

## Guest Message

*Redacted from an article by  
Rabbi Joseph Dweck*



Calamity strikes in perashat Ki Tisa. It is the first time since the Garden of Eden that we read of sin that affects the full future of life and development for the Jewish people. In Moshe's absence, as he is atop Mount Sinai receiving the Torah, the people grow impatient and anxious about his seeming delay in returning. They fashion a Golden Calf as a physical and tangible image of G-d and worship it.

G-d's initial response is harsh and menacing. *So now, let Me be, that my anger may flare against them and I may destroy them!* (32:10)

But even as Moshe succeeds in his negotiations to quell the divine wrath, G-d is still not interested in any personal involvement moving forward.

*Moshe soothed the face of G-d his Lord...G-d said to Moshe: Go up from here...to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Yitzhak and to Yaakov...I will send a messenger before you... But I will not go up in your midst, for a stiff-necked people are you, lest I destroy you on the way!* (32:11, 33:1-3)

This too Moshe quite firmly refuses to accept and in doing so insists that G-d agree to engage with the Jewish people for the rest of history in a way that would not only accept future failings but embrace them. G-d agrees to walk with us and we go from G-d sending a 'messenger' to personally 'dwelling with them in the midst of their impurity'.

It did not need to be that way. G-d could have kept a distant watch on our ultimate goals and leave the processes in getting there to be managed by His divine messengers. It may very well

have been logistically the same and we would have likely made it through. But Moshe was not fighting here for logistical success; it was warmth, care and personal attention that he was fighting for.

There can be no comparison to a world in which programmed systems — no matter how divine — are to be navigated and a world in which a living relationship with G-d is the *modus operandi*.

In one it is all business: *Here I am sending a messenger before you to care for you on the way* (23:20).

In the other it is intimacy and attention: *Moshe said to G-d:...See, this nation is indeed your people! [G-d] said: If My presence were to go would I cause you to rest easy? [Moshe] said If Your presence does not go, do not bring us up from here...It must be that You walk with us.* (33:13-14)

The rigidity and mechanics of being supervised by a pre-programmed messenger was replaced with the personal flow and emergent developments of the Living G-d.

But relationships can never be one-sided. When the terms of the deal are a mutual relationship with G-d, the world in which we live is not simply a passive setting in which G-d acts, but instead a responsive environment in which we provide the conditions for His presence. In such partnership those involved are not only companions, but also demand the attention and heeding of the other.

In perashat Ki Tisa, with the help of Moshe, we develop from dealing with the ramifications of fashioning our own god to actively living in a covenant with the one true G-d. The Almighty committed to being present within the people throughout the rest of history. When the relationship is nurtured and cultivated and is not taken for granted, it lifts those engaged with it; becoming the source of life's unfolding as the two become intertwined. ...The buoyancy that such a shared presence creates

## Parashat Ki Tisa

Torah: Ex. 30:11–34:35, 139 Pesukim  
Hertz 352–368; Stone 484–515  
Haftara (§): I Kings 18:20–39  
Hertz 370–372; Stone 1161–1162  
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

**Reminder:** Rabbi Melhado is away on a trip last Shabbat & this one, 2/16 and 2/23. He will return on February 25th and looks forward to seeing you soon!

## KJ Schedule

## Erev Shabbat

Friday, February 22nd

Shabbat Candle lighting ..... 5:25 pm  
Minha ..... 5:15 pm  
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit ..... 5:45 pm

## Yom Shabbat

Saturday, February 23rd

Shaharit..... 8:30 am  
Keriat HaTorah..... 10:15 am  
Sermon ..... 11:20 am  
Musaf ..... 11:30 am  
Women's Tehillim ..... right after kiddush  
Minha ..... 4:45 pm  
Seuda Shelisheet ..... 5:30 pm  
Arvit..... 6:15 pm  
Havdala ..... 6:29 pm

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supports us and offers pathways to growth that we would never anticipate on our own. The alternative, however, leaves us to navigate the waters of life on our own, struggling with whatever meagre tools we might possess.

## Membership Benefits Everyone!

You get...

- \*To be a part of the Kahal family
- \*High Holy Days tickets
- \*Rabbi for lifecycle events
- \*Pastoral counseling
- \*Preferential rates for space rentals, Talmud Torah tuition and children's programs

You support...

- \*Educational programs
- \*Social events
- \*Prayer minyanim
- \*Keeping Kahal here for you when you need it!

Contact the office at 310-474-0559  
or speak to Rabbi Melhado to join!

