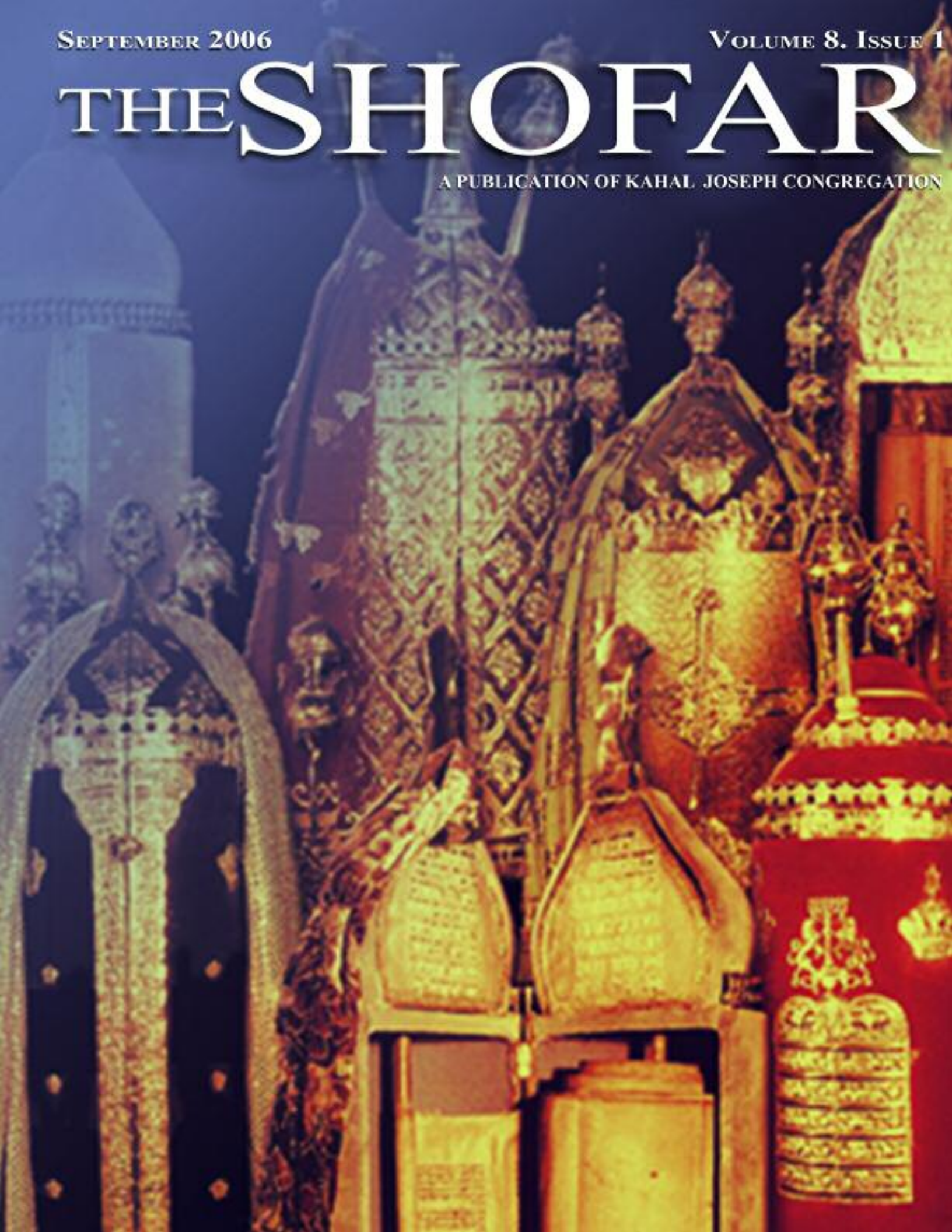


SEPTEMBER 2006

VOLUME 8. ISSUE 1

# THE SHOFAR

A PUBLICATION OF KAHAL JOSEPH CONGREGATION





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Yaelle David designed the cover of this edition of the Shofar. She is a member of the Iraqi Jewish Community in Paris, France. Ms. David recently earned her masters degree in Interface Design and Multimedia from the University of the North of Paris. She has been a freelance graphic artist and web designer since 2004.

**Many thanks to those who have contributed so generously to the Israel Fund. Your concern and assistance to our bretheren in Israel are greatly appreciated. To contribute please call (310) 474-0559 or with a check payable to:**  
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We apologize for any errors or omissions that may occur in this issue.

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## President's Message

# Our Synagogue: A Unique Sephardic Experience

**A**t this time of year, my thoughts turn to you as friends and close family members. I value and welcome the confidence you have instilled upon Kahal to enrich our strong community.

As I start my second year as president of our unique synagogue, I am proud to see our calendar of events filled with wonderful programs. The activities and presentations make our synagogue stand out as the most vibrant Sephardic synagogue in Los Angeles.

Under the leadership of our dear Rabbi Ovadia, we are discovering a deep Sephardic love and connection with the Torah, Hebrew language, culture and music. His classes on Sephardic roots and history, as well as musical concerts have put Kahal at the forefront of Sephardic cultural preservation. Our adult youth get-togethers and participation of young adult members in management and production of community activities is one of the most

important steps to solidify Kahal's future.

I thank our Hazan Sassoon Ezra for serving our congregation selflessly.

We take great pride in our Talmud Torah and its great team of qualified teachers under the leadership of Mrs. Edna Ovadia.

I am grateful for the dedication of our exceptional board of directors, sisterhood and staff: Sarah Bouchoucha and Dafna Ezran. We owe our success to all of you.

May G-d bless our community, families, and the entire nation of Israel with a healthy, prosperous and peaceful year. I wish every member and friend Shana Tova.



