

KOL MEVASSER



Rabbi's Message: Yom Kippur

Dear Members & Friends of Kahal Joseph,

I enjoyed seeing so much of our community on Rosh Hashanah, both greeting new faces and reconnecting with those I have already met. Sharing the holiday with you was a powerful experience for me, and I am looking forward to a meaningful Yom Kippur amid our welcoming congregation.

In preparation for the fast, I have been reading the Ben Ish Hai for inspiration, and I would like to share one of his insights this week. Early in the Haham's remarks on the day, he comments that while our prayers focus on our relationships with God, we must also push ourselves to repair our relationships with other people. He emphasizes that this is especially true for family

members, and he describes a custom in which a child would kiss his or her parents hands on Erev Kippur and ask them forgiveness for their sins. In this way, we connect across generations in the act of teshuvah.

God commands the mitzvah of communal gathering on Shabbat Shuvah. Physically, we come together as a large group during this time of year. It is my hope that as we come together this year in the same physical space, so too may we come together emotionally, letting go of old grudges and focusing on the value of sharing our traditions with the younger generations.

May God look with favor upon us as we undergo this process with sincerity and good faith, and may He inscribe us all in the Sefer HaHayim – the Book of Life.

Tizkoo leshanim rabot,

Rabbi Melhado

KJ Schedule Parashat Vayeleh SHABBAT SHUVA

Erev Shabbat

Friday, September 18th

Selihot 5:45 am
Shaharit / Morning Prayer ... 6:30 am
Minha 6:00 pm
Arvit 6:30 pm
Candle Lighting 6:37 pm

Shabbat Teshuvah

Saturday, September 19th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer ... 8:30 am
Keriat Torah..... 10:15 am
Musaf..... 11:30 am
Women's Tehillim 6:00 pm
Minha 6:00 pm
Arbit 7:20 pm
Havdallah 7:39 pm

Aseret Yemei Teshuvah

Sunday, September 20th

Selihot 6:30 am
Shaharit / Hatarat Nedarim . 7:25 am
Talmud Torah 10:00 am

Monday, September 21st

Selihot 5:30 am
Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:25 am

Erev Yom Kippur

Tuesday, September 22nd

Selihot 5:30 am
Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:25 am
Minha..... 2:00 pm

(Continued on page 3)



SUKKOTH DINNER WITH THE RABBI

We are so excited for you to get to know Rabbi Melhado and his family!

In order to help this along, we have put together a series of special dinners. Each meal will have around twenty people and will be for a discounted rate. The first one will take place on Sunday, September 27 at 7:30PM. Registration is limited, first-come, first-serve at www.kahaljoseph.org/sukkot-dinner-with-the-rabbi.html.

Future dinners will take place once a month through June. Upcoming dates include October 30, November 20 and December 18. More dates for January through May will be announced later in the fall!



Arba Minim For Sale at KJ

Kahal Joseph is offering arba minim (lulav and etrog) for sale online at www.kahaljoseph.org/arba-minim.html

The first 20 sets are available at a subsidized price of only **\$36**, after which they cost **\$46**. Orders must be received and completed by the deadline of **Tuesday September 22 at 10:00 AM**.

The sets will be available for pickup at Kahal Joseph on:
Friday, September 25th before 2 PM
or at services on Sunday, September 27th

Refuah Shlemah

Abe Abraham • Moselle Amron • Sylvia Cohen
Mordechai Cohen • Esther Duke • Tilda Levy
Sassoon Ezra • Miriam bat Yetta
Maurice Ovadia • Habiba bat Mazli

Shabbat Shuvah Torah & Haftara Portions

Parashat Vayelech in the book of
Devarim / Deuteronomy pp. 887 to 891
Shabbat Shuva Haftara from the Prophets
excerpted from Hosea, Micah & Yoel
Pages 891 to 895

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries September 19 to 26, 2015. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend Shabbat services.

8 Tishri / Monday, September 21st
David Sasson *David Hai Menashe Sasson*

9 Tishri / Tuesday, September 22nd
Rachel Cohen *Rahel bat Simcha*

10 Tishri / Wednesday, September 23rd
Flora Jacob *Farha bat Dina*
Kelly Zelkha *Khazouri ben Nazem*

11 Tishri / Thursday, September 24th
Hannah Cohen *Chana bat Rahel*

12 Tishri / Friday, September 25th
Ian Carlos ben Mishelle
Edna Jonah *Simha bat Ruth*
Ezekiel Ezra Judah *Yehezkel Ezra ben Meir Judah*
Sassoon Lelah *Sasson ben Aharon*
Moshe ben Yaacov Shalom

Condolences

to the family of
George Sassoon Aaron, z"l

Our thoughts and prayers go out especially to his wife, Susan his son, Sam; his brother, Ronald & sister, Roslyn Aaron La Liberte

May Hashem comfort them together with all the mourners of Tzion

Shabbat Teshuvah & Yom Kippur

By Rabbi Marc D. Angel

Although we popularly refer to the upcoming fast day as Yom Kippur, the Torah calls it Yom haKippurim—the day of atonements (in the plural). The plural form reminds us that there are many roads to atonement. Each person is different and is on a unique spiritual level; each comes with different insights, experiences, memories. The roads to atonement are plural, because no two of us have identical needs.

