

# KOL MEVASSER

## Consent for Marriage

*Hillel: Foundation for Jewish Campus Life*

In our mainstream society, people often find their own partners and parents may be the last, not the first, to know. In ancient times, the task of finding a bride fell to the father and the children may have been the last to know. Such is the case with Abraham and Isaac as recounted in this week's Torah portion – Hayyei Sarah.

The wife that Abraham's servant finds for Isaac must be of good character and the servant even sees to it that she is picked or at least "certified" by God:

*And he (Abraham's servant, probably Eliezer) said, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, grant me good fortune this day, and deal graciously with my master Abraham. Here I stand by the spring as the daughters of the townsmen come out to draw water. Let the maiden to whom I say 'Please lower your jar that I may drink' and who replies 'Drink and I will also water your camels' – let her be the one whom you have decreed for Your servant Isaac. Thereby shall I know that You have dealt graciously with my master." (24:12)*

Rebecca is the chosen bride and seems eager to fulfill this role. It must be noted

that Rebecca is the very opposite of passive. She takes it upon herself to fulfill the obligations of hospitality far beyond what is required: *When she had let him drink his fill, she said, 'I will also draw for your camels, until they finish drinking.' (24:19)*

Rebecca then invites the stranger to lodge with her family. She does not wait to consult her father or her brother: *There is plenty of straw and feed at home, and also room to spend the night. (24:25)*

In what seems to be an unusual gesture, she is asked her opinion about the proposed marriage and is the one who makes the final decision to go: *And they said, 'Let us call the girl and ask for her reply.' They called Rebecca and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' And she said, 'I will.' (24:57-58)*

It was on the basis of this story that Jewish law holds that a woman must consent to her marriage. We may think this is silly, perhaps even insulting. Of course a woman should consent to her own marriage!

Keep in mind that this in itself was a revolutionary concept. In so many ancient civilizations women had no rights and could simply be given in marriage by their fathers, even against their will. In many parts of the world, this state affairs exists to this day.

## KJ Schedule

### Friday, November 9, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... 6:30 am  
Shir Hashirim ..... 4:20 pm  
Shabbat Candle Lighting ..... 4:35 pm  
Minhah/Arbith ..... 4:35 pm

### Shabbat Chaye Sarah

### Saturday, November 10, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... 8:30 am  
Ladies Tehillim Group ..... after kiddush  
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit ..... 4:00 pm  
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah ..... 5:20 pm

### Sunday, November 11, 2012

Shaharit ..... 7:30 am  
Talmud Torah ..... 9:30 am  
KJ Youth Choir ..... 11:00 am

### Monday to Friday, Nov. 12 to 16, 2012

Shaharit ..... 6:30 am

### Rosh Hodesh Kislev

### Wed. Eve & Thurs., Nov. 14 to 15, 2012

### Ladies Tehillim Group & Celebration

Thursday at 10:30 am at a private home

RSVP to orlysbatzri@gmail.com

### Erev Shabbat

### Friday, November 16, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... 6:30 am  
Shir Hashirim ..... 4:15 pm  
Shabbat Candle Lighting ..... 4:30 pm  
Minhah/Arbith ..... 4:30 pm

### Kahal Joseph Congregation

Rabbi Hagay Batzri

10505 Santa Monica Blvd. LA 90025 310.474.0559



## The Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph

invites the children of our community to a



# Hanukkah Celebration

Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 2012

11:00 am

**Wonderful Entertainment**  
*Sweets & Treats for the Children*  
**Fun for the Whole Family**



### RSVP Requested

Elsa at 323.934.3439

Louise 818.884.0120

Rita 310.839.4206 or

Hannie 310.247.0220



Hag Sameah! ♥ Happy Hanukkah!



**Shabbat Shalom U'Mevorakh**

## Thank You Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph

For planning, organizing  
and brilliantly enacting an  
elegant night of dinner,  
music and dancing

### A Night in Italy

### TORAH READINGS

Shabbat Portion 80 to 89,  
Haftara 90 to 92

Save the Date!

## KJ Family Fieldtrip

*"Light & Shadow"*

*The Story of Iran's Jews*

Sunday, December 2, 2012

Meet at KJ at 11:00 am or at

UCLA's Fowler Museum at 12 noon

RSVP Requested 310.474.0559

## KJ KIDS BIRTHDAY CLUB



Kids and parents! Find out  
about KJ's Birthday Club. It's  
a piece of cake to join.

To sign up e-mail  
dafnayoung@gmail.com

## In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries of pass-  
ings, for November 10 to 17, 2012. It is customary to  
light a memorial candle, donate tzedakah, and at-  
tend services the preceding Shabbat.

