

# KOL MEVASSER

## Welcome the Stranger

*Rabbi Hagay Batzri*

Kahal Kadosh,

Our Parasha begins: "And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying: Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them: Ye shall be holy; for I the LORD your God am holy. (Vaikra 19,1-2)

And the Parasha ends: "And ye shall be holy unto Me; for I the LORD am holy, and have set you apart from the peoples, that ye should be Mine". (Vaikra 20,26)

Between those verses the Torah describes many rules which apply only to the Jewish nation. When reflecting on many of those verses, some people become confused and ask common questions that relate to Judaism, conversion and racism.

The Laws of Converts, or Gerim, are without a doubt some of the most wonderful laws of the Torah. Countering all claims against us, for example that we seem racist or that Judaism is negative, The Torah teaches us that every nation and every person that truly wants to join the people of Israel may do so.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Blue and White Night

*Ronald Einy, President of Kahal Joseph*

Dear friends,

Blue and White Night was a wonderful celebration organized by Rabbi Hagay Batzri. We enjoyed a very memorable program, honoring Israel's independence as a modern nation and the sacrifices that has involved in a wonderful multimedia presentation created by Rabbi Batzri and technically produced by Victor Solomon.

The presentation incorporated videos, guest speaker Elan Frank--a filmmaker and retired Major in the Israeli army, our inspiring Kahal Joseph Youth Choir, prayers and tributes from Rabbi Batzri, Rabbi Avi Nava, and Neil Sheff, VP of Religious Affairs as well as myself.

And, we had the great additional joy of hearing our choir. They are terrific! The children lead us in a rousing program of traditional Israeli and Jewish music.



*(Continued on page 2)*

## KJ Schedule

**Erev Shabbat**

**Friday, May 4, 2012**

Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... 6:30 am  
Minhah/Arbith ..... 6:30 pm  
Shabbat Candle Lighting ..... 7:21 pm

**Saturday, May 5, 2012**

Shabbat Shaharit/Morning Prayer..... 8:30 am  
Tehillim Women's Reading NEW TIME! .5:30 pm  
Shabbat Minhah, Seudah, Arbit..... 7:00 pm  
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah..... 8:25 pm

**Weekdays**

**Sunday, May 6, 2012**

Shaharit/Morning Prayer..... 7:30 am  
KJ Youth Choir Rehearsal ..... 11:00 am

**Lag Ba'Omer**

**Wednesday Eve/Thursday, May 9-10, 2012**

**STAR@Santa Monica Pier..... 5:30 to 10:30 pm**

**Monday to Friday, May 7 to 11, 2012**

Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... 6:30 am

**Erev Shabbat**

**Friday, May 11, 2012**

Shaharit/Morning Prayer..... 6:30 am  
Minhah/Arbith ..... 6:30 pm  
Shabbat Candle Lighting ..... 7:26 pm

### WEEKLY TORAH PORTION

Parshiyot **Acharei-Kedoshim** 480-93 & 497-508; Haftara 511-12



The choir performance was followed by the debut of an original song, "Israel, Israel," composed by Elsa Singman just for the occasion and performed by Rabbi Batzri. The program concluded with a prayer for the State of Israel by Neil Sheff and a powerful, unifying blast on the shofar by Rabbi Batzri that called everyone to attention.



After the program, Lilo Fedida and Zion Zioni entertained the crowd and the community enjoyed delicious food including hot shwarma and falafel for the grown-ups and hamburgers and hot dogs for the kids from Kosher Grill on Wheels food truck.

For those of you who were there--you know how great it was! I am grateful to each of you for organizing such an inspiring and moving event for us all to enjoy. We truly honored our homeland in the best way possible.