This season of Teshuvah and Kapparah—repentance and atonement—provides us with a special challenge and opportunity. We are granted a yearly period of time for intense evaluation of our lives. This period should serve as a springboard to deeper understanding and personal growth.

The first step in the process of spiritual renewal is to become humbly aware of our frailties. No matter how successful we think we are, we are mortal! We have limited physical capacities and a limited time of life on this earth. Aside from our physical limitations, we have moral and religious shortcomings that must be confronted. The Spanish thinker, Ortega y Gasset, suggested that a person grows only after confronting deep existential crisis. “These are the only genuine ideas; the ideas of the shipwrecked. All the rest is rhetoric, posturing, farce. He who does not really feel himself lost, is without remission; that is to say, he never finds himself, never comes up against his own reality.” The first goal of this season is to feel “shipwrecked.”

But when we do “come up against our own reality” we often reach a point of perplexity. How are we to make ultimate sense of our lives? How are we to understand the vagaries of human existence—disease, wars, injustice? How are we to deal with all the social and professional pressures? How can we cope with problems in our families and communities? How can we advance beyond the quagmire of fear and self-doubt?

The famous Hassidic Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzk once asked: Where is God? And he answered: Where ever a human being lets Him in! If we want to feel the presence of God, we need to open ourselves to that expe-

rience. The season of Teshuvah and Yom haKippurim is a time to restore our relationship with the Almighty, to express our perplexities. This genuine experience of relationship with God gives us the inner strength to cope with our problems and perplexities.

A further step in the process of Teshuvah and Kapparah is balancing the feelings of alienation and belonging. We say to the Almighty: “ki ger anokhi imakh; toshav kekhol avotai,” I am a stranger with You, a sojourner as were all of my ancestors. What does this mean? I feel as though I am a stranger, alienated from God; there are barriers between me and You. But I want to be a sojourner, a permanent resident in Your presence, not a stranger or a passing visitor. I want to come home to the teachings and traditions of my ancestors who have maintained faith and courage for the past 3500 years.

A parable: A person tries to cut down a tree with a dull edged saw. He works very hard but makes little progress. A passerby sees this and asks: why don't you sharpen the saw? The person responds: I don't have time, I can't stop working, I need to cut down this tree. The passerby says: But if you would stop working for a few minutes to sharpen the saw, you would actually save time and effort, and you would better be able to accomplish your goal! The person replies: No, I don't have time to stop working, I must keep sawing.

Without the proper tools, we exert great energy but achieve inadequate results.

In spiritual life, too, we need proper tools. If we work with old habits, with stubborn attachment to stale and futile patterns, we will not grow. We need to think more clearly about our goals and how we can best attain them. Yom haKippurim provides a day when we take off from our usual routine. It is an entirely different kind of day from any other day of the year. It is a time to sharpen ourselves spiritually; to humbly face our limitations; to cope with our perplexities; to seek atonement and purification, to return to our spiritual core.

The season of Teshuvah and Kapparah provides us with a unique spiritual opportunity. Happy are they who can experience this season with an acute mind and alert spirit.

Shabbat Shalom

Children's Room..... 6 pm to 10 pm
Fast Begins 6:32 pm
Kol Nidre 6:30 pm

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, September 23rd
Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 7:00 am
Children's Room I..... 10 am to 2 pm
Children's Room II..... 4 pm to 7 pm
Minhah..... 4:00 pm
Neilah 6:00 pm
Fast Ends 7:34 pm

Weekdays

Thursday & Friday, Sept. 24th & 25th
Shaharit / Morning Prayer .. 6:25 am

Erev Shabbat

Friday, September 26th
Shaharit / Morning Prayer ... 6:25 am
Minha..... 6:00 pm
Candle Lighting 6:28 pm
Arbit / Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30 pm

Yom Kippur Only Tickets



Register for Yom Kippur only tickets or children's programming wristbands online at www.kahaljoseph.org/holidays.html or call Sarah 310.474.0559.

Children's Room Schedule

10 to 12 Free Play
12 to 2 Lego Building
Break
4 to 5 Free Play
5 to 6 Bubble Show

Sephardic Educational Center



presents our 4th annual

Selihot Concert

Sunday, September 20, 2015

Doors open at 6:00 pm

Program begins at 7:00 pm

Special thanks to our sponsors

Ron & Paulette Nessim

Kahal Joseph Congregation
10505 West Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90025

\$15 per person

Refreshments will be served

Valet parking provided

**For more information or to make reservations,
please call the SEC office at (323) 272-4574**



Discovery and Recovery:

Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage

*An exhibit of rescued & restored artifacts
from the Iraqi Jewish Archive will be at
Nixon Presidential Library & Museum
September 4 to November 15, 2015*

Save these Dates!

Sunday, October 11, 2014

KJ Tour of the Exhibit

Call the Kahal Joseph office at 310.474.0559 to
register for this group tour of the archive.

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Maurice Shohet, President WOJI
presents the film "Forgotten Refugees"
Maurice Shohet, President of "World Organization
of Jews from Iraq" (WOJI) will be at the library to
present the documentary film: "Forgotten Refu-
gees" which recounts the mass exodus of Jews
from Arab lands. Following the showing one of the
documentary producers will be available on Skype
from New York for a Q & A session.