

ON PATROL:

Kahal Joseph's Ambulance Unveiled and on the Streets

On our cover, we highlight the dedication of the ambulance donated by Kahal Joseph to Magen David Adom on May 19, 2004 in Ramat Gan, Israel. Unveiling the door of the ambulance are Rabbi Eliahou Ovadia, father of our own Rabbi Haim Ovadia, and Mr. Manachi Kemareh. For more details please see article on page 9.





Present at the dedication were Maxine and Aaron Zakoo, Edmond and Tikva Natanel, Merna Ironi, Abraham Moshe Shimoni, Manachi Kemareh, Israel and Rivka Gad, Rabbi Eliahou and Simha Ovadia (parents of Rabbi Haim Ovadia), Assaf Ovadia, Jacob Kattan, Rachel Drori, Aviva Ovadia, Tamar and Michal Gabbai, Diana and Abram Saul, and Edna and Kesem Barkai.

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CORRECTIONS— We regret to have missed Lisa Maslawi's graduation from Beverly Hills High School in June 2003. Lisa is currently attending FIDM design school.

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THE ${f SHOFAR}$

EDITED AND DESIGNED BY
NADINE DABBY • YVETTE DABBY

STAFF: SARAH BOUCHOUCHA • DAFNA EZRAN RONALD EINY • JOE SAMUELS

We apologize for any errors or omissions that may occur in this isue.

President's Message

Looking Forward to a Bright Future

uring the last twelve months our calendar of activities was full and very gratifying.
Countless events, classes, lectures, parties, and meetings took place.

Of these events, three in particular stand out:

- The evolution of our youth programs under the direction of Mrs. Edna Ovadia. The children's Shabbat program has become more structured and is very popular. The Sam and Norma Dabby Talmud Torah program is now more focused on our members' children. The students love the new curriculum, and their parents have been very supportive. In addition to Torah studies the children joined in a choir that performed at our Legacy of Kindness dinner, and made a presentation at the Purim party. My utmost thanks and appreciation goes to Mrs. Ovadia and the team of educators she has put together, for their hard work and dedication.
- The overwhelming passage by our membership of our amended constitution. As Kahal Joseph takes its place among the top synagogues in the city, it has become necessary to update its constitution. The next elected Board of Directors will consist of eighteen Directors: nine Officers, and nine members at large. Each of the nine Officers will be elected for an office with specific duties and responsibilities. The nine Officers will oversee twelve or more committees formed from members of the congregation. The Board of Directors will take its direction from these committees.
- How about donating an ambulance to Magen David Adom in Israel? What a great idea... Rabbi Haim Ovadia, who came up with this idea, personally raised over \$55,000 from our membership. Today our gift to the people of Israel is stationed and serving in Ramat Gan. The ambulance was built in the

United States and shipped to Israel. It was dedicated on May 19, 2004 at the Magen David Adom station in Ramat Gan. The dedication ceremony was attended by Rabbi Eliahu and Mrs. Simha Ovadia (parents of Rabbi Haim Ovadia) and by several members of our congregation in Israel at the time.



nder the leadership of Rabbi Haim Ovadia the future of Kahal Joseph is bright. We are very grateful that he and his family have chosen to be part of the Kahal Joseph family.

My utmost thanks to our Senior Hazan Sassoon Ezra for his selfless devotion to our synagogue and our community.

To our Board of Directors and the ladies of the Sisterhood, working with you is an honor and a great pleasure.

Thanks to our secretary Sarah Bouchoucha, for running the office so smoothly.

We welcome Dafna Ezran who recently started working as a part time program coordinator.

My thanks to Arnaldo, Rosa and Ernesto for taking care of our facilities.

May the year 5475 be a year of peace, good health and may we all enjoy the many blessings bestowed on us. You are a wonderful community and it is my great privilege to serve you.

Joseph Dabby

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Rabbi's Message

Not My Type...

Abe Wanna hear a joke? Well, a Christian, a Muslim and a Jew walk into a bar...

Bob I have a better one—an Orthodox, a Conservative and a Reform Jew walk into a bar...

Sam Wait till you hear this—An orthodox, ultra-orthodox and modern-orthodox walk into a bar...

Abe Come on, those three will never **& Bob** hang out together.

Once in a while I get a phone call from a traveler who plans on spending Shabbat in the vicinity of my synagogue. "So this is a Sephardic synagogue?" "Yes," I reply. "And are you Orthodox?" is usually the question that follows. Hearing the question I am torn between the urge to slam the phone down and the noble aspiration to teach the caller a lesson in Jewish history and Sepharadic identity. My brain, being practical, takes over at this point and answers "yes" for me, and the pleased caller then goes on to finish up his travel plans.

The rest of me, on the other hand, remain deeply agitated, not only because I have to explain that Sepharadim never categorized themselves under rubrics of Orthodox, Reform, Conservative and so on, but because of I fear that this trend, an Ashkenazi trend now enthusiastically embraced by the Sepharadim, marks the end of Judaism and the Jewish people.

Once we have finished labeling all Jews and storing them carefully in their spiritual drawers, Judaism will be dead. Yes, there will be many Jews and many opinions, but they will have nothing in common, because when one round of categorization and defining is over we will start a new, more thorough cycle, which will eventually end up with each one being a brand of his or her own. These definitions only serve to highlight and emphasize the differences between us and hence breed alienation and animosity.

In the old, traditional Sepharadi world these definitions did not exist. Not because the Rabbis and community leaders were naïve, withdrawn or lacked understanding, but to the contrary, because they were sensitive and open-minded. They
did not seek definitions because they wanted to see everyone as part of the community.

