

SEPTEMBER 2007

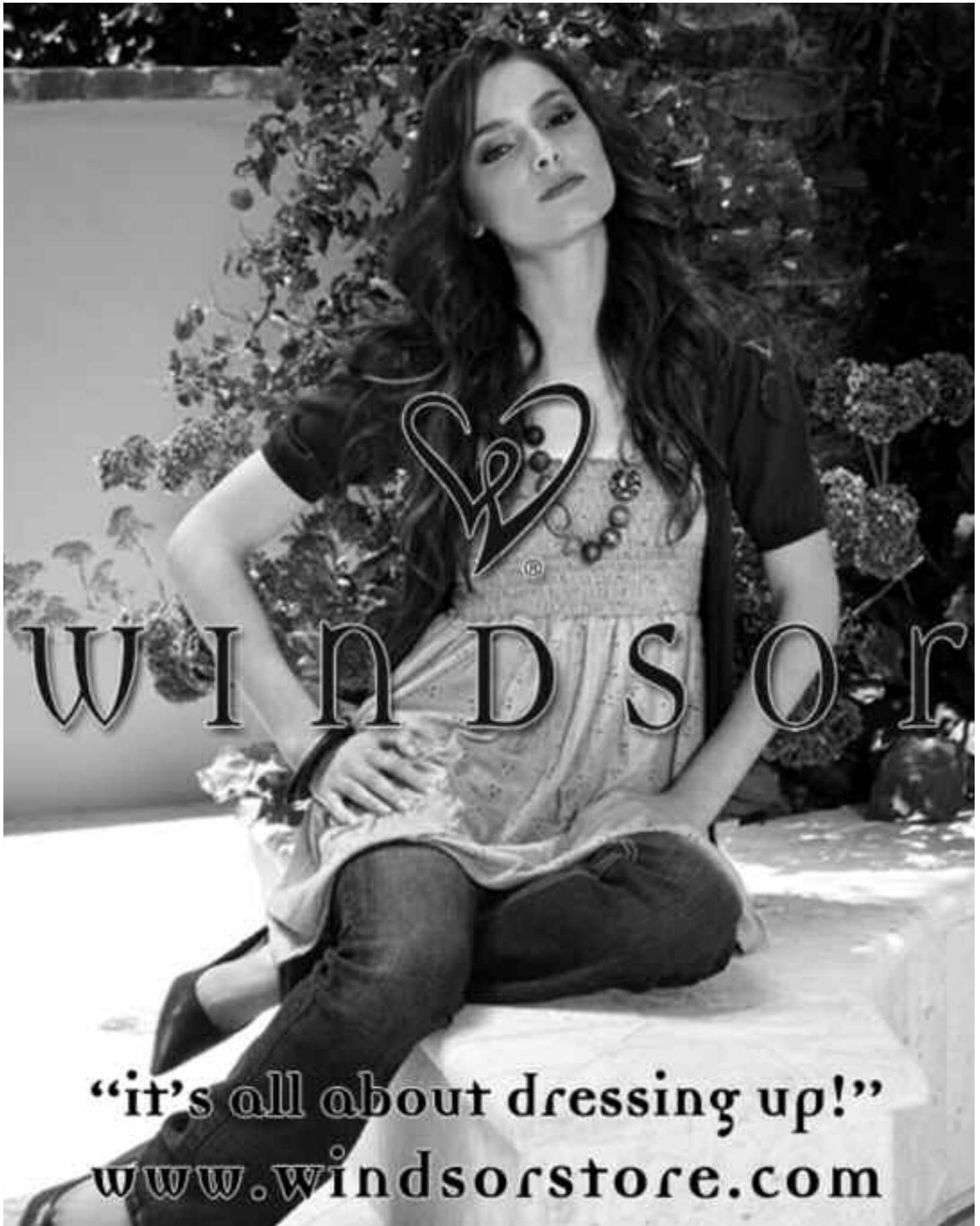
פנין ה' VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

# THE SHOFAR

A PUBLICATION OF KAHAL JOSEPH CONGREGATION



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*Cover*  
Talmud Torah  
Graduation

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

# President's Message

**A**s we welcome a new year, I am so proud to see how far our community at Kahal Joseph has come. I carry the confidence and support you have given me as President with great value, and hope that we will continue to stand together and strengthen Kahal day by day.

We're so fortunate to be under the guidance and leadership of our dear Rabbi Ovadia, whose knowledge in Sephardic studies and values has impacted our Congregation with such a positive force. As a result of his efforts, Kahal continues to stand out as one the most dynamic Sephardic synagogues in Los Angeles. Rabbi Ovadia's classes and lectures, focusing on Sephardic culture and heritage, are appreciated by our community as well as the Los Angeles Jewish community at large. Rabbi Ovadia and Kahal Joseph are both committed to educate our young ones, and to instill in them pride in, their glorious culture.

This year our Talmud Torah has seen its best year yet, under the direction of Mrs. Edna Ovadia, and with a wonderful staff of teachers and selfless volunteers. The year culminated in a moving graduation ceremony attended by a record number of parents and families. This coming year we project to reach our maximum capacity after completing this fall's registration.

