

# KOL MEVASSER

## The Evil of Good Intentions

By Rabbi Marc D. Angel

Has this ever happened to you? People say they love you and respect you...but then act in a manner which is unloving and disrespectful. Have you ever noticed when people say they believe in this cause or that cause...but then proceed to ignore it and refrain from supporting it. They express the best of intentions about this or that...but then act in a way that negates these professed intentions.

In this week's Torah portion, the Almighty states that He will bless the people of Israel because "you will do what is good and right in the eyes of the Lord your God" (Devarim 12:28). The verse specifically refers to action. It does not say that blessings will be given because you think nice thoughts or say nice words. It says that blessings ensue when "you will do what is good and right." A person's quality is measured not by intentions and words, but by deeds.

Later in the book of Devarim (28:9), God promises to raise the people of Israel as a

holy nation "if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways." Rabbi Hayyim Palachi, a sage of 19th century Izmir, pointed out that to "walk in His ways" entails positive action. It is not enough to feel empathy for the poor, or to wait for a needy person to come to you to ask for help; rather, you must "walk" and actively pursue opportunities to help others. The hallmark of a religious person is good and upright action.

A popular saying has it that "the road to hell is paved with good intentions."

Some years ago, Israel launched a massive effort to bring Ethiopian Jews to the Jewish homeland. Our local UJA-Federation sponsored a rescue campaign, indicating that it cost \$1200 to bring each Ethiopian Jew to Israel. Our Congregation, along with many others, participated in raising funds for this life-saving effort.

I recall clearly the responses of two members of our Congregation. One of them, a

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### Parashat Re'eh

Weekly Torah Portion from  
Book of Deuteronomy / Devarim 799 to 818  
Haftara from Isaiah/Yishayahu 818 to 819

## KJ Schedule

### Parashat Re'eh Erev Shabbat Friday, August 2nd

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim .....	6:45 pm
Minha & Arbit.....	7:00 pm
Candle Lighting.....	7:34 pm

### Shabbat Saturday, August 3rd

Shaharit .....	8:30 am
Class with Rabbi Batzri .....	6:00 pm
Ladies Tehillim .....	6:00 pm
Minha/Arbit .....	6:45 pm
Shabbat Havdallah .....	8:18 pm

### Weekdays Sunday, August 4th

Shaharit .....	7:30 am
<b>Monday to Wednesday, August 5 to 7</b>	
Shaharit .....	6:30 am

<b>Thursday &amp; Friday, August 8 &amp; 9</b>	
Selichot .....	5:30 am
Shaharit .....	6:30 am

### Rosh Hodesh Elul Monday Evening, August 5 Tuesday & Wednesday, August 6 & 7

### Erev Shabbat Friday, August 9th

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim .....	6:45 pm
Minha & Arbit.....	7:00 pm
Candle Lighting.....	7:28 pm

### Parties Shouldn't Be This Difficult



### Errol Levi Social Hall & Ballroom

*Are you planning one of the following?*

Engagement Party	Wedding
Brit Milah	Baby Naming
Birthday Party	Bar/Bat Mitzvah
Anniversary	Company Event

Did you know that Kahal Joseph has one of the most beautiful ballrooms on the Westside for your private event? Do you know that we have an amazing, kosher catering kitchen? And a modern children's playroom for younger visitors? Kahal Joseph is fabulous for parties up to 200 guests. Please contact Sarah Bouchoucha at 310.474.0559 for information.

### Food Donations for

### High Holy Days Children's Room

The High Holy Days are rapidly approaching. We're organizing our special children's program. One special feature of KJ's program is the healthy & abundant kosher snacks we provide for all the kids. Please contribute kosher, non-perishable food items to enable us to continue our tradition of hospitality for our kids. **Thank You!**

## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored by

Hanina Mathalon and  
Yvonne Sheeri Kooby

in honor of  
the Bat Mitzvah of

Michelle Adina Mathalon

## Congratulations Michelle

Mazal Tov to your parents  
Nicole & Abe Mathalon

your sister and brothers  
Brittany, Jordan, and Tyler

and your grandparents  
Hanina Mathalon  
Yvonne Sheeri Kooby  
Dr. Ellis Kooby

### David S. Kelly KJ Youth Choir

The choir will resume Sunday, August 25th. We look forward to our kids, parents, & devoted volunteers enjoying learning and singing with Rabbi Batzri! See you soon!