**Moussa Shaaya**

---

**Shana Tova**  
**Have a Wonderful Healthy New Year**

**Moussa Shaaya — Abe Kamara**

**AMT Enterprise**

# Rabbi's Message

Rosh HaShana serves as a reminder of how short our life is. Yes, it's true. Just yesterday we blew the shofar, fasted on Kippur got together for Pesah, enjoyed summer vacation and here we go again. It is a feeling that can make some people gloomy and others joyous. Some will look back with regret and say; "time flew by so fast we didn't even have time to stop and think". Others will savor and cherish every moment of the passing year, bitter or sweet. As I am writing these lines, though, that sense of uncertainty, of ephemeral existence is stronger than ever. As Israel is under vicious attacks from the south and the north by forces who seek its utter annihilation, the sycophant international community is still tongue tied, unable to pronounce the words that will incriminate the perpetrators of the attacks, people who were offered peace over and over again but rejected it. What will happen by the time these lines are read only G-d knows. There is great fear that a global war or one that consumes the Middle East will break out and meanwhile expressions of Anti-Semitism that creep around the globe can make their way anywhere. What will be our future as a nation, as a state? Is there going to be an end to the bloodshed and can we do anything about it?

The answer of Judaism to all that, and one that is especially appropriate during this time of year, is that no matter what transpires by the time you read these words, everything depends on us. Every individual on the face of the earth is responsible for what is happening in the world. Some of us have more and some less influence but our deeds and actions are affecting the world immediately and directly. Every moment we face choices that can lead us in one of two ways that can be vaguely referred to as good and evil, although it is not always clear cut which is which. When we choose good over evil, not only will it be easier to do so next time but we will strive to improve ourselves constantly. The simplest yardstick for what is good is "ve'ahavta le'reakha kamokha" – love your fellowmen as you love yourself or, if we start with preventive steps, do not unto others what you would not have them do unto you. It is the core teaching of Judaism and one that the world is not yet willing to fully embrace, but we should not give up, we have to keep on working and believing that each and everyone of us can make a difference. In our own small circle of Kahal Joseph that means stepping up education, strengthening the infrastructure of our community by helping each other morally, emotionally and

if need be, financially. We broaden our ties and reach out to other communities, to our non-Jewish neighbors and to the State of Israel and we strive to do all these with a strong sense of respect for the other, the different.

One of the ways we have done it last year was by launching a series of classes examining our unique Sephardic heritage. Sephardic communities were always distinguished by their unity and their non-judgmental approach. In that lecture series we have learned about the guidelines of the great leaders of Middle Eastern and North African communities, we have explored and enjoyed our rich liturgy and we have heard about the lives of the Jews of India in a special tribute to the glorious community of that country. It was a wonderful experience for all who participated, coupled with the surge of enthusiasm and involvement that we have witnessed in Kahal this past year, the participation of kids, teenagers, young couples and those who are still looking for their soul mates in our activities. I pray that this year will bring good things for all of us here, in Israel and the whole world.

May God bless us with the ability to transcend our differences and respect one another, to look deep into our souls and find our true selves, to reach out to our essence and help it blossom. May this be the year when the ancient prophecy (Isaiah, chapter 2) will be fulfilled:

*"In the days to come the mount of the Lord's House shall stand firm above the mountains and tower above the hills; and all the nations shall gaze on it with joy. And the many peoples shall go and say: "come let us go up to the Mount of the Lord, to the House of the God of Jacob; that he may instruct us in his ways, and that we may walk in His paths." For Torah shall come out of Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Thus He will judge among the nations and arbitrate for the many peoples, and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not take up sword against nation; they shall never again know war".*

Shana Tova u'Mevorekhet.



**Rabbi Haim Ovadia**

# The History of The Jews of India

By Mordecai A. Cohen

**T**o talk about the Jews of India I must say a few words about the Jews of Burma. They were connected not only by their proximity on the map but also with one another by marriage, as in the case of my father and my mother, of blessed memory. She was from Calcutta and he was from Rangoon, Burma. Most of the people were concentrated in Rangoon and they built the beautiful Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue in 1898. Ultimately, the 1,200 of them were forced to leave for India when the Japanese occupied the country, some left by boat and some trekked it all the way. A few who trekked it lost their lives.

We had a Jewish day school whose principal was also the Hebrew master. His name was Shaul Einy, grandfather of Ronald Einy, Vice President and Chairman of the Board of our synagogue, and my private tutor in Hebrew.

The by-product of Rangoon was our beloved Rabbi Elias Levi, z"l, the first rabbi of Kahal Joseph for many years.

The Jews who returned to Burma after the war, enjoyed good relations with the Burmese people because of the warm friendship between Prime Minister Ben Gurion and the Burmese Prime Minister. After the coup in 1962, the situation deteriorated and all the Jews left with the exception of one person who is still looking after the synagogue.

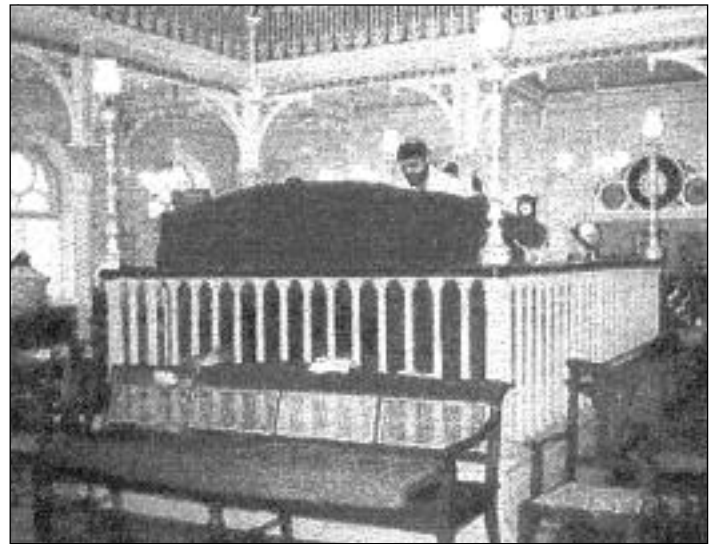
## Who are the Jews of India and what is their origin?

