

# KOL MEVASSER

## Love and Consolation

By Rabbi Marc D. Angel

“And Isaac brought her [Rebecca] into his mother Sarah’s tent, and took Rebecca, and she became his wife; and he loved her. And Isaac was comforted for his mother (Bereishith 24:67).”

The great medieval Bible commentator, Rabbi David Kimhi (known popularly as Radak), noted: “Although three years had passed between Sarah’s death and Isaac’s marriage to Rebecca, yet he was mourning her [Sarah], and was comforted in that [Rebecca] was good as his mother was.”

It appears that Isaac mourned his mother inconsolably for three years. But once Rebecca entered his life, “he was comforted for his mother.” Rebecca had qualities and virtues which characterized Sarah, and Isaac finally found consolation from the loss of his mother.

What is consolation?

Let us first state what consolation does not accomplish: it does not bring back the dead. It does not change reality. The beloved person has died and cannot be replaced.

Consolation does not deny reality. Rather, it attempts to cope with death by providing hope for the future. Death is a fact of human existence. It is distressing to lose a loved one. It is possible to sink into a deep depression when grieving. Consolation attempts to redirect mourning into a positive, future-oriented direction. Yes, a loved one has died; yes, the pain is real. No, the deceased loved one cannot be brought back to life.

Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, in a lecture in memory of his father, stated: “...It seems to me as if my father

were yet alive, although four years have come and gone since his death. It is in a qualitative sense that I experience his nearness and spirit tonight...Our sages have said...the righteous are exalted in death more than in life. If time be measured qualitatively, we may understand how their influence lingers on after their death and why the past is eternally bound with the present.”

With the passage of time, the mourner comes to experience the presence of the deceased loved one with a “qualitative time-awareness.” The focus is shifted from daily interactions that used to take place with the deceased. Instead, the mourner gains a deeper sense of the qualities and virtues of the deceased. With the passage of time, the mourning mellows into a calmer, wiser appreciation of the life of the one who has passed on. The bitter pain of mourning is softened. Consolation sets in.

Apparently, Isaac was so distraught at the passing of his mother that he had trouble developing this “qualitative time-awareness.” Her death traumatized him, and he could not shake off his feelings of grief.

Let us remember the nature of the relationship between Sarah and her son, Isaac. She gave birth to him when she was quite elderly. To her, Isaac was a miraculous gift from God. She must surely have doted over him and enjoyed every moment with him. When she perceived that Ishmael was taking advantage of Isaac, she compelled Abraham to expel Hagar and Ishmael from the household. Only Isaac was to be Abraham’s true heir and successor. Sarah loved Isaac with a total love. Indeed, Isaac could not fail to realize that the only person in the world he could fully trust was his mother Sarah. Hagar and Ishmael were certainly not to be relied upon. After the Akeidah, Isaac must surely have had misgivings

## KJ Schedule Chaye Sarah

### Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 14th

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

### Shabbat Chaye Sarah

Saturday, November 15th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .... 8:30 am  
Minha, Seudah, Arvit..... 4:00 pm  
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah 5:34 pm

### Weekdays

Sunday, November 16th

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

Mon to Fri, November 17th to 21st  
Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... 6:30 am

### Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 21st

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am  
**Candle Lighting** .....4:28 pm  
Minha / Arbith ..... 4:28 pm

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about trusting his father Abraham who had raised a knife to his throat.

When Sarah died, Isaac felt very alone in the universe. There was no one who loved him with an unqualified love. There was no one who understood him fully. There was no one to whom he could turn for genuine consolation. So he mourned for three years. He felt lost and abandoned.

(Continued on page 3)



The Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph  
invites the children of our community to a

# Hanukkah Celebration

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 2014 at 10:00 am  
*featuring wonderful entertainment*



**Clown & Balloon Art**

**Amazing Magician**

*Sweets & Treats for the Children*

**Fun for the Whole Family**

**RSVP Requested**

Elsa at 323.934.3439

Louise 818.884.0120

Rita 310.839.4206

Hannie 310.247.0220

**Hag Sameah! ♥ Happy Hanukkah!**



## 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 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

## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for Nov. 15 to 22, 2014. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend services the preceding Shabbat.

