

# KOL MEVASSER

## Rabbi's Message

Two and a half years ago, the *POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews* opened its core exhibition to the public amid much fanfare. Its massive 140,000 square-foot campus took 19 years and 100 million dollars to go from planning to completion. Now hosting around 30,000 guests a month, the organization recently celebrated its millionth visitor on the mission to preserve a full millennium of Jewish experiences in Poland.



Reading about a modern-day tabernacle to Jewish life resonates especially on Parashat Terumah, the week when the Israelites were first commanded to build the Mishkan. This incredible structure was an ambitious assignment for a people only just freed from slavery. Requiring the resources and labor of a significant part of the entire nation, it would rise to become the dominant cultural symbol of our religion for millennia.

While the Mishkan was ultimately a tremendous success, it encountered a vital snag during the early phases of construction that nearly derailed the entire project. God had hardly handed over the blueprints when the people began to fear that Moses would not return from Mt. Sinai. They jostled Aaron for a god that they could physically see, and he forged the Golden Calf as a false idol made of their own jewelry.

This is presented in the Torah as a transgression of the highest order. Not only was it a slap in the face to the true God Who engineered our freedom, but paganism was also a corrupt moral system that saw wanton cruelty as an essential part of

worship. Serving the calf was about the worst thing we could have done as a people, prompting Moses to smash the tablets in disgust and pulverize the statue into oblivion.

Yet interestingly, this incident is also the first time that the Israelites see that God desires and accepts repentance. If we had a perfect record as a people, who might know what would happen once we got on God's bad side? Yet here God took us back even after we hit rock bottom, proving with our own eyes that He is always ready for us to turn over a new leaf. Our sin may have pushed us away from Him further than ever, but the comfort of repentance brought us even closer than before.

How fervently do I hope that this will be what happens in the relationship of the Polish people and the Jews! Poland has sinned against us very greatly in recent months: a miserable piece of legislation has just made a discussion of Polish perpetrators in the Holocaust (of which there were many) into a felony, and next in their sights is the criminalization of kosher slaughter. What mockery that a country which would pat itself on the back for a great Holocaust museum could deny its past role in confining Jewish life to a museum, and then pour salt on the wounds by outlawing Jewish rituals in the present!

They have much to atone for as a nation, but I hope we will also remember the example that God set for us in the desert. When Poland is ready to take responsibility for its transgressions, let us open our hearts and be ready to receive them. They played host to one of the greatest flowerings of Jewish life in modern times, and it would be a lost opportunity if the recent setbacks left a taste too bad to overcome.

## Parashat Teruma

### Presidents' Day Weekend

Torah (§): Ex. 25:1–27:19, 96 Pesukim

Hertz 326–336; Stone 444–463

Haftara: I Kings 5:26–6:13

Hertz 336–338; Stone 1157–1158

Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

Friday, February 16th

|                                |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Candle lighting .....          | 5:19 pm |
| Minha .....                    | 5:15 pm |
| Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit ..... | 5:45 pm |

### Yom Shabbat

Saturday, February 17th

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Shaharit.....           | 8:30 am             |
| Keri'at HaTorah.....    | 10:15 am            |
| Musaf .....             | 11:40 am            |
| Women's Tehillim.....   | right after kiddush |
| Minha .....             | 4:45 pm             |
| Se'uda Shelisheet ..... | 5:30 pm             |
| Arvit .....             | 6:10 pm             |
| Havdala .....           | 6:24 pm             |

Sunday, February 18th

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Shaharit ..... | 7:30 am |
|----------------|---------|

**Presidents' Day / Monday, February 19**

Monday-Friday, February 19-23

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Shaharit ..... | 6:25 am |
|----------------|---------|

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## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored by  
Edwina and Jack Khalifeh

in loving memory  
of their mom  
Louise Khalifeh, z"l

## Condolences

We send our deepest condolences to the  
family and friends of our dear member

Charles Dabby, z"l  
*Saleh ben Naima and Yehezkel*

Charles was born in Baghdad, Iraq. He migrated to Israel in 1949, just one year after the founding of the modern state, lived there and served in the military. In 1968, he moved to the United States where he became well-recognized in the travel industry. He made his home in Los Angeles, brought most of his family here, and helped them to establish themselves. Charles was a devoted member of our community.

He is survived by his wife Teresa; son Chas; sisters Tiqva Natanel and Bertha Gibly; brother Joseph Dabby; extended family and friends. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones. May they be comforted with God's divine love. *Min hashamayim tenuhamu.*

*(Continued from page 1)*

### Next Shabbat

*Friday-Saturday, February 23-24*

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Shabbat Candle lighting ..... | 5:26 pm |
| Friday Mincha .....           | 5:15 pm |
| Shaharit .....                | 8:30 am |
| Saturday Mincha .....         | 4:30 pm |
| Havdala .....                 | 6:30 pm |

## Se'uda Shelisheet

is sponsored  
by Rylla and Ben Elias

in loving memory of  
Jacob Elias *Yaacov ben Binyamin Elia*, z'l  
and Molly Jonah *Mazal Tov bat Sara*, z'l

## Mazal Tov

**Rylla and Benjamin Elias**  
who celebrated their  
60th Wedding Anniversary  
on November 28, 2017

## Mazal Tov

Roya and Benjamin Moses  
on the birth of a baby boy  
**Jacob Ezra**

**Besiman Tov to Grandparents**  
Dawn and Marc Moses

**Great-Grandparents**  
Rylla and Benjamin Elias  
beloved members of Kahal  
and all the extended family

## Mazal Tov

Dina and Daniel Moses  
on the birth of a baby boy  
**Joseph Menashe**

**Besiman Tov to Grandparents**  
Dawn and Marc Moses

**Great-Grandparents**  
Rylla and Benjamin Elias  
beloved members of Kahal  
and all the extended family

## In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from February 17 to 24, 2018. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services in honor of loved ones.

