

# KOL MEVASSER

## The Holocaust, Rembrandt & the Quest for Authenticity

by Rabbi Dr. Nathan Lopes Cardozo

As we approach Yom Hashoa, I think of Rembrandt's superb *Large Self-Portrait*, which is exhibited at the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna. It cast a spell on me when I first saw it. But on Yom Hashoa it invites thoughts that penetrate deeper and deeper into my very being. When trying to do the impossible—imagining what happened to members of my family and to millions of other Jews who perished in the Holocaust—Rembrandt's self portrait awakens me from my slumber.

On Yom Hashoa one can virtually smell the blood of the six million Jews killed, including one and a half million children. Walking through Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, I see the faces of many of them, and it is not difficult to imagine that these children could have been mine. After all, I missed the Holocaust by a hair's breadth.

Rembrandt's portrait looks more powerful than ever after such a moment of reflection. He was twelve when the Thirty Years' War began, and this painting was done four years after the devastation of Europe ended. In those days there was no market for Rembrandt's many self-portraits. They were not painted for clients, nor were they expected to be sold. This was integrity at its best: masterpieces painted with no regard for remuneration or even career advancement. They were created just "to be," because there was no way to suppress them in

## President's Message

I hope each of our members enjoyed a beautiful and peaceful Pesach. My gratitude goes to our clergy for making our services always so meaningful.

And my deepest appreciation goes to Rabbi Daniel Bouskila for praying with us over the holiday and speaking to us with such a depth of intellect and understanding. You inspire our own "Profiles in Courage" and enlighten an entire congregation with your words. It is a rare privilege . . .

Ronald Einy, President

the mind of Rembrandt's genius. An overflow of unrelenting authenticity.

At a time like this, I think of the millions killed during the Holocaust and ask myself what I have done with the life granted to me but denied to those millions. True, one must do something for a living, but Rembrandt reminds us that if we want to *really* live we must show flawless integrity and demonstrate great authenticity. It is all about making a genuine contribution to the world, with no regard for gain, and even being prepared to pay the price of one's rank and position in the conventional community. A person must make sure that he can look at himself in the mirror at the end of his life and say, *I lived my life; it did not just pass me by.*

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## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat / Friday, April 5th

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim .....	6:45 pm
Candle Lighting.....	6:58 pm
Minha & Arbit .....	7:00 pm
Sefirat Ha'Omer Eleventh Night	

### Shabbat

#### Saturday, April 6th

Shaharit .....	8:30 am
Class with Rabbi Batzri .....	6:00 pm
Ladies Tehillim .....	6:00 pm
Minha/Arbit .....	6:30 pm
Shabbat Havdallah .....	7:45 pm
Sefirat Ha'Omer Twelfth Night	

### Weekdays

#### Sunday, April 7th

Shaharit .....	7:30 am
Talmud Torah .....	9:30 am
KJ Youth Choir .....	11:00 am
Sefirat Ha'Omer Thirteenth Night	

### Monday to Friday, April 8th to 12th

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
Sefirat Ha'Omer Nights 14 to 18	

### Yom HaShoah / Holocaust Remembrance Monday, April 8th

### Rosh Hodesh Iyar / New Jewish Month Tues Eve, April 9 & Wed-Thurs, April 10-11

### Erev Shabbat / Friday, April 12th

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim .....	6:45 pm
Candle Lighting.....	7:04 pm
Minha & Arbit .....	7:00 pm
Sefirat Ha'Omer Eighteenth Night	

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We live in a world where there are too many beauty salons. We have created a cosmetic world in which man's real face is hidden, yet we are told that *this* is what life is all about. People try to convince us that we live in a world of dishonor and impropriety; that it is wishful thinking to believe in virtue and integrity; and that the only way to survive is to substitute selfishness for goodness. They claim that in order to endure one must be suspicious, and that authenticity is a non-starter. We are told to be more evasive and smooth-tongued in order "to make it." In this way, man engages in a life of fear, and needs to believe that ambush is the normal dwelling place of all men. (Heschel, *The Insecurity of Freedom*)

Rembrandt lived among the Jews of Amsterdam, my birthplace, and had a close relationship with them. He no doubt heard of the many Portuguese and Spanish Jews who were burned to death by the Inquisition, or had run away from Spain and Portugal because they knew that one needs to be authentic in order to live. They taught him that if man is not *more* than human he is *less* than human, and that the art of being a Jew is to know how to go beyond merely living and not become just a memory. It is our destiny to live for that which is more than our selves. Perhaps it is this great message of Judaism that prompted Rembrandt to begin painting for no gain and no career.

And so I stand in front of Rembrandt's *Large Self-Portrait* and realize that in the face of the Holocaust I need to create my own self, with my integrity intact, and with no gain or fame, so that I will not be put to shame when millions who had no chance to live will ask me what I did with my life, and, God forbid, I will fall silent.

Shabbat Shalom



## Mayfair House

*Kahal Joseph and Mayfair*

*House Los Angeles present an*

*exclusive Spring 2013 collection by*

*internationally renowned Israeli artist*

*Michael Aram.*

*One of a kind gift pieces*

*fabulously priced for our*

*members. Please see the showcase in our*

*synagogue lobby and select those pieces that*

*you fall in love with.*



### KJ YOUTH CHOIR

Directed by Rabbi Hagay Batzri  
Sunday, April 7th@11 am

### Women's Tehillim

with Orly Batzri, Shabbat Afternoon  
Saturdays at 6:00 pm before Mincha

### KJ Kids Birthday Club

Send birthday info for member kids  
who were born during April, May & June by  
April 22 to [dafna@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:dafna@kahaljoseph.org) for fun  
treats and surprises!



### In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for April 6th to 13th, 2013. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, and attend services the preceding Shabbat.

**27 Nisan / Sunday, April 7th**

Aharon Levy Aharon Yitzhak Levy

**30 Nisan / Wednesday, April 10th**

Yehezkel Jacob Yehezkel ben Avraham Hayim  
Yaacov

**1 Iyar / Thursday, April 11th**

Marcus Hayim Abraham Mordechai Haim ben  
Moshe Hai

Eliahou Nazarian Eliahou ben Meir

**2 Iyar / Friday, April 12th**

Monique Mounie Abitboul Mounie bat Miriam  
Moshe Shiri Moshi ben Rahma

**3 Iyar / Shabbat, April 13th**

Hanina Cohen Hanina bat Chahla  
Nedat Joshua Farahi Yehoshua ben Yehezkel  
Sassoon Benjamin Gemal Sassoon ben Binyamin

### Refuah Shlemah

Yocheved bat Rachel, Mazal bat Malka, Dan Herdoon, 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, Pnina bat Esther, Vera Levi

### Community Notice

If you attended a memorial service at Kahal on March 18, 2013, there was one individual present with the measles. Please check with your doctor if you see any signs of rash on your face or body.

### SHABBAT READINGS

Torah Portion 443 to 454  
Haftara 454 to 458