

KOL MEVASSER

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

My very heartfelt appreciation to all our Kahal family who made our Purim celebrations last week so spiritually enjoyable and successful.

I thank Yvette Dabby and all her sous chefs for organizing and baking of Mishloah Manot: you made so many of our members happy with the delicious baked goods that you delivered.

I am deeply grateful to Hazzan Saeed Jalali for his inspiring Megillah reading this year. Saeed, you brought this ancient text alive for all of us to enjoy.

As a wonderful climax to our week, our 10th annual Purim Carnival was the most attended and successful ever. It would never have been possible, or as terrific without the tireless help and support of so many individuals.

First and foremost I thank my senior Vice President Jonathan Kelly, Sarah Bouchoucha, Dafna Young, and Penina Solomon for the incredible amount of work put forth, time and again, to ensure that our Purim Carnival is one of the best throughout the community.

To our most generous game booth sponsors, our numerous volunteers who ran the game booths, and all those who worked behind the scene: you made our children and all their families so very happy. We especially thank Elie Shadian for

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Shabbat: Prohibited Actions, Prohibited Words

(Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei Exodus 35:1 – 40:38)

Rabbi Daniel Bouskila

What is the definition of “prohibited labor” on Shabbat? Beyond what we “can and cannot do on Shabbat,” how do we actively create an appropriate Shabbat atmosphere in our homes and communities?

The source for the “prohibited labors” on Shabbat is rooted in this week’s Torah portion. The Parashiyot Vayakhel & Pekudei describes the construction of the *Mishkan* (Tabernacle) in full architectural detail. Every step is outlined, every piece of raw construction material is listed, and every artistic craft is spelled out. Immediately prior to the Torah spelling out all of this detail, Moshe gathers the entire community and introduces the instructions to build the *Mishkan* with the following commandment: **“These are the words that God has commanded for you to do. You may work during the six weekdays, but Saturday must be kept as a holy Shabbat to God.”**

Moshe then proceeds to describe the full instructions for building the *Mishkan*. From this juxtaposition of the commandment to observe Shabbat followed by the full details of the various labors needed to build the *Mishkan*, the rabbinic tradition derived that the prohibited labors on Shabbat are the precise labors needed to construct the *Mishkan*. The rabbis read these parashiyot like architects and artists, breaking them apart into different categories and genres of labor. They derived a total of 39 forms of labor (or, more specifically,

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KJ Schedule

Shabbat Parah
Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei

Erev Shabbat Parah

Friday, March 13th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am

Shabbat Candle Lighting . 6:40 pm

Minha / Arbit .. 6:40 pm

Shabbat

Parashat Parah

Saturday, March 14th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer 8:30 am

Minha, Seudah, Arvit 6:15 pm

Motzei Shabbat / Havdala ... 7:45 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, March 15th

Shaharit 7:30 am

Talmud Torah 10 to 11 am

Monday to Friday, March 16 to 20

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am

Erev Shabbat HaChodesh

Erev Rosh Hodesh Nisan

Friday, March 20th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:30 am

Shabbat Candle Lighting . 6:46 pm

Minha / Arbit .. 6:46 pm

Torah & Haftara Readings

Parashiot Vayakhel-Pekudei

373 to 391

Parashat Parah 652 to 655

Haftara Shabbat Parah

Yehezkel / Ezekiel 999 to 1001

Shabbat Shalom U'Mevorach

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored in honor of
the marriage of

Niloufar Sedaghat &
Jonathan Nikfarjam

by

The Sedaghat &
Nikfarjam Families

Congratulations

Nahid Sedaghat and
Sepeher & Noushin Nikfarjam
on the marriage of
Nilioufar & Jonathan

Mazal Tov to Grandparents
Yahya & Helen Talei
Shmuel & Kian Nikfarjam
Mohtaram Yazdian
and all the family

Refuah Shlemah

Moselle Amron • Maurice Ovadia • Tilda Levy
Abe Abraham • Sassoon Ezra • Esther Duke
Elsa Singman • Fortunette Dallal

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for
March 14 to 21, 2015. It is customary to light a
memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend ser-
vices the preceding Shabbat.

