

# KOL MEVASSER



## When Silence is a Sin

Vayera: Genesis 18:1–22:24  
**Rabbi Daniel Bouskila**

Speaking out for what's right is never easy. It's a challenge that confronts us in every walk

of life – students, professionals, politicians, parents or children. It's often “not popular” to speak out, and many are afraid to do so, fearing that it may “get them in trouble.” Others simply fear the social isolation it may create if and when they take a position on moral values that may not be considered what's “popular” in society.

When describing Noah, the Torah refers to him as a “righteous man *in his generation*” (Genesis 6:9). The commentator Rashi raises the difficulty of the qualifying words “*in his generation*,” asking why the Torah could not have simply said “Noah was a righteous man.” Quoting the Talmud, Rashi remarks “in comparison with his own generation, Noah was considered righteous. *But had he lived in the generation of Abraham, he would not have been considered of any importance.*” Why draw the comparison specifically with Abraham?

God tells Noah that “the earth is filled with corruption...I am about to destroy them.” God informs Noah that he and his family will be spared from the destruction, and then instructs Noah to build an ark so that he will survive the impending

destructive flood. What is Noah's response? He simply follows orders, builds the ark and saves himself. Not once do we hear Noah challenge God's assertion that *everybody* on earth minus Noah and his family deserve to be destroyed.

When confronted with a similar situation, Abraham's response illustrates the sharp character distinction pointed out by Rashi. Sodom, a city that was a microcosm of the entire world from Noah's generation—immorality, violence and corruption—is about to be destroyed by God. When God informs Abraham of His plans to destroy Sodom, Abraham openly challenges God: “Will you wipe out the innocent along with the guilty? What if there are fifty innocent within the city? Will you then wipe out the place and not forgive it for the sake of the innocent fifty? *Far be it from You to do such a thing, to wipe out the innocent and the guilty alike! Far be it from you! Will the judge of all the earth not act justly?*” (Gen 18:24-25).

In stark contrast to Noah, Abraham was willing to challenge God and speak out against what he perceived to be potentially unjust behavior unbecoming of God. What went through Abraham's mind was probably what goes through everybody's mind when challenged with a similar dilemma: “Should I speak out and potentially risk my social status, my job, or my relationships, or should I play it safe by not saying anything, allowing injustices to perpetuate themselves?” Abraham chose to speak out, and he addressed God with respect, and with deep conviction—a brilliant combination of tact and fortitude.

## KJ Schedule Vayera

### Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 7th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:15 am  
**Candle Lighting** .....4:37 pm  
 Minha / Arbith ..... 4:35 pm

### Shabbat Vayera

Saturday, November 8th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .... 8:30 am  
 with Special Guest, Rabbi Bouskila  
 & Guest Speaker  
 Minha, Seudah, Arvit..... 4:00 pm  
 Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah 5:39 pm

### Weekdays

Sunday, November 9th

Shaharit ..... 7:30 am  
 KJ Kids Talmud Torah..... 10:00 am

Mon to Fri, November 10th to 14th  
 Shaharit/Morning Prayer .... 6:30 am

### Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 14th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:15 am  
**Candle Lighting** .....4:32 pm  
 Minha / Arbith ..... 4:32 pm

If you are ever confronted with Abraham's dilemma, consider this: especially *because* of his bold willingness to speak out, Abraham was not only considered a righteous man in his generation, but a righteous man for all generations.

**Shabbat Shalom**

## Welcome

Shabbat Guest Speaker  
& a friend of Rabbi Bouskila

**Dr. Yehuda Maimran**

*Executive Director, Alliance in Israel*

Dr. Maimran is an expert in Sephardic Rabbinical figures and will speak about:

**"Sephardic Rabbis as Agents of Social Change"**

## Wednesday November 19th An Evening of Cards & Backgammon at KJ

Bring your friends & have an enjoyable evening together. Refreshments provided.



