

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

Exactly one year ago on the civil calendar, far-right Israeli activist Ben Zion Gopstein published a hateful attack article entitled *Lemager et Ha'arpadim*, or "Eradicate the Vampires." Amid sensational calls for the wholesale expulsion of Israeli Christians, he unapologetically drew on the very language of "bloodsucking parasitism" that was once a trademark of antisemites. His platform as chairman of the extremist Lehava group gave extra reach to his embittered message, which resonated with his base even as it prompted widespread calls that he be investigated for incitement.

In the meantime, Gopstein has proved a savvy figure who can escape designation as a terrorist despite his association with vigilante patrols, racial segregation drives, and several high-profile hate crimes. While political means have been unable to stop the flow of his vitriol, this week's parasha does provide an interesting opportunity to counter his worldview on religious grounds through its presentation of another vampiric figure – Esau.

In a playful linguistic twist, the Tannaitic Midrash *Pirke DeRibbi Eliezer* interprets Gen. 33:4 according to how it sounds when read aloud, rather than its literal spelling. When Esau first sees his errant brother returning, the Torah reports that he "ran to meet him, embraced him, fell on his neck, and kissed him (*vayishakehu*); and they wept." Since *vayishakehu* could also be spelled with a *kaf*, this verse could be read to suggest that Esau "fell upon his neck and [tried to] drink from it."

Seizing upon this homophone, the Midrash extrapolates the following colorful narrative: "*Esau*

said to himself, 'I will not kill my brother Jacob with bow and arrows, but rather I will kill him with my own mouth and suck out his blood!' [At that moment,] Jacob's neck became as hard as ivory... and Esau's teeth were blunted. When Esau understood that his wish was not fulfilled, he began to gnash his teeth in anger... and Jacob took the tenth-part of his property from Padan Aram and gave it to his servants to deliver to Esau [to pacify him]."



A deeper look at Jacob's two principal responses to bloodsucking is a powerful counterweight to Gopstein's eruptions. When bitten, he does not attack Esau in return, but instead he invests in making himself stronger so that the attack cannot affect him. Not only that, but when confronted by Esau's childlike meltdown at being thwarted, he diverts some of his own resources to improving his brother's quality of life, and thereby averts his wrath.

The take-home from this is that even if you understand your brother as an enemy, the best remedy for the relationship is to stay positive yourself. If you don't like the way he behaves, why not demonstrate through your own actions what a model citizen should be like? If you feel attacked by an irrational enemy, why not help him feel that he personally has something to lose by carrying on with his assaults? It's easy to point fingers and get angry with someone who can be painted as an "other," but if there is an interpersonal issue to solve, the hard work of being constructive often makes for the most lasting solution.

Parashat Vayishlah

Bat Mitsva of Eden Wozniak

Torah: Gen. 32:4–36:43, 153 Pesukim
Hertz 122–134; Stone 170–197
Haftara: Obad. 1:1–21
Hertz 137–140; Stone 1141–1142
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, December 16th

Shaharit 6:25 am
Candle Lighting **4:27 pm**
Minha 4:15 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit 4:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, December 17th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer 8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah 10:15 am
Musaf 11:45 am
Women's Tehillim right after kiddush

Minha 3:45 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet 4:30 pm
Arvit 5:15 pm
Havdala 5:31 pm

(Continued on page 2)

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in honor of

**Eden Wozniak's
Bat Mitsva**

by
Ronit & Jerome Wozniak

Mazal Tov

to Eden Wozniak
on her Bat Mitsva

Congratulations
to her parents
Ronit & Jerome

her aunt, Anita Wozniak

her siblings
Danny, Yoni, Yaniv & Ava

her grandparents
Hilda & Karl Wozniak
Gilda & Rahamim Hassidim

Join the A-Team!

Like doing a mitsva? Join the **Azakara Team** and let us know when you could help make minyan for a graveside kaddish. It is very comforting for mourners to read the kaddish at the cemetery, but **it takes a quorum of 10 men to make that happen**. Your simple presence can make all the difference.

Sign-up with our convenient online form at
www.kahaljoseph.org/a-team

Happy Birthday

Jonathan & Sofia
Nourafshan

from
The Mashihi Family

Mazal Tov

to Ashley Zakoo &
Richard Ksendzovsky
on the birth of a baby boy

Besiman Tov to
Grandfather Ezra Zakoo
Great-aunts Rita Zakoo, Barbara
Zakoo-Packebush & Miriam Zakoo
Great-uncles Aaron Zakoo &
Baruch Isaac
and the entire family

(Continued from page 1)

Weekdays / Sunday, December 18th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Talmud Torah..... 9:45 am
KJ Hanukkah Party 11:00 am

Monday to Friday, December 19th to 23rd
Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Fri & Sat, Dec 23 & 24

Candle lighting 4:31 pm
Friday Mincha 4:15 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Mincha 3:45 pm
Havdala 5:35 pm

In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from December 17 to 24, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

17 Kislev / Shabbat, December 17th

Naim Lavy *Naim ben Moshe*
Moshe Mehry *Moshe ben Moosa*

18 Kislev / Sunday, December 18th
Raphael Emquies *Raphael ben Salomon*

20 Kislev / Tuesday, December 20th
Alec Jacob Jonah *Avraham ben Yaacov*
Moshe Nissan *Moshe ben Hayim*

22 Kislev / Thursday, December 22nd
Joseph Israel *Yosef ben Rabbia*
Ezekiel Isaac *Yehezkel ben Mulla Rahamim*
Meir Sawdayi *Meir ben Shaul*

