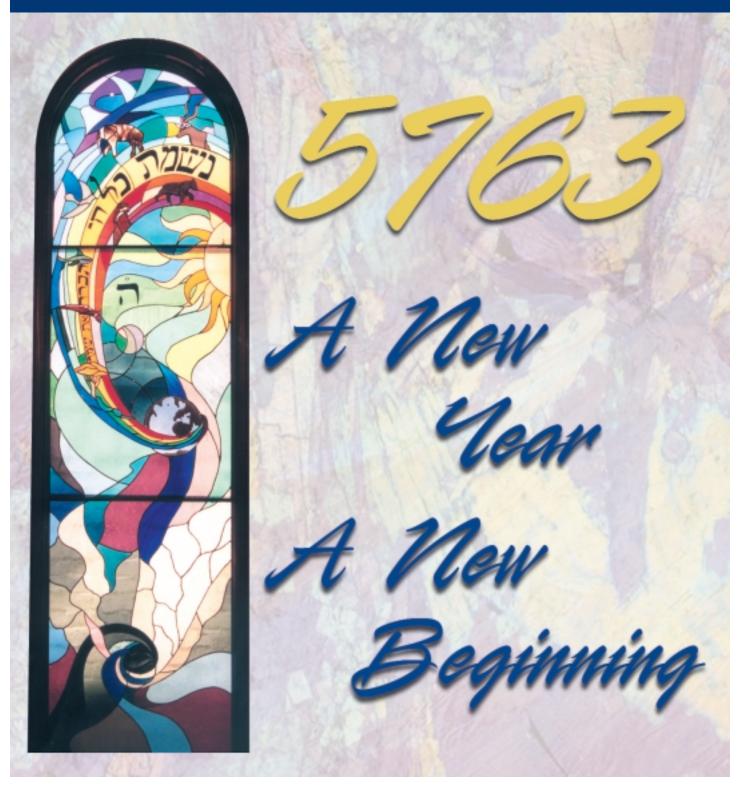
THE September 2002 • Volume 4, Issue 1

SHOFAR

A PUBLICATION OF KAHAL JOSEPH SEPHARDIC CONGREGATION



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Kahal Joseph Congregation

10505 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles, California 90025 (310) 474-0559

The Shofar is a semi-annual publication.

contributors

David Azouz
Jasmine Azouz
Marlene Baruch
Sarah Bouchoucha
Yvette Dabby
Letizia Einy
Ronald Einy
Leah Jalali
Reggie Judah
Michelle Kurtz
Reuven Itzhaki
Joe Samuels

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

We apologize for errors and omissions that are sure to exist in this issue. Please inform us of them so that we can print corrections in the next issue.

Welcome Rabbi

The Kahal Joseph family is delighted to welcome to their new home Rabbi Haim and Mrs. Edna Ovadia, and their children: Ariel, Michael, Shiran, Itamar, Talia, and Israel Meir.

Rabbi Haim Ovadia was born in Jerusalem in 1965. His great grandfather, Hakham Yehuda Fetaya was a colleague of Ben Ish Hai in Baghdad, and the chief Rabbi of the Iraqi community in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Haim Ovadia completed his high school and yeshiva studies in Jerusalem, and served in the Israeli army in Shalav Bet, Military Engineering. He obtained his Semikha in 1990 from the Midrash Sefaradi, SSC in Jerusalem. In 1997 he obtained his B.A. degree in Talmud and Judaic studies from Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan. Currently, he is working towards a Ph.D. in Judaic studies at NYU, and is fluent in English, Hebrew, Arabic, and Spanish.

Mrs. Edna Ovadia is a music major, and loves teaching children Torah, music, and singing. We look forward to her involvement in our community.

With a contemporary approach, Rabbi Haim Ovadia will guide us to a richer and more meaningful level of spiritual understanding that will truly enhance our lives.

Contact Rabbi Ovadia or the office through our website:

www.kahaljoseph.org



Photo by: Joseph Dabby

The Cover

"The Creation"

From the windows of life at Kahal Joseph Dedicated in memory of Errol Levi

From bottom to top: The artist arranged the designing colors and characters following the story of the creation as narrated in the Bible.

The colors of the glass become more brilliant and expressive as the days of the creation advance culminating all the colors of the spectrum.

The hebrew words inserted in the yellow segment of the rainbow are the familiar words of beginning of the Shabbat morning prayer, "THE BREATH OF EVERY LIVING BEING SHALL BLESS THY NAME, O LORD..."



This is truly a very exciting time for Kahal Joseph and for our community...

A new beginning with a new Rabbi and a new Board of Directors.

We feel unified and optimistic about the future, as we welcome into our community Rabbi Haim Ovadia and his family. Our community is truly blessed to have a leader of such caliber, knowledge and intelligence. Rabbi Haim Ovadia will open our minds to new horizons and will be an inspiration to us all.

Every member of our Board of Directors is a leader, and it is a real pleasure for me to be part of such a team. Our meetings have been fulfilling; there has been no shortage of ideas, dreams, and constructive discussions. The Board's first major discussion dealt with our perception of, and our visions for Kahal. Recognizing that today's synagogue has to be a true Beth Midrash and a community center current with the times, the Board unanimously passed a far reaching mission statement that calls for Kahal to fulfill our educational and social needs in addition to the spiritual ones.



Plans to achieve this goal are in motion.

