

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

Unwinding on my vacation, I was peacefully browsing an online Jewish magazine when my heart began to race. I try very hard not to get worked up about opinion pieces, but this one was so infuriating I could barely make it to the end without springing up in vein-popping exasperation. Here in a hyperlink was a modern Catholic theologian making a serious defense for the kidnapping of a Jewish boy! In 2018, how did this ever make it past the editors?!



To be fair to the author, the kidnapping took place 160 years ago, in the summer of 1858. We are talking about Edgardo Mortara, a native of Bologna who had been secretly baptized by his parents' Catholic servant when she thought he was about to die as a baby. He survived the illness, and shortly before he turned seven, policemen from the Papal States marched to his house and forcibly took him from his parents. Their absurd argument was that a child made Catholic by an unwanted baptism could not be raised by his Jewish parents in violation of his "true" faith!

Pope Pius IX, who unrepentantly defended this action, did not expect the outcry against him to become so intense. The Church had kidnapped thousands of Jewish children in this manner to "save" their souls, so what was one more? He seemed to have genuine compassion for the boy, and even adopted a strong mentoring relationship with him, but this did little to keep his critics at bay. The case ballooned into a public relations disaster, and is noted as one of the turning points in the development of international Jewish activism. Yet while Jewish historians understand this as a serious contributing element in the collapse

of the Papal States, their Italian counterparts hardly remember it. That lapse paved the way for Pius IX to become a saint in September 2000, a deep setback for Jewish-Catholic healing.

The Pope's crime and the many similar ones of which it is a symbol ought to be acknowledged as one of the great moral failings in Church history. Yet here was an article in *First Things* defending it on both legal and spiritual grounds! How can we even begin to mount a critique of a piece that spends ten times more effort defining the nature of baptism than it does defining the nature of kidnapping? How do we respond to the ludicrous claim that the Church's policy against Christians working in Jewish homes was to protect Jewish children from seizure? How can we unpack the mind-boggling assertion that an action that tore a boy from the arms of his sobbing, broken mother was a "gift"?

The raw, True Belief that is unconcerned with the suffering it causes to others is one of the great problems of human history. We have seen it in the Egyptians who followed Pharaoh in enslaving the Israelites. We have tasted it across the Old and New Worlds in the form of Christian and Muslim persecution. And we have even been the perpetrators of religious intolerance in our own community as the clerical or lay leadership has imposed its will on everyday Jews.

The story of Parashat Bo is about shaking off the yoke of a cruel master to serve a just one. This experience is a centerpiece of our identity, repeated every year at the Seder and every Shabbat at Kiddush. For us, or indeed any religious community, the moral imperative is clear: if our piety is another person's torment, we are no better than Pharaoh.

Parashat Bo Exodus from Egypt

Torah: Ex. 10:1–13:16, 106 Pesukim
Hertz 248–262; Stone 340–365
Haftara (Iraqis): Is. 19:1–25
Handout; not in the Hertz or Stone
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

*Remember to sign up for the Community
Shabbat Dinner in honor of Tu Bishvat by
Wednesday, January 31st*

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, January 19th

Candle lighting	4:52 pm
Minha	4:45 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit	5:15 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, January 20th

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

Women's Tehillim	<i>right after kiddush</i>
Minha	4:15 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet.....	5:00 pm
Arvit	5:40 pm
Havdala	5:57 pm

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Sunday, January 21st

Shaharit 7:30 am
Talmud Torah 9:45 am

Monday-Friday, January 22-26

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat

Friday-Saturday, January 26-27

Shabbat Candle lighting..... 4:59 pm
Friday Minha 4:45 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 4:15 pm
Havdala 6:03 pm

Membership Benefits Everyone!

You get . . .

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

You support . . .

- ♦ Educational programs
- ♦ Social events
- ♦ Prayer minyanim
- ♦ Keeping KJ here for you when you need it!

