

# KOL MEVASSER

## Rabbi's Message



Haftarat Vayhi picks up the drama of the end of King David's reign that was not fully resolved seven weeks ago in Haftarat Haye Sarah. When we first read of these events, David's son Adoniya had usurped his elderly father's throne. David appeared not to react, signaling approval, but at the urging of Batsheva and the Prophet Natan, he asserted his authority and declared that Shelomo would rule after him.

As we resume the story again this week, David devotes his last moments to sharing moral advice with young Shelomo: the new King should rule maturely, follow God sincerely, reward the loyalty of his allies, and punish the treachery of his foes. David is then gathered to his ancestors after 40 years in power, and Shelomo's status as the new monarch is firmly established.

David's final message is an example of a testament called an "ethical will." Rather than focusing on his property, he wants to ensure that Shelomo will live by the finest principles once he is gone. The idea of his own death is more palatable once he has transmitted the code of behavior that enabled him to succeed in life.

While David's testament was expressed in speech, Jews began committing them to writing as early as the 12th century. A fascinating collection of these documents can be found in a two-volume set called *Hebrew Ethical Wills* (JPS, 1926). Though some are hundreds of

years out of date and reflect a lifestyle unfamiliar to our own, they also express universal values that resonate with the hopes and dreams that we have for our own families now.

Writing in the 15th century, a Provençal Jew named Shelomo ben Yits'hak had this advice for his son: "I wish for him to always be modest, merciful, and compassionate, since it is for these qualities that the Seed of Israel is renowned. I want him to direct his intention and thoughts day and night to the service of the Creator. He should be as charitable and benevolent as possible, because this is all that remains to a person out of all his labor."

That this message could easily have been written today was underscored quite powerfully in an estate planning session that David Kohan brought to Kahal last year. The law firm that put on the event explained that the first thing they get their clients to do is to write down their values, vision, and personal experiences. It is only after the client has articulated who they think they are and what they stand for that the firm can assist them in deciding how to care for their assets.

We would all do well to follow this wonderful example. Unlike the rigors of estate planning, the act of writing down our sense of mission only costs our time, and the results can be extremely moving. Just imagine what a treasure it would be for your great-grandchildren and further descendants to be able to have a concrete sense of who their ancestor was and what they cared about! If you wish to guide them and have genuine impact long after your own day, make the time to pass down the fruits of your wisdom and experience!

## Parashat Vayhi

### End-of-Life Awareness Shabbat

Torah: Gen. 47:28–50:26, 85 Pesukim

Hertz 180–191; Stone 268–289

Haftara: I Kings 2:1–12

Hertz 191–192; Stone 1145–1146

Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

## Reminder

This week will be the last Shabbat with an early winter schedule. Starting NEXT week, Minha times will begin moving later. We try to adjust them in increments of 15 minutes so that we can keep them the same for at least 2 weeks running.

## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

*Friday, December 21st*

Shabbat Candle lighting.....	4:29 pm
Minha .....	4:15 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit.....	4:45 pm

### Yom Shabbat

*Saturday, December 22nd*

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 .....	5:33 pm

*Sunday, December 23rd*

Shaharit.....	7:30 am
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## Mazal Tov

Orly and Carlo Tabibi  
on the birth of a baby boy

## Besiman Tov

to

## Sisters

Georgina and Isabella

## Grandparents

Jaleh and Abner Partiyeli

Diana and Said Tabibi

and all the extended family

## Condolences

With sorrow we send our deepest  
condolences to the family and friends of

## Iraj Nemany, z"l

*Yitzhak ben Dolat and Yehezkel* (1941-2018).  
He passed away Motsa'e Shabbat, December  
15th 2018, the 8th of Tevet.

## He is survived by his wife

Diana Nemany

## his children

Dalia (Kamran) Itzhakov

Yisrael (Carli Chaya) Nemany

Shirly (Daniel) Skolnick

## and seven grandchildren.

Our thoughts & prayers go out to his family  
and loved ones. May they be comforted with  
all the mourners of Tsion. *Min hashamayim  
tenuhamu.*

## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from  
December 22 to 29, 2018. We light memorial can-  
dles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services to  
honor the memory of our loved ones.

## 16 Tevet / Monday, December 24th

*Khasnah bat Rahel*

## 17 Tevet / Tuesday, December 25th

David Jacob Haskel Hai ben Yaacov

Victoria Reuben Victoria bat Chahla

Farha Shamash Farha bat Masooda

## 18 Tevet / Wednesday, December 26th

David Davoudian

Esperance Mathalon Shaaya *Esperance bat Simcha*

## 19 Tevet / Thursday, December 27th

Yeheskel Goury Yeheskel ben Shaul

Solomon Raymond *Shlomo ben Rahamim*

## 20 Tevet / Friday, December 28th

Ronnie Kelly *Raphael ben Saleh Moshe Kadoorie*

Joseph Hayeem Messiah *Yoseph Hayeem Messiah*

Ruby Mussry *Reuven ben Yaacob Saleh*

## 21 Tevet / Shabbat, December 29th

Solomon Reuben *Shlomo ben Reuven D'loomy*

Behejohn Yehudah *Behejohn bat Yehudah*

## Volunteers!

## KJ Wants You

KJ needs individuals with data entry skills  
to compile a database, using a provided  
template, for azkara/yahrzeit information  
collected from community records.

This task does not require being physically  
present at Kahal. It may be completed  
from your home, using your computer.

Skills required: familiarity w/Excel, ability  
to pronounce/read Hebrew & English.

