

# KOL MEVASSER

## Religious Aspirations & Entrepreneurial Spirit

By Rabbi Marc D. Angel

I recently met with a friend who is a very successful entrepreneur who deals with top people at leading high-tech companies such as Microsoft, Google and Amazon. He told me that when these companies look to hire new employees, they especially value applicants with entrepreneurial experience—even if these applicants had run their own businesses and failed!

Why would they want to hire “failed” entrepreneurs?

My friend explained: a high percentage of start-up companies fail. To start such businesses requires imagination, risk-taking ability, creativity, hard work. These are exactly the qualities the big high-tech companies are looking for. Even if the entrepreneurs failed in their own businesses, yet they have demonstrated unique courage and willingness to think “out of the box.” They showed that they were willing to try something new and to invest their lives in it.

If people are willing to think imaginatively and to work hard at developing their plans, they increase their odds of success. Even if

their original businesses did not turn out well, they eventually can find the right framework for their talents and energies.

It is not “failure” to have high aspirations that one has not fulfilled. It is failure to not have had high aspirations in the first place.

This week’s Torah portion begins with the words, “behold I set before you this day...” Rabbi Hayyim Benattar, in his Torah commentary “Ohr Hahayyim,” offers an interesting interpretation based on the words “Re’eh anokhi.” He suggests that these words might be understood in the sense of Moses telling the people of Israel: “behold me” i.e. see how high I’ve been able to rise, to have related to God “face to face.” In setting himself as a model, Moses was reminding the Israelites that each of them could rise to great spiritual heights. If they would each strive to the best of their abilities, they could achieve great things.

Moses was calling on the Israelites to have high religious aspirations. Even if they experienced many failures along the way, they ultimately would maximize their opportunities for spiritual growth if they kept striving to attain their ideals. It is not “failure” to have been unable to fulfill all one’s aspirations: it is failure not to have aspired in the first place.

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## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat / Erev Rosh Hodesh Elul Friday, August 17, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	6:30 am
Shir HaShirim .....	6:45 pm
Minhah/Arbith .....	7:00 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting .....	7:19 pm

### Shabbat Re’eh/ Rosh Hodesh Elul Saturday, August 18, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	8:30 am
Women’s Tehillim .....	6:00 pm
Rabbi’s Class.....	6:00 pm
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit.....	6:30 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah .....	8:21 pm

### Rosh Hodesh Elul Sunday, August 19, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	7:30 am
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### Weekdays

**Monday to Friday, August 20 to 24, 2012**  
 Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... 6:30 am  
 Women’s Tehillim Group Monday@10:30 am

### Erev Shabbat Friday, August 24, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	6:30 am
Shir HaShirim .....	6:45 pm
Minhah/Arbith .....	7:00 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting .....	7:10 pm

## TORAH & HAFTARA READINGS

Weekly Torah Portion **Re’eh** 799-818  
 Rosh Hodesh Torah Portion 695  
 Haftara Rosh Hodesh 944-947

## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored by  
Sylvia and Leon Zekaria

in honor of their son  
Maurice David Zekaria's  
Bar Mitzvah

Congratulations to the Grandparents  
Alice Zekaria  
Shirin and Soleiman Elghanian



## KJ YOUTH CHOIR

Calling All KJ Kids • 6 -12 years old  
Sunday, August 26 • 11 to 12 noon  
KJ Main Sanctuary Downstairs

## In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversary of passings, for August 18 to August 25, 2012. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedakah, and attend prayer services the preceding Shabbat.

**30 Av / Shabbat, August 18th**

Israel Messiah *Yisrael ben Mashiach*

**1 Elul / Sunday, August 19th**

Nissim Moses *Nissim ben Yoshua Efraim*

**2 Elul / Monday, August 20th**

Saltanat Kohan

**4 Elul / Wednesday, August 22nd**

Edward Kelly

**5 Elul / Thursday, August 23rd**

*Leah bat Girji*

*Aharon Shalom Elisha Arakie HaCohen*

*Abraham Ezra Jacob Avraham ben Ezra*

**7 Elul / Shabbat, August 25th**

*Yaacov Aboulafia Yaacov ben Sarah*

## Mazal Tov

**Dr. David & Jessica Amron  
on the birth of your daughter**

sister to Ariel and Benjamin

Congratulations to the Grandparents  
Moselle and Michael Amron  
and to the entire family

## Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored in memory of

Ezat bat Monavar, z"l  
Baruch Iraj ben Yaacov, z"l

by  
Abner Partiyeli and Family

## High Holy Day Seats & KJ Membership

Now's the perfect time to renew or begin your membership in our lovely synagogue. We are a community and our members' support enables us to provide the dinners, programs, and educational opportunities for young and old. It's in your hands. Take this opportunity to perpetuate the musical and spiritual traditions of your parents and grandparents. For information about High Holy Day seats or membership contact Sarah at 310.474.0559.



