

KOL MEVASSER



President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, our members and the entire Kahal Joseph community, it is with great pleasure that I officially welcome to Los Angeles Rabbi

Raif Melhado as our Rabbi and spiritual leader.

After several months of eager anticipation, I am proud to say that we welcome a leader who is academically distinguished and deeply passionate, with an illuminating and sensitive spirit. Rabbi Melhado embodies the very best and brightest of America's new generation of Rabbis.

We look forward to all that Rabbi Melhado will inspire in us with his unique vitality and his compelling vision rooted in a love for our tradition. God willing we will share a long, fruitful tenure together with him and his lovely family.

It seems most appropriate that on this Shabbat we also celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of Adam Zekaria. Adam comes from a family that for over four decades has worked to strengthen the foundation of this synagogue, and helped to make so many of our dreams through the years into a reality. We wish Mazal Tov to Adam, his parents, his family and friends on this wonderful occasion.

Two significant new beginnings coincide: a young Rabbi starts his professional career with us today, and a Jewish young man enters adulthood. Both connect in a through-line of association, and both represent the essence of what all of life is--a deep regard for the past, the glow of the present, and with God's help, the promise of tomorrow.

Shabbat Shalom,

Ronald Einy

KJ Schedule Shabbat Nahamu Parasha Va'etchanan

Erev Shabbat & Tu B'Av *Friday, July 31st*

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ... 6:30 am
Minha / Arvit 6:30 pm
Candle Lighting 7:37 pm

Shabbat

Saturday, August 1st

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ... 8:30 am
with the Bar Mitzvah of Adam Zekaria
Women's Tehillim 7:00 pm
Minha & Arbit 7:00 pm
Havdallah 8:39 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, August 2nd

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ... 7:30 am

Monday to Friday August 3rd to 7th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am

Erev Shabbat

Friday, August 7th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ... 6:30 am
Minha / Arvit 6:30 pm
Candle Lighting 7:30 pm

**Shabbat Nahamu
Torah & Haftara Readings**
Parashat Va'ethanan in the book of
Devarim/Deuteronomy 755 to 776
Haftara from Prophets
Yeshayahu / Isaiah 776 to 779

KJ Membership
The High Holy Days begin this year in mid-September! Now is a wonderful time to renew your membership and obtain seats for these special days. Call Sarah at 310.474.0559

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in honor of
Adam's Bar Mitzvah
by
The Zekaria Family

Congratulations

Adam Zekaria
on your Bar Mitzvah
Mazal Tov
to your parents
Sylvia & Leon Zekaria
your siblings
Melissa and Maurice
your grandparents
Alice Zekaria
Shirin Elghanian
and the entire family

Shabbat Shalom U'Mevorach

Congratulations
Laura & Sammi Shaaya
on the birth of a daughter

Mazal Tov
to grandparents
Sholeh & Moussa Shaaya
Gloria & Phillip Isaac
and both families

Congratulations
Sharleen & Jacob Partiyeli
on the birth of a son

Mazal Tov
to grandparents
Jaleh & Abner Partiyeli
Soheila & Sion Neman
and both families

Congratulations
Benjamin Moses &
Roya Troya Melamed
on your engagement

Mazal Tov
to parents, Dawn & Marc Moses
grandparents, Ben & Rylla Elias
and both families

Refuah Shlemah

Abe Abraham
Moselle Amron
Mordechai Cohen
Sylvia Cohen
Esther Duke
Sassoon Ezra
Tilda Levy
Miriam bat Yetta
Maurice Ovadia
Habiba bat Mazli

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries
Aug 1 to 8, 2015. It is customary to light a
memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend
Shabbat services.

17 Av / Sunday, August 2nd

Jacob Jonah Yaacov Yonah ben Yonah Yitzhak
Sabiha Kattan Sabiha bat Gurjiya Horesh
Matilda Levi Massooda bat Tirkie

18 Av / Monday, August 3rd

Khadoori Sasson Kadoori ben Sasson

19 Av / Tuesday, August 4th

Esther Shapiro Ester bat Rivka

21 Av / Thursday, August 6th

Ketty E. Hanoon Khatoon bat Noosha
Farangis Shaye Farangis bat Hanonbibli

22 Av / Friday, August 7th

Rahel bat Zivar

23 Av / Shabbat, August 8th

Gloria Levi Gloria Mazal bat Rahel
Rachel Moses Rachel bat Moshe

The Shema Yisrael in the Book of Devarim, Parashat Va'etchanan

*Revised, abridged and edited from
The Sephardic Institute, judaic.org*

The *mitsvot* section in the last book of the Torah, Devarim (or Deuteronomy), constitutes an array of regulations designed to foster total devotion to G-d. It begins with a six-verse passage (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), the first verse of which is the Shema: "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone."

