

28 Tebet 5776

9 January 2016

KOL MEVASSER



President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

With the greatest honor and pleasure I announce that a significant contribution has been made for the beautification and maintenance of the Kahal Joseph sanctuary, and our synagogue building. This contribution has been given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Menashe and Marcel Kamara, z'l, and will be dedicated by the naming of our synagogue sanctuary in their names.

Since their arrival in Los Angeles in 1980, the Kamaras and their extended families have always been devoted and involved members of Kahal Joseph. Throughout their time as members, the Kamaras took an active role in the synagogue, its many services and programs, which continues to resonate in so many ways.

Specifically, Menashe had the deepest affection and respect for Kahal Joseph, and took great pride in assisting in the upkeep and beautification of our synagogue building. Menashe and Marcel Kamara, z'l, passed away in 2014 and 1997, respectively.

The Kamara and Ironi families made this contribution in tribute to their parents' and grandparents' love for Kahal Joseph and the continuation of the Sephardic Iraqi tradition for future generations. The funds are earmarked for the upkeep, maintenance and aesthetic beauty of our sanctuary and synagogue building for years to come.

On behalf of the Kahal Joseph Board of Directors and our entire membership, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the donors for their meaningful gift to our community in everlasting memory of Menashe and Marcel Kamara z'l.

An official dedication date will be scheduled for later this year.

Shabbat Shalom,

Ronald Einy, President

Parashat Va'era

Torah: Ex. 6:2–9:35, 121 Pesukim
Hertz 232–244; Stone 318–339

Haftarah: Ezek. 28:25–29:21
Hertz 244–247; Stone 1149–1150

Tefillot: Mashib Haruah, Hakhrizat
Shebat

KJ Schedule

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

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, January 9th

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 5:46 pm

(Continued on page 2)

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in memory of

David Jacob, z"l

by
his family

Congratulations Natalie & Noam Shalom

on the birth of a daughter
Natalie is the daughter of our member
Mary Zekaria, who is now the proud
grandmother of a Sabra since the
baby was born in Erets Yisrael.

Mazal Tov

to all the grandparents
and to both families

Refuah Shelemah

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

KJ Events

January to March 2016

Tu Bishbat Celebration

Sunday, January 24th



A family-friendly Tu Bishbat
program, with fun for parents
and children! Details to
follow soon. Contact
Jessica@kahaljoseph.org

Rabbi's Installation

Sunday, March 6th

Formal investiture of Rabbi
Melhado as spiritual leader of
Kahal Joseph. This community
building event will be a chance to share
our beautiful congregation with the
wider LA Jewish world, so mark your
calendars for a great evening!



Purim Baking

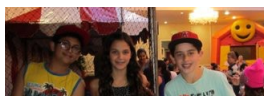
Sunday, March 13th

Join the fun & bake traditional
Iraqi sweets for KJ's Community Gift
Baskets. We are so happy to use our
beautiful new ovens for this mitzvah!

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 20th

KJ's annual festive celebration with car-
nival booths, fun games & rides, amaz-
ing costumes & wonderful food.



In Memoriam

We remember yearzeit anniversaries from
January 9 to 16, 2016. It is customary to light a
memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend
Shabbat services.

28 Tebet / Shabbat, January 9th

Aziza Solomon Aziza bat Amam
Maurice Zekaria Moshe ben Seon

1 Shebat / Monday, January 11th

Mozelle Solomon Mozly bat Haviva

2 Shebat / Tuesday, January 12th

Aziza bat Salha

Joseph Haghighi Yosef ben Ezra
Samuel Sheff Shlomo ben Binyamin
Albert Zekaria Abdullah ben Sion

4 Shebat / Thursday, January 14th

Khorshid Farzaneh Farahi Rahel bat Esther

6 Shebat / Shabbat, January 16th

Albert Gaub Avner Abraham ben Khatoon
Maurice Jacob Jonah Maurice ben Yaacov

KJ Schedule (continued)