Even the word "religious" was shunned for being



discriminatory. The word my grandfather used was observant. "Everybody is observant," he used to say, "some observe less and some more, some prefer certain Mitzvot and some are drawn to others." We should apply this attitude to our lives when we deal with other Jews and all human beings.

Before all else, we should think of what we have in common. Go ahead and think about it when you are stuck in traffic, in the doctor's waiting room, or in the line to the premiere of *The Return of the King*, with people you never met and know nothing about. What do you have in common? You are human beings; you care for family and friends; you live in the same place. Most of you will feel compassionate upon seeing a crying child or feel awed and inspired watching the ocean. Continue this process with your fellow Jews and you will find even more similarities.

The way to reverse the process of endless division is by creating a young leadership with a deep awareness of the Sepharadi heritage—a generation that will be willing to breach gaps and break walls, not by bringing others to be more like itself, not by adjusting others until they meet some pre-determined criteria, but rather by meeting people half way, each one accepting the other's opinions and appreciating each other's special qualities.

Meanwhile the definition-machine is working full steam so I will meet you in the next orthopraxflexiobservant convention.

Shana Tova VaHatima Tova

Rabbi Haim Ovadia

Hazan's Message

To all our dear members and friends of Kahal Joseph, may each and every one of you enjoy the best of health and success this year.

I'd like to thank Rabbi Haim and Edna Ovadia, our President, our Chairman of the Board, the Board of Directors and the Sisterhood for their dedication to our synagogue. From our entire family and myself, we wish you *Tizkoo le Shanim Rabot*.



Sassoon Ezra

Vera Levi's Message

"...What is my personal message to my fellow members? Receive the new year with enthusiasm. Give time to matters of the Neshama. Study the eternal word of G-d. Be faithful to your people of whom you are an inseparable part. Work for the strengthening of Israel, and thrill at the golden prospect of another lease on life to fulfill your destiny" — *Rabbi E. Levi z"l*.

May the year 5765 be a year of enrichment and redemption, of health and happiness to us all and Israel. Tizkoo LeShanim Rabot!

Greetings from the Sisterhood

As we once again prepare to celebrate the High Holy
Days, I am able to reflect on a year of continued commitment by the
Sisterhood to bringing our members together. Our coffee evenings, held on the first Tuesday of every month, provide enjoyable gettogethers for backgammon, card games and bingo. Also, our out-



ings to San Diego are very popular. We invite our members to attend these coffee evenings and outings, and to contribute ideas for future events.

We appreciate our members' continued support and we are proud to have provided Kahal Joseph with \$6000 of contributions. We look forward to another year of continuing support for our community.

I would like to thank the Sisterhood Committee for their hard work and cooperation. On behalf of the Sisterhood Committee, I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year and Well Over-the-Fast.

Florence Shamash

Norma & Sam Dabby



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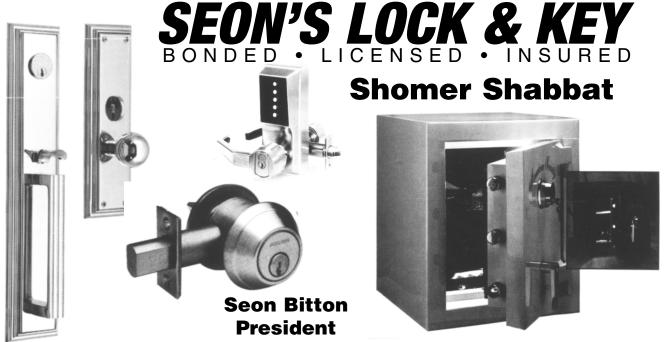
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6 / THE SHOFAR SEPTEMBER 2004

Ambassador Yuval Rotem Bids Kahal Joseph and Los Angeles Farewell

On March 7, 2004, Kahal Joseph bestowed its Award of Merit on Ambassador Yuval Rotem, the Consul General of the State of Israel in Los Angeles. The following are excerpts from Ambassador Rotem's acceptance speech:

abbi Haim Ovadia, my colleagues from the Consulate, members of קהל יוסף. Ladies and Gentlemen: it is our tradition to be happy during the month of אַדר and especially on "Eiru. Being with you tonight, celebrating the "Legacy of Kindness" is a wonderful opportunity to express our joy and happiness.

My wife Miri and I thank you so much for this truly special evening. We will always appreciate the fact that we have been invited into so many of your homes, have become a part of your lives, and have been embraced with open arms and warm hearts into this wonderful community that is קהל יוסף.

It is not me who deserves this recognition, but you the congregation of קהל יוסף, under the direction, leadership and guidance of Rabbi Haim Ovadia — a true leader and inspiration to the Jewish people.

Your community is the embodiment of the Jewish people. Not only because of your deep sense of tradition, though it is one of the oldest and richest, and not only because of your Zionism, even though your attachment to Israel is profound, but because you have incorporated all of this into a warm and hospitable environment.

Anyone who passes through your doors will notice one thing: Love. The love you have for our tradition, for our religion, and for our history. A Love for Israel, and for your fellow Jews. The result is a pursuit of a Judaism that is traditional and inviting, pluralistic and welcoming, democratic and inspiring. You have taught our children's generation אַהָּבֶּת יִשִּׁרְאַל — a deep sense of love for Israel.

During these past four years, there were many moments when it would have been easy to give up hope. The members of קהל יוסף never entertained that as a possibility. When Israel needed you the most, you stood up to support us.