In the past year, we had an unprecedented record in member participation and fundraising activities. The proceeds from these efforts translate into enhanced programs for our children such as the creation of 'The Kid Zone', expansion of our library, better security for the synagogue and

helped Kahal to reach many of its objectives.

In addition we had a multitude of programs, a beautiful Sukkah party at the Rabbi's home, a very successful Purim carnival, several family Shabbats and family dinners to name a few.

At a time when support for Israel is more critical than ever, Kahal members have raised more than \$45,000 to purchase boots and vests for our I.D.F. brothers fighting at the northern borders. We're happy to play a small role in assisting our Israeli brothers and sisters.

This year, we are blessed that Mr. Ariel Ovadia has accepted the position of Hazan at Kahal Joseph. Ariel is well trained in Sephardic (Menhag Baghdad) tunes and melodies and enjoys a brilliant musical background. He will prove to be one of the most respected Hazanim in Los Angeles.

Kahal's success is in large part due to the dedication of the many volunteer members of our Board of Directors, and its Chairman and Vice Presidents. Together we all worked hard to serve our community. I thank them all on behalf of our congregation.

Senior Hazan Sass Ezra, your 45 years of service do not go by unrecognized, and we hope that you continue your unfaltering efforts.

To the ladies of our Sisterhood, working with you has been a pleasure, and we trust that you will continue your energetic programs to bring our community together.

To our dedicated office administrator Sarah Bouchoucha and to Dafna Ezran, our Program Coordinator, both of you are truly the backbone of our synagogue

May our community be inscribed in the book of life, and may the High Holy days embrace self renewal for all of us. Shana Tova to all, and best wishes for peace and prosperity for the entire nation of Israel.



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**Moussa Shaaya**

# Rabbi's Message

## *And Who By Fire!*

Dear friends,

When I was a little child my grandfather told me a story he heard regarding the great Baghdadi Hakham, Rabii Abdalla Somekh, of blessed memory. It was Erev Kippur and the Hakham was leading the Kal Nidre services in the evening of the Holy Day when all of a sudden he seemed to be totally distracted, focusing on some distant point in space. After a while, when he became communicative again, he told his disciples what happened.

"As I was concentrating on the Tefilla, my soul left my body and traveled to the upper spiritual realms where the Heavenly court was dealing with a current emergency. It happened in a synagogue in one of the small villages of Northern Iraq, or Kurdistan. . ."

As was customary, before Kippur men and women brought huge candles and lit them in the synagogue in memory of their loved ones. In some cases people would make special candles weighing as much as they did, believing that this would serve as atonement for their sins and guarantee them a good and prosperous year.

The sun set, all the candles were lit, and people were taking their places, getting ready for the inspiring Tefilla that opens the services of Kippur, Kal Nidre. As the Gabbaim started to auction the mitzvah, expectation rose; everybody knew that the two wealthiest Jews in the village would compete over the right to carry the Sefer Kal Nidre. Auctioning the Kal Nidre was almost as exciting and uplifting for some people as the Kal Nidre prayer itself.

This year, however, things did not go as planned. One of the bidders felt that the Mitzvah belonged to him and started arguing with the Gabbay. Others joined in and very soon the argument turned into a heated fight that culminated with people using the man-sized burning Yahrzeit candles as weapons. At that moment, continued Hakham Abdalla Somekh, members of the Heavenly Court looked with dismay on the ongoing fight and protested the blasphemy and desecration of the synagogue.

That incident invoked Divine ire and could have resulted in terrible consequences for the villagers and maybe even for other communities, if not for a little old lady. You probably know this little old lady or someone who keeps her legacy. She comes early and follows the prayer meticulously, even if she doesn't understand every word. She will kiss every mezuzah on her way and will touch the Sefer Torah with love and adoration when it passes near her.

So, as she was sitting in the ladies' section and

watching the commotion, she lifted her eyes to Heaven and said, Ribbono Shel Olam, Master of the Universe, see how much your sons love you and your mitzvah. They want the mitzvah of carrying the Sefer so badly that they end up fighting with candles, how can you not love such wonderful children?

"At that moment, concluded Hakham Abdalla, there was great joy and happiness in heaven as HaShem listened to the old lady's prayer, granted forgiveness to the villagers and blessed them, together with all Am Israel with a healthy and successful year."

I have learned several important messages from this story. First, that we can come to the synagogue, all ready and excited before Rosh HaShana and Kippur, but then forget about the internal change that is about to take place and concentrate on external and technical details that not only are not relevant but will cause us to digress and miss our goal.

The second message I have garnered is that perspective can make a huge difference. If we take everything that life throws our way, which is quite a lot, and look at it from a positive angle, it will make our life easier and will help us cope better with obstacles.

And lastly this story has taught me the power of prayer. The simple prayer that the old lady uttered, coming from a pure heart and said with love and naiveté was better accepted than all the tefilot of all great rabbis all over the world.

It was probably the image of this lady that the Ben Ish Hai had in mind when he wrote in his beautiful Keter Malkhut prayer for Kippur morning:

"זכמה זקנים וזקנות יש בישראל שמשכימין ומעריבין בבתי כנסיות ובבתי מדרשות וחומדיו ומצפיו ומחאוין לישועת ה' בכל יום"

"How many elderly men and women in Am Israel who wake up early in the morning and stay awake late at night, visiting synagogues and study halls, waiting, wishing and praying for HaShem's help".