Erev Rosh Hodesh Shebat

Sunday, January 10th

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

Rosh Hodesh Shebat

Monday, January 11th

Shaharit 6:15 am

Weekdays

Tuesday, January 12 to Friday, January 15

Shaharit 6:25 am

Erev Shabbat / Friday, January 15th

Shaharit 6:25 am
Minha 4:30 pm

Shabbat Candle Lighting 4:48 pm
Arbit / Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:00 pm

Message from the Rabbi

It is a common human trait to be concerned with our reputation and legacy. What impact do our lives have on the world around us? What meaning does the knowledge that we are here have for our acquaintances, or indeed for people whom we might not even know? When we are gone – long may it be from now – will people notice, and look back with inspiration on our example? Will we leave the world better than we found it, and if we did, does it matter if people acknowledge that it was we who did the work?

Much of the Tanakh is written with the idea in mind that these issues are important. Sefer Kohelet even declares that “a good name is better than fine oil, and a life lived to a meaningful end is richer than one just begun” (Eccl. 7:1). And we certainly memorialize our Prophets, kings, and other spiritual and temporal leaders by name, just as we preserve the names of the wicked as an object lesson for the benefit of future generations (Deut. 25:17-29).

The example of our patriarchs is very illustrative, and each of the seven generations until Va'era gets special honors. For their role in founding and spreading our religion, we mention Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob thrice daily in our prayers. Levy is acclaimed



for establishing the priestly Kohanim and Leviim, and his son Kehat reaps praises for helping to inaugurate the service of the Holy Tabernacle (Num. 3:29). While his son Amram has no official story in the Torah, the Talmud (Sotah 12a) records him as the founder of marriage laws among the Israelites; and the antepenultimate verse of Deuteronomy (34:10) declares unambiguously that “no other prophet among the Israelites rose to the level of Moses, whom God knew face to face.”

This is all well and good for these giants of early Jewish life, but what are we to make of those whose names the Torah leaves out? The 13th century French exegete, Hizkiya ben Manoah, brings several examples of such people, including the children of Hebron and even of Moses himself. His candid interpretation is simply that “*lo ira bahem ma’aseh*” – nothing significant happened involving them. While Uziel’s children garnered accolades for their watch at the Tabernacle (Num. 3:30), and Yits’har’s son Korah lived in disgrace and was swallowed up by the earth (Num. 6:32), Hebron’s and Moses’s children were neither famous nor infamous and hence they are not mentioned in this genealogy of Levi’s important descendants.

We might think of this omission as a slight to the many good people in the world whose worst fault is being unexceptional, but I believe that it is possible to read it more positively than that. Being noteworthy is difficult, and it saps the strength of those who must bear the burden of being

public figures. It takes a special kind of person to do it well – a driven person who makes sacrifices on behalf of his loved ones when he is successful – while those who fail at it bring many innocent people down with them as they fall to pieces. Sometimes, the most laudable thing to do is to simply be an anonymous, upstanding person who tries to follow the Torah of God and do rightly by their fellow human beings. Though it may not get us a name in the limelight, it isn’t a bad way to live, and perhaps that is the truest blessing of all. A life of simplicity, of decency and kindness that warms those whom we touch – this is the anonymous background without which the tales of the illustrious are meaningless.

If we can’t rise to heights that would get our names in bold face, then may we all merit to be the unassuming, good characters that form the backbone and foundation of our beautiful faith!

Shabbat Shalom

Norma & Sam Dabby Jewish Education Center

Classes Meet This Sunday

January 3rd at 10 am!

KJ Talmud Torah

**Friends Creativity
Jewish Learning**

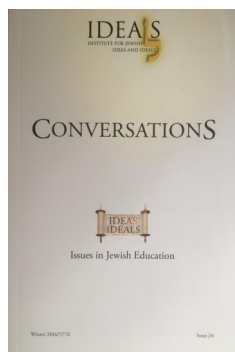
**For information contact
Mrs. Hanna Elkouby, Director
424-283-0893**

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*