23 Adar / Shabbat, March 14th

Bernard Jonatan Amron *Bernard Yonatan ben
Mishael*

Eliyahu Kattan *Eliyahu ben Salim
Elisha ben Nassim Nawy*

25 Adar / Monday, March 16th

Rivka Blank *Rivka bat Sarah Hannah
Sarah bat Gurjiyee*

26 Adar / Tuesday, March 17th

Moses Solomon Noah *Moshe ben Shlomo Noah
Yaghoub Partiyeli*

Salomon Emquies *Shlomo ben Messod*

27 Adar / Wednesday, March 18th

Elias M. Judah *Eliyahu Hayim ben Meir Yehuda
Achajal Aghalar Nisim ben Jacob
Saul K. Masliah Shaul ben Hacham Moshe Yakob*

28 Adar / Thursday, March 19th

Moshehaim Navid
Tefaha Perry *Tefaha bat Salima
Rahmatollah Rahamim*

29 Adar / Friday, March 20th

Tefara Menashe *Tefara bat Ezra
Lily Shad Lulu Mahlab
Lulu Raymond Lulu bat Maatooka
Mordechai Sarraf Mordechai ben Yehudah*

1 Nisan / Shabbat, March 21st

Lotfollah Nassi
Clara Saltoun *Ghala bat Esther
Sydique Charlie Zakoo Sadik Salah ben Ezra
Halevi*

Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored in memory of
Nessim ben Yaacov Aghajan z"l

by

Desiree Aghalar &
Tooraj Aghalar

Rabbi Daniel Bouskila

will be delivering the sermon
at KJ this Shabbat on the topic
"**Reflections on AIPAC**"

We also look forward to
Rabbi Daniel Bouskila speaking
on the upcoming Shabbatot of
March 21st and March 28th
with sermon topics to be announced



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with baking for KJ's Purim Baskets, including Rosy Nissan whose name we apologize for inadvertently omitting in last week's thank you. We appreciate the efforts of all who donated their time and energy to this caring and warm-hearted mitzvah project.

KJ's 10th Annual Purim Carnival



Kahal Joseph 10th Annual Purim Carnival

Event Chair

Jonathan S. Kelly

Event Committee

Sarah Bouchoucha • Fiona Cohen • Yvette Dabby
Ron Einy • Dafna Ezran • Penina Solomon

Booth Sponsors

Desiree & Tooraj Aghalar	Tikva & Yoel Iny
Yvette & Joseph Dabby	The Ironi Family
Julie & Mark Darwish	Hannie Kelly
Joe David	Michelle & Stan Kurtz
Letizia & Ron Einy	The Mussry Family
Rylla & Ben Elias	Sandra & Eddie Sarraf
The Ezra Family	Karmela & Paul Youssefmir
Ruth & Edmond Hagooli	Alice Zekaria
The Jonah & Mizrahie Families	

The Iraqi Jewish Archives Coming to Southern California

During the last 9 months, the World Organization of Jews from Iraq (WOJI) have been in touch with the State Department about raising funds for additional exhibits of the Iraqi Jewish Archives (IJA).

WOJI was recently notified that such funds are now approved by the U.S. government and they can cover the expenses of 4 more exhibits. WOJI expressed their thanks to the State Department and the US government for addressing this important issue.

After the IJA exhibition has been shown in both Washington, DC and New York, it is now scheduled to come to Los Angeles, due to its large Jewish community. The exhibition will be shown at The Richard Nixon Presidential Library (RNPL), in Yorba Linda, which is about one hour drive from Kahal Joseph. RNPL is readjusting its plans/events to have the Archives exhibited in the autumn of 2015.

