

KOL MEVASSER

Praying in the Dark

(Parashat Vayetze – Genesis 28:10-32:3)

Rabbi Daniel Bouskila



You are walking all alone, unaware of the passage of time. As you look up to the sky, you see the sun setting, and darkness begins to set in. As you look around, you also realize that you have walked very far, and you are now a great distance from your home. You have no cell phone, and there is no immediate transportation available. Darkness sets in, and you suddenly feel the terror of night. You feel vulnerable, and you are afraid.

“Jacob left Beer-Sheba, and set out for Haran. He came upon a certain place and stopped there for the night, for the sun had set” (Genesis 28:10-11). On his journey towards Haran, Jacob encounters darkness in a place that the Torah simply calls **“a certain place.”** What was this **“certain place”**?

According to some commentators, that “certain place” was Mount Moriah, the future site of the Beit Ha-Mikdash (The Holy Temple in Jerusalem). The place had personal meaning to Jacob, as it was the site where his father Isaac was bound on an altar, almost offered up as a sacrifice. If this was the “certain place” where Jacob had arrived, the combination of physical darkness, along with the emotional and psychological terror of standing in

this very spot, must have been a frightening experience for Jacob. It must have also been a deeply spiritual experience, as he stood on the holiest spot in the world.

There are others who read the Hebrew word for “a certain place” – “Makom” – as a metaphor for God. “Ha-Makom” is actually one of the titles given to God in the Talmud. Read this way, the Hebrew “Va-Yifga Ba-Makom” would be translated “He encountered God.” This was Jacob’s very first encounter with God, and it happened in the dark, “for the sun had set.”

Whether his encounter was with the sanctity of Jerusalem, or with God, the Midrash teaches that Jacob’s reaction to being in the dark, all alone, was to pray:

“Jacob initiated Tefillat Arvit (the Evening Prayer)...at evening a person should say, *May it be Your will, O Lord my God, that you bring me out of darkness into light*” (Midrash Bereshit Rabbah 68:11).

We are taught: “The actions of our forefathers serve as a symbolic lesson for all future generations.” If you ever find yourself “all alone in the dark,” either physically or emotionally, always remember that the natural instinct is to pray -- just like Jacob did -- for God to **“Bring you out of darkness into light.”**

Shabbat Shalom

KJ Schedule Vayetze

Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 28th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am
Candle Lighting4:26 pm
 Minha / Arvith 4:26 pm

Shabbat Vayetze

Saturday, November 29th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer 8:30 am
 Minha, Seudah, Arvit..... 4:00 pm
 Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah 5:29 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, November 30th

Shaharit 7:30 am
 Talmud Torah Thanksgiving Break

Mon to Fri, December 1st to 5th
 Shaharit/Morning Prayer 6:30 am

Erev Shabbat

Friday, December 5th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am
Candle Lighting4:25 pm
 Minha / Arvith 4:25 pm

Torah & Haftara Readings

Genesis/Beresheet:
 Vayetze 106 to 117
Haftara TBA

We want you to be a Kahal Jospheh member!

Join our wonderful community! Call Sarah at 310.474.0559



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

Hanukkah Celebration

Sunday, December 21st 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!



Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored by
Manijeh &
Jacques Mashih

in honor of
their grandson
Jonathan's
13th Birthday

Last Week's Shabbat Kiddush

was sponsored
in memory of
Mary Saleh, z"l
Haim Saleh, z"l
by
Viva & Charles
Rabbie

Shabbat Shalom
Have a Peaceful Shabbat

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries
for Nov. 29 to Dec 6, 2014. It is customary
to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka,
& attend services the preceding Shabbat.

7 Kislev / Shabbat, November 29th
Eliyahu Ezer *Eliyahu ben Yoseph Ezer*
Avraham ben Ezekiel

9 Kislev / Monday, December 1st
Isaac Joseph *Itzhak ben Yoseph*
Ezra Yitzhaki *Ezra ben Reuven Yitzhaki*
Sholkat Zekaria *Sholkat bat Zekaria*

10 Kislev / Tuesday, December 2nd
Ruhama bat Chana

11 Kislev / Wednesday, December 3rd
Ludwig Altman
Sassoon Cohen *Sassoon Shimon Duek Ha-*
Cohen
Rachel bat Simha

12 Kislev / Thursday, December 4th
Yedidyah Yehudah Yedidya ben Yehudah

13 Kislev / Friday, December 5th
Eliza Maslavi Eliza bat Tifaha

14 Kislev / Shabbat, December 6th
Helen Levi Habiba Havah bat Farha

Condolences

We send our condolences to the family of
Heshmatolah Yehazghel, z"l, son of
Deborah and Shlomo Mizrahi; brother of
Sherry Elghanian, and beloved uncle.
May Hashem comfort them together with
all the mourners of Tzion.

Refuah Shlemah

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

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

The Jewish Women's Repertory Company presents

Into The Woods

Saturday, December 13 at 8pm
Sunday, December 14 at 2pm
Sunday, December 14 at 7pm

The Nate Holden Performing Arts Center
4718 W. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90016

For tickets, visit
www.JewishWomensTheater.com
or call 323-964-9766

FOR WOMEN ONLY!
No One Under Age 4 Admitted

THE JEWISH WOMEN'S REPERTORY COMPANY
is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.
A portion of the proceeds will go to The Family Violence Project of Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles.

Designed by Rona Karp

Shabbat Hannuka

Lunch & Learn

with Rabbi Daniel Bouskila

Saturday, December 20, 2014
Following Morning Services

*Kahal Joseph Members—No Charge but must RSVP
Non-members—\$26 with paid reservation*

In celebration of Hanukkah, a holiday most deeply connected to the Zionist ethic of contemporary Judaism, join Rabbi Bouskila in a community conversation on a timely and important topic seriously affecting Israel & the Jewish people.

Topic

**Delegitimizing Israel:
Who's Doing It, and Why We
Should be Concerned**

*RSVP requested before December 16th
to Sarah at 310.474.0559*