PLEASE JOIN US

**AGUNAH SUPPORT  
GROUP**

SUNDAY, NOV. 9TH - DEC. 14TH

Time and location are confidential and given upon registration. For information contact [info@getjewishdivorce.org](mailto:info@getjewishdivorce.org)

## Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored in memory of  
**Malka bat Menashe, z"l**

by  
**Desiree & Tooraj Aghalar**

## A Special Gift for Hannuka Flavors of Babylon

An Iraqi Cookbook  
By Linda Dangoor

Linda Dangoor, an accomplished artist & cook, has set down her favorite recipes from childhood in Iraq.



The book contains:

- ♦ Easy step-by-step instructions
- ♦ Photographs guiding the reader through the recipes
- ♦ Enticing descriptions & pictures that make you want to cook & eat the dishes

If you would like to learn about Jewish Iraqi heritage or would simply like to learn a new, easy exotic cuisine, this is a wonderful book.

Copies are available in the Kahal Joseph office and a portion of proceeds benefit the synagogue. For information contact Sarah at 310-474-0559 or [yvettedabby@gmail.com](mailto:yvettedabby@gmail.com)

## In Memoriam

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

**15 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 8th**  
*Eliyahu ben Yaacob Benzaquen*

**16 Heshvan / Sunday, November 9th**  
*Reuben Jacob Reuven Hayeem ben Yaacov*

**17 Heshvan / Monday, November 10th**  
*Molok Aghalar Malka bat Menashe*  
*Eric Kelly Eliyahu ben Saleh Moshe Kadoorie*  
*Touba Rangcar Tova Rangcar*  
*Haim Saleh Haim ben Aziza*  
*Mida Simon Masooda bat Ghala*

**18 Heshvan / Tuesday, November 11th**  
*Diana Aaron Dina bat Masooda*  
*Yeshaiiah ben Yaacov Shalom*  
*Hazan Gabriel Solomon Gavriel ben Shlomo*

**20 Heshvan / Thursday, November 13th**  
*Mordechai Harkham Mordechai ben Hacham David*

*Victoria Zeubaida Nissan Victoria Zeubaida bat Lulu*  
*Esther Robbins Esther bat Matana*

**21 Heshvan / Friday, November 14th**  
*Joshua Moses Yehoshua ben Ephraim Moses*

**22 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 15th**  
*Khuzna Levi Khuzna bat Esther HaLevi*

## Refuah Shlemah

Moselle Amron • Tilda Levy • Joseph Sharaf  
Maurice Ovadia • Michael Herzbrun  
Saul Sassoon

## Torah & Haftara Readings

Sefer Beresheet / Book of Genesis  
Parashat Vayera 63 to 76  
Haftara Melachim Bet / Kings II 76 to 79



# SEC's 12TH LOS ANGELES SEPHARDIC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



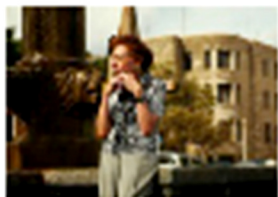
**SUNDAY November 16 • 2:30 PM**



## **It Never Rained on Rhodes** **Los Angeles Premiere**

*U.S., 2014 (30 min.) English*

Barry Salzman has created a short experimental film about the universality of loss. Five hundred years ago, the Sephardic Jewish community on the Aegean island of Rhodes was formed in response to the Spanish Inquisition. In 1944, 1,673 people were shipped to Auschwitz from Rhodes; only 151 survived. None returned home. The island becomes the metaphor for any place the viewer imagines it to be and the losses expressed by those in the film become the losses of place, heritage, youth or cultural identity as experienced by the audience.



## **The Longest Journey.** **Rhodes-Auschwitz**

*Italy, 2013 (50 min.) Italian w/ English Subtitles*

Seventy years ago, on July 23, 1944, the Nazis deported almost the entire Jewish population of the Island of Rhodes, while the Italian authorities that had been in charge of the Island from 1912 until the Armistice of September 8, 1943, stood by. It was late in the war, and German capitulation seemed imminent, yet the Nazi commanders did not hesitate to inflict the longest journey their criminal machine had ever planned, on this small, vibrant community nestled in this faraway island. The journey took 24 days under harrowing conditions, an atrocious transition from the Mediterranean sun to the grey hell of Auschwitz. The film weaves together testimonies of the few Jews to have survived Auschwitz, and now returned to Rhodes from their respective lives in New York, Rome and Brussels to share memories of this dark chapter of history.

