

Rabbi's Message



Mishpatim is renowned as the Parasha of justice. It covers a whopping fifty-three mitzvot, nearly 9% of the total commandments in the Torah, with more in a single week's reading than in the seventeen preceding parashiyot combined. The broad thrust of this material is a set of values that many people would find universal: we must protect the bodily integrity of human beings, safeguard their property and animals, and prevent their oppression through the maintenance of law and order. Although the reading also contains spiritual duties that apply uniquely to Jews, God's benevolent humanitarian vision is easily perceptible.

Perhaps that is why the responsibility of capital punishment weighed so heavily on the shoulders of Jewish leaders at the time. Their mandate to carry out this ultimate penalty appears this week as part of the theme of setting up a just legal system. A truly unbiased court should be able to neutrally discover whether a capital crime has been committed, and once it has, to enact the penalty as required by law. If the judges took mercy on the life of a criminal who has been duly found guilty, future criminals may be encouraged to perpetrate more capital offenses, to everyone's collective detriment. As sobering as it is, the power to legally take a life appears to be at the outer limit of what it takes to have a just society.

Yet in the rabbinic tradition, the trend for millennia has been away from administering the death penalty. The Talmud records that the Romans denied Our Sages the right to do so about forty

years before the Temple was destroyed, and even while they still held this power, a court was seen as predatory if it put someone to death more than once in the average human lifetime (Bavli Sanhedrin 41a and Mishna Makkot 1:10). While the Talmudic discussion of the rules of the death penalty is both gruesome and harsh (see Mishna Sanhedrin Chs. 7-10), it has essentially been reduced to an academic conversation that does not form a coercive body of law. The primary halakha that remains on the books is the prohibition against desecrating a criminal's body, which has survived in the directive to promptly bury our dead of whatever level of righteousness (Deut. 21:22-23 and Shulhan Arukh YD 357).

Noting the sense of awed respect with which our ancient Dayanim handled capital cases makes it especially difficult to face the mockery of justice known as the "1969 Baghdad Hangings." As the name indicates, it was exactly fifty years ago that fourteen alleged conspirators against the ruling Ba'ath Party were publicly executed on false charges after a disgraceful show trial. Among them were two Christians, three Muslims, and nine Jews, the latter of which each recited the Shema in turn before the brutal sentence was carried out. In a terrible desecration, they were left hanging in Tahrir Square as a backdrop to a public celebration of their fate, which was reportedly attended by half a million revelers.

The world that they inhabited is now long gone, but our obligation to honor their memories by combating injustice remains. May their names stay cherished in our hearts, and may their families be comforted every time a similar fate is prevented.

Parashat Mishpatim

Torah (§): Ex. 21:1–24:18, 118 Pesukim
Hertz 306–322; Stone 416–443
Haftara: Jer. 34:8–22, 33:25-26
Hertz 323–324; Stone 1156–1157
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Hakhrazat
Adar I (Tue and Wed)

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, February 1st

Shabbat Candle lighting	5:05 pm
Minha	5:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit	5:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, February 2nd

Shaharit	8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah	10:15 am
Sermon	11:20 am
Musaf	11:30 am
Women's Tehillim	right after kiddush
Minha	4:30 pm
Seuda Shelisheet	5:15 pm
Arvit	5:55 pm
Havdala	6:09 pm

Sunday, February 3rd

Shaharit	7:30 am
Talmud Torah	9:45 am

(Continued on page 2)

Seuda Shelisheet

is sponsored
in loving memory of

Charles Dabby, z"l
Saleh ben Yehezkel

by
The Dabby Family

Zebed HaBat

Jessica and Rabbi Raif Melhado
will celebrate the baby naming
of their new daughter

Sunday, February 3rd
2:30 pm in the afternoon
at Kahal Joseph Congregation

(Continued from page 1)

Weekdays

Monday, Thursday, Friday, February 4th, 7th, 8th
Shaharit 6:25 am

Rosh Hodesh Adar I

Tuesday-Wednesday, February 5th-6th
Shaharit 6:05 am

Next Shabbat

Friday-Saturday, February 8th-9th
Shabbat Candle lighting 5:12 pm
Friday Minha 5:00 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 4:30 pm
Havdala 6:16 pm

Condolences

With sorrow we send our deepest
condolences to the family and friends of
Raymond Isaac, z"l

Rahamim ben Hana and Eliyahu, z"l (1940-
2019). He passed away the evening of Sun-
day, January 27th 2019, the 22nd of Shevat.

Raymond was born in Bombay, India. When he
was eighteen, he moved to London with a youth
group and worked in agriculture. Two years later,
he moved to Israel where, in a classic romance,
he fell in love with his post-op nurse, Malka. Their
son Barukh was born on their first anniversary.

The family moved to LA in 1978 to be with Ray-
mond's brother David. Together they started a gas
station chain, East-West Oil. Later, he moved into
the clothing business, where he worked the re-
mainder of his years.

