6 December 2014

# KOL MEVASSER

### Man Is Not Alone

Parashat Vayishlach (Genesis 32:4-36:43) Rabbi Daniel Bouskila

Life is filled with challenges, both from without and from within. At night, after a long day facing life's external challenges, we often find ourselves facing our own internal challenges and struggles. Confronting our own internal struggles is a lonely and potentially frightening experience.

On the eve of one of the greatest challenges in his life, Jacob finds himself in a deep internal confrontation and crisis. Scheduled to meet his brother Esau for the first time in twenty years in, Jacob is tormented and afraid. Their last encounter involved Jacob deceitfully taking his brother's blessing, kindling Esau's wrath against Jacob with threats to kill his brother. This terrifying reunion is about to take place, and Jacob spends the entire night before engaged in a deep internal struggle. He knows he wronged his brother, and now he must face him. Jacob sends his family ahead, staying behind all by himself: "And Jacob remained alone, and a man wrestled with him until the break of dawn" (Genesis 32:25).

Who was this "man" that wrestled with Jacob? Was there actually a "man," or was this mysterious nocturnal encounter a metaphor for Jacob's internal



struggles? Was Jacob involved in a physical wrestling match, or was he wrestling with his own conscience?

I believe that Jacob was wrestling with his own anxieties, his own fears, and his own internal complexities and dilemmas. The "wrestling match" that night was a manifestation of the complexity of Jacob's own life, projected through Jacob's subconscious.

The lesson we draw from Jacob's famous "wrestling match" is not the outcome, but the struggle itself. We are reminded, in very powerful, even physical terms, that people of faith -- "men and women of God" -- experience inner struggles and complexities in their lives. Faith does not always provide the answers to our struggles, but instead offers a medium through which we can express our fears and insecurities.

While struggling, "Jacob remained alone," but his experience inspires us -- as people of faith – that we can in fact "struggle and still believe." Perhaps during our moments of internal crisis is when we potentially feel God's presence most powerfully. As Abraham Joshua Heschel – himself a complex man of faith -- famously put it: *Man is not alone*.

Shabbat Shalom

## KJ Schedule Vayishlah

#### **Erev Shabbat**

Friday, December	5th
Shaharit / Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Candle Lighting	4:25 pm
Minha / Arbith	4:25 pm

#### Shabbat Vavishlah

Saturday, December 6th	
Shaharit/Morning Prayer 8:30	am
Minha, Seudah, Arvit 4:00	pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah 5:29	pm

#### Weekdavs

Sunday, December 7th	1
Shaharit7	:30 am
KJ Kids Talmud Torah 10:	00 am
Mon to Fri, December 8th to	12th
Shaharit/Morning Prayer 6	:30 am

#### **Erev Shabbat**

Friday, December 12th	
Shaharit / Morning Prayer 6:30 an	N
Candle Lighting4:26 pn	n
Minha / Arbith4:26 pn	

#### **Torah & Haftara Readings**

Genesis/Beresheet: Vayishlah 122 to 134 Haftara 137 to 140

# We want you to be a Kahal Jospeh 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

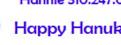
#### **RSVP Requested**

Elsa at 323,934,3439 Rita 310.839.4206

Hag Sameah!

Louise 818.884.0120 Hannie 310,247,0220







#### **Refuah Shlemah**

Moselle Amron Maurice Ovadia

Tilda Levy Joseph Sharaf Michael Herzbrun Saul Sassoon

# Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in memory of

Diana Yael bat Farha. z"l Diana Saul, z"l

bv Florence Shamash Sally Joseph Seemah Menashy

#### A Special Gift for Hannuka

# Flavors of Babylon

An Iragi Cookbook **By Linda Dangoor** 

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

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

Copies are available in the Kahal Joseph office. For information contact Sarah at 310-474-0559

#### Condolences

We send our condolences to the family of Diana Yael Saul, z"l, beloved wife of Abraham Saul, daughter of Florence Joseph Shamash; sister of Seemah Menashy & Sally Joseph. May Hashem comfort them together with all the mourners of Tzion.

#### In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for Dec 6 to 13, 2014. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka. & attend services the preceding Shabbat.

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

15 Kislev / Sunday, December 7th Nora Isaac Ives Naima bat Simcha Sassoon Menashe Sassoon Sasson ben Menashe Sasson

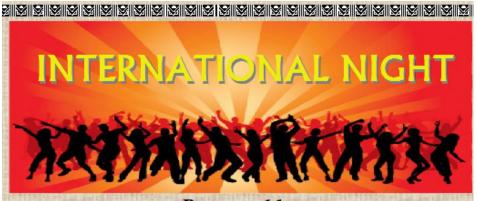
17 Kisley / Tuesday, December 9th Naim Lavi Naim ben Moshe Moshe ben Moosa

18 Kisley / Wednesday, December 10th Raphael Emquies Raphael ben Salomon

20 Kisley / Friday, December 12th Alec Jacob Jonah Avraham ben Yaacov Moshe Nissan Moshe ben Hayim

Errol Levi Social Hall & Ballroom Engagement? Wedding? Brit Milah? Bar Mitzvah? Baby Shower? Birthday? Kahal Joseph has one of the most beautiful ballrooms on the Westside for your private event including up to 200 guests. Contact Sarah at 310,474,0559

#### **Shabbat Shalom**



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

Designed by Rona Kary

Please make checks payable to: Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph Congregation c/o Diana Solomon 257 S. Reeves Drive, #303

**Beverly Hills, CA 90212** 



A portion of the proceeds will go to The Family Violence Project of Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles

# Shabbat Hannuka with Rabbi Daniel Bouskila Lunch & Learn

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 community conversation on a timely and important topic seriously Zionist ethic of contemporary Judaism, join Rabbi Bouskila in a 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

