



# Indian Jewish Congregation of USA Newsletter

September 2011

Volume 5, Number 2

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## Useful Links

*The History and Disappearance of the Jewish Presence in Pakistan*  
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*Seder Selichoth with DVD*  
Translated and Transliterated into Marathi by Rabbi Shmuel Ben-Shalom

*Leela Samson*  
Classical Bharata Natyam Dancer

*Anop Jalota Concert In Jerusalem*  
Ghazal Music at Binyanei HaUma

*The First Miss India, Pramila Esther Abraham, Actress and the First Miss India*

*India's Fori Nehru*  
World's Oldest Jewish Woman Alive

*Shalom Bollywood*  
The Untold Story of Jews and Bollywood

*YouTube Video Clip*  
*Bene Israel*

## Our Website

[jewsofindia.org](http://jewsofindia.org)  
The official website of the Indian Jewish Congregation of USA. Here you will find useful information about our organization, our heritage, future plans, and more.

## Contact Us

<http://www.jewsofindia.org>  
[comments@jewsofindia.org](mailto:comments@jewsofindia.org)  
[jewsofindia@yahoo.com](mailto:jewsofindia@yahoo.com)

Clicking on the e-mail links above will open your e-mail client. If you are using web-based e-mail, please copy/paste or type the above address in the TO field.

## President's Message by Rabbi Romiel Daniel Message for Rosh Hashanah 5772

Rosh Hashanah 5772 is almost upon us. What have we achieved the past year, the year that was given to us by G-d as a gift?

Have we helped our brothers, sisters, neighbors, community, and nation? Have we climbed up the ladder of spirituality? Have we shown Chesed, Loving Kindness? Have we followed the advice of Rabbi Hillel, "What is hateful to thyself do not do to another. That is the whole Law, the rest is commentary."

If we were to follow that one golden rule, we would have achieved G-d's reward of peace and happiness. In fact, we should take the first opportunity to perform a Mitzvah without expecting any reward. If G-d has not specified any reward for 611 of the 613 commands and assigned reward to only two, there must be a reason.

The two commands where there is a reward is "Honor your father and mother" and the other is "If you see a mother bird sitting on her eggs, first drive away the mother bird and then take the eggs."

To honor your parents has been shown to be the most difficult command to observe. To shoo away the mother bird is the easiest – it only requires a wave of the hand. Yet both these commands have the same reward, longevity of life. This shows that no one commandment or mitzvah is greater than the other. All are equally important and we should fulfill any command the first time we have an opportunity.

This has to be spontaneous and voluntary, because in the Torah not once is the word "obey" used. Our actions are voluntary. We must do good at all times because we want to do good, because we need to do good. Only then are we ready to start the New Year with a sense of spiritual progress and be thankful to G-d for everything that He has given us.

May you all be blessed with a life of peace and contentment, health and happiness, continued prosperity and loving kindness!

Amen.



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## My Bat Mitzvah Experience (by Yafa Daniel)

My Bat mitzvah was a wonderful experience that I will never forget! I started learning my Haftorah in January when I came back from India and started learning my speech in May. To have the honor to learn the Haftorah from my own grandfather was the start of a new beginning. Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday I would call my grandpa, whom I call "Aba," and practice my Haftorah and speech. At least, those were the days I was supposed to practice, although though I did the practice with Aba during the rest of the week, as well. Each time I visited my grandparents' house, I would practice and sometimes my Ima (grandma) would give me chocolates when I got something right in my Haftorah or speech that I had difficulty with before. Getting my dresses may seem like all fun and no work, but it's much more than that. We went to multiple places to find the perfect dress, and after trying on about a hundred dresses, we finally found what we were looking for.



The day of the service, I was so nervous that I was shaking. Doubts started to form in my head as the service went on, each minute getting closer to the time I had to walk up on the Bima and recite my Haftorah and speech. When it was time, I felt confident and a little excited as I walked up the steps. I think I read my Haftorah and gave my speech well. Aba said that I made history in the synagogue because I was the first girl to read the Haftorah after many years. There was a Kiddush Luncheon after the prayers and many people gave me blessings and good wishes.

My Bat mitzvah party was out of this world. The party had a Hollywood theme with a red carpet and my sign-in board at entrance that made me and my guests feel like stars! Geo (my DJ) got everyone on the dance floor with amazing music. The light-up stages and the lighting got everyone in the mood. I read poems to call my friends and family up for candle lighting. The Horah was a lot of fun and being lifted up on a chair was scary but fun. The Montage was very heartfelt and made me very emotional. I was very surprised and happy to hear the song that my mom sang to me when I was little. I was very happy to dance with my dad after the Montage. The dinner was delicious and I had fun partying with all my friends and family.



