

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

*Bringing New Life:
To the Torah & in My Family*



It can be difficult to “get” passages in the Torah that sound as if they aren’t very important. Since it is God Himself talking, and we assume that every word He reveals is meaningful, how are we to understand sections that read like a grocery list? Can the resounding messages of Judaism be felt in the hearts of the next generation through these parashiyot?

A great example of this challenge is the travelogue at the beginning of Parashat Mas’e. Following God’s lead in the pillar of cloud/fire, the Israelites encamped in a total of 42 places, and the Torah devotes nearly a whole chapter to naming every last one. This outwardly colorless section attracted the attention of Our Sages, who made some shrewd observations that really breathe new life into it:

In the Midrash Hagadol (Mas’e 33), the 42 way-stations are compared to the parable of a king whose son’s illness forces them to travel together in search of a cure, which they eventually do find. On their return trip, the knowledge that their voyage was successful instills the milestones from their outbound journey with renewed symbolism. In awestruck recognition of the fragility of life, the father says to the boy, “see, it was here that we sat; there that we ate,” etc. Such was the experience of the Israelites, whose travels in the desert helped us mature in our faithfulness to God. As we read the 42

stages of our journey aloud in Parashat Mas’e, we perceive our national process of growth in a top-down way that we could not have appreciated while we were going through it.

The Midrash Tanhuma (Vilna, Mas’e 23:4) gives a version of this same answer along with the following alternative explanation: each of the way-stations that hosted us performed a praiseworthy act of welcoming, and therefore each deserves to be rewarded with annual mention in a “scroll of honor” in Parashat Mas’e. By extension, the Midrash infers that a person who hosts a Torah scholar in their home will also be able to reap spiritual rewards for their selfless hospitality.

As I digest these messages today, I notice how true they ring with my personal experience at Kahal Joseph. In my three years here, I have passed through many way-stations of personal growth, each of which is a milestone that accrues renewed significance as I look back on it from the future. And Kahal has certainly been a warm host to me as a scholar, with a gracious hospitality for which I will be thankful all my days.

And so it is with humble joy that I can share with you, my beloved congregation, that we will pass another milestone together with God’s help: Jessica has returned from the doctor this morning with the news that the first trimester of Little Melhado #3 has just reached its end. *Besiyata dishmaya*, you will get to meet him or her sometime this January!

Parashat Matot/Mas’e

2nd Week of Rebuke; End of Debarim

Torah: Num. 30:2–36:13, 244 Pesukim

Hertz 702–724; Stone 900–935

Haftara (§): Jer. 2:4–28, 4:1–2

Hertz 725–729; Stone 1193–1194

Tefillot: Morid Hatal

Changes in Service Times

This Shabbat: Shaharit is at 8:15 am

Next Shabbat: Minha is at 12:45 pm

Seuda Shelisheet is cancelled

Arvit with Ekha is at 9:00 pm

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, July 13th

Candle lighting.....	7:47 pm
Minha	6:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat.....	7:00 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, July 14th

Shaharit	8:30 am
Keri’at HaTorah	10:00 am
Musaf.....	11:40 am
Women’s Tehillim	6:15 pm
Minha.....	7:15 pm
Se’uda Shelisheet.....	8:00 pm
Arvit	8:35 pm
Havdala	8:50 pm

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BEN HAMETSARIM & THE 9TH OF AV

WHAT IS BEN HAMETSARIM?

The destruction of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem is one of the greatest tragedies of the Jewish people. It caused huge loss of life, mass enslavement, desecration of holy objects, and the end of our ability to follow many laws in the Torah.

We observe several fasts to commemorate this tragedy, including the 17th of Tammuz, on which the walls of Jerusalem were breached, and the 9th of Av, when the Temple was destroyed. The three week period between these two dates is called "Ben Hametsarim," or "Between the Straits" of national tragedy. It is customary to refrain from acts of joy during this time, especially purchases or business deals that make one happy. The restrictions are more pronounced after Rosh Hodesh Av, and even more the week of the 9th.

CUSTOMS OF THE 9TH OF AV

In addition to a 25-hour fast, we express our national sorrow by observing the mourning customs of Shiva: not wearing leather, not bathing or applying oils, avoiding Torah study except for tragic materials, and we abstain from marital relations. Many people also sit on the floor or mourning stools until midday and avoid greeting one another socially.

We read the Book of Lamentations that bewails the lost Temple, and recite poetic kinnot that mourn the many tragedies of the Jewish people. All of the prayers for the day are recited in a lower, less melodic voice.

