

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

In my still young life, I feel fortunate to have participated in five presidential elections. I only just turned 18 in the fall of 2000, and I have fond memories of voting absentee for the first time in the privacy of my dorm room at Yeshivat Hakibbutz Hadati at Ein Tzurim. I remember that the kit came with its own special ballot puncher, complete with urgent warnings about ensuring that the "chads" were completely removed.

Over the 16 years since then, I have tasted the thrill of my chosen candidate winning and the disappointment of finding myself on the losing side. I hope that the growth that these experiences demanded may lend some perspective as I pen these words in a country divided by a battering election cycle. With the final numbers so close – Clinton's hairline victory in the popular vote eclipsed by a wide Electoral College margin for Trump – how should we react to our friends and compatriots across the aisle? How should the winners treat the losers and vice versa? What does our Jewish tradition suggest about this?

Through Lot and Avraham, the next two *parashiyot* introduce us to two distinct models of responding to the "other." As a person, Lot's heart is mostly in the right place, but he allows his business enterprises to lead him to Sedom, a social quagmire that is actively hostile to his spiritual nourishment. In order for him to flourish there, he must shut himself off entirely from the surrounding world, shunning his neighbors even as he is only partially successful in protecting his family from their corrosive influence. He thrives on a healthy dose of mistrust, in which believing the worst about his peers is a basic necessity of survival.

By contrast, his uncle Avraham won't let his lifestyle dictate the quality of his relationships. He settles in Elone Mamre, a place where even the opponents of his newfangled monotheism are far removed from the fringelike extremes of Lot's adopted home. As he conducts his affairs, his positive example earns him much respect from the pagans around him, many of whom are inspired to join his household and assume the awesome burden of spreading Judaism. While Lot's story ends with him mourning the loss of his wife in drunken bouts of incest, Avraham becomes an esteemed public figure and a principled beacon of God's message. He thrives on contact with people who see the universe differently from him, and he hopes that their exposure to his divine message will enrich them even if he does not succeed in convincing them to change their values.

May we all have the courage to follow Avraham's lead! May those whose candidate won extend the olive branch to their opponents and welcome them to share in their vision for the country. May those whose candidate lost accept the results graciously and see their opponents as they are: fellow human souls who are also deeply invested in America's future. May both sides work to make our public sphere like the Biblical Elone Mamre, where it was possible to air significant differences without needing to paint the "other" as Sodomites. We are all in this together, and with Avraham as our model, we stand the best chance of leaving a legacy as long and respected as his.



Parashat Lekh-Lekha Veterans Day Weekend

Torah: Gen. 12:1–17:27, 126 Pesukim
Hertz 45–60; Stone 54–77
Haftara: Is. 40:27–41:16
Hertz 60–62; Stone 1133–1134
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Birkat Halevana

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 11th

Shaharit 6:25 am
Candle Lighting 4:33 pm
Minha 4:15 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit 4:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, November 12th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer 8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah 10:15 am
Musaf 11:45 am
Women's Tehillim right after kiddush

Minha 3:45 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet 4:30 pm
Arvit 5:20 pm
Havdala 5:36 pm

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Weekdays / Sunday, November 13th
Shaharit7:30 am
Talmud Torah10:00 am

Monday through Friday, November 14 to 18
Shaharit.....6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Fri & Sat, Nov 18 & 19
Candle lighting4:29 pm
Friday Minha4:15 pm
Shaharit8:30 am
Saturday Minha3:45 pm

Women's Tehillim Group

Join your fellow Kahal Joseph sisters right after Kiddush to recite the Book of Psalms and pray for our community. All women are welcome to participate.



Tsitsit Tying Class

Monday, 11/21 @ 7:00 pm
Dinner with RSVP

Want to know how to tie your own tsitsit? Ever wondered why fewer and fewer talitot are available at Kahal on Shabbat?

At Rabbi Melhado's tsitsit tying class, you can try your hand at this mitsva by helping to refurbish the torn and broken tsitsit on our house talitot. What a great opportunity to do a mitsva for your community and learn a useful Jewish skill at the same time!

Dairy dinner is available for \$15 to all who RSVP by 10 pm on Sunday, November 20th.
Register at <http://www.kahaljoseph.org/tsitsit.html>.

