

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

Amid a shower of sparks and the roar of exploding gunpowder, twin cords of flame began rising up the night sky, rung at regular intervals. It was a breathless summer evening last June, and Chinese pyrotechnical artist Cai Guo Qiang was fulfilling a decades-long dream as he treated Quanzhou to his memorable "Sky Ladder" display. An homage to the grandmother who believed in his career choice in spite of the risks, the massive 18-foot wide aluminum ladder carved a blazing arc over 1600 feet into the heavens.

The YouTube video is as remarkable for its imagery as for its sound, which could be heard crackling all around Meizhou Bay as the display topped a quarter mile in height. The huge burning ladder leaves a powerful impression, strong enough that congregants were showing it to me in honor of Parashat Vayetse over 18 months after it first graced the Eastern firmament.

How, then, did a similar sight affect our forefather Jacob as he dreamt of it at Bet El? Witnessing a physical connection between the secular and spiritual worlds is no everyday occurrence, and it must have been a cathartic moment at a vulnerable point in Jacob's life. Yet behind this "local" instance of covenant for one individual, Our Sages have detected an even greater world of inspiration that resonates for the entire Jewish people.

Shimon Bar Kapara, of Pitum Haketoret fame, is among the first to unpack Jacob's vision (Midrash Rabba, Vayetse Ch. 68). Declaring that "no dream is without an interpretation," he compares the precise wording of Gen. 28:12-15 to similar language in other verses of the Torah, and con-

cludes that the ladder foretells the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. "*Behold, a ladder*" symbolizes the Stairway of Ascent, while "*set upon the earth*" reflects the earthen quality of the Altar (Ex. 20:21). "*The top reached the heavens*" is like the sacrifices, whose odor reached the heavens, and "*the angels of God ascending and descending*" parallel the movements of the Kohanim and Levi'im, whose holy watches inspire "*the Lord [to] stand beside him*" as in Amos 9:1.



Using a similar methodology, the anonymous "Rabbanan" contend that the ladder represents the revelation at Sinai. In this rendering, "*set upon the earth*" reflects the Israelites standing at the foot of the Mount, whose fiery top "*reached the heavens*" just like the ladder (Deut. 4:2). "*Ascending and descending*" is thus the personal journey of Moses (Ex. 19:3, 14), whose highest climb put him almost directly "beside" the Divine Presence (Ex. 19:20).

While these competing answers could hardly be more different, they share a common thread of consciousness of future strength. When Jacob is feeling the most exposed, it is not just that God responds to his personal situation, but He does so in a way that foretells a glorious future that the Jews will still be talking about thousands of years later. Reading this, Jews who have tasted some of the painful reverses of post-Temple exile can also draw on this imagery for comfort and consolation. Just as our forefather's personal privation was answered with national triumph, so too may our own local tribulations foretell a better world for our entire people!

Parashat Vayetse

Torah: Gen. 28:10–32:3, 148 Pesukim
Hertz 106–117; Stone 144–169
Haftara: Hos. 11:7–12:12
Hertz 135–137; Stone 1139
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Birkat Halevana

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, December 9th

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

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, December 10th

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 5:15 pm
Havdala 5:29 pm

(Continued on page 2)

Condolences

We send our deepest condolences to the family and friends of

Saul Sassoon, z"l

He is the youngest brother of our founder and past president, Joseph Sassoon. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family, especially his wife Esther, his daughter Marsha (Ira) Kelson and grandson Bradley Kelson; his daughter-in-law Luz Sassoon and granddaughter Nikki Sassoon. Saul was predeceased by his son Alex Sassoon, z"l. May Hashem comfort the family together with all the mourners of Tzion.

Condolences

We send our deepest condolences to the family and friends of

Emma Shapiro, z"l.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her entire family. She is survived by her daughter Phyllis Sunkees (m. Jerry Stubbee); her granddaughter Davina (m. Brett Wiley) and great-granddaughters Hanna and Emma Wiley; her grandson Jonathan Gerow (m. Tina) and great-grandson Darien Gerow. Emma was predeceased by her husband, Gershon (Gerry) Shapiro, z"l. May Hashem comfort the family together with all the mourners of Tzion.

Join the A-Team!