This coming year, let us try and be like that little old lady, even if we do just a little bit.

**Shana Tova**

**Rabbi Haim Ovadia**



---

# What nourishes a community?

By Dafna Ezra

**W**hat nourishes a community? Opinions proliferate like spring flowers, each fragrant and enticing; each, beautiful in its own way. At Kahal Joseph Congregation, we are blessed with a bouquet of approaches to building our community, each growing our spiritual sanctuary for generations to come.

To nourish our community, Kahal Joseph Congregation, under Rabbi Haim Ovadia's auspices, has begun a new center for Sephardic culture and learning, the Sephardic Legacy Alliance. SELA seeks to share the beauty and tolerance of our heritage within the Los Angeles Jewish community. In the upcoming year, SELA will present several programs: Anenu, a concert of Selihoth and Sephardic sacred music with the Yuval Ron Ensemble; a guided tour through Jewish Spain; a winter Sephardic film series, and adult and family classes.

SELA's evening classes include both the fun and the enlightening. They contain classes for young and old, for novices, teachers, and professionals. One branch of SELA's program is devoted to the Sephardic Cantorial Institute offering courses in Sephardic hazzanut, ta'amim, macamot, and guided listening along with master classes and a children's choir. Participants in the program will, eventually, perform at Jewish and multi-cultural events in the Los Angeles area.

Accompanying SELA's music program will be a family drama ensemble to develop short plays with Sephardic themes and stories for presentation in local synagogues. There will be classes in Middle Eastern and Asian cooking as well as workshops in preserving our memories and envisioning our future and identity through literature, creative writing, documentary filmmaking, and art. And, of course, SELA will present classes honoring the spiritual and intellectual legacy of our hakhamim: the teachings of Sephardic sages, their method of Torah study, and their heritage of practical, tolerant halakha.

In addition to courses and cultural events, SELA is preserving our heritage in a very tangible way. We are currently collecting a library that houses millennia of writings by Sephardic scholars and religious leaders along with the current flowering of work by Sephardic authors that include seminal theorists such as Jacques Derrida, Helene Cixous, Jose Faur, and Amiel Alcalay as well as modern novelists, dramatists and poets. To ensure that these resources are well-used, our outreach program for Jewish educators and community leaders will showcase the wealth and breadth of Sephardic history and accomplishment.

To learn more about or to contribute to SELA projects, please contact Rabbi Ovadia or Dafna Ezran, our Program Director, through Kahal Joseph's office at 310-474-0559.

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## The Most Important Lesson In My Life

By Joe Samuels

**S**tudy hard, have a goal, focus on it, plan how to realize it, imagine you have accomplished it and you will positively be there. I believed in these words.

I concentrated on learning English well. After mastering Arabic and Hebrew, I excelled in chemistry, physics and math. Science was my goal, nuclear physics was my target. With acceptance in hand by three universities, I got a passport and was

granted a student visa to the United States. I felt the wind beneath my wings. I started to soar. However my "high" time was short-lived! I crash landed. My wings were clipped. I needed an exit visa.

The same year of my graduation from high school in 1948, the Iraqi army together with four Arab armies attacked Israel on May 15th. When they failed to eliminate Israel the Iraqi government turned against its Jewish population, particularly the

youth. Not only couldn't I leave, my life was in danger. In 1949, I was smuggled out of Iraq. Penniless and a homeless refugee, I ended up in Israel.

In 1956, I left to Montreal to pursue my college education. With no money, no outside help at 26, I gave up college for building a business and supporting a family. Due to political turmoil in Quebec, attracted by better weather and greater opportunities, I moved again, with my family, to Los Angeles in 1978.

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# Endowing Our Future

By Ron Einy

**T**he red carpet greeted us. It would be difficult to imagine a more perfect night. The calm breeze at sunset, the hills of Beverly in the mist, the array of fine food, drinks till midnight, and the mellow tone of the Skyy Michaels jazz trio. Last September, our president and first lady hosted some of the biggest hearts of our Synagogue in their beautiful home, for a most unforgettable event.

We all knew why we were there. We also knew the importance one night could make for our Synagogue's sustenance through another year.

Rabbi Ovadia presented an outline of our Synagogue's day-to-day workings, our enhanced programs and services, and our promise to the growing number of young members, our relationship with whom has never been stronger.

Our president, Moussa Shaaya asked that each member in attendance become a Synagogue Benefactor for 2006, by generously donating in five different giving categories. The unwavering devotion and generosity of our members was astounding, and within 20 minutes we collectively gave our Synagogue an unprecedented \$250,000.00.

## Fast Forward June 28, 2007

With over 10 months from its original inception and concept, to initial design, then fabrication, to final installation, on this night our BENEFACTORS WALL was unveiled.

Our Synagogue's lobby was set with café tables, the music played and the wine flowed as our benefactors eagerly awaited the curtain to be pulled and the BENEFACTORS WALL unveiled

for its first public viewing.

The great anticipation and excitement as Rabbi Ovadia brought down the curtain, the wall was magnificently illuminated, and the thrill of seeing the beauty of each benefactors name shining bright made us all feel incredibly grateful.

There was so much happiness as each benefactor had their photo taken in front of the wall, and the elegant dessert buffet was just the most delightful way to cap off such a wonderful event.