I thank you,  
Ronald Einy

## Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored  
in memory of

*Victoria bat Hanina*  
*Victoria Cohen, z"l*

by  
Yvette & Joe Dabby

## KJ Volunteers Needed

The Religious Committee seeks volunteers to welcome new and prospective members by:

1. Serving on a Shabbat welcoming committee, with each volunteer representing a specific seating section.
2. Reading aloud English and Hebrew sections of the Shabbat prayers during services. Women are encouraged to participate as well.
3. Being part of a living Phone Tree and calling ten members when we have a special event

For information contact Neil Sheff  
at [neil@sheffimmigration.com](mailto:neil@sheffimmigration.com)

## In Memoriam

We remember the following yearzeit annual anniversary of passings, for May 5 to 12, 2012. It is customary to light a memorial candle and donate tzedakah. Family members are encouraged to attend prayer services in honor of loved ones on the preceding Shabbat.

### 13 Iyar / Shabbat, May 5

Deborah Lubovsky *Devora bat Aharon*  
Joseph Robert Saul  
Violet Aziza Sheeri

### 14 Iyar / Sunday, May 6

Sally Ekaireb *Salha Matana bat Matooka*  
Amir Ghoulian  
Salman Khadoori Shaby *Saliman ben Kadoory*  
Tala Eradat *Tala bat Javaher*  
*Eliyahu Hai ben Avraham Shamash*

### 15 Iyar / Monday, May 7

*Rivka Matana bat Miriam*  
Rachel Yitzhaki *Rahel bat Chana*

### 16 Iyar / Tuesday, May 8

Eliza Moses *Aziza bat Chana*  
Albert Abraham Gazal Sassoon  
Joseph Yehudah *Yoseph ben Yehuda*

### 18 Iyar / Thursday, May 10

Rachel Judah *Rahel bat Tifaha*  
Seemah Sofaer Shemash *Seemah Sofaer bat Hanna*

### 19 Iyar / Friday, May 11

Helen Ezra Shemtob *Habiba bat Lulu*  
Sulman Haroun Zanki

## Refuah Shlemah

Gerry Shapiro • Yocheved bat Rachel  
Rachamim ben Sarah • Hinah Titza bat Itah  
• Yitzhak ben Abdullah

*(Continued from page 1)*

In Germany, the Nazis did not give that option to any other nationality, to join the privileged race of theirs. Jews who assimilated and who were baptized were still Jews in the eyes of Nazi racists. But Israel's way is not so. Any nation that wants to join us, can do so by law.

In the positive sense, we feel a responsibility to the world, and we feel that responsibility uniquely. As Rabbi Menashe has said, "every time there is a single worm in the rock, it hurts it and squeezes it, because it has not been freed." Our most natural desire is to be good towards everyone, and we are forever working for tikkun olam, to improve the world. But the horrid Nazi racists, who considered themselves "the chosen people", understood chosen-ness in an impure and negative sense. They believed that they deserve everything, and that everybody must serve them and work for them. As Jewish people, we are taught to be merciful, even to our adversaries.

Therefore, if someone who is German or is of Arabic descent honestly wants to join the people of Israel, even if he is the son of someone who hates Israel, we accept and love him as one of our brothers. Even more so, the torah commanded us to have a special love for the convert or the stranger, as it is written (Deuteronomy): "Therefore love the stranger for you were strangers in Egypt."

A "stranger" is to be considered a Jew in every aspect. In fact, we have to be careful to respect him even more than someone who is born Jewish because of the major difficulties someone who chooses a new path goes through. The stranger or convert has typically left his home, his nation and his country and connected to a very wise nation with an ancient culture and tradition which are not easily absorbed even after multiple years of study.

This extreme transition requires great inner strength, and every insult and even the slightest action or remark may undermine his confidence and cause great sadness.

This explains why the Torah repeats many times that a person who causes suffering to a stranger or convert has violated three rules of the Torah. The Torah keeps warning us, as it says in Parshat Mishpatim (Exodus): You shall not wrong or oppress him, for you were strangers in Egypt. "

And in our Torah portion, Kedoshim (Leviticus): "and love him as yourself for you were strangers in Egypt I am your G-D".