This community has taken a leadership role and

stands out as an example to communities around the city and around the region. Israel will always remember those who supported us in this moment of truth.

Your community gave us hope, strength, and a measure of comfort to believe and to hope for a better day for the children of Israel.



On a personal note, I would especially like to thank Joe and Yvette Dabby. Joe, Yvette: – I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for welcoming Miri, the kids, and I into the inner circle of your family...You are an Ambassador of kindness and graciousness and I will never forget you even if an ocean will soon divide us. You will always have a place in my heart and in my family....

There is one more thing that I will miss very much when I return to Israel and that is praying ענילה with you at the end of וים כיפור I have to admit, that I looked forward to singing "אל נורא עלילה" with you all year....You should know that I can be caught singing it year round. Like קהל יוסף it has found a dear place in my heart.

No matter where my family and I may be, we will always be with you in spirit. Thank you so much for this evening, and allowing us to be part of your community. In the spirit of "אל טרא עלילה" let me conclude with this hope for all of you:

ועכו לשצים רבות הבצים עם האבות בדיצה ובצהלה

May all of you – children together with their parents – merit lengthy years of joy.

On August 14, 2004, Ambassador Rotem completed his tour of duty in Los Angeles and returned home to Israel. We wish the Ambassador and his family all the best in his future endeavors.

Reflections

Hanukkah in Baghdad

By Elan S. Carr

B anu hoshekh legharesh — We have come to banish darkness. Thus begins a famous Hanukkah song, and no phrase better encapsulates the holiday's deeper meanings. This year, as a United States soldier serving in Iraq, I and several of my colleagues lit a Hanukkah lamp and uttered those words in a place that had never before heard them: the former presidential palace of Saddam Hussein, in the capital city of a new and free Iraq.

One is hard-pressed to imagine a holiday whose themes are more resonant with the events unfolding here: A spectacular military victory, the defeat of a despot, the re-sanctification of what had been desecrated. Truly, the banishment of darkness.

anukkah commemorates the rededication of ▲ Jerusalem's Temple in 165 BCE. Israel was then ruled by Syria's Hellenist king, Antiochus IV, a brutal megalomaniac who gave himself the title "Epiphanes" – "god manifested". In a campaign of merciless persecution, he murdered members of the priesthood, outlawed Jewish rituals, and desecrated the holy Temple. The priestly Maccabee family led a daring revolt and defeated the Hellenist armies. After recapturing the Temple, Jewish partisans rededicated the place by kindling its sacred Menorah, the sevenbranched lamp that had provided the Temple's eternal flame. To this day, Hanukkah lamps are lit to celebrate the relighting of that ancient Menorah, and to remember the victorious freedom fighters, whose courage stemmed from an abiding faith that God will cause good to triumph over evil, and light to banish even the darkest of hours.

For too many years, the people of Iraq have suffered horrors that defy imagination. Like Antiochus, Saddam thought himself to be like a god, or at least like those demigods of Mesopotamian history, Nebuchadnezzar and Hammurabi, with whom his boundless vanity inclined him regularly to equate himself. "Epiphanes" indeed—Saddam dispensed licentious pleasure and horrible pain, life and death, with the nonchalance of one who thought himself above hu-



manity itself. I myself have seen some of the evidence of his horrors, and I am sickened by them. I have met Iraqis who lost their closest relatives to Saddam's killing machines. I have walked the halls of the decadent monuments he built for himself while his people wasted away for want of food and freedom. I have visited Saddam's execution chambers at the notorious Abu Ghreib prison. I saw the ceiling hooks that were used to torture prisoners. I saw the prison's infamous "medical wing", used for human experimentation. And most shattering of all, I saw the desperate messages scratched on the walls of hideous cells next to the death chambers. Some of those messages appear to have been scribbled in excrement. I shuddered as I imagined the suffering endured by the forgotten victims of that terrible place – the excruciating physical pain, the agony over loved ones left behind, the devastating sounds of executions conducted only a few feet from their cells. I could almost hear the screams of torture and soft whimpers of despair echo along the walls' unforgiving concrete.

erhaps I am especially prone to feel empathy for **■** Iraq's prisoners of conscience, for my grandfather was one of them. He and other leaders of the once large Iraqi Jewish community were arrested, paraded through the streets in leg irons, and summarily jailed. But my grandfather was comparatively fortunate, for he was imprisoned many years before Saddam took the country to new depths of depravity. And after serving the prison sentence given him, my grandfather was released. Many of Saddam's prisoners were not so lucky. Many Iragis unfortunate enough to be deemed ethnically or religiously undesirable, or who displayed the intolerable audacity of free thought, entered Saddam's prisons with the knowledge that they would never again see their loved ones. And in the twisted reality of the former Iraq, they may well have hoped never again to see their loved ones, for Saddam's regime was known to torture children in front of their parents. Whereas my grandfather was able to assuage his suffering by rejoining the people he loved most in this world, the victims of Saddam's apparatus of death could only console themselves by scrawling desperate messages on the walls of their cells.

It is the defeat of this sort of profanity that Hanukkah celebrates. It was Antiochus' consummate ungodliness—all the more so when contrasted with the sacred Temple

worship that he prevented and defiled—that the Jews succeeded in vanquishing. But what can be more ungodly, what more profane, than torture, mass murder, and genocide? Such evil had been a staple of life in Iraq. But not any more. We have come to banish darkness.