After all the planning and preparation that was done for my Bat mitzvah, the event was a big success! I thank my grandparents, my parents and my sister for helping me to prepare for my Bat mitzvah! I also thank everyone who came from far and near and made my big day special ☺

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## Un-Wise Comments from "Expert" Anguish the Community

**By Aylon Samson, edited by Evelina Samson**

A recent article published in various media outlets has left our community disappointed and angry. The article interviewed Professor Yaakov Wise, a historian at the University of Manchester, who spoke of his "discovery" of a Bene Israel Haggadah. It may have been a discovery for him, but that would only be due to his lack research and failure to note the many resources that previously wrote about this Haggadah.

The article mentions numerous misconceptions and false information that Professor Wise holds about the Bene Israel community. Wise was quoted saying about the Pune Haggadah that "it is possible that the publication of the Haggadah was funded by Sheikh David Sassoon, a philanthropist who lived in Pune in the 19<sup>th</sup> century." The cover of the Haggadah, however, clearly mentions that it was printed by the Talkars. It's obvious the Professor's statement was poorly researched and not backed by evidence.

Professor Wise goes on to completely misrepresent the explanation of “Black” versus “White” Jews of India. Here are two separate quotes on this subject from the article:

*The format and illustrations give an insight into the Black Jews.*

*The Bene Israel are known as "the Black Jews of India" because of their Indian appearance, as opposed to the "White Jews of India", who he said were of Middle Eastern descent and had settled in the country much later.*

In reality, “Black Jews” is a phrase that is used in relation to the Jews of Cochin. Below is a short quote from Dr. Shalva Weil’s e-mail sent to the various newspapers regarding this article. Dr. Weil is an expert on the subject of Indian Jews, with many books and research articles written about this subject.

*This disturbing confusion befuddles the differences between the three Indian Jewish communities. Dr. Wise would be advised to take a look at my India's Jewish Heritage (Marg Publications, 2009, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition) in which all this is spelled out clearly. The Cochin Jews were divided into White Jews, who had arrived in South India after the Inquisition, and Black Jews, who were the darker-skinned Jews that were already in Cochin and had come to India possibly in the 1<sup>st</sup> century C.E. Today, we refer to these Black Jews as Malabari Jews. Dr. Wise's statement that "The format and illustrations (of the Bene Israel haggadah) give an insight into the Black Jews," is therefore of no relevance whatsoever. This statement has caused great offense to Bene Israel community members, who are already demanding an apology.*

In regards to Prof. Wise’s quote that “There are very few books that have translations from Hebrew into any Indian language,” Dr. Shalva Weil continues to say:

*...there are hundreds of such books! The Bene Israel were a learned community and boasted more than one professor of Hebrew at Bombay University.*

To prove Dr. Weil’s point above, here are just few of the numerous publications by the Bene Israel community: “The Confession of Sins on The Jewish Day of Atonement” (1858), “The Jewish Marriage Ceremony” (1862), “History of Antiochus Epiphanes on The Institution of The Feast of Dedication” (1866), “The Propitiatory Prayer and the Remission of Vows” (1935).

Lastly, Professor Wise says, “As far as I know, there is only one of these in the whole of North America and that is in the Library of Congress in Washington DC.” In fact, our April 2011 newsletter included a scan of one of the pages from this very haggadah. It was most definitely not a scan from a copy at the Library of Congress.

As someone who considers himself an expert on the Bene Israel and likely profits from this, it would be advised to Professor Wise to perform proper research before making any statements about the community. At this point, his comments are more likely based on guesswork, rather than any kind of in-depth research. It’s not clear what, if any, sources were used as background for his statements—certainly no legitimate source could have resulted in such gross misunderstandings on his part.

We are able, through fact and evidence, to dispel the misinformation that was spread by Professor Wise. Unfortunately, he has not responded after we contacted him—and we won’t hold our breath for an apology from him or the University of Manchester.

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## September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 Murder Victim—Alona Avraham z"l

By Aylon Samson

On September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001, Alona Avraham was murdered along with thousands of others by Islamic extremists. She was a manufacturing engineer associate at Applied Materials and a member of the Bene Israel community. Ms. Avraham, who came from a traditional family, was an alumna of the Polytechnic Institute of NYU. Alona was onboard United Airlines flight 175, flown into the south tower of the World Trade Center, when she perished.

