

# KOL MEVASSER

## Tetzaveh: For Splendor and For Beauty

By Rabbi Marc D. Angel

The Torah goes to extensive detail in describing how the Mishkan (sanctuary) was to be built. In this week's Torah portion, it describes the garments to be worn by the High Priest as being "for splendor and for beauty." The lesson: material things matter even in spiritual contexts.

The sanctuary was to be beautiful. The priestly garments were to be glorious. These external features served to create a mood of sanctity. When one entered the holy precincts, one was immediately conscious of being in a special and unique environment. In seeing the elaborately decorated sanctuary and the handsomely dressed High Priest, the worshiper was impacted by a pavlovian sense of awe. The physical "splendor and beauty" set the stage for spiritual fulfillment.

What would happen, though, if upon entering the sanctuary the worshiper found papers strewn on the floor or other litter scattered about randomly? What impression would be made if the priests arrived late for the service, or if they chatted and joked with each other? What if the High Priest was busy reading a book rather than attending to the ceremonies of the sanctuary? What if the others who attended the sanctuary were busy socializing rather than focusing on the service?

The physical sanctuary was still beautiful. The priestly robes were still glorious. But somehow,

the sense of holiness would be dramatically missing. What makes holiness is not merely the physical structure or priestly garments or technical ceremony: holiness is evoked by the spirit of reverence which people bring to the sanctuary. If the ingredient of holiness is missing from the participants in the service, then the physical beauty and splendor become empty shells. The body may be intact, but the soul is missing.

The Mishkan and the later Temples in Jerusalem set the model for Jewish worship. The physical structures and accouterments were splendid; and the spiritual content of the service was to be conducted with proper devotion. When the spirit of holiness was absent among the priests and among the people, the Divine Presence itself was driven from the Temple.

The Shulhan Arukh, the classic code of Jewish law, has a special section on the sanctity of the synagogue (Orah Hayyim 151). The laws underscore the separateness and specialness of this sacred structure. It is forbidden to act in a light-headed fashion in synagogues. Silly laughter, extraneous conversation, eating and drinking are forbidden in these holy places. If one finds people talking and joking, one feels that the holiness of the synagogue has been defiled.

The sanctity of synagogues is not only exemplified by the rules governing behavior within them; the physical structure must be respected. The Shulhan Arukh notes that it is customary to keep synagogues clean and to light candles in them as a sign of honor. If one enters a synagogue and sees papers, books and prayer

## KJ Schedule Parashat Tetzaveh

### Erev Shabbat

#### Friday, February 7th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer.....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim .....	5:00 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting .....	5:11 pm
Minhah/Arbith .....	5:11 pm

### Yom Shabbat / Shabbat Day

#### Saturday, February 8th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	8:30 am
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit .....	4:30 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah.....	6:15 pm

### Weekdays

#### Sunday, February 9th

Shaharit .....	7:30 am
KJ Kids Sunday School .....	10:00 am
David Kelly Youth Choir.....	11:30 am

### Monday to Thursday, February 10th to 14th

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
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### Erev Shabbat / Friday, February 14th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer.....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim .....	5:00 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting .....	5:17 pm
Minhah/Arbith .....	5:17 pm

shawls strewn around, one feels that the sanctuary has been diminished.

Synagogues reflect a community's religious and aesthetic values. By insisting on the physical beauty and orderliness of the Mishkan and priestly garments, the Torah teaches the importance of maintaining sacred spaces in a respectful and dignified manner. By insisting on

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# Lunch & Learn

with  
Rabbi Daniel  
Bouskila



Come learn, discuss & expand your horizons with Rabbi Daniel Bouskila, Director of the Sephardic Educational Center, as he explores timely issues affecting the Jewish world.

*Shabbat, February 22nd, after services*  
**Hebron, 1929: The True Origins of the  
Palestinian-Israeli Conflict**

\$10 members /\$26 non-members Reservations required. Please call the synagogue office at 310.474.0559 to make your reservation.

