

KOL MEVASSER

What's in a Miracle?

Rabbi Kalman Packouz, from Aish.com

Jewish history is full of miracles. Most people know about the ten plagues and the splitting of the Red Sea (Sea of Reeds) in our Exodus from Egypt, the defeat of the Seleucid-Greeks and the burning of the flask of oil for eight days in the Hanukah story. However, if one reads our history in the Prophets, there are so many more miracles -- Gideon's 300 men defeating the Midianite army (Judges 6-8) and the overnight death of 185,000 Assyrian soldiers under Sennacherib besieging Jerusalem (II Kings 18,19).

The miracles have continued for the Jewish people for the past 3,000 years all the way to the present. Surrounded by nations bent on annihilation in a world often hostile to Israel's existence, it has not only survived, but thrived. Our unique history even caused Mark Twain to ponder, "All things are mortal, but the Jew. All other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?" ("Concerning the Jews," Harper Magazine 1898, <http://tinyurl.com/CTJTwain>)

But why not? After all, the Almighty promised Abraham that the Jewish people will be eternal, "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you, throughout the generations, an eternal covenant to be your God, and the God of your

descendants after you" (Gen. 17:7). Even though there have been lapses in our connection to the Almighty and doing His will, He declared, "I will neither reject nor spurn them, lest I break My covenant with them by destroying them, for I am their God" (Lev. 26:44).

David Ben Gurion once said, "A Jew who doesn't believe in miracles isn't a realist." The fight for Israeli independence and survival have demonstrated the truth of his statement.

In 1948 in the town of Safad in the northern Galilee several hundred Jews were surrounded by several thousand Arabs attacking them. They were running out of ammunition and food. A small home-made mortar called the Davidka was smuggled in to them. The mortar wasn't rifled and thus its shells were not only inaccurate, but they tumbled through the air with great noise. The rumor went out amongst the Arabs that the Jews had the atomic bomb ... and they left. The Jews were bewildered, but grateful.

In 1973, Syrian tanks cut half way across Israel ... and stopped. Reports afterwards stated that because of the lack of opposition, they feared an ambush. As King Solomon wrote in Proverbs 21:1, "The heart of a king is in the hands of God..."

What is a miracle? Merriam-Webster defines it as "an extraordinary event manifesting Divine

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KJ Schedule

Parashat Ekev

Erev Shabbat
Friday, July 26th

Shaharit	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim	6:45 pm
Minha & Arbit.....	7:00 pm
Candle Lighting.....	7:40 pm

Shabbat

Saturday, July 27th

Shaharit	8:30 am
Class with Rabbi Batzri	6:15 pm
Ladies Tehillim	6:15 pm
Minha/Arbit	7:00 pm
Shabbat Havdallah	8:24 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, July 28th

Shaharit	7:30 am
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Monday to Friday, July 29 to August 2

Shaharit	6:30 am
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Erev Shabbat

Friday, August 2nd

Shaharit	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim	6:45 pm
Minha & Arbit.....	7:00 pm
Candle Lighting.....	7:34 pm

Parashat Ekev

Weekly Torah Portion from

Book of Deuteronomy / Devarim 780 to 781
Haftara from Isaiah/Yishayahu 794 to 798

Teenage Boy Undergoing Heart Surgery Needs Prayers

by Naomi Sayegh

Dear friends,

Years ago, in Toronto, I was at the brit mila (circumcision) of a then little baby. The brit was delayed by a few weeks so the baby could be strong. They called him Chaim, meaning "life". My gift to the family was a camera for pictures, for memories.

Now this little boy is a teen ager in Montreal. Today, Friday July 26th, his mother is going to the Heart Institute. Her teen son is due to have open heart surgery this morning, east coast time. His name to include in prayer is **Chaim Aryeh Yehuda ben Yocheved**.

Friends, I told her your prayers for her son will come from around the world. Please forward this to Europe, Russia, Asia, Africa Australia--to all corners of the world. And of course, please send prayers from Israel and from Jerusalem, the Holy City.

Let there be lots more pictures and memories for this family in the future. Yocheved is a great mom and she needs our support.

Please send this message to others, too!

Yours,

Naomi Sayegh

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored by

Dorit and Bobby Partial

in honor of
the birth of their son

Mazal Tov to their parents
and to both of their families

Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored
in memory of

Reuben ben Rabi, z"l
by the Golcheh Family

Please Return Missing KJ Library Books

Many people enjoy our amazing library. But a number of books—cookbooks, Jewish histories, Tehillim books #1, 2, 19 & 21, and more—have turned up missing. If you have had a KJ library book for over two weeks, please return it. Then others may also share our collection. We thank you in advance!

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for July 27th to August 3rd, 2013. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, and attend services the preceding Shabbat.

