

# KOL MEVASSER

## Message from the Rabbi

The ancient names for the Pentateuch, “Torah” and “Orayta,” emphasize the value of divine guidance. Since the universe that God created around humans is hard to navigate with only our innate abilities, He bequeathed us a “guidebook” to help us through our lives, which is what “Torah” literally means. Since He frames it as a covenantal agreement, it also comes with the rites and obligations of the Jewish religious system, but at its core, it is a holy text designed to help us lead spiritually meaningful and morally upstanding lives.

Because of this, we might find ourselves wondering why the Torah doesn’t just start at Parashat Bo, the first time that God transmits a significant body of mitzvot to the people. In the fourteen Parashiyot before Bo, there are only three mitzvot in the Torah, but Bo has twenty all by itself. Across thirty-five out of the next thirty-nine Parashiyot, God transmits another five hundred and ninety-three mitzvot to us, a lasting covenant that embodies the true spirit of what the word “Torah” implies. Why, we could ask, wouldn’t He just start with the actionable, utilitarian information and skip all the stories that we have spent the last three months reading?

The answer to this question is provided in the opening lines of Parashat Shemot. As the book begins, Joseph and his brothers finish

their long and rich lives, passing away one by one. Eventually, no one is around to remember their story, and by verse 8 we learn that “a new king rose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.” All of the ensuing persecution of the Israelites can be traced back to the simple problem of the loss of public memory. It is because no one has the historical authority to remind Pharaoh that he could not have risen to power without Joseph’s intervention in the famine years that he can get away with enslaving his savior’s descendants. Perhaps, if he himself knew what had happened, he would not have meditated such injustice.

This is why we have spent so much investment on Sefer Bereshit and the beginning of Sefer Shemot. It reminds us where we came from, and tells us a great deal about who we were as a people before we even got to Egypt. In a way, it lays the foundation of the Israelites’ sense of self, just as their Exodus from Egypt is in turn the foundation of our own sense of self as modern Jews.

If we forget our heritage and history, we forget one of the most precious parts of our identity, which is also one of the most difficult to recover. What is more, we lose our sense of direction, which allows others openings to take advantage of us. Hence, safeguarding our traditions and the story of our background is a

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## Parashat Shemot

Torah: Ex. 1:1–6:1, 124 Pesukim  
Hertz 206–224; Stone 292–317  
Iraqi Haftarah: Ezek 16:1–13  
Handout (not in the Hertz or Stone)  
Tefillot: Mashib Haruah

## KJ Schedule

### Ereb Shabbat

*Friday, January 1st*

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am  
Minha..... 4:30 pm  
**Shabbat Candle Lighting 4:36 pm**  
Arbit / Kabbalat Shabbat.... 5:00 pm

### Yom Shabbat

*Saturday, January 2nd*

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 ..... 5:40 pm

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## Rabbi's Message

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positive, empowering duty that allows us to take ownership of our peoplehood and derive joy and encouragement from it. It is uplifting to become a custodian of our traditions – no matter whether it is as Jews in general, or as Sephardim, with a new set of rich stories that deserves to be preserved in communal consciousness.

As we go back for another cycle of telling the story of how we became who we are, may we all take renewed inspiration for our own lives. You never know what precious gems are in our background, and how much of a positive impact the past can bring to our present!

Shabbat Shalom

## We Want You to be a KJ Member!

*Did you join us for one of KJ's community or holiday events? Have you enjoyed our wonderful new website, the Children's Room, High Holy Days, Rabbi Angel's Shabbaton or Dinner with the Rabbi? Consider joining us with an annual membership. Go to [kahaljoseph.org](http://kahaljoseph.org) or call 310.474.0559.*

## Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored  
in memory of  
Abdullah Shahrabani, z"l

by  
Ronnie & Edna  
Shahrabani

## Condolences

We send our heartfelt condolences  
to the family and friends of

David Jacob, z"l  
especially to his siblings, Seemah Moses,  
Diane Cohen, Ed Jacob, and Eli Jacob  
*May Hashem comfort them together with  
all the mourners of Tzion.*

## KJ Schedule (continued)

### Weekdays

Sunday, January 3rd

Shaharit..... 7:30 am  
Talmud Torah & Sunday School..... 10:00 am

Monday, January 4 to Friday, January 8

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

### Ereb Shabbat

Friday, January 8th

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am  
Minha ..... 4:30 pm  
Shabbat Candle Lighting ..... 4:42 pm  
Arbit / Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:00 pm

## In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from January 2 to 9, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

### 21 Tebet / Shabbat, January 2nd

Solomon Reuben *Shlomo ben Reuven D'loomy*  
Behejohn Yehudah *Behejohn bat Yehudah*

### 22 Tebet / Sunday, January 3rd

Matooka Girgiyr *Matooka bat Farha*

### 23 Tebet / Monday, January 4th

Kovkah Cohen *Kovkah bat Yaakov HaCohen*  
Pinchas Khalili *Pinchas ben Nissan*  
Emma Moses *Amuma bat Farha*

