

# KOL MEVASSER

## Menashe and Ephraim

*Rabbi Shmuel Goldin*

Upon hearing that Yaakov (Jacob) has fallen ill, Yosef (Joseph) gathers his sons, Menashe and Ephraim, and rushes to his father's bedside.

During the ensuing conversation Yaakov takes two dramatic steps that carry powerful practical implications for the future:

1. Yaakov proclaims that Menashe and Ephraim will be considered on par with his own children in the determination of his legacy. Through this statement, Yaakov creates the tribes of Ephraim and Menashe in place of the single tribe of Yosef; and

2. The patriarch blesses his grandchildren as follows: "Through you will Israel bless, by saying: 'May God make you like Ephraim and like Menashe...'" To this day, Jewish parents bless their sons with the formula "May God make you like Ephraim and like Menashe," while daughters are blessed with the prayer "May God make you like Sara, Rivka, Rachel and Leah."

Why are Ephraim and Menashe counted among the tribes of Israel? No other grandchild of Yaakov is accorded this singular honor.

And, why are Ephraim and Menashe chosen as the paradigms for our sons to emulate rather than the patriarchs, Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov? Do the oldest sons of Yosef possess specific character traits that we wish upon our own children or are we arbitrarily fulfilling Yaakov's prophetic prediction: "Through you [Ephraim and Menashe] will Israel bless...?"

Ephraim and Menashe's central place in both the legacy and blessing of Yaakov reflects a number of critical ideas. The selection of Yosef's children to this position, in fact, brings closure to a series of interlocking themes that have coursed through the Yosef story, and, in some cases, the entire book of Beresheet.

*The Tribal Legacy: Yosef's Reward*  
We will see that Reuven, Yaakov's eldest son, loses the firstborn's leadership role as a result of his personal failings. In his place, Yehuda earns and assumes those responsibilities of leadership.

There are two other privileges of the birthright, however, which Reuven loses, as well. The honor of religious stewardship is reassigned to Levi while the double inheritance normally accorded to the firstborn is transferred to Yosef.

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## KJ Schedule

### **Friday, December 28, 2012**

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim .....	4:20 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting .....	4:34 pm
Minhah/Arbith .....	4:34 pm

### **Shabbat Vayechi**

### **Saturday, December 29, 2012**

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

### **Weekdays**

### **Sunday, December 30, 2012**

Shaharit .....	7:30 am
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### **Mon., Wed. to Friday, Dec. 31, Jan. 2 to 4**

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
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### **Monday, December 31, 2012**

Women's Tehillim at KJ Library....	10:30 am
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### **Tuesday, January 1, 2013**

Shaharit .....	7:30 am
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### **Erev Shabbat**

### **Friday, January 4, 2013**

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim .....	4:20 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting .....	4:39 pm
Minhah/Arbith .....	4:39 pm

### **SHABBAT READINGS**

Torah Portion 180 to 191  
Haftara / Prophets 191 to 192

## VISITING SCHOLAR SERIES

kahal joseph congregation



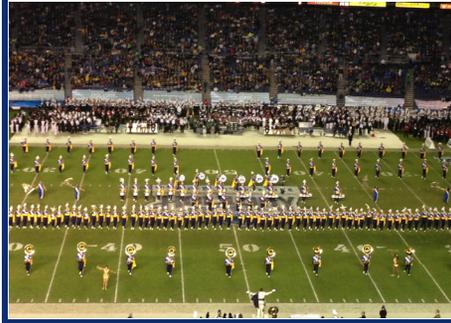
### Rabbi Aaron Finkelstein "From Family to Nation: The Secret Power of Blessings"

December 29, 2012 during morning services

Rabbi Finkelstein studied Political Science and Jewish and Islamic Middle Eastern Studies at Washington University in St. Louis. He attended yeshiva in Israel before completing rabbinical ordination at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah. Rabbi Finkelstein launched the Prospect Heights Shul to great acclaim and currently teaches at the Hannah Senesh Community Day School. He is passionate about teaching midrash and parsha as well as trying new recipes and exploring the great outdoors.

## Congratulations Member of the Week Jonathan Assia

Jonathan Assia, a young member and participant on High Holy Days is ALSO a member of the UCLA marching band seen here performing half time at the Holiday Bowl!



## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for December 29, 2012 to January 5, 2013. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, and attend services the preceding Shabbat.

**16 Tevet / Shabbat, December 29th**

*Khasnah bat Rabel*

**17 Tevet / Sunday, December 30th**

Ezekiel Menashe Akerib *Yehezkel ben Moshe*

Victoria Reuben *Victoria bat Chabla*

Farha Shamash *Farha bat Masooda*

**18 Tevet / Monday, December 31st**

David Davoudian *David ben Yehezkel*

Esperance Mathalon Shaaya *Esperance bat Simcha*

**19 Tevet / Tuesday, January 1st**

Yeheskel Goury *Yeheskel ben Shaul*

Solomon Raymond *Shlomo ben Rahamim*

**20 Tevet / Wednesday, January 2nd**

Ronnie Kelly *Raphael ben Saleh Moshe Kadoorie*

Joseph Hayeem Messiah

Ruby Mussry *Reuven ben Yaacob Saleh*

**21 Tevet / Thursday, January 3rd**

Solomon Reuben *Shlomo ben Reuven D'loomy*

*Behejohn bat Yehudah*

**22 Tevet / Friday, January 4th**

Matooka Girgiyr *Matooka bat Farha*

**23 Tevet / Shabbat, January 5th**

Kovkah Cohen *Kovkah bat Yaacov*

Hannah Dallal

Pinchas Khalili *Pinhas ben Nissan*

Emma Moses *Amuma bat Farha*

## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in memory of

**Esperance bat Simha Shaaya, z"l**

by Hilda Rojhani

&

Moussa Shaaya

## Condolences

to the family and friends of  
Joseph Edward Ezra Joseph, z"l

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Marcelle, his children, grandchildren, relatives and friends.



