

# KOL MEVASSER

## Rabbi's Message

Many of us know that sinking feeling when we reach for our pockets or purses and discover that a phone is missing. Our world has become dominated by cell phones, which are now so much more than just a convenient way to make a call. They store our personal information and link us to the most essential functions of our lives. Simply misplacing one would be acutely inconvenient, while we could only tremble at what might be done if fell into the wrong hands.

This past Sunday I tasted that dread when I returned from an Azkara to the Sheshbesh tournament and felt the absence of the familiar weight at my side. Though the competition had a winner, I returned home in defeat, explaining to my wife that multiple searches of the car in which I traveled and the objects that I had with me turned up nothing.

How my dejection turned to amazement when she reminded me that the touch of a few buttons could yield a GPS stamp on my phone's location, accurate to within a few hundred feet. Beep, beep, beep, and there it was: "Find my iPhone" pegged it just a few blocks from the Laemmle Theater where the Sephardic Film Festival was in its last showing. Of course! My ride from the Azkara said he would visit there next, so it must be buried in his passenger seat!

I instantly remembered this story when reading over Parashat Toledot a few days later. While the period of our forefathers was well before the cellular age, the theme of lost direction



permeates throughout. Here it is a moral compass that is needed, rather than a physical one, and it is our "virtuous data" that is more in danger than our virtual data. Given the dishonesty and treachery that drive much of the narrative, I was rather taken by the mental image of a "Find my Principles" app.

There is so much pathos in Yaakov's family life. After suffering through 20 years of infertility, Ribka is finally left with twin boys, only to watch helplessly as a chasm tears them apart and ruptures the loyalties of the whole group. How sad it is to read that Yaakov would demand Esav's birthright as the price of his life! How much worse is it when their mother carries off a ruse against her own husband to invert their children's blessings! How the heart bleeds at the end of the Parasha, with Esav increasing his intermarriages as Yaakov flees for his life!

That our Hahamim turned these wrongs on their heads in the Midrash is only further evidence of Yaakov's rough record in the plain meaning of the verses. As we look forward to the atonement that he undergoes in the long exile that awaits, I find myself wondering what a "Find my Principles" app might be like.

What is the specific mechanism by which we could be recalled to the correct moral location? Is it a friend whom we trust to give us the voice of *musar*? Is it an experience that holds up the mirror of our moral self to face its imperfections? Is it witnessing a better example than ourselves and striving to rise to a high bar? In a world that is as filled with beauty as it is with unspeakable tragedy, now is the time to find an answer that inspires us.

## Parashat Toledot

### Quincentenary of the Toledot Yits'hak

Torah: Genesis 25:19–28:9, 106 Pesukim

Hertz 93–101; Stone 124–143

Haftara (Mahar Hodesh): I Sam. 20:18–42

Hertz 948–950; Stone 1207–1208

Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Hakhrizat Kislev (Sun), no Tsidkatekha at Minha

## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 17th

Minha ..... 4:15 pm  
Candle lighting ..... 4:30 pm

### Yom Shabbat

Saturday, November 18th

Shaharit..... 8:30 am  
Keri'at HaTorah ..... 10:15 am  
Musaf ..... 11:40 am  
Women's Tehillim ..... *right after kiddush*  
Minha ..... 3:45 pm  
Se'uda Shelisheet ..... 4:30 pm  
Arvit ..... 5:20 pm  
Havdala ..... 5:33 pm

### Rosh Hodesh Kislev / Sun, November 19th

Shaharit..... 7:30 am  
Talmud Torah ..... 9:45 am

*Mon-Wed & Fri, November 20-22, 24*

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

### Thanksgiving / Thursday, November 23rd

Shaharit..... 7:00 am

*(Continued on page 2)*



## A Fun Night of Learning

Monday's class on "The Top Ten Challenges Facing Traditional Judaism" was an enjoyable evening. Rabbi Lopatin led a probing discussion of the biggest issues on our communal plate, all in an approachable style where participation was valued.

### Captions for Facing Page

#### 14th Annual Sephardic Film Festival

*Several congregants attended the screening of Remember Baghdad, a poignant story of the Iraqi Jewish community. Much of Kahal's leadership also attended the opening gala at Paramount Pictures.*

#### Sheshbesh Tournament

##### A Partnership of JIMENA & Kahal Joseph

*Thank you to all who participated and congratulations to the winners! Special thank you to our sponsors Leon and Ike Zekaria, and the prize donors Covenant Wines, Ron Einy, Dr. Eva Dloomy, Yvette Dabby and Rabbi Raif Melhado.*

*(Continued from page 1)*

#### Next Shabbat/ Fri-Sat, November 24-25

Candle lighting.....	4:27 pm
Friday Minha .....	4:15 pm
<b>Shaharit .....</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>
Saturday Minha .....	3:45 pm
Havdala .....	5:30 pm

## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored  
in loving memory of

Rafael ben Mordecai, z"l

by Louise Nathan and Family

## Se'uda Shelisheet

is sponsored in loving memory of  
Mary Mussry, z"l

By The Mussry Family

## Kids Shabbat Program at KJ

A group of enthusiastic children gathered together last Shabbat for the first of our Shabbat children's programs!

