

KOL MEVASSER

Some Taxing Thoughts

By Rabbi Marc D. Angel

This week's Torah portion describes the "fundraising campaign" of the ancient Israelites in connection with building the Mishkan, the temporary sanctuary while they were in the wilderness. The people were called upon to contribute according to the willingness of their hearts. The sanctuary was to be a reflection of the donors' generosity and devotion.

Since those olden times, we have been involved in a never-ending series of campaigns—for our synagogues, schools, charitable institutions etc. A day hardly goes by when we are not solicited by one worthy cause or another, beseeching our support. Although we must necessarily make priorities in determining our contributions, we generally have the feeling that we are generous and kind people who contribute to the best of our ability.

In the United States, this is the season when we are involved in tax preparations, when we gather our financial data for the past year so that we can submit our taxes by April 15. This process gives us a clear idea of our economic history for the past year. But it also tells us much about who we are, well beyond the category of economics.

People spend money on the things that are important to them. Our financial records are a clearer reflection of our values than anything we say.

Are we generous? We all like to think that we are. Now let us examine our actual financial records for the past year. How much charity did we give? The Shulhan Arukh teaches that one who gives 10% of income to charity is considered an average person. One who gives 20% is considered generous. One who gives less than 10% is considered stingy. Our tax forms will reveal our level of real—not imagined—generosity.

Do we value spiritual and religious life above materialistic concerns? We like to think we do. But our tax records will reveal the truth about ourselves. Did we spend more money on recreation than on our spiritual/religious needs? Did we spend more on vacation than we did on Jewish education for ourselves and our children/grandchildren?

I have known people who claimed financial inability to pay synagogue dues but who spent considerable amounts on their summer homes. Others regularly spend hundreds of dollars for an evening at a restaurant and theater, but say they cannot afford to donate to the annual UJA-Federation

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KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, February 15, 2013

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim	5:05 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting.....	5:19 pm
Minhah/Arbith	5:19 pm

Shabbat / Parashat Terumah

Saturday, February 16, 2013

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Women's Tehillim	after kiddush
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit	4:15 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah	6:05 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, February 17, 2013

Shaharit	7:30 am
Talmud Torah	9:30 am
KJ Youth Choir.....	11:00 am
Backgammon Tournament.....	2:00 pm

President's Day

Monday, February 18, 2013

Shaharit	7:30 am
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Tuesday to Friday, Feb. 19 to 22, 2013

Shaharit	6:30 am
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Friday, February 22, 2013

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim	5:10 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting.....	5:25 pm
Minhah/Arbith	5:25 pm

SHABBAT READINGS

Torah Portion 326 to 336
Haftara / Prophets 336 to 338

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored by
Sol and Lilly Marghzar

in honor of their son
Arman Daniel's Bar Mitzvah

Mazal Tov
to grandparents
Nasser & Pari Marghzar
Shapour & Esther Javanizadeh

Seudah Shlisheet

Is sponsored in memory
of his sister

Rahel bat Malka, z"l

by
Tooraj Aghalar & Family

A Car for Penina

Our amazing staff member, Penina Solomon, had the misfortune of losing her car in an accident. She is seeking a replacement vehicle.

If you have a car that you are willing to part with at low or no cost, please contact Sarah in the office at [310.474.0559](tel:310.474.0559). Your generosity will help Penina & our community.

Thank You Yvette Dabby & KJ's Purim Bakers

Faye Aharonov
Rachel Bakhsh
Florette Benhamou
Shohreh Elghanian
Arlette Darwish
Eva Dloomy
Esther Duke
Ben Elias
David Elias
Louise Elias
Sophie Elias
Katie Fischman
Rita Hanin
Tilda Levy
Sigal Levy-Yosefzadeh
Doris Moshi
Rosy Nissan
Norman Reiz
Renee Reiz
Melanie Rosenberg
Aviva Sagi
Odette Sarraf
Nahid Sedaghat
Sholeh Shaaya
Gilda Tawfik-Coco
Anita Wozniak

The efforts of all who participated are sincerely & greatly appreciated. The KJ Purim Gift Basket Baking project is a wonderful act of giving & hesed for our community.

This list was compiled by volunteers while also baking, so please forgive any inadvertent omissions or misspellings.

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for February 16th to 23rd, 2013. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, and attend services the preceding Shabbat.

