

# BJC Wensa

"WENSA" MEANS "FUN" IN JUDEO-ARABIC!

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March 10, 2012

16 Adar, 5772

VOLUME 10

KI TISA

SHABBAT ENDS 6:37PM

*Publisher: Anna Khabbaza Hakakian*

## A TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER....

You may have thought I didn't see,  
Or that I hadn't heard,  
Life lessons that you taught me,  
That is instilled in me forever.

Perhaps you thought I missed it all,  
But Dad, I picked up everything,  
It's written on my heart.

Without you, Dad, I wouldn't be  
The woman I am today;  
You built a strong foundation  
No one can take away.  
I've grown up with your values,  
And I'm very glad I did;

Whatever is good in me today,  
I owe to your wisdom, your patience,  
your strength, and your love.  
You taught me by example,  
how to be my own person,  
I respect you, I admire you, I love you,  
I miss you, my Daddy.

I always counted on your wisdom,  
your life experiences,  
your caring heart, and your special smile  
to help me comprehend and get through  
challenges you've already faced.  
Your strength and your calm confidence  
is your legacy to me...

A giant pine, magnificent and old  
Stood bright amongst all like gold  
Shed beauty, grace and strength.  
And birds reared its young in arm's length.  
The ground beneath was gentle,  
And its true values were fundamental  
The shade below cheered passers by.  
Its lofty arms graciously stood, never a sigh,  
Rain or shine it showed no weakness, never quit.  
No matter what storms were destined to hit  
But, the tree fell one day.  
Its place once boldly stood, was loneliness and void.  
Passers by paid tribute – and said,  
"To know this life was good,  
It left it's impression on me. Its work lives forever".  
And so it lives. Such life rarely found-  
This giant pine, magnificent and old.  
There will never be another like it.

## PARSHA OF THE WEEK....



## KI TISA

The people of Israel are told to each contribute exactly half a shekel of silver to the Sanctuary (for census). Instructions are also given regarding the making of the Sanctuary's (Mishkan) water basin, anointing oil and incense. "Wise-hearted" artisans Betzalel and Aholiav are placed in charge of the Sanctuary's construction, and the people are once again commanded to keep the Shabbat.



The Torah portion continues with the infamous story of the Golden Calf. The people wrongly calculated that Moses was late in coming down from Mt. Sinai and the people were already seeking a replacement for him by making the Golden Calf. Moses sees them dancing around the calf and expressing anger he breaks the Two Tablets; he then punishes the 3,000 wrong doers and pleads to G-d not to wipe out the people.

G-d forgives, but says that the effect of their sin will be felt for many generations. At first G-d proposes to send His angel along with them, but Moses insists that G-d Himself accompany His people to the promised land.

Moses prepares a new set of tablets and once more ascends the mountain, where G-d reinscribes the covenant of the Ten Commandments on these second tablets.



On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole community for their relentless support and warm wishes during this very difficult time of our lives and sharing with us all the good memories and kind words about my father. We are forever grateful for all your love and comforting words.

*Dad, you exemplified dignity, honor and respect and you have left a painful void in our lives.*

*We will move on and try to go on our daily life but every day there will be thoughts of you running through our minds.*

*Your loving daughter, Anna Khabbaza Hakakian*

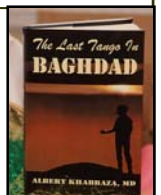
If you would like to contribute short jokes, stories, memories, recipes, etc. please email the publisher: [annahakakian@yahoo.com](mailto:annahakakian@yahoo.com).

*This Family Shabbat is sponsored by the Zelouf Family in memory of Shafik Zelouf.*

## *The Last Tango in Baghdad*

by Dr. Albert Khabbaza is available for sale. For more info visit

[www.khabbaza.com](http://www.khabbaza.com)



# Poem...

SLOW DANCE

Contributed by Rita Khabbaza

Have you ever watched kids  
 On a merry-go-round?  
 Or listened to the rain  
 Slapping on the ground?  
 Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight?  
 Or gazed at the sun into the fading night?  
 You better slow down.  
 Don't dance so fast.  
 Time is short.  
 The music won't last.  
 Do you run through each day  
 On the fly?  
 When you ask How are you?  
 Do you hear the reply?  
 When the day is done  
 Do you lie in your bed  
 With the next hundred chores  
 Running through your head?  
 You'd better slow down  
 Don't dance so fast.  
 Time is short.  
 The music won't last.  
 Ever told your child,  
 We'll do it tomorrow?  
 And in your haste,  
 Not see His sorrow?  
 Ever lost touch,  
 Let a good friendship die  
 Cause you never had time  
 To call and say, 'Hi'  
 You'd better slow down.  
 Don't dance so fast.  
 Time is short.  
 The music won't last..  
 When you run so fast to get somewhere  
 You miss half the fun of getting there.  
 When you worry and hurry through your  
 day,  
 It is like an unopened gift....  
 Thrown away.  
 Life is not a race.  
 Do take it slower  
 Hear the music  
 Before the song is over.