Raymond was a simple, social man with a strong-
willed character. He made friends easily and came
to know almost everyone who intersected his life's
path. He enjoyed being at the synagogue, and
knew long passages of the tefillot by heart.

He is survived by his siblings

Margalit (Yomtov) Shaltiel, Emma (Tuvia) Neventsai
Ezie (Sarah) Isaac, Hilda Hadar, Sophie Mashichi

his children

Barukh (Rita) Isaac, Aki (Debbie) Isaac
Rafi (Adry) Isaac, Diana Isaac
and her mom, Raymond's partner, Noemi Ceron

his aunt

Leah Jalali

his cousins

our beloved hazzan Saeed Jalali & Rebekah Jalali

five grandchildren, nieces & nephews, and extended family

He was predeceased by his wife, Malka Isaac and
his siblings David Isaac, Lilly Elias, & Aby Isaac, z"l.

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
February 2 to 9, 2019. We light memorial candles,
donate tsedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor the
memory of our loved ones.

27 Shevat / Shabbat, February 2nd

Ezra Avrahamy Ezra ben Yosef
Nathan Bass Nathan ben Yisrael

28 Shevat / Sunday, February 3rd

Charles Dabby Saleh ben Yehezkel
Hilda Jacob Haviva bat Masooda
Nassim Shamash Nassim ben Sarah Khatoon

29 Shevat / Monday, February 4th

Ramah Duke Rahma bat Salha Khatoun
Georgia Jiji

Mordechai Sassoon Mordehai Hayim ben Moshe

30 Shevat / Tuesday, February 5th

Nagi Avraham Nagi ben Murad
Shaul Cohen Shaul ben David
Haim Elazar Haim ben Yisrael
Catherine Moses Khatoon Matana bat Masouda

1 Adar I / Wednesday, February 6th

Yosef Soffer Yosef ben Eliyahu

2 Adar I / Thursday, February 7th

Mordecai A. Cohen Mordecai Hyam ben Avraham
Shalom Hacohen

Abraham Aslan Abraham ben Meneshe

Aaron J. Moses Aharon ben Yosef

Joseph Faraj Josef Yoseph Faraj ben Yoseph Haim

3 Adar I / Friday, February 8th

Yoseph Avrahamy Yoseph ben Abraham

Fahrang Jahanbani

Herschel Tzvi Sarne

Abraham Shalom Abraham Shalom ben Shaul Sopher

4 Adar I / Shabbat, February 9th

Simy Bensabat Simy bat Mesody
Baacker Jalali Baacker ben Avraham

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 • Karen bat Chana

Purim Baking!

Sunday, March 17
10AM until the dough is done

Bake traditional Iraqi treats for the KJ Purim baskets, which are distributed to members of our congregation.

RSVP to Yvette at yvettedabby@gmail.com



Can't make it?

Make a dough-nation!

Send a check to the Kahal Joseph office, call 310-474-0559 or www.kahaljoseph.org/donate

Helping Hands

Kahal Joseph thanks Rabbi Israel Gabay for his site visit to our Ekhal on Erev Shabbat Bo.

Two of our Sefarim had minor issues with a single letter, just enough for us to wonder if they were still in kosher condition. When one of their owners requested their Sefer for that Shabbat, Rabbai Gabay came by in person to help us make the deadline.

He cheerfully guarantees his work, and was glad to lend a hand!



Save the Date!

Adult Bat Mitzvah

Saturday, February 9

4 Adar I, 5779

Parashat Teruma

**Ladies are invited
to the
upstairs synagogue
for a**

**Torah service
to celebrate
the**

**Adult Bat Mitzvah class's
momentous achievement!**

**Celebratory Kiddush to
follow in the Social Hall**



KAHAL JOSEPH INVITES YOU TO

PURIM CARNIVAL

Games! Food! Fun! Prizes!

Sunday, Mar. 10

11 AM - 3 PM

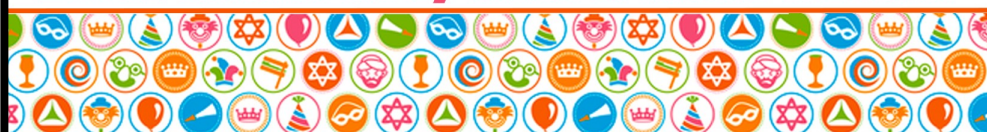
\$20 WRISTBAND

UNLIMITED RIDES & GAMES

**Delicious food, Iraqi treats,
great prizes and more!**

All proceeds benefit Kahal!

Event Chairs: Molly Jalali & Nicole Matalon



Sponsor the Carnival!

RINGMASTER - \$1000

TROUPER - \$500

JUGGLER - \$250

**Contact Molly at
molly@emetek.com or
310-880-3418 to set up your
sponsorship today!**

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT KAHAL!

Volunteer
with the
carnival!

Several
time slots
available!

Sunday, March 10

Contact Molly at molly@emetek.com or
310-880-3418 to sign up!