As the spiritual and intellectual needs of our Congregation keeps growing, our combined generosity will have a lasting effect on the quality of programs and services a Synagogue such as ours can best provide.

God willing, each coming year will see our BENEFACTORS WALL shine with many more names that will illuminate the walls of our lobby for generations to come.

---

Looking back on my past, right to where I am at present, I ask myself: "What were the factors that shaped my life? Was it luck, fate, chance, Mazal, destiny, Naseeb, Karma or something else?" How is it that I was born in Baghdad to a family of 12 children, and am the only one of eight that survived? How is it that I was not arrested, tortured or hanged? How is it that I was smuggled safely out of Iraq, while others were caught?

At low times when I faced continued and unpredictable difficulties, I cried: "Why me?" I questioned God and was even angry

at God, but never lost faith in God. When I remembered those who were tortured and those who were hanged in Public Square in Baghdad, a voice in me shrieked: "I didn't hear -why me- for all the blessings in your life? Where is the gratitude for all of the freedom, health, friends, family and the great life you are enjoying?"

I couldn't choose my genes, my parents, my place of birth, the culture I was brought up in. I couldn't change the events that I was confronted with, but it was totally within my control how I felt and reacted to them. To live well, I can't live as a victim. My

life's journey is like being alone on a ship sailing through open seas, with unpredictable winds and waves. I am the captain, the passenger and the crew. It is how I adjust, modify, manipulate, change and fine tune the sails that will determine whether I will reach the shores of happiness safely, or be swallowed by the turbulence of circumstances.

This is the most important lesson in my life.

May the year 5768 brings favorable winds to help you sail through life joyfully and in good health and peace of mind, Amen.

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



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# On Education

By Nadine Dabby

The Exploratorium is one of the few places that I know of where children and adults alike are encouraged to touch and play with everything. Even the water fountain is a lesson waiting to be discovered (when you drink the water music plays, but when you let the water run it doesn't, that is because it was wired so that the fountain drinker completes the low-voltage electrical circuit that powers the music).

Founded in the 1960s, the San Francisco science museum was designed to educate people about science by encouraging them to seek out the reasons why the phenomena on display works. In essence, that is science—the creative process of asking questions about the world around you and finding ways to test your explanations. And that is the one thing most K-12 schools fail to convey: the idea of being in a room full of ideas and objects and thoughts and allowing ones imagination to run wild.

In fact, thanks to recent legislation, such as the No Child Left Behind Act, teachers across America are forced to spend most of their time teaching toward the standardized tests that determine their funding. Couple this with the size of classes, the load of 5 classes a day, the low pay and the already dire funding prospects and it is easy to see why America is losing ground to China and India in terms of developing the next generation of scientists and idea makers.

For the last two summers I have had the privilege of visiting the Exploratorium as a summer fellow and participant of the museum's Teacher Institute, whose mission is to teach teachers to bring the hands-on, engaging exhibits and ideas into the classroom (on a shoe-string budget). I have had the experience of spending time with 30-40 teachers and seeing the effort that the good ones put into their work. And this is what I have to say to you, the parent:

One of the most shocking things I have discovered is that not only are teachers without a scientific

background (beyond high school-level biology) thrust into positions where they must teach math and science, but these teachers are sometimes forced to teach outdated material (that is factually incorrect) because the state standardized tests have not been updated in years.

Don't trust your school system with your children's education. Studies have shown that the most successful students are the ones whose parents are involved in their education by either creating an environment in which science or literature or politics is discussed in the home or by parents who make sure their kids are getting a complete education.

Most teachers are very good people with good intentions who just may not have the time or resources to combat this problem. That is why I encourage you to get involved in your kids' schools, get involved in the community. You may find that this activity will teach you a thing or two.

---

*Congratulations to*

*Rabbi Haim & Edna Ovadia on*

*The occasion of their son Ariel's*

*Forth coming Marriage to Esther*

*Rivka and Albert Gad*

*And family*

Kahal Joseph Congregation  
**Mommy & Me**



Infants, toddlers and their caretakers are invited to join our innovative Mommy & Me program in Kahal Joseph's new children's playroom this Fall 2007.

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To our Board of Directors and Sisterhood Board

And to all the members of Kahal Joseph Congregation.

Shana Tova and our best wishes

For a Year of Health, Happiness & Peace

**Shaoul & Doris Moshi and Family**

# Our Talmud Torah

By Dafna Ezran

**T**he Norma and Sam Dabby Talmud Torah program at Kahal Joseph Congregation has established itself as a central resource for the children of our community. For kids who attend public school, the Talmud Torah provides a safe harbor where they may anchor themselves amid Jewish values taught in an authentic, Sephardi context.

Director Edna Ovadia watches over and gently guides every aspect of the students' spiritual, emotional, and intellectual journey into Judaism. She handpicks faculty who serve as teachers and role models for the children. Then, working together with Education Vice President, Suzy Assia and the Kahal Joseph staff, Mrs. Ovadia prepares numerous special events and programs to supplement the regular classes.