### 24 Tebet / Tuesday, January 5th

Moses Hai Abraham *Moshe Hai ben Avraham*  
Louise Jacob

Shather Shokri *Shather bat Jacob*  
Sulman Sheeri *Sulman ben Yosef*

### 26 Tebet / Thursday, January 7th

Ronnie Assia *Ronnie ben Naji*

### 27 Tebet / Friday, January 8th

Sassoon Elias  
Stanley Feinberg *Stanley ben Jesse*

### 28 Tebet / Shabbat, January 9th

Aziza Solomon *Aziza bat Amam*  
Maurice Zekaria *Moshe ben Seon*

## Refuah Shelemah

Abe Abraham • Moselle Amron  
Mordechai Cohen • Esther Duke  
Sassoon Ezra • Miriam bat Yetta  
Sylvia Cohen • Tilda Levy  
Maurice Ovadia • Florice Newberry  
Sally Amron

Shabbat Shalom U'Mevurah

## Kids Have Fun Learning with KJ Talmud Torah



Norma & Sam Dabby Jewish Education Center  
**Classes Meet This Sunday**  
**January 3rd at 10 am!**  
**KJ Talmud Torah**  
**Friends Creativity**  
**Jewish Learning**  
**For information contact**  
**Mrs. Hanna Elkouby, Director**  
**424-283-0893**

## A Perfect Gift **Flavors of Babylon**

2nd edition, Reserve a Copy at KJ



Linda Dangoor was born in Baghdad and settled in the UK in the 1960s. Although she left Iraq when only ten years old, the link to her roots through food has always been very strong. She started cooking at a young age with her mother and grandmother. Linda Dangoor has always been interested in cooking.

Her Middle Eastern background and travels enhanced the discovery of dishes and inspired the creation of new ones. As an accomplished and experienced cook, recognizing a need in the market, she resolved to put down her favorite recipes from her native Iraq in modern book form.



To order a copy call Kahal Joseph's office at 310.474.0559 or send a \$30 check to:

Attn: Flavours of Babylon Cookbook  
 Kahal Joseph Congregation  
 10505 Santa Monica Boulevard  
 Los Angeles, CA 90025



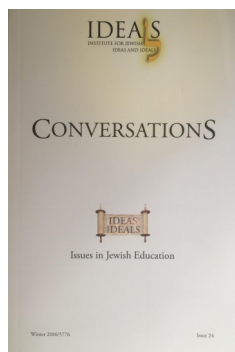
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# Conversations

## *The Journal of the Institute for Jewish Ideas & Ideals*

Kahal Joseph is excited to offer FREE copies of the newest edition of "Conversations," the journal of the Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals. The Institute's founder, Rabbi Marc D. Angel, visited us in October, so if you enjoyed meeting him and hearing his reflections, you'll be sure to find the journal worth a read. This edition focuses on the challenges of Jewish education, and features articles from Rabbis, academics, politicians, and laypeople who approach the question from many different angles and perspectives.

Rabbi Angel has presented 50 copies to Kahal Joseph, and we will give them away at 1 copy per household on a first-come, first-served basis (contact: Rabbi Melhado). Rabbi Angel offers heavily subsidized case discounts to synagogues and organizations, which means that we could subscribe to the journal as a community for a very modest donation. Each edition addresses topics that touch our lives as Orthodox Jews in modern society, often exploring viewpoints that are not discussed elsewhere in the community. It comes out three times a year - sponsor one volume for \$250 or all three for \$750.



*The Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals offers a vision of Orthodox Judaism that is intellectually sound, spiritually compelling, and emotionally satisfying. Founded by Rabbi Marc Angel of New York's Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, it serves the community through its website, public lectures and symposia, books and educational materials, workshops, and cooperation with sympathetic organizations and individuals.*

"Fostering Midot and Derekh Erets in Our Children"

Rabbi Dr. Aharon H. Fried, *Stern College*

"Reflections on Torah Education and Mis-Education"

Rabbi Dr. Marc D. Angel, *Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals*

"Kein baShamayim Hi"

Dr. Bryna Jocheved Levy, *Matan: Women's Institute for Torah Studies*

"Zealotry and its Consequences: The Case of Yishai Schlissel"

Dov Zakheim, *former Under Secretary of Defense*

"The Binding of Isaac: Extremely Religious without Religious Extremism"

Rabbi Hayyim Angel, *Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals*

"Born in Another Time"

Rabbi Alan Zelenetz, *Institute for Curricular Initiatives*

"The Millennial Generation: From the Chosen Nation to the Nation that Chooses"

Ben Greenberg, *UJA-Federation (NYC)*

"The Endangered Next Generation of Israeli-American Jews"

Rabbi Hyim Shafner, *Bais Abraham Congregation (St. Louis)*

"Locked outside the Garden"

Rabbi Shu Eliovson, *JamShalom, TheLockers.net*

"Jewish Education"

Binyamin Tanny, *author of Freiing Out*

"Did you Hear the One about the Sephardic Boy who Walks into this Orthodox Yeshiva?"

Neil J. Sheff, Esq., *Sephardic Education Center*

"Being Jewish on Campus"

Dr. Howard Wettstein, *University of California, Riverside*

"On Orthodox Conversion in the Twenty-First Century"

Rebekah Thornhill, *Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life (NYU Hillel)*

"Beyond the Shore: Torah through a Western Lens?"

Alex Behar, *neuropsychology student*

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