## KJ YOUTH CHOIR

Directed by Rabbi Hagay Batzri  
Next Meeting: January 13th, 11 am

## Refuah Shlemah

Gerry Shapiro, Yocheved bat Rachel, Mazal bat Mal-ka, Dan Herdoon, Mazal Tov bat Salha Mat-ana, Moshe ben Ezra, Sasson ben Rahel / Sas-son Moses, Penina bat Henia, Dov Ber ben Sonia, Hanna bat Esther

## Kahal Joseph Congregation

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The creation of the tribes of Ephraim and Menashe can thus be attributed to Yosef's merit. As a reward for his righteousness and in acknowledgment of his achievements, Yosef receives his "double portion" as the progenitor of these two tribes.

### *Emphasizing Yosef's Aloneness*

While the creation of two tribes bearing the names of Yosef's sons can certainly be seen as a reward for Yosef's righteousness, this same phenomenon, in ironic fashion, underscores a tragic dimension of his life. Yosef's name does not appear in the list of tribes along with his brothers. Yosef's lonely position as the ultimate outsider is thus cemented and preserved for posterity.

Yosef never succeeds in becoming part of any society in which he finds himself. Although wildly successful in Egypt, he never earns the full trust of the Egyptians. Even more significantly, he is never fully accepted into the company of his brothers, who do not have confidence in his intentions right through the end.

A delicate balance, mirroring Yosef's complex life, is thus struck in the tribal system. Yosef's material success will be reflected in the double portion he receives through his sons. His isolation, however, is also mirrored in Yosef's own conspicuous and now eternal absence from the company of his brothers.

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### *Reaching Across the Generations*

Yaakov is the first personality in the Torah and the only patriarch to openly relate not only to his children, but to his grandchildren, as well.

The last patriarch, however, goes a major step further. He concretizes his relationship with Ephraim and Menashe through the creation of tribes bearing their names, thereby ensuring that the tribal system of Israel will span the generations. With great foresight, he consciously weaves the concepts of the extended family and of inter-generational relationships into the very fabric of our national structure. (Note that building upon this phenomenon, Yaakov's son Yosef is the first individual in the Torah to interact with his great grandchildren.) These relationships will remain indispensable to the transmission and development of Jewish tradition across the ages.

### *The Blessing: Sibling Harmony.*

Ephraim and Menashe succeed in reversing a tragic trend which characterizes sibling relationships from the time of Kayin and Hevel through the patriarchal period. They are the first major set of brothers, recorded in the Torah, whose relationship is not marked by jealousy, rivalry and strife. The love between Ephraim and Menashe apparently endures even when Ephraim is given precedence by Yaakov over his older brother, Menashe.

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When we pray that God will make our sons "like Ephraim and like Menashe," we pray that our progeny succeed in maintaining the harmony that marked the relationship of Yosef's sons.

### *A World Apart*

Yaakov reacts with wonder when he reflects upon meeting his grandchildren towards the end of his life. This reaction mirrors the unexpected nature of Ephraim and Menashe's success. These two children grew up in exile, separated from their extended family since birth, yet remained identifying members of their family.

The patriarch, therefore, selects his two grandchildren as the paradigm for blessings across the ages. Their selection sends a powerful message across the turbulent history of our often scattered people.

"May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe," we bless our sons. *May you always be spiritually connected to your family and people, no matter where you live, no matter how physically distant you may be.*

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### **BEAUTIFUL ARTWORK**

We have magnificent, limited edition hand crafted artwork for sale created by our member, Jaleh Partiyeli. Menorahs, chargers, serving platters and plates hand decorated and designed especially for Kahal Joseph, are available for purchase. These beautiful art objects make a wonderful gift and an addition to any home décor. Every purchase is a donation to the synagogue. Please contact Sarah in the office with your interest.



The Tu B'Shvat Seder

Ronald Einy and the Board of Directors of Kahal Joseph Congregation invite our members to

## & Tu B'Shvat Luncheon

following Shabbat Shira services

January 26, 2013

The luncheon is sponsored in memory of two pillars of our synagogue whom we will always remember:

**Rebecca and Saul Mizrahie z"l.**

We'll have a traditional Iraqi Seder and luncheon for congregants. Since Tu B'Shvat celebrates the annual rebirth and renewal of the trees, the Seder includes a large variety of fruits and nuts to accompany the meal and offer opportunities to create blessings for our lives and for the fruition of the year.

KJ's Tu B'Shvat and Shabbat Shira program includes a performance by our youth choir. Our Rabbi Hagay Batzri will address the topic of "Tu B'Shvat, Fruit, and the Transformative Power of Change in Our Lives."

*No charge for KJ Members only*



KAHAL JOSEPH  
NORMA & SAM DABBY



## TALMUD TORAH

*Jewish Afterschool Education*

Hebrew \* Prayers/Tefillot \* Holidays /Hagim  
Shabbat \* Torah Learning \* Israel Education

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

Classes taught collaboratively by  
Molly Jalali, Dafna Ezran, Mona Tzabi

Classes Offered

Sundays 9:30 to 11:00 am (before choir)

Thursdays 4:00 to 6:00 pm

For information call our office at

310.474.0559

