

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

Between Rosh Hashana and Parashat Beresheet, I sometimes think about a scene from *Lord of the Rings*. In the third film, the kingdom of Gondor faces a battle and seeks help from their ally, Rohan. Given the technology available, the best way to communicate between these lands is to light a massive beacon on the cliffs above their capital city. The flame can be seen from miles away, and when watchmen on the next peak observe it, they light a beacon too. In this manner the message reaches Rohan promptly, giving their troops just enough time to fulfill their duty.

I always smile to myself at this scene because it is taken straight out of the Mishna. In the early days of Rabbinic Judaism, our calendar was set by observing the new moon, which required formal validation from the court. At certain times, it was critical that the endorsed date of Rosh Hodesh be sent swiftly to Jews in the Diaspora, since celebrating our Festivals depended on this information. That was especially so at Rosh Hashana, which is why the following description appears in the laws of that holiday:

How were the flares lit? They would take long cedar-wood sticks [and flammables], which a court messenger tied together with rope, took to the top of the hill, and ignited. He waved it until he could see his fellow doing the same on top of the next hill, and so too on top of the third hill... The court's messengers did not go beyond Bet Baltin, but from there the flare was waved around until one could see all Babylonia before him like a sea of fire. – Rosh Hashana 2:3-4



This procedure is part of a concerted effort to fulfill a verse in Parashat Beresheet: "God said: 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and they will be used for signs, for seasons, and for days and years' (Gen. 1:14). In other words, God is telling us that He predesigned the sun and moon for use as celestial calendars. Since He commands that certain mitzvot be fulfilled on specific dates, calculating them correctly is essential to fulfilling His Torah.

This issue is so important that it split the Jews between rival camps such as Rabbanites (us), Karaites, and Samaritans. Each group claimed to have the "real" understanding of the calendar, and thus the "correct" Jewish religion. As each sought to enforce their truths onto all Jewry, the Samaritans purposely lit fires on nights that skewed the Rabbanite calendar and confused the Jews of Babylonia. This "made it impossible for the Jews outside Palestine to keep the festivals on the appointed days," even with the replacement of fires with trusted messengers (Moses Gaster, *The Samaritans*, p. 37).

The best solution for Rabbanites has become known as the 'Second Festival Days of the Diaspora,' a set of double holiday observances that are the reason we have two seders and two "first days" of Sukkot. While this and other Talmudic ideologies helped consolidate our ranks, the Samaritans dwindled down to just a few hundred followers. This has done much to soften the rancor of the 'Second Festival Days,' which now feel much more like an extended celebration than the fight they once were. Indeed, as we observed them at Kahal last week, I could not help but thinking how grateful I am to the Talmud for giving us the enduring Judaism we have today.

Parashat Beresheet

Torah (§): Gen. 1:1–6:8, 146 Pesukim
Hertz 2–20; Stone 2–29
Haftara (§): Isaiah 42:5–21
Hertz 21–23; Stone 1130
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Hakhrazat
Heshvan (Tue & Wed)

Fall Minha Times

Until March, the Minha time on Saturday will be exactly thirty minutes earlier than the Minha time on Friday. For example, this week Minha is at 6:00 pm on Friday and 5:30 pm on Saturday.

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, October 5th

Candle lighting	6:13 pm
Minha.....	6:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit.....	6:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, October 6th

Shaharit	8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah	10:15 am
Sermon.....	11:20 am
Musaf.....	11:30 am

Women's Tehillim	4:30 pm
Minha.....	5:30 pm
Seuda Shelisheet.....	6:15 pm
Arvit	7:00 pm
Havdala	7:16 pm

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Appreciation

Kahal Joseph thanks all the wonderful people who helped make our holidays great

our **President, Yvette Dabby**
and the **KJ Board of Directors**

our clergy, **Rabbi Raif Melhado, Senior Hazan Sassoon Ezra, Hazan Saeed Jalali, and Guest Hazan Michael Ben Atar**

our gabbaim, **Albert Nissan and David Kohan; Joe and Chas Dabby** for keeping track of mitsvot donations during the holidays

Jessica Melhado for running the children's program, and the children's room team including **Rosa Maldonado and Christina Garcia**

Mark Darwish for transporting and storing the **High Holy Days benches**

Baruch Isaac and Penina Meghnagi-Solomon for helping with the children's program and building the sukka; **Jack Shadi** who donated lights for the sukka; and the **KJ Talmud Torah, Shai Elghanian, and Fuad Salem** for decorating the sukka

the **Sassoon Family** for sponsoring the celebration on Simhat Torah, and **Diana Gazal** for the children's goody bags

the "**Booklet Team**" and the **sponsors**, including the **Levi and Dabby Families**, who made the High Holy Days booklet possible

our administrator, **Sarah Bouchoucha** and staff members, **Dafna Ezran-Young** and **Penina Meghnagi-Solomon**

and our whole community who uplifted us by giving of themselves. We couldn't do what we do without you!