### Bene Israel

They say they are descendants of the Jews who escaped from Galil in the second century BCE, and were survivors of a shipwreck. After so many years they resemble the people of the country in appearance and customs, indicating intermarriage over the years. However, they maintained the dietary laws, circumcision and kept the Sabbath. They were not familiar with the Bible, but they remembered the *Shema*. It is said that the teachers who came from Baghdad in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries brought them back into the mainstream Judaism.

### Jews of Cochin

They came to a village on the south west coast of India, after the destruction of the Temple in 70 EC. They were attacked by the Moors in 1524 so they fled to what is now Cochin, and were protected by a Hindu Ruler, who was so



Pardesi Synagogue, Cochin



Commemorative Stamp for the 400 Anniversary of the Pardesi Synagogue



Sign for Jew Town Road

town, which later became known as "Jew Town" and by which it is still known. On the entrance wall of the synagogue there is a bronze tablet confirming the grant of the site. There is also a street called "Jew Street" in which the most magnificent "Pardesi Synagogue" was built in 1568. The Ruler also presented the Jews with three Gold Crowns to decorate the Sepher Torahs. To dedicate the 400 years of its existence, a postage stamp was printed and the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, in 1968, went to Cochin to celebrate the anniversary. I had the good fortune of making Kohanim when I happened to be there one Shabbat.

### Baghdadi Jews

Jews from the Arab countries of Iraq, Syria, Iran and Yemen, who came to India, were collectively called "Baghdadi Jews" as most of them arrived from Baghdad - they were also called "Iraqi Jews." Besides persecution,

they came for commercial reasons. The early arrivals settled in Surat, North of Bombay, which at that time was the headquarters of the British East India Company.

The most prominent of Jews in the Bombay area was David Sassoon (1792-1864). He was an industrialist and financier known as the "Rothschild of the East." He played a major role in the industrialization of Bombay where they ran a textile mill. He was knighted by King George V and was famously known as Sir Victor Sassoon. In 1863 he built the Maghen David Synagogue and in 1883, the Knesseth Eliyahu Synagogue was built. There were approximately 20,000 Jews. They provided the city with three mayors, professors in its universities, producers and stars in the film industry.

### **Calcutta Jews**

The Calcutta community was founded by Shalom Aharon Obadiah HaCohen born in Aleppo, Syria, in 1762 and left in 1789. His interests took him from the Punjab to Dacca, across the great plains of Northern India. In his footsteps sprang up small trading posts, prayer halls and cemeteries. Besides being jewelers to the Princes of India, he made his fortune in the opium trade to China and gradually with the additional wealth he acquired, went into industry and commerce.

The leadership of the Calcutta Jewry, after its establishment, was held by the Cohen's and the Ezra family. The Ezra family ranked amongst the city's most prominent industrial and commercial houses of the time. The head of the family, David Ezra, in 1927 was knighted and called Sir David Ezra. In 1884, he built the beautiful Maghen David Synagogue. The family was also instrumental in building a hospital, the Ezra Hospital, which provided free care to the Jews of Calcutta, where many specialists from the West used to visit and give lectures to the medical students. Besides the Maghen David Synagogue, Neve Shalom was built in 1831 and Bethel in 1856.

Another prominent member of the community was Mr. D.J. Cohen, born in 1883. In 1941 he was decorated with the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) for his civic services to the city of Calcutta.

Aaron and Sarah Curlender were also benefactors and highly respected members of the Jewish community, and identified themselves with several Jewish institutions and charities.

The Nahoum family, for over 100 years, were bakers and confectioners and the bakery is still in existence, and is being run by the grandson, David Nahoum.

Besides the families mentioned, there is another family that must be praised for their love and devotion to the Calcutta community - the Elias family. Ben (Benu, as he was lovingly called by his close friends) started a dynasty that not only surpassed the previously mentioned indus-

trialists, but was to become one of India's wealthiest businessmen. His companies provided employment to many people. It is unbelievable! The family owned Jute Mills, Coal Mines, Bone Mills, Electric Supplies, Cigarette Factory, Tobacco Leaf Company and an Insurance Company. The Company was run by him, his sons, sons-in-law, and grandsons – one of whom is our Past President, Mr. Benjamin H. Elias.

The Calcutta Jewish Girls School recently celebrated 125 years in existence (1881-2006). The school motto is "Not failure but low aim is crime." Miss Ramah Luddy, Principal of the school, dedicated her life to the education and welfare of our girls – my wife Sheila Duek-Cohen and her four sisters, were products of this educational system. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, our daughter could not avail of this educational institution. Her formative years were spent at Presentation Convent, at a hill station called Kodaikanal in South India.

Calcutta also boasted of a Jewish Club where we all met for social events and relaxation. During World War II the Jewish members of the armed forces of Britain and America, made themselves at home at the Club. Our Maccabi Sports Club offered us the opportunity to participate in various sports activities – basketball, badminton, table tennis and field hockey. Our club was represented by a field hockey team in the 1950's at the Maccabi Games in Israel.