**CLOSING NIGHT**

**SUNDAY November 16 • 5:00 PM**



## **The Dove Flyer (Mafrlach Yonlm)**

*Israel, 2014 (108 min.) Arabic w/ English Subtitles*

Most of the Iraqi Jews in Bagdad in the 1950's did not want to leave the land where they and their ancestors had lived for thousands of years. The Dove Flyer paints a portrait of a family living in a world full of contradictions and ambivalent relationships; it illustrates the complex existence of the Jewish community in Iraq, which had strong ties to the surrounding Muslim world and Arabic culture, yet simultaneously feared for its safety. It pays tribute to the nearly 130,000 Jews who fled Iraq, never to be the same again.

Kahal Joseph Congregation  
is proudly sponsoring  
**The Dove Flyer**  
on the closing night  
of the SEC Film Festival

The films, documentaries, and short subjects presented during the 12th Los Angeles Sephardic Jewish Film Festival are artistic expressions of the artist and not to be interpreted as the opinions of the SEC. We appreciate your understanding and supporting the spirit of this unique Film Festival.

# SEC's 12TH LOS ANGELES SEPHARDIC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



**TUESDAY November 11 • 7:30 PM**



## **Magic Men**

*Israel, 2014 (100 min.) Hebrew, Greek w/ English Subtitles*

A father-and-son road movie in search of a Greek magician who saved the Salonika-born father during the Holocaust. The journey opens up old

wounds and forces the two men to face the truth, to try to bridge the gaps between them, and to once again be father and son.

**WEDNESDAY November 12 • 7:30 PM**



## **Two Legacies**

**Los Angeles Premiere**

*Israel, 2009 (60 min.) Hebrew, English w/ English Subtitles (Documentary)*

Yosef and Bracha married when they were 12 in Sana'a, Yemen and lived together for close to 70 years. Yosef became absorbed in his books, while Bracha took care of the needy. Before he dies, Rabbi Yosef Kapach hands his granddaughter Einat, director of the film, a bundle of pages which uncover a secret he has kept close to his heart his entire life - the secret of the theological war that split the Yemenite Jewish community.



## **Handa Handa 4**

*Israel, 2013 (59 min.) Hebrew, Russian, Bukharian w/ English Subtitles (Documentary)*

Ronen and Orit have been together for almost three years. Both of them come from highly respected Bukhari families. Ronen is the star of Handa Handa theater troupe, a hit among the Bukhari community in Israel and around the world. According to the strict Bukhari tradition couples must marry after a brief acquaintance. But Ronen and Orit rebel against their families and refuse to get married. Even making every effort to protect Orit's "honor" is not enough for her parents, who demand they either marry or break up. Their love is trapped between tradition and modernity.

## **FILM SCREENINGS**

**Laemmle's Music Hall Theatre**

**9036 Wilshire Boulevard., Beverly Hills**

**THURSDAY November 13 • 7:30 PM**



## **Orange People (Anashim Ketumim)**

**West Coast Premiere**

*Israel, 2013 (93 min.) Hebrew, Moroccan Arabic w/English Subtitles*

Grandma Zohara occupies a special role within the Moroccan community in Israel: she can see the past in her dreams and advises families on future decisions. As Grandma Zohara gets older, she is looking for someone to take over her unique job. However, the only other person endowed with the power of dreaming, her daughter, Simone, has her own dreams to open a gourmet Moroccan restaurant.

**SATURDAY November 15 • 7:30 PM**



## **24 Days (24 Jours)**

**Los Angeles Premiere**

*France, 2014 (108 min.) French w/ English Subtitles*

After Shabbat dinner with his family, Ilan Halimi called an attractive girl he had met at work and made plans to meet her for coffee. Ilan did not suspect a thing; he was 23 and had his whole life ahead of him. The next time Ilan's family heard from him, it was through a cryptic online message from kidnappers demanding a ransom in exchange for their son's life. French director Alexandre Arcady chronicles the real-life 2006 kidnapping whose traumatic ordeal triggered a national outcry against hate crimes, yet still haunts France today.