## KJ Welcomes Mr. Shai Holi, Guest Hazzan

*Rabbi Batzri & Kahal Joseph are pleased to announce that a guest Hazzan, Mr Shai Holi will conduct Shahrith on Shabbath Parsha Tetzave. Mr Holi is a gifted and professional Hazzan. We look forward to his visit.*

## Shabbat Chulent

is sponsored in memory of  
Tzion ben Rahamim Bassly, z"l  
by Gila and Ari Tabibian

Jacob Saeedi  
is reading the Haftara this Shabbat

in memory of his father,  
Eliyahu Saeedi, z"l  
on his first yearzeit anniversary  
Eliyahu Saeedi, z"l, prayed at  
Kahal Joseph for many years

## Errol Levi Social Hall & Ballroom

*Engagement Party? Wedding Celebration?  
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Did you know that Kahal Joseph has one of the most beautiful ballrooms on the Westside for your private event? *KJ is fabulous for parties up to 200 guests!*

Contact Sarah at 310.474.0559

## In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries for February 8 to 15, 2014. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend services the preceding Shabbat.

### 8 Adar I / Shabbat, February 8th

Abraham Avrahamy Avraham ben Yosef  
Jacob Benjamin Elias Yaacov Binyamin  
David Kay David ben Yaacov Yehuda Yehezkel

### 9 Adar I / Sunday, February 9th

Irena Stoler

### 10 Adar I / Monday, February 10th

Marcella Aslan Masooda Aslan

### 13 Adar I / Thursday, February 13th

Esther Jacob D'Cruz Esther Ha'Mulka bat Rahel  
Elliot Zvi Wyner Yechiel Zvi ben Yitzhak

### 14 Adar I / Friday, February 14th

Joseph Mingail Yosef ben Haim Baruch

### 15 Adar I / Shabbat, February 15th

Nuriel Daizadeh Nuriel ben Yochanan  
Jack Jacob Meir ben Yaacov  
Hanna Klein Hanna bat Avraham Hayyim  
Vera Rosenfeld Vera bat Hannah Hatoun

## Refuah Shlemah

Mordechai Cohen / Mordecai ben Avraham  
Moselle Amron/Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana  
Tilda Levy / Tilda bat Miriam  
Joseph Sharaf / Yossef ben Jamila  
Maurice Ovadia / Moshe ben Noosha  
Pnina Herzbrun / Pnina bat Esther  
Michael Herzbrun / Michael Baruch ben Sarah

*Please renew these names each week, as we will be regularly updating the list. If you would like to remove or add a member's name please call 310-474-0559*

## Tanakh Readings / Parashat Tetzaveh

from Exodus/Shemot pages 339 to 349  
Haftara 350 to 351

Kahal Joseph Congregation

Norma & Sam Dabby Jewish Education Center

Dafna Ezran-Young, Educational Director

# Sunday School for KJ Kids

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Dafna Ezran-Young,  
our Educational Director  
at 310.502.8548 or  
dafnayoung@gmail.com

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reverence and respectfulness in synagogues, the halakha teaches the importance of bringing the spirit of holiness into the sacred precincts.

When we enter a synagogue, we are seeking to experience holiness, a connection with the Almighty, a feeling of transcendence. The physical beauty and dignity of the sanctuary help set the mood for spiritual engagement. The sincere devotion of clergy and fellow congregants help deepen our sense of the Divine Presence. When the physical and spiritual qualities of the synagogue are at their best, they raise us to the highest levels of religious experience. When the physical and spiritual qualities are diminished, they impinge on our religious aspirations and drag us down.

When we enter a synagogue, we should feel the "splendor and the beauty" of this sacred space, and we should participate in the "splendor and the beauty" of a community genuinely at prayer. Shabbat Shalom

### Iraqi Jewish Archives

JIMENA is collecting a database of the rightful owners of personal documents in the Archives. Owners of documents or heirs to these owners can demand that their original documents, and therefore the Archives, be kept where they are accessible to the Iraqi Jewish community in the diaspora. If you find a document of yours or of your family's or if you recognize a document belonging to someone you know, please contact JEMINA at sarahlevin@jimena.org or call 847-514-7015. Search the National Archives:

[www.ija.archives.gov](http://www.ija.archives.gov)



**David S. Kelly**  
**YOUTH CHOIR**  
*Rabbi Batzri, Director*  
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We welcome children between the ages of 8 and 12 to join and learn our new repertoire of songs for holidays and Shabbat.