Alive today is our most honored Jew of the Calcutta community, Lt. General Jack Frederick Ralph Jacob, who commanded the Indian Forces on the Eastern Front during the 1971 war which led to the establishment of Bangladesh. He was also a veteran of World War II and was wounded in the Middle East. His most remarkable achievement as a Jew from Calcutta, besides his command in the army, was being given the honor of becoming Governor of Goa for one term and immediately after his tenure of three years in Goa, he was made Governor of the Punjab, which he held for another 3 years before his retirement. Our families, the Cohen's, Dukes and Jacobs – his cousins, and also the Calcutta community, are very proud of his achievements.



**Sefre Torah, Pardesi Synagogue, Cochin**

*Best Wishes to the  
Kahal Joseph Community  
for a Happy and Healthy New Year*

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# Three new Sefre Torah join The Kahal Joseph Collection

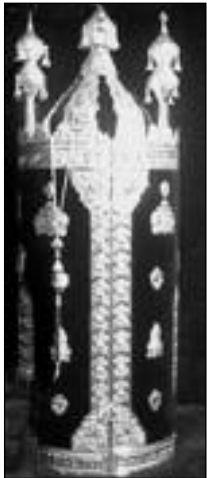
By Joe Samuels

**K**ahal Joseph's collection of Sefre Torah is unbelievable. Behind every Sefer there is a unique story, and together this collection of Sefre Torah records the history of the community. The Sefers, just as our members, come from different distant lands, and remind us that wherever our people went they kept our traditions alive.

Three new Sefers were added this year to our collection.

The congregation is grateful to both Moselle and Michael Amron and to Yoel (Fuad) Iny for their continued support and commitment to Kahal Joseph congregation. May Hashem bless them and their families with a long, happy and healthy life.

## Sefer Torah in memory of Shim'oon Faraj Iny



Dedicated by Yoel (Fuad) Iny in memory of his father, the Sefer is in a silver casing and was scribed in Israel.

Shim'oon was born in Baghdad in 1907. He worked as

ateacher in the Jewish school since the age of twenty, and was very active in Jewish life. He married Aliza Shiri in 1933. The family immigrated to Israel in 1951, where Shim'oon dedicated much of his time to establish Synagogue Yehizkel. Shim'oon found great satisfaction in teaching children Torah and prayers. Shim'oon passed away in May 2003, may his soul rest in peace.



## Sefer Torah in memory of Girgee Eda

Dedicated by Michael Amron in memory of his mother, the Sefer is in blue velvet and silver writing, and was scribed in Israel.

Girgee Eda was born in Baghdad in 1899, moved to Culcutta at the age of 12 and married Israel Hai Amron at the age of 14, and had 11 children. She passed away in London in 1990 at the age of 94 may her soul rest in peace.



## Sefer Torah in memory of Salha Mitana Ekaireb and Ezra Sion Ekaireb

Dedicated by Moselle Amron in memory of her parents, the Sefer has a silver casing and gold writing and was scribed in Israel.

Salha was born in Baghdad, and Ezra was born in Basra in the late 1800s. Both immigrated to India and were married in Calcutta and had 12 children. In their daily lives they maintained a very orthodox tradition. Salha passed away in India in 1948 at the age of 64 and Ezra in 1951 at the age of 78 may their souls rest in peace.

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Shana Tova and our best wishes

To Rabbi Haim & Edna Ovadia and Family  
To our Board of Directors and Sisterhood Board  
And to all the members of Kahal Joseph  
Congregation.

Shaoul & Doris Moshi and Family

# Norma & Sam Dabby Talmud Torah

## A Year of Achievement

By Dafna Ezran

**O**n Sunday, June 4, 2006 we were privileged to honor our graduating and continuing Talmud Torah students for their accomplishments and learning in Jewish studies, prayers, and the Hebrew language.

The program showcased the youngest students' mastery of the basic building blocks of Jewish identity in the hands of Morah Rinat. The synchronized gestures and adorable introductions enhanced our appreciation of the knowledge they had gained, starting with the Aleph Bet and continuing through songs for Rosh Hashanah, Purim, and Pesah.

The middle group of students, taught by Morah Sigal, displayed their knowledge of songs from the Jewish calendar year, along with comprehension of fundamental blessings and prayers such as the Kiddush, Hamotzi, and the Shmah. Finally, the oldest group, led by Mrs. Edna Ovadia, wowed the crowd with their detailed recitation of the Shemah as well as with melodies from the Sephardi tradition.

A highlight of the prayer chorus was Charles Einy's solo. He is one of two Talmud Torah graduates in 2006: Charles prepared for his bar mitzvah through two years of intensive and exemplary study in the Talmud Torah program and through individual tutoring with Mrs. Edna Ovadia. Our second graduate this year, Gabriella Kamara, is also preparing for her bat mitzvah which will take place at summer's end, in September.

The program concluded with the multi-age Talmud Torah Chorus leading the audience in a spirited rendition of "Esah Enai El He'harim"—"I Will Raise My Eyes to the Mountains," led by Edna Ovadia, the Director of the Talmud Torah program, and Morah Noga, who tutored students who excelled in Hebrew.

Afterwards, students, parents, relatives and friends celebrated with a sumptuous brunch lovingly organized, decorated, and coordinated by Suzy Assia, Yvette Dabby, Nicole Mathalon, and Sandy Shiri. The room was festively decorated with fanciful balloon bouquets and the children enjoyed a sundae bar with Baskin Robbins ice cream, while adults indulged in Coffee Bean coffee. Throughout the event, Yvette Dabby, Melanie Ezerzer, Rita Hanin, Elsa Singman and Shula Wyner worked diligently to ensure that preparations went smoothly and that everything was in place for the children and their guests.

Once everyone had satisfied both hunger and sweet tooth, Rabbi and Edna Ovadia thanked the instructors and staff of the program. Following an inspirational story from Edna, each child received a certificate and a graduation present to sweeten the end of a fabulous year of learning.



