#### 9 Adar II 5779

#### 16 March 2019

# KOL MEVASSER

## Rabbi's Message

Last Shabbat, a congregant asked me why the first word in the Book of Leviticus ends with a diminutive Alef. As you can see in the facing collage of Kahal's Sefarim, the tradition of writing it this way is universal. These scrolls came to LA from Calcutta, Singapore, Surabaya, and Israel, and the Alef is reduced in every one.

Throughout Scripture, there are a handful of these adjusted characters. Their purpose is not always clear, and we must rely on rabbinic literature to understand them. In this week's case there are many possibilities (cf. Torah Shelema, Vavikra vol. 1, p. 5 section 6 and ff.), but I will share two that struck a chord:

Midrash Otiyot Ketanot claims that the small Alef helps contrast two words that differ only by that letter. When God talks to Balaam (Num. 23:4), He uses vaviker, meaning an indirect form of address, yet when He talks to Moses. He uses the longer vavikra, meaning a direct address. From this, the Midrash infers the preeminence of the Jews, since God talked to our leaders like peers.

The opposite view is found in the Ba'al Haturim, who says that when Moshe was writing down the Torah and reached this point, he wanted to use vaviker, but God commanded him to honor himself with the Alef. Caught between his humility and a direct order from God, he wrote the contested letter smaller.

The existence of both explanations shows a healthy balance in our self-understanding. We have every reason to be proud of our tradition and everything that makes it special. Yet too far down that path can make us haughty and judgmental. Let us follow Moshe's lead and combine the confidence of *vayikra* with the humility of the small Alef!



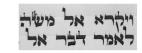
#### Minor Reduction





Right: [No Dedication] - Portuguese, 1920s Left: Nissim Mordekhai Khazoom - Babylonian, 1872

#### Half Size

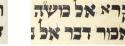




Right: Yosef Haim ben Yehezkel - Babylonian, 1889 Left: Naim ben Efraim Mizrahi - Israeli Sephardi, 1995

#### **Quarter Size**





Right: Grace bat Toba Mussry - Old-style Ashkenazi, 1956 Left: Eliyahu ben Mordekhai Mizrahie - Portuguese, 1931

#### **Eighth Size**



Right: Avraham Haim Aharon David - Babylonian, 1930 Left: Salha Metana bat Matuka - Israeli Sephardi, 1991

#### Parashat Vayikra Shabbat Zakhor

Torah: Lev. 1:1-5:26, Deut. 25:17-19 Hertz 410, 856; Stone 544, 1066 Haftara (§): I Sam 15:1–34 Hertz 995–998; Stone 1214–1216 Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah. Birkat Halevana

Summer Minha – Fridays @ 6:00 pm Every year from March to September, we read Minha at a fixed time on Fridays. This year we are calling Minha at 6:00 pm each week, which is half an hour earlier than the past. Praying sooner will give us more time to celebrate Shabbat with our families.

#### **KJ Schedule**

#### **Erev Shabbat**

Friday, March 15th

Shabbat Candle lighting	6:42 pm
Minha	6:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit	6:30 pm

#### Yom Shabbat

Saturday, March 16th

Shaharit	. 8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah	10:15 am
Sermon	11:20 am
Musaf	
Women's Tehillim	. 5:00 pm
Mi Khamokha, full reading	5:45 pm
<i>Mi Khamokha</i> , full reading Minha	
	6:00 pm
Minha	6:00 pm 6:45 pm

	Sunday, N	/larch 17th	
Shaharit			7:30 am
		(Continu	ed on page 2)



## **KJ Purim Schedule**

**Baking for KJ Purim Baskets** *Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>* 10:00 am

#### Taanit Esther

Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> Fast begins 5:42 am Shaharit 6:05 am Minha w/Birkat Kohanim 6:15 pm Fast ends 7:43 pm

#### Lel Purim

Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> Raffle with Prizes 7:00 pm **Megila Reading 7:45 pm** Light Dinner following Megila

**Yom Purim** *Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>* Shaharit & Megila 5:45 am

**Shushan Purim** *Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>* Shaharit 6:25 am *Simeni Rosh* A Piyut for Shabbat Zakhor

שִׁׁימֵנִי ראשׁ עַל כָּל אוֹיְבַי. וּתְשַׂמְחֵנִי. כִּימֵי מְרְדְכַי בֶּן יָאִיר. אֵל חַנּוּן וְחָנֵנִי:

