

29 Shevat 5773

9 February 2013

# KOL MEVASSER

## President's Message

Dear Members,

I am pleased to announce that beginning this month, we are instituting a pilot program to help invigorate our younger members, teens, young professionals and young families. This exciting new program will be headed by Rabbi Shlomo Seidenfeld, whom we have enjoyed during our High Holydays, not only for his inspiring sermons, but the great success he has had with his "Teen Talk" in our library.

Rabbi Seidenfeld will be making his first bi-monthly Shabbat appearance with us this weekend. I encourage all our members and families to attend this service to hear the Rabbi's sermon and meet him personally.

I am also pleased to inform you that Rabbi Seidenfeld will be contacting our young professionals for a monthly "Enlightened" class as well as a Shabbat Learners' Minyan for young families. Concurrently, Rabbi Seidenfeld will be coordinating a monthly "Rap and Breakout" session for our teenagers that will include a motivational approach created specifically to encourage and inspire them to address their religious and cultural roots, and give meaning to their life's goals.

This most important building of relations with our younger members will hopefully capture their interest and motivate their increased involvement with our synagogue. I am enthused to have Rabbi Seidenfeld frame our vision and focus on this ever-critical demographic at Kahal Joseph. May we be successful in this new and exciting endeavor.

All my best,

Ronald Einy



## A Message from Rabbi Shlomo Seidenfeld

I am honored to announce a new initiative that will expand on the services that Kahal Joseph offers its community. The success and future of every synagogue lies in its ability to capture the hearts and minds of its members and especially its younger members.

As such, starting in February, I will be offering stimulating outreach programming that will focus on both Teens and Young Professionals. In addition, I will be joining you bi-monthly on Shabbat as well as on the upcoming High Holidays. It is my hope and expectation to build relationships with members of all ages and to offer myself to you both as a teacher and a trusted counselor.

I look forward to partnering with Rabbi Hagay Batzri and Hazzan Saeed Jalali in our vision to reinvigorate Kahal Joseph and to create a synagogue experience that will be even more meaningful for all its members. Together may we be successful in this new and exciting direction. I look forward to greeting you personally.

Respectfully, Rabbi Shlomo Seidenfeld

## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored by  
Adrienne & Rafi Isaac  
in honor of their son  
**Noah's Bar Mitzvah**  
Mazal Tov  
to the grandparents  
Betty Moravia, Moshe Gabbay, &  
Raymond Isaac

## Mazal Tov

Rabbi Hagay & Orly Batzri  
on the 3rd birthday and "halaka"  
haircutting of their sons  
Yosef & Yehuda



Bar Mitzvah Boys Class Learning to Bless  
& Wear Tallit with Hazzan Saeed Jalali.  
Photo by Rabbi Hagay Batzri

## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for  
February 9th to 16th, 2013. It is customary to light a  
memorial candle, donate tzedaka, and attend ser-  
vices the preceding Shabbat.

### 29 Shevat / Shabbat, February 9th

Ramah Duke *Rahma Duke bat Salha Khatoun*  
Georgia Jiji

Mordechai Sassoon *Mordechai Hayim ben Moshe*

### 30 Shevat / Sunday, February 10th

Nagi Avraham *Nagi ben Murad*  
Shaul Cohen *Shaul ben David*  
Haim Elazar *Haim ben Eliyahu*

### 1 Adar / Monday, February 11th

Yosef Soffer *Yosef ben Eliyahu*  
Lily Shad *Lulu Mahlab*

### 2 Adar / Tuesday, February 12th

Abraham Aslan *Avraham ben Meneshe*  
Aaron J. Moses *Aharon ben Yosef*  
Joseph Faraj Moses *Yoseph Faraj ben Yoseph Haim*

