

# KOL MEVASSER

## Do A Good Deed

### Thoughts on Parashat Vayikra

By Rabbi Marc D. Angel

A popular Judeo-Spanish proverb teaches: Aze bueno y echalo a la mar. Do a good deed, and cast it into the ocean. The idea is: do what is right and don't expect any thanks or reward. The motivation for doing good...is the doing good itself, not the anticipation of gratitude or benefit. Nevertheless, deep down in our hearts, it is difficult not to feel hurt if our goodness is not acknowledged.

In "Notes from the Underground," Fyodor Dostoevsky's narrator says: "I'm even inclined to believe that the best definition of man is—a creature who walks on two legs and is ungrateful. But that is not all, that is not his principal failing; his greatest failing is his constant lack of moral sense...and, consequently, lack of good sense."

Ingratitude is related to a lack of moral sense, a lack of good sense. A person who receives benefit should naturally and spontaneously express appreciation to the benefactor. It is not merely good manners, it is simple decency. Although the benefactor should not expect thanks, the recipient should give thanks.

Yet, we all sense the truth of Dostoevsky's definition of man as a creature who is ungrateful. We receive so much from so many; and yet do not always express appreciation. We may simply be careless or thoughtless, or we may feel we are entitled to things without having to say thanks. We certainly feel the callousness of people who do not thank us for our good deeds, but we also need to introspect to be sure that we ourselves are not guilty of the same shortcoming.

In the past, I have written about what I call the "paper towel syndrome," where people are used and then unceremoniously cast aside. As long as a person is deemed "productive" or "useful," the person is respected. But once the person has been fully exploited, he/she is put aside and forgotten, cast into the trash bin of human history. No one says thanks any longer; no one even gives him/her a second thought. Aze bueno y echalo a la mar: do a good deed, cast it into the ocean. There's no point expecting gratitude or appreciation. Ingratitude is a hard fact of life. Do good... and that is its own reward.

This week's Torah portion delineates offerings that were to be brought by the Israelites in their service to the Lord in the Mishkan (sanctuary). The various sacrifices in

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## KJ Schedule Parashat Vayikra

### Erev Shabbat

#### Friday, March 7th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim.....	5:20 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting .....	5:36 pm
Minhah/Arbith .....	5:36 pm

### Yom Shabbat / Shabbat Day

#### Saturday, March 8th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	8:30 am
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit.....	5:00 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah .....	6:40 pm

### Weekdays

#### Sunday, March 9th

<i>(Please Note Daylight Savings Time Change)</i>	
Shaharit .....	7:30 am
<b>Purim Baking &amp; More.....</b>	<b>2:30 pm</b>
Tea, Cards and Backgammon .....	to follow

### Mon. to Wed & Friday, March 10 to 12 & 14

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
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### Taanit Esther

#### Thursday, March 13th

Fast Begins .....	5:52 am
Shaharit .....	6:00 am
Mincha with Torah Reading .....	6:30 pm
Fast Ends (Sephardim) .....	7:21 pm

### Erev Shabbat Zachor

#### Friday, March 14th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim.....	6:25 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting .....	6:41 pm
Minhah/Arbith .....	6:41 pm

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## Mazal Tov

Amy and Jonathan Solomon  
on your recent wedding

Congratulations to your parents  
Mr. & Mrs. Hirschman  
Mr. Edward & Mrs. Penina Solomon  
and to both of your families on  
your simcha

## Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored in memory of

Rahel bat Malkha, z"l  
Farzaneh Somekhian Aghalarpour,  
z"l

by  
Said Somekhian and Family

## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for  
March 8 to 15, 2014. It is customary to light a me-  
morial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend services  
the preceding Shabbat.

**7 Adar II / Sunday, March 9th**

Farha Atraghji *Farha bat Hanina*

**8 Adar II / Monday, March 10th**

Isaac Jacob Jonah *Itzhak ben Yaacov Yonah*  
Jacques Litvac *Yoachim David ben Micha HaCohen*  
Abraham Naji Joseph *Avraham Shalom Naji ben*  
*Itzhak Yoseph*

**9 Adar II / Tuesday, March 11th**

Victoria Levy *Victoria bat Hanina*

**10 Adar II / Wednesday, March 12th**

Clara Solomon *Gala bat Masouda*  
Menashe Solomon *Menashe ben Shlomo Reuven*

**12 Adar II / Friday, March 14th**

David Shapiro *David ben Chaim*

**13 Adar II / Shabbat, March 15th**

*Kodadad ben Yair*



## KJ Shabbat Lunch & Learn with

Rabbi Daniel Bouskila *SEC Director*

*March 22, 2014 following morning services*  
*Rabbi Bouskila will address the topic of:*

***Halakhic Genius, Political Revolutionary:  
The Unique Legacy of Rav Ovadia Yosef***

Advance paid RSVP required to attend.  
Please call 310.474.0559 to reserve.