The opening phrase of the *Shema*, "Hear, O Israel!" calls upon the nation to be especially attentive and signals that an important statement is forthcoming. The first word of the sentence is "*shema*" and also translates as a call to "understand."

The second phrase "*Hashem Elokenu*" throughout the Torah, and especially in Devarim / Deuteronomy, generally means "*Hashem our G-d*" and some commentators render it so. But in the case of the *Shema*, as our sage Ibn Ezra points out, that does not appear to be the correct translation.

Had that been the intent, the repetition of the word "*Hashem*" in "Hashem Ehad," the third phrase of the prayer, would not fit. "*Ehad*" generally means "one." The verse should then have been written "*Hashem Elokenu ehad*," or "Hashem our G-d is One." The second instance of "*Hashem*" would be unneeded.

If the repetition of "*Hashem*" in the third phrase "*Hashem Ehad*" begins a new statement, then the word "*Hashem*" in the second phrase, "*Hashem Elokenu*," also begins a statement. This appears to be a statement meaning "Hashem is our G-d," an expression proclaiming relationship. And then the third phrase, *Hashem Ehad*, "Hashem is one" is a follow-up mini-sentence, a statement with several possible translations.

Some have understood *Hashem Ehad* to mean "Hashem is one." This suggests that He is a true unity, indivisible and not composed of multiple elements. Such an interpretation, however, appears to reflect a later philosophical concern not relevant to the time of Moses.

As a follow-up mini-sentence to the preceding "Hashem is our G-d," Rashbam and Ibn Ezra consider "*Hashem ehad*" or "Hashem is One" to mean, "Hashem exclusively is our G-d," a further comment on the relationship between the Israelites and their G-d. In other words, He, Hashem, is our G-d, our one and only G-d, there is no other that we may look to as our G-d.

Others take *ehad* as meaning "*meyuhad*" in the sense of His being special and unique, a notion that the word "one" sometimes represents, as in the verse, "And who is like your people Israel, a unique nation on earth." [2 Sam. 7:23].

Many other commentators, however, have taken *ehad* in a fuller sense, understanding it to be stating that Hashem is the one G-d in existence, expressing the monotheistic principle.

Support for the latter view may be found in the climactic phrases of Moses' motivational speech that shortly preceded the *Shema*. This is a discourse in which Moses expounds the Ten Commandments. In Deuteronomy, Chapter 4, he proclaims the first two commandments: "Hashem is the G-d, there is none other besides Him." And shortly after Moses states: "Hashem is the G-d in the heavens above and on the earth below, there is no other." It appears appropriate to assume that the *Shema* was formulated in accordance with these monotheistic pronouncements in the Ten Commandments . . .

It seems, then, that the two declarations of the *Shema*'s opening verse allude directly to the Decalogue's first two pronouncements: *Hashem Elokenu* recalls the opening proclamation, "I am Hashem your G-d," denoting the covenantal relationship, while *Hashem ehad* refers to "you shall have no other gods."

The Decalogue formulation reflects the period of the Exodus when Israel had just been redeemed from bondage and was not yet at the stage of appreciating a full monotheism. The *Shema Yisrael* verse, however, as well as the whole of Moses' discourse

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

in Deuteronomy (except for what he quotes from the past) is a fortieth-year formulation, after the Jewish people have greatly matured and have come of age under Moses' guidance.

It is interesting to consider how the short opening line of the Shema, so well-known and loved by young and old, often one of the first prayers children learn and one of the last things a Jewish person says in his or her life, contains within it the entire span of the Jewish people's journey from Egypt to Israel and the essence of Jewish belief.

Norma & Sam Dabby
Jewish Education Center

KJ Kids Talmud Torah
& **Sunday School**

Nurture *Creativity*
Celebrate, Explore & Inspire

Share *Friends & Community*
Drama, Music, Art
Jewish History
Hebrew for Prayer
Shabbat & Holidays
Games & Fun
Torah & Tefillah

First Day of Class—Sunday, August 23rd
For information call 310-502-8548

KJ Women's Tehillim on Shabbat
Saturday Evening @ 7:00 pm

KAHAL JOSEPH INVITES YOU TO A SPECIAL

BENEFACTORS EVENING OF FINE WINE, DINING AND MUSIC WELCOMING RABBI RAIF MELHADO & HIS FAMILY

SYLVIA AND LEON ZEKARIA RESIDENCE

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2015

SIX THIRTY IN THE EVENING

\$1,000 FRIEND ◆ \$2,500 GUARDIAN ◆ \$5,000 PROTECTOR

INCLUDES DINNER FOR TWO

YOUR NAME INSCRIBED ON THE

BENEFACTORS WALL IN THE KAHAL JOSEPH LOBBY

MUSIC BY SKYE MICHAELS & RUBEN BERCI

RSVP BY AUGUST 13, 2015

SARAH - 310.474.0559

EVENT ADDRESS GIVEN AT TIME OF RESERVATION