

KOL MEVASSER

Message from the Rabbi: Thanksgiving & the Jews

America has long been a land of refuge and renewal for many peoples, perhaps few more tellingly than the Jews. Though we did not come to these shores in large numbers until the nineteenth century, our presence has been felt here since the very early days of European settlement.

In what has now become the stuff of legend, we date our community to 1654 in the Dutch colony of Nieuw Amsterdam, where twenty-three Sephardim fleeing Catholic persecution in Brazil joined with two Ashkenazim who had arrived from Holland a few months before and held the first Rosh Hashanah services on this continent.

At a time when global Jewish life centered around the Mediterranean and New World Jewish life centered around the Caribbean, the little North American congregation steadily grew in what was then the backwater town of New York. The first few dozen Jews who started it all would surely have been stunned to learn that it would become one of the largest Jewish cities on the planet, with a thumping two million Jewish residents in the broader metropolitan area.

Jewish participation in the American holiday of Thanksgiving has an equally storied history. When Britain took Canada from the French in 1760, Congregation Shearith Israel held an

elaborate service of thanksgiving before Minhah on October 23rd, adding our voice to that of the many Christian churches in New York City. Similar Jewish services formed a part of the national day of thanksgiving called by George Washington on November 26th. 1789, and Jews have participated in the modern Thanksgiving (with a capital “T”) since the Civil War, when President Lincoln first established it as a Federal holiday in 1863. It hasn’t all been smooth sailing, and New York’s synagogues bowed out of the statewide festivities in 1849 and 1854 when the governor’s call for celebration was addressed to “a Christian people.” But in hindsight, perhaps that is the *yotse min hakelal sheme’id al hakelal* (the exception that proves the rule), a testament to a trend in which Jews had our handprint on Thanksgiving long before it even had a consistent date or fixed cultural rituals.

Over the 361 years that produced this story, we have had much to be thankful for in this country. Not only has it accepted our people when the mother communities in the Old World were uprooted or destroyed, but its legal system gradually established us as equals to the gentiles and allowed us to grow with few of the repressive limitations that were commonplace in so many other lands. While we can doubtless think of examples of when our needs exceeded what we got from the US, the total balance is still roundly in the black. Millions of our people have reaped the benefits of coming here, and according to

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Parashat Vayishlah

Torah: Genesis 32:4–36:43, 154 Pesukim
Hertz 122–134; Stone 170–197
Haftarah: Obad, 1:1 – 21
Hertz 137–140; Stone 1141–1142
Tefillot: Mashib Haruah

KJ Schedule Ereb Shabbat

Shabbat Eve

Friday, November 28th

Minha.....4:30 pm
Candle Lighting 4:26 pm
Arbit / Kabbalat Shabbat...5:00 pm

Yom Shabbat

Shabbat Day

Saturday, November 29th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer 8:30 am
Keri’at HaTorah..... 10:15 am
Musaf 11:30 am

Minhah 4:00 pm
Women’s Tehillim 4:00 pm
Se’udah Shelisheet..... 5:00 pm

Arbit 5:20 pm
Habdallah..... 5:29 pm

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the *American Jewish Yearbook* (2014), the combined population of the Diaspora in the rest of the entire world is less than one fifth the size of the Jewish population of this country.

Who among us does not have a story of a living family member or departed ancestor that immigrated here and began a new life? At Kahal Joseph, many of our community members even experienced the immigration story personally, and are eyewitnesses to its sacrifices and possibilities. We are thankful for everything that this has enabled, we bless Almighty God for sustaining us in these happy circumstances, and we undertake to demonstrate our gratitude by helping others and giving back to the community that took us in.

Shabbat Shalom
Rabbi Melhado

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KJ Schedule (continued)

Weekdays

Sunday, November 29th

Shaharit.....7:30 am

Monday to Friday, Nov. 30 to Dec 4

Shaharit6:25 am

Next Week

Ereb Shabbat

Friday, November 27th

Shaharit6:25 am

Minha4:30 pm

Candle Lighting 4:25 pm

Arbit / Kabbalat Shabbat5:00 pm

In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from Nov 28 to Dec 5, 2015. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

17 Kislev / Sunday, November 29th

Naim Lavi *Naim ben Moshe*

18 Kislev / Monday, November 30th

Raphael Emquies *Raphael ben Salomon*

20 Kislev / Wednesday, December 2nd

Alec Jacob Jonah *Avraham ben Yaacov*

Moshe Nissan *Moshe ben Hayim*

22 Kislev / Friday, December 4th

Joseph Israel *Yosef ben Rabbia*

Earl H. Klein *Eliyahu Michael ben Yaakov*

Ezekiel Isaac Raymond *Yehezkiel ben Mulla Rahamim*

23 Kislev / Shabbat, December 5th

Joseph Azar *Yosef Sion ben Yaacob*

Refuah Shlemah

Abe Abraham • Moselle Amron

Mordechai Cohen • Esther Duke

Sassoon Ezra • Miriam bat Yetta

Sylvia Cohen • Tilda Levy • Maurice Ovadia

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



Hanukkah Celebration

Sunday, December 13th 2015 at 11:00 am

featuring wonderful entertainment



Clown & Balloon Art Amazing Magician

Sweets & Treats for the Children & Fun for the Whole Family

RSVP Requested by Dec. 11th

Elsa at 323.934.3439 Louise 818.884.0120 Hannie 310.247.0220