6 Adar / Shabbat, February 16th

Molly Jonah *Mazeltov bat Sarah*

7 Adar / Sunday, February 17th

Farha Atraghji *Farha bat Hanina*

8 Adar / Monday, February 18th

Abraham Avrahamy *Avraham ben Yosef*

Jacob Benjamin Elias *Yaacov Binyamin*

David Kay *David ben Yaacov Yehuda Yehezkel*

Isaac Jacob Jonah *Itzhak ben Yaacov*

Abraham Naji Joseph *Avraham Shalom ben Itzhak*

Jacques Litvac *Yoachim David ben Micha HaCohen*

9 Adar / Tuesday, February 19th

Irena Stoler

Victoria Levy *Victoria bat Hanina*

10 Adar / Wednesday, February 20th

Marcella Aslan *Masooda Aslan*

Clara Solomon *Gala bat Masouda*

Menashe Solomon *Menashe ben Shlomo Reuven*

12 Adar / Friday, February 22nd

David Shapiro *Dovid ben Chaim*

13 Adar / Shabbat, February 23rd

Esther Jacob D'Cruz *Esther HaMulka bat Rahel*

Elliot Zvi Wyner *Yecheil Zvi ben Yitzhak*

Kodadad ben Yair

Refuah Shlemah

Gerry Shapiro, Yocheved bat Rachel, Mazal bat Malka, Dan Herdoon, Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana, Moshe ben Ezra, Sasson ben Rahel/Sassoon Moses, Penina bat Henia, Dov Ber ben Sonia, Maurice Ovadia/Moshe ben Noosha

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campaign or other communal charities. Or they send in \$18! I know of families who have spent many thousands of dollars staying in luxurious hotels for Passover, but who contribute very small amounts to their synagogues and local day schools.

Our tax records show us what we did, not what we claimed to believe. How much did we spend in support of Jewish causes, humanitarian causes? How much did we donate to the institutions which are the backbone of our religious, charitable, medical and cultural infrastructure? If promoting vital Jewish life is an uppermost concern of ours, this concern must be reflected in the way we invest our charitable dollars. The amounts we give—or do not give—are a stark and objective reflection of our priorities.

If all Jews were merely “average” and contributed 10% of their annual incomes on charitable causes, then our synagogues, schools and communal institutions would not have deficits. On the contrary, they would be so well-funded that they could provide more services and be more generous to those who could not afford these services.

A story is told that the accusing angel came before God on Yom Kippur, and cast aspersions of the prayers of the Jews. This angel said: “The Jews are not sincere. Put their prayers in this machine

and grind them out. Then you will find the essence of their prayers.” God took the prayers and ground them through the machine. In went the prayers and out came the words: “money, money, money.” The accusing angel rested his case. Then the defending angel asked God to put the prayers back into the machine a second time. God did so, and out came the words: “money for our synagogues, money for our

yeshivot, money for the poor and downtrodden.” The defending angel won the day.

The money we earn is the fruit of our labor. The money we spend is a reflection of our values. The way we allocate our funds—as evidenced in our tax records—tells us much about the meaning of our prayers and aspirations, and about who we really are.

Shabbat Shalom

Do you think you have what it takes?

Maurice Zekaria Backgammon Tournament

Entrance fee: \$35.00

Winning the title: Priceless

Sunday Feb. 17, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

Card game entrance fee: \$10.00

Sandwiches and refreshments will be served

First Prize: \$400

Second Prize: \$200

Third Prize: \$100

*Please bring your backgammon set

Kahal Joseph Social Hall
10505 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90025

*A limited number of walk-in
spaces will be available Sunday.
Contact yvettedabby@gmail.com*

(Must be 18 years or older to enter)

Sponsored by the Zekaria Family



FUN Rides & GAMES

Prizes, **PRIZES**, Prizes!
CANDY! Hamburgers!
Fries! Hot Dogs!

Kahal Joseph Congregation



Purim Carnival

Sunday, February 24th
11 am to 4 pm



Game & Ride Wristbands—Check out our Special Deals
\$25/wristband or \$1 per ticket, \$60 for 70 tix, \$100 for 120 tix
Wristbands are good for games and rides only. Food tickets are available for separate purchase.
For information call 310.474.0559

We Thank Our Purim Carnival Sponsors

Full Booth

Tooraj Aghalar
Caroline & David Azouz
The Ezra Family
Cici & David Hallegua
The Ironi Family
Hannie Kelly
Sandy & Danny Shiri

Half Booth

The Amron Family
Letizia & Ronald Einy
Rylla & Ben Elias
Michelle & Stan Kurtz
Ruby & Joe Samuels
Jacalyn & Asher Shalom
Susan & Bijan Zadeh



Purim Megillah

Saturday, February 23rd
7:30 PM with Rabbi Batzri



Dress in costume! Sound your noisemakers!

Listen to the age-old story of Purim, with its familiar cast of characters—Mordechai, Ester, Vashti, the Jewish community of Shushan, and the ever-despised Haman!

Entertainment & Fun

Listen to the Megillah!