

KOILMEVASSER

KAHAL JOSEPH CONGREGATION • 10505 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, LOS ANGELES, CA 90025 • 310.474.0559 • WWW.KAHALJOSEPH.ORG

SHABBAT PARAH

I've Learned So Much

By KJ President,
Moussa Shaaya

Earlier this week I was sitting back in my chair at the office reflecting on how much I have enjoyed working with the members and friends of Kahal Joseph. With but a few challenges and surprises along the way, six wonderful years have come to an end, and along with it a lifetime's worth of memories, stories, and of course, friendship. There is a tremendous future ahead of us at Kahal Joseph and I'm sure the next President and incoming Board will take Kahal to a new, great level of community.

My greatest experiences at Kahal have revolved around people. My happiness comes from the relationships I've made with so many people, and it is these very relationships that mean so much to me. I first joined Kahal Joseph in 1979, listening to the melodies of our Senior Hazan Sassoon Ezra, who is still going strong today. Since then, I have met wonderful friends, Rabbis, and leaders both within and around our community. I will cherish these friendships for many years to come.



I have tried very hard to make Kahal a better place. Often, much of the responsibility for the synagogue rested on my shoulders. To improve things at Kahal, I spearheaded numerous fundraisers both at Kahal and at my own home. I was happy to open my home to so many friends. Sholeh and I have given so much of ourselves to Kahal, and it is our prayer that we'll be able to continue to give and to inspire others to open up their homes and hearts for the greater good of our unique community. Over these years, Sholeh and I have learned the great joy of serving others. It is a truly reciprocal task that has provided us with the blessing of a wonderful circle of friends, strengthened our bond to the Torah, and given us the chance

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Prayer Schedule

SHABBAT PARAH

PARASHAT SHEMINI

Friday, March 25th

Minhah & Arbit 6:40 pm

Candle Lighting 6:50 pm

Saturday, March 26th

Shaharit 8:30 am

Hakarot HaTov Luncheon Honoring Moussa Shaaya & the Board of Directors

Tehillim before Minhah

Minhah & Arbit 6:30 pm

Motzei Shabbat 7:54 pm

WEEKDAYS

Sunday, March 27th

Shaharit 7:30 am

Monday-Friday, March 21-25

Shaharit 6:30 am

TALMUD TORAH CLASSES

Tuesday & Thursday 4:00 pm

SHABBAT HACHODESH

PARASHAT TAZRIA

Friday, April 2nd

Minhah & Arbit 6:45 pm

Candle Lighting 6:55 pm

Torah Readings

Parasha Shemini pp.443-454

Parasha Parah pp. 652-655

Haftara pp. 999-1001

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to connect with Hashem through this wonderful Sephardic synagogue each day. All in all, leading Kahal has taken us on a wonderful journey, and we hope we've made a positive difference. I have been sustained throughout life by three saving graces: my family, my friends, and my faith in the power of G-d. Kahal has certainly played a role in each of those areas, and helped realize my dream of having a meaningful life.

I would like to thank our Rabbi, Hazzanim, and Board Members for serving our community with love. Their support has meant so much to me. And special thanks to the dedicated staff, teachers, and administrators. Keep doing what you do with the love and passion that you so willingly devote to Kahal Joseph.

May Hashem bless all of us, and may He bring peace to Israel and the world so that we may see the coming of Mashiach. Amen

Read the Haftarah

Wouldn't you like to chant from the concluding section of the Torah read on every Shabbat—the Haftarah? Reserve a haftarah portion at 310.474. 0559. Then, schedule time with Saeed & learn your haftarah with authentic Baghdadi ta'amim, our Iraqi melodies for the Torah.

Love, Fear, and Leadership

By Rabbi Hagay Batzri

I want to start by thanking the outgoing President of Kahal Joseph, Moussa Shaaya, and the Board of Directors for their years of service to the community.

As the rabbi of this congregation for the last three years, I can say with confidence that Moussa and the Board members, each in his or her own way, has shown love for the public, has acted with care, and demonstrated responsibility. Moussa especially made every effort to welcome me, to make sure my needs and my family's needs were met, and to help me work for the good of the community. I want to extend to him my personal thanks and the community's thanks.

