

KOL MEVASSER

Guest Message

From "Revisiting Pru Urvu without any Children"

By Rabbi Melhado's friend
Malka Strasberg (Edinger)



At the end of parshat Noach, the Torah introduces Avraham's extended family. Each person is introduced by name, along with the children they had. But when Sarai is introduced, the Torah tells us, *Sarai was barren, she had no child* (11:30). The Torah makes a special point to identify Sarai as an *akara*. At this point, this is all we know about Sarai—that in a world, and in a family, of people having children, she had none. This is her sole identity.

The Talmud in Nedarim (64b) teaches us: *There are four people who are considered as dead: a poor person, someone afflicted with tzaraas, a blind person, and someone who doesn't have any children.* The childless being considered as dead is learned from Rachel in the Torah. When Rachel was jealous of her sister Leah for having multiple children when she doesn't have any, she said to Yaakov, "Give me children; for if not, I'm a dead woman" (Gen 30:1). It's interesting that the gemara uses the words "*chashuvin kemeit*" [thought as dead]. *Chashuv* can mean "considered to be/thought of," but it also means "important."

So another reading of this dictum could be: "There are four people, including someone who doesn't have children, who are important like the dead." Someone struggling with childlessness should be as important to their community as someone who has died. Just like the community

[provides for] someone who's died, and even more so, the community rallies to support the deceased's family who are in mourning, so too communities should be as supportive of people struggling with childlessness or infertility—in terms of awareness, sensitivity, and compassion.

There are many men and women in our communities who struggle with infertility, be it medical or circumstantial. Circumstantial infertility includes: single people who won't have children outside of marriage; women with chronic illnesses who require medication that would be risky during a pregnancy; men and women with chronic illnesses that are prohibitive to child-rearing; and others. And let's not forget the people who can't have children for financial reasons or relational reasons [or] people who suffer from secondary infertility after already naturally conceiving and giving birth to one or more children.

Increased awareness and emotional support go a long way. As Melanie Notkin eloquently explains, people struggling with non-medical infertility frequently suffer from "disenfranchised grief," or grief that isn't recognized by society. Grief shared is grief diminished. But many people suffer alone, with no partner to share the grief, and in a society that at times both explicitly and implicitly treats them as though they've brought their situations on themselves.

Anything one can do for someone struggling with childlessness is a *chesed*. And if the Talmud and midrash are correct that a childless person is *chashuv kemeit*, then *chesed* performed on their behalf can, arguably, be considered a *chesed shel emet*, Judaism's highest form of *chesed*.

Parashat Vayikra

**Rosh Hodesh Nisan / Shabbat Hahodesh
Korban Nahshon ben Aminadav**

T: Lev. 1:1–5:26, Num 28:9–15, Ex 12:1–20
Hertz 410, 695, 253; Stone 544, 890, 348
H (§): Ezek. 45:18–46:15, Is. 66:1, 66:23
Hertz 1002, 944; Stone 1218, 1208
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Ya'ale Veyavo, Half
Hallel, Musaf R"H, Nesi'im (Num. 7:1–17)

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat / Rosh Hodesh Nisan

Friday, March 16th

Candle lighting..... 6:43 pm
Minha 6:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit..... 7:00 pm

Yom Shabbat & Rosh Hodesh

Saturday, March 17th

Shaharit..... 8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah 10:00 am
Musaf 11:40 am
Women's Tehillim is BACK..... **5:00 pm**
Minha 6:00 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet..... 6:45 pm
Arvit 7:30 pm
Havdala 7:47 pm

Sunday, March 18th

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

Monday-Friday, March 19-23

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat Fri-Sat, March 23-24

Shabbat Candle lighting 6:48 pm
Friday Minha 6:30 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 6:00 pm
Havdala 7:53 pm

Infertility Awareness Shabbat 5778

March 17, 2018 - Rosh Hodesh Nissan

Kahal Joseph is proud to participate in the Third Annual Infertility Awareness Shabbat with over 100 synagogues across North America, Australia, and Israel. Created by Yesh Tikva in partnership with Jewish organizations around the world, this initiative aims to give infertility a voice and to spread awareness in the Jewish community.

yeshtikva

Supporting
Jewish People
Facing Infertility

Along with a guest article in the Kol Mevasser and a special devar Torah by Rabbi Melhado, there are special resources available in the KJ lobby.