### 3 Adar / Wednesday, February 13th

Yoseph Avrahamy *Yoseph ben Avraham*  
Farang Jahanbani  
Herschel Tzvi Sarne

Abraham Shalom *Avraham Shalom ben Shaul Sopher*

### 4 Adar / Thursday, February 14th

Simy Bensabat *Simy bat Mesody*  
Baacker Jalali *Baacker ben Avraham*

### 5 Adar / Friday, February 15th

Sami Dallal  
*Leah bat Mozli*

## Refuah Shlemah

Gery Shapiro, Yocheved bat Rachel, Mazal bat Malka, Dan Her-  
doon, Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana, Moshe ben Ezra,  
Sasson ben Rahel/Sassoon Moses, Penina bat Henia,  
Dov Ber ben Sonia, Maurice Ovadia/Moshe ben Noosha

## SHABBAT READINGS

Torah 306-322, Haftara 948-950

## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

#### Friday, February 8, 2013

Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... 6:30 am  
Shir Hashirim..... 5:00 pm  
Shabbat Candle Lighting ..... 5:12 pm  
Minhah/Arbith ..... 5:12 pm

### Shabbat / Parashat Mishpatim

#### Saturday, February 9, 2013

Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... 8:30 am  
Women's Tehillim ..... after kiddush  
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit..... 4:15 pm  
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah..... 5:58 pm

### Rosh Hodesh Adar

#### Sunday, February 10, 2013

Shaharit..... 7:30 am  
Talmud Torah..... 9:30 am  
Baking for Purim Baskets ..... 10:00 am  
KJ Youth Choir ..... 11:00 am

### Monday, February 11, 2013

Shaharit..... 6:30 am  
Tehillim..... 10:30 am  
at *Rabbanit Batzri's home, RSVP requested*

### Weekdays

#### Tuesday to Friday, Feb. 11 to 15, 2013

Shaharit..... 6:30 am

### Friday, February 15, 2013

Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... 6:30 am  
Shir Hashirim..... 5:05 pm  
Shabbat Candle Lighting ..... 5:19 pm  
Minhah/Arbith ..... 5:12 pm

## A Car for Penina

Our amazing staff member, Penina Solomon, had the misfortune of losing her car in an accident. She is seeking a replacement vehicle. If you have a car that you are willing to part with at low or no cost, please contact Sarah in the office at [310.474.0559](tel:310.474.0559). Your generosity will help Penina & our community.

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# Judges, Courts, & Spirituality

Rabbi Daniel Bouskila, SEC Director

What do laws about personal injury, personal damages, holes in the ground, damages due to negligence with fire, paying employees on time, borrowing items from a friend or lending money have to do with Judaism? After all, isn't Judaism, like other religions, all about ritual observances, holiday and lifecycle celebrations and prayer services in a house of worship? Why would a religious book like the Torah contain legislation in matters of what society typically calls "civil law"?

The answer is that Judaism is not merely a religion, but a way of life. The Torah is not a collection of "Jewish ritual"; rather it's a guide on how to live life—everywhere. The 613 commandments in the Torah are as much concerned with how life is conducted in the work place as with how services are conducted in the synagogue. In fact, prior to legislating any laws regarding houses of worship, sacred spaces, High Priests and sacrifices or prayers, the Torah spends a great amount of time legislating how to set up a fair system of civil laws that will help resolve disputes, protect vulnerable members of society and create a society that puts social justice as its highest value.

In last week's Torah portion, the Jewish people stood at the foot of Mount Sinai and heard God's voice speak directly to them. In ten powerful utterances (popularly known as "The Ten Commandments"), God outlined a vision for how a Jewish society would look and act. As the sound and light show at Mount Sinai came to a close, the Jewish people, completely frightened and overwhelmed by having heard the Divine voice, asked Moses, "You speak with us, but let not God speak directly to us, lest we die." The Torah then describes "The people stood far off, but Moses drew near into the thick darkness where God was." It's at this point that this week's Torah portion begins, with God speaking "face to face" with Moses on Mount Sinai.

"And these are the rules (*Mishpatim*) that you shall set before them." With this verse, God begins to legislate the detailed version of the Ten Commandments. The word *Mishpatim* refers to civil ordinances, and by beginning with these particular laws, God sends a very powerful message about what it means to be a truly "religious" community.