For information contact Rabbi Melhado at

[rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org)

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## Weekdays

**Nes Tahmasp** (no Tahanun)

*Monday, December 24th*

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

## Federal Holiday

*Tuesday, December 25th*

Shaharit..... 7:00 am

*Wednesday-Friday, December 26th-28th*

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

## Next Shabbat

*Friday-Saturday, December 28th-29th*

Shabbat Candle lighting..... 4:33 pm

Friday Minha.....**promptly** at 4:30 pm

Shaharit..... 8:30 am

Saturday Minha ..... 4:00 pm

Havdala ..... 5:37 pm

## 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 • Rahel bat Ramah  
Regina • Eti Esther bat Fortuna



*The Norma & Sam Dabby  
Talmud Torah invites you*

**Tu Bishvat Community Hike  
Will Rogers State Park  
Sunday, January 20**

*10:00 AM - Inspirational Hike  
11:30 AM - Community Picnic*

**Join the Talmud Torah for a special  
enrichment day at Will Rogers State Park  
to learn about and celebrate Tu Bishvat.**

**Don't miss this wonderful lesson on  
nature and its role in Judaism!**

**Meet at the parking lot at Will Rogers**

*Please bring your lunch, water,  
sunglasses, sunscreen, hats, hiking  
clothes & shoes and your sense of fun!*

**RSVP to Mora Molly at  
[molly@emetek.com](mailto:molly@emetek.com)**

## Prayers of the Heart

Getting to Know the Shabbat Morning Tefilla

### Part II – Zemirot

The first section of the morning prayers on any day of the week is called Zemirot. Literally meaning “songs,” it is often rendered into English as “Psalmody” because it consists of a structured series of readings from the Book of Psalms in the Hebrew Bible.

The origin of this part of the service can be traced back to the Talmud, where the sage Ribbi Simlai taught that “one should always recount the praises of the Holy Blessed One first, and then pray” (Berakhot 32a). We do not know what words Ribbi Simlai used, but the custom for the past millennium has been to recite a fixed text of Psalms in a prescribed order.

On weekdays, the Zemirot start with “Hodu,” an anthology of verses ending in Psalm 30 that gives thanks for God’s benevolent use of His powers. This is followed by Psalm 67, the “Menorah Psalm” you see on Shiviti plaques, and Barukh She’amar, which celebrates God’s creation. After Psalm 100 and another anthology of thanksgiving called Yehi Khevod, the core Zemirot are Psalms 145-150, which shower praises on God for the way He helps all those in need, especially His covenantal nation. The section concludes by recounting the story of the Israelites from Abraham to the Exodus, including the full Song of the Sea (Ex. 15:1-19).

On Shabbat, this overall structure is retained, but with the middle section greatly expanded. In the order above, Psalm 67 is replaced by Psalms 19, 33-34, 90-91, 98, 121-124, and 135-136. After Barukh She’amar, Psalm 100 is replaced by Psalms 92-93, and then the weekday order resumes.

All these Psalms are laden with passionate language that sensitively expresses what it is like to be inspired by God and thirst for Him. To best understand the Zemirot, we recommend that you take time to study them in a language that you know, outside the context of a service. Really try to get inside it, possibly with a commentary from someone you respect, and taste how much richer your morning prayer experience will be!



## We need your help!

### Keep the Iraqi Jewish Archives in the US

On May 6, 2003, just days after the Coalition forces took over Baghdad, 16 US soldiers entered the flooded building of Saddam Hussein's Intelligence agency, the Mukhabarat. In the basement, under four feet of water, they found tens of thousands of books, artifacts and documents belonging to the Jewish community of Iraq – materials that had been seized from synagogues, schools and other institutions.

The archive includes a 400-year-old Torah, a book of sermons from 1692, a 200-year-old Talmud, and thousands of books printed all over the Jewish world, as well as the writings of the late 19th century Baghdadi interpreter of Jewish Law, Rabbi Yossef Hayim, known as the Ben Ish Hai. The collection was moved to the US with the agreement of the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and painstakingly restored, preserved and digitized by the National Archives and Records Administration at great cost.

However, in the last several years, the Iraqi government has been asking for the archives back. There is a coalition of Jewish organizations, of which Kahal Joseph is one, as well as a bipartisan group of politicians working tirelessly to ensure that the archive remains in the United States where its protection can be guaranteed, and it can be accessible to the community from whom it was stolen.

As you might expect, these efforts come at a cost. Please consider donating to keep the IJA in the US – every dollar counts, and time is of the essence. Donate online at [www.kahaljoseph.org/iraqi-archives](http://www.kahaljoseph.org/iraqi-archives) or you can send a check into Kahal with the note "Keep the IJA in the US."

Yvette Dabby  
President, Kahal Joseph



## Parashat Vayechi - December 22

One of the more sensitive topics of discussion is that of the Torah perspective on end-of-life matters. The Traditional End-of-Life Awareness Movement (TEAM) is a national movement dedicated to generating positive awareness, educating and guiding the Jewish community on the value of life and making appropriate end-of-life decisions.

As a project of the National Association of Chevra Kadisha (NASCK) under the direction of Rabbi Elchonon Zohn, TEAM Shabbos is dedicating Shabbat Parshat Vayechi to spark conversation regarding these issues.

With the help of over 400 Rabbis and congregations across the country, TEAM Shabbos hope to reach the full spectrum of the national Jewish Orthodox community and utilize this teachable moment. Each community will devote either a Shabbat sermon, lecture or other program to these important and timely topics.

Kahal Joseph is a proud participant in this program, and Rabbi Melhado looks forward to addressing these important issues from the teba.