

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

by Rabbi Raif Melhado

So many of the world's great accomplishments were built out of the wreckage of past destruction. We need look no further than Vayera to see dramatic examples



of this: the Moabite and Amonite nations were conceived in the ashes of Sodom, and the Ishmaelites became a world power after their patriarch was cast out and left for dead. Even the ancient Kingdom of Israel was forged from centuries of slavery – our ancestors casting off their shackles to conquer the land of Canaan. Meanwhile its modern successor, the State of Israel, arose after centuries of exile and persecution failed to quench our thirst for self-determination.

As a people that has tasted many tragedies, we are perhaps more practiced at regeneration than other nations. This is why some Jewish communities adopted the phoenix as their symbol, since it always starts over at the moment it is expected to die. Beresheet Rabba reports that "Eve took the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil and fed it to the animals of the land and air. They all obeyed her and ate except for one bird, which is called the phoenix (literally, *"Ho"*). The House of Ribbi Yanai said: 'its reward was to live for a thousand years, after which it would descend from its nest and burn itself up, leaving behind an egg-sized portion that would grow limbs and regenerate'" (19:5). The arresting image of the phoenix is that being loyal to God gives us the strength to regrow after the heat of the inferno.

As we rededicate the Mizrahie Sefer Torah this Shabbat, we will be writing a hopeful new chapter in the history of a scroll that has been witness to tremendous losses. When the parchment was commissioned in 1931, a small Baghdadi Jewish community in Surabaya, Indonesia could order a Sefer Torah (via Singapore) from the 6,000-strong Portuguese Jewish congregation in the colonial mother city of Amsterdam. 20 years later, little was left of that entire world: Nazis had murdered 90% of the Sephardim in Holland, a brutal Japanese invasion had left the Jews in Surabaya and Singapore reeling, and their Iraqi cousins were fleeing their native land *en masse*. Globally, most states that hosted ancient Sephardic communities had either allowed them to be killed or created conditions leading to their permanent departure. In a single generation, the Sephardi world was dealt a near-fatal cultural blow from which it never really recovered.

Yet isn't it moving that the Torah scroll itself lives on to be used today? After losing so much, it is inspiring to see that the family maintained it in Surabaya as long as it could be used there, and took it to their new home in Southern California when that was no longer possible. Its first refurbishment brought God's word to His people at Kahal Joseph for over forty years, and now that it needed a second refurbishment, the family did not hesitate to step up to the plate again. This Shabbat – despite the tragic losses of the Iraqi, Surabayan, and Portuguese Jews – an Iraqi Jewish community will host the rededication of a Surabayan Torah scroll, which will be read by their Portuguese Rabbi. Now isn't that remarkable!

Parashat Vayera

Mizrahie Torah Rededication

Torah: Gen. 18:1–22:24, 147 Pesukim

Hertz 63–76; Stone 78–105

Haftara (§): II Kings 4:1–23

Hertz 76–78; Stone 1134–1135

Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

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 5:30 pm on Friday and 5:00 pm on Saturday.

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, October 26th

Candle lighting	5:48 pm
Minha	5:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit	6:00 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, October 27th

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

Mizrahie Torah Rededication & Luncheon

Women's Tehillim	4:00 pm
Minha	5:00 pm
Seuda Shelisheet	5:45 pm
Arvit	6:35 pm
Havdala	6:50 pm

(Continued on page 2)

Luncheon & Celebration for the Mizrahie Family Torah

are sponsored by
The Mizrahie
and Jonah Families

A special Torah from Surabaya, Indonesia
this scroll was brought to Kahal Joseph
by Rebecca and Saul Mizrahie.

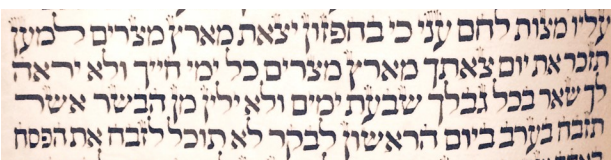
Join us for celebratory psalms and songs
at services, & a festive Kiddush luncheon.
All are invited!



Mazal Tov

Jenni and Aaron Asher
on the birth of a baby girl
Talia Marie Asher

**Besiman Tov to
Grandparents**
Francoise Asher
Susan Thompson
and the whole extended family



What is Portuguese Pronunciation?

Of the 40 Sifre Torah housed at Kahal Joseph, the Mizrahie scroll is the only one written with Portuguese-style lettering. In honor of its special "Western Sephardi" heritage, and also his 23rd bar mitsva anniversary, Rabbi Melhado will read the Parasha in the traditional pronunciation of Portuguese Jews.

Only a few synagogues in the world still maintain this historic custom, so this guide will explain why some words sound different from what you're used to:

- Bet is always pronounced "b," even if it has no dagesh. **טוב** = *tob*
- Gimel is pronounced "kh" when there is no dagesh. **מנהג** = *minhakh*
- Ayin is pronounced "ngayin," as in the English "ng" sound. **שמע** = *shemang*

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!