Se'uda Shelisheet

is sponsored
in loving memory of
Malka bat Menashe, z"l
Molok Aghalar, z"l
by
Desiree Aghalar & Tooraj Aghalar

Refu'a Shelema

Moselle Amron • Sally Amron
Yehezkel Avrahamy • Haskell Avrahami
Sylvia Cohen • Mordechai Cohen
Esther Duke • Sassoon Ezra • Lev Hakak
Yoel Iny • Tilda Levy • Florice Newberry
Maurice Ovadia • Grace Tizabi
Katie bat Farha • Miriam bat Yetta
Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria
Devora bat Patricia • Simcha bat Rooha

In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from November 12 to 19, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

11 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 12th
Jacob Silas Mussry *Yaacov ben Saleh*
Naji Perry

12 Heshvan / Sunday, November 13th
David Dallal
Flora Rahamim Pinhas
Joseph Jacob *Yoseph ben Yaacov Azoory*
Lulu Ezra Baroukh
Yair ben Menashe

13 Heshvan / Monday, November 14th
Isaac Ezer *Itzhak ben Shaul*
Akhtar Sarraf *Khanom Agha bat Kokab*
Yehuda Refael ben Pinhas

14 Heshvan / Tuesday, November 15th
Haskel Kelly *Yehekel ben Saleh Moshe Kadoorie*
Albert Simon *Albert Yehekel Moshe*
Helen Zakoo *Habiba bat Mazli*

15 Heshvan / Wednesday, November 16th
Eliyahu Benzaquen *Eliyahu ben Yaacov*

16 Heshvan / Thursday, November 17th
Reuben Jacob *Reuben Hayim ben Yaacov*

17 Heshvan / Friday, November 18th
Molok Aghalar *Malka bat Menashe*
Eric Kelly *Eliyahu ben Saleh Moshe Kadoorie*
Touba Rangcar *Tova Rangcar*
Haim Saleh *Haim ben Aziza*
Mida Simon *Masooda bat Ghala*

18 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 19th
Yehaiah ben Yaacov Shalom
Hazan Gabriel Solomon *Gavriel ben Shlomo*

Shabbat Shalom U'Mevorakh

Tribute to Abe Abraham

Friends and well-wishers can send memories and words of comfort to abetribute@gmail.com

As president of Kahal Joseph, I had the good fortune of knowing Abe since my childhood. He was a dear friend of my family and a magnanimous member of the Los Angeles Sephardic community.

As a lifetime member of the Kahal Board of Directors, Abe spent 15 years as the head of our religious committee where he oversaw all religious aspects of our synagogue. In his best days, he had one of the most beautiful cantorial voices to ever grace our prayers. I recall how generous he was with his time teaching our young people our melodies, customs and traditions; he was always so pleased when they were able to contribute to our services all that he taught them.

Abe was very proud of being born in Shanghai, China and he gave me several articles about the Shanghai Jewry. In 1990, Kahal Joseph honored Abe at our "Legacy of Kindness" gala banquet for his years of loyal work and support he gave so selflessly to our synagogue.

We admired Abe for his congeniality, his smart way of dressing, and most of all his unbridled love for Kahal Joseph and the entire Sephardic community. He was modern in his thinking, and he understood contemporary society, yet it was so important to him to make sure our traditions would be preserved for each new generation.

As our new year begins, I will always remember the magnificent sound of his Shofar blowing at countless High Holy Day services. Abe will live on in our minds and our hearts with the many cherished memories that he leaves behind.

Ronald Einy
President, Kahal Joseph Congregation



Yom Kippur Appeal

There is still time to send in your donations!

So far there has been a nice response to the Yom Kippur Appeal. A big Kahal Joseph thank you goes to each person who honored their generous pledges!

If you haven't made payment arrangements or want to join onto the appeal from scratch, there is still time to send in donations. They can be addressed to Kahal with "Yom Kippur Appeal" in the memo line, or you can fulfill your pledge on our secure online form at <http://www.kahaljoseph.org/donate>.



The funds raised will be evenly divided between Kahal Joseph and Yad Eliezer, a charity in Israel that provides food and social services to the poor. Even a small amount can relieve stress and bring joy to families who are struggling to meet their basic needs.

The success of our Yom Kippur appeal reminds us how we may accomplish amazing things when we join together. Collaborating towards a common goal enables each of us to contribute in our own way. The Yom Kippur appeal will not only help Kahal Joseph thrive, but also will bring a lot of happiness to poor people in Erets Yisrael.

13TH LOS ANGELES SEPHARDIC FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

OPENING NIGHT

SUNDAY November 13

West Coast Premiere

**The Midnight Orchestra
(L'orchestre de Minuit)**

Morocco 2015 (102 min) Arabic, French, Hebrew with English Subtitles

In 1974, the celebrated musician Marcel Botbol suddenly left his native land of Morocco under mysterious circumstances. His disappearance led to the breakup of his beloved band, The Midnight Orchestra. Thirty years later, Marcel's son Michael is summoned to Casablanca by his father to arrange a reunion of sorts. The journey uncovers the special power that music has in the Sephardic world to bridge Jews and Moslems. The film is replete with hilarious scenes and poignant moments set against an unforgettable message of tolerance and coexistence that once was.

