

KOL MEVASSER

The Pursuit of Righteousness

By Rabbi Marc D. Angel

Professor Gershom Scholem wrote: "The Jewish mystic lives and acts in perpetual rebellion against a world with which he strives with all his zeal to be at peace" (Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism, p. 34). I think this statement is true not only of mystics, but of all truly religious individuals.

On the one hand, a religious person wants to live in harmony with God and humanity. He/she seeks a world in which the ideals of compassion, justice and truth are fully honored and obeyed. On the other hand, a religious person inevitably finds himself or herself in rebellion against the rampant falsehood, cruelty and hypocrisy which characterize society. There is a horrible rift between the ideal and the real, and this rift tears at the soul of every truly religious individual.

The essential rift is not between the religious and the secular; it is between the righteous and the unrighteous. There are people who identify as "secular" but who

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President's Message: Happy 36th Bar Mitzvah Rabbi Bouskila



It gives me the greatest pleasure to invite all of you this Shabbat for a happy milestone in our community. We celebrate Rabbi Daniel Bouskila's 36th Bar Mitzvah anniversary.

Rabbi Bouskila and his family are looking forward to sharing this

beautiful occasion with all our members and friends. It is a rare privilege to have Rabbi Bouskila chant his Torah portion, Parashat Shoftim, conduct our services, and, of course, deliver an insightful and enlightened talk. He will address the topic of "Thirty Six Years Later: What Does My Torah Portion Mean to Me Today?"

The love & friendship Rabbi Bouskila and his family hold for Kahal Joseph and our entire congregation has been magnanimous, endearing and supportive for many years.

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KJ Schedule

Parashat Shoftim

Friday, August 9th

Shaharit	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim	6:45 pm
Minha & Arbit.....	7:00 pm
Candle Lighting	7:28 pm

Shabbat

Saturday, August 10th

Shaharit	8:30 am
Guest Speaker, Rabbi Daniel Bouskila	
Ladies Tehillim	TBA
Minha/Arbit	6:45 pm
Shabbat Havdallah	8:12 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, August 11th

Selichot	6:30 am
Shaharit	7:30 am

Monday to Friday, August 12 to 16

Selichot	5:30 am
Shaharit	6:30 am

Erev Shabbat

Friday, August 16th

Selichot	5:30 am
Shaharit	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim	6:45 pm
Minha & Arbit.....	7:00 pm
Candle Lighting	7:20 pm

Parashat Shoftim Weekly Torah Portion
Book of Deuteronomy / Devarim 820 to 835
Haftara from Isaiah/Yishayahu 835 to 839

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This Shabbat we are honored to be celebrating the 36th Anniversary of the Bar Mitzvah of Rabbi Daniel Bouskila. A festive Kiddush will follow the services. We look forward to sharing his family's joy with our community.

Ronald Einy, President

Food Donations Requested for KJ's High Holy Days Children's Room

The High Holy Days are rapidly approaching, and we're organizing our special children's program. One much appreciated feature of KJ's program is the healthy & nutritious kosher food we provide for all the kids, especially throughout the evening and day on Yom Kippur. Please contribute kosher, non-perishable food items to enable us to continue our tradition of hospitality for our kids. **Thank You!**

Dear Congregants. due to allergies, we ask that you refrain from wearing strong perfumes or colognes in the sanctuary

David S. Kelly KJ Youth Choir

The choir will resume Sunday, August 25th. We look forward to our kids, parents, & devoted volunteers enjoying learning and singing with Rabbi Batzri!
See you soon!

Mazal Tov

Rabbi Daniel Bouskila
on the 36th Anniversary
of your Bar Mitzvah
Parashat Shoftim

Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored in memory of
Noor bat Simcha Rabie, z"l

by
Moussa Shaaya
Hilda Rojhani
& Both Families

Thank You

Penina would like to express her gratitude towards all those in the Kahal Joseph community whose generous chesed assisted her in obtaining another vehicle following an accident. May Hashem bless each member of the community with good health, prosperity, and serenity.

In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries for August 10th to 13th, 2013. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, and attend services the preceding Shabbat.

4 Elul / Shabbat, August 10th
Edward Kelly

5 Elul / Sunday, August 11th
Lil Bir Leah bat Girji

Aaron Arakie Cohen *Aharon Shalom Elisha Arakie HaCohen*

Abraham Ezra Isaac *Avraham ben Ezra Yaacov*

7 Elul / Tuesday, August 13th
Yaacov Aboulafia *Yaacov ben Sarah*

8 Elul / Wednesday, August 14th
Rachel Ezra Jacob *Rahel bat Lulu*
Naji Ezra Helali

Yamin Sassoon *Yamin ben Sassoon*

9 Elul / Thursday, August 15th
Sam Dabby *Shimon ben Haskel Dabby*
Hilda Deborah *Habiba bat Farha*
Rachel Hayim Mingail *Rahel bat Miriam*

Refuah Shlemah

Yocheved bat Rachel Mazal bat Malka,
Dan Herdoon Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana
Moshe ben Ezra Vera Levi
Sasson ben Rahel/Sassoon Moses
Penina bat Henia Dov Ber ben Sonia
Maurice Ovadia / Moshe ben Noosha,
Prina bat Esther Yossef ben Jamila
Ruth bat Aliza Dina bat Simha
Shoshana Goury/ Shoshana bat Rahel
Gerry Meyers / Ezra ben Yosef Aharon
Yehoshua ben Channah
Chaim Aryeh Yehuda ben Yocheved

Shabbat Shalom U'Mevorah

We wish you a peaceful Shabbat

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live righteous, upstanding lives. There are people who identify as “religious” but who live unrighteous, immoral lives.