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

**24 Heshvan / Monday, November 17th**  
Joseph Ezrapour *Yoseph ben Ezra*  
*Yaacov Moshe ben Eliyahu*

**25 Heshvan / Tuesday, November 18th**  
Charles A. Lelah *Salah ben Aharon*

**27 Heshvan / Thursday, November 20th**  
Sumner Blank  
Yehoshua Moshi *Yehoshua ben Moshe*  
*Nissim Rahamim Yaacov*

**28 Heshvan / Friday, November 21st**  
Moshe Bebe *Moshe ben Khadoori Bebe*  
Ezekiel Howard *Yehezkel Howard*  
Lulu Masliah *Lulu bat Salha*  
Samuel Joseph Zekariah *Shmoel ben Yoseph*

**29 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 22nd**  
Shaul Haim Nuriel *Shaul ben Haim*  
Mary Saleh

## Refuah Shlemah

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

## Torah & Haftara Readings

Beresheet /Genesis: Chaye Sarah TBA  
*Haftara Melachim Bet / Kings II TBA*

## Errol Levi Social Hall & Ballroom

Kahal Joseph has one of the most beautiful ballrooms on the Westside for events up to 200 guests. *Contact Sarah 310.474.0559*



*(Continued from page 1)*

But even more painful than being unloved by anyone, Isaac had no one whom he himself loved with a full love. A loveless life is a tragic life, a life of perpetual mourning.

And then Rebecca enters the scene. "And Rebecca lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she alighted from the camel...and she took her veil and covered herself (24:65)." Abraham's servant explained to Isaac that Rebecca had been chosen to become Isaac's wife.

Instead of hesitating nervously, Isaac suddenly came to life. He was immediately impressed with Rebecca's modest and respectful behavior. This was a dramatic instance of love at first sight. Lonely Isaac now had love in his life again. Lonely Rebecca—and she must have been lonely coming to a new land to start a new life among people she did not know—saw in Isaac a meditative, sensitive man—a man worthy of her love.

Isaac was consoled on the loss of his mother. He saw in Rebecca those special qualities that had characterized Sarah. More than that, he found in Rebecca the love which had been absent from his life since Sarah's death. He was now able to deal with Sarah's death because he now had a future with Rebecca. He could redirect his thoughts to moving his life forward instead of grieving for an irretrievable past.

I have often told mourners: You never get over the death of a loved one; but you learn to get through it. The deceased loved ones remain with us "qualitatively" as long as we live. We treasure our memories of their lives, and we carry those memories with us as we forge our ways into the future. We find consolation not by forgetting them, but by bringing them along with us every day of our lives.

We find consolation through the power of love, the blessing of loving and being loved.

Shabbat Shalom

# INTERNATIONAL NIGHT



*Presented by*

**The Sisterhood of the Kahal Joseph Congregation**

**Sunday, December 7 at 6:30 PM**

**Dinner, Dancing & Entertainment**

*Featuring:*

**The Sabra Band**

**Yosi Levi - M.C.**

**Kahal Joseph Congregation**

**The Errol Levi Ballroom**

**10505 Santa Monica Blvd. L.A., CA 90025**

**\$75 per Person – No-Host Bar**

**Valet Parking Available**

**RSVP by November 30, 2014**

**For Reservations please call:**

**Elsa Singman 323.934.3439      Hannie Kelly 310.247.0220**

**Rita Hanin 310.839.4206      Louise Elias 818.884.0120**

**Please make checks payable to:**

**Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph Congregation**

**c/o Diana Solomon**

**257 S. Reeves Drive, #303**

**Beverly Hills, CA 90212**



# SEC's 12TH LOS ANGELES SEPHARDIC JEWISH FILM



## FESTIVAL

**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.

**SUNDAY November 16 • 2:30 PM**

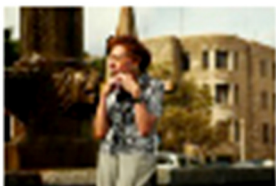


### **It Never Rained on Rhodes**

**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 Yonim)**

*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 Closing Night Film  
**The Dove Flyer**