

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message



I don't typically find that stories in the "wellness" section of the newspaper draw me in. My top-heavy life tends to limit the time I have for any news, and subjects like disease and anxiety tend to increase the stress levels that the articles recommend reducing. While I often appreciate these sections when I am looking for this type of content, it works best when I am the seeker.

Hence I was pleasantly surprised when an unsolicited "wellness" article from a few years ago managed to engross me. Penned by Lindsay Holmes, a young new editor at the Huffington Post, it offered *11 Signs of A Genuine Friendship*. It was noteworthy not for its depth or originality, but for accessibly capturing some important points about what a true friend really is. I was also impressed that it came out only 9 days before Parashat Ki Tavo, for you will soon see the parallels.

The third aliya of Ki Tavo is about the "all's well" side of a relationship. It lays out an ideal world where God and the Israelites commit to each other. We express our love by living out His Torah and making the world a better place. He expresses His love by being our God and treasuring us. Everyone gives something, everyone gets something, and everyone does it with their full heart.

But jump ahead to the sixth aliya and there is a totally different story. After a brief positive vision

of the benefits of this covenant, we hear pages upon pages of threats and curses that will come about if we don't live up to our side of the bargain. It is so harsh that the Hazan takes the aliya to shield the congregants, and he reads it quickly and softly. How do we square this intense severity with God's self-portrayal as our loyal, patient mentor who yearns to accept our forgiveness?

I happily found a good answer in tip #2 of Ms. Holmes's *Genuine Friendship* article. Citing mood disorder specialist Robert Rowney, she notes that true friends "call us out when we're in the wrong. [They identify our flaws] in a mindful manner not to be spiteful, but for accountability's sake. They're able to point out some of the negative things you're doing in addition to the positive."

In other words, God gives us these passages as a form of *tokheha*, the duty of waking a friend up to the idea that they are approaching a moral crisis. Our experience shows that these curses do not always come true in the literal sense, allowing them to serve as a spiritual mirror in which we can perceive our worst potential. Once down the wrong path, it is really our own actions that will curse us, and God won't need to exert Himself much. But if we go back to Him in the spirit of the Haftarot of Consolation, we can be the coauthors of a much brighter future. If He is reaching out to say that He'll be the kind of friend in Ms. Holmes's article, I'll take it: keeping us humble, practicing forgiveness, and making us want to be better people.

Parashat Ki Tavo
Sixth Week of Consolation
 Torah: Deut. 26:1–29:8, 122 Pesukim
 Hertz 859–873; Stone 1068–1085
 Haftara: Is. 60:1–22
 Hertz 874–877; Stone 1201–1202
 Tefillot: Morid Hatal

Join us for Selihot!
 Selihot are a great way to start the day!
 5:30 am on weekdays, 6:30 am Sundays.

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, August 31st

Candle lighting	7:02 pm
Minha	6:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat.....	7:00 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, September 1st

Shaharit.....	8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah	10:00 am
Sermon	11:20 am
Musaf	11:30 am
Women's Tehillim	5:15 pm
Minha	6:15 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet	7:00 pm
Arvit	7:50 pm
Havdala	8:04 pm

Sunday, September 2nd

Selihot	6:30 am
Shaharit.....	7:30 am

Labor Day

Monday, September 3rd

Selihot	6:00 am
Shaharit.....	7:00 am

(Continued on page 2)

Mazal Tov

**Margot Lurie & Gregory Sanders
on your marriage**

Besiman Tov to Parents

Judy and Fred Lurie
Gertrude and David Sanders

Siblings

Louis, David, and Samuel Lurie
Eric (Rosemarie) Sanders

Grandparents

Rabbi Elias Levi, z"l and Vera Levi

and all the extended family



Mazal Tov

**Dylan Yechiel Benhamou
on your Bar Mitzva**

Besiman Tov to

Parents: Florette & Reuven Benhamou

Siblings: Joey, Daniel, & Nicole

Grandparents:

Hazzan Sassoon Ezra
Simcha Benhamou

and all the extended family

Help Our Shabbat Services Run Smoothly

There is a great spiritual value in reading the Musaf Amidah aloud with Birkat Kohanim on Shabbat. When the priestly families ask God to bless our congregation during its maximum attendance, it is a favorable time for requests.

To make this happen while still ending on time, we ask that . . .

- 1) If you need to say a personal prayer** such as a Hashkaba, Refua Shelema, or Birkat Hagomel, please ask for an Aliya for yourself or a male relative or friend. All other blessings of this type will be read in full at Minha on Shabbat afternoon.
- 2) Please tell us of your need as soon as you arrive** – speak to Albert Nissan or David Kohan. Our Gabbaim will be avoiding Delugim, so asking early will make it more possible for you to get the mitsva.
- 3) Please have the names ready** in your mind or on a piece of paper when you get your Aliya.