This Hanukkah in Baghdad, in a large and lavish building, the gentle glow of a Hanukkah lamp shimmered throughout a cavernous room. One of the objects caught in its radiance is a gilded chair that used to serve as the tyrant's throne, and the palace in which it sits used to be the capital building of his reign of terror. Today, the chair is empty, and the palace houses the apparatus of Iraqi reconstruction. As my colleagues and I remember the Maccabee bravery of yesteryear and the re-sanctification of the Temple, we pray also for the brave and indefatigable people of Iraq, who day by day are rekindling their flames of hope and re-sanctifying their great land. They are banishing the darkness, and we wish them Godspeed.

Elan S. Carr returned home to Kahal Joseph this August. This article first appeared in the Miami Herald.

KJ Ambulance outfitted, on the streets

By Joe Samuels

A ll Israel is responsible for one another. With this thought in mind our Rabbi Haim Ovadia envisioned our Kahal fulfilling a great Mitzvah that may help improve or perhaps save many lives in this crucial time of Israel's struggle. That is how the idea of donating an ambulance to Magen David Adom was born. The congregation responded with enthusiasm and the Rabbi raised \$55,000.

Last June during my visit to Israel, I saw how the fruition of this idea became a reality. At the Magen David Adom station in Ramat Gan there it was, a new ambulance with the latest equipments, on it the inscription "Presented to the people of Israel by Kahal Joseph congregation of

Los Angeles". A sense of elation overtook me. I connected with both my Kahal and my people in Israel.

In conversation with Yizthak the station's manager briefed me of the work they do. There are 13 ambulances and 4 mobile units that respond to cities of Ramat Gan, Givatayim and Bnei Brak an area approximately the size of west Los Angeles. The station receives an



average of 60 emergency calls a day. The calls vary from terror attacks, car accidents, heart attacks, to minor injuries. Most impressive are the 500-600 medical volunteers ready 24/7 to help. Finally Yitzhak expressed his deep gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to Kahal members for the generosity of their gift and wished us all a peaceful and happy New Year.



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Norma & Sam Dabby Talmud Torah

A Year in the Life of a KJ Kid

By Edna Ovadia

s Rosh Hashanah approaches, hope kindles in our hearts for renewal, achievement, and constant improvement. As we seek to strengthen our traditions and pass the deep, sustaining knowledge that is our heritage from generation to generation it is important to remember that education is the key to Jewish, Sepharadi continuity.

In September, the Norma and Sam Dabby Talmud Torah Center will reopen its doors and welcome children ages five through twelve to the new school year. As anyone who attended the end-of-the-year Talmud Torah celebration last June will attest, the after-school program at Kahal Joseph has a proven track record in educating and inspiring our children with a love of Judaism, Hebrew language, and Sepharadi culture. On that Shabbat, the Talmud Torah students outdid themselves displaying their knowledge of prayers and songs, and sharing their resounding spirit.

This past year was full of exciting experiences and activities that helped engage our children and provide them with the opportunity to simultaneously learn and have fun. Right from the start, the Rabbi opened his home to the children in order to share the magic of Sukkot with a sukka celebration. On Hannuka, the children shared their own magic with the community as the Talmud Torah choir performed at a community-wide celebration that brought several Sepharadi synagogues together. And, on Purim, the children participated in the joyous mitzvah of preparing Mishloah Manot gift baskets, which they delivered to members of our community.

The children took several fieldtrips this year to enhance their knowledge and experience of Judaism. Before Pesach, they enjoyed a visit to the Matzah Factory where they learned how matzah is made and had the opportunity to prepare their own matzah. To conclude a year of dedication and achievement, Kahal Joseph sponsored a trip to the Zimmer Museum, an interactive Jewish children's museum for all who participated in the program.

If you would like a child you know to have these opportunities to learn and have fun, now is the time to sign them up for next year's program. We hope to see both returning students from last year and children who will be joining us for the first time this year. The excitement for renewal at Rosh Hashana often leads us to improve ourselves and to contribute to the world. Help your children sustain this energy throughout the year and throughout their lives by providing them with a firm basis —a Jewish identity that is a source of pride and joy.



Our choir performing on Hannukah.



Kids and baskets ready to go for Mishloah Manot.



Mrs. Ovadia and the kids enjoying their studies.

A Glamorous Celebration of Kindness

Kahal Joseph's Annual Gala Dinner was a Hit





RIGHT: Donning gowns and suits, the Kahal Joseph choir dazzled the audience with their great voices and cool moves.

ABOVE: Ron Einy, Rabbi Haim Ovadia, Ambassador Yuval Rotem (receiving his award) and Joseph Dabby.

LEFT: Virtuoso John Shahbazian sings for a clamoring crowd. he Glam-quotient was at an all-time high this year at our "Legacy of Kindness" Gala Dinner on March 7, 2004. The Regent Beverly Wilshire Grand Ballroom was the perfect setting for what has become our annual major fundraiser, the success of which brings together our members, friends of our Synagogue, supporters from around the world, and our honorees whose commitment to our Synagogue and its "legacy" all equal to one wonderful evening.

We enjoyed the added pleasure this year to experience our children's choir made up solely of our members' children. They opened the evening with four tunes that really set the inspiring tone for the rest of the night. With the musical direction of Mrs. Edna Ovadia, our children's voices created a most memorable moment. Jasmine Azouz mesmerized the audience with her rendition of the Star Spangled Banner, and Elana Jablon's musical tribute to her grandparents, Ruby and Joe Samuels, was outstanding. Mrs. Karen Dabby oversaw the beautiful choreography.





And the ladies had their moment at center stage.

Our President, Joe Dabby, presented a special "Award of Merit" to a truly great friend of our Synagogue, Consul General from the State of Israel, the Honorable Ambassador Yuval Rotem.

This year's honorees, Majdoline and Nassim Hay Mussry, were joined by their children on stage, to accept the "Legacy of Kindness" Award for their years of dedication and loyalty to our synagogue, its programs and the many services it renders to our community.

Our Hessed Award was presented to Ruby and Joe Samuels. Two dear and faithful friends to our Synagogue, whose time and efforts over the years have been untiring. Ruby, as our Sisterhood Treasurer for the last 15 years, and Joe, as a past member of our Board of Directors, never waiver in their positive beliefs and support.

The Ruben Berci Orchestra provided some of the most beautiful dance music this side of heaven. Musical virtuoso John Shahbazian accompanied dinner by candlelight on the Oud, and Ronald Einy proved once more, to be an indelible and gracious Master of Ceremonies.

Our Honorees



MAJDOLINE & NASSIM HAY MUSSRY

Majdoline and Nassim moved from Indonesia to Los Angeles in 1981 and almost immediately joined the Kahal Joseph family. Since the day they joined our community, Madoline and Nassim have been great supporters of our congregation. They are also selfless supporters of several charities in the community at large.



RUBY & JOE SAMUELS

Our Hessed award recipients have been involved with Kahal Joseph since their arrival to Los Angeles in 1978. Ruby and Joe are actively involved in the day-to-day affairs of our synagogue Joe served on the Board and Ruby has been Sisterhood treasurer for the past 15 years. Their positive outlook on life and winning smiles have endeared them to the whole community.



AMBASSADOR YUVAL ROTEM

Ambassador Yuval Rotem, Consul General of Israel, has been Israel's principal public voice in the 7 states under his jurisdiction during some very difficult times. He has also been a dear friend to Kahal Joseph. The entire Jewish community of Los Angeles will miss him, as he has finished his term and returned to Israel.





A Year in Pictures:

A Retrospective of Kahal's Recent Events and Celebrations

By Dafna Ezran

The High Holiday and Sukkot season was punctuated by the warm welcome congregants received at Rabbi and Mrs. Ovadia's Sukka Open House held at their home on October 14th, which was followed by an evening of learning and entertainment at Kahal on October 16th. Heidi Samouha lectured on Kohelet, the text read during Sukkot, and Viktor Frankle, a noted psychotherapist who helped establish the school of logotherapy. Her presentation was accompanied by a performance by LA Shir Choir and a screening of Hasandak, a movie that explores the dynamics within a



Sefaradi community in Israel.
Then, in December, Kahal
joined with Magen David and Hashalom congregations for a show of
Sephardi Unity and a community-

wide celebration of Hanukka. The evening included displays of hazzanut, a music concert, menorah lighting and a special presentation



for the children by Parrot Tales that included a magic show and treasure hunt. The musical portion of the evening celebrating Hanukkah featured a full oriental band and the inspirational voices of our own Rabbi Haim Ovadia, his son Ariel and Rabbi Hagay Basri. Our Hazzanim led nearly 200 guests in Iraqi Shebahot and other adapted melodies that revived nostalgic memories of the past for some, and refreshed the hearts of others.

The winter was enlivened further by a series of adult education classes and shabbat luncheons. The luncheons were inaugurated by the Tu B'Shvat Shabbat on February 7th. There, Seth Milstein, a Captain in the United States Marine Corps

Reserve who was mobilized shortly after September 11th and fought in Iraq, gave a presentation about his experiences. Prior to joining the Marine Corps, he lived for two and a half years in Israel, including six months as a volunteer with the Israeli Army. This luncheon was followed by three others honoring, respectively, the Legacy of Kindness banquet guests, the mothers in our lives, and Israel.

When Purim rolled around, though, Kahal was ready to celebrate once again on March 6th, with megillah readings for both adults and children, a special dinner highlighted by the performance of Jimmy and the band, and a program for kids that included aerobic fun and entertainment.

The very next night, the adults rolled out the red carpet at the Legacy of Kindness dinner on March 7 which honored Majdoline and



Nassim Hay Mussry as well as Ruby and Joe Samuels. The evening was also graced by a personal, touching speech from outgoing Israeli Ambassador Yuval Rotem.

One month later, Pesach was upon us and the ladies of the sisterhood generously contributed their time and effort to prepare Kahal's exquisite collection of Sifrei Torah for the holiday, polishing the silver



on the parchments beautiful cases. The congregation also held a Shabbat lunch before Pesach to enable families to enjoy Shabbat without the burden of Pesach preparation.

On April 26, congregants returned to Kahal for a respectful and meaningful Yom Ha'atzmaut program. The L.A. Shir Choir performed a medley of Israeli songs Memorial prayers were said and candles were lit by relatives and veterans in memory of Tzahal IDF soldiers and terror victims. And special prayers for the state of Israel and the IDF were included in a festive Arvit prayer followed by Hallel and Shofar. The event was sponsored by Mr. David Radfar Shay Gozlan Ofir and Liron Yaakov to enable all to attend. In the words of Rabbi Ovadia, the "Yom HaAtzmaut clebration . . . in Kahal Joseph has indeed demonstrated that we are united and that we are worthy of the great miracles God has performed for us with the creation of the state of Israel 56 years ago."