21 Av / Sunday, July 28th

Ketty E. Hanoon *Khatoon bat Noosha*
Farangis Shaye *Farangis bat Hanonbibbi*

22 Av / Monday, July 29th

Rahel bat Zivar

23 Av / Tuesday, July 30th

Rachel Moses *Rahel bat Moshe*

24 Av / Wednesday, July 31st

Isaac Ezra *Itzhak ben Abdullah Ezra*

25 Av / Thursday, August 1st

Matty Yaqub *Simha bat Sulha Matana*

26 Av / Friday, August 2nd

Sasson Moshe Jacob Sasson *Sasson ben Moshe*

27 Av / Shabbat, August 3rd

Lulu bat Shereen

Refuah Shlemah

Yocheved bat Rachel Mazal bat Malka,
Dan Herdoon Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana
Moshe ben Ezra Vera Levi
Sasson ben Rahel/Sassoon Moses
Penina bat Henia Dov Ber ben Sonia
Maurice Ovadia / Moshe ben Noosha,
Prina bat Esther Yossef ben Jamila
Ruth bat Aliza Dina bat Simha
Shoshana Goury/ Shoshana bat Rahel
Gerry Meyers / Ezra ben Yosef Aharon
Yehoshua ben Channah
Chaim Aryeh Yehuda ben Yocheved

Shabbat Shalom

Have a Peaceful Shabbat

(Continued from page 1)

intervention in human affairs." In short, something out of the ordinary and usual laws of physics.

Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato, one of the greatest philosophers, mystics and authors the Jewish people has ever produced, writes in his book *The Way of God* (I highly recommend it to anyone interested in a systematic explanation of the way the Almighty runs the world), "All created things exist only because God's will decrees that they exist. The same is true of all their laws and properties, which exist solely because they were decreed by God's wisdom to be appropriate. Just as He ordained these rules through His will, however, He is likewise able to suspend or change them as He desires, at any time that He pleases. The things that God causes to happen outside the realm of natural law are called miracles."

If nature is God's way of staying anonymous, then miracles are God's way of opening our eyes that He exists and is real. We have free will to choose to believe or not believe in God and whether or not to follow His Torah. However, miracles tip the scale towards belief in God.

The Talmud teaches that we cannot rely on miracles because perhaps we are not worthy of them. That is why we must make every intelligent effort in our lives to do the right, the just, the effective thing. However, while we cannot rely on miracles, we certainly may pray for them and they do happen. We Jews have always believed as a people that... our prayers do help. ***Shabbat Shalom***

A Letter of Thanks

by Michael Amron

Dear Members and Friends,

I am truly touched by your very kind and warm wishes, you have made this 93rd birthday of my life even more special and one I will always remember.

I thank Hashem for giving me the strength to attend our services and to hear our Rabbi Batzri, Hazzan Sassoon Ezra and Hazzan Saeed Jalali recite the beautiful traditional Sephardic melodies I remember from my youth in Calcutta.

My mother was born in Baghdad, and I grew up learning these wonderful Iraqi melodies. Come rain or shine, even when we lived in Encino, I never wanted to miss coming to Kahal Joseph every Shabbat and High Holy Days. I feel very heartened when our members walk up to me to embrace me and wish me good health and their hope to see me the following Shabbat. With your prayers and your good wishes, I am here today to receive your embrace.



I thank our President Ron Einy whom I have known and loved since he was a child. Ronnie, you lead our synagogue with the utmost dignity and grace. I also thank our Board of Directors and the Sisterhood for all the good work they do. I thank my darling wife Moselle for putting up with me for 68 years, and for four years before that, I had to chase her! Thank you Sally, David and Jessica for your care and concern.

I thank you all for your wonderful wishes and I do want to reciprocate by wishing you all good health, God's blessing and I shall see you all this coming Shabbat.

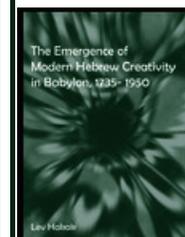
Love,

Michael Amron



David S. Kelly Youth Choir Summer Break

The Youth Choir will resume on August 25th. We look forward to seeing our kids, parents, & devoted volunteers learning and singing with Rabbi Batzri again soon! **Enjoy the summer!**



Books on Iraqi Jewish Literature at KJ

We are pleased to offer books exploring the history of Iraqi Jewish literature at KJ. Written by UCLA Professor, Lev Hakak., these books offer analysis and refreshing insights into our heritage. For more information or to purchase contact Sarah in the office at 310.474.0559.

Kahal Joseph Congregation
Norma & Sam Dabby Jewish Education Center

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Explore Spirituality

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♥ Sunday
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Community



To register call
310-474-0559

Classes Start Sunday
September 8th
\$60 month for members
\$110 nonmembers