

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 / Arbit .. 4:25 pm

Shabbat Vayishlah

Saturday, December 6th

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

Weekdays

Sunday, December 7th

Shaharit 7:30 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 am
Candle Lighting **4:26 pm**
Minha / Arbit .. 4:26 pm

Torah & Haftara Readings

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

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Louise 818.884.0120

Rita 310.839.4206

Hannie 310.247.0220

Hag Sameah! ♥ Happy Hanukkah!



Refuah Shlemah

Moselle Amron
Maurice Ovadia

Tilda Levy
Michael Herzbrun

Joseph Sharaf
Saul Sassoon

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in memory of

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

by
Florence Shamash
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Seemah Menashy

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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 Kislev / Tuesday, December 9th

Naim Lavi *Naim ben Moshe*
Moshe ben Moosa

18 Kislev / Wednesday, December 10th

Raphael Emquies *Raphael ben Salomon*

20 Kislev / Friday, December 12th

Alec Jacob Jonah *Avraham ben Yaacov*
Moshe Nissan *Moshe ben Hayim*

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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

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For Reservations please call:

Elsa Singman 323.934.3439 Hannie Kelly 310.247.0220

Rita Hanin 310.839.4206 Louise Elias 818.884.0120

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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*