It is interesting to note that both the State Department as well as members of our community in Los Angeles, approached the Skirball Cultural Center and the Simon Wiesenthal Center (Museum of Tolerance), to host the IJA exhibition in the City. Unfortunately both Jewish Institutions were not receptive and the US government agency had to look for a non-Jewish Institution, although all expenses for the exhibition will be covered by the State Department.

Our thanks to The Richard Nixon presidential Library for agreeing to host the IJA exhibition.

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stepping up and coordinating the volunteers throughout the day with cheer, kindness, encouragement and grace.

We would also like to thank David Elias, Penina Solomon, and Anita Wozniak for photographing the Carnival and our dedicated teachers, Anita Wozniak and Hanna Elkouby who staffed the Talmud Torah booth, shared information about our Sunday school program, and provided a Purim mask craft for kids.

It was clear that the spirit of our membership and the community at large is at an especially high point. What a beautiful feeling for all of us, one that we can all feel proud of.

We never before saw the great number of attendees that we did last Sunday or shared the amount of fun we all had together. May we always share in such happiness at Kahal Joseph, for our community, for our children, for our future.

Ronald Einy

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“creative acts”) needed to build the Mishkan, and they ruled that these 39 forms of labor are, in fact, the prohibited labors on Shabbat.

These labors are listed in the Mishnah (Rabbinic Laws), Tractate Shabbat, Chapter 7:2: **“The primary labors (on Shabbat) are forty less one: Sowing, Ploughing, Reaping, Binding Sheaves...” etc.**

But is Shabbat observance exclusively defined by a list of prohibited labors? There is much more to Shabbat than “not sowing, not ploughing,” etc. The prophet Isaiah teaches God’s vision for the spirit of Shabbat: **“If you shall restrain from pursuing business on My holy day, and declare Shabbat a delight...and shall honor it, not doing your own ways, nor pursuing your own business, nor speaking of vain matters – then shall you delight your self in the Lord” (Isaiah 58:13-14).**

Isaiah outlines a proactive spiritual vision of Shabbat, where one ceases from pursuing business, and turns Shabbat into a day where one deals with “matters of the spirit.” The focus on Shabbat is *Kodesh (Sacred) versus Hol (Profane)*.

Within Isaiah’s vision for Shabbat is a call to refrain from **“speaking of vain matters.”**

Going back to the labors of Shabbat, the sixteenth prohibited labor listed by the Mishnah is **“toveh,”** which means “spinning.” The technical description of “spinning” is the act of twisting fibers (or threads) together to produce long threads.

The labor of “spinning,” coupled with Isaiah’s call to refrain from “speaking of vain matters,” brings to mind a thought-provoking tale by Israeli author S.Y. Agnon.

The story is titled **“K’neged Otam Shekov’im Yeshivot Shel Ts’chok V’Kalut Rosh” (Against Those Who Establish Gatherings of Laughter and Frivolity):**

The story is told of a woman, who, every Shabbat, after she finished praying and studying the week’s Torah portion, would sit at home alone and spin yarn –so that she wouldn’t be sitting with her neighbors when they busied themselves with idle gossip.

One Shabbat morning, Moshe Rabbenu was taking a walk. He came to the city of that very woman. He saw the Shechinah (Divine Presence) resting over one particular house, so he entered and found that one woman sitting and spinning yarn.

He said to her, “My daughter! Don’t you know that today is Shabbat?”

She said, “I know today is Shabbat.”

He said to her, “And don’t you know that work is forbidden on Shabbat?”

She said, “I know it’s forbidden to work on Shabbat.”

He said to her, “If so, why are you spinning?”

She said, “And what else should I be doing at this hour?”

He said to her, “You could pray, or you could read the commentaries to the Torah portion.”

She said to him, “I already finished my prayers, and I already read the week’s Torah portion.”