## Women's Tehillim Group with Rabbanit Orly Batzri

Shabbat at 6:00 pm  
\*Mondays at 10:30 am\*

## Refuah Shlemah

Gerry Shapiro • Yocheved bat Rachel •  
Salha Matana bat Mazal Tov • Rachamim ben  
Sarah • Hinah Titza bat Itah • Yitzhak ben Abdullah •  
Mazal bat Malka • Dan Herdoon •  
Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana Amron  
Moshe Ashkenazi ben Rachel  
Gloria Levy-Mazzal bat Rahel • Moshe ben Ezra

## Condolences

to the family of  
Motharam Esther Shadi, z"l  
mother of dear member Jack Shadi  
*May Hashem comfort them together with all  
the mourners of Zion*

## Condolences

to the family of Gloria Levi, z"l  
She and her husband, Ellis were long-  
time members of Kahal Joseph and  
served on the Board of Directors  
*May Hashem comfort them together with all  
the mourners of Zion*

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Religious life is not static. Indeed, the hallmark of religion at its best is an ongoing sense of striving, failing, growing, falling back, moving forward. Religion at its best is dynamic and life-transforming. Those who are masters of religious life are precisely those who demonstrate “entrepreneurial” spirit: the willingness to try, to take risks, to invest oneself totally in a set of grand ideas and ideals, to fail but then to pick oneself up and try again.

Religious life is deficient when it lacks enthusiasm and energy. Unless we are growing and developing, we are stagnating or regressing. Religion isn’t about maintaining a dull status quo: it is about dynamic self-transformation and spiritual growth. It is looking to the example of Moses and other great men and women—and aspiring to raise ourselves to their models.

Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, who was Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi of Israel in the early 20th century, once compared religious life to being on a ladder. Was someone on a higher rung more “religious” than one on a lower rung? Rabbi Kook answered: it depends which direction the people were going. A person might be on a higher rung—with more knowledge and greater level of mitzvah observance—and yet be stagnant or actually on the way down

the ladder. Another person might be on a lower rung of religious knowledge and observance, and yet be ascending, moving up with each passing day. So the one who is ascending is experiencing a dynamic and growing religious life, while the one on the higher rung is experiencing a dry and diminishing religious life. The one on the lower rung is aspiring to grow, while the one on the higher rung has surrendered to rote and dullness.

Religion is not a part time sideline, or something to do in our spare time. It isn’t a collection of laws and customs for us to perform in a mechanical way. It is, at root, a framework for striving toward a dynamic relationship with the Almighty. It is not so much a pattern of life as an attitude toward living, of reaching beyond ourselves, of aspiring to raise ourselves above the mundane, of climbing one more rung in our quest for self understanding and confrontation with the Divine.

Yes, we will surely experience failures along the way. But it is not these failures that define who we are. What defines us is our aspirations...and our willingness to strive to attain them.

### ***Shabbat Shalom***

**Kahal Joseph Congregation**  
**Rabbi Hagay Batzri**  
**Sarah Bouchoucha, Administrator**  
**Dafna Ezran, Editor**  
10505 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 90025  
www.kahaljoseph.org 310.474.0559

## **GALA TRIBUTE JOURNAL**

Submit your page in our Gala Tribute Journal and show your love, support and best wishes to our honorees this year, our past president and former first lady Rylla and Benjamin H. Elias.

Time is running out to be included in this year’s beautiful Gala journal. Our journal ad deadline is this week.

Also call the synagogue office at (310) 474-0559 to reserve your dinner tickets to this important event. This is our most important fund raiser for the year, and we look forward to all our members and friends attending this great tribute.

## *Kahal Joseph Congregation* *Legacy of Kindness* *Gala Tribute Dinner*



*Honoring*  
*Rylla & Benjamin H. Elias*

SUNDAY, THE NINTH OF SEPTEMBER, TWO THOUSAND & TWELVE  
SIX O’CLOCK IN THE EVENING  
ERROL LEVI BALLROOM AT KAHAL JOSEPH  
RSVP BY AUGUST 22ND ♥ 310.474.0559



## President's Message

Kids! Tell your parents about the KJ Birthday Club.  
All KJ kids are invited to join!

- ◆ Receive a birthday e-mail card
- ◆ Be recognized in the KJ newsletter
- ◆ Be congratulated at Shabbat services
- ◆ Enjoy a birthday treat or gift

A word cloud of Jewish religious and cultural terms. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with 'Jewish' being the largest and most central word. Other prominent words include 'Torah', 'Kippur', 'Shabbat', 'Holidays', 'Yom Kippur', 'Hanukkah', 'Purim', 'Passover', 'Seder', 'Mitzvah', 'Tzedakah', 'Gemilut Hasadim', 'Shema', 'Kaddish', 'Kashrut', 'Halakha', 'Mishnah', 'Talmud', 'Midrash', 'Zohar', 'Kabbalah', 'Hasidism', 'Chassidim', 'Rebbitzen', 'Chazan', 'Gabbai', 'Shochet', 'Mazl', 'Mazel Tov', 'Simcha', 'Mikvah', 'Brit Milah', 'Bar Mitzvah', 'Bat Mitzvah', 'Wedding', 'Kiddush', 'Grace', 'Blessing', 'Prayer', 'Synagogue', 'Shul', 'Beit Hamidrash', 'Yeshiva', 'Cheder', 'Madrasha', 'Torah School', 'Jewish Center'.

We have spent all summer improving our after-school Hebrew and Jewish studies program for public school kids. We have been making it more exciting, bringing in things kids love. This year we plan to:

- With a more exhilarating and specialized curriculum we know we will challenge and reward your children and lead them toward a lifetime of Jewish learning. By popular demand, we have also brought back our

- All this and so much more! For the very best that our Talmud Torah Hebrew School can offer, come and let your child experience the difference! Our new program begins Thursday, September 6th. Register now at 310.474.0559 and don't miss out on great tuition deals and free offers for members.

Ronald Einy, KJ President