## In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries for August 3rd to 10th, 2013. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, and attend services the preceding Shabbat.

**27 Av / Shabbat, August 3rd**  
*Lulu bat Shereen*

**28 Av / Sunday, August 4th**  
Goel Berookhim  
*Malka Isaac Malka bat Rivka*

**29 Av / Monday, August 5th**  
*Rebecca Shamash Rivke bat Sarah*

**30 Av / Tuesday, August 6th**  
*Israel Messiah Yisrael ben Mashiach*

**1 Elul / Wednesday, August 7th**  
*Nissim Moses Nissim ben Yoshua Efraim*

**2 Elul / Thursday, August 8th**  
*Saltanat Kohan*

**4 Elul / Shabbat, August 10th**  
*Edward Kelly*

## Refuah Shlemah

Yocheved bat Rachel	Mazal bat Malka,
Dan Herdoon	Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana
Moshe ben Ezra	Vera Levi
Sasson ben Rahel/Sassoon Moses	
Penina bat Henia	Dov Ber ben Sonia
Maurice Ovadia / Moshe ben Noosha,	
Prina bat Esther	Yossef ben Jamila
Ruth bat Aliza	Dina bat Simha
Shoshana Goury/ Shoshana bat Rahel	
Gerry Meyers / Ezra ben Yosef Aharon	
Yehoshua ben Channah	
Chaim Aryeh Yehuda ben Yocheved	

*Dear Congregants. due to allergies, we ask that you refrain from wearing strong perfumes or colognes in the sanctuary*

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successful Wall Street investor, called me to urge that our Congregation take a leadership role in this campaign. He expressed heartfelt concern for the desperate Ethiopian Jews and thought that this was a major opportunity to mobilize our congregants to action. I was pleased with this enthusiastic response, and I asked him if he and his wife would sponsor a parlor meeting at their home so that we could gather some congregants together to raise funds for this campaign. He said he'd get back to me. He never did get back to me, even though I contacted him several more times to move things forward. When the campaign was concluded, this congregant—so eloquent in his heartfelt concern for Ethiopian Jews—had contributed zero dollars!

Another congregant—young and not prosperous—brought me a check for \$1200 to save an Ethiopian Jewish life. I knew that this was more than he could afford. Indeed, he had taken an interest-bearing loan to make this contribution. I told him that he wasn't obligated to go into debt to make a charitable contribution. He replied: if my life were at risk, I would want someone to be willing to spend \$1200 to save me! If we don't all rise to the challenge now, lives will be lost. This is no time to worry about going into a bit of debt. This is a time to act.

While one congregant expressed the best

of intentions, he did nothing. The other congregant—who had far less ability to contribute—acted on his intentions and continues to be an inspiration to me after all these years.

When the Torah instructs us to do what is good and right in the eyes of the Lord, it is reminding us that words are empty—even hypocritical—if not accompanied by appropriate action. It is telling us not simply to profess friendship and concern—but to act like a friend and to demonstrate concern. It is telling us not to engage in fluffy oratory but to act with integrity and sincerity.

Empty words are not only cheap; they are painful to hear. Good intentions without action are like dust in the wind.

*Shabbat Shalom*



## Women's Gathering to Celebrate Rosh Hodesh Elul with Rabbanit Orly Batzri

Wednesday, August 7th at 10:30 am  
Kahal Joseph Congregation  
Please RSVP [orlysbatzri@gmail.com](mailto:orlysbatzri@gmail.com)

## A Piyut for Elul: *Ben Adam*

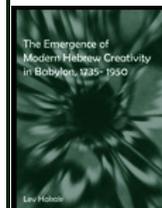
Selected and performed by Rabbi Batzri

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-Ul0B\\_mBWc&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-Ul0B_mBWc&feature=youtu.be)

Ben Adam (son of man),  
why do you slumber Arise  
and call out in supplication.  
Pour out speech, seek for-  
giveness; from the Lord of  
Lords. Run, and be puri-  
fied, do not wait; before  
your days run out. And  
quickly, run for help; from  
before He who dwells in  
Heaven. And from sin, and  
wickedness; flee and fear as  
from catastrophes. Please  
hear those who know your  
Name; the faithful of Israel.  
For Yours, Lord, is justice.  
And ours is to be shame-  
faced. Stand up as a man,  
and overcome yourself; that  
you may confess your sins.  
Lord God seek, in dignified  
manner; that he may for-  
give your transgressions.  
For never is any secret hid-  
den from You; and every-  
thing that is said is heard  
before You. The Merciful  
One, may he have mercy;  
as a father has mercy on his  
children. For Yours, Lord,  
is justice. And ours is to be  
shame-faced.