Under Rabbi Batzri's guidance our young singers flourish musically, culturally, and spiritually as they learn more than the music.

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**Kahal Joseph Congregation**  
Norma & Sam Dabby  
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For information contact our Educational Director, Dafna Ezran-Young  
dafna@kahaljoseph.org or 310-502-8548  
or call the office at 310.474.0559





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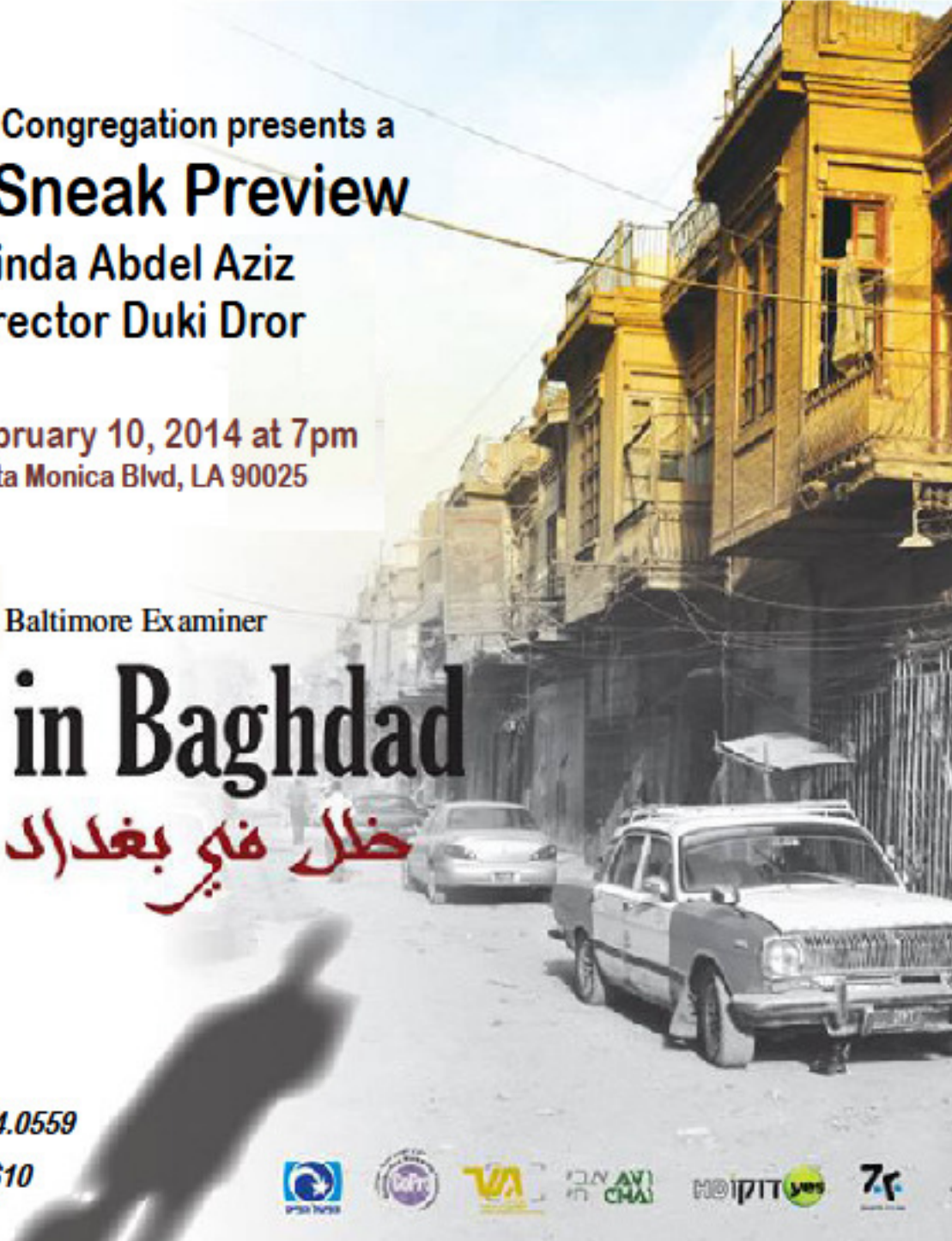
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