At the same time the Board faced the challenge of selecting the right Rabbi for our community. The Board knew that this is a decision that will, in fact, determine the direction of Kahal and of the whole community, and took the hiring process very seriously. Many special meetings were held on Sunday mornings and week nights to interview and discuss prospective Rabbis. The community was invited to meet each Rabbi and its feedback was welcomed. Our wish list for the right Rabbi was not easy to fulfill. We wanted a young, educated, modern, and of course a Sephardic Rabbi, preferably of Iraqi origin.

Thank G-d, the hard work paid off and all our wishes came true.

Now I wish I can say that it will be smooth sailing from here on. The fact is that this is only the beginning, a new beginning to take Kahal to the next level. Our most important goal now is to reach our younger generation, to reinvigorate them, and to renew their involvement in our Synagogue. While the social and educational programs for the general membership continue, special programs are being planned to involve the young adults and young families and their children, and to bring Kahal into their lives. These special programs are being planned by our young adult members themselves, and it is an incredible feeling for me to watch these brilliant people brain storm and work with such excitement.

The new beginning is spearheaded by The Sam and Norma Dabby Talmud Torah under the direction of Marlene Baruch. In the new program, classes will meet on Sundays, as requested by our members. A new curriculum will focus on teaching children 6 to 13 the Hebrew language, Torah, and our customs and traditions. It is our hope that our children and grandchildren grow up feeling the warmth of Kahal, as they study and play together.

We are grateful to Frank and Karen Dabby for following in the foot steps of Frank's parents Sam and Norma (ZL") to unconditionally support this important program.

Our energetic ladies of the Sisterhood are as active as ever. With Florence Shamash at its helm, the Sisterhood has announced plans for several fun events. We are appreciative of the Sisterhood's hard work to support and raise funds for our Synagogue.

Our community has been more involved in the current events in our country and in Israel, and responded with enthusiasm when called upon to support our brethren in Israel by raising \$26,435 for a special fund to help victims of terror and their families.

No words suffice to thank our Senior Hazan Sassoon Ezra and our Hazan Arie Ovadia, Mr. Saeed Jalali, and Mr. Abe Abraham. These gentlemen are truly dedicated to our Kahal. They are the ones who keep it going from day to day, and they deserve all our thanks and respect.

Our gratitude to Sarah Bouchoucha and Leah Jalali for their dedication and hard work running the office of our synagogue.

I conclude with best wishes for a healthy, and a happy New Year from my family to yours. Tizku LeShanim Rabot.

Joseph Dabby



Dear Friends,

I am honored and privileged to serve as the Rabbi of Kahal Joseph Congregation. During my visits to the synagogue and throughout my conversations and meetings with the congregants I was overwhelmed by the warmth, sincerity and caring of the people. The tunes during the Shabbat prayers were once again my childhood melodies, carrying distant memories going as far back as the destruction of the temple, when the Levites mourned and wailed by the rivers of Babylon. Indeed, the first Jews to arrive in Bavel were



shocked and distraught, but they managed to rebuild themselves and recover their shattered lives. The Babylonian community has been the longest surviving Jewish center outside Israel. Its leaders carried the torch throughout the generations, from Hillel and the Rabbis of the Talmud, through the Gaonim, to the Rabbis of the Modern Era: Ben Ish Hac, Hakham Abdalla Somekh, and till today. These Rabbis always understood Judaism in the wider context of society; they were familiar with the spoken languages of their times whether it was Aramaic, Persian or Arabic. They have dealt with contemporary issues deftly and courageously, always open minded, always trying to understand the needs of their particular community and to strengthen it within itself and within the framework of the Jewish world and general society. It is that tradition of theirs that we wish to maintain, the ability to balance our millennial tradition with our contemporary existence, leading wholesome lives as proud Jews in the 21st century. With a lot of love, understanding and good will, we will be able to achieve this goal. Thank you for the trust and confidence you have shown me in entrusting me this important mission. My family and I are looking forward to a beautiful period of friendship and spiritual growth, with HaShem's help, with your enthusiasm and cooperation, and with the endless efforts of all the Board members.

May HaShem grant us all Shana Tova, a year of Peace, Harmony and Prosperity. Amen.

Rabbi Haim Ovadia

The High Holidays Weight Watcher

- Good evening, sir, welcome to Weight Watchers, please take off your shoes and step on the scale.
- Very good, your current weight is *** lb., your goal for next week is ***, here's your weekly guide, good luck.
 - Thank you very much, good night.
 - That will be ten dollars for tonight.

Hold it, hold it for a second, I want to understand what is going on. I want to lose weight, I came to Weight Watchers and all you do is weigh me and give me a booklet to follow my calories or points intake. And for that I have to pay \$10? Excuse me! For what I would pay in the course of ten weeks I could probably buy a digital atomic scale with blinking lights and voice messages, why do I need to come here at all?

This is what I thought when I was first introduced to WW. But the point is that the system really works, I went through it and lost weight (don't look now, I've regained it). It's true that you could get your own scale and plan your diet and track down your calories, but we are too lazy to do it, and if we do it we tend to be lax and permissive, overlooking faults or saying "just this tiny bit, and I'll start all over again next week." The WW system forces one to adhere to the goal, to follow up on the daily progress and to be aware that the information will be submitted and scrutinized. Each individual has a special schedule, yet he belongs to a group that shares a common goal. It gives one a sense of commitment, responsibility and belonging.