23 Kislev / Friday, December 23rd
Gorjeh Youssefzadeh

24 Kislev / Shabbat, December 24th
Regina David *Regina bat Salha Matana*
Lily Jacob *Leah bat Masooda*
Mansour Sedaghat *Mansour ben Benayahu*
Joseph Yaacov *Yossef Hayim Yaacov*

Refu'a Shelema

Moselle Amron • Sally Amron • Yehezkel Avrahamy
Haskell Avrahami • Sylvia Cohen • Simcha bat Rooha
Mordechai Cohen • Esther Duke • Sassoon Ezra
Lev Hakak • Yoel Iny • Tilda Levy • Florice Newberry
Maurice Ovadia • Grace Tizabi • Katie bat Farha
Miriam bat Yetta • Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria

Women's Tehillim Group

Join your fellow Kahal Joseph sisters right after Kiddush to recite the Book of Psalms and pray for our community. All women are welcome to join and participate.



Adam Krief Finds A Donor Match!

After a highly publicized search, a Jewish man with a deadly cancer has found a bone marrow donor.

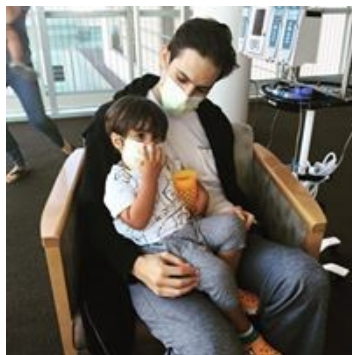
On Tuesday, Adam Krief, a 31-year-old father of three living in Los Angeles, announced on Facebook that a donor had been found and that he was on his way to receive the transplant.

"This is what cloud 9 looks like ... I'm so grateful to let you all know that a donor has been found," Krief wrote, sharing a video with two of his children.

Krief was diagnosed recently with primary myelofibrosis, a rare form of blood cancer that is likely fatal if a blood transplant match cannot be found. To find a match for Krief, who has an uncommon blood type, drives were held around the world, including in North America, Israel, France and Mexico.

The campaign received wide support and celebrities, including Kim Kardashian, Mayim Bialik and Jason Biggs, helped spread the word on social media.

Krief added in a separate post that a total of seven bone marrow matches had been found through the drives organized for him.



Hanukkah is One Week Away!

This year, the first night of Hanukkah arrives in exactly one week, on the eve of December 24th. Since this is *Motsa'e Shabbat*, or Saturday evening, *Havdala* must be read before lighting the Hanukkah lamp.

Ideally, a Hanukkah lamp should be placed just outside a doorway that faces the street, on the side of the door opposite the mesusah. However, because this can be unsafe or impossible for many people, the prevalent custom is to simply place it in a location where it would be most likely to be witnessed by others, such as at a window that faces the street.

We light the lamp after it has been placed in the location where it will burn, using candles or oil capable of burning for half an hour or more. Because the lights can only be used to publicize the miracle, we light one extra candle called a *shamash*.

On the first night, we say all three blessings, and thereafter we say the first two only. If one missed the first night, the third blessing can be said on the first night that a properly lit Hanukkah lamp is encountered. We light the candles directly after saying the blessings, and begin reading *hanerot halalu* immediately after lighting the first candle.

The candles are assembled from right to left as we face the Hanukkah lamp. Hence, only the rightmost candle is lit on the first night, the rightmost two on the second night, and so on. However, the direction of lighting goes from left to right, i.e., from the newest candle to the oldest. Those who have a family tradition of lighting the other direction may do so, since it is validated in several medieval and early modern sources. Happy Hanukkah!



Jacob Helali Qualifies for Boston Marathon

Our member, Jacob Helali ran the Revel Canyon Full Marathon, a 26.2 miles in Azusa, California in November 2016. It was his 17th Marathon, with a finish time of 4 hours 2 minutes—an average pace of 9:15 per mile.

Best of all, he qualified to run the world-famous Boston Marathon in April 2018!

The Kahal Joseph HANUKKAH PARTY



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18
11:00 AM TO 12:30 PM

Join us for...
FUN - FOOD - GAMES
ACTIVITIES - CRAFTS

FOOD & CRAFTS SPONSORED BY
HANNIE, JONATHAN AND SIGAL KELLY

* * * * *
RSVP AT JESSICA@KAHALJOSEPH.ORG
OR CALL THE OFFICE AT 310.474.0559

FAMILY HANUKKAH DINNER WITH THE RABBI



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 AT 5:30 PM
KAHAL JOSEPH UPSTAIRS PLAYROOM

JOIN THE RABBI AND HIS FAMILY FOR AN
INTIMATE DINNER TO CELEBRATE THE
SECOND NIGHT OF HANNUKAH!

*HANUKKAH CANDLELIGHTING * LIGHT DAIRY DINNER*
SPECIAL BELGIAN WAFFLE DESSERT!

ADULTS: \$10 | CHILDREN 5-12: \$5
UNDER 5: FREE

RSVP BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 AT
WWW.KAHALJOSEPH.ORG/HANUKKAH
OR CALL THE OFFICE AT 310.474.0559