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

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in memory of

the first year of
their mother's passing

Gracy Tizabi, z"l

by

Frank, William, and Rafi Tizabi
Laleh and Joseph Tizabi

Mazal Tov

Adela and Joseph Nazarian
on the birth of their baby boy

Moses Yaakov-Hayim Nazarian

Besiman Tov to

Great-Grandparents

Parvin Bina
Isaac Jose Sitton

Grandparents

Yvonne and Jackie Betech

Kahal members
Ruth and Kamran Nazarian

Aunt & Uncles

Jasmin, Gabriel, Alberto

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from January 20 to 27, 2017. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services in honor of loved ones.

4 Shevat / Shabbat, January 20th

Khorshid Farzaneh Farahi *Rahel bat Esther*

6 Shevat / Monday, January 22nd

Albert Gaub *Avner Abraham ben Khatoon*
Maurice Jacob Jonah *Maurice ben Yaacov*

8 Shevat / Wednesday, January 24th

Ezra Ekaireb *Ezra Sion ben David*
F. Ellis Meyer *Eliyahoo Faraj ben Avraham*
Shalom

Rebecca *Mizrahie Rivka bat Toba*
Edward Shashoua *Sion Edward ben Elisha*

9 Shevat / Thursday, January 25th

Saul Zakoo *Shaul Hai ben Ezra Halevy*

10 Shevat / Friday, January 26th

Naima Dabby *Naima bat Chahla*

11 Shevat / Shabbat, January 27th

Malacj Khamani *Serah bat Simcha*

Refua Shelema

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

Challah Bake

in Memory of Anita Wozniak, z"l

Learn the art of Challah making and hear an inspirational speaker

Thursday, February 1

7:00 PM - Light fare & Dessert

8:00 PM - Baking begins

\$18 prepaid RSVP or \$26 at the door

RSVP to Sharon Gomperts 310.621.5419/sharongomperts@gmail.com

or Esther Avrahamy 818.469.5622/avrahamy@sbcglobal.net

Kahal Joseph Congregation

10505 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025

The Norma & Sam Dabby
Talmud Torah invite you

Tu Bishvat Community Hike

Will Rogers State Park

Sunday, January 28

10:00 AM - Inspirational Hike

11:30 AM - Community Picnic

Bring your picnic lunch and your sense of fun!

RSVP to Jessica at jessica@kahaljoseph.org

FORGOTTEN YOUR HEBREW? NEVER HAD ANY?

HEBREW FOR BEGINNERS
WITH RABBI MELHADO

NEXT MEETING

WED. JAN. 31 AT 6:30PM

Adult Bat Mitzvah Class

Next Meeting

Wed. Jan. 31 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!

Community
Shabbat Dinner
in honor of Tu Bishvat

Friday, February 2 <sup>Limited
space!</sup>

6:15pm - Tea & Games

6:45pm - Delicious Shabbat Dinner

\$18 for adults - Under 5 free

RSVP by Wed. January 31

www.kahaljoseph.org/tu-bishvat

or 310-474-0559

Sponsored in memory of Soleiman Mizrahi, who would have
turned 99 this Tu Bishvat, by his children and their families



KAHAL JOSEPH INVITES YOU TO
THE PURIM CARNIVAL
Games! Food! Fun! Prizes!
Sunday, February 25
11:00AM - 3:00PM
Event Chairs: Jonathan Kelly, Molly Jalali, Jessica Melhado



KAHAL'S
Children's Shabbat 


FIRST SHABBAT OF THE MONTH
FEB 3 - MAR 3 - APR 7 - MAY 5 - JUNE 2
 PLAYROOM OPENS AT 10:00 - PROGRAM BEGINS AT 10:30

EXPLORE THE WEEKLY PARASHA 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!

Purim Baking!
Sunday, February 18
10AM until the dough is done

Bake traditional Iraqi treats for the KJ Purim baskets, which are distributed to members of our congregation.

Can't make it?
Make a dough-nation!
 Send a check to the Kahal Joseph office, call 310-474-0559 or www.kahaljoseph.org/donate



Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner 

Friday, February 16 at 7:30 PM
RSVP to RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org
Members & friends in your 20s & 30s!
Join Rabbi Melhado at home for a delicious Shabbat meal and an amazing discussion.
Bring your appetite! Bring your friends!
Bring your questions!