But I am not promoting WW now and I am not getting commission from them, I rather want to use it as an analogy to the process of Teshuva (repentance). The same system of evaluation, resolution and follow-up is applied during the High Holidays, and we have to be aware of it. When we say the Vidduy (confession) for example, what we are actually doing is reviewing our life during the previous year. Did we make the right decisions? Did we treat people appropriately? Are our moral and ethical values pure? How do we define ourselves as Jews, as Americans? How do we fit into the framework of Judaism? Once we have evaluated our situation and became aware of what is right and what is wrong, we could get to the next step: setting our goals. Of course, this process could be done on a monthly, weekly or daily basis, and in fact a major part of our daily prayers is directed at self-judgment, evaluation and improvement. But this experience is intensified tenfold on the High Holidays as we get together and feel united in our quest for a common goal. We want to become better people and make this world into a better place, each one in his unique way, each individual contributing his special talents, but working as a group. The High Holidays give us a very powerful opportunity to stop our daily routine's roller coaster and to reflect on our lives. It is a time to repent for what went wrong in the past and at once charge ahead with renewed force, clear goals and a firm resolution to fulfill these goals and to affect our environment and us.

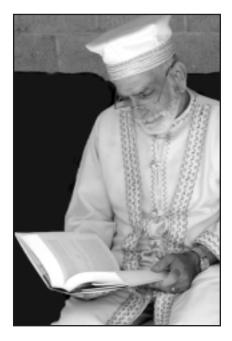
As the High Holidays approach we are getting ready in different ways, buying clothes, preparing meals, going over guest lists, if we have time we might review the holidays' prayers to better understand them. When we finally get to Rosh HaShana, let us not forget that if we take advantage of what the Holiday has to offer we can turn it into a springboard for a better year, a year of personal and spiritual growth, a year in which our goals will be realized and our hopes for a better world fulfilled.

Tizku Leshanim Rabot

בראשית ברא אלהים In the beginning

To all our dear members and friends of Kahal Joseph

This is a time of new beginnings. As we enter the High Holiday season, it is important for our community to come together as one. Our synagogue has been faced with many challenges within the last several months, and as always, we have come together with strength and



unity. In the face of adversity our Congregation has emerged as a stronger and more unified Kahal. I am proud to be part of such a special community. As we welcome our new Rabbi Haim Ovadia and his family, I am confident we will become even stronger. He will be the spirit of our youth, the inspiration for young adults, and a much-needed spiritual leader to us all.

May G-d bless us with clarity of vision and an understanding heart, to be merciful, as we ask G-d in heaven to have mercy on us.

I would like to thank the President, Chairman of the Board, Hazanim, the Board of Directors and the Sisterhood for their tireless dedication to our synagogue.

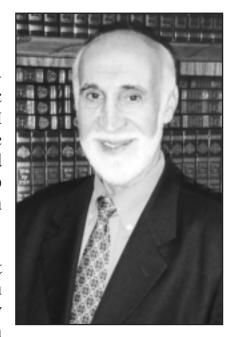
On behalf of my wife Daisy, and my entire family, we wish you all *Tizkoo Le'shanim Rabbot!* May there be peace in all of Israel.

Sassoon Ezra

Dear Friends,

The month of Elul is the time of mercy and forgiveness. It is a tradition of many Sephardic Congregations to pray "selihot" before dawn. I remember very well from my childhood in Iraq, the time when the "shamash" of the synagogue used to walk in the streets and call out to us to wake up for Selihot services, by calling "Hannaya from Israel, Assyria, wake up, Selihot."

The Selihot prayers prepare us for Judgment Day and are for all the people and Israel. Yom Kippur is the day dedicated for forgiveness, mercy and atonement. When one stands before a human



judge, flesh and blood, seeking justice, he prepares himself. He appoints the best attorney to represent his case and help him to get justice.

One may ask what preparations are needed if we want G-d to forgive our sins and to inscribe us in the "Book of Life"; we need to search deep in our souls and pray thoughtfully, and when we hear the shofar we must contemplate our sins in "tshuvah." It is written that prayer and tzedakah can wipe out a harsh judgment.

One may ask why do we fast? One reason is clear: we suffer so that G-d forgives our sins. Another reason may be because G-d was not happy with the spies who returned from their mission in Eretz Yisrael with negative reports. G-d wanted to destroy all the people of Israel. Moshe climbed up Mt. Sinai and stayed two days and two nights asking G-d for forgiveness. His prayers were accepted when G-d saw his people had fasted one day – Yom Kippur. G-d made this day a day of atonement for all generations to come.

I welcome Rabbi Haim Ovadia as our Rabbi and spiritual leader and look forward to his leadership and guidance.

I wish the whole Congregation, all our brothers and sisters, a Happy New Year שנה טובה וחתימה טובה ושנת שלום. אמן and peace in Israel and around the world. Amen.

Arie Ovadia

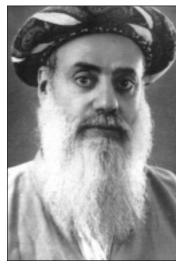
Impressions of Judaism from Iraq

Part 1

by Reuven Itzhaki

Many years ago, I had an uncle who was a Rabbi. Wise and resourceful, Rabbi Rafael Itzhaki was respected by all. Even the local Muslims appreciated him as a Holy man. During his spare moments, he wrote the Torah on parchment in his own handwriting. He never needed to look at the Torah; the entire text was in his memory. These writings were then inserted into a decorative cylinder and kept cherished in the synagogue. Even today, that scroll is read during services.