Following Shavuot, we enjoyed the year's accomplishments at the Annual Picnic held at the Westwood Recreation Complex and a special Shabbat Luncheon honoring the accomplishments of the Talmud Torah throughout the year and the conclusion of one year and a half of study by the Adult Tanach Study Group that met regularly on Tuesday nights and finished its innovative and challenging reading through the book of Genesis. As summer began, a lecture on the special, lost dye of Tekhelet was given by Mr. Mois Navon and an insightful Tish'a B'Av program provided a rare opportunity to view the film Masada and discuss its context as well as share prayer and break the holiday fast together.



Upcoming Events

October 3

This year we are going to have a unique celebration to mark the conclusion of the high Holidays and the beginning of the beautiful festivities of Sukkot. Dr. Jonah Jacob of Brookline, MA, is dedicating a sefer torah to Kahal Joseph in memory of his father. On Sunday, the 2nd day of Hol HaMoed, Oct. 3nd 2004, following an open house at R. Ovadia's house from 3:00 to 5:00 pm the Sefer Torah will be brought from R. Ovadia's house to Kahal Joseph through Beverly Glen blvd. and Santa Monica blvd. Once at Kahal, the dedication ceremony will be concluded and we will celebrate with true joy and happiness accompanied by jimmy Gamliel and his band and an Iraqi ensemble for a night of song, dances and Hakkafot.

October 24

Women's Day begins at 11:30 am with a brunch and presentation by the Israel Women's Network and other exciting activities.

Shoebox Sukkah Model Competition

Open to children ages 2 to 20.Design a miniature sukkah in a shoebox & decorate it.

Submit entries by Wednesday, September 29th at noon

Beautiful Sukkah Challenae

Open to all individuals who construct a full-size sukkah. Build a sukkah and take pictures of the process & result. Submit pictures in display form by Monday, October 4th at noon.

Prizes will be awarded in both Sukkah competitions.

Congratulations to Mary and Brian Edwards From all your family

that loves you

From the Archives...



Photo courtesy Yoel F. Iny Wedding of Eliza & Shim'oon Iny, Baghdad 1934.



Photo courtesy Benny Judah and Mordy & Sheila Cohen

Members of the Maccabee Group of Calcutta, India (circa 1956) (Front row) Ruby Cohen, *, *, Danny Abraham, Ike Joshua, Seemah Cohen, Myrtle Joshua, Florice Sales. (Second row) Abdian Cohen, Israel Joshua, Jeffry Abraham, Elias Morris, *, *, Regina Abraham, Sassoon Sales, Mozelle Abraham, Ramah Cohen, Sheila Cohen. (Back row) *, David Rodda, Benny Judah, *, Florence Sadka, Sunoo Tweena, *, Alex Manasseh, David Nahoum.

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16 / THE SHOFAR SEPTEMBER 2004

Youth Spotlight

KJ Member, Campus Leader

Sammi N. Shaaya is the current President of the Associated Students of the University of California at Irvine. Sammi is the CEO of the department and represents the entire undergraduate population of 20,000 students on a local and statewide level.

As a fellow member of the Jewish community Sammi's efforts in financially supporting on campus Jewish groups such as Hillel and Anteaters for Israel has aided in many new developments and advancements toward the progression of the Jewish cause on the UCI campus. Although not publicly visible, Sammi has helped toward the regulation and decrease of anti-Semitic groups who insist on imposing their hateful views on the campus. As Presi-

dent, Sammi has been a great aid to the undergraduate Jewish population in his actions behind the scenes of what takes place on the UC Irvine campus.

Sammi is a proud member of the Kahal Joseph Congregation



and owes much of his discipline and motivation to Judaism. As a fourth year student, he is currently majoring in Criminology, Law and Society, and Women Studies. Sammi will apply for law school in the fall of this year, and aspires to be a Congressman or Senator to serve our nation.

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Ruby and Joe
Samuels
wish their family
and friends
Shana Tova
May the coming
year be filled with
peace and good
health

To our friends and extended family at Kahal Joseph:

Tizkoo L'Shanim Rabbot May it be a year of good health, happiness and peace.

Yvette, Joseph, Sharon Lisa and Nadine Dabby

May you be inscribed in the book of life

For a wonderful year filled with good health and an abundance of joy

Warmest Wishes

Marsha Levine

To all our friends and members of Kahal Joseph
Shana Tova
Health and Happiness
The McAbian Family

18 / THE SHOFAR SEPTEMBER 2004

To Our Families and Friends:

We Wish You a Happy and Healthy New Year

Shana Tova Gmar Hatima Tova

Manachi Kemareh Merna, Dror, Danny & Dennis Ironi

Abe & Ourite Kamara & Family

Welcome Baby Sophie

Fuad, Evelyn & Michael Salem

Kitty & Joe Sassoon

Wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year

Rabbi Haim L Edna Ovadia and Family

Harry & Elsa Singman and Family

Flora L. Judah Sassoon and Family

Marcelle & Joseph E. Joseph and Family

Isaac, Suzy, Nathalie and Jonathan Assia Best wishes to Rabbi & family and all our friends at Kahal Joseph

> Rita Hanin Jeffrey Hanin

Shana Tova From our family to yours

The Benhamou Family

Sheila, Mordy & Fiona Cohen

Wish you all a healthy year, well over the Fast, and the Almighty's blessing.