**The oldest group wowed the crowd with their detailed recitation of the Shemah.**



**Multi age chorus leading the audience in a spirited rendition of "I will raise my eyes to the mountain."**



**Graduates Gabriella Kamara & Charles Einy with Rabbi & Mrs. Haim Ovadia.**

# Kahal Joseph Celebrates 45



Rabbi Haim Ovadia presenting the Award of Merit to  
Hazan Sassoon Ezra

by Ronald Einy

**I** believe influence is the union of power and purpose. As wives of our Synagogue's Presidents, our First Ladies:

Victoria Saul, z"l    Helen Levi, z"l  
Rylla Elias, Kitty Sassoon,  
Helen Jonah, Yvette Dabby,  
Sholeh Shaaya



Mr. Ezra's Family feted him with a musical comedy tribute

certainly have a powerful presence in our historical landscape. But most important, they each have purpose – an abiding commitment to the principles of goodness and generosity that transcends any one individual. On stage at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel you could feel their warmth, and were moved by their deep love for Kahal, its members and its legacy.

Kahal Joseph Choir  
perform under the  
direction of Mrs.  
Edna Ovadia







From Rt. Michelle Kurtz received the award for her mother Helen Levi z"l, Rylla Elias, Kitty Sassoon, Helen Jonah, Yvette Dabby, Sholeh Shaaya, Florence Shamash, Elsa Singman.

On the same evening, we also honored our three Sisterhood Presidents:

Florence Shamash  
Elsa Singman  
Yvette Dabby

Women whose message was empowering: we did it, and so can you! To see each of these great ladies on stage was a source of inspiration to an audience full of admirers.

His life and work are testament to the immensity of his bountiful heart: the Award of Merit was bestowed on our

Hazan Sassoon Ezra

Beloved by so many, Hazan Sassoon Ezra took his most well-deserved honor for devotion, vision and courage. His entire family feted him with a musical comedy tribute, and emotions ran high as our Hazan took the stage.

In an evening that included our Talmud Torah Choir, directed by Edna Ovadia, a beautiful song from "AIDA" sung by Michelle Tweena, granddaughter of Ben and Rylla Elias, and a performance of "Stand by Me" by Jasmine Azouz accompanied by Maclin and Anson Einy, it is easy to imagine a night that was touching, emotional and very entertaining.



Seemah Betz received the award for her mother Victoria Saul z"l



Blessing the Hallah Lt. to Rt. Moussa Shaaya, Mordecai A. Cohen & Shaoul Moshé



# Growing and Thriving at Kahal Joseph Congregation

By Dafna Ezran

In 5766 our community enjoyed numerous events as Kahal Joseph Congregation's social calendar enlivened our year.

The rhythm of Shabbat grounded the ongoing with a series of Shabbat dinners and a Family Shabbat morning program geared toward younger families.

The centerpiece of the Friday night gatherings was a Traditional Iraqi Shabbat Dinner, hosted and personally prepared by the women of Kahal Joseph. The sold-out event, organized by Yvette Dabby, featured a homemade tebeet, special eggs and amba, and numerous other delicacies. The familiar & elegant food, executed with grace and skill, generated an atmosphere of warmth and festivity. During the evening R. Ovadia spoke about "Who Are the Sepharadim?" asking attendees to consider the future of the community as they appreciate

the past. This event also kicked off a series of cooking and baking classes taught by the ladies of our community.

During the series of Shabbat morning programs, Rabbi Ovadia and his talented wife, Edna, worked with the young families in the community to ensure the spiritual continuity of Sephardi tradition and Jewish learning. The Family Shabbat programs invited children and parents to lead services and learn prayers together, transferring an understanding of and connection with Shabbat in its essence—a day of rest, joy, and appreciation of Hashem and his presence in the world through prayer.

Surrounding the regularity of Shabbat, the cycle of holidays occasioned well-established traditions along with innovative programs. During Sukkot of 5766 we enjoyed two special events—a Sukkah Party hosted by

Rabbi and Edna Ovadia in their home, replete with spirited singing to the accompaniment of traditional instruments, and an impromptu 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for R. Ovadia. In addition, there was the not-to-be-forgotten Sukkah Festival which took place on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. This gala event included an excellent concert for adults and a double-feature of children's shows—a marionette show and a Mad Science show. All in all there was something to suit every taste.

On Hannuka, the children were feted by the Sisterhood at its traditional Hannuka party where the young ones enjoyed pizza, donuts, and specially chosen presents. At the Talmud Torah Hannuka event, students and their guests created ceramic menorahs and witnessed the making of olive oil from scratch. On Tu B'Shvat Edna Shahrabani organized artful planting





and crafts that engaged the children in hands-on appreciation of the vegetative world. At the Sisterhood's Purim party, an indoor carnival organized by Molly Jalali and Sigal Kelly filled the air with delighted shouts, fun rides, and game booths. A first for Kahal the Purim carnival was everything that a youngster could dream of, replete with prizes and treats from food carts. Then, in preparation for Pesah, the Talmud Torah kids and guests voyaged through the Matzah Factory in Westwood with its entertaining, educational presentation.

For the grown-ups, Pesah brought an elegant Hafla concert featuring Middle Eastern music along with a masterful fruit and dessert buffet. Finally, on Yom Ha'atzmaut Elizabeth Levy, Nicole Mathalon, Tracy Mathalon, Sandy Shiri, and Suzy Assia spearheaded an effort to remake the social hall as a mini-Israel. Revelers were greeted with a Masada maze, Dead Sea mud for sculpting, Israeli flag crafts, a Western Wall model for placing notes, and a lush Kibbutz booth dispensing goody bags filled with Israeli snacks and candy. Throughout the evening a choir sang Israeli standards and the celebration culminated with

fresh, hot falafel courtesy of Hazzan Sassoon Ezra.

In a different mode of celebration, one founded in doing mitzvot, a group of dedicated women prepared gift baskets for less fortunate community members during the holidays. Before Rosh Hashanah, special baskets were prepared to enhance recipients' celebration of the High Holy Days and to sweeten their new year. And on Purim, Mishloah Manot baskets were individually distributed by Kahal Joseph volunteers along with cards and artwork from the children of the Talmud Torah. For the Purim basket project, the women of Kahal spent numerous hours baking homemade confections.

Improving our ability and motivation to fulfill mitzvot, a series of speakers at Kahal helped us understand ourselves and others in the context of our Jewish identity. Michael Barclay addressed the topic of meditation and Judaism as a means of developing our ability to perform our best and contribute to the world; Judy Aronson expounded upon ways for assisting Jewish children to become Jewish adults; and Raphaella Segal, Assistant Mayor of Kedumim in Samaria conveyed poignantly the daily life strug-

gles and impressive achievements of those living in the contested areas of Israel. The year concluded with Rabbi Ovadia's popular lecture series exploring the history of Sephardic tolerance and achievement in religious scholarship, musical virtuosity, and civic life.

Helping to sustain all these events and celebrating our achievement as a community in mid-year came Kahal Joseph Congregation's Gala Dinner 2006. The banquet honored the first ladies of our congregation: Victoria Saul, z"l; Helen Levi, z"l; Rylla Elias; Kitty Sassoon, Helen Jonah, Yvette Dabby, Sholeh Shaaya, Florence Shamash, and Elsa Singman. The banquet committee also bestowed the Award of Merit on our beloved Hazzan Sassoon Ezra for nearly half a century of devotion to Kahal Joseph Congregation.

The year concluded with the Talmud Torah's Graduation and the community's Annual Picnic. The picnic, organized by Dr. Aaron Sassoon, was a lot of fun, everyone enjoyed the BBQ, arts & crafts, a backgammon tournament, and sports for kids.

Be'ezrat hashem, 5767 will bring us another year filled with peace, joy, and spiritual growth in our flourishing community.



---

Wishing all our friends,  
family,  
and Kahal Community

*A Happy and Healthy  
New Year*

And well over the fast

**HANNIE & DAVID KELLY  
SIGAL & JONATHAN KELLY  
and FAMILIES**



---

# Youth in the Spotlight

## Thoughts on being Bar-Mitzvah

Charles Morton Einy

*"I have never felt more connected to my religion than I do today."*



This was the basic feeling I had throughout my Bar Mitzvah studies. Studying with Rabbi Ovadia and Rabbanit Edna seemed to bond me to my Jewish faith more than at any other time of my life. Learning about my heritage and the deep connection my family has with Kahal Joseph has given my Bar Mitzvah a special meaning to me. Wearing my Tefillin and reading directly from the Torah, really made me proud of being Jewish. I want these feelings to continue throughout my life.

My parasha taught me many things also. I tried to put it into perspective, and how it affects my own life and the world we live in. Though this took me longer to understand, I finally got it; about how G-d does not want material sacrifices, but wants people to be good within themselves, to be just and fair, and not to use religious beliefs against others who may be of the same religion. What a positive lesson a few paragraphs can have!

## Beverly Hills Junior Varsity Cheer Squad "Tigers" Competed in Las Vegas



**Jessica Fischman  
of our Talmud  
Torah is a team  
member.**

Beverly Hills Recreation and Parks Department's Junior Varsity Competitive Cheer Squad was invited to attend the National Cheeleading Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 22, 2006. Their invitation came

after two 1st place finishes in their Division, thus achieving the highest overall points in a **Regional Competition at Arcadia High School in March 2006.**

---

## OUR BEST WISHES TO THE KAHAL COMMUNITY

From

**ELIZABETH & SHAOUL LEVY**  
**AND FAMILY**

---

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

In honor of  
**Joseph Dabby**

We love you

**Rosie & Albert Nissan  
Marc & Jaimie**

---

Shana Tova

From our family to yours

**Caroline and David Azouz**

---

# To Our Families and Friends:

We Wish You a Happy & Healthy New Year

---

Shana Tova  
Gmar Hatima Tova  
**Manachi Kemareh**  
**Merna, Dror, Danny,**  
**& Dennis Ironi**

---

*Shana Tova*  
*Wishing you all a year*  
*filled with good health*  
*and happiness*  
**Jack, Adele**  
**and Gabriella Mussry**

---

*Helen & Rita Zakoo*

---

*Mollie & Norman*  
*Konigsberg*

---

*Dorett, James, & Ronny*  
*Becker and Family*

---

*Rabbi Haim & Edna Ovadia*  
*and Family*

---

*Michelle & Stan Kurtz*  
*Jenna & Eithan*

---

*Suzy, Isaac, Nathalie*  
*and Jonathan Assia*

---

*Flora & Judah Sassoon*  
*and Family*

*Tizkoo L'Shanim Rabbot*

May it be a year  
of good health,  
happiness, and peace.