Jewish culture thrived in my community. At this time, some very influential Rabbis were living in Iraq. The Jews began to build numerous synagogues. To avoid driving during



Rabbi Rafael Itzhaki

the Sabbath, they were built within half a mile of each other. They were open for morning prayers, afternoon prayers and evening prayers. Some people even assembled at night to discuss the Torah.

Iraqi Jews had two priorities for their children. The first was to ensure their education. The second was to make sure that they learned Hebrew. In addition to the synagogues, Jewish schools were established in Baghdad. Some of them were:

RAHEL SHAHMOON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL went up to 6th grade. Most of its students graduated with honors.

SHAMASH SCHOOL, a 5 year high school, was run on the British school system.

THE MIDRASH SCHOOL was a Hebrew school where only Torah was read.

THE ALLIANCE SCHOOL was famous for teaching Arabic, English, and French.

LAURA KADORY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS prepared their female students so well that most of them continued on with higher education.

On Friday nights we celebrated Kiddush. One or two families gathered with the light of an ignited thread and oil in a bowl. No one dared to use electricity during the Sabbath. the head of the family had a silver cup full of wine and read the prayers, mostly by heart. The family then clustered around the table joyfully, and described the Shabbat as a bride coming to them. After having a good meal, the whole family sang Jewish melodies and tunes.

At 5:00 am the next morning, most Jews attended the Saturday sunrise prayer. Those who could not attend the first session, arrived at 8:30am for the second session. Some men carried flat bottles of vodka in their pockets. As soon as they finished praying, they drank the vodka on empty stomachs while they walked home.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE SHOFAR...

KAHAL JOSEPH CONGREGATION



NORMA and SAM DABBY TALMUD TORAH

Wishes family and friends a happy and healthy New year!

T T

Talmud Torah's "New Beginning"

We are proud to announce that we will be holding Hebrew classes on Sundays!!

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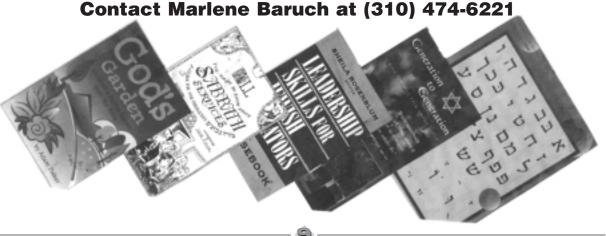
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For more information

Contact Marlene Baruch at (310) 474-6221







Joseph Dabby President



Ronald Einy Vice President Chairman of the Board



Florence Shamash Treasurer



Michelle Kurtz Secretary



Abe Abraham



Jeannot Acoca



Dr. David Amron



David Azouz



Mordecai A. Cohen



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Dror Ironi



Albert Nissan



Neil J. Sheff



Elsa Singman



Leon Zekaria

Past Presidents



Benjamin H. Elias



Jack Jonah



Saul Levi



Joseph H. Sassoon

It is a rare privilege to chair a Board of Directors who are as informed, involved and focused as our new Board members are. As we seek each other's guidance, we would be hard-pressed to do so with Directors who are any less passionate. It is that basic philosophy that has guided our synagogue for over 40 years. The notion that our Board of Directors consistently offers up their expert analysis, tools, and insight to make the smartest professional decisions they can. Now more than ever, our Synagogue is managed by a Board that will be nothing short of zealous in their search for the right opportunities and decisions. A Board with only the Synagogue's interest in mind, giving each decision impartial evaluation and unbiased perspective. Taking charge of our Synagogue's future has never been more important. Having a Board of Directors as knowledgeable and invested as ours is, has never been more pleasurable. **Ronald Einy** Chairman of the Board

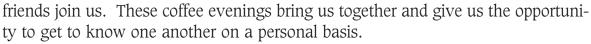
"Kahal Joseph Congregation is a Sephardic Synagogue founded on the rich traditions of Jewish Iraqi origin. Our mission is to be a vibrant and diverse Synagogue fulfilling the spiritual, cultural, education and social needs of the Sephardic community." Mission Statement

GREETINGS FROM THE SISTERHOOD

Florence Shamash, President

The Sisterhood recently held their elections and we now have a very energetic committee. We are currently planning future activities and hope you will all participate.

We hold twice monthly coffee evenings that are well attended and would like to see more members and



We thank all Kahal members and friends for their support. With Rosh Hashanah upon us, the Sisterhood wishes you and your family a very happy and healthy New Year and well over the Fast. We pray for peace in Israel and the security of our people all over the world.



ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE - 5763

(Excerpted from Rosh Hashanah messages by Rabbi Elias Lev z"l)

A tinge of sadness and buoyant hope are commingled in our hearts as we leave one, and approach another year. Let the old year cease with its frustrations, its defeats and disappointments, and cheerfully welcome this Rosh Hashanah as a time of renewal and rejuvenation.