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Michelle and Stan Kurtz  
Doris and Shaoul Moshi  
Ruby and Joe Samuels  
Sandra and Eddie Sarraf  
Shoshana and Eli Sawdayi  
Keren and Elisha Shashoua

## Tanakh Readings

Exodus/Shemot TBA  
Haftara Kings II / Melachim Bet TBA

## Refuah Shlemah

Rahel bat Marcel  
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  
*To remove or add a name please call 310-474-0559*



## David Kelly KJ YOUTH CHOIR

*Rabbi Batzri, Director*

*Next Performance, Megillah Night  
Motzei Shabbat, March 15th 2014*

## Kahal Joseph Congregation

Norma & Sam Dabby Jewish Learning Center

## Mommy & Me

Tuesday@10:45 am

Developmentally appropriate music, art and  
play for children 18 months to 2 1/2 years.

For information contact Dafna at  
dafna@kahaljoseph.org or 310-502-8548

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those days covered a range of themes: sin offerings, purification offerings, thanksgiving offerings. The underlying theme of the offerings was: to come closer to the Almighty, one must have moral sense, good sense...and a sense of gratitude. Today, we are supposed to absorb these values through our prayers, blessings and religious way of life.

The first word in this week's Parasha, vayikra, appears in the Torah scroll with a tiny letter aleph at its conclusion. Rabbinic tradition has taught that this tiny aleph alludes to the humility of Moses. Even when he was addressed by God, he remained self-effacing. He did not glorify himself or puff himself up due to his remarkable relationship with God. Rather, he had the wisdom to understand his own ultimate smallness. He was deeply grateful for his closeness to the Almighty; but he did not become egotistical or arrogant.

Although none of us reaches the level of Moses, each of us can seek to emulate his virtue of humility.

At the root of ingratitude is a basic arrogance, a self-absorbed view of life—an essential lack of humility. Egotists think of themselves, not of others. They use others to advance their own goals, and they are quick to discard people once they are no longer of use to them. Egotists validate

Dostoevsky's observation that human beings are characterized by ingratitude, lack of moral sense, lack of common sense.

The Torah teaches us to be grateful, to express gratitude, to live humbly, morally and sensibly. These are difficult virtues to attain and we need to work hard to attain them. If we lack these qualities, we need to improve ourselves. If others lack these qualities, we ought to pity them. Meanwhile: aze bueno y echalo a la mar.

### Shabbat Shalom

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### Yom Shabbat / Shabbat Day / Purim Eve Saturday, March 15th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... 8:30 am  
Mincha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit..... 6:00 pm  
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah ..... 7:46 pm  
**MEGILLAH READING & Choir Performance with  
Costumes and Treats for Kids..... 8:00 pm**

### PURIM

### Sunday, March 16th

Shaharit..... 7:30 am  
Morning Megillah, First Reading *approx* 7:45 am  
Talmud Torah Private Party ..... 10:00 am  
PURIM CARNIVAL..... 11 am to 4 pm  
Morning Megillah, Second Reading ... 12:00 noon  
Mincha Prayer Service..... 1:00 pm

## Purim To-Do List

*Tips on how to prepare for Purim, adapted from chabad.org*

### 1) Listen to (and hear) the Megillah (*Megillat Esther*)

To relive the miraculous events of Purim, **listen to the reading of the *megillah*** (the Scroll of Esther) twice: once on Purim eve, and again on Purim day.

### 2) Give to those who need (*Matanot La'Evyonim*)

Concern for the needy is a year-round responsibility; but on Purim it is a special mitzvah to remember the poor. Give charity to at least two (but preferably more) needy individuals. The mitzvah is best fulfilled by giving directly to the needy. If, however, you cannot give directly, place at least two coins into a charity box.

### 3) Send Gifts of Food to Friends (*Mishloach Manot*)

On Purim we emphasize the importance of Jewish unity and friendship by sending gifts of food to friends. On Purim day, send a gift of at least two kinds of ready-to-eat foods (e.g., pastry, fruit, beverage) to at least one friend. Children, in addition to sending their own gifts of food to their friends, make enthusiastic messengers.

### 4) Eat, Drink and Be Merry (*Seudat Purim*)

Purim should be celebrated with a special festive meal on Purim day, at which family and friends gather together to rejoice in the Purim spirit. Have fun!

## GREAT RIDES & GAMES

Amazing Prizes, Prizes, PRIZES!  
Hot Dogs! CANDY! Hamburgers!  
And, much, much MORE . . .!

### Kahal Joseph Congregation



# Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 16th

11 am to 4 pm



Game & Ride Wristbands—Check out our Special Deals  
\$20/wristband or \$1 per ticket

*Wristbands are good for games and rides only.  
Tickets for food and special services are purchased separately.  
For more information call 310.474.0559*

# Purim

## Baking for Community Gift Baskets



Sunday, March 9th  
2:30 pm and on  
with Tea, Cards &  
Backgammon to follow



## KJ PURIM EVENTS

Baking for KJ Purim Baskets  
Sunday, March 9th at 2:30 pm

Tea, Cards and Backgammon to follow the baking

Fast of Esther / Taanit Esther  
Thursday, March 13th

Fast 5:52 am to 7:21 pm (Sephardim) Shaharit 6:15 am  
Mincha w/Torah Reading & Birkat Cohanim 6:30 pm

PURIM EVE, MEGILLAH READING  
with Choir Performance

Motzei Shabbat, Saturday, March 15th at 8:00 pm

PURIM DAY

Sunday, March 16th

Morning Megillah, 1st Reading 7:30 am, 2nd Reading  
12:00 pm; Mincha Prayer Service, 1:00 pm

PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 16th, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm