

# KOL MEVASSER

## Jonah and the Whale

by Rebbetzin Tziporah Heller

Jonah is read on Yom Kippur, teaching us about our spiritual voyage. Jonah was a prophet who lived in the first Temple period. His first mission was given to him by the most famous of first Temple prophets, Elijah -- he was to anoint Jehu as king in the year 705 BCE. His were stormy times; the Jewish people were trapped in a pattern of spiritual decline that ended with first the conquest and expulsion of the Ten Tribes by the Assyrians in 607 BCE, and finally with the destruction of Jerusalem, followed by 70 years exile.

As a prophet, Jonah knew far better than we can imagine what the inevitable end would be if no transformation would take place.

After the failure of his second mission, to rebuke Jehu's successor, Jeroboam the second, he was given his final mission.

The mission that God gave him was one that he could not open his heart to accept. He was sent to the capital of Assyria, Nineveh, to urge its population to repent. How bizarre the assignment sounded to him! His own people were falling uncontrollably into a chasm that seemed to have no bottom, yet he was sent to save others -- the archenemies of Israel!

Jonah actually dreaded success of this mission far more than he dreaded failure. How could he



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bear to witness the contrast of the Assyrians returning to God in the face of his prophecy, with the Jews stubbornly resisting any chance for spiritual self-preservation. Therefore, he attempted to escape from his destiny.

Jonah fled from Israel by ship to silence the voice of prophecy that can only be heard in the Holy Land. But a storm at sea forced him into the

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## KJ Schedule

### Friday, September 21, 2012

Selihot .....	5:30 am
Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	6:30 am
Minhah/Arbith .....	6:14 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting .....	6:32 pm

### Shabbat Shuvah

#### Saturday, September 22, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	8:30 am
Women's Tehillim .....	5:30 pm
Rabbi's Class.....	5:30 pm
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit.....	6:00 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah .....	7:16 pm

### Weekdays

#### Sunday, September 23, 2012

Selihot / Shaharit .....	6:30 am / 7:30 am
KJ Talmud Torah .....	9:30 am
<b>SEC Selihoth Concert.....</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>

#### Monday, September 24, 2012

Selihot / Shaharit .....	5:30 am / 6:30 am
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### Erev Yom Kippur

#### Tuesday, September 25, 2012

Selihot .....	5:30 am
Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	6:30 am
Minha .....	2:00 pm
Candle Lighting.....	6:27 pm
Fast Begins .....	6:27 pm
<b>Kol Nidre Service.....</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>

### Yom Kippur Day

#### Wednesday, September 26, 2012

Shaharit .....	7:00 am
Minha .....	3:45 pm

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## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored In honor of  
The Sefer Haftaroht Dedication

by  
Asher Shalom



## Members of the Week

Our last Members of the Week for the year 5772 were loyal Kahal members and good will ambassadors Louise and David Elias.

David and Louise are such reliable Shabbat attendees, David often helps taking care of the Rabbi's twins (and any other kids that stop by to see him!) and Louise takes good care of our women's section.

Their presence is always felt in such a positive way, we wish them many years of happiness. May their good will and joyous spirit always be shared with our congregation.



## KJ KIDS BIRTHDAY CLUB

Kids! Tell your parents about KJ's Birthday Club.

- ◆ Receive a birthday e-mail card
- ◆ Be listed in KJ's newsletter
- ◆ Be congratulated at Shabbat
- ◆ Enjoy a birthday treat or gift

Children 18 and under of KJ members are welcome to join. E-mail [dafnayoung@gmail.com](mailto:dafnayoung@gmail.com)

## Congratulations

Donna & Dan Harkham  
on the birth of a baby boy

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**Neilah Service** ..... 6:00 pm  
Fast Ends (for Sephardim)..... 7:11 pm

### Weekdays

**Thursday-Friday, September 27-28, 2012**

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

### Erev Shabbat

**Friday, September 28, 2012**

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

Minhah/Arbith ..... 6:04 pm

Shabbat Candle Lighting ..... 6:22 pm

## Kids at KJ on Yom Kippur

WRISTBANDS are required for ALL CHILDREN to enter the KJ building. Reserve at 310.474.0559 before Monday, Sept. 24

## TORAH & HAFTARA READINGS

Shabbat Portion **Vayelech** 887 to 891  
Haftara 891 to 895

**Yom Kippur Readings** See Machzor

## Kahal Joseph Congregation Rabbi Hagay Batzri

Sarah Bouchoucha, Administrator  
Dafna Ezran, Communications Editor  
10505 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025 310.474.0559

## KJYP Nursing Home Visit

*Monday, September 24th*

We are planning to visit a nursing home the evening before Erev Yom Kippur. If you are interested in attending, space is limited to 10 people so contact us immediately. RSVP to [sherrymasjedi@gmail.com](mailto:sherrymasjedi@gmail.com) or <http://www.facebook.com/young.kahaljoseph>

## Refuah Shlemah

Gery Shapiro · Yocheved bat Rachel · Rachamim ben Sarah · Mazal bat Malka · Dan Herdoon · Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana  
Moshe Ashkenazi ben Rahel · Moshe ben Ezra Mordecai ben Avraham / Mordecai Cohen  
Sasson ben Rahel / Sassoon Moses  
Penina bat Henia

## In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries of passings, for September 22 to 29, 2012. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedakah, and attend services the preceding Shabbat.

**8 Tishri / Monday, September 24th**

David Sasson *David Hai Menashe*

**9 Tishri / Tuesday, September 25th**

Rachel Cohen *Rahel bat Simha*

**10 Tishri / Wednesday, September 26th**

Flora Jacob *Farha bat Dina*

**12 Tishri / Friday, September 28th**

*Ian Carlos ben Mishelle*

Edna Jonah *Simha bat Ruth*

Ezekiel Ezra Judah *Yehezkel Ezra ben Meir*

*Yehuda*

Sassoon Lelah *Sasson ben Aharon*

*Moshe ben Yaacov Shalom*

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recognition that no one can escape from God. In the midst of calm waters, his boat was tossed in a tempest until it was on the verge of breaking. The sailors prayed to their gods. Jonah slept.

He knew the truth. It was he who had already cut himself off from God; there was nothing to say and nothing to pray for.

His apathetic behavior aroused the curiosity of the sailors. He told them his story. He believed in God, yet he was running away from Him.

Knowing he was the cause of the storm, he implored the sailors to toss him overboard and save themselves. As decent people they resisted his suggestion until the critical moment when it became clear that within seconds they would all die. At that point, they listened and threw him into the turbulent depths. The storm abated immediately. Jonah thought his story had ended. But it had just begun.

He was swallowed by a whale, and miraculously survived. In the dark fetid innards of the whale, he recognized what he had never truly been willing to see, in his most exalted moments of prophecy, God's intimate knowledge and care over each life and each moment. He was a prophet and awareness of God was not a novelty to him. But recognition of the depths of God's mercy was.

It was then that Jonah did teshuva -- he repented, returning to God and the best in himself. Now he recognized that no matter how painful the contrast between the Assyrians and the Jews would be to him, that God's motivation could only be one of mercy. Once he recognized

this truth, he was willing to open the gates that he had closed so resolutely -- the gates of prayer. He was now ready for the most significant undertaking of his life. The whale spit him out at the shores of Nineveh.

He told the residents of Nineveh what awaited them: In forty days they could either make radical changes in their lives, or the city would be destroyed by God's wrath. The changes in Nineveh happened with speed and drama. The king himself led the people into a total reformation. Nineveh's destruction was postponed for 40 years.

Everything that Jonah had feared had come to pass. The contrast that he dreaded was more vivid in reality than it was as a prophecy. He had only one further request that he be spared of seeing the destruction of his own people, which he knew would come eventually and at the hands of the Assyrians at that. The fact that the Jews would not take example from Nineveh would be the final act of callousness that would seal their fate. God did not answer Jonah's request with words. He answered by deed.

After Jonah left Nineveh, he went to the outskirts and made himself a shelter in the shade of a kikayon tree. It was a source of consolation to him in his anguish, and made him aware of God's compassion. But God sent a worm to eat through the branches and kill the tree.

In response, all the pent up feelings of agony poured forth from Jonah's lips. God replied "You took pity on a kikayon for which you did not labor ... Shall I not take pity on Nineveh, that great city in which there are more than 120 thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and many beasts as well?"

In short, what God was telling Jonah is the flaws of the residents of Nineveh did not make them unworthy of life. Each person is part of the world's spiritual ecology, and brings benefit to the world at least as much as the kikayon plant brought benefit to Jonah.

Yom Kippur is the day in which each one of us can relive Jonah's journey. Let us use the time to return to God with joy and love.

## The Melodies of Yonah

Listen to Rabbi Batzri perform this beautiful Haftarah, Yonah, the story of Jonah, for the afternoon prayer Mincha of Yom Kippur at <http://youtu.be/DszANaavzwI>



## KJ YOUTH CHOIR

Calling KJ Kids 6 to 12

Sundays, October 14, 21, 28

11 to 12 noon

KJ Main Sanctuary

## Food For Children's Room

As in the past, we are requesting contributions to continue Yom Kippur hospitality for our kids. Some items we need: Watermelon, Apples, Oranges, Bananas, Grapes, Baby carrots, Cream cheese, String cheese, Yogurt squeezers, American cheese, Milk, Boiled Eggs, Hummus, Otter pops, Cookies, Graham crackers, Pitas, Minibagels, Pretzels, Breakfast Cereal, Granola bars, Fruit juice.

**All Items Require Kosher Certification**  
(except fruit, vegetables, water)

KAHAL JOSEPH'S  
NORMA & SAM DABBY



## KJ HEBREW SCHOOL

*Voyage to Mythical Worlds*

*Touch the Past & Future*

*Hear Magical Melodies*

*Taste Enchanting Foods*

**New Interactive Curriculum**

**Free Month Tuition for KJ Members**

Sundays 9:30 to 11 am, Thursdays 4 to 5:30 pm

Members \$100/month Non-members \$150/month

310.502.8548



11th Annual SEC

## Sephardic Jewish Film Festival

**Opening Night Gala**

**November 11, 2012 at Paramount Studios**

[www.sephardicfilmfestival.com](http://www.sephardicfilmfestival.com)



# Sephardic Educational Center Presents

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\*Yoram Azran (Shaaray Shalom)

\*Dudu Deri (Nessah)

\*Shimon Sibony (Em Habanim)

\*Mordechai Haim Arbibo (Mogen David)

\*Ariel Ovadia (Magen David)

\*Haim Mizrahi (Sephardic Temple)

ד בתשרי תשע"ג

**Sunday, September 23, 2012**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Kahal Joseph Congregation**  
**10505 West Santa Monica Blvd.**  
**West Los Angeles, CA 90025**

**\$15 Donation**

[Click here to purchase tickets on line](#)

For more information call the SEC office at 323-272-4574