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in honor of
the Bat Mitsva anniversary of

Gabriella Ebrahimi

by her grandparents
Brachah and Daniel Shaye
Mehri and Yahya Ebrahimi

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Sunday, July 15th

Shaharit..... 7:30 am

Monday-Thursday, July 16th to 19th

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

Next Shabbat & Erev Tisha B'Av

Friday-Saturday, July 20-21

Shabbat Candle lighting..... 7:44 pm
Friday Minha 6:30 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Minha (Torah w/out Korbanot) 12:45 pm
Seuda Shelisheet cancelled
Fast Begins 8:01 pm
Havdala 8:47 pm
Arvit w/Ekha 9:00 pm



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In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits July 14 to 21, 2018. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka and attend Shabbat services to honor loved ones.

2 Av / Shabbat, July 14th

Shlomo Dallal
Simon Sarraf

3 Av / Sunday, July 15th

Hilda Nawy *Habiba bat Lulu*
David Stoler

4 Av / Monday, July 16th

Sylvia Aboulafia *Sylvia bat Miriam*
Yaakov Kemareh *Yaakov ben Ezra*

5 Av / Tuesday, July 17th

Rev Albert Morris *Abdala Faraj ben Moshe*

6 Av / Wednesday, July 18th

Eric Morris *Itzhak Rahamim ben Abdullah Moshe*

7 Av / Thursday, July 19th

Suzanne Azincott
Jacob Ronen Hakak *Yaacov Ronen ben Lev*
Looloo Khazzoom

8 Av / Friday, July 20th

Albert Jacob *Abdullah ben Avraham Hayim*
Sally Meyer Judah *Salha bat Aziza*

9 Av / Shabbat, July 21st

Alice Acoca *Alice bat Esther*
Aziza Jacob *Aziza bat Farha*
Amalia Mussry *Amalia bat Rahel*
Mary Nathan *Mariam bat Bolisa*

Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron
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 Farha • Moshe Haim ben
Sara • Meir Ezra ben Rahel • Dina bat Rahel
Chaya Rachel Bat Simcha



Register now for fall!

The Sam and Norma Dabby Talmud Torah

Hebrew * Fun * Parasha * History
* Friends * Values * Holidays *
* Food * Mitzvot *
and you!

Contact Molly Jalali at molly@emetek.com or Rabbi Melhado at rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org for more information!

Registration forms at www.kahaljoseph.org/talmud-torah.html



Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner

Friday, July 27 at 7:30PM

Join Rabbi & Jessica Melhado at their home for
an interesting discussion and amazing meal
for members and friends in their 20s and 30s.

Bring your questions, your appetite and your friends!

RSVP to Rabbi Melhado at rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org

**We want your photos,
stories, and more!**

Rabbi Melhado wants to preserve
Kahal memories.

Photos are great!

We'd also love to hear about

- * Your family story -
how did you come to Kahal?
- * Tales of events and personalities
in the community

Drop them by the office or email
kahalmemories@gmail.com



Kahal Purim costume contest winners
Lisa & Simon Joseph sing "I've Got You
Babe" ca. 1975, in the Robertson building.



Prints of Babylon

Recommended Reading on the Iraqi Jewish Diaspora

**“The History of Jews in Singapore, 1830–1905: A Personal Account”
by Eze Nathan**

The Jewish presence in Singapore still lacks a book-length scholarly history, but 32 years ago the community’s native son Eze Nathan gave us the next best thing. At the cost of enormous labor and self-sacrifice, he collected a wealth of historical sources on the Jews of the colony and shaped them into a readable popular narrative.

Already by the 1940s, Nathan’s work as informal archivist for the Jews was at an advanced stage. However, his papers went missing during the Japanese occupation, and four more decades would pass before he carried his efforts to print.

The resulting book tells the story of the Baghdadis and their Ashkenazi brethren in the colony from their first arrival to their mass exodus after WWII. Modern Singapore still boasts two functioning synagogues and 300 members, a sign that Nathan’s prediction of the necessity for further chapters has come true.

Citation: Nathan, Eze, *The History of Jews in Singapore: A Personal Account*. Singapore: HERBILU Editorial & Marketing Services, 1986.

Membership Benefits Everyone!

You get...

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

You support...

- *Adult Education programs
- *Social events
- *Children’s education & programs
- *Prayer minyanim
- *Keeping Kahal here for you when you need it!

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



Kahal history found!

Library volunteer Margot Lurie has rediscovered the bookplate of Judge Earl Klein z”l, a cherished member of Kahal Joseph along with his wife Snira Klein z”l.

The image, pictured to the right, depicts animals along with a shortened quote from the Mishna in Avot 5:20 – “Yehuda ben Tema said: be brazen as a tiger, lithe as an eagle, swift as a deer, and mighty as a lion to do the will of your Father Who is in Heaven.”

Judge Klein certainly strove to reach this lofty principle. Among his many accomplishments was coediting our Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur prayer books with Rabbi Moises Benzaquen.