The group split into two, with the younger kids staying with Rebbetzin Jessica Melhado to do some Hebrew and Jewish songs and games, while the older children went with Rabbi Melhado for a short prayer service. Next, the younger children read a story about our matriarch Rivka, who is introduced in Parashat Haye Sarah. The older children practiced a play about the parasha, and then it was time for everyone to go downstairs to sing Yimlokh with the congregation.

Afterward, the children created wells from mint ice cream (water), graham crackers and chocolate chips (earth) and green sprinkles (plants). These wells represented the well next to which Abraham's servant met Rivka and realized that she was the one for Yitzchak. While the younger children were eating their creations, the older children performed the parsha play for them.

The kids had a great time and the adults agreed it was a great start to a new program! Everyone is welcome! Our next date will be December 9th!

## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from November 18 to 25, 2017. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services in honor of loved ones.

### 29 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 18th

Shaul Haim Nuriel *Shaul ben Haim*  
Mary Saleh

### 1 Kislev / Sunday, November 19th

William Ekaireb *Shaya ben Ezra Sion*  
Abraham Isaac *Avraham ben Eliyahu*  
Joe Hai Joseph *Yoseph Hai ben Itzhak*

### 2 Kislev / Monday, November 20th

Doron Ironi *Doron ben Yosef*  
Victoria Kadosh *Victoria bat Reuben*  
Ralph Nathan *Raphael ben Mordechai*  
Aziza bat Farha

Ezekiel Ezra Reuben *Yehezkel ben Reuven*  
Dloomy

### 3 Kislev / Tuesday, November 21st

Rebecca Benbeniste *Rivka bat Dudu*  
Rachel Jacob *Rahel bat Salha Mattana*

### 5 Kislev / Thursday, November 23rd

Elias Ezekiel Isaac *Eliyahu ben Yehezkel Itzhak*  
Silas Moshe Kadoorie *Silas ben Moshe*  
Nassim Reuben Suleiman

### 6 Kislev / Friday, November 24th

Maggie Dabby *Marjorie bat Sam*

### 7 Kislev / Shabbat, November 25th

Eliyahu Ezer *Eliyahu ben Yoseph*

## Refua Shelema

Moselle Amron • Sally Amron • Haskell Avraham  
Sylvia Cohen • Mordechai Cohen • Esther Duke  
Sassoon Ezra • Tilda Levy • Florice Newberry  
Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria • Arlette bat Rashel  
Chaya Chana bat Batya • Yvonne Moalim • Katie bat  
Farha • Malka bat Rahel • Mehry bat Miriam  
Hakimpour • Miriam bat Yetta • Miryam bat Malka  
Moshe Ezra ben Mazal Tov • Moshe Hooman ben  
Sara • Simcha bat Rooha • Moshe Haim ben Sara







# Rededication of Nathan Family Torah

With profound joy we welcome the Nathan Family Sefer Torah back to Kahal Joseph after a complete restoration by our sofer (ritual scribe).

This Torah was dedicated by Ralph Nathan in memory of his departed parents, Mordechai Raphael “Max” Nathan (April 25, 1897 – December 29, 1968) and Miriam “Mary” bat Bolisa (January 15, 1903 – August 7, 1973).

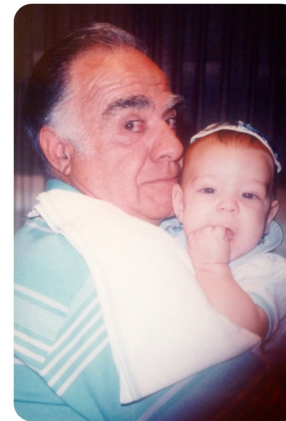
Ralph himself passed away on November 16, 2012, and the Sefer is being rededicated to commemorate his fifth *yahrzeit*.

Max and Mary were from the old Sephardic yishuv in Ottoman Palestine. They arrived in the US as a young immigrant family in New York City, and Ralph was born there in 1924. Five years after his birth, the family moved to Los Angeles and put down deep roots. Their son Morris was born here, and many of their extended family members are proud Angelinos.

Ralph distinguished himself in the Navy in the Pacific Theater of World War II. After this civic service, he returned home and worked in the retail business. He owned several retail stores, including Statue Makers of Hollywood, which created many famous statues both in Los Angeles and Las Vegas. In the late 1970s, he used some of the proceeds from his businesses to commission the Sefer Torah that we are now rededicating.

It is always a special thrill to welcome a Torah back to Kahal, ready to be used once more. We are excited to have many members of the Nathan family with us to celebrate, including Ralph’s beloved wife of 60 years, Louise Nathan.

