

## Avoid The Negative Voices

Rabbi Daniel Bouskila  
Director, SEC

On the eve of fulfilling their lifelong dream of entering the "Promised Land," the Jewish people experienced a harsh breakdown and a severe setback. The 12 spies that had just returned from scouting out the Land of Israel presented reports of what they saw. Two of the spies presented a positive and motivational report, encouraging the people to prepare themselves for this great challenge, opportunity and privilege. The other ten spies delivered a negative message, discouraging the people from moving forward. At that point, the community was presented with a choice that we as individuals face every day: do we listen to the positive voices in life, or do we allow the negative voices to dominate our minds and souls?

In this instance, the community chose to focus on the negative, allowing it to overwhelm their immediate feelings. "On that night the people wept," and they asked God to take them back to the slave pits of Egypt. Fearing the unknown,

they actually preferred to go back to the abusive whip of Pharaoh than to take the challenge of freedom that God had provided. As a result of listening to the negative voices, not only did they spend a dark night in misery, crying and complaining, but it was on that dark night that God decreed that this generation was not ready to enter the Promised Land, and would spend an extra 39 years wandering aimlessly in the wilderness, until they all died and gave way to a new generation.

Jewish tradition teaches us that the very night when this happened was Tisha B'Av, the 9th of Av, the anniversary of the destruction of both the first and second Temple in Jerusalem. The symbolism of this is that the Jewish people themselves created the eventual darkness and negativity of Tisha B'Av. The choice to listen to the negative voices resulted in Tisha B'Av becoming a permanent day of mourning. This reminds us that when we tend towards negativity, we have the unfortunate power to create our own darkness and misery. The Sephardic commentator Rabbeinu Bahya comments: "It is symbolic that the spies returned to the camp towards nightfall, for their words brought

about darkness to the world." Their words, and the community's choice to follow their negative words, brought about darkness to the entire Jewish community, and to the destiny of the Jewish people.

The Kabbalah teaches: "The Torah's stories are the stories of our lives." The story of the twelve spies is a story we live every day. Whether in our own personal lives or workspace, we continue to face the challenge of staying positive versus focusing on the negative. Much like the community in the desert, if we follow the negative voices that surround us, we end up creating many days and nights spend in darkness, weeping ourselves into depression. So each time this challenge confronts you, before you allow yourself to be swayed in the tempting path of listening to the negative voice, ask yourself whether you want to end up crying and living a life of aimlessly wandering through a barren wilderness.

The prophet Zechariah predicts that one day in the future, Tisha B'Av will become a day of happiness and rejoicing (Zechariah 8:18-19).

Much like we created the darkness of Tisha B'Av, perhaps the power lies within each of us to

## Prayer Schedule

### SHABBAT

#### PARASHAT SHELAH LEKHA

Friday, June 17th, 2011

Shaharit 6:30 am

Minhah & Arbit 7:00 pm

Candle Lighting 7:48 pm

Saturday, June 18th, 2011

Shaharit 8:30 am

Tehillim 6:00 pm

Class w/R. Batzri 6:15 pm

Minhah & Arbit 7:00 pm

Motzei Shabbat 8:52 pm

### WEEKDAYS

Sunday, June 19th

Shaharit 7:30 am

Monday-Friday

Shaharit 6:30 am

### EREV SHABBAT

#### PARASHAT KORACH

Friday, June 24th, 2011

Shaharit 6:30 am

Minhah & Arbit 6:30 pm

Candle Lighting 7:50 pm

### Read the Haftarah

Wouldn't you like to chant the concluding section of the Torah on Shabbat—the Haftarah? Reserve a haftarah portion at 310.474.0559. Then, schedule time with Saeed & learn your haftarah with authentic ta'amim, Iraqi melodies for reading Torah.

### Torah Readings

Parasha 623-634

Haftara 635-637

transform Tisha B'Av into a day of light and hope.

We hear many voices each day. The question, as always, is not what we hear, but who do we choose to listen to?

**Shabbat Shalom**

## SHABBAT KIDDUSH

is sponsored by  
Grace and Kayvan Nahai

in honor of  
the Bar Mitzvah of their son

Nicholas Nahai

## CONDOLENCES

We send our deep condolences  
to the family of

Regina Mizrahie, z"l

the sister of our member  
Eddie Sassoon

*May Hashem comfort her family  
and friends together with all the  
mourners of Zion.*

## MAZAL TOV

to Nicholas Nahai  
on his Bar Mitzvah

Congratulations to his family  
Grace & Kayvan  
Ashton, Tatiana, & Karina

and grandparents  
Helen & Amin Nahai  
Majdoline & Nassim Hay Mussry

## CONDOLENCES

We send our deep condolences  
to the family of

Joseph Kohan, z"l

the brother of our Board member  
David Kohan

*May Hashem comfort his family  
and friends together with all the  
mourners of Zion.*

## SEUDAH SHLISHEET

is sponsored  
in memory of

Shaul Shakrokh Mangoli, z"l

by  
The Mangoli Family

## CONDOLENCES

We send our deep condolences  
to the family of

Shaul Sharokh Mangoli, z"l

brother of  
Alber Mangoli, our Board member,  
Abdullah and Morad Mangoli

*May Hashem comfort his family and  
friends with all the mourners of Zion.*

## NOTICE TO PARENTS

1. Children under 5 years old must be supervised by a parent when using our KIDS ZONE upstairs.
2. No child is allowed to remain in the synagogue lobby without the constant supervision of a parent or guardian.
3. We are not responsible for children walking out the front door.

## THANK YOU

### KJ COMMUNITY

David Kohan would like to express  
his gratitude to all those who  
showed their support and caring to  
him on the loss of his dear brother,  
Yosef ben Asher, z"l

## In Memoriam

It is customary to light a memorial  
candle and to donate tzedakah.  
Family members are encouraged  
to attend prayer services in honor  
of loved ones.

**Friday / 22 Sivan**  
Rivka bat Esther

**Shabbat / 23 Sivan**  
Lulu bat Toba  
Salim ben Ezra Kamara

*To update, please call the office  
at 310.474.0559.*

## Refuah Shlemah

Yonatan ben Alizah • Mazal Tov  
bat Sulha Mitana • Matilda  
Louisa • Yaheskel ben Regina •  
Ayala bat Naomi • Khayah Noa  
bat Sara • Haim ben Mordechai •  
Pnina bat Esther • Yosi ben  
Esther • Ramah Regina bat Farha  
• Aziza bat Sara Judith bat Malka •  
Ofek ben Yochai • Efrayim Zev  
ben Fayga • Sulha Matana bat  
Mozelle • Gershon ben David •  
Farangis Miriam bat Touran •  
David ben Leah • Avraham Haim  
ben Miryam • Yaakov ben Freda  
• Rachel bat Mazal Tov • Avra-  
ham ben Rabbie • Mazal Sigalit  
bat Rivkah • Orit bat Tikvah •  
Yaakov ben Aliyah • Chana Leah  
bat Reiza • Avraham Moshe ben  
Miriam Mordecai Haim ben  
Hanna • Rahel bat Regina •  
Yousef ben Rivka

## KM TO RECOGNIZE 2011 GRADS

E-mail your name, that of  
your school, & a digital pic  
to [dafna@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:dafna@kahaljoseph.org)  
or call 310-474-0559

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