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits anniversaries from October 27 to November 3, 2018. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka and attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

20 Heshvan / Monday, October 29th
Victoria Zeubaida Nissan *Victoria Zeubaida bat Lulu*
Esther Robbins *Esther bat Matana*

21 Heshvan / Tuesday, October 30th
Joshua Moses *Yehoshua ben Ephraim Moshe*

24 Heshvan / Friday, November 2nd
Yaacov Moshe ben Eliyahu

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
Rahel bat Ramah Regina

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, October 28th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Talmud Torah 9:45 am

Monday, October 29th-Friday, November 2nd
Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat

Friday-Saturday, November 2-3

Candle lighting 5:41 pm
Friday Minha 5:30 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 5:00 pm
Havdala 6:43 pm



The Mizrahie Family Sefer Torah

Eliyahu Mizrahie went to Indonesia from Syria in the late 1800s. There, he married Regina Saul and they had eight children. Since there was not yet a permanent location for a synagogue in Surabaya, the Jewish community often held services in his home.

Eliyahu was a respected factory owner, who also had a keen knowledge of medicine. He kept detailed notes of ailments and the formulas that he had created to effectively treat them, and even had one for “dog bites.” The community often sought his medical advice, and his formulations became so popular that he dedicated one of the machines in his candy factory to stamping out tablets. At the time, the Dutch in Java dominated the production of quinine, and he was the first to manufacture the bitter powder for Malaria in tablet form. From this, “Mizrahie Pharmaceuticals” was born.

Eliyahu died of a complication from minor surgery at the age of 52, leaving behind a devastated young family to pick up the pieces. Although Saul was Eliyahu’s second child and only 15 years old, he helped his mother run the business, securing the continued financial success of their factory. As soon as he was able, he commissioned a Sefer Torah to be made in honor of his father – probably around 1931.

Even though Saul moved from Surabaya to Perth (Australia), Singapore, and Los Angeles, he left the family Sefer in Indonesia for the few Jews who still remained in the country. In 1973, he had it sent to Israel to have it checked and re-touched, and then brought it to its permanent home at Kahal Joseph.

Eliyahu was so loved by his children, that each one of his sons named their first born “Eliyahu”. Because of that, there are five Elie Mizrahies today. Saul and Rebecca Mizrahie have four children: Al (Elie), Rachel, Helen, and Philip. They, and their families, are honored to rededicate this unique and beautifully penned Sefer to Kahal Joseph. Other members of the Mizrahie family include their aunts Emmy (Mizrahie) Simon and Joyce (Benjamin) Mizrahie, and cousins in Los Angeles, London, Singapore, Australia, and Israel.

Top: The synagogue in Surabaya, dedicated in 1948 and demolished in 2013

Middle: The beautiful Mizrahie sefer, next to the ten commandments from the Robertson building, also donated by the Mizrahie family. The dedications to both Eliyahu and Regina appear in the top inside of the sefer case.

Bottom left: A painted portrait of Eliyahu Mizrahie

Bottom right: A photograph of Saul and Rebecca Mizrahie, which appeared when they were honored by Kahal Joseph in 1996



Congratulations to the winner of the
**Fall 2018 All-Ages
 Backgammon Tournament**
 sponsored by Kahal Joseph & JIMENA
Josh Sharim

Congratulations also to runner-up Michael Judah!
 Thank you to all those who made it a success:
Committee: Yvette Dabby, Nathaniel Malka, Odin Ozdil, & Rabbi Melhado
Donations: Yvette Dabby, Julie & Mark Darwish, Sandra & Eddy Sarraf,
 Eva Dloomy, & Ta-eem Grill
Volunteers: Eva Dloomy, Elsa Singman, Arash Shadi, & Monica Edelman
Staff: Yael Benaim, Sarah Bouchoucha, Penina Meghnagi Solomon,
 & Rosa Maldonado



Young Professionals Get Togethers 5779

Shabbat Dinner - November 9

Join the rabbi and his family for a delicious Shabbat dinner, an interesting discussion and lots of schmoozing.
Open to members and friends in their 20s and 30s.

Email rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org to RSVP!

The Kahal Joseph HANUKKAH PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2
11AM TO 12:30PM

Join us for
games, crafts, food
and more!

JIMENA and Temple Beth Am present *Untold Stories Concert*

A transporting evening of music & storytelling embracing the Jewish musical traditions of Persia, Syria, Morocco and more.



Chloe Pourmorady
Violin, Voice

Chazzan Liran Kohn
Voice

Asher Shasho-Levy
Oud, Voice

Yoni Arbel
Percussion

Sunday, November 4th, 7pm

\$20 online, \$25 at the door

SPECIAL OFFER: 2 for \$30 until 5pm, 10/26!

Tickets: bit.ly/mizconcert2018

Temple Beth Am
1039 S La Cienega Blvd 90035

Light refreshments will be served.

Melodies of celebration, prayer, longing and love will be complimented by personal stories about Jewish communities from the Middle East and North Africa.

This event is in honor of Mizrahi Commemoration Month and the 850,000 Jewish refugees who were displaced from Arab countries and Iran in the 20th century.

 **Jimena**
Jews Indigenous to the
Middle East and North Africa



TEMPLE BETH AM

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**