Like doing a mitsva? Join the **Azakara Team** and let us know when you could help make minyan for a graveside kaddish. It is very comforting for mourners to read the kaddish at the cemetery, but **it takes a quorum of 10 men to make that happen**. Your simple presence can make all the difference. **Sign-up with our convenient online form at www.kahaljoseph.org/a-team**

(Continued from page 1)

Weekdays / Sunday, December 11th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Talmud Torah 9:45 am to 12:30 pm

Monday to Friday, December 12th to 16th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Fri & Sat, Dec 16 & 17

Candle lighting **4:27 pm**
Friday Minha **4:15 pm**
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 3:45 pm
Havdala 5:31 pm

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 • Simcha bat Rooha

In Memoriam

We remember yearzeit anniversaries from December 10 to 17, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

10 Kislev / Shabbat, December 10th

Ruhama bat Chana

11 Kislev / Sunday, December 11th

Ludwig Altman

Rachel bat Simha

Sassoon Cohen Sassoon Shimon Duek Hacohen

12 Kislev / Monday, December 12th

Yedidyah Yehudah *Yedidyah ben Yehudah*

13 Kislev / Tuesday, December 13th

Eliza Maslawi *Eliza bat Tifaha*

14 Kislev / Wednesday, December 14th

Helen Levi *Habiba Hava bat Farha*

15 Kislev / Thursday, December 15th

Nora Isaac Ives *Naima bat Simcha*

Sassoon Menashe Sassoon *Sasson ben Menashe*

17 Kislev / Shabbat, December 17th

Naim Lavy *Naim ben Moshe*

Moshe Mehry *Moshe ben Moosa*



Tsitsit Tying Class

Mon 12/12 @ 7:00 pm Dinner with RSVP

Second round for those who missed the first!

Want to know how to tie your own tsitsit? Ever wondered why fewer and fewer talletot 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 talletot. 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, December 11th.

Register at <http://www.kahaljoseph.org/tsitsit.html>

Joe Samuels Speaks at JIMENA Presentation to LA City Council about Jews from Arab Lands

Joseph Samuels, member of Kahal Joseph, was a featured speaker at JIMENA's presentation to the Los Angeles City Council this past Wednesday, December 7th. Joe recounted his experience growing up in Iraq, the oppression and violence that grew against Jews there, and his escape as a refugee who rebuilt his life first in Israel, then Canada, and finally in the US which he proudly calls home. KJ's Penina Meghnagi-Solomon was also honored at the event for her experiences as a Jewish refugee from Libya. *Photos: Joseph Samuels and Farah Shamolian of JIMENA (left). Rabbi Melhado, Penina M. Solomon, & Councilmember Paul Koretz.*



Nessah Synagogue and Get Jewish Divorce Justice

Proudly Present



Get Real: Revisiting Classical Approaches to Resolving Agunah Cases

Following a Short Film,

Rabbi Lieberman will interview Rabbi Krauss about his courageous formation of a new beit din dedicated to resolving difficult cases in LA, Israel and the diaspora.

Thursday, December 15, 2016, 7:00 PM

Speakers include Rabbi Simcha Krauss, founding Av Beit Din of the International Beit Din established to resolve difficult cases, Rabbi Abraham Lieberman, head of YULA Girls High School, and Esther Macner, Esq., founding Director of Get Jewish Divorce Justice
142 S. Rexford Drive, BH 90212 • Reservations are required for security reasons • RSVP at www.nessah.org.



The Kahal Joseph HANUKKAH PARTY



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18
11:00 AM TO 12:30 PM

Join us for...
FUN - FOOD - GAMES
ACTIVITIES - CRAFTS
MUSIC

RSVP AT [JESSICA@KAHALJOSEPH.ORG](mailto:jessica@kahaljoseph.org)
OR CALL THE OFFICE AT 310.474.0559

FAMILY HANUKKAH DINNER WITH THE RABBI



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 AT 5:30 PM
KAHAL JOSEPH UPSTAIRS PLAYROOM

JOIN THE RABBI AND HIS FAMILY FOR AN
INTIMATE DINNER TO CELEBRATE THE
SECOND NIGHT OF HANNUKAH!

*HANUKKAH CANDLELIGHTING * LIGHT DAIRY DINNER*
SPECIAL BELGIAN WAFFLE DESSERT!

ADULTS: \$10 | CHILDREN 5-12: \$5
UNDER 5: FREE

RSVP BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 AT
WWW.KAHALJOSEPH.ORG/HANUKKAH
OR CALL THE OFFICE AT 310.474.0559