As we are thinking about what makes a good leader, we might do well to consider this week's parasha according to the ARI—Rabbi Yitzhak Luria.

This Shabbat's parasha talks of Yom Ha'Shemini, the day the Mishkan was dedicated. The Mishkan was the holy Tabernacle that travelled with the Jewish people in the desert. Its dedication took place on Rosh Hodesh Nisan. A number of Torah portions before this one have explained in detail the plan for the Mishkan which required fundraising, building, designing holy objects, weaving tapestries and clothes for the kohanim, and offering korbanot. Now we conclude the preparations. HaYom HaShemini, the Eighth Day, represents the culmination of everything that has come before.

First, why is it called "the eighth day"? For the first seven days of the Mishkan's existence, Moshe was the Kohen. He was in charge of getting everything ready. Now, on the eighth day, he will transfer the office of Kohen Gadol, the High Priest, to his brother Aharon.

We are told by our sages that this day, the day of the Mishkan's dedication, was equal to the day that Hashem created human beings themselves. In fact, the dedication of the Mishkan occurred at the same hour that Hashem infused a soul, or neshama, into Adam. On that exact same day of the year, the first of Nisan, at the same hour of the day, Hashem placed the Shechina, His divine, feminine presence, into the Mishkan.

The Shemini, the eighth day of the Mishkan's existence, was a celebration. It was one of the loftiest, holiest moments for Bne Yisrael, the people of Israel. And at this exact moment, a tragedy occurs—a tragedy both personal and communal.

At the exact moment that the Shechina was arriving and becoming part of Am Yisrael, the esh—fire—came down from the sky and killed Nadav and Avihu, two of Aharon HaKohen's sons. Aharon's sons were supposed to live, to continue the



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In Memoriam Community News

It is customary to light a memorial candle in the evening and to donate tzedakah. Family members are encouraged to attend prayer services in honor of loved ones.

Shabbat / 20 Adar II
Yona ben Shlomo

Tuesday / 23 Adar II
Rachel Jonah
Moshe Ezra ben Rafael Moshe*

Thursday / 25 Adar II
Sarah bat Gurjiyee

Friday / 26 Adar II
Shlomo ben Moshe Emquies
Yaacov Partiyeli

Shabbat / 27 Adar II
Nisim ben Jacob
Shaul ben Hacham Moshe Yakob

*To update, please call the office
at 310.474.0559.*

Refuah Shlemah

Yonatan ben Alizah ▪ Mazal Tov
bat Sulha Mitana ▪ Matilda
Louisa ▪ Yaheskel ben Regina ▪
Ayala bat Naomi ▪ Khayah Noa
bat Sara ▪ Haim ben Mordechai ▪
Pnina bat Esther ▪ Yosi ben
Esther ▪ Victor ben Latif ▪ Ramah
Regina bat Farha ▪ Aziza bat Sara
Judith bat Malka ▪ Ofek ben Yochai
▪ Efrayim Zev ben Fayga ▪ Sulha
Matana bat Mozelle ▪ Gershon ben
David ▪ Farangis Miriam bat
Touran ▪ David ben Leah ▪
Avraham Haim ben Miryam ▪
Yaakov ben Freda ▪ Rachel bat
Mazal Tov ▪ Avraham ben Rab-
bie ▪ Mazal Sigalit bat Rivkah ▪
Orit bat Tikvah ▪ Yaakov ben
Aliyah ▪ Chana Leah bat Reiza

SEUDAH SHLISHEET

is co-sponsored
in memory of
Nissim ben Yaacov Aghalar, z"l

by
Desiree & Tooraj Aghalar
and Family

SEUDAH SHLISHEET

is co-sponsored
in memory of
Yaacov ben Avraham Partiyeli, z"l
& Avraham ben Aghbaba Partiyeli,
z"l
by
Abner Partiyeli and Family

THANK YOU

to everyone who assisted with the
Purim Seudah. Special thanks to
Rabbi Hagay and Orly Batzri for
planning and organizing the event
and to all the staff and volunteers
who helped make it happen.