בן אדם, מה לך נרדם,  
קום קרא בתחנונים  
שפוך שיחה, דרוש סליחה  
מאדון האדונים  
רחץ וטהר, ואל תאחר  
בטרם ימים פונים  
ומהרה, רוצ לעזרה  
לפני שוכן מעונים  
ומפשע וגם רשע  
ברח ופחד מאסונים  
אנא שעה  
שמך יודעי  
ישראל נאמנים לך ה' הצדקה  
ולנו בושתי פנים  
עמוד כגבר, והתגבר  
להתודות על חטאים  
יה אל דרוש, בכובד ראש  
לכפר על פשעים  
כי לעולם, לא נעלם  
ממנו נפלאים  
וכל מאמר  
אשר יאמר  
לפניו הם נקראים  
המרחם, הוא ירחם  
עלינו כרחם אב על בנים

## Books on Iraqi Jewish Literature



Written by UCLA Professor, Lev Hakak., these books offer analysis and refreshing insights into our heritage. For more information or to purchase contact Sarah in the office at 310.474.0559.

Kahal Joseph Congregation  
 Norma & Sam Dabby Jewish Education Center  
 Dafna Ezran-Young, Educational Director

# Sunday School for Kids

Nurture Creativity  
 Explore Spirituality  
 Learn Jewish Heritage



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Out of the Box

♥ Sunday Buddies ♥



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To register call  
 310.474.0559



Classes Start Sunday  
 September 8th  
 \$60 month for members  
 \$110 nonmembers

## A Piyut for Elul: *Shomer Yisrael*

Selected by Rabbi Batzri, Performed on YouTube by Hazzan Ezra  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=s81Rhy4gIQs&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s81Rhy4gIQs&feature=youtu.be)

Chorus:

Shomer yisrael,  
 Sh'mor sh'eyrit yisrael,  
 V'al yovad yisrael  
 Ha-omrim sh'ma yisrael

שומר ישראל  
 שמור שארית ישראל  
 ואל יאבד ישראל  
 האומרים בכל יום שמע ישראל

Shomer goy echad  
 Sh'mor sh'eyrit am echad  
 V'al yovad goy echad  
 Ha-m'yachadim shimcha  
 Hashem elokeynu Hashem  
 echad

שומר גוי אחד  
 שמור שארית גוי אחד  
 ואל יאבד גוי אחד  
 האומרים בכל יום שמע ישראל  
 ה' אלוהינו ה' אחד

Shomer Yisrael . . .

שומר גוי קדוש  
 שמור שארית גוי קדוש  
 ואל יאבד גוי קדוש  
 האומרים בכל יום  
 קדוש - קדוש - קדוש

Shomer goy kadosh  
 Sh'mor sh'eyrit am kadosh  
 V'al yovad goy kadosh  
 Ha-m'shalshim beshalosh  
 K'dushot l'kadosh

שומר גוי רבא  
 שמור שארית גוי רבא  
 ואל יאבד גוי רבא  
 האומרים בכל יום  
 אמן יהא שמיה רבא

Shomer Yisrael . . .

Guardian of Israel, protect the remnant of Israel  
 Don't let Israel be destroyed, those who say "Shma Yisrael"

Guardian of the unique nation, Protect the remnant of the unique  
 people. Don't let the unique nation be destroyed, those who pro-  
 claim the oneness of your name: "Hashem is our G-d, Hashem is  
 One." *Guardian of Israel . . .*

Guardian of the holy nation, protect the remnant of the holy peo-  
 ple. Don't let the holy nation be destroyed, those who proclaim  
 three-fold sanctifications to the Holy One *Guardian of Israel . . .*