

# KJ HAPPENINGS

## Rabbi's Message

By Rabbi Natan Halevy

In this week's parasha we read the story of Isaac and Rebecca. They are unable to bear children, and so they pray to Hashem abundantly. This teaches us that Hashem desires the prayers of the righteous and of people in general. For this reason, Hashem brings challenges and situations that call our prayers from the depths of our hearts.

Obviously, Hashem is above all physical concerns and desires. However, the Kabbalah teaches us that Hashem indeed desires to have a relationship with His earthly creations and with beings of all worlds, physical and spiritual, that he created. Sometimes, a desire is something that has no reason and is beyond our intellectual comprehension.

As the verse states, "L'maseh yadecha tichsof," which translates as "G-d desires the deeds of your hands." These words imply that He enjoys our physical and spiritual labor in this world. For this reason, it is our job to pray and maintain our connection with G-d even while we are in this world, a world that is designed to conceal the spiritual creator who is behind it all.

As we continue reading Parshat Toledot, we learn about Jacob and Eisav, the two sons



who were born as a result of Isaac and Rebecca's prayers. Almost from the moment of their inception, during phases of their gestation, Rebecca sensed something was different about the life she was carrying. She was told that twins would be born and that they would have opposite and opposing natures. They would contradict each other in this world, because Jacob would place emphasis on spiritual matters, while Eisav would concern himself with the physical aspect of this world.

Their argument focused on this issue. Jacob felt spirituality was the end all, since this is what connects us with G-d, the true creator of this universe. Eisav believed that since we have come down to this world to elevate the physical up to the spiritual, physicality and material matters were what should take precedence in our daily affairs. Rebecca favored Jacob, while Isaac, who was connected to the energy of elevation, favored Eisav.

Eventually we see that Eisav became carried away by this physical world and its concerns, which lead to his eventual downfall. Ever since then, our job as the descendants of Jacob has been to elevate the G-dly spiritual sparks found in physical matters, while also maintaining our strong connection to the spirit in us and to Hashem.

May we be blessed to do our holy work with divine intention, clarity and purpose.

Shabbat Shalom

## Parashat Toledot

Torah: Genesis 25:19–28:9, 106 Pesukim  
Hertz 93–101; Stone 124–143  
Haftara: Mal. 1:1–2:7  
Hertz 102–105; Stone 1137–1138  
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

*Friday, November 29th*

Candle lighting.....	4:25 pm
Minha .....	4:35 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit .....	5:00 pm

### Yom Shabbat

*Saturday, November 30th*

Shaharit.....	8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah.....	10:15 am
Sermon .....	11:20 am
Musaf .....	11:30 am

Minha .....	4:10 pm
Seuda Shelisheet .....	4:45 pm
Arvit.....	5:20 pm
Havdala.....	5:29 pm

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**Sunday, December 1st**

Shaharit ..... 7:30 am

**Weekdays**

**Mon-Fri, December 2-6**

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

**Next Shabbat**

**Fri-Sat, December 6-7**

Candle lighting ..... 4:25 pm

Friday Minha ..... 4:30 pm

Shaharit ..... 8:30 am

Saturday Minha ..... 4:00 pm

Havdala ..... 5:29 pm



**Morning Minyan is Where It's At!**

There is a warm place for you in the happy camaraderie of Kahal Joseph's morning minyan.

Any day is off to a great start when it begins with prayer and friendship. The best part? It doesn't just feel good, it's a mitsva too!

**Membership  
Benefits Everyone!**

**You get...**

**\*To be a part of the Kahal family**

**\*High Holy Days tickets**

**\*Rabbi for lifecycle events**

**\*Pastoral counseling**

**\*Preferential rates for space  
rentals, Talmud Torah tuition  
and children's programs**

**You support...**

**\*Educational programs**

**\*Social events**

**\*Prayer minyanim**

**\*Keeping Kahal here for you  
when you need it!**

**Contact the office at 310-474-0559**

**Sponsor a Kiddush  
or Seuda Shelisheet!**

**Celebrate a family milestone!**

**Honor the memory of a loved one!**

**Share a simha with the community!**

**Celebrate and commemorate with  
your Kahal Joseph community by  
sponsoring a Kiddush or Seuda  
Shelisheet for all to enjoy**

**Contact Sarah in the office at  
310.474.0559 to reserve your date**

**In Memoriam**

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from November 30 to Dec 7, 2019. We light memorial candles, donate tsedaka, and attend Shabbat services to honor our memory of loved ones.

**2 Kislev / Shabbat, November 30th**

Doron Ironi *Doron ben Yosef*

Victoria Kadosh *Victoria bat Reuben*

Ralph Nathan *Raphael ben Mordechai*

Ezekiel Ezra Reuben *Yehezkel ben Reuven Dloomy*

*Aziza bat Farha*

**3 Kislev / Sunday, December 1st**

Rivka Benbeniste *Rivka bat