THANK YOU

To all who helped with the Purim Baking
effort. We would like to acknowledge
Rosy Nissan
Hanina Mathalon
Norman Reiz

In addition to all the volunteers who
helped and whose names appeared last
week. An extra special thank you to all
who delivered the Purim baskets for your
effort and contributions!

Women of Kahal

Join us each month for Tehillim and a
Rosh Hodesh Celebration.

Rosh Hodesh is a special time for
women—learn more about how to take
care of yourself and grow spiritually
during these special days.

For more information, or if you would
like to host the next Rosh Hodesh for
the Jewish month of Nisan, contact Orly
Batzri at orlybatzri@gmail.com.

SHABBAT MITZVOT

We offer for donation the following Mitzvot.
1. Petichat Hechal opening of the ark;
**2. Carrying of the Sefer Torah & Sefer
Haftara;** **3. Hakamat Sefer** lifting of the
Torah; **4. Mashlim*** The seventh aliya to
the Torah who recites Kaddish; **5. Maftir***
The last aliya to the Torah which includes the
Haftara (read by the clergy unless member
reading is preapproved). We suggest a
minimum donation of \$126 or multiples of
\$18 or \$26. You will receive confirmation
before Shabbat to confirm if you will re-
ceive the aliya. Members may reserve in
advance by calling the office. Non-
members reserving aliyot should contact
the office for availability at 310.474.0559.
We appreciate your support.

SPONSOR KIDDUSH or SEUDAH SHLISHEET

If you would like to sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush or an afternoon
meal, also known as Seudah Shlisheet, in honor of a special
occasion or in honor of a family member or friend, please con-
tact our office at 310.474.0559.



**Special Shabbat
Service & Luncheon**
Saturday, March 26th

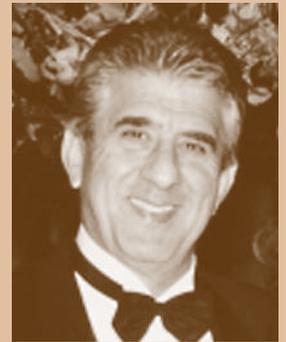
with
Rabbi Shlomo Seidenfeld
Special Shabbat
Guest Speaker