**25 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 10th**

Charles A. Lelah *Salah ben Abaron*

**27 Heshvan / Monday, November 12th**

Sumner Blank

Yehoshua Moshi *Yehoshua ben Moshe*

Nissim Rahamim Yaacov

**28 Heshvan / Tuesday, November 13th**

Moshe Hai Bebe *Moshe Hai ben Khadoori Bebe*

Ezekiel Howard *Yehezkel Howard*

Lulu Masliah *Lulu bat Salha*

Samuel Joseph Zekaria *Shmoel ben Yoseph*

**29 Heshvan / Wednesday, November 14th**

Shaul Haim Nuriel *Shaul ben Haim*

Mary Saleh

**1 Kislev / Thursday, November 15th**

William Ekaireb *Shaaya ben Ezra Sion*

Abraham Isaac *Avraham ben Eliyahu Yitzhak*

Joe Joseph *Yoseph Hai ben Itzhak*

Henry Zekaria *Yehezkel ben Sion Zekaria*

**2 Kislev / Friday, November 16th**

Doron Ironi *Doron ben Yosef*

Victoria Kadosh *Victoria bat Reuven*

*Asizra bat Farha*

Ezekiel Ezra Reuben *Yehezkel ben Reuven D'loomy*

**3 Kislev / Shabbat, November 17th**

Rachel Jacob *Rahel bat Salha Mattana*

## 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,  
Avraham ben Ruth, Dov Ber ben Sonia

## Giving Until the Job Is Done

By Adam Lieberman

Abraham wanted his servant, Eliezer, to go find a wife for his son, Isaac. He told Eliezer the criteria the woman would need to fulfill to be worthy of marrying his son. Eliezer should go by a spring of water and see if he could find a woman who would not only give water to him to drink, but would also instinctively give water to his camels without ever being asked to do so.

Eliezer did just as Abraham had instructed him and, by a spring, he saw a woman named Rebecca. Eliezer ran towards her and asked her for a drink. She quickly obliged and ...

*"When she finished giving him drink, she said, 'I will draw water even for your camels until they have finished drinking.' ...And it was, when the camels had finished drinking, the man took a golden nose ring, its weight was a beka, and two bracelets on her arms..."* (Genesis 24:19-32)

There is a barely noticeable but very significant distinction in the way Rebecca gave water to Eliezer and how she gave water to his camels. This difference teaches a powerful concept regarding doing acts of kindness.

When Rebecca gave water to Eliezer, it was she who decided when to stop giving him water. When she felt that he had enough water, she then *"finished giving him drink."* However, when Rebecca gave

water to his camels, she only stopped *"when the camels had finished drinking."*

When we proactively do an act of kindness for someone, we're usually the ones who choose just how much time to spend doing this good deed. This is because if someone initiates a kind gesture, he or she usually controls how much time to devote to it. However, if you allow the recipient of the act of kindness tell *you* when you've done enough, then that's an entirely different experience all together.

For example, let's assume you have a friend or family member that's emotionally very needy and sometimes requires a lot of attention. Listening to this person talk endlessly might be absolutely the right thing to do. But since he's usually never the one to end the conversation, you'll engage him until you've *"finished giving him drink"* and then gently end the encounter. This is how Rebecca was with Eliezer and it's definitely a beautiful act of kindness.

However, if once in a while you listened to and spent time with this person until *he* ended the conversation and *"had finished drinking,"* it would be a monumentally greater act equal to what Rebecca did for the camels.

When doing an act of kindness we often feel a subconscious sense of entitlement that tells us that we can end our flow of generosity when we decide to do so. It goes against our nature to give until the recipient says to stop. But sometimes this is exactly what God wants us to do.

*Shabbat Shalom*

## Kahal Joseph Youth Choir

Directed by Rabbi Hagay Batzri



### KJ Week in Snapshots

Sunday, November 4, 2012

Following shaharit services by our regular morning minyan, young boys learned Bar Mitzvah lessons, kids enjoyed playing Jewish-themed gameshows at Talmud Torah, the Sisterhood polished up the final details for "A Night in Italy" and the sweet voices of our children filled the synagogue and its halls





VISIT [WWW.SEPHARDICFILMFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.SEPHARDICFILMFESTIVAL.COM)

# 11<sup>TH</sup> LOS ANGELES SEPHARDIC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL OPENING GALA SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2012 @ 4PM

PARAMOUNT PICTURES STUDIOS

Silent Auction & Dinner Buffet  
Award Presentation  
Film Competition  
Feature Film Screening  
Dessert Reception



Emmanuelle Chriqui  
*Mistress of Ceremonies*



Rabbi Haim Amsalem  
*Member of Knesset  
2012 Maimonides  
Leadership Award*



Joe and Sue Cohen  
*Sephardic Community Pillars  
2012 Sephardic  
Legacy Award*



Daniela Ruah  
*Star of NCIS-LA  
2012 Cinema  
Sephardic Award*

Maurice Marciano  
*Honorary Chair*

**Screenings November 13-18 at Laemmle's Music Hall**  
Films depicting the Sephardic Jewish experience from India, Morocco,  
Iraq, Rhodes, Iran, Turkey, Spain and more



## Women's Tehillim

with Torah insights from  
Rabbanit Orly Batzri

**Rosh Hodesh Kislev**

Thursday, November 15th at 10:30 am

For location please contact [orlysbatzri@gmail.com](mailto:orlysbatzri@gmail.com)



## KJ YOUTH CHOIR

Sunday, November 11th  
11:00 am to 12 noon



**KAHAL JOSEPH  
NORMA & SAM  
DABBY**

## TALMUD TORAH

*Fieldtrips \* Art \* Drama \* Music*

*Free Month for Members*

Sundays 9:30 to 11:00 am

Thursdays 4:00 to 6:00 pm

For information call our office at 310.474.0559  
or e-mail [dafna@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:dafna@kahaljoseph.org)