

# KOL MEVASSER

*As we give thanks for our many blessings in the United States, let us wish those same blessings—peace, prosperity, normal life—for our family and friends in Israel. Below we include several recent, firsthand accounts that share the experiences of those near Jerusalem, in Judea, and in Sderot/Southern Israel.*

## An Extra Siren

*By Laura BenDavid, 11-18-12, 2:08 am*

Sirens ring in the start Shabbat in Israel— every week in fact. Living in Israel, you find Judaism and Jewish heritage infused into daily life here. Whether it's the way approaching Jewish holidays find their way onto everything from food packaging to billboards; or how everyone who greets you on a Friday will say 'Shabbat shalom;' or how everywhere you go in Israel you find places that have been significant to our people from time immemorial. And if you live near one of the more religious cities you will benefit from an audio reminder that Shabbat is about to start in the form of a special siren. This week was no different until it was. Until there was *another* siren.

Shabbat in Gush Etzion started like it does every other week; with the exception that I had been scrambling to find Shabbat hospitality for people from southern Israel, who have been under intensified rocket fire, until shortly before Shabbat. And the exception that we left a radio on, tuned to a special 'Shabbat station'— a silent program that would crackle to life only when there was urgent information to convey. . . We lit candles. The men went to synagogue.

My three year-old went to a neighbor. Peace and tranquility reigned in the house as we thought about the challah we needed to place on the warmer, the hummus we needed to arrange with a drizzle of olive oil . . . Then we heard the siren. It was wrong. We had already heard the siren. It comes before we light the candles, every week. In fact, we had already heard it, I was sure. And this one was different.

. . . My son and daughter and I froze. We looked at each other. 'What is that?' we dumbly asked each other, knowing full well what it was, but not being able to wrap our brains around it at first. I immediately ran to the open window hoping to find a neighbor who would say, Don't worry, they're testing the system (on Shabbat?...) or tell us that it was actually a far-away siren...Neither happened because there were no neighbors out and about; and at a time when there are *always* people. Then I knew.

My kids and I scrambled into the safe room in our house which doubles as my husband's office. It was then I remembered that the special safe-room window shutter needed to be fixed as it was sealed in the open position; and had been since we built the house eight years before.

We waited away from the faulty window until we heard a distant boom, then we waited a few more minutes, then, when we couldn't wait another second, we ran to our neighbor's house where my three year old daughter was. We scooped her up and hugged her. She was fine, of course, but ominous sirens and rockets hitting tend to make you want to hold your children so

## KJ Schedule

### Friday, November 23, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim .....	4:12 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting .....	4:27 pm
Minhah/Arbith .....	4:27 pm

### Shabbat Vayetze

### Saturday, November 24, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	8:30 am
Ladies Tehillim Group.....	after kiddush
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit.....	4:00 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah .....	5:12 pm

### Sunday, November 25, 2012

Shaharit .....	7:30 am
KJ Youth Choir .....	11:00 am

### Monday to Friday, Nov. 26 to 30, 2012

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
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### Monday, November 26, 2012

Women's Tehillim .....	10:30 am
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### Erev Shabbat

### Friday, November 30, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim .....	4:10 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting .....	4:25 pm
Minhah/Arbith .....	4:25 pm

tight that they want you to let go. We stayed at our neighbor's house while we all collected ourselves, and tried to make sense of it. Twenty-four hours later, we're still trying.

*(Continued on page 3)*



The Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph  
invites the children of our community to a



# Hanukkah Celebration

Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 2012  
11:00 am

Wonderful Entertainment  
*Sweets & Treats for the Children*  
Fun for the Whole Family



RSVP Requested

Elsa at 323.934.3439  
Louise 818.884.0120  
Rita 310.839.4206 or  
Hannie 310.247.0220



Hag Sameah! ♥ Happy Hanukkah!



*Kahal Joseph's Youth Choir  
will perform at KJ Sisterhood's Hanukkah Party*

**Shabbat Shalom U'Mevorakh**

## Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored in memory of  
Raphael ben Mordecai, z"l  
Ralph Nathan, z"l  
by Louise Nathan and Family

## Condolences

We send heartfelt condolences to  
the family and friends of  
*Ralph Nathan, z"l*  
husband of Louise Nathan, father  
of Loretta, Marlene, and Grace.

## Thank You Jackie Saks

for hosting a wonderful  
Rosh Hodesh Kislev  
brunch & celebration for KJ's  
Women's Tehillim Group

## Thank You Anita Wozniak & Jerome Wozniak

for photographing this month's  
Night in Italy event featured in  
last week's newsletter.