Indeed, truly religious people are often most deeply pained when confronting moral turpitude among those who claim to be religious. We expect—rightly—that people who present themselves as faithful adherents to Torah should live exemplary lives that set an example of righteousness and compassion. How painful it is to learn of “religious” individuals who engage in criminal activity, in child molestation, in spousal abuse. How disillusioning it is to confront “religious” teachers and leaders who display vile personality traits—arrogance, egotism, cruelty and self-righteousness.

It has become normative in the Orthodox community to refer to a religious Jew as a “shomer Shabbat,” a Sabbath observer. Yet, as important as Shabbat observance is, I think this is the wrong term to use when identifying a religious Jew. Regrettably, we know of Jews who are “shomer Shabbat” but who are thieves, cheaters, and abusers. Being scrupulous in observance of the Sabbath or other ritual commandments does not in itself mean that a person is religious.

To be religious means to serve God and humanity in righteousness, compassion and goodness. To be religious means to

be honest, kind and thoughtful. Anyone who lacks these qualities is not “religious,” no matter how careful he/she is in ritual observance. A religious Jew should be called “shomer Torah umitzvot”, with the understanding that this phrase includes all the ethical and moral laws as well as the ritual observances.

This week’s Torah portion instructs us to appoint judges and officers who will ensure righteous judgment in our communities. “Justice, justice shall you pursue” (Devarim 16:20).

This passage has often been interpreted to mean that we should be thoroughly imbued with justice. We should pursue justice only through just means, and we should never think that “righteous” ends can be achieved through “unrighteous” behavior. This applies not merely to judges, but to all human beings. Our behavior should be pure, just as our inner lives should strive for purity.

Truly religious people are not only troubled by the corruption and evils in our society; they strive to eliminate these corruptions and evils. They strive to improve themselves, their families, their communities, and society at large. They understand that the pursuit of righteousness is the foundation of religious life.

Religious people are perpetually in rebellion against a world with which they strive to be at peace. And peace begins with our

own inner peace, putting our own spiritual lives in proper order. Once we are strong within ourselves, we can deal with our society with greater courage, honesty and success. The rebellion against evil will be won, one person at a time, one day at a time. *Shabbat Shalom*



KJ Shabbat Children's Room

Hours: 10 am to 12 pm

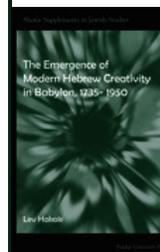
Please Return Library Books

Many people enjoy our amazing library. But a number of books—cookbooks, histories, Tehillim books #1, 2, 19 & 21, and more—are missing.

If you have a KJ library book,
please return it soon.

Then others may also share our wonderful collection. We thank you in advance!

Books on Iraqi Jewish Literature



Written by UCLA Professor, Lev Hakak., these books offer analysis and refreshing insights into our heritage. For more information or to purchase contact Sarah in the synagogue office at 310.474.0559.

Kahal Joseph Congregation
 Norma & Sam Dabby Jewish Education Center
 Dafna Ezran-Young, Educational Director

Sunday School for Kids

Nurture Creativity
 Explore Spirituality
 Learn Jewish Heritage



THINK



Arts & Crafts
 Music & Drama
 Nature Fieldtrips

Out of the Box

♥ Sunday
 Buddies ♥



Home ♥ Study ♥ Bagels
 with Computers & Juice

**Friends &
 Community**



To register call
 310.474.0559



Classes Start Sunday
 September 8th
\$60 month for members
\$110 nonmembers

KJ High Holy Days Tickets & Membership

Now's the perfect time to renew or begin your membership at Kahal Joseph Congregation. We are a community and our members support our wonderful programs for young and old.

Guest Adult Tickets—\$250

Student / Young Adult Tickets (18 to 30)—\$50 / \$100

Guest Kids Wristbands or Tickets (0 to 17)—\$50

Single Membership—1 adult ticket

Family Membership—2 adults & their children (0 to 17)

For information contact Sarah at 310.474.0559.

Parties Shouldn't Be This Difficult



Errol Levi Social Hall & Ballroom

Are you planning one of the following?

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Engagement Party | Wedding |
| Brit Milah | Baby Naming |
| Birthday Party | Bar/Bat Mitzvah |
| Anniversary | Company Event |

Did you know that Kahal Joseph has one of the most beautiful ballrooms on the Westside for your private event? Do you know that we have an amazing, kosher catering kitchen? And a modern children's playroom for younger visitors? Kahal Joseph is fabulous for parties up to 200 guests. Please contact Sarah Bouchoucha at 310.474.0559 for information.