Lily Judah & Family

Sophie Aslan and Family

Hilda Sassoon and Family

Marcelle & Joseph E. Joseph and Family

Florence Shamash & Sally Joseph Caroline & David Azouz & Family

Wish all our members a Healthy and Happy New Year

We wish you a
year of peace and joy
Letizia & Ronald Einy
And Family

To our granddaughter Sharon Hafuta, Mazal Tov on your Bat Mitzvah Yvonne & Zvi Moallem

> Charles, Teresa & Chas Dabby

Ramah & Joe Mingail

Sima & Eddy Sassoon

Naomi, Melvin L Ariel Ezekiel

Congratulations to Jenny & Yigal Avrahamy On the birth of their daughter Emma Rose

Member Happenings

Newborns

Jenny & Yigal Avrahami, Baby Girl Emma Rose
Marlene & Oren Baruch, Baby Boy Jake Sass
Dorit & Joel Cooper, Baby Boy Garrett Isaac
Selena & Mayer Dallal, Baby Boy Benjamin Heskel
Shaun & Mitch Jacobs, Baby Boy Barak Sam
Molly & Saeed Jalali, Baby Boy Etan
Micky & Haim Kahtan, Baby Boy Jacob
Sigal & Jonathon Kelly, Baby Girl Maya
Tamara & Naphtali Levin, Twins
Isaac Ariel Ezra and Elisha Yechiel Moshe
Sherly & Ramin Peyman, Baby Boy Gavriel Yehoshua
Sylvia & Nader Saghizadeh, Baby Boy Daniel Yaacov
Elizabeth & Dr. Maurice Salem, Baby girl Sophie Rachel
Hellen & Ronny Sassoon, Triplets
Solomon, Joshua & Michael

Keren & Charlie Shad, Baby Boy Justin Lerann

Keren & Eddie Shad, Baby Boy Dylen Ori

Carol & Tony Theiss, Baby Boy Jacob Albert

Lisa & David Volvovic, Baby Boy Gabriel Albert

Weddings

Riki Ella & Tal McAbian
Mary Zekaria & Brian Edwards
Tracy Dellal & Sidney Mathalon
Tali Chammou & Dan Gordon
Simha Ambar & Robert Bazak

B'nei Mitzvot



Edwin Amarianfar



Anson Errol Einy



Sharon Hafuta



Alexander Abraham Issac



Daniel Zaraya



Itamar Shaul Ovadia



Gabriel Sassoon

[no pictures available]

Roy Harel Amit Ruseck Brandon Austin Tomka

Graduates



Lisa Dabby *UCSF School of Medicine*Inducted to Alpha Omega
Alpha society



Rochelle Hakak *Pitzer College*B.A. Cross Cultural
Psychology



Mark Solomon *University of Manchester*B.A. Psychology with honors



Steven Sion Solomon *Kings College*B.Sc. Business Management with honors



Margaret Lurie
UC Santa Barbara
B.A. Literature & Language
Phi Beta Kappa



Jasmine Azouz *Pacific Hills High School*



Florence Menashy Valley Torah High School



Ariel OvadiaTiffereth Jerusalem
High school,
Staten Island

Sammi N. Shaaya UC Irvine B.A. Criminology & Women's Studies

Please see article on page 17

Milestones

Flossie & Albert Jacob, 50th anniversary Kitty & Joe Sassoon, 60th anniversary Sheila & Mordy Cohen, 50th anniversary Moselle Amron, 80th birthday

Clockwise from right—Sheila & Mordy Cohen, on their wedding day; Kitty & Joe Sassoon celebrating their 60th surrounded by their family; Moselle Amron on her birthday with husband Michael and son David.







In Memoriam

Anwar Abdallah

Alice Herview

Shim'oon Iny

Meyer Jonah

Abe Lelah

Albert Levy

Benjamin Levy

Shaul Saberi

Charlie Shaby

Lilly Shad

Violet Sheeri

Arthur Simon

Matty Yakub

Avraham Zaraya

Shaul Saberi

Aba

Your passing has changed our lives in infinite ways.

We learned to embrace each other more fully.

Opening our hearts to the joy and the pain.

We learned to relinquish our pride and admit our shortcomings, as we now know the frailties of our ego keep us embedded in our inability to be fully honest with others or with ourselves.

We learned to let go of our momentary needs in order to lend a helping hand to another.

We learned to be more patient and more kind.

We learned that to love is much more important than to be correct.

We learned to be present in each moment, for it is truly a gift.

We learned that there is so much more to a person than meets the eye, and that our task is to look inside ourselves and into another's core to truly know him.

We learned to say what is in our hearts rather than leaving it unspoken.

Because tomorrow may be too late.

We learned to focus on what truly matters rather than losing ourselves in life's minutia.

Because in the end, it is not how successful we are, how much money or assets we possess.

Whether we are famous.

Or even somewhat well known.

Whether we are perceived as important or smart,

Whether our work is well respected or our titles grand.

What matters is that we are true to ourselves and that we live our lives knowing that everyday our existence is meaningful to at least one person.

We learned that there are many things outside this realm that we know very little about, but that we should simply trust, that our life and our death have profound meaning.

We learned that the stories and memories keep our loved one alive in our hearts.

We learned that it is even more difficult than we thought it would be to say goodbye.

By Dr. Dorit Saberi

Shim'oon Iny

Mr. Iny was born in Baghdad, Iraq in 1907. At age seven he lost his father who was drafted to the Turkish army during the first world war. His uncle, Benyamin Iny, took the responsibility to provide young Shim'oon with basic education. At age 20, he worked as a teacher in the Jewish school HaCerium, under the supervision of its principal Mr. Mosheh Dalah. Since the meager salary of a teacher did not provide sufficient income, he decided to try his luck in business, opening an electronics store. In 1933 he married Aliza Shiri, and his first son Fuad was born in 1937. Shim'oon was very active in Jewish life, and served in various capacities such as the Chairman of the Board as well as a Gabai and Hazzan of Ghawi Synagogue. He continued his work until 1951, when the family left Iraq and moved to Israel.