**Yvette, Joseph, Sharon,**  
**Lisa, and Nadine Dabby**

---

*"Please G\_d, bless us with*  
*fulfillment of our prayers for*  
*health,*  
*goal attainment,*  
*and PEACE."*

---

**Vera Levi & Judy Lurie**  
**Families**

---

**Mazal Tov**  
to Sophie Rachel Salem  
on starting preschool  
**Fuad & Evelyn Salem**

---

*Charles, Teresa,*  
*& Chas Dabby*

---

*Ramah & Joe Mingail*

---

*Marcelle & Joseph E. Joseph*  
*and Family*

---

*Florence Shamash*  
*& Sally Joseph*

**Mazal Tov**  
**Charles**

On Your Bar Mitzvah

Ronald, Letizia,  
and Miranda Einy

---

*Wishing you all a year of health,*  
*happiness, and joy*

**Alice & Maurice Zekaria**  
**And Family**

---

*Elsa and Harry Singman*

---

*Lily Judah and Family*

---

*Florence Nathan*

---

*Sheila, Mordecai,*  
*and Fiona Cohen*

---

*Claire & Naji Assia*

---

*Rita Hanin*  
*Jeffrey Hanin*

---

*Alexandra, Rafael, Demi,*  
*and Brendan Itzhaki*

# Member Happening

## Newborns

Cecille & Miky Acoca • son **Yonah Shlomo**  
Shoshi & Avi Barasch • son **Mordechai Tzvi**  
Miri & Ezra Barasch • son • **Ephraim Tzvi**  
Florette & Laurent Benhamou • son **Dylan Yechiel**  
Sonia & Paul Berrin • sons **Leor & Ofer**  
Helen & Richard Cohen • son **Tobias Barak**  
Tali & Dan Gordon • daughter **Hayley Rinat**  
Isabelle & Isaac Iny • son **Eretz Mordecai**  
Nirrit & Avi Ishaaya • son **Moshe Edden**  
Naomi & Jeremy Ives • daughter **Avital Ayala**  
Negar & Steve Kamara • son **Adam Meir**  
Maayan & Adi McAbian • daughter **Mia**  
Riki & Tal McAbian • son **Adam**  
Adele & Jack Mussry • daughter **Gabriella Daisy**  
Helen & Nader Niknam • son **Mathew Joseph**  
Natalie and Sol Mussry • son **William Ethan**  
Carolyn & Pejman Rahnema • son **Oliver Aaron**  
Benedict & Jeffrey Samuels • son **Zachary Aidan**  
Kathryn & Toby Shabot • son **Reuben Isaac**  
Carla & Jack Singman • daughter **Shyah Grace**  
Mojgan & Hercel Talassazan • daughter **Keila**

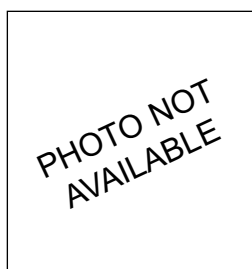
## Weddings

Dahlia Lainer & Elan S. Carr  
Cherie Zarembar & Moshi Hagooli  
Karen Muhtar & Eli Sokolov  
Dana Hagooli & Oscar Bolanos

## Engagements

Jessica Bass & Jay Ginsberg

## B'nei Mitzvot



Yaakov A. Amirianfar



Jonathan Assia



Charles M. Einy



Shahriar Y. Mangoli



Edwin Pouldar



Eliyahu Y. Mordecai



Joey S. Benhamou



Gabriella N. Kamara

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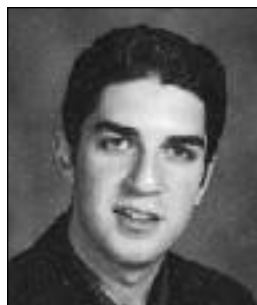




**Dana Hagooli**  
CSPP, Ph.D. *Psychology*



**Michael Salem**  
*Loyola Law School, J.D.*



**Ben Hagooli**  
*NYU Stern College, B.A. Business  
Minor Psychology "Cum Laude"*



**David Shaaya**  
*University of Arizona, B.A.  
Eller School of Business*



**Jenna Zelman**  
*U.C. Davis, B.Sc.  
PsychoBiology*



**Joshua Bass**  
*Shalhevet High School*



**Stephanie Bass**  
*Shalhevet High School*



**Erika Fensten**  
*Shalhevet High School*



**Jennifer Judah**  
*Shalhevet High School*



**Philip Solomon**  
*Redondo Union High  
School*

## Milestones

**Rabbi Haim & Edna Ovadia** *20th Anniversary*

**Letizia & Ronald Einy** *20th Anniversary*

**Yvette & Joe Dabby** *35th Anniversary*

**Alice & Maurice Zekaria** *50th Anniversary*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Spanish Night	Nov. 5
Sephardic Film Festival w/Carol Basri's	
<i>The Last Jews of Baghdad</i>	Nov. 12-19
Hannuka Party	Dec. 17
Purim Party	March 4
Yom Haatzmaut Celebration	April 22
Annual Picnic	June 17

## Happy Holidays from



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# In Memoriam

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Albert Jacob

Rachel Jacob

Jack Jonah

Alon Abraham Iny

Nadima Katzav

Lilian Steinman

Hon. Judge Earl Klein

Sarach Malach Tabibi

Salima Ezer

Sarina Levy

Sophie Moses

Sidney Kurtz

Molly Moses

Jacob Maslavi

Mazli Hagooli

Cynthia Elisha

Lulu Nabah

**Sidney B. Kurtz**, father of Stan Kurtz, passed away from Leukemia on April 28th, 2006, with close family by his side.

Sid was born October 12, 1924 in Philadelphia. His family had immigrated to the United States from Latvia through Liverpool on November 11, 1912.

As a child, Sid was stricken with Polio and later Chron's disease, but he never let either of them greatly affect his spirit. Unable to stand for long periods, he learned to be a watchmaker and remained in the jewelry business until his retired in 1995.

At 70, Sid finally found time to pursue his dream of being a writer. Without formal experience, Sid became a regular contributor for the Philadelphia Inquirer and he wrote four books, "The Jewish Rectangle – an American Adventure," a story of his family's history from the 1800's until the end of World War II, "Alice – Broken Windows, Broken Dreams" a story about a woman who escaped the concentration camps of Nazi Germany, "Marcel Singer – The Gentle Butcher of Hongkew," a story of one family's World War II escape from Austria to China, and "White Man's War" a fictional account of Solomon Mobuto's life, a shipmate from Sid's Merchant Marine days.