During the past year, the Talmud Torah enjoyed an innovative series of arts-and-crafts workshops, organized by Penina Meghnaghi, artist and graphic designer. These helped the kids connect to the fun side of Jewish holidays and further their understanding. In preparation for Rosh Hashanah, they glass-painted honey dishes; for Hanukkah, they lacquered gift boxes. Before Purim, they baked and packed gift baskets as acts of hesed and tzedaka; and, for Pesah, they stenciled freedom pillows to recline on during their Seders.

Along with myriad art projects, the students enjoyed field trips and celebrations that illuminated their year of Jewish learning. Over Sukkot, they joined their parents and community at Rabbi and Edna Ovadia's Sukkah Open House. Later in winter, the Hannuka Recital showcased their mid-year achievements in choir and classes. A family fieldtrip and activities in the Getty Center Gardens explored the relationship between nature and art for Tu'Bshvat. The Purim Carnival enlivened spring with costumes, prizes, and high-spirited carousing. As part of a Model Seder, the kids re-enacted the story of Pesah through skits, blessings and ritual. And, for Lag Ba'Omer, they feasted on BBQ and listened to stories around a fire ring at the Rabbi's house once again.

These events and activities involved the students in a vibrant and engaging communal experience—giving them a sense that they have a Jewish home port in Kahal Joseph, a place to which they can return and continue to learn. For underpinning each activity was a traditional and orthodox curriculum which taught the importance of Jewish observance and practice, of the Hebrew language, of commitment to Israel, and of a life filled with individual autonomy in conjunction with responsibility for upholding Jewish ethical values. These values will, eventually, enable them to set sail in the world at large guided by the compass of a dynamic Jewish identity.



Lag B'omer celebration at Rabbi and Mrs. Edna Ovadia's home.



Model Seder



Rabbi and Mrs. Edna Ovadia, Karen and Frank Dabby with Talmud Torah Graduates (Left to Right) Elan Shahrabani, Ashley Nobel, Rebecca Yadegari, Brandon Itzhaki, Jordan Akouka (not pictured)

בְּחֹרֵיכֶם חֲזִינוֹת יְרֵאָו

YOUR ELDERS SHALL DREAM DREAMS.

ENDOWING O



# זקניכם חלמות יחלמו

YOUR YOUNG SHALL SEE VISIONS.

- The Book of Joel 3:1

## OUR FUTURE

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## A Year In Pictures

**T**he seeds of our future are sown with each generation. This year, we have cultivated our programs for children, teens and families along with continuing our ongoing programs and events for all generations.

The Youth and Family Programs, founded in the Family Shabbat prayers and brunch, have expanded to include a Shabbat Kidzone playroom and teen groups, and, beginning in Fall 2007, a new Mommy and Me program for the youngest members of our community.

The Family Shabbat Program has flourished over the past year as a monthly event where kids and parents can experience the

joy and spiritual rest of Shabbat, learn Shabbat prayers and rituals, and participate in services together. Following services, families and friends enjoy a Shabbat Kiddush and brunch, with young and old socializing, playing, and bonding together.

In addition, this year we have opened the Shabbat Kidzone playroom, guided by an organic approach to play and learning. The playroom sports toys made of wood and natural fibers and contains thematic areas such as a miniature kitchen/house, a cozy library, a block-play area, a puzzle and manipulative space, a game board table, a puppet theater, and a truck, train, and plane

space. These areas encourage socialization as well as individual development. In Fall 2007, we will use this wonderful space to begin a Mommy and Me program advised by Ora Ezran, a well-known child educator in our community.

For the older kids and teens, we have organized a Shabbat discussion group. In the few months since its inception, the teens have been treated to a series of guest speakers from the community. This group gives our teens a special space in which to play games, hang out, and also to explore, form, and own their unique Jewish identity.

And, as part of Kahal's com-





mitment to excellence in Jewish education for all, we have held numerous multi-generational and adult education programs so that our members may grow with Judaism throughout their lives.

Nourishing the spirit and intellect, Rabbi Ovadia's classes have enlightened us about the teachings of the Torah and about the practical application of these ideas in our everyday lives. Enacting these Torah values, the community joined together to bake and craft Purim baskets. We prayed together on Yom Haatzmaut for those who inhabit and protect Israel's land and heritage. We stayed up late to study Torah on Lel Hoshana Raba and on Lel Shavuot.

And we celebrated together, appreciating our flowering community on occasions as diverse as the warm and festive Sukkah

Open House, the exotic and musical Night in Spain extravaganza, the home-style Friday Night Dinners, the well-attended screening of the film, *The Last Jews in Baghdad*, and the bouncing, energetic Purim Carnival. Among these bright, blossoming occasions, we have, thankfully, been blessed with numerous other smahot—happy events—throughout the year.

An essential seed for preserving the future of our wonderful community is its material and physical growth. This year, Kahal Joseph Congregation has devoted substantial effort and energy to preserving and improving our facilities. Over the last year and a half we have renovated the main kitchen, the downstairs bathrooms and the basement storage rooms. We have added an infant changing

table upstairs as well as creating the soothing oasis for children in the playroom.

Within the building's sanctuaries, shelves have been filled with new volumes of humashim, siddurim, and tehillim. Many books of Sephardic literature, theology, and history have filled out our new library collection. Another sefer torah has been added to our illustrious collection of manuscripts. A new cover encloses one of the hechals containing these treasures. And a beautiful Kisseh Eliyahu welcomes our infant boys into the covenant with Hashem.