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Tuesday-Friday, September 4th-7th

Selihot..... 5:30 am
Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, September 7-8

Shabbat Candle lighting 6:52 pm
Friday Minha 6:30 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 6:15 pm
Havdala 7:54 pm

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits from September 1 to 8, 2018. We light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

22 Elul / Sunday, September 2nd

Violet Ezra
Moselle Jacob *Muzli bat Nuna*

24 Elul / Tuesday, September 4th

Daisy Ezra *Khazam bat Farha*

25 Elul / Wednesday, September 5th

Yosef Acoca *Yosef ben Nissim*
Sidney Jonah Sasson *Ephraim ben Yonah*
Marsel Kemareh *Marsel bat Shaul v'Gazala Levi*
Esmat Khalili-Naghdhi *Rahel bat Yonah*

26 Elul / Thursday, September 6th

Hanina Levy *Hanina Saleh Shamash bat Farha*

27 Elul / Friday, September 7th

Ester Shamsi *Ester bat Morvad*

28 Elul / Shabbat, September 8th

Samuel Hallegua *Shmuel ben Haim*
David Kelly *David Shalom ben Silas*
Moshe ben Moondani

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
Habiba bat Farha • Meir Ezra ben Rahel
Dina bat Rahel • Chaya Rachel Bat Simcha
Eti Esther bat Fortuna
Mordecai ben Yaacov v'Joya



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



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Simply go to smile.amazon.com, and choose **Kahal Joseph Congregation** as your charity.

Every time you shop from smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate to Kahal Joseph!

A simple, easy way to support Kahal this new year!

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!



Order your Arba Minim!

Order your lulav and etrog through Kahal Joseph!

All sets are strictly kosher

Regular - \$42 Fancy - \$60 - higher grade etrog
\$8 extra for hoshanot

www.kahaljoseph.org/arba-minim
by Tuesday, September 18 at noon

Pick up on Sunday, September 23 at Shahrut or that evening at Arvit



Sukkot Family Dinner

Join the rabbi and family for a delicious dinner in Kahal's Sukkah, located in the playroom

**Sunday, September 23
7:00 PM**

Adults - \$15 * Kids 5 to 12 - \$10
Under 5 free - RSVP at
www.kahaljoseph.org/sukkot

Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner in the Sukkah

**Join our members & friends in their 20s and 30s
for a delicious dinner & great discussion, all in
Kahal's amazing Sukkah!**

Friday, September 28 at 7:30PM

RSVP to RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org

Celebrate Simhat Torah!

Monday, October 1, 2018

* Joy * Friendship * Family * Torah *
* Dancing * Singing *

Minha - 6:15pm

Arvit - 6:45 pm

Join us for Hakkafot followed by a light Israeli dinner

Sponsored by Louise Nathan, Sunny J. Sassoon & family



Sephardic Educational Center
presents our annual



Selihot Concert

Sunday, September 16th, 2018

Doors open at 6:00 pm

Program begins at 7:00 pm

Kahal Joseph Congregation
10505 West Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90025

\$15 per person

Refreshments will be served

Valet parking provided

**For more information or to make reservations,
please email info@secjerusalem.org**

Find your way through the High Holy Days

**Join Rabbi Melhado as we explore the
themes and meaning of the High Holy Days**



Wed., Aug. 29 at 6:30PM

Rosh Hashanah and You

Wed., Sept. 5 at 6:30PM

Yom Kippur

RSVP to RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org

High Holy Day Donation to Tomchei Shabbat

In preparation for the High Holy Days, it is customary to make gifts to the poor. Rabbi Melhado invites you to join him in contributing to Tomchei Shabbat, one of the leading organizations helping local needy Jews access food and resources.



To participate,
email Rabbi Melhado at
rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org

Join us for High Holy Days at Kahal!

High Holy Day Tickets

Members - Look for your tickets in the mail!

Guests - Order your tickets now!

Online ordering - www.kahaljoseph.org/high-holy-days

Call the office at 310-474-0559 or stop by!

MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- Two adult tickets with family membership OR one adult ticket with single membership
- Free tickets for pre-registered teens
- Free children's program wristbands for pre-registered children under bar mitsva age
- Favorable rates for members' children in college

GUEST TICKET RATES

Remember, your ticket package can be applied to the cost of membership!

- \$300 for adults
- \$150 for teens bar mitsva age through college
- \$50 for children under bar mitsva age

Welcome Back Hazan Ben Atar!

We are thrilled that the wonderful voice of Hazan Michael Ben Atar will once again grace us from Jerusalem for the High Holy Days. Born into two Iraqi families, the Hazan has made music the centerpiece of his professional life. In addition to hazanut, he performs at semahot, plays the oud & violin, and teaches music to children & adults.



Calendar

Rosh Hashanah

September 9 to 11

Yom Kippur

September 18 to 19

Sukkot

September 23 to 30

Shemini Atzeret & Simhat Torah

September 30 to October 2

Mitsvot

Many mitsvot are available for purchase during the High Holy Days, and are on a first-come, first-served model. Your pledges support the important work of the synagogue all year long.

To reserve your mitsva: call the office at 310.474.0559 or go to www.kahaljoseph.org/high-holy-days

Children's Program

Registration required! See the forms in the mailing or register online at www.kahaljoseph.org/hhd-kids
Free for members, \$25 per holiday for non-members

Rosh Hashanah

September 10 - 10AM to 2PM

Yom Kippur

September 18 - 6PM to 10PM

September 19

September 11 - 10AM to 2PM 10AM to 2PM & 3:45PM to 7:30PM

Join us for engaging activities, lively entertainment, healthy snacks and fun games.

Interested in volunteering? Email jessica@kahaljoseph.org