## Sponsor a Kiddush or Seuda Shelisheet!

Celebrate a family milestone!  
Honor the memory of a loved one!  
Share a simha with the community!  
Celebrate and commemorate with  
your Kahal Joseph community by  
sponsoring a Kiddush or Seuda  
Shelisheet for all to enjoy

Contact Sarah in the office at  
310.474.0559 to reserve your date

## Guest Speaker Professor Lev Hakak

Near Eastern Languages &  
Cultures Department, UCLA

Professor Hakak will speak  
during morning services



Professor Hakak has researched the blossoming of Modern Hebrew creativity in Babylon, now known as Iraq, during the years 1735-1950, and has published five books describing Hebrew culture during those two centuries: *Budding of Modern Hebrew Creativity in Babylon* (Hebrew, 2003); *The Collected Essays of Rabbi Shelomo Bekhor Hutsin* (Hebrew, 2005); *A Pious Man Faces Sinners - The Book of Moral Reproof by Ezra Habavli* (Hebrew, 2008); *The Emergence of Modern Hebrew Creativity in Babylon, 1735-1850* (English, 2009); *Beneath the Sugarcoating: The Voice of Mirth by Sasson Mordekhai Mosheh*

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### Sunday, February 24th

Shaharit ..... 7:30 am  
Talmud Torah ..... 9:45 am

### Weekdays

Monday-Friday, February 25-March 2  
Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

### Next Shabbat

Friday-Saturday, March 2nd-3rd

Shabbat Candle lighting ..... 5:31 pm  
Friday Minha ..... 5:15 pm  
Shaharit ..... 8:30 am  
Saturday Minha ..... 4:45 pm  
Havdala ..... 6:35 pm

## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from February 23 to March 2, 2019. We light memorial candles donate tsedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

### 18 Adar I / Shabbat, February 23rd

*Efraim ben Simcha*

Naim Moshi *Naim ben Yehoshua*

### 19 Adar I / Sunday, February 24th

Eliyahu Sasson Samuel *Eliyahu ben Sasson*

### 20 Adar I / Monday, February 25th

Edward Wyner *Itzhak ben Simha*

### 21 Adar I / Tuesday, February 26th

Gershon Doustar

Itzhak Rahmin *Itzhak Rahmin ben Pinhas*

### 23 Adar I / Thursday, February 28th

Bernard Jonathan Amron *Bernard Yonatan ben Mishael*

Eliyahu Kattan *Eliyahu ben Salim*

Kathleen Rosen Ramah *Khatoon bat Regina*

*Elisha ben Nassim Nawy*

### 24 Adar I / Friday, March 1st

Fortunate Dallal *Fortunate bat Naima*

### 25 Adar I / Shabbat, March 2nd

Rivka Blank *Rivka bat Sarah Hannah*

## 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 Rahel  
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  
Rabbi Eliahu Shalom ben Avigayil Ezran



# Happy Purim

**Wednesday, March 20**

6:15 PM - Minha w/Birkat Cohanim

7:00 PM - Raffle with prizes

7:45 PM - Reading of Megilat Esther

*Followed by*

A light dinner with Hamantashen

*Sponsors needed! Contact [RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org)*

**Thurs., March 21**

5:45 AM - Shaharit & Megila



## Morning Minyan wants You!

Every weekday morning, as well as on Sundays, a dedicated group meets to praise God and be together.

**Join us!**

### Normal Schedule

Sundays: 7:30 AM

Mon-Fri: 6:25 AM

### Special Days

Sundays: 7:30 AM

Mon-Fri: 6:05 AM

### Federal Holidays

Mon-Fri: 7:00 AM



## 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](mailto:yvettedabby@gmail.com)

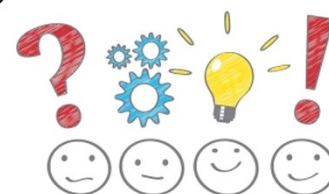


Can't make it?

Make a dough-nation!

Send a check to the Kahal Joseph office, call 310-474-0559 or [www.kahaljoseph.org/donate](http://www.kahaljoseph.org/donate)

## Living Room Learning



**Got a pressing Jewish question?**

**Something on your mind? A topic of interest?**

Host Rabbi Melhado in your home for a class to explore a topic of your choice, or work with the rabbi to find something that interests you. Invite your friends, and learn together with the rabbi in a relaxed environment.

Interested? Questions?

Email the rabbi at [RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org).



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 Mathalon**



## 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!