May Kahal Joseph continue to flourish with Hashem's blessings and with good deeds, kindness, hesed and tzedaka taking root and strengthening the growing network of care, support, and friendship in our 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**

---

# Member In The Spotlight

## Baghdad, 1936

by Edna Itzhaki

**I**t is hot and sticky. I've walked 1 kilometer already. Perhaps I should stop for a bit of shade under the nakhla, but no time. I must be punctual. I'm dressed in a clean white shirt and dress pants with proper shoes.

My destination, Mr. and Mrs. Yehuda's house. This is my first job tutoring. My student is a young girl of 8. She has definitely improved in her studies. I hope they are happy with me. After one hour of work, I was ready to receive my 10 Felse while thinking of that cool booze I will buy on my long way home. I am suddenly surprised with a beautiful hand painted box.

In it is a magnificent silk fabric with the 1936 calendar carefully printed on it. I suppose they like me. I felt my face flushed with excitement. I cannot wait to share this with my Mom and Dad. I said thank you and ran as fast as my feet could carry me. The hot sun does not bother me now. On Sharah El Rashid I saw Albert on his bike. I bribed him with my 10 Felse for his bike. Before he could say yes, I got on and peddled as fast as I could clutching on



"Come, slide away with Talia on the colors of a rainbow."

## Sliding Down a Rainbow

by Edna Itzhaki  
\$15

Edna Itzhaki's passion for art, cultures and kids has led her to the making of Sliding Down a Rainbow.

to the precious box. I feel the sweat running down my cheeks.

The cool booze can wait another day. I got home, dropped the bike and raced upstairs to my Mom and Dad. I just cannot wait to see my father's approval nod with a proud smile; proud of his first born son Reuben.

I am Reuben Itzhaki, son of Ezra and Mazli Itzhaki. I am only 11 years old and it is 1936 in Baghdad, Iraq.

---

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*

**Mazal Tov to Ariel Ovadia  
On his new position as  
Hazan of our Congregation**

**Best wishes to our  
Kahal Joseph Family  
For a year of good health,  
happiness and peace**

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

---

**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  
Ourite & Abe Kamara  
Merna Ironi  
& Families**

---

*Moselle & Michael Amron  
welcome their first  
grandchild*

*Ariel Moselle*

---

**SHANA TOVA**  
*from our family to yours*  
**Michelle, Stan, Jenna &  
Ethan Kurtz**

---

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

---

**Rabbi Haim & Edna Ovadia  
and Family**

---

**Rosy & Albert Nissan  
and Family**

---

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

---

**Flora & Judah Sassoon  
and Family**

*May 5768 be a year of  
justice, joyous fulfill-  
ment, and SHALOM!*

**Shana Tovah!  
Vera Levi and Family**

---

**Tizkoo Le'Shanim Rabot**  
*May you have a happy and  
healthy New Year!*

**Suheila & Maurice Ovadia**

**Ronnie Ovadia**  
**Stella, Omid  
Michael & Mathew Ezer**

---

**Hilda Sassoon  
and Family**

---

**Mollie & Norman  
Konigsberg**

---

**SHANA TOVA**  
**Ramah & Joe Mingail**  
**Rachel, Hyam & Brandon**

---

**Florence Shamash  
& Sally Joseph**

**We wish you a year of  
peace and joy**

**Letizia & Ronald Einy  
and Family**

---

**SHANA TOVA**  
*from*  
**Fred & Judy Lurie  
And Family**

---

*To our grandson  
Brendon Benjamin  
Mazal Tov on your  
Bar Mitzvah  
Evelyn & Reuven Itzhaki*

---

**Charles, Teresa  
& Chas Dabby**

---

**Sheila, Mordecai  
and Fiona Cohen**

---

**Marcella & Joseph E. Joseph  
and Family**

---

**Rita Hanin  
Jeffrey Hanin**

---

**Elsa & Harry  
Singman and Family**

# Member Happenings

## Newborns

Jessica & David Amron • Ariel Moselle  
 Joy & Joel Ball • James Franklin  
 Dorit & Joel Cooper • Addison Grace  
 Ilana & Bobby Daftari • Lily  
 Denise & Houman Farahmand • Pauline Hannah  
 Dalia & Kamran Itzhakov • Aharon  
 Matthew & Rachel Jonah • Brooke Molly  
 Judith & Rambod Kamrava • Adeline Ruth  
 Sigal & Jonathan Kelly • David Matan  
 Rebecca & David Kohan • Abraham  
 Zohar & Moshe Levy • Yehoshua Yechezkel  
 Tracy & Sidney Mathalon • Ella Shira  
 Adele & Jack Mussry • Noah Nessim Hai  
 Rabbi Haim & Edna Ovadia • Sophia Tamima  
 Sherly & Ramin Peyman • Neeka Daphna  
 Sarah & Shalom Radfar • Samantha Rahel  
 Helena & Jimmy Sassoon • Solomon

## Weddings

Jennifer Kaufman & Aryeh Aslan  
 Cassie & Donny Cohen  
 Melissa Silverstein & Richard Darwish  
 Sophie Franks & Roy Faith  
 Rebecca Jonah & Joel Mandel  
 Jennifer Ischayek & Robert Shiri  
 Lili & Yosef Zibari