## Refuah Shlemah

Gerry Shapiro, Yocheved bat Rachel, Ma-  
zal bat Malka, Dan Herdoon, Mazal  
Tov bat Salha Matana, Moshe ben  
Ezra, Sasson ben Rahel / Sasson  
Moses, Penina bat Henia,  
Dov Ber ben Sonia

## Congratulations

Mazal Tov and Mabruk to our Hazzan  
Sassoon Ezra upon the engagement of  
granddaughter Shayna to David Sterberg,  
son of Andrea and Peter Sternberg of Cape  
Town, South Africa. Mazal Tov also to her  
parents, members Allan and Lulu Fensten,  
to sister Erica and to the entire family

## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries of pass-  
ings, for November 24 to December 1, 2012. It is  
customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzed-  
kah, and attend services the preceding Shabbat.

**10 Kislev / Shabbat, November 24th**

*Rubama bat Chana*

**11 Kislev / Sunday, November 25th**

Ludwig Altman

Sassoon Cohen *Sassoon Shimon Duek HaCohen*

*Rabel bat Simba*

**12 Kislev / Monday, November 26th**

Yedidyah Yehudah *Yedidyah ben Yehudah*

**13 Kislev / Tuesday, November 27th**

Eliza Maslavi *Eliza bat Tifaba*

**14 Kislev / Wednesday, November 28th**

Helen Levi *Habiba bat Farba*

**15 Kislev / Thursday, November 29th**

Nora Isaac Ives *Naima bat Simcha*

Sassoon Menashe Sassoon *Sasson ben Menashe*

**17 Kislev / Shabbat, December 1**

Naim Lavi *Naim ben Moshe*

*Moshe ben Moosa*

## TORAH READINGS

Shabbat Portion 106 to 117, Haftara TBA

(Continued from page 1)

As Shabbat proceeded we found ourselves jumpy. An air-conditioner could sound like the beginning note of a siren. Something dropped could sound like a Kassam landing. We thought about the youth group contingent that came to the safety of Gush Etzion for Shabbat from Ashkelon, for a break from the insanity that's become their daily life, only to have to rush into a safe room just as Shabbat was starting. We thought about the moment described to us of the people at synagogue in the middle of prayers, hearing that siren. The moment of hesitation as everyone looked at each other, then everyone clearing out of the sanctuary, entering the safe rooms, putting children first since there was not enough space for everyone. And we thought about the people at risk throughout Shabbat who were hearing the Code Red sirens . . .

No one wants war. War sucks. But that fear that we experienced, along with the very real danger, is something that a million Israelis living in the region near Gaza have been facing and dealing with for years, and should *never* have to deal with. Now we got a taste of that fear. Jerusalem got a taste of that fear. Tel Aviv got a taste of that fear. It doesn't taste good. As Operation Pillar of Defense continues with thousands of reservists called up, and battles being fought conventionally, as well as the battle for public opinion in the social media sphere, let's hope and pray that our brave soldiers are successful in their important mission and stay safe throughout. Finally, I want to share something my sister in Ramat Beit Shemesh wrote tonight:

*"The most emotional and poignant moment of the entire Shabbat was watching a family say farewell to their brother/son who was going off to fight. I can't describe to you how it felt to see the mother want one more hug and kiss, for the young soldier to wipe his younger brother's tears, and to see him wave from the car, as four soldiers drove off on Shabbat, all wearing their kip-pot. So if you are having trouble imagining what things are like here, just bring that picture up in your mind and I imagine that your prayers will be a lot stronger."*

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### Prayer for the IDF

May He who blessed our ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, bless the members of Israel's Defense Forces and its security services who stand guard over our land and the cities of our God from the Lebanese border to the Egyptian desert, from the Mediterranean sea to the approach of the Aravah, and wherever else they are, on land, in air and at sea. May the Lord make the enemies who rise against us be struck down before them. May the Holy One, blessed be He, protect and deliver them from all trouble and distress, affliction and illness, and send blessing and success to all the work of their hands. May He subdue our enemies under them and crown them with deliverance and victory. And may there be fulfilled in them the verse: "It is the Lord your God Who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to deliver you."  
And let us say: Amen.

## Status Update from Facebook

By Eli Birnbaum

Erev Shabbat in Tekoa. . . . This time, the arrival of Shabbat was accompanied by warning sirens for a missile attack. Surprise and unbelief, "Missiles here in the, Judean desert - no way?" The resounding boom of an explosion echoing in the hills came before we can really grasp what was happening, Shock!

The security van careens through the streets calling people to find shelter. Within minutes another siren warning. This time prayers are halted. "Quickly under the shul," someone commands. Within the confusion we grab our children and grandchildren in our arms and climb down to the open area under the synagogue which affords more protection. We all move quickly in the darkening evening finding space on the floor. I hold one of my grandchildren talking to him softly. He thinks it is a great game. Someone begins to sing and we wait for the next boom.