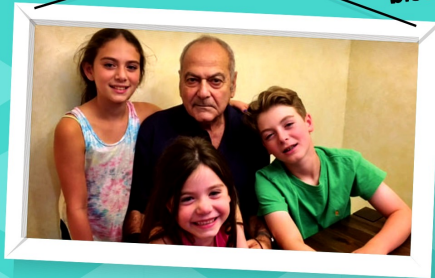
In honor of the Sefer, we will sing *Simhu Na* (found on page 5), and Rabbi Melhado will recite the special hymn, *Tenu Shebaha*. Mazal tov on this happy occasion!





Help our grandfather live  
to see us grow up!

He desperately needs a  
kidney donor  
blood type A or O



For more information on  
kidney donation contact  
**Renewal**  
☎ 718.431.9831 Ext. 209  
✉ R23263@renewal.org

# HANUKKAH SAVE THE DATES

## The Kahal Joseph HANUKKAH PARTY

SUNDAY, DEC. 17 - 11AM TO 12:30PM

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS HANUKKAH DINNER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17  
6PM AT THE RABBI'S HOUSE

## Simhu Na: A Song to Celebrate the Torah

### שמחו נא שמחו נא. בשמחת התורה:

שמחו אהובים.	שמחו ברוכים.	שמחו גאולים.	בשמחת התורה: שמחו נא...
שמחו דגולים.	שמחו גדורים.	שמחו נתיקים.	בשמחת התורה: שמחו נא...
שמחו זכאים.	שמחו חסידים.	שמחו שהורים.	בשמחת התורה: שמחו נא...
שמחו ישראלים.	שמחו כהנים.	שמחו לויים.	בשמחת התורה: שמחו נא...
שמחו מלכים.	שמחו נשיאים.	שמחו סופרים.	בשמחת התורה: שמחו נא...
שמחו עניים.	שמחו פדויים.	שמחו צדיקים.	בשמחת התורה: שמחו נא...
שמחו קדושים.	שמחו רחמנים.	שמחו שלמים.	בשמחת התורה: שמחו נא...
שמחו תמימים.	שמחו תלמידים.	שמחו תמוכים.	בשמחת התורה: שמחו נא...



## Toledot Yits'hak 500th Anniversary of Publication

Kahal Joseph honors the legacy of Rabbi Isaac Caro five centuries after his commentary on the Torah was published at Constantinople.

Rabbi Caro composed this monumental work after he was expelled from Portugal and lost all but one of his children. Overcoming these painful setbacks, he managed to produce one of the great Torah commentaries of his generation. He is among the first to propose that "the study of scripture calls for a process of active intellectual inquiry, as opposed to the more passive reception of mere information." With this perspective inspiring the modern heart, it is no wonder that it is still being studied today!



# ISRAEL ON MY MIND

SHABBAT VAYISHLAH  
DECEMBER 1 & 2, 2017

**Friday, December 1**

**"Israel's Economy Booming? Maybe Not..."**  
The Challenges Facing Israel's Economic Future

6:30 PM - Delicious Shabbat Dinner

7:00 PM - Presentation by Dr. Dan Ben-David w/Q&A

8:30 PM - Dessert & mingling

RSVP: \$18 per person at [www.kahaljoseph.org/events](http://www.kahaljoseph.org/events)  
or call 310-474-0559 by Wednesday, November 29

**Saturday, December 2**

Special Sermon by Rabbi Raif Melhado

**"Reaching In and Reaching Out:  
How Two Famous Sephardim Helped Build Israel"**

3:45PM - Minha & Festive Seuda Shelisheet



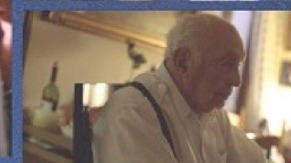
PROFESSOR DAN BEN-DAVID is the President and Founder of the Shores Institute for Socioeconomic Research, an independent, non-partisan policy research center working to improve Israel's economy and conditions of civil society. He is also a senior faculty member of the Department of Public Policy at Tel-Aviv University and the former Executive Director of the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies.

Professor Ben-David earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago and specializes in macroeconomics, economic growth, and international trade. A dynamic educator, he has received teaching awards from Tel-Aviv University, and ranked among the most cited academic economists from 1990-2000.

CUFI PRESENTS

# the MIZRAHI project

Film SCREENING



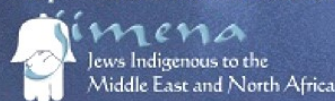
**Panel Discussion Featuring:**  
Mizrahi Community Members  
• Mizrahi Dessert Reception •

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 | 7pm**

**SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER**

2701 N. SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90049

*This event is presented in collaboration with JIMENA:*



As part of our continual effort to stand in solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people, Christians United for Israel (CUFI)'s Diversity Outreach presents a new initiative called, The Mizrahi Project — telling the story of the more than 850,000 Jewish refugees expelled from North Africa and the Middle East. This Jewish community is often referred to as the "forgotten refugees" as their story is unknown to most people.