## Engagements

Esther Navaro & Ariel Ovadia  
 Traci Renee Knox & Adam Sassoon  
 Lara Nicolayevsky & Ike Zekaria  
 Lisa Dabby & Brian Joyce  
 Rebecca Simon & Ron Gad  
 Melissa Helali & Michael Akiva  
 Heather Ships & Michael Ezer  
 Sarah Monempour and Ronen Isaac

## High School Graduates

**Maclin Einy**  
*Beverly Hills High School*

**Allan Steiner**  
*Westlake High School*

## Milestones

**David Kelly**  
*75th Birthday*

## Hold The Date

**NOVEMBER 5, '07**  
**SISTERHOOD PARTY**  
**"REMEMBER WHEN"**

## B'nei Mitzvot



Jordan Akouka



Brandon Itzhaki



Talia Ovadia



Alon Saig



Ariella Saig



Eliana Jalali



Elan Shahrabani



Rebecca Yadegari

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Yuval Ron**  
**Ensemble**  
 with Hazzanim

in an Inspiring, Spiritual Concert  
**Thursday, September 20, 2007**  
 7:00 pm at Kahal Joseph

Collaboratively, Yuval Ron Ensemble & R. Haim Ovadia have arranged Yerushalmi, Iraqi, & Sephardi High Holy Days melodies in a meditative, spiritual, presentation.

**VIP Seats \$75 ♦ General Seats \$25**

*Group discounts are available.  
 Call 310.474.0559 to reserve.*

# Graduates



**Adam Sassoon**  
USC  
Keck School of Medicine



**Margot Lurie**  
Harvard  
Master Theological Studies



**Melissa Helali**  
USC, MA Education



**Jessica Bass**  
Cal State Northridge  
BA Journalism/Public Relations



**Shayna Fensten**  
USC "Cum Laude"  
BA Communication



**Cameron Lazerine**  
U.C. Berkeley  
BS Business Administration



**David Lazerine**  
UC Santa Barbara  
BA Sociology



**David Lurie**  
UC Santa Barbara  
BSc Physics and Mathematics



**Lisa Maslavi**  
BA, FIDM Design School



**Solomon Rojhani**  
UCLA  
BS Psychology

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## Happy Holidays from



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Los Angeles, CA 90024

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# In Memoriam

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Esther Cohen

Yitzhak Sinder

Joseph Mussry

Sylvia Hyam

Ruby Masliah

Lily Judah

Elisha Hai Sassoon

Benjamin Haimes

Berta Tawfik

Victor Moche

Ketty Hanoon

Isak Sinder

The Last Summer

When I left for the Tel Aviv airport last summer, I knew it would be the last time I would see my father. He was sitting in a chair near the door, looking out. He could not come to the airport with us, so we left him there.

I remember, when we were all younger, my father in the first rain of the season. He would never take an umbrella with him when he went out walking, no matter what we told him; yet somehow, he always arrived home dry. When I asked him how he did it, he would say, "I walk between the raindrops". To me, it seemed as if he really did.

My father, Isak Sinder, was born in Turkey, on March 1, 1925. He died on January 1, 2007. He was married to Fortuna Sinder for thirty-eight years, until she passed away in 1987. He is the father of Suzy, Eti, and Anna.

With every first rain, we will always remember him.

Lily Judah

As far back as the moment I could say the word Shabbat, I was spending it with my Grandma Lulu. No matter how chaotic my week, the comfort of knowing that Friday night with Grandma Lulu was just around the corner was something I felt blessed to have. No matter if we laughed or cried our eyes out, when we left Grandma Lulu's on a Friday night, we left in peace (of course, also with a full stomach). No matter how tough her life had been, she appreciated her life, and had a great sense of humor about it ending. Why she was cursed with disease, I have no clue; but she battled through it so we could have a bit of peace; just so we could have a few more Friday nights. That's what's so amazing about my Grandma Lulu; she didn't come first in her eyes; the ones that she knew truly loved her did. And more than having to get used to spending the rest of my Friday nights without her, I will miss learning her wisdom and her beautiful outlook on life and applying it to my own life.

Suzy Assia

Brian Judah

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## Elisha Sassoon

who was a strong and steady brother, father, grandfather, uncle, husband and friend to many, died in Van Nuys on March 24, 2007 at the age of 86. Elisha is survived by his wife Irene, two daughters, Alison and Cathy and his grandchildren, Kevin, Jarrad and Katie.

Elisha was born in Rangoon, Burma on November 5, 1921. He did his Senior Cambridge studies at St. Paul's School in Darjeeling, India. After World War II Elisha lived in London where he met his wife Irene and

they had their first child, Alison. The family moved to Los Angeles where they could be with Elisha's five brothers and where they had their second child, Cathy. For many years Elisha was employed by Metropolitan Life. He eventually retired and spent the last years of his life enjoying his family.

Truthful, dependable, responsible, strong, and honest, Elisha could sometimes seem quite formidable, however, this imposing stature and personality was at the same time comforting because behind it there was love. He was a second father to

many of his nephews and nieces. We all knew that even when he was critical, his intentions were rooted in love and his words were meant to forge us into better and stronger individuals.