Sid was passionate about preserving his family's history and he loved to write about real people who became triumphant in the face of adversity, a theme that turned out to closely mirror the theme of his life.

## Rachel Ezra Jacob

She was a friend, advisor, and confidant to many, regardless of age.

A sister, aunt, grand aunt, and great grand aunt — Loyal to Family who where very important to her life, she loved you all.

A grandmother of two, who loved her and her goodies, especially her cooking and baking.

A great grand mother of five who will always remember he singing and dancing.

And most of all, a wonderful mother to Shimah, Lulu and Azie.

We all love you and miss you.

May your soul rest in peace. Amen.

---

## Jack Jonah 1937-2005

"A steel ball in a pinball machine . . . ." That is how Jack Jonah described his life. He would add, "Each move blessed by the hand of G-d." A deeply spiritual man, Jackie, as he was so affectionately called, was born in Calcutta, India to Edna and Isaac Jonah. His parents came from very different backgrounds. His mother was English, and his father, Iraqi. Isaac admired Edna for some time, but could not get her attention. So, he hired a white stallion, and rode it into the lobby and up the stairs of the hotel where she was staying in Darjeeling. And so began a union that bore two children, Rachel and Jack, who had personalities to match the unique drama that brought their parents together.

Jack was educated at St. Xavier's College, a Jesuit

school in Calcutta. There, he developed a love for sports. His love for books and classical music, however, came from the encouragement of his father. Jack ultimately became so familiar with opera and symphonies that he was able to identify the name of every musical piece he listened to, the lead performer in a particular opera and, even more amazingly, the conductor of a classical piece based on the tempo of the music. Jack was also a walking dictionary—a fountain of knowledge.

When Jack finished his formal education, he joined Phillip Bros. as a trader in non-ferrous metals and ores. His parents left India for London in 1961, and persuaded Jack to leave in 1963, fearing that the immigration laws would change and that Jack would not be able to get out of the country. At that time, Jack was the "rising star" at Phillip Bros., but he

September/October 2006			HIGH HOLIDAYS SCHEDULE			Tishrei 5766
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Shabbat
September 17	September 18	September 19	September 20	September 21	September 22 6:35 pm (11) Erev Rosh Hash. Selihoth 5:30 am Shaharit 6:30 am Minhah 6:15 pm	September 23 7:32 pm (11) Rosh Hashanah Shaharit 8:00 am Minhah 6:00 pm
September 24 Rosh Hashanah Shaharit 8:00 am Minhah 6:15 pm	September 25 Tzom Gedalia Fast Day The fast ends at 7:27 pm	September 26	September 27	September 28	September 29 6:22 pm (11)	September 30
October 1 6:20 pm (11) Erev Yom Kippur Selihoth 6:30 am Minhah 2:00 pm Kol Nidre 8:15 pm	October 2 Yom Kippur Shaharit 7:30 am Mussaf 1:30 pm Neilah 5:30 pm Fast Ends 7:22 pm	October 3	October 4	October 5	October 6 6:12 pm (11) Erev Sukkot	October 7 7:09 pm (11) Sukkot First Day
October 8 Sukkot Second Day Simhat Torah October 15	October 9 Sukkot Hol Hamoed	October 10 Sukkot Hol Hamoed	October 11 Sukkot Hol Hamoed	October 12 Sukkot Hol Hamoed	October 13 6:01 pm (11) Hoshana Rabba	October 14 6:58 pm (11) Shmini Atzeret Simhat Torah Hakafot

decided to leave his successful career behind to be with his family in London. There, he became part of Marks & Spencer's management team. He later joined the Monroe sales division of Litton Industries, which eventually enabled him to transfer to a job in California.

Jack traveled to Los Angeles on holiday in 1973, where he met Helen. He told her the very next day that he was going to marry her in eight months, and he did. Their storybook marriage of thirty one years was blessed with two children, Rebecca and Jonathan. Today, Rebecca is an attorney at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, and Jonathan's band, *Warner Drive*, just completed recording their first album. Jack was an adoring father who told his children, daily, how proud he was of their accomplishments, and how much they meant to him.

In 2001, Jack retired from Bank of America, where he served as Vice President Director of Marketing for twenty years. Traveling all over the country, he made his Business Banking Division the envy of all banking operations systems. He was admired for his keen mind, his intellect, his communication skills, his ability to solve problems, and his moral character.

He was a true gentleman, who commanded respect. He had dignity and finesse, and he conveyed his thoughts with ease.

In 1988, Jack was asked to be the President of Kahal Joseph Congregation. He served the synagogue during a time when it was just on the cusp of becoming what it is today. After his term, he was often approached by members of the community to present their position before the Board because they knew that he would be fair and that he would speak eloquently and persuasively on their behalf. Sadly, his deep and enchanting voice will no longer be heard, for on November 1, 2005, Jack Jonah passed away.

In Genesis, G-d said to Jacob, "I shall be with you and watch over you, and then I shall return you." Jack is a lodestar shining bright in the sky. His epitaph reads:

**Magnificently Perfect – A Giant Amongst Men  
A Voice of Reason, Intelligence and Integrity  
Unmatched in Eloquence**

**His Love for G-d, Mankind and Music:  
An Anthem to the Purity of his Soul**

Well done, Jackie. Rest in peace, sweet friend.

*To our Families, Friends and Members*

*Shana Tova*

*and*

*Hatima Tova*

*May the coming year bring you happiness, peace and good  
health*

*Abe Mathalon & Family*



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