The Almighty Himself loves the convert. It is written (Deuteronomy): "He loves the convert to give him food and clothing". May we all merit to love and warmly accept each convert. May we each discover the wonderful virtue of the people of Israel.

*To be continued next week*

Shabbat Shalom

## Israel Israel

*Composed by Elsa Singman*

*Arranged by Lilo Fedida*

*Performed by Rabbi Hagay Batzri*

Israel, Israel  
You have made your mind up  
To fight for freedom  
Yes freedom, all the way  
Israel, Israel  
You have fought for peace now  
For many years, the whole world knows it's true

Israel, Israel  
Little hands have joined together  
They say shalom, shalom must come to pass  
Always keep your spirit up  
For G-d has put you on the top  
Your tears and sorrow, He will see them stopped

Israel, Israel  
Our life and inspiration  
We want shalom, but we'll fight till freedom comes  
Lift high your heads and look into the skies now  
G-d is there, He'll guide you every day

Israel, Israel  
A nation strong together  
In song and prayer, united we will stand  
We're here to help you now  
For we too have made this vow  
To see your freedom  
Israel's freedom  
Now

Proudly we will stand  
For Israel is our land  
Shalom, Israel  
Shalom

*Listen to the song at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsGd8JC7VsY>*



**S**ephardic **T**radition **A**nd **R**ecreation  
& **LA** Sephardic Synagogues  
Present:

**Community  
Lag B'Omer  
@ Santa Monica Pier**

**Wednesday, May 9th, 2012 - 5:30pm-10:30pm**

**Rides, Games, Glatt Kosher Food  
& Fun for the Entire Family!**

**DAY OF EVENT AT THE GATE \$18.00**

**Save on Admission, Pre Purchase Wristbands!**

**Non-Rider \$10.00 / Riders \$12.00**

**Wristbands Available from S.T.A.R. & our Event Sponsors:**

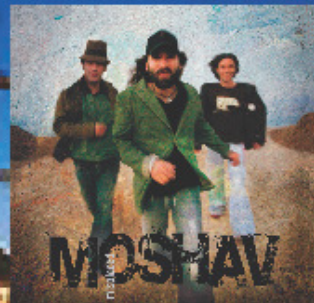
Adat Yeshurun  
Baba Sale  
Beit Mitzvah  
Em Habanim  
Hechal Moshe

JEM Center  
Jewish Unity Network  
Kahal Joseph  
Kahal Levy  
Magen David  
Maimonides Academy

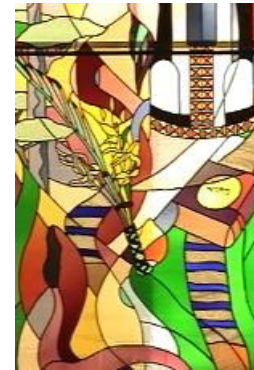
Mishkan Yisroel  
Mogen David  
Nessah Synagogue  
Netaneli  
Ohel Moshe  
Ohr Haemet

Sephardic Temple Tiferet Israel  
Shaarey Yerushalayim  
Torat Hayim  
West Coast Torah Center  
YACHAD Kollel

**Featuring LIVE!  
MOSHAY  
BAND!**



Buy tickets at Kahal Joseph Congregation  
Call Sarah in our office at 310.474.0559



**Legacy of  
Kindness  
Gala Dinner**

**09.09.12**

The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of Kahal Joseph Congregation are pleased to announce our annual Legacy of Kindness Gala Dinner.

The gala and our community will honor Rylla and Ben Elias for their, love, devotion, and dedicated service to our synagogue. The fete will take place this September 9, 2012.

**Rabbi Batzri's Hotline**

*Plan Your Next Shabbat Dinner ...*

Discuss your Jewish home and learn the secrets that create a Jewish environment. Rabbi Batzri offers explanations of Jewish matters for young families and the entire family. Contact him at 310-717-8707 or write him at [hbatzri@gmail.com](mailto:hbatzri@gmail.com).

*Now, let's set your table ...*