For more information,
visit www.yeshtikva.org
or email Rabbi Melhado.

Mazal Tov

Rebecca and Darush
Somekhian

on your marriage &
Shabbat Hatan festivities

from your loving uncle Tooraj
and cousin Desiree Aghalar

In Memoriam

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

1 Nisan / Shabbat, March 17th

Lotfollah Nassi

Clara Saltoon *Gazala bat Ester*

Sydique Charlie Zakoo *Sadik Salah ben Ezra Halevi*

2 Nisan / Sunday, March 18th

Sharlo Benbeniste *Shlomo ben Moshe*

Aharon Yosef Eliyahu ben Amouma

Sarina Levy Sara bat Khatoon

3 Nisan / Monday, March 19th

Hilwa Farha Ezair *Hilwa Farha bat Tiffahah*

Jalal Kohan

Naim Sassoon *Naim ben Sasson*

4 Nisan / Tuesday, March 20th

Sammy Dallal

6 Nisan / Thursday, March 22nd

Mordechai ben Mattatya

Moselle Sopher

8 Nisan / Shabbat, March 24th

Ada Ezra *Ada bat Mindel Okin*

Carolyn Frances Ezra *Carolyn Frances bat Norman*

Ezra Sayegh

Allan Norman Steiner *Alexander Nahum ben*

Mordechai

Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron
Haskell Avrahamy • 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 MazalTov • Simcha bat Rooha

Moshe Hooman ben Sara • Habiba bat Farh

Moshe Haim ben Sara • Meir Ezra ben Rahel

A Poem for Shabbat Hahodesh

Melekh Goel Umoshia

מֶלֶךְ גּוֹאֵל וּמוֹשִׁיעַ. אֵל נֶעְרָץ בְּסוּד קְדוּשִׁים. וְלֹאִין אוֹנִים עֲצָמָה יִרְבֶּה. מַחְזִיק רַפְיוֹן יְדֵי רְשִׁים.

כִּי הוֹצִיא בְּחֹדֶשׁ אָבִיב. בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל חֲמוּשִׁים. הוֹדוּ לְאֵל כִּי הַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה. לָכֶם רֹאשׁ חֲדָשִׁים:

שְׁמוֹ יִחַדוּ נְרוֹמָמָה. עָלֵי גִבּוֹל וְעָלֵי עֲשׂוֹר. כִּי זָכַר אֶת־דְּבַר קִדְשׁוֹ. וַיּוֹצִיא עַמּוֹ מִמִּצְוֹר.

וְהוּא צִוָּה אֶלֵּי עַמּוֹ. קָחוּ לָכֶם שָׁה בְּעֲשׂוֹר. לְהוֹדִיעַ כִּי הוּא יְשׁוּר. עַל אֱלֹהִים וְאֲנָשִׁים: הוֹדוּ...

הָעַם עָשׂוּ אֶת־פְּסָחֵיהֶם. בְּלִתֵּי פֶחַד מִמִּצְרַיִם. בְּשִׁירֵי זִמְרָה וְתִהְלֶה. בְּשִׁלֵּשׁ כְּתוּת מַחְנֵים.

אָכְלוּ אוֹתוֹ עָלֵי מִצּוֹת. וּמְרוֹרִים בְּהֶעֱרִיבֵם. בְּלִתֵּי מִבְּשֵׁל בְּמִים. וְנָא כִּי אִם צָלִי אִישִׁים: הוֹדוּ...

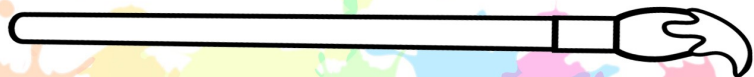
חֹסֶן יֵשַׁע יְמִינוֹ אֶל־. הִרְאָה לְהוֹשִׁיעַ לָמוֹ. כִּי הִשְׁקִיף מִמַּעַן קִדְשׁוֹ. הָעַם מִתְּבוּסָס בְּדָמוֹ.

דָּם פֶּסַח וְדָם הַמֶּלֶה. אֲזִי עֶבֶר הוּא בְּעֲצָמוֹ. לְמִצְרַיִם וְאֶת־עַמּוֹ. הוֹצִיא מִעֲבָדוֹת לְחַפְּשִׁים: הוֹדוּ...