### 2 Adar / Shabbat, February 17th

Abraham Aslan *Abraham ben Meneshe*  
Aaron J. Moses *Aharon ben Yosef*  
Joseph Faraj Moses *Yoseph Faraj ben Yoseph Haim*

### 3 Adar / Sunday, February 18th

Yoseph Avrahamy *Yoseph ben Abraham*  
Farang Jahanbani  
Herschel Tzvi Sarne  
Abraham Shalom *Abraham ben Shaul Sopher*

### 4 Adar / Monday, February 19th

Simy Bensabat *Simy bat Mesody*  
Baacker Jalali *Baacker ben Avraham*

### 5 Adar / Tuesday, February 20th

*Leah bat Mozli*

### 6 Adar / Wednesday, February 21st

Molly Jonah *Mazeltov bat Sara*

### 7 Adar / Thursday, February 22nd

Gerry Shapiro *Gershon ben David*  
Farha Atraghji *Farha bat Hanina*

### 8 Adar / Friday, February 23rd

Abraham Avrahamy *Avraham ben Yosef*  
Jacob Benjamin Elias *Yaacov ben Binyamin Elia*  
David Kay *David ben Yaakov Yehuda Yehezkel*  
Isaac Jacob Jonah *Itzhak ben Yaacov Yonah*  
*Abraham Shalom Naji ben Itzhak Yoseph*  
Jacques Litvac *Yoachim David ben Micha HaCohen*

### 9 Adar / Shabbat, February 24th

Irena Stoler  
Victoria Levy *Victoria bat Hanina*

## 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  
Meir Ezra ben Rahel



## Baghdad and Portugal - Roots and Branches

The Portuguese government hosted a unique event at Sephardic Temple last Thursday on the Jewish Legacy of Portugal.

Speakers included the Portuguese Consul General to California, and the Rabbi and President of the Jewish community of Lisbon.

Rabbi Melhado, whose ancestry is Portuguese, was a specially invited guest. During the cocktail hour, he highlighted the many historical connections between Iraqi and Portuguese Jews.

Rabbi Melhado with Gabriel Szary Steinhart, President of the Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa (top)  
Ana Mendes Godinho, Portuguese Secretary of State for Tourism (middle)  
Rabbi Natan Peres, Rabbi of Lisbon (bottom)

**H a p p y P u r i m**

## Wednesday, February 28

5:00 PM - Minha w/Birkat Cohanin

*followed by*

Raffle and Reading of Megilat Esther

*and*

A light dinner with Hamantashen

*Sponsored by the Mizrahie & Jonah Families*

## Thursday, March 1

5:45 AM - Shaharit & Megila



## Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner

**Friday, February 16 at 7:30 PM**

**RSVP to [RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org](mailto: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!**

## Seder Matching

Passover is coming!  
First night seder is Friday, March 30!

On your own for the seders?

**We can help!**

Do you have an extra seat at your  
seder table?

**We can fill it!**

Simply email Jessica at [jessica@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:jessica@kahaljoseph.org)  
by Fri. March 23 to be matched!





**WE WANT YOU!  
CARNIVAL VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

It takes a village to make the  
carnival run!

Sign up for a shift of just a  
few hours, and make lots of  
children smile!

All proceeds of the carnival  
benefit our community at  
Kahal!

Sign up at  
[www.kahaljoseph.org/volunteers.html](http://www.kahaljoseph.org/volunteers.html)  
today!

**BE A  
BOOTH  
SPONSOR!**

Sponsor a booth for the  
Purim Carnival!

Bring joy and support  
Kahal Joseph!

Full Booth - \$500  
Partial Booth - \$250

Contact the office at  
310.474.0559

**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.

RSVP to Yvette at [yvettedabby@gmail.com](mailto:yvettedabby@gmail.com)

Can't make it?

Make a dough-nation!

Send a check to the Kahal Joseph  
office, call 310-474-0559 or  
[www.kahaljoseph.org/purim-baking](http://www.kahaljoseph.org/purim-baking)



**KAHAL JOSEPH INVITES YOU TO**

**PURIM  
CARNIVAL**

**Games! Food! Fun! Prizes!**

**Sunday, Feb. 25**

**11 AM - 3 PM**

**\$20 WRISTBAND**

**UNLIMITED RIDES & GAMES**

**Delicious food, Iraqi treats,  
great prizes and more!**

**All proceeds benefit Kahal!**

**Event Chairs: Jonathan Kelly, Molly Jalali, & Jessica Melhado**

