

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

When we are looking for comfort in times of trouble, we do not typically find it by being told that additional difficulties lie down the road. How does it help us to know that the situation will become even more complicated than it already is?



Yet this is the exact interaction between Ribka and God at the beginning of Toledot. The happy news of Ribka's pregnancy after lengthy infertility is clouded by her unborn children's bickering. She wonders regretfully, "if this is how it is to bear children, why was I so keen on it?!" She turns to God for advice, and His answer is that "you have two nations in your belly, and two separate peoples will come from your womb; one nation will be stronger, and the elder will serve the younger" (Ex. 25:21-23).

To a woman who has not yet known the sweetness of motherhood, it is an unexpected form of consolation. "Your kids are in conflict before even being born? No problem, just wait 'till you see what they do when they grow up!" The Torah does not record Ribka's reaction, but we know that strife and estrangement are indeed in store for them.

The commentators on the Torah grappled with how this is supposed to be comforting. Rashi argues that God's use of the word "peoples" indicates that Ribka's children will found important dynasties. Hence, God may be soothing her by saying "although they are in competition, it

means they will rise to positions of great honor and respect." This softer reading is enhanced by Rashi's overall view of Ribka's request. When the Torah says that she went to inquire of God, he adds, "...for Him to explain what will happen." In other words, rather than lobbying for a good outcome, Ribka simply wants to know more about her future. If she can see what she is up against, she will have more tools to deal with it. Hence, God's explanation is comforting even though it reveals something unpleasant.

Powerfully, one Sage argues that the children's fate is not inevitable, but will instead be determined by their own choices as they mature morally. On God's prediction that "the elder *will serve* the younger," Rab Huna notes that a key word is spelled in a way that also allows the verse to be read "the elder *will be served by* the younger" (Beresheet Rabba 63:7). He then infers that "if he is meritorious, God's prediction that the elder '*will serve*' will come true; but if not, he '*will be served*.'"

Though it is not clear who "he" is in this statement (cf. *Torah Temima* Ex. 25:22 and *Shem Mishmuel*, Toledot 1916, sv. "*uvaze yesh lefaresh*"), God's overall message to Ribka is that she has extensive personal influence over her sons' futures. As a parent, she can impart her deeply held sense of right and wrong to her children in their upbringing. Their adult actions ultimately will be the true test of whether she succeeded, but she is by no means helpless. Read this way, God's pulling back the curtain on the possibility of her sons' potential for failure is exactly the thing she needs to prevail. May we all merit to taste this success!

Parashat Toledot

Torah: Genesis 25:19–28:9, 106 Pesukim
Hertz 93–101; Stone 124–143
Haftara: Mal. 1:1–2:7
Hertz 102–105; Stone 1137–1138
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

Reminder: Winter Shabbat Times

The time change makes Shabbat come in very early in November and December. For the next seven weeks...

- Minha on Friday will be at 4:15 pm
- Minha on Saturday will be at 3:45 pm

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 9th

Candle lighting..... 4:35 pm
Minha 4:15 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit..... 4:45 pm
YP Dinner at Rabbi Melhado's after services

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, November 10th

Shaharit 8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah 10:15 am
Sermon 11:20 am
Musaf 11:30 am
Women's Tehillim right after kiddush
Minha 3:45 pm
Seuda Shelisheet 4:30 pm
Arvit 5:20 pm
Havdala 5:38 pm

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Mazal Tov

Sarah and Kamy Eliassi
on the birth of a baby boy

Besiman Tov

to

Grandparents

Sousan and Behrouz Eliassi
Mojgan and Rabbi Shelomo Hakakian

Uncles

Kiad Eliassi
Daniel and Zvi Hakakian
and all the extended family

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, November 11th

Shaharit..... 7:30 am
Talmud Torah..... 9:45 am
Global Day of Jewish Learning w/Alan Niku
Photos and News from Kurdistan 2:30 pm

Veterans' Day

Monday, November 12th

Shaharit..... 6:25 am
Take time out of your schedule to honor the men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Call a veteran you know, give tzedaka to veterans' causes, or learn about what they did for our country.

Tuesday-Friday, November 13th-16th

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

Next Shabbat

Friday-Saturday, November 16-17

Candle lighting 4:30 pm
Friday Minha 4:15 pm
Shaharit..... 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 3:45 pm
Havdala 5:33 pm



Making Things Right

Kahal Joseph thanks the anonymous man who returned our long-lost Huppa this Thursday. Though he declined to be named, he expressed an awed sense of responsibility to bring it back to its original home. "It is God's will that you have it again," he told Rabbi Melhado.

This beautiful piece of religious art was originally donated to Kahal in the mid- to late-60s by founding members Mozelle and Saul A. Sopher, for use at weddings and Torah dedications. As you can see in the photo, it is a striking purple velvet with golden embroidery and Hebrew nuptial texts. In classic South Asian style, the reverse is a rich floral pattern unrelated to the design on the front.

Mozelle Sopher was the sister of Mordi Cohen and Ramah Mingail, whom we all miss very much after they recently passed within a year of one another. Saul was the cousin of Morton Einy, another founding member of our congregation. Living relatives on both sides of the family are delighted to have this special ceremonial cloth back at Kahal.

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeits anniversaries from November 10 to 17, 2018. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka and attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

2 Kislev / Shabbat, November 10th

Doron Ironi *Doron ben Yosef*
Ralph Nathan *Raphael ben Mordechai*

3 Kislev / Sunday, November 11th

Rachel Jacob *Rahel bat Salha Matana*

5 Kislev / Tuesday, November 13th

Nassim Reuben Suleiman
Silas Moshe Kadoorie *Silas ben Moshe*
Elias Ezekiel Isaac *Eliyahu ben Yehezkel*

6 Kislev / Wednesday, November 14th

Maggie Dabby *Marjorie bat Sam Dabby*

7 Kislev / Thursday, November 15th

Ruhamah bat Chana

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

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!*

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!

Young Professionals Hanukkah Dinner

Join the rabbi and his family for an intimate dinner to celebrate the eighth night of Hanukkah!

Sunday, December 9 at 6:30pm

Hanukkah Candelighting - Light Dairy Dinner
Special Belgian Waffle Desserts!



The Kahal Joseph HANUKKAH PARTY



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2
11AM TO 12:30PM

Join us for
candelighting,
games, crafts,
friends, food
and more!

RSVP at
WWW.KAHALJOSEPH.ORG/HANUKKAH

SPONSORED BY HANNIE, JONATHAN
AND SIGAL KELLY



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 the office at 310.474.0559 by Nov. 26

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

**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**