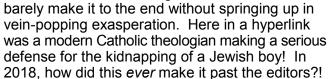
20 January 2018

# 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



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

Keri'at HaTorah.	8:30 am 10:15 am 11:40 am
MinhaSe'uda Shelishee Arvit	n right after kiddush 4:15 pm et 5:00 pm 5:40 pm 5:57 pm

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Sunday, January 21st	
Shaharit	7:30 am
Talmud Torah	9:45 am
Monday-Friday, January 2	2-26
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	

#### **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

## 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!

#### **Mazal Tov**

Adela and Joseph Nazarian on the birth of their baby boy

Moses Yaakov-Hayim Nazarian

#### **Besiman Toy 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

**Ghursday**, February 1

7:00 PM - Light fare & Dessert 8:00 PM - Baking begins

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

P to Sharon Gomperts 310. 621.5419/sharongomperts@gmail.com or Esther Avrahamy 818.469.5622/avrahamy@sbcglobal.net

Kahal Joseph Congregation
10505 Santa (Donica 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 Mitsvah 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

6:15pm - Tea & Games

spacel

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





## 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.

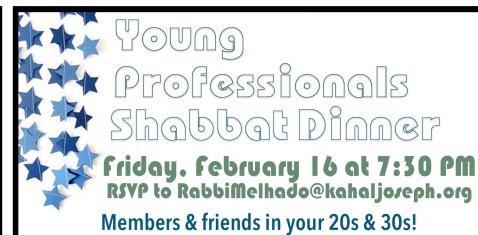


Can't make it?

Make a dough-nation!

Send a check to the Kahal Joseph
office, call 310-474-0559 or

www.kahaljoseph.org/donate



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

Bring your appetite! Bring your friends!
Bring your questions!