

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message *Israel Edition – Yaakob and the Sephardim*

Returning to Kena'an must have been emotional for Yaakob. He was born there, and lived a full life there before his exile to Padan Aram. Along with a vivid body of memories, he left behind his estranged brother who might still be nursing a grudge against him. There was probably a keen thrill to the idea of reuniting in spite of the risks that his twin could be plotting his demise.

As a flood of recollections bubbled up in his mind, he could appreciate how much he had developed during his absence. He left his birthplace with neither family nor assets, and was now returning as a wealthy dignitary with four wives and thirteen children. Assuming he could make peace with Esav, he would become an instant person of note in Canaanite society.

Yet more vital than any private gain was the spiritual poetry of resettling the land that God had promised his ancestors. God said that He would be with Yaakob if he were to take this path, and now that he has embarked on it, he is pulsing with excitement. After wrestling with an angel on the cusp of making this dream a reality, he crosses the Jordan with a new covenantal title: Yisrael, "he who has striven with God and man and prevailed." Little did he know that the entire country would one day bear this evocative name!

As I imagine Yaakob's psychological state during this moment, I cannot help but think that his



story is a microcosm of the Sephardic experience in Israel's Old Yishuv. Jews left Israel for Sepharad during a time when the Iberian Peninsula was considered far off the beaten track (cf. Mishna Bava Batra 3:2). Like Yaakob, they sojourned there during a formative period, developing into something much bigger and better than they had ever been in their homeland. Then slowly, they were threatened by a hostile family enemy, with the Catholic Reconquista standing in for the role of Laban. With their bridges burnt, they went to take up their rightful place in the territory to which they had directed their hearts and their daily prayers.

Such a life is personified in another Yaakob, Rabbi Yaakob Berab (1474-1546). Born into a Castilian family that had flourished in Sepharad, his expulsion launched a long homeward journey across North Africa and back to Ottoman Safed. Maturing as a Jewish public figure along the way, he hatched a bold plan to reintroduce rabbinic ordination to world Jewry. Though his dream was not fully realized, one of his ordainees, Rabbi Joseph Caro, went on to author the Shulhan Arukh, the most influential force in standardizing Jewish law until this very day.

Like the Biblical Yaakob, Rabbi Berab came to Israel as a noted refugee who was trying to restore the spiritual institutions of Judaism. His sojourn in a foreign country may have paled in comparison to his later achievements in the Holy Land, but it furnished him with the tools he needed to survive and thrive there. Writing this in the Diaspora, I hope that we too may follow the lead of these two Yaakobs. Their example is a perpetual challenge to use our successes here for the benefit of our people and our homeland.

Parashat Vayishlah

"Israel on my Mind" Shabbaton

Torah: Gen. 32:4–36:43, 153 Pesukim

Hertz 122–134; Stone 170–197

Haftara: Obad. 1:1–21

Hertz 137–140; Stone 1141–1142

Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, December 1st

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Minha | 4:15 pm |
| Candle lighting | 4:25 pm |
| Dinner (with RSVP) | 6:30 pm |

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, December 2nd

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Shaharit..... | 8:30 am |
| Keri'at HaTorah | 10:15 am |
| Musaf | 11:40 am |
| Women's Tehillim | <i>right after kiddush</i> |
| Minha | 3:45 pm |
| Se'uda Shelisheet | 4:30 pm |
| Arvit | 5:15 pm |
| Havdala | 5:29 pm |

Sunday, December 3rd

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

Monday to Friday, December 4-8

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Shaharit..... | 6:25 am |
|---------------|---------|

Next Shabbat/ Friday-Saturday, Dec 8-9

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Candle lighting | 4:25 pm |
| Friday Minha | 4:15 pm |
| Shaharit | 8:30 am |
| Saturday Minha | 3:15 pm |
| Havdala | 5:29 pm |

Mazal Tov

Jessica and Jay Ginsberg
on the birth of a baby girl

Besiman Tov to

Grandparents

Nina and Ira Bass
Bernie Ginsberg
Fran Jacobs Ginsberg

Great-grandparents

Senior Hazan Sassoon Ezra
Rita Bass

and the whole extended family

Mazal Tov

Rinah Batyah and Dr. Robert
(Chen Reuven) Cornateanu
on the birth of a baby girl

Elisheva Moriah Cornateanu

Besiman Tov to

Grandparents

Vlady Cornateanu
Audrey Mezrahi

Great-grandparents

Claire Mizrahi, Naim Mizrahi, z"l
Hedviga Cornateanu, z"l
Eugen Cornateanu, z"l

Uncles

Randall and Ryan Cornateanu
and the whole extended family

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in honor of

Jonathan Nourafshan's
Bar Mitzva Anniversary &
Birthday

by

Manijeh & Jacques Mashihi and
Caroline & David Nourafshan

Condolences

With sorrow we send our deepest condolences
to the family and friends of

Yacov Bina,
Yaacov ben Habiba (Mikhael) z"l

who passed away in Israel on
the 21st of Heshvan 5778
Friday, November 10, 2017

Yacov was born in Iran to a Persian father and an Iraqi mother. He became enthralled with the land of Israel from a young age, and raised his own money to make aliya by the time he was ten. His parents supported his decision to go, and he walked most of the way there carrying a fellow migrant's toddler on his shoulders. He led a full and rich life in his beloved country, bequeathing a storehouse of memories and moral examples for his family to cherish.