Mazal Tov Shai Elghanian

who will read the first aliya this Shabbat on his 3rd Bar Mitsva Anniversary

Besiman Tov
to parents, Sherry and Sam
brother, Aaron Elghanian
grandmother, Shirin Elghanian

KJ Children's Room

While children are always welcome in the sanctuary, the playroom upstairs is available every **Shabbat from 10 am to 12pm** for children needing a break or for those too young to sit for very long.

Have questions or suggestions?
Talk to Rabbi or Jessica Melhado!

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Weekdays

Sunday, October 7th

Shaharit 7:30 am

Monday, Thursday, & Friday, October 8, 11, 12

Shaharit 6:25 am

Rosh Hodesh Heshvan

Tuesday & Wednesday, October 9 & 10

Shaharit 6:05 am

Next Shabbat

Friday-Saturday, October 12-13

Candle lighting 6:04 pm

Friday Minha 5:45 pm

Shaharit 8:30 am

Saturday Minha 5:15 pm

Havdala 7:06 pm

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits anniversaries from October 6 to 13, 2018. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka and attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

27 Tishre / Shabbat, October 6th

Abraham Kattan *Abraham ben Eliyahu Kattan*

28 Tishre / Sunday, October 7th

Georgina Amron *Girji Hoogi bat Farha*

29 Tishre / Monday, October 8th

Elias Aslan *Eli ben David*

David Isaac *David ben Eliyahu Itzhak*

Jack Jonah *Yaakov ben Yitzhak*

30 Tishre / Tuesday, October 9th

Irving Henry Patrick *Yitzhak ben Moshe*

1 Heshvan / Wednesday, October 10th

Nissan Gad *Nissan ben Avraham*

Joseph Aaron Judah *Yoseph ben Aharon Yehudah*

2 Heshvan / Thursday, October 11th

Khalil Naghdi *Matatyahu ben Eliyahu*

Ovadia Drori *Ovadia ben Avraham*

3 Heshvan / Friday, October 12th

Yaacov Levy *Yaacov ben Shaul*

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

**JIMENA and Kahal Joseph
invite you to the Fall 2018
All-Ages Backgammon Tournament
Sunday, October 21 - 10am to 4pm
10am - Tournament check-in
11am - Tournament begins (don't be late!)**

Preregistration (ends 10/19) - \$20 tournament entry, \$10 adults, kids free
Online at bit.ly/sheshbeshkj2018

At the door - \$30 tournament entry, \$20 adults, \$5 kids
Middle Eastern food! Music! Raffle giveaway!
Grand prize for the winner of the tournament!



**LA Great Big Challah Bakes
Thursday, October 25, 2018
The Great PINK Challah Bake
Shalhevet High School**

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, learn about Breast Cancer
and get tested for the BRCA gene. Wear your best pink!

7:00 PM - Dessert Reception & Screening

8:00 PM - Program led by Joyce Azaria

Admission - \$36 per person

The Great Big Valley Challah Bake

Emek Hebrew Academy Auditorium

6:00pm - Dessert 6:30 pm - Program

Admission - \$25 per kit (2 people per kit)



You're Invited!

**MIZRAHIE TORAH REDEDICATION
& CELEBRATORY LUNCHEON
Saturday, October 27
Parashat Vayera**

Brought from Surabaya, Indonesia by
Rebecca and Saul Mizrahie, this Torah scroll
is dedicated to the loving memory of
Eliyahu ben Mordechai Mizrahie.

After being extensively repaired by our sofer,
the entire KJ community celebrates its return!

Join us for special celebratory psalms and
songs at services, and a festive
kiddush luncheon to follow.

All are invited!

This celebration was inspired in part by The Shabbat Project,
an annual event in which Jews around the world
come together to experience the magic of Shabbat.

You're Invited!

For 50 years of
magnanimous generosity
and love of our community,
the Board of Directors
and the Sisterhood
of Kahal Joseph Congregation
will honor

Moselle and Michael Amron

the first night of Hanukkah,

Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 6:00 PM

*Dinner
&
Dancing*



*Valet
Parking*

\$100 minimum donation, tax deductible

RSVP at www.kahaljoseph.org/50-years
or call Sarah in the office at 310.474.0559

by Monday, Nov. 26

**KAHAL JOSEPH
CONGREGATION and**
GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING
present...



*Journey into
Iraqi Kurdistan:
Reflections
from a
Young Traveler*



Join us as we hear from Alan Niku,
a Persian Jew with Kurdish ancestry.
Enjoy amazing photography from a
seldom-visited part of the world
with deep connections to Kahal.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11 at 2:30PM
LIGHT RECEPTION TO FOLLOW