מָחֹה תִמְחֵהוּ לֶאֶדוֹם. הַכֵּהוּ אֵם עַל בָּנִים:

לְבַשִׁתָּ מַלְכוּת לַהֵדַסָּה. וְהָצֵּלְתַנְי. בְּקוּם הָמָן הָאֲגָגִי. בְּתַנִּין לְבַלְעֵנִי: מַחֹה תַמְחֵהוּ לֵאֵדוֹם. הַכֶּהוּ אָם עַל בַּנִים: ָמְמָרוֹם רוּחַ שָׁלַחְתָּ. וַתּוֹשִׁיעֵנִי. יַסֹר יִסְרַגִּי יָ־הּ. לַמְוֵת לא נְתָנָנִי: מַחֹה תִמְחֵהוּ לֵאֶדוֹם. הַכֵּהוּ אֶם עַל בָּנִים: ָּהָמֶן חָשַׁב לְאַבְּדֵנִי. וּלְהַשְׁמִידֵנִי. דַּחֹה דְחִיתַנִי לִנְפָּל. וַה' עֲזָרָנִי: מָחֹה תַמְחֵהוּ לֵאֵדוֹם. הַכֵּהוּ אֵם עַל בָּנִים: תַזָּק לֵב עַבְדָד כְּקֶדֶם. וְאַמְצִנִי. בּזְכוּת יִצְחָק עֲקֵדֶדָּ. הֲשִׁיבֵנִי עַל כַּנִּי: בּזִכוּת אַבְרָהָם אֲהוּבֶדָּ. הֵשִׁיבֵנִי עַל כַּנִּי: בּזָכוּת יַעֵּקֹב תִּמִימֵדָּ. הֵשִׁיבֵנִי עַל כַּנִּי:

#### In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from March 16 to 23, 2019. We light memorial candles donate tsedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

> 9 Adar II / Shabbat, March 16th Victoria Levy Victoria bat Hanina

**10 Adar II / Sunday, March 17th** Clara Solomon *Gala bat Masouda* Menashe Solomon *Menashe ben Shlomo Reuven* 

> **12 Adar II / Tuesday, March 19th** David Shapiro *Dovid ben Chaim*

13 Adar II / Wednesday, March 20th Kodadad Tbibi Kodadad ben Yair

#### **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 Rabbi Eliahu Shalom ben Avigayil Ezran Arie Yaacov ben Shlomo

#### (Continued from page 1)

Sunday, March 17th (cor	nt.)	
Talmud Torah	9:45 am	
Purim Baking	10:00 am	
Monday-Tuesday, March 18th-19th		
Shaharit	6:25 am	

Wed-Thur, March 20-21—See Purim Schedule

Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, March	22-23
Shabbat Candle lighting	6:47 pm
Friday Minha	6:00 pm
Shaharit	8:30 am
Saturday Minha	6:00 pm
Havdala	7:52 pm

OPPY POOD 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* 

# **Thursday March 21**

5:45 AM - Shaharit & Megila

# The Four Mitsvot of Purim

1. **Hearing the Megila** - hearing the whole story twice, once in the evening and once in the morning

**2**. **Mishloah Manot** - giving a gift with two ready-to-eat foods to at least one friend on Purim day

**3. Matanot Le'evyonim** - giving charity to two separate people on the day of Purim, either in person or through the rabbi.

4. Seuda - eating a festive meal on the day of Purim

### Fast of Esther & Mahatsit Hashekel

There is also a custom of fasting the day before Purim, and giving ritual charity in memory of the Holy Temple

Bak 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 GET YOUR COPIES IN TIME FOR PASSOVER! 'HF NFW "THE NEW IRAQI HAGGADA" edited by Rabbi Melhado, IRAQI is now available! HAGGADA \$15 a copy, or 4 for \$52 צאלם ואחר כאמל Featuring: - A summary of Iragi customs - All traditional texts & instructions not found in other books בהלכות הפסד - A new, easy-to-read English translation by Rabbi Melhado 83-Order by Wednesday, April 10 by EDITED BY RABBI RAIF MELHADO contacting Rabbi Melhado at KAHAL JOSEPH CONGREGATION rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org LOS ANGELES, CA

**Kahal Joseph's** 

Thank you!

**Annual Purim Carnival** 

## **Kahal Joseph's** 14th Annual Purim Carnival 14th Thank you!

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The Dabby Family Tikva & Yoel Iny **The Mussry Family** 

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