Ms. Avraham was on her way to celebrate Rosh Hashanah at her uncle's home in Los Angeles during her visit to the U.S. from Israel. News reached her family through the airline, confirming that Ms. Avraham was on the flight manifest. Her mother, Miriam Avraham, said it was hard to comprehend the situation. She said that Alona was admired by the whole family and was a great source of pride for the family; smart and hardworking.

After six years, Alona's remains were finally buried in Israel after being identified through DNA. She was only 30 years old.

Below are links to few articles about Alona Avraham z"l with additional stories.

### September 11 victim laid to rest

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3501421,00.html>

### Israeli mourners reject ground zero mosque

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3952526,00.html>

### Alona Avraham, Who Died in the Twin Towers Disaster, Buried

Article in Hebrew accompanied by a video interview with Miriam Avraham

<http://news.nana10.co.il/Article/?ArticleID=535282>

### Alona didn't get to celebrate Rosh Ha'Shanna

Article in Hebrew

<http://news.nana10.co.il/Article/?ArticleID=202620>



Photo Source: nan10.co.il

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## Wing Commander Isaac Ezekiel Awaskar—Bio Brief

Compiled by Nissim Moses



Isaac Ezekiel was born on August 6<sup>th</sup> 1927 to Ezekiel Samuel Ezekiel Awaskar and Sarah, daughter of Captain Solomon Samson Penkar in Poona.

He grew up in Bombay and studied in St. Mary's High School. He studied for one year at KHA College and then joined the new Indian Air Training within the framework of Bombay University. In September 1946, he was selected as a trainee in the new fledgling India Air Force and after a short delay was sent to the Air Force Flying School at Jodhpur in India. He was one of six cadets selected for advanced training at the Air Force base in Ambala, but there again was a delay in the start of the course due the emergence of Independent India. Finally, he qualified as a fighter pilot on the famed Spit Fighters on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1949. He was then posted to Poona to join the Tempest Squadron stationed there. During this period the Indian Air Force had made a policy decision to establish an Air Force

comprising of 50 Squadrons and was in need of a large number of pilots to be trained quickly and efficiently. It should be noted that Isaac Ezekiel served in the formative years of the Indian Air Force and finally resigned as Wing Commander which was very senior rank in those days.

From there he was sent for an Instructor's course to Jodhpur in Training Command. He served in this position for three years. One of his trainees later was to become Air Chief Marshal Kaul. Then he was sent to The Jet Fighter Training School at Secundrabad. Later, he was posted to Adampur in the North and from there to The 17<sup>th</sup> Squadron (Vampires) in Poona as Squadron Leader in Western Command.

In 1957 he was then sent to the U.K. for advanced training on the Canberra Bombers, brought to India via Egypt. He took over as Chief Officer and Head of Training, Jet Bomber Command Unit, a position in which he served for 3 years.

Isaac Ezekiel was selected to attend The Joint Services Staff College at Wellington, upon the completion of which he was elevated to the Rank of Wing Commander and made Chief Officer Air Crew Examining Board. He served in this position from 1964 to 1965 within the framework of Air Headquarters and Western Command at Palam and Hinden Air Force Bases, New Delhi. The chief mission of this posting was to establish and maintain the highest standards of the pilots and other air crew in the Indian Air Force.

In 1965, Wing Commander Isaac Ezekiel resigned from the Indian Air Force and joined Air India and was initially based at Santa Cruz Airport, Bombay and then later in Perth, Australia—the main reason being that being a Jew he could not fly through many countries in the Middle East. In 1969, he returned to India for training as Captain on the Boeing 707 aircraft. In 1970 Isaac resigned from Air India and made Aliyah to Israel together with his family where he joined El Al as a pilot qualified to fly on Boeing 707 and 747 aircrafts. In 1972, Isaac was injured in a terrorist attack by Kozo Okomoto in a shooting spree in the arrival terminal hall at Ben Gurion International Airport while returning from a flight abroad. He continued to serve in El Al from 1971 until his retirement in 1987.

In 1953, he married Rebecca, daughter of Moses and Ruth Daniel. Together they have three sons named Japheth, Dan and the late Micha, and several grand children.

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## Lloyd Sassoon—Commemoration Ceremony

**By Nissim Moses**

On July 21<sup>st</sup> 2011, a memorial ceremony For Flt. Lt. Lloyd Sassoon Kandlekar was held at the Wall of Warriors on Ammunition Hill in Jerusalem. This Wall honors Jewish soldiers who served in the armed forces of other nations. The intent of this wall is to honor the legacy of bravery and service of Jewish soldiers and to integrate and commemorate their memory with the heritage of our people in the Jewish homeland Israel.



At the ceremony at Ammunition Hill

It should be noted that originally Ammunition Hill was the site which commemorated the 182

soldiers who lost their lives in liberating Jerusalem and returning it to the people of Israel as its eternal capital. Later on, the concept was expanded to include in this memorial park the commemoration of all Jewish warriors.

At the ceremony, a review with a documentary movie of the battle for Jerusalem was shown. Later at the Wall of Warriors, a plaque was unveiled by Sybia, Dov and David, the family of Lloyd Sassoon. A presentation was made by Chacha and Rafi for the purpose of this commemoration project towards the preservation of our Jewish Heritage through honoring our brave warriors. Mr. Noah Masil, Mr. Dov Lloyd Sassoon, Mr. Isaac Ezekiel Ex Wing Commander (retired), Canberra Squadron Indian Air Force, and Mr. Nissim Moses reviewed the life and careers of Flt. Lt. Lloyd Sassoon and the contribution of Bene Israel warriors to our heritage.

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## Legacies

**By Noreen Daniel**

Looking out from our balcony during the recent tropical storm Irene brought some nostalgic memories of bygone years in India. Maple trees were replaced by mango and chickoo (sapodilla) trees waving their long branches, calling me home.

I see my daddy standing on the front verandah dressed in a rain coat, hat and rubber boots with a walking stick contemplating when this torrential rain will slow down so he can leave. "Where are you

going daddy in this rain?" I inquire. "To the village. I will find out if we can get workers to start the transplantation of rice. Tomorrow I think this rain will bring about 8-10 inches of water in the fields. I will tell you how many workers will be there for lunch," daddy replies as a matter of fact. I just say, "Be careful and come soon". Daddy returns after almost 2 hours. We are waiting for lunch. Our housekeeper Manjulabai has made rice chapattis, val (field beans), coconut, kadhi (gravy dish), rice and spicy mango pickle. Everyone has a hearty meal. Daddy announces, "Four men and six women will come tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock. Make sure you have enough jaggery and milk for tea for the workers twice during the day. What will be the lunch menu for tomorrow?" Manjulabai answers, "Baba, don't worry. I'll soak chavli (black eyed peas) now. They will be ready for curry tomorrow. I'll serve it with rice and pickle. Our workers will be content with this menu."

Afternoon is time for a siesta. It is still raining. We have a vintage collection of old books and back issues of Reader's Digest from three generations. I open one issue and get into bed under a quilt cover and start reading. I notice a squirrel on the window sill looking at me, perhaps wanting some food. I bring a small piece of bread and leave it on the window sill. The squirrel grabs it and disappears. As I am getting engrossed in a story, I hear a woodpecker making a persistent sound with his beak on the branch. I did not finish most of the book but dozed off.

I hear the bells round the neck of bullocks returning home from the fields. I rise up and go to the front verandah. My grandfathers' clock rings five times. Soon it will be time for the cows and water buffaloes to return home. I hear the mooing of hungry calves. Their call is answered by a mooing from their mothers. This goes on a few times. Just then I spot some cows and buffaloes running and the cowherd running after them. He is calling them by their names, "Kapila, Gomati, thamb (stop)!". They stop and continue mooing. The cowherd reaches them, takes them to the cowshed and ties them to the pole. He gives them their food in a big dish and milks them. Then he brings the calves to their respective mothers. He brings the milk to the kitchen to be measured. We ask "Have you left enough milk for the calves and he says, "Certainly."

I hear frantic clucking by the hens and chickens in the poultry house. Their dinner time! I see the boy in charge of the poultry going with buckets of poultry feed. He fills the food trays and water trays. When the hens are busy eating, he searches the coops for eggs. A carton with cardboard trays is filled with eggs and brought to our back verandah. We separate the eggs in different trays as S-M-L-XL and count them and enter the number in a diary. The farming operations for the day are over.