THURSDAY November 17 • 7:30 PM *West Coast Premiere*

**The Venice Ghetto: 500 Years of Life
(Il Ghetto di Venezia, 500 Anni di Vita)**

Italy, 2015 (54 min) Italian with English Subtitles
2016 is the 500th anniversary of world's first ghetto in Venice. Lorenzo, a Jewish teenager born and raised in New York, leads us on a discovery of his Venetian roots with docu-fiction techniques that bring alive the paradoxical wonders of Europe's oldest Jewish ghetto and its integration into Italian society, in this edifying and heartwarming film.

U.S. Premiere

Back to Casablanca (Son of the Land)

Israel, 2012 (50 min) Hebrew, French, Arabic with English Subtitles (Documentary)

Israeli actor and director Ze'ev Revach was born in Morocco in 1940. He sets out on a journey back to Casablanca in search of a Moroccan actor to star alongside him in his next film, which he dreams that he'll be able to distribute around the Arab world. He connects with his mother tongue, discovers the commonalities between the two cultures, but his mission is not a simple one.

MONDAY November 14 • 7:30 PM *Los Angeles Premiere*

Dear God

Israel, 2014 (13 min)

This lovely wordless short depicts romantic Jerusalem, as seen through the eyes of Aaron, a simple man who guards a note between the holy stones of the Western Wall and Aaron decides to fulfill her deepest wish, while learning that love is all about communication.

A Song of Loves - R. David Buzaglo

Israel, 2015 (63 min) Hebrew with English subtitles (Documentary)

Q & A to follow

Rabbi David Buzaglo was the greatest Hebrew liturgical poet of the twentieth century. Born in Morocco in 1903, his literary output had a major impact on a community of hundreds of thousands of people. Buzaglo's poetry initiated an abrupt shift in Sephardic liturgical writing, but it also served as a vital link between the modern era and a tradition that dates back to Spanish Jewry's Golden Age.

TUESDAY November 15 • 7:30 PM *North American Premiere*

Child Mother

Israel, 2016 (90 min) Hebrew, Moroccan and

Yemeni Arabic with English subtitles (Documentary)

"Child Mother" introduces us to the personal histories of now elderly women born in Morocco and Yemen who were forced to become child brides. The memories of their tragic childhood never healed, they were simply suppressed for the sake of their children, their livelihoods, and their husbands. These brave women finally share their painful stories with their children.

WEDNESDAY November 16 • 7:30 PM *West Coast Premiere*

Encirclements ("Hakafot")

Israel, 2015 (98 min) Hebrew with English Subtitles

Thirteen-year old Aharon Ninio, the only child of parents who are unable to conceive again, is determined to win the honor of carrying the main Torah scroll on Simhat Torah. The belief that he who carries the Torah may ask God for anything on behalf of others can elevate Aharon's status in the neighborhood and win his distant father's approval and love. But after Aharon wins the honor, his achievement brings ancient tensions to the surface. Encirclements ("Hakafot") uses cultural and religious rituals, with humor and drama, to depict the kind of private ceremonial traditions that exist in every family - which "encircle" us but can be ultimately liberating.

CLOSING NIGHT

SUNDAY November 20 • 2:30 PM *West Coast Premiere*

Cloudy Sunday

Greece, 2016 (115 min) Greek and Ladino with

English Subtitles

Set in 1942 Salonika during the Nazi German occupation, the film, based on true events, tells of the forbidden love between two members of the resistance- Estrea, a young Sephardic girl, and Giorgos, the brother-in-law of the famed composer Vassilis Tsitsanis. Much of the story takes place in and around the night club owned by the then 28-year-old Tsitsanis with beautiful bouzouki music throughout. The film's English title references Tsitsanis' beloved classic "Synnefisameni Kyriaki", one of the songs featured in the movie.

SUNDAY November 20 • 5:30 PM *Los Angeles Premiere*

On the Banks of the Tigris

Australia, 2015 (79 min) English and Arabic with

English Subtitles

The film celebrates Iraqi music and the cultural ties that link Iraqis of all faiths. It tells the story of Majid Shokor, an Iraqi-Australian from a Muslim background who seeks the source of songs he loves and discovers that many he grew up with were written by Iraqi Jews, but concealed by the regime. To uncover this hidden history, Majid embarks on a bold journey from Australia to Israel, Europe and Iraq to meet Iraqi musicians, hear their music and stories, and unite them in a concert for peace and reconciliation.