Throughout protracted persecutions, the Jewish people have revealed a matchless compassion for others; a passion for life and knowledge; a conquering and sublime faith. In these trying times let us renew our pledge to live by the verities of our immortal Torah, drawing closer to its light, and listen to Elie Wiesel as he defines the essence of the Jewish experience: "A Jew is he or she whose song cannot be muted, nor can his or her joy be killed by the enemy --- EVER."

Let us pray that we recapture, and retain, that spirit of holiness and valiant determination as exemplified by our illustrious prophets of old, to ensure that the unbroken link to our heritage would remain a tangible reality in our question for PEACE ETERNAL.

Tizkoo L'shanim Rabot!

Vera Levi



Florence Shamash
President



Diana Gazal
Vice President



Ruby Samuels Treasurer



Ronit Tevet
Secretary



Dorett Becker



Florette Benhamou



Tova Bidney



Rita Hanin



Johanna Judah



Rosy Nissan



Odette Sarraf



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Yvette Dabby



Elsa Singman

Our Dedicated Staff



Sarah Bouchoucha, Leah Jalali

The "Grand Ballroom" of the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel was the sight for 400-plus black-tie clad members, friends and well-wishers as we honored three beloved people, Alice and Maurice Zekaria and our Hesed Award Recipient, Marsha Levine. And what an elegant night it was...in keeping with the theme "Legacy of Kindness." Love, kindness and style worked the room hand-in-hand at this unforgettable event. We bossa nova'd to the beautiful music of the Reuben Berci Orchestra, and the hotel's sous chefs created a multi-course dinner of delectable Mediterranean fare.

Of course, what would be a grand banquet without the indelible speeches. Chairman of the Board, Ronald Einy, proved once again to be the affable (not laughable!!) Master of Ceremonies. Governor Gray Davis was represented by Terry Smooke who presented commendations to each of our honorees. The Chief Rabbi of Columbia, Yosef Bitton, gave an insightful talk on community spirit and the power of togetherness.

Ruthie Levy, daughter of Alice and Maurice, introduced her parents to the stage with a brief synopsis of their lives in America, and sang a chorus of "You are the Wind Beneath my Wings," a most fitting tribute that was both emotional and heartwarming. Maurice then spoke of his and Alice's love for the community, their family and friends, and their hopes for the future of Sephardic Jews throughout the world.

Hessed Award Recipient, Marsha Levine, was ever charming and eloquent as she was brought to the stage by Saul Levi. "Kindness is the universal act that appeals to our humanity. It transcends all barriers of race, sex, religious cultures and politics. It is the language of the heart that speaks to our common bond, facilitates understanding, acceptance, and appreciation of differences," was one of many themes that ran through Marsha's speech. Values, tzedakah, Judaism and Hesed were all part of a classy fusion that made for a luminous insight into our Hesed Award Recipient, Marsha Levine.

A night that was filled with so many highlights was only made even more unforgettable when our Synagogue's President, Joseph Dabby announced that the ultimate generosity of all who participated, has now allowed Kahal Joseph to pay off its mortgage.

A standing ovation of thunderous applause was the dramatic climax to a night that will always be remembered as a true "Legacy of Kindness."

Ronald EinyChairman of the Board

Kahal Joseph Choir – "Voices of Tomorrow"



President Joseph Dabby



Honorees Alice & Maurice Zekaria



Hessed Award Recipient Marsha Levine with Saul Levi



Abe Abraham, Ronald Einy, Joseph Sassoon



Yvette Dabby, Johanna Judah Lulu Fensten, Sarah Bouchoucha



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Heusi

By Joe Samuels

During my last visit with my son, assistant professor of comparative religion at Western Kentucky University, he asked me: "How is it that the Jews have exerted so much influence on the world?" Although the number of Jews in the world is less than one third of one percent, their accomplishments are far greater than their numbers. Whether it is in science, medicine, law, economics, music, philosophy, finance, banking, etc., their imprint on the world is profoundly engraved. The number of Jews who won the Nobel Prize is also disproportionate. The three individuals who altered the world's thinking in the 20th century: Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud and Albert Einstein were all Jews. The following are some of the forces that impacted them to excel.

1-The Jewish religion basically concentrates on this world. In the Talmudic passage (Shabbat 31a) the Rabbis believe what matters most to G-D are four things:

I-Did you conduct your business affair honestly? (Behavior towards others.)

II-Did you set aside time to study Torah? (Learning to distinguish right from wrong.)

III-Did you try to create a family? (Pass on ideals of belief in G-D to future generations.)

IV-Did you hope for Tikkun Olam? (Mending the world.)

These demands gave the Jews a standard of behavior for the here and now. The conclusion is to study, search and leave one's mark on the world.

2- Jews believe in a single G-D who is invisible, has no image or shape, is holy, is personal, is supernatural and demands ethical behavior. That is why Judaism is called "Ethical Monotheism". This has forced the Jewish mind to think continuously in an abstract way, beyond the realm of the physical.

3-Jews lived as a minority people in many countries. They always adapted themselves to and obeyed the laws where they lived. Many rulers enacted harsh laws forbidding the Jews from holding any official governmental or powerful positions. This worked to their benefit. Jews found no alternative but to develop their skills and talents as well as to improve their lot through trade, commerce, banking, science and other professions.

4-Education and development of the mind are religious obligations to the Jewish family. Whether in the mundane or the religious sphere it was necessary to improve family life. To excel through education was also a way of survival for many individuals and their communities.