HAKARAT HATOV

APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

in honor of President Moussa Shaaya

& the Board of Directors

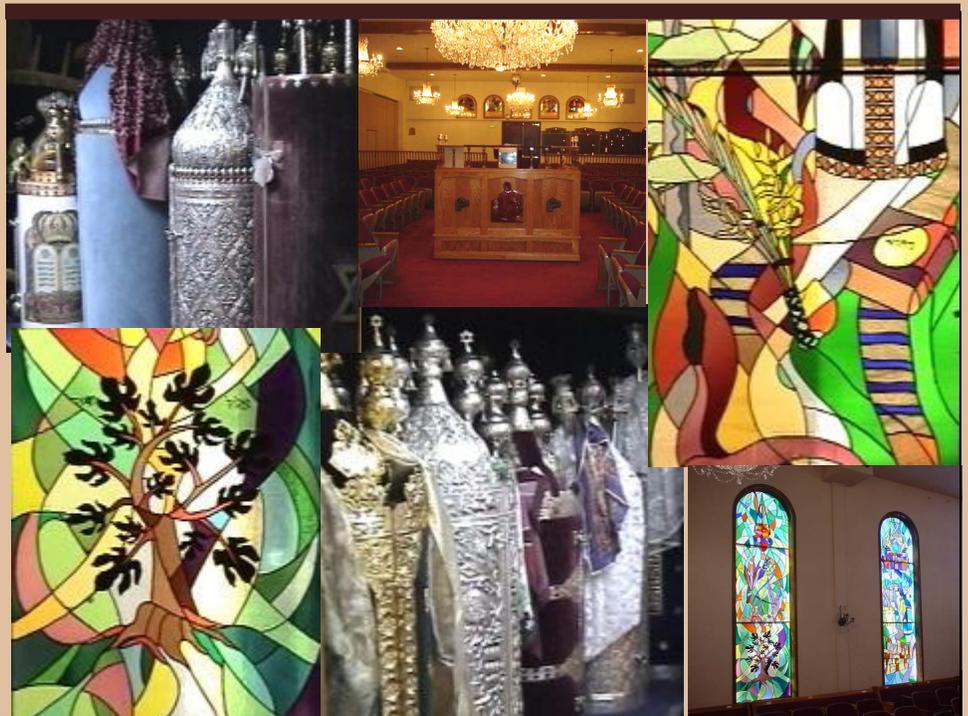


**Advance Reservations
are required.** Call Sarah in
our office to reserve at
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\$26 Adults &
\$18 Child

Members of Kahal's teen
program call for special rate.
Preference to KJ Members.

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



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legacy of Aharon who was already aging. So, why did this happen? Why did it happen to such great leaders like Moshe and Aharon? And why did this tragic event have to take place on a day when Moshe and Aharon had reached a pinnacle of achievement, when they had completed the greatest accomplishment of their life? Why, on exactly this day, did G-d kill their sons and nephews? These questions are addressed by many of the commentators in terms of the unsolicited incense offerings from Nadav and Avihu and the “strange” fire they used before Hashem. However, I would like to approach these questions from a different perspective. This moment needs a great deal of explanation, but I will just touch upon a few points, because the entire discussion is rather lengthy. The commentator, ARI Hakadosh, in his book Shaar HaGilgulim (part of Etz Hayim) explains it in this way—let me paraphrase his argument.

Ira and Ahava—Fear and Love

One of the basic things that we know about in the worship of Hashem is that we need to approach Him with both fear and love. Love represents closeness, and “ira” or fear refers to keeping an appropriate distance. This distance exists so that we may later return and become close to Hashem. We are ordered to love G-d, but just think about it. What is love in relation to G-d? We get close, but whom are we loving? The greatest power, an intense energy. We might ask ourselves, who are we to deserve to be so close to Hashem? When we each ask this question, that is “ira.”



If we put this in terms of a relationship between two people, it may be more easily understood. Let's say we experience love with someone. But, no matter how lofty our love is, we always worry and fear that this love may not be returned by the other individual. We ask ourselves, 'Am I worthy? Do I deserve this love?' When people are first in love, they dress well, they prepare themselves to spend time with their beloved. But, as they become comfortable with one another, they relax and become less concerned with how they present themselves. Then suddenly they think, 'Wait! I want to make sure the other person still loves me!' We should not take another person's love for granted. How much more is this true with regard to our love for Hashem and His love for us?

Nadav and Avihu died because they did not mix this fear, or “ira,” and respect with their love. They loved all the way. Nadav and Avihu were great leaders. They loved HaKadosh Barukh Hu (Hashem) and Am Yisrael. But for a moment they forgot to keep this fear, this respectful distance, in mind. So, the intensity of the love burned them.

The Torah gives this as a message to our leaders. Our leaders sacrifice and give of themselves every day for the sake of the public good. When they sacrifice themselves, they must ask themselves— Do I deserve the community's love? Does the public have the same love for me as I have for them? Then each leader may return to love and serve the community with renewed respect. Shabbat Shalom.

To Publish Life Event Notices

Members with information about life events such as births, bar/bat mitzvahs, graduations, weddings, anniversaries or passings, call the synagogue office at 310.474.0559 to ensure information reaches our editor. Please note, notices must be received by noon Wednesday for inclusion in the week's issue of as space allows. If space is limited notices will be published as soon as possible. *We appreciate your donation in honor of family events included in notices.*

Norma & Sam Dabby Talmud Torah

KJ after school classes for kids ages 5 to 13 are ongoing for 2011. Register now for next year! Call 310.474.0559 or e-mail molly@kahaljoseph.org

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TOWN!**



Kahal Joseph's
**PURIM
CARNIVAL**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 27TH
11 A.M. TO 3 P.M.**



1/2 off price of last year's wristbands
\$25 / WRISTBAND (\$20 each for 3 or more)
Wristbands valid for games only—not food.

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