חִזְק חוֹשֶׁה שְׁלַח זָרִים. לְבָנֵי אָדָם וּפִילָגְשִׁים. שִׁימָם כְּמִהֶפַכַת עָרִים. עָרֵי אֲשׁוּרִים וּלְטוֹשִׁים.

וְתִכְנִיעַ גְּאוֹן זָרִים. וְשִׁלַּח לָעַם לֶךְ דּוֹרְשִׁים. הָאֲדוֹן אֲשֶׁר מִבְּקָשִׁים. בְּנִסָּן רֹאשׁ הַחֲדָשִׁים: הוֹדוּ...

Paint-Your-Own Pesah



Paint your own seder plate, matzah plate or kiddush cup, just in time for Pesah!

Sunday, March 25 at 12:30PM
\$40 per person, including light lunch



RSVP required
www.kahaljoseph.org/Events.html

MAKE YOUR SEDER MORE MEANINGFUL THIS YEAR!

DEMYSTIFYING THE HAGGADAH WITH RABBI MELHADO

TWO SESSIONS!
WED. MAR. 14 & 21 AT 7:30 PM

JOIN THE ADULT BAT MITZVAH CLASS
FOR TWO SPECIAL SESSIONS OPEN TO
EVERYONE, MEN AND WOMEN!

PREPARE FOR PESAH WITH KAHAL!

CONTACT RABBI MELHADO AT
RABBI MELHADO@KAHALJOSEPH.ORG TO RSVP!

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
by Fri. March 23 to be matched!



Sell your Hamets

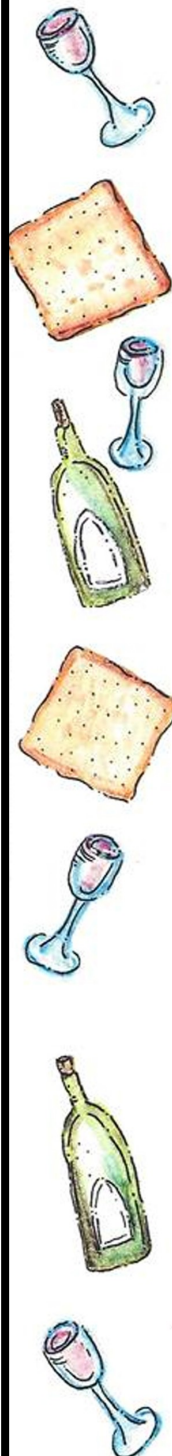
Deadline Thursday, March 29 at noon!

Sell your excess hamets
through Rabbi Melhado!

Forms available in the lobby or click
this image to download & print the form

Return the form via email
(rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org), fax (310.410.4059),
mail them to Kahal Joseph, drop it off at the office, or
hand it to Rabbi Melhado





You're invited!

Second Night Seder with Rabbi Melhado

Join *Rabbi & Jessica Melhado* on the second night of Passover for a traditional, warm, interactive and delicious seder in the upstairs social hall.

Saturday, March 31 at 8:30 PM
Setup beginning at 8:05 PM

\$60 per adult - \$30 ages 5 to 12
Brisket and more, catered by Lieder's

**RSVP by Sunday,
March 25 at noon at
www.kahaljoseph.org/pesah.html**

Space is limited!



Kahal Joseph's 5778 Speaker Series



Rabbi Devin Villarreal
Shabbat Parashat Shemini - April 13-14

Rabbi Villarreal will join us for our Young Professionals dinner as well as give the sermon on Shabbat morning.

Currently the Jewish Studies department chair at deToledo High School in the valley, Rabbi Villarreal received his semikha from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah. He has a Bachelor's in the Study of Religion from UCLA and a Master's in Teaching from American Jewish University. An engaging teacher and speaker, Rabbi Villarreal is looking forward to visiting the Kahal community.



Memouna!

Sunday, April 8 at 7:30 PM

**Kahal Joseph Congregation &
The Sephardic Educational Center**
invite all our members and friends!
Savor traditional delicacies! Enjoy festive music!
Relish the warmth of community!

\$18 per person - advanced registration requested

RSVP at www.kahaljoseph.org/memouna.html
or call Sarah at 310.474.0559