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Most people looking to create a "religious community" would begin by building a house of worship. In the Torah, God sees things differently. As the Jewish people are in the initial stages of building their own "religious community," civil laws governing relationships between people are legislated *before* the laws on building a house of worship. Courts and judges come before tabernacles and High Priest. The message is that the first definition of being "religious" is how one behaves at work, in business, and how one treats his/her fellow human being. God knows that it's much easier to behave "religiously" inside a temple or synagogue. The true challenge is maintaining that religiosity in the workplace and at home.

Contemporary society is engaged in a renewed "search for spirituality." The Jewish community seems to have joined that search. A recent Jewish periodical devoted an entire issue to "Orthodoxy and Spirituality," implying, perhaps, that they are independent of each other. Countless publications, lectures and programs all advertise "spirituality" as a seemingly lost art that Judaism is now reclaiming. All of this is probably due to the misguided and limited understanding of the term "spirituality" as almost exclusively a form of prayer or meditation. Is there "spirituality" in solving a dispute in court? Can one experience God when standing in the presence of judges who are charged with carrying out justice? Is it "spiritual" to pay fair wages to an employee? The answer to all of these questions is 'yes.'

Without *Mishpatim*, sacrifices, prayer and meditation will not uphold God's throne. Our own history is proof of that, as both Temples in Jerusalem, the ultimate houses of prayer and worship, were destroyed because we failed to create societies based on *Mishpatim*.

The Book of Psalms teaches: "Righteousness (*Tzedek*) and justice (*Mishpat*) are the base of Your (God's) throne" (Psalms 89:15). On this verse, the 13<sup>th</sup> century Sephardic Talmudist *Rabbeinu Yonah* comments: "Whoever upholds justice (*Mishpat*) upholds God's throne, and whoever perverts justice defiles God's throne."

I can't speak for other religions, but the most authentic Jewish spirituality is "*Mishpatim*," which challenges every Jewish community, and the State of Israel, to create, maintain and uphold a just society that brings God's presence into day-to-day life. *Shabbat Shalom*

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# Purim

## Baking for Community Gift Baskets



Sunday, February 10th  
10:00 am to ?  
Do a Mitzvah! Help others!  
Give on Purim!

Ladies Tehillim Group  
**Rosh Hodesh  
Celebration**

Be happy, it's  
**ADAR**

מי שננס אדר...  
מרבים בשמחה!

Monday, February 11th  
10:30 am

Dear Ladies,  
Rosh Hodesh Adar will be held at my  
home. Looking forward to seeing you all.  
Please RSVP to [orlysbatzri@gmail.com](mailto:orlysbatzri@gmail.com)  
Best,  
Rabbanit Orly Batzri

## Purim Megillah

Saturday, February 23rd  
7:30 PM with Rabbi Batzri



Dress in costume! Sound your noisemakers!

Listen to the age-old story of Purim, with its familiar cast of  
characters—Mordechai, Ester, Vashti, the Jewish community  
of Shushan, and the ever-despised Haman!

Do you think you have what it takes?

## Maurice Zekaria Backgammon Tournament

Entrance fee: \$35.00

Winning the title: Priceless

Sunday Feb. 17, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

Card game entrance fee: \$10.00

Sandwiches and refreshments will be served

First Prize: \$400

Second Prize: \$200

Third Prize: \$100

\*Please bring your backgammon set

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

Reserve your spot by Feb. 12  
Call the office at 310-474-0559 or  
email [yvettedabby@gmail.com](mailto:yvettedabby@gmail.com)

(Must be 18 years or older to enter)

Sponsored by the Zekaria Family



## FUN Rides & GAMES

Prizes, PRIZES, Prizes!  
CANDY! Hamburgers!  
Fries! Hot Dogs!

## Kahal Joseph Congregation



## Purim Carnival

Sunday, February 24th  
11 am to 4 pm