5-The family is the wheel of life in the Jewish religion and is the heart of any Jewish community. The children must be prepared to continue G-D's work on this earth.

6-Although the Jewish religion demands faith and the practice of rituals, it teaches, more so, to think, question, challenge and disagree. In fact, Judaism canonized its critics. Many prophets that criticized the immoral and the wicked behavior of the Jewish people became part of their holy books.

These are some of the factors that motivated the Jewish people to excel over the centuries. This is why they developed an edge to survive and live well, despite all the adversity they faced throughout the centuries.

At the approach of the New Year 5763, may you always be fortunate to practice Judaism's main theme of Ethical Monotheism. May you continue to strive and make your home, your city, your country and the world a better place to live. G-D Bless you and yours.

on their Bar Mitzvah!



Avner Lavi



Darren David Darwish



Saddick Charlie Zakoo



Jason Yaacov Assayag



Nissan Rashti



Oren Fishman



Assaf Rotem



Karina & Tatiana Nahai

Karen Isaac

nood

Events Held

December 9 Children's Hanukah Party

December 15 Young Adults Shabbaton

Guest speakers Rabbi Daniel Bouskilla

& Rabbi Rami Ovadia

January 27 Tu B'Shevat Celebration

February 24 Children's Purim Party

April 28 BBQ at Roxbury Park

May 11 Mother's Day Luncheon with Dr. David Kazzaz

Author of "The Mother of the Pound"

July 6 Luncheon with Dr. Sidney Kurtz

Author of "The Butcher of the Hongkew Ghetto"

August 17 Welcome Luncheon with Rabbi Haim & Edna Ovadia

Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m. Israeli Folkdancing with Sam Livne

Guest Speakers

Rabbi Iosef Bitton – February 16

Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller – April 6

Rabbi Ari Azancot – May 4

Rabbi Rami Ovadia – May 18

Prof. Amatzia Baram – July 13 "Iraq, Iran and Israel – Palestinian Conflict"

Rabbi Shimon Kashani – July 27

Dr. Donald Salem – August 3 "Israel Terrorism and You"

Rabbi Hertzel Illulian – August 10

Upcoming Events

August 25 Picnic at Marina Del Rey Park

September 11 A Day of Remembrance **November 24** Children's Hanukah Party

December 31 New Year's Eve Party

February Kahal Joseph Banquet

to Our New Arrivals

Shahrazade & Simon Cohen on the birth of their daughter *Sophia*

Yelena & Albert Gazal on the birth of their daughter *Juliana*



a constant

Sigal & Jonathan Kelly on the birth of their son

Adam

Esther & Yossi Avrahamy on the birth of their daughter *Sarah*

Sylvia & Leon Zekaria on the birth of their son Adam

Kathryn & Toby Shabot on the birth of their daughter *Sophie*





Lea & Adam Elias on the birth of their twin daughters

Annie & Samantha

Alex & Orly Rachmanony on the birth of their son

Yonah

Lynne & Bruce Friedman on the birth of their daughter *Ava Flora*

Victoria & Michael Sutton on the birth of their daughter Rose





Cici & David Hallegua on the birth of their daughter *Eliana Rachel*

Barton & Cara Branstetter on the birth of their son *Ian Jonathan*

and to the grand parents
Joe & Kitty Sasson

to the Just Married

Selina Rojhani and Mayer Dallal
Dalia Nemany and Karman Itzhakov
Seemah Yakov and Danny Perry
Shiva Shirazi and Keyvan Davoudian
Edna Yourshalmi and Farid Saghizadeh
Helena Robenzadeh and Ronny Sassoon
Florence Solomon and Shaul Ravitz
Judith Sara Daniels and Rambod Rafael Kamrava
Ayala Youssefmir and Behrouz Hakimian



Shanah Tovah Gmar Hatima Tovah

CAROLINE AND DAVID AZOUZ AND FAMILY	Marlene and Oren Baruch and Family	Nina and Ira Bass and family	
Dorett Becker Ron and James Becker	Florette and Laurent Benhamou and Family	Diane and Hal Cohen and Family	
Yvette and Joseph Dabby and Family	Charles and Chas Dabby Teresa Stauring	Edmund Einy and Family	
Letizia and Ronald Einy and Family	Molly and Ike Ezekiel and Family	Hazan Sassoon and Daisy Ezra	
Lulu and Allan Fensten and Family	Rita Hanin Jeffrey Hanin	Lulu Judah and Family	
Mollie and Norm Konigsberg	Michelle and Stan Kurtz and Family	Marsha Levine	
Ramah and Joe Mingail	Celia and Sony Mizrahi	Rence and Norman Reiz and Family	
Ruby and Joseph Samuels	FLORA AND JUDAH SASSOON AND FAMILY	HILDA SASSOON AND FAMILY	
Kitty and Joe Sassoon and Family	Shoshana and Eli Sawdayi	Florence Shamash Sally Joseph	
Emma and Gerry Shapiro	Elsa and Harry Singman and Family	Alice and Maurice Zekaria and Family	