He is survived by his wife Parvin Bina; children Gideon Bina, Dror (Roya) Bina, and our dear member Ruth (Kamran) Nazarian; grandchildren Michaela and Eyal Bina, Joseph and Jasmin Nazarian; relatives and friends. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones. May they be comforted together with all the mourners of Tsion. *Min hashamayim tenuhamu.*

Barekh Alenu

starts during the Amida
at Arvit on Monday, **December 4th**

In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from December 2 to 9, 2017. It is customary to light memorial candles, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services in honor of loved ones.

14 Kislev / Shabbat, December 2nd

Helen Levi *Haviva bat Farha*

15 Kislev / Sunday, December 3rd

Nora Isaac Ives *Naima bat Simcha*
Sassoon Menashe Sassoon Sasson *ben Menashe*

17 Kislev / Tuesday, December 5th

Naim Lavi *Naim ben Moshe*
Moshe ben Moosa

18 Kislev / Wednesday, December 6th

Raphael Emquies *Raphael ben Salomon*

20 Kislev / Friday, December 8th

Alec Jacob Jonah *Avraham ben Yaacov*
Moshe Nissan *Moshe ben Hayim*

Refua Shelema

Senior Hazan Sassoon Ezra
Moselle Amron • Sally Amron
Haskell Avrahamy • Sylvia Cohen
Mordechai Cohen • Esther Duke
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 Hakimipour
Miriam bat Yetta • Miryam bat Malka
Moshe Ezra ben Mazal Tov • Simcha bat Rooha
Moshe Hooman ben Sara • Moshe Haim ben Sara

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

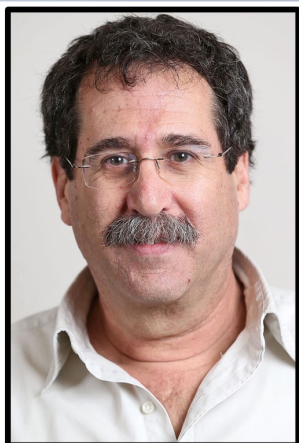
RSVP: \$18 per person at www.kahaljoseph.org/events
or call 310-474-0559 by Wednesday, November 29

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



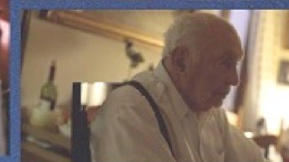
PROFESSOR DAN BEN-DAVID is the President and Founder of the Shores Institute for Socioeconomic Research, an independent, non-partisan policy research center working to improve Israel's economy and conditions of civil society. He is also a senior faculty member of the Department of Public Policy at Tel-Aviv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

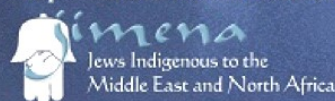
the MIZRAHI project

Film SCREENING



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

This event is presented in collaboration with JIMENA:



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 | 7pm

SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER

2701 N. SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CA 90049

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.

**Kahal Joseph's
LIGHT IT UP FAMILY
HANUKKAH PARTY**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH JIMENA AND NUROOTS

**Sunday, December 17
11:00AM to 1:00PM**

**MOROCCAN LANTERN
MAKING! ACTIVITIES!
MUSIC! FOOD!
HANUKKAH CRAFTS!
AND YOU!**

**RSVP at
WWW.KAHALJOSEPH.ORG/HANUKKAH**

Food and Hanukkah crafts sponsored by
Hannie, Jonathan & Sigal Kelly



Jews Indigenous to the
Middle East and North Africa



Powered by NuRoots

Part of Infinite Light, a
citywide celebration
powered by NuRoots with
generous support of the
Jewish Federation of
Los Angeles

**December Children's Shabbat
Saturday, December 9**

Playroom open at 10, Program at 10:30

Explore the Joseph story with us!

Start with an age-appropriate prayer service
Enjoy technicolor games, stories & activities
Take part in a parasha-themed snack

Torah Tots - Ages 0 to 6

Torah & Me - 6 to 12

Get more info or help out - jessica@kahaljoseph.org

**YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
HANUKKAH DINNER**

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

JOIN THE RABBI AND HIS FAMILY FOR AN INTIMATE
DINNER TO CELEBRATE THE SIXTH NIGHT OF HANUKKAH
* HANUKKAH CANDLELIGHTING * LIGHT DAIRY DINNER *
* SPECIAL BELGIAN WAFFLE DESSERT! *