It is no longer raining. The sky is beautiful with bright colors of sunset. I decide to go on the terrace of our house to admire the glorious sunset. As I look to the horizon, I notice a big rainbow across the sky. I cannot take my eyes off the colors. I identify VIBGYOR. I thank Hashem for reinforcing His promise to earth never to send a destructive deluge again! "Blessed are you Lord our G-d, King of the Universe who remembers the covenant and is faithful to His covenant and who keeps His word."

I have to come down as I hear Manjulabai calling me "Tai, what should I make for dinner?" I simply say, "Make Khichdi (a dish made of rice and lentils) with potato vegetable, omelet and fry some dried Bombay Ducks (which is actually fish). I follow her in the kitchen to help. She gives me a chair to sit saying, "I'll manage. You have to work hard in your home. You have come to your parent's house for a few days. Just relax!" I am nonplussed. These lovely people are so rich with love they can bestow! While cooking, Manjulabai is talking constantly. She gives me an update on the village news. I see from the kitchen window her husband and our manger Kashinath coming with a hurricane lantern. She asks him to keep one lantern in each room in case there is no electricity. He goes in to make the beds for the night and set the table for dinner. He closes all the windows and burns incense to drive away the nocturnal insects. We enjoy the simple dinner as if it is a banquet. The food is extremely palatable. It never tastes as good in the city.

We gather on the front verandah after dinner. Daddy sits on the rocking chair. Mummy sits on the cane chair and we sit on the steps. Sometimes we all sing popular old songs. Most of the night we love to hear stories from daddy and mummy of their childhood and youth; about their brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles and cousins. Stories about our grandparents are most engrossing! The families were big when they were growing up and they were so well connected with each other.

I see a bat flying from one tree to another. Its wings flapping and it sounds like "Nachamu, Nachamu. Comfort ye, Comfort ye." It has a special message for us who have gone far from our families, "Do not flee from your heritage nor isolate from your fellow Jews. The Torah goes with you wherever you are

and you derive comfort from your unity with your brethren who remain loyal to the word of G-d. (Perek Shira, Nature's song—Rabbi Nossou Slifkin).

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## Recipes

By Noreen Daniel

### Halva for Rosh Hashanah

By popular demand, we are republishing this recipe. It is customary to distribute Halva to relatives and friends on the eve of Rosh Hashanah and the first morning of Rosh Hashanah.

Ingredients:

Corn flour	900 grams (about 2 pounds)
Coconut milk	4 tins, or milk from 3 fresh coconuts
Agar Agar(China grass)	400 grams (about 14 ounces), or 4 packets, soaked in water
Sugar	450 grams (about 16 ounces), or to taste
Ground cardamom	10 grams (about 0.4 ounces)
Almonds	100 grams (about 3.5 ounces), soaked, peeled and cut into thin slices
Pistachios	100 grams (about 3.5 ounces), soaked, peeled and cut into thin slices
Poppy seeds	50 grams (about 2 ounces)
Raisins	200 grams (about 7 ounces)
Saffron	5 grams (a pinch)

Directions:

- 1) Empty the coconut milk into a big nonstick pot and dilute each can with twice the amount of water.
- 2) Add corn flour, sugar and soaked china grass. Mix thoroughly with a wooden spoon and place the pot on medium heat. Stir the mixture constantly as it gradually thickens. Be careful not to allow any lumps to form. If necessary, add more water. After 1½ hours, the mixture will stop sticking to the sides if a non-stick pot has been used.
- 3) Pour a spoonful of the mixture on a plate and leave it to cool. If the halva comes, then it is fully cooked. Otherwise, continue heating and stirring for another half hour, adding a little more water if necessary.
- 4) Add ground cardamom and saffron, and some of the almonds and pistachios into the mixture. Stir well and turn off the heat.
- 5) Pour the hot halva into big dishes about one inch thick and leave it to cool. Sprinkle with poppy seeds, almonds, pistachios and raisins.
- 6) When cold, cut into squares or diamond shaped pieces and serve.

### Sweet Rice (Sakar Bhat)

This delicacy is made to celebrate any good occasion. The Bene Israel make it specially to serve during the Mehendi Dinner (the henna ceremony usually performed the day before the wedding) with a dry potato dish.