A lot has been written about the lack of male role models in many American families today. As a youth I was blessed with two: my father Joseph and my Uncle Elisha. You have left your mark Uncle Elisha. You will always be in my heart. We all love you Old Boy.

Aaron F. Sassoon

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## Esther Cohen, z"l

I lost my grandmother this past Yom Kippur. As they say, she was a legend in her own time. Her family had lived in the Old City of Jerusalem for over four hundred years, across from the Kotel. She and her own family had apartments in yeshivat Porat Yosef. Yet despite, or perhaps, because of these deep roots, she grew in her distinctive way.

A few stories typify her pioneering character. First, she refused to marry into her twenties. Then, she waited to have children. According to stories, she was knowledgeable about family planning. She was on excellent

terms with her neighbors in the Old City. Just as she was giving birth to her fourth child, the British cordoned off the Old City. She sent her oldest three, including my mother, into safe-keeping outside the city walls. She stayed. We are told, she dodged sniper fire from drunken soldiers looting her house, to provision herself and her newborn—guided by directions called out by her Arab brethren. She helped to plot, spy, and perhaps even plan the attack on the British at the King David Hotel while doing all this.

My grandmother knew how to help. Bedridden for twenty years, she kept touch with people by phone. In her closet was a storehouse

of extra medicinals and supplies for the elderly, collected from her eight children and numerous grandchildren. She dispensed these, along with kind words and a willing ear, to those ill, lonely, grieving, or shut in. She did this until the day she died. None of her children knew, until the thank-you's poured in after her passing.

That was my grandmother; she loved the land of Israel and she cared for all the people around her. She lived a full life and never let anything—social conventions, foreign armies, debilitating illness, her own solicitous children—stop her. May Hashem bless her memory.

Dafna Ezran

| September/October 2007   |  | HIGH HOLIDAYS SCHEDULE   |   |  |   | Tishrei 5768  |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday  | Shabbat   |  |
| September 9  | September 10   | September 11   | September 12<br>6:36 pm  Erev<br>Rosh Hashanah<br>Selihoth/Shaharith<br>5:30 am<br>Eruv Tavshilin<br>Minhah/Arvith<br>6:45 pm | September 13<br>after 7:40 pm<br>Rosh Hashanah<br>Shaharith 8:00 am<br>Minhah/Arvith<br>6:45 pm                    | September 14<br>6:44 pm<br>Rosh Hashanah<br>Shaharith 8:00 am<br>Minhah/Arvith<br>6:45 pm                           | September 15<br>Shabbat Shuvah<br>Shaharith 8:30 am<br>Minhah/Arvith<br>6:00 pm                             |  |
| September 16<br>Tzom Gedalia<br>Shaharith 7:30 am<br>Minhah/Arvith<br>6:30 pm<br>7:38 pm fast ends | September 17   | September 18   | September 19  | September 20<br>Yuval Ron<br>Concert<br>at Kahal Joseph<br>7:00 pm   | September 21<br>6:20 pm  Erev<br>Yom Kippur<br>Selihoth/Shaharith<br>5:30 am<br>Minhah 6:45 pm<br>Kal Nidre 7:00 pm | September 22<br>Yom Kippur<br>Shaharith 8:00 am<br>Minhah 4:00 pm<br>Neilah 6:00 pm<br>7:27 Yom Kippur ends |  |
| September 23   | September 24   | September 25   | September 26<br>6:27 pm<br>Erev Sukkot<br>Shaharith 6:30 am<br>Eruv Tavshilin<br>Minhah/Arvith<br>6:30 pm                     | September 27<br>after 7:20 pm<br>Sukkot<br>Shaharith 8:30 am<br>Minhah/Arvith<br>6:30 pm                           | September 28<br>6:24 pm<br>Sukkot<br>Shaharith 8:30 am<br>Minhah/Arvith<br>6:30 pm                                  | September 29<br>Shabbat<br>Shaharith 8:30 am<br>Minhah/Arvith<br>6:00 pm                                    |  |
| September 30<br>Shaharith 7:30 am<br>Sukkah<br>Open House<br>at R. Ovadia's<br>4:00 pm             | October 1<br>Sukkot<br>Hol Hamoed<br>Shaharith 6:00 am<br>Minhah/Arvith<br>6:45 pm | October 2<br>Sukkot<br>Hol Hamoed<br>Shaharith 6:00 am<br>Minhah/Arvith 6:45 pm<br>Limud Lel Hoshanah<br>Rabbah 10:00 pm | October 3<br>6:18 pm<br>Erev Shemini<br>Atzeret<br>Shaharith 6:00 am<br>Minhah/Arvith<br>6:15 pm                              | October 4<br>after 7:12 pm<br>Shemini Atzeret<br>Shaharith 8:30 am<br>Minhah/Arvith<br>6:15 pm<br>Hakafoth 6:30 pm | October 5<br>6:16 pm<br>Simhat Torah<br>Shaharith 8:30 am<br>Minhah/Arvith<br>6:15 pm                               | October 6<br>Shabbat<br>Beresheet<br>Shaharith 8:30 am<br>Minhah/Arvith<br>6:00 pm                          |  |

Shana Tova  
Have a Wonderful Healthy New Year

Moussa Shaaya — Abe Kamara

**AMT Enterprise**





ENDOWING