He said to her, “If that’s the case, then go and sit with your neighbors, and do not desecrate Shabbat.” So she stood and set aside her work and went to their company.

The following Shabbat, Moshe Rabbenu saw that the Shechinah (Divine Presence) was no longer resting above that same house. He entered and found that woman sitting with her neighbors, engaged in conversation. And what were they talking about? About this one who made for herself a dress worth so much, and that one whose husband bought for his wife a pearl necklace, this one’s son who cast his eyes on that one’s daughter, and the daughter who cast her eyes on another one’s son. And so it was: they sat and gossiped about frivolous things. When Moshe saw all of this, he said to the woman, “My daughter, return to your work and do not occupy yourself with such foolishness.”

Therefore, a person should always be very careful not to occupy himself with frivolous matters on Shabbat.

What message does Agnon convey in this bold and daring tale? What moral is imbedded in this creative interplay on Shabbat between, on one hand -- a pious woman who prays, studies Torah, and then chooses to sit at home spinning threads rather than hanging out and gossiping -- and Moshe, God’s authoritative prophet and lawgiver, the ultimate symbol of Torah and Rabbinic authority?

Agnon challenges us to reconsider and expand our perception of *Kodesh (Sacred) vs. Hol (Profane)* on Shabbat, and of the meaning of *Hillul Shabbat* --“desecrating Shabbat.” Given the ugly damage that gossip creates in society, Agnon’s story uses a literary exaggeration within the plot – a choice of “either or” -- to make the case that ultimately, if God had to choose, God most likely prefers for one to sit and spin threads on Shabbat rather than sitting and spinning tales about others. In examining our own actions and words every Shabbat, we should strive to create an atmosphere where God does not have to make the choice of “either or.” *Shabbat Shalom*

KAHAL JOSEPH MEMOUNA CELEBRATION

with Rabbi Daniel Bouskila

Sunday, April 12th @ 7 pm
The Errol Levi Social Hall

Come enjoy with your community
a delightful evening of
Live Middle Eastern Music
Food, Friendship, & Fun
\$30 per person

Please RSVP to Sarah 310-474-0559

Operation Michaelberg: The Unheard Story of Iraqi Immigration to Israel During the British Mandate Period

A Talk with Noa Geffen

*Vice-Chair of the Society for
Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites*

**Thursday, March 26th 2015 at KJ
7:30 pm with Dessert Reception**

The story of Iraqi immigrants brought
to Israel by the courageous Haganah
through Operation Michaelberg during
the British Mandate is being preserved
at the Atlit Detention Camp Museum



Thank You

Amazing Volunteers at KJ's 10th Annual Purim Carnival

Sophie Aslan
Brandy Bohbod
Barbara Bohbod
Fiona Cohen
Joseph Dabby
Yvette Dabby
Ron Einy
David Elias
Louise Elias
Diana Gazal
Alexandra Gomperts
Gabriella Gomperts
Rianna Greene
Rita Hanin
Dror Ironi
Merna Ironi
Mary Jackson
Eitan Jalali
Eliana Jalali
Joshua Kalevitch
Adam Kelly
David Kelly
Hannie Kelly
Jonathan Kelly
Maya Kelly

Sigal Kelly
Ruby Maytal
Joseph Miskabi
Jasmin Nazarian
Rutie Nazarian
Rosy Nissan
Ronnie Sassoon
Jack Shadi
Oran Shadian
Rachel Bohbot Shapiro
Elsa Singman
Orly Termeie
Ty Tratner
Gabriel Volvovic
Lisa Volvovic
Danny Wozniak
Eden Wozniak
Yoni Wozniak
Yaniv Wozniak
Susan Zadeh

and **Elie Shadian**
Volunteer Coordinator
and all who donated
their time & effort

We especially thank
Sarah Bouchoucha & Penina Solomon
for their hard work & dedication and
Jonathan Kelly & the Kelly Family
for organizing & supporting the KJ Carnival