To all our dear Kahal friends. A healthy and rewarding 5763! In heartfelt appreciation we thank you for your many expressions and kindness and loyalty throughout the years. May each one of you be inscribed in the Book of Life for renewed dedication to our faith and enduring love to our Creator. Shanah Tovah! Family of Rabbi Elias Levi, z"l



on their Graduation



Sharon Naomi Dabby

Doctor of Medicine

USC Keck School of Medicine



B.A. Washington State University

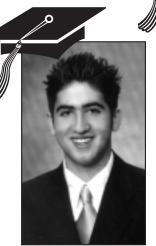
Bobby Joseph



Jaimie Nissan
B.A. Psychology



Jessica Bass Shalhevet High School



Jenna Zelman Milliken High School





Maxine
Daniels
Shalhevet
High School



David Shaaya
Beverly Hills High School



Honorable Yuval Rotem thanking President Joseph Dabby for Kahal Joseph support of Israel

by The Honorable Yuval Rotem, Consul General of The State of Israel

on behalf of the State of Israel, it is my delight to salute all our dear friends from the Kahal Joseph community as we approach *Rosh Hashanah*, the New Year. This time of year marks a period of new beginnings, and I would first like to pay tribute to your new leader and spiritual guide who is just beginning his charge of a new pulpit. I congratulate Rabbi Ovadia for having assumed his position in one of the most vibrant and dynamic congregations in this entire region. I look forward to working closely with the Rabbi, and of course, to continue the very close relationship the Consulate has long enjoyed with Kahal Joseph. In that regard, allow me to thank each of you so very much for your remarkable response to Kahal Joseph's recent emergency campaign of support for the Israeli people during this moment of unparalleled difficulties. Once again, the way you have risen to the challenge has been as impressive as it has been inspiring. Your outpouring of love, emotion, and commitment constitutes a source of encouragement to us; however, even more importantly, your campaign will directly touch the lives of those Israelis most in need: the ones who have suffered from terrorism, who have lost loved ones, and who need our outreach now more than ever.

As we take a brief moment to reflect upon the trials of the past year, we cannot help but admit that the light promised by the hope of peace has become dimmer than we can ever recall. The bright horizon existing in our dreams remains hidden behind a thick cloud of hostility, hatred, and blood-shed. Our nation is once again consumed with anguish and bereavement. A war has been decreed against Israel; against the right of Jews to live normal lives in our own land. Our enemies strike at us with a jealous hatred that does not acknowledge the value of human life; and they do this not in order to validate themselves, but to negate us. Not to free themselves, but to confine us. The target of this war is not to destroy an occupation, but to destroy the legitimacy and permanence of Jewish sovereignty in any part of the land of Israel.

Had the Palestinian leader only acted as he had pledged in binding agreements: to arrest terrorists; stop incitement; and prevent violence; Israel would never have had reason to undertake its most

recent military operations in self-defense. Does anyone seriously doubt that if the Palestinian terror had stopped for even a moment, Israel would not have ceased such operations long ago? For this reason, both the suffering of the Israeli people as well as the restrictions imposed upon the Palestinian people are entirely attributable to Arafat's historic failure. Both we and the Palestinians deserve better. What makes all of this utterly maddening, and actually unforgivable, is the realization that there is no alternative to an eventual reconciliation between our two peoples. We live in such a small land, and there is simply no choice but for Israelis and Arabs to live together as neighbors with mutual honor and respect. This is why we cannot forgive those who choose the path of violence. Why does even one more mother have to lose her child? Why does even one more young boy have to grow up without a father who died a senseless death?

Does the Palestinian leadership still not understand us? From each of our newly-dug graves, our roots in the Land of Israel only grow stronger and deeper. We are here to stay, either with an open hand for peace, or a closed fist to fight. With violence and terror, the Palestinians will not move us not even one inch; but should they choose our open hand of peace, we will move mountains with them and for them. This message must be brought directly to the Palestinian people: we have no interest to fight you. We don't wish to control you, rule over you, or determine your lives. We want to live with you, and not die with you. We want to share with you, and not take from you. We want to respect you as good neighbors, and not fear you as dreaded enemies. Choose our open hand of peace. Forsake the cult of death which has been imposed upon you. Appeal to our hearts, and you will find us eager to make a generous peace with you.

My dear friends, in the midst of our grief and disillusionment, at times it becomes all too easy to forget our accomplishments and our breathtaking successes. Israel has offered us and our families innumerable blessings which we must never take for granted. Sixty years ago, Jews desperately seeking escape Europe had nowhere to go. Now with our own state, our people have been able to come home en masse. Upon declaring independence, Israel had only some 600,000 citizens, and today the population has grown more than tenfold to over 6.3 million people. In the past decade alone, we welcomed some one million new immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, and from around the world. In the early days of statehood, we were struggling to tame the deserts of the Negev, and the swamps of the Galil. Who could have foreseen that in the year 2002, Israel would have moved to conquering outer-space with satellites and astronauts, establishing ourselves as pioneers of cyberspace, and as global leaders of the most cutting-edge computer technologies known to mankind? Israel is today recognized as one of the world's most advanced nations in a whole host of disciplines, ranging from biotechnological research and agricultural technologies, to software design and defense industries. We should also be inspired by the cultural and linguistic renaissance that Israel has undergone. The magical rebirth of the Hebrew language is an unparalleled phenomenon. Once again, after millennia of exile, millions of Jewish children grow up speaking the language of the Torah, the lan guage of our ancient prayers and eternal dreams. Today's Israeli poets and musicians, our writers, actors, and philosophers give expression to our hopes, fears, passions, and love by means of a reinvigorated Hebrew language. This is a daily miracle.

There are so many reasons for pride: for establishing in our ancestral home an eternal safe-haven; for our majestic landscapes; for the courage and strength of our IDF soldiers-- those 18 and 19 year-old heroes who even at this moment face ambush and attack while defending our land, and patrolling our seas, and guarding our skies; for our democratic institutions; and for every time a mother gives birth to a baby in freedom in the land of Israel. Let us never forget: for all of the sacrifice, and all of the torment, Israel exists. In all of its complexity and uncertainty, Israel is, in its totality, our home. It is the only home where Jews can defend themselves, by themselves. We truly have a wonderful land, an amazing country, and in the upcoming year may we merit the courage to protect our security and our freedom; may we find the creativity to persist in the greatest struggle of all: the struggle for peace. For this reason, I would like to conclude with our people's ancient prayer of peace:

שים שלום טובה וברכה חיים חן וחסד צדקה ורחמים עלינו ועל כל-ישראל עמך

"Give peace, goodness and blessing, life, grace, loving-kindness, and mercy to us and to all Your people Israel"

May each of us and all Israel be inscribed and sealed for a good year.

Edmund M. Einy AIA ARCHITECT

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High Holiday Times September 2002 Elul/Tishri 5763

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 24 Elul	2 25 Elul	3 26 Elul	4 27 Elul	5 28 Elul	6 29 Elul	7 1 Tishri
					Selihoth, followed by Shaharith & Hattarah Nedarim 5:00 am Minhah/Arbith 6:30 pm	Shaharith 8:00 am Minhah 6:30 pm Shabbath ends 7:51 pm
					Shabbath & YomTov Candles: 6:53 pm	Light YomTov candles only after 7:51
	LABOR DAY				EREV ROSH HASHNAH	ROSH HASHANAH
8 2 Tishri	9 3 Tishri	10 4 Tishri	11 5 Tishri	12 6 Tishri	13 7 Tishri	14 8 Tishri
Shaharith 8:00 Minhah/Arbith 6:30 Festival ends 7:50	Selihoth and Shaharith 5:00 Fast starts 5:35 Minhah/Arbith 6:30 Fast ends 7:48	Selihoth & Shaharith 5:00 am Minhah/Arbith 6:30 pm	Selihoth & Shaharith 5:00 am Minhah/Arbith 6:30 pm	Selihoth & Shaharith 5:00 am Minhah/Arbith 6:30 pm	Selihoth & Shaharith 5:00 am Minhah/Arbith 6:30 pm Shabbath Candles: 6:43 pm	Shaharith 8:30 am Minhah, Seudah/Arbith 6:15 pm Shabbath ends 7:41 pm
ROSH HASHANAH Second Day	FAST OF GEDALIAH					SHABBAT SHUVAH HA'AZINU
15 9 Tishri	16 10 Tishri	17 11 Tishri	18 12 Tishri	19 13Tishri	20 14 Tishri	21 15 Tishri
Selihoth followed by Shaharith & Hattarh Nedarim 5:00 am Minhah 2:00 pm Light candles: 6:40 pm	Shaharith 7:00 am Fast Ends 7:39 pm	Shaharith 6:00 am Minhah 6:15 pm	Shaharith 6:00 am Minhah & Arbith 6:15 pm	Shaharith 6:00 am Minhah & Arbith 6:15 pm	Shaharith 6:00 am Minhah & Arbith 6:15 pm	Shaharith 8:30 am Minhah, Seudah/Arbith 6:00 pm Shabbath ends 7:32 pm
Kol Nidre— Lecha Eli 6:15 pm EREV YOM	VOM KIDDI ID				Shabbath Candles: 6:33	Light YomTov candles only after 7:32 PM
KIPPUR	YOM KIPPUR					SUCCOTH
22 16 Tishri	23 17 Tishri	24 18 Tishri	25 19 Tishri	26 20Tishri	27 21 Tishri	28 22 Tishri Shaharith 8:30 am
Shaharith 8:30 am Minhah,	Shaharith 6:00 am Minhah &	Shaharith 6:00 am Minhah &	Shaharith 6:00 am Minhah &	Shaharith 6:00 am Minhah &	Shaharith 6:00 am Minhah &	Minhah, Seudah/Arbith 6:00 pm Hakafot 7:30 pm
and Arbith 6:15 pm Festival ends 7:03 pm	Arbith 6:15 pm	Arbith 6:15 pm	Arbith 6:15 pm	Arbith 6:15 pm Hathimah 8:30 pm	Arbith 6:23 pm Shabbat & Yom Tov candles 6:23 pm	Light YomTov candles
				EREV HOSHANAH RABBAH	HOSHANAH	only after 7:14 PM SHEMINI
Second day SUCCOTH	First day Hol Hamoed SUCCOTH	Second day Hol Hamoed SUCCOTH	Third day Hol Hamoed SUCCOTH	Fourth day Hol Hamoed SUCCOTH	RABAH Erev Shemini Assereth	ASERETH EREV SIMHAT TORAH
29 23 Tishri	30 24 Tishri					
Shaharith 8:30 Minhah/Arbith 6:15 Festival ends 7:12	Shaharith 6:00 Minhah/Arbith 6:15					
SIMHAT TORAH						

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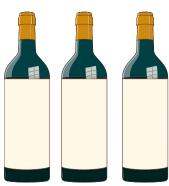
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