It was at that moment that my son Pinny's cell phone rings. As a member of a search and rescue team it is not uncommon for him to get calls even on Shabbat. But this call was different "Shabbat Shalom". It is a familiar voice with a very distinct accent. "Pinny, it's Muhammad, what do I do? What's happening? I heard your sirens". There is real panic in his voice.

At first this may not appear to be an abnormal situation, but Muhammad is an acquaintance/friend who happens to live in the Arab village of Tuqua which [for reasons of safety] the army will only enter in large numbers. Pinny quietly explains that we were being rocketed from Gaza and the best thing he could do is to remain indoors and stay away from windows.

Muhammad thanks Pinny profusely and apologizes for calling on Shabbat "Shabbat Shalom Pinny – B'E-met today! [Thank you, truly!]". So this Friday night, a "Palestinian Arab" called a "Jewish Settler" for help regarding a rocket attack from Gaza – Surreal!

# 15 is the Most Important Number

*Simon Benson and Damon Johnston in Tel Aviv, with the Herald Sun*

Fifteen is the most important number for the people of Sderot. That's how many seconds they have from when Israeli radar detects a Hamas missile launched and when it strikes...For the 20,000 residents of this border town in southern Israel time has run out. [Last week] an Israeli air strike killed top Hamas military commander Ahmed al-Jaabari, prompting the Islamic group to declare the action had opened "the gates of hell".

"Mothers have to stop their cars, get out, try and unbuckle two kids, then get them to the shelter," director of the Sderot Media Center, Noam Bedein, told News Ltd. "What the mothers are discovering is it's impossible to stop the car, get out and get seatbelts off two kids .... they are being forced to choose: which child do I save?"

Speaking at the Sderot police station Mr. Bedein says it's hard to lead your life constantly looking out for missile shelters just in case your 15 second race for life starts. [In the week before the war started], more than 100 Hamas missiles ha[d] hit this working-class city of more than 20,000 people. Bedein says the town is now preparing for the fallout of a possible Israeli ground troop invasion into Gaza for the first time since 2009, to force peace on the region "This can't continue," he tells us. "It has to stop.

The city is on the frontline, sitting just 3km from Gaza. From the ridge on the city's fringe, the mosques and tightly packed apartment blocks of Gaza - home to 1.5 million Palestinians - are clearly visible. Sderot is so close that Israel's new iron dome anti-missile system doesn't even have time to shoot them down. In the [week before the war], rockets crashed into schools and homes.

Within an hour of our interview, [just after] the Israeli defence force had launched an . . . airstrike into Gaza, killing Hamas leader Ahmed Khalil al-Jabari - dubbed by Israel as the Osama of Hamas - and others. Within minutes, Bedein was bunkered down in his shelter with the rest of the terrified inhabitants. Bedein, who has lived in Sderot for six years, said Israeli air strikes were continuing into the early evening

and residents were preparing for a full-scale retaliation from Hamas in Gaza. He said the town's 20,000 residents had been ordered into shelters and schools had been closed indefinitely.

The rocket attacks typically begin as children walk to school in the morning. "It's very intense at the moment. We are preparing for a full attack," he said. "It's crazy, there are explosions everywhere."

The Australian-born Israeli Government spokesman Mark Regev defended the strikes claiming that Israel was defending itself after days of rocket attacks on its civilians. "No one should have to live this way," he said. "We have acted as any responsible government would do to protect them."

He said Jabari had been responsible for hundreds of rocket attacks on Israeli towns including Beersheva...Hamas says the air strike is a declaration of war. But for Sderot, they have been locked in a war for years. Some 2000 rockets have been fired into it by Hamas and other jihadist groups since 2009. "This is our rocket reality," Bedein says.

Just an hour before the fresh barrage of rockets hit, Sivan Ahnukayev couldn't control her emotions any longer. The 23-year-old Sderot student told the Herald Sun and Daily Telegraph: "When the rockets come in I wish they were all dead and Gaza was erased. But when the rockets stop, I change my mind. I know not all the people of Gaza are responsible . . . We don't blame all of them." As she vents, Ahnukayev cradles the twisted remains of a Hamas rocket. We are at the Sderot police station, which houses a gruesome collection of hundreds of rockets ... or at least what remains of them...rockets, packed with nails, bolts and anything else that will make deadly shrapnel. "You know, in Sderot, there is no post traumatic stress ... because the terror is not over. We are living it every day," she says.

"It's like playing Russian roulette every day: You never know when the alarm is going to sound, and your 15 seconds starts." That alarm is called tzeva adom - translated it means colour red - and starts off with a screech, before a woman's calm voice starts repeating "tzeva adom" over the city's speaker system. That eerily calm voice signals your 15 seconds has started.