Ingredients:

Long grain Basmati rice	2 cups
Sugar	3 cups
Ghee	½ cup
Salt	1 teaspoon
Cloves	8 -10
Cinnamon sticks	5 -7 small pieces

Golden raisins	100 gms
Cardamoms	5 -7 crushed
Saffron strands	5 grams (a pinch), soaked in water
Almonds	10 -12, soaked, skinned and sliced thin

Directions:

- 1) Wash the rice twice and let it stand.
- 2) Put a big non-stick pot over medium heat and add one tablespoon of ghee. Add cloves and cinnamons sticks. When the spices start crackling, add the rice.
- 3) Fry the rice it well and add 4 cups of water (twice the quantity of rice) and salt to taste.
- 4) Cook the rice with slightly open lid until the grains are separate and not sticking to each other. Remove the rice from the pot and spread it in a big dish.
- 5) Put another pot with a thick bottom on medium flame. Pour in 2 cups of water and sugar and stir continuously.
- 6) When the solution becomes thick and sticky, add dissolved saffron and mix well.
- 7) Add all the rice from the flat plate and stir. Cover the pot with a lid and reduce the heat to low. Cook until grains look separate.
- 8) Add cardamom powder, almond slices, and raisins and stir the rice. Add a little ghee from the sides of the pot and cover it.
- 9) Turn the heat off after 5 minutes. Before serving, fill warm rice in a small stainless steel bowl, and when cool invert the bowl in each small plate.

## Upcoming Events

### **Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur Services and Simchat Torah**

The Indian Jewish Community will be conducting the High Holyday Services for the seventeenth consecutive year in 2011 as per the Bene Israel liturgy.

The services will be held at:

The Village Temple  
33 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10003

The schedule will be as follows:

Rosh Hashanah Eve	Wednesday, September 28 <sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.
Rosh Hashanah Day	Thursday, September 29 <sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.
Yom Kippur Eve (Kol Nidre)	Friday, October 7 <sup>th</sup> at 5:45 p.m.
Yom Kippur Day	Saturday, October 8 <sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m.
Simchat Torah (Celebration)	Sunday, October 23 <sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

Any person wishing to participate in the reading for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services should contact the following:

Rabbi Romiel Daniel	Tel: (718) 897-8718
David Galsurkar	Tel: (347) 713-6963
Moses Samson	Tel: (718) 969-8543
Sam Daniel	Tel: (212) 873-4261
Leslie Jacob	Tel: (718) 726-6136

The services are free. However, expenses are incurred for the rent of the synagogue, the snacks provided on Rosh Hashanah and at the end of the Yom Kippur. Donations are welcome.

We are also planning to have a Memorial Service on Yom Kippur Day at approximately 2:30 p.m. where loved ones who have passed away are remembered. If you would like to give Hashkaboth, please fill in the form provided by Rabbi Romiel Daniel. The names of men and women to be written in print, in separate columns, and in English.

Also, please provide the names of those to whom Mish Berachoth should be given on Rosh Hashanah day. Fill out the form provided by Rabbi Romiel Daniel in the same manner. The form must be received at the below address by September 23<sup>rd</sup>:

Romiel Daniel  
98-41 64<sup>th</sup> Road, Apt. 1G  
Rego Park, NY 11374

The first *Selichoth* is being sponsored by Romiel Daniel at his residence on Sunday morning, September 18<sup>th</sup> 2011 at 5:00 a.m. at the above address.

Please inform us by **September 15<sup>th</sup>** if you are planning to attend.

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## Announcements

Evening of Indian Jewish Heritage on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Organized by the municipality of Rishon LeZion Cultural Department, Israel. The evening will start at 8 p.m. The event will be held at Beit Yad LeBanim, Rehov Ahad Haam 20.

The Magen Shalom Synagogue in Ramla will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Congratulations on serving the community since 1986.

The Museum of Jewish People—Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv has made available the bio briefs prepared about distinguished Bene Israel community members. These bios were prepared by Nissim Moses and donated free of charge to the museum for proper representation of the community.

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## Obituaries

Our deepest condolences go to Dr. Shalva Weil on the passing away of her mother, Phyllis Dimson on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011. Phyllis was a former headmistress of the Hasmonean Girls' School, London. She is buried in Jerusalem.

Our condolences to community member Nissim Benjamin on the passing of his father in Israel on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

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## Submissions to the Newsletter

We would like all our members to send us articles of interest, birthdates or birth months, wedding anniversaries and any other information of interest to the community. Submissions are subject to editing for clarity and style. Please send newsletter submissions to [tapluna@jewsofindia.org](mailto:tapluna@jewsofindia.org) or [aylon@jewsofindia.org](mailto:aylon@jewsofindia.org).

To be included in our electronic mailing list, please send your request to: [comments@jewsofindia.org](mailto:comments@jewsofindia.org)