# Interesting...

Contributed by Miriam Shamash

I never knew this, did you? Interesting. An amazing fact about the Jewish Star: Even if you are not Jewish, this is really amazing. The Jewish Star (of David) is also referred to as a MAGEN DAVID. ALL 24 LETTERS OF THE HEBREW ALPHABET ARE FOUND IN A MAGEN DAVID (Star of David). THERE IS NO SUCH THING IN ANY OTHER LANGUAGE.

## Purim

Purim is a festival that commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people of the ancient Persian Empire from Haman's plot to annihilate them, as recorded in the Biblical Book of Esther (*Megillat Esther*). According to the story, Haman cast lots to determine the day upon which to exterminate the Jews, but fortunately for the Jewish people his plans were foiled by Esther his queen. Mordecai, a palace official, cousin and foster parent of Esther, who subsequently replaced Haman.



First, i was dying to finish my high school and start college  
 And then i was dying to finish college and start working  
 Then i was dying to marry and have children  
 And then i was dying for my children  
 to grow old enough  
 so i could go back to work  
 But then i was dying to retire  
 And now i am dying...  
 And suddenly i realized  
 i forgot to live

Please don't let this happen to you  
 Appreciate your current situation  
 and enjoy each day

...old friend

To make money we lose our health,  
 and then to restore our health we lose our money...  
 We live as if we are never going to die,  
 and we die as if we never lived...



# AWAFI...

From: "Flavours of Babylon" cookbook by Linda Dangoor

## My mother's almond macaroons

*Hadji bada*



Special almond macaroons, deliciously chewy with a hint of rosewater, are traditionally made for the Passover feast. They are so popular with everyone that we make them these days, all year round. We call them *hadji bada*. My mother's recipe makes an interestingly different macaroon; rough textured as opposed to smooth, a favourite of mine.

- 500g blanched almonds, coarsely ground
- 320g sugar
- The whites of 3 medium eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 heaped teaspoon ground cardamom
- Rosewater



Pre-heat the oven to 170°C/Gas Mark 3. Have a bowl with a little rosewater in it, for wetting your hands.

In a bowl, mix the almonds, sugar and cardamom. Add the egg whites and knead into a malleable dough. Cover and leave to rest in the refrigerator for a few hours or overnight if you wish.

Line a baking tray with greaseproof or baking paper. Lightly wet your hands with the rosewater and take a little of the dough the size of a walnut and shape it into a tight ball, flattening the top a little with your finger. Arrange on a tray, spacing the balls to avoid them sticking to each other as they expand when baked. Bake for about 15 to 20 minutes or until golden.

Leave to cool completely before handling. Serve or store in an airtight container in the refrigerator or freezer where they will keep well for a long time.

**Variation:** My Aunt Eileen makes these traditionally smooth textured macaroons. They contain walnuts as well as almonds, double the amount of eggs and are deliciously chewy.

- 500g blanched almonds, finely ground
- 200g walnuts, finely ground
- 500g caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cardamom
- The whites of 5 medium eggs
- 1 egg yolk
- Rosewater

Pre-heat the oven to 160°C/Gas Mark 2. Have a bowl with a little rosewater in it, for wetting your hands. In a bowl, mix the almonds, walnuts, sugar and cardamom. Add the egg whites and the egg yolk, then knead into a malleable dough, and continue as above.

## Words to live by...



**Contributed by Jackie Cohen**

**Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase. (Martin Luther King Jr)**

**Life is too short to waste. Dreams are fulfilled only through action, not through endless planning to take action. (David J. Schwartz, Trainer and Author)**

To view a short film of the Esther & Mordechai Temple in Hamedan, Iran, use the following link (Farsi with English subtitles):

<http://www.farhangfilmfest.org/viewvideo/227/2012-documentary/temple-of-esther-a-mordechai-short-film/Page-1.html>



# Beautiful Things

Contributed by Mirra Zara

•Three things in life that, once gone, never come back

Time

Words

Opportunity

•Three things in life that may never be lost

Peace

Hope

Honesty

•Three things in life that are most valuable -

Love

Self-confidence

Friends

•Three things in life that are never certain -

Dreams

Success

Fortune

•Three things that make a man/woman -

Hard work

Sincerity

Commitment

•Three things in life that can destroy a man/woman -

Alcohol

Pride

Anger

•Three things in life that, once lost, hard to build-up -

Respect

Trust

Friendship

•Three things in life that never fail -

True Love

Determination

Belief

P.----pray

U.----until

S.----something

H.----happens

When there is nothing left but G-d, that is when you find out that G-d is all you need.



## My inconclusive travel plans for 2012

Contributed by Mirra Zara

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my boss, ex-partners and politicians who have affected my life.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but you end up nowhere.

Sometimes I'm in Capable and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

I may have been in Continent, but I must've been sleeping while traveling through...it's an age thing.

## Stuff you didn't know you didn't know!

Contributed by Mirra Zara



It is impossible to lick your elbow.

The State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair...

111,111,111 x

111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321

Q. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter 'A'?

A. One thousand

Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

A. Honey

Q. Which day are there more collect calls than any other day of the year?

A. Father's Day

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase...! 'Goodnight, sleep tight'

At least 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbow!



FAMILY SHABBAT DATES: MAY 5, 2012

JUNE 2, 2012