on December 25th and having at least some sense of how it is celebrated. Conversely, there is no reason to expect any reciprocal knowledge of our own festivals, as we are a tiny minority everywhere except in a few large cities.

I imagine that this "outsider looking in" experience is what Joseph and his family went through when they settled in Goshen. A mere seventy individuals among throngs of Egyptians, they were a speck of diversity in a culture that saw their ways as foreign (cf. Gen. 43:32 and 46:34). Let's say it was the Egyptian Feast of Opet and they were

watching the procession of the statues of the Thebian Triad to Luxor. Jacob's children would probably have grown familiar with these rituals as they became more deeply embedded in their new land. While this allowed them to understand their neighbors better, they would also have to make extra efforts to preserve their own Judaism and transmit it to their children and grandchildren.

Fast-forwarding to the Exodus more than two centuries later, the Midrash argues that the Israelites deserved redemption from slavery because they successfully maintained key aspects of Jewish life: our unique personal names, our language, and our morality (Vayikra Rabbah 32:5). Despite becoming enslaved to a pagan society, we went the extra mile to engage with our principles and pass them along over many generations. Ultimately, this is what the Hanukkah story that we have just relived is all about: both the pride to celebrate our religion in the present, and the presence of mind to effectively bequeath it to our children for the future.

In a 2014 interview, historian Jonathan Sarna argued that this is why Hanukkah has been so ascendant in 20th century America. Given that simply existing in December puts us so deeply in touch with another religion, it is a constructive response to promote a holiday from our own calendar into something much more than it originally was. This must be done through a process of acculturation, which involves taking a risk communally. Overdoing it could lead to the challenges of Hellenism and the destruction of the Temple that we mourn on Asara Betebet. But if carried out with a fair balance of respect for ourselves and our neighbors, we can only look forward to our next triumph.

Parashat Vayigash

Zeved Habat of Victoria Felix Dabby Beller

Torah: Gen. 44:18–47:27, 106 Pesukim

Hertz 169–177; Stone 250–267

Haftara: Ezek. 37:15–28

Hertz 178–179; Stone 1144–1145

Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Hakhrazat Tsom Ha'asiri (Ths)

Reminder

The fast of the 10th of Tevet will take place on Thursday, December 28th.

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, December 22nd

Minha	4:15 pm
Candle lighting	4:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, December 23rd

Shaharit	8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah	10:15 am
Musaf	11:40 am

Women's Tehillim	<i>right after kiddush</i>
Minha	3:45 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet	4:30 pm
Arvit	5:20 pm
Havdala	5:34 pm

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Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored by

Yvette and Joseph Dabby

in celebration of
their new granddaughter
Victoria

Mazal Tov

Nadine and Peter Beller
on the naming of their baby girl
Victoria Felix Dabby Beller

Besiman Tov to
the Dabby and Beller families



Thank You

Thank you to Daniel Shaye for the Hanukkiah, the oil and the wicks that we used for Hanukkah.

Thank you to Bijan Haykani for the Havdala candle and the new reader's desk for the upstairs synagogue. We wish him all the best in his new home in the valley.

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, December 24th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Talmud Torah..... winter break

Federal Holiday / Monday, December 25th

Shaharit 7:00 am

Tues, Wed, and Fri, December 26, 27 & 29

Shaharit 6:25 am

Fast of 10th of Tevet

Thursday, December 28th

Shaharit 6:05 am

Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, Dec.22-23

Shabbat Candle lighting 4:34 pm

Friday Minha PROMPTLY at 4:30 pm

Shaharit 8:30 am

Saturday Minha 4:00 pm

Havdala 5:38 pm



Morning Minyan is Where It's At!

There is a warm place for you in the happy camaraderie of morning minyan.

Any day is off to a great start when it begins with prayer and friendship. With a bonus of Torah on Mondays and Thursdays, and Birkat Kohanim on the rest, there is something special every morning.

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits from December 23 to 30, 2017. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services in honor of loved ones.

5 Tevet / Shabbat, December 23rd

Mida Judah Masooda bat Dina

Esther Sales *Esther HaMalka bat Rivka*

Elisha Samuel *Elisha ben Sassoon Shmuel*

6 Tevet / Sunday, December 24th

Raquel Emquies *Rahel bat Clare Levy*
Salem Kooby

7 Tevet / Monday, December 25th

Eliezer David Levy *Eliezer ben David Halevi*

8 Tevet / Tuesday, December 26th

Abraham Khazzoom

Rabbi Elias Levi *Eliyahu Hayim ben Shlomo Halevi*

Max Nathan *Mordechai ben Rafael Natan*

David Sassoon Solomon *David Sasson ben Shlomo Reuven*

9 Tevet / Wednesday, December 27th

Eddie Jacob Ezra *Yehezkel ben Yaacov Azoori*

10 Tevet / Thursday, December 28th

Shalom Kamara *Shalom ben Menashe Kamara*
Hayim Baruch Shalom Mingail *Hayim Baruch ben Shalom*

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 Hakimpour • Miriam bat Yetta
Moshe Ezra ben Mazal Tov Simcha bat Rooha •
Moshe Hooman ben Sara • Habiba bat Farha
Moshe Haim ben Sara

HANUKKAH LIGHT AT KAHAL JOSEPH!



Talmud Torah students
enjoying Hanukkah
crafting and playing
dreidel together



Young
Professional
Hanukkah
Dinner
featuring the
special
Spanish/
Portuguese
tradition of
eating waffles!
A wonderful
time for
everyone!



Our Hanukkah party was a
great success with over 50
children and their parents
attending! Along with
Hanukkah activities, music
& donuts, JIMENA
sponsored Moroccan
lantern making through
NuRoots and the Jewish
Federation of Los Angeles.
Thanks to Rabbi & Jessica
Melhado, Yvette Dabby,
Jack Shadi, Mehry & Angela
Hakimipour, Odin Ozdil,
the Talmud Torah staff,
Rose & Christina
Maldonado, Jose Anguiano,

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.

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!

FORGOTTEN YOUR HEBREW? NEVER HAD ANY?

HEBREW FOR BEGINNERS

WITH RABBI MELHADO

FIRST MEETING

WED. JAN. 3 AT 6:30PM

Adult Bat Mitzvah Class

First Meeting

Wed. Jan. 3 at 7:30PM

**Women with all levels of Hebrew &
Jewish knowledge welcome!**

**Contact Yvette Dabby at YvetteDabby@gmail.com
to sign up for either class or both!**

Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner

**Join Rabbi Melhado at home for a delicious
meal and an amazing discussion**

Friday, January 12 at 7:30 PM

RSVP to RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org

Save the Date!
Tu Bishvat Community Hike
Sunday, January 28