Upon arrival in Israel, the family was sent to Ma'beret Amishav next to Petah Tikva and after a short time he moved with his family to Bnei Barak, where he bought a house. Years later the family moved to Rehov Rashi in Ramat Gan, where he lived until his final days.

Mr. Iny noticed the absence of a synagogue and began work on establishing one. He devoted much of his time to raising money for this noble idea and traveled to Los Angeles several times for additional support. Finally when the synagogue Yehizkel opened its doors, Mr. Iny served as a member of the board for a long time. He found great satisfaction in teaching children Torah and prayers, and continuously taught and prepared children for Bar Mitzvah. All of this was done on a voluntary basis and Mr. Iny directed those parents who insisted on giving a donation to do so for the synagogue. In addition to his work for the synagogue, Mr. Iny also supported the Yeshiva of Alfe Menashe.

May his soul rest in peace. Amen!

By Yoel F. Iny

22 / THE SHOFAR SEPTEMBER 2004

SEPTEMBER 2004

ELUL 5765

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|---|--|---|--|
| 26 Elul 12 Selihoth 6:30 am | 27 Elul 13 | 28 Elul 14 | 29 Elul 15 Selihoth 6:30 am | 1 Tishrei 16 Shaharit 9:00 am Sefer Torah 10:30 am | 2 Tishrei 17 Shaharit 9:00 am | 3 Tishrei 18 Parashat Ha'azinu |
| Shaharit 7:30 am Cemetery visit following services | | | Shaharit 7:30 am Eruv Tavshilin Candles 6:42pm Arvit 7:00pm | Shofar 11:00 am Shofar 11:00 am Minha 6:15 pm Tashlikh 6:45 pm Arvit 7:00pm Candles 7:44pm | Sefer Torah 10:30 am Shofar 11:30 am Candles 6:39 pm Minha 6:45 pm Arvit 7:00 pm | Shaharit 8:30 am Rabbi's Class 5:30 pm Minha 6:30 pm Arvit 7:20 pm Shabbat ends 7:40 pm |
| | | | EREV ROSH HASHANA | ROSH HASHANA | ROSH HASHANA Second Day | Special Midnight Selihot 11:30pm |
| 4 Tishrei 19 Selihot 6:30 am Shaharit 7:30 am Minha, followed by Arvit 6:30 pm FAST OF GEDALIAH Starts 5:40 am Ends 7:30 pm | 5 Tishrei 20 | 6 Tishrei 21 | 7 Tishrei 22 | 8 Tishrei 23 | 9 Tishrei 24 Selihoth 6:30 am Shaharit 7:30 am Minha 1:30 pm 2:00 pm Candles 6:30 pm Kol Nidre 6:30 pm EREV YOM KIPPUR | 10 Tishrei 25 Shaharit 8:00 am Sefer Torah 11:00 am Mussaf 12:00 pm Minha 3:30 pm Neilah 5:00 pm Fast ends 7:30pm YOM KIPPUR |
| 11 Tishrei 26 | 12 Tishrei 27 | 13 Tishrei 28 | 14 Tishrei 29 Eruv Tavshilin Candles 6:23 pm Minha, followed by Arvit 6:30 pm EREV SUKKOT | 15 Tishrei 30 Shaharit 8:30 am Minha, followed by Arvit 6:30 pm Candles 7:23 pm SUKKOT 1st Day | | |

OCTOBER 2004

TISHREI 5765

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | | 16 Tishrei 1 | 17 Tishrei 2 |
| | | | | | Shaharit 9:00 am Minha, followed by Arvit 6:15 pm Candles for Shabbat 6:20 pm | Shaharit 9:00 am Minha followed by Arvit 6:15 pm Shabbat ends 7:22 pm |
| | | | | | SUKKOT 2nd Day | SUKKOT |
| 18 Tishrei 3 | 19 Tishrei 4 | 20 Tishrei 5 | 21 Tishrei 6 | 22 Tishrei 7 | 23 Tishrei 8 | 24 Tishrei 9 |
| Sefer Torah Dedication Shaharit 7:30 am Open House at Rabbi's 3:00 pm Sefer Torah march to KJ 5:00 pm | Shaharit 7:30 am Minha followed by Arvit 6:00 pm | Shaharit 7:30 am Minha followed by Arvit 6:00 pm Special lectures & study sessions 9:00 pm Limud 11:00 pm | Shaharit 5:15 am and 7:30 am Eruv Tavshilin Candles 6:12 pm Minha followed by Arvit 6:15 pm | Shaharit 9:00 am Minha followed by Arvit 6:15 pm Hakkafot 6:45 pm Candles 7:15 pm | Shaharit 9:00 am Sefer Torah ends by 10:30 am Children's reading 10:45 am Hakkafot 11:45 am Candles 6:10 pm Minha followed by | Shabbat Beresheet Shaharit 9:00 am Special Class: Genesis & the Big Bang 5:00 pm Minha followed by Arvit 6:00 pm |
| Hafla and Hakkafot 6:00 pm Second day Hol Ha'Moed SUKKOT | Third day Hol Ha'Moed | Fourth day Hol Ha'Moed SUKKOT | HOSHANAH RABBAH | SHEMINI ASERETH | Arvit 6:15 pm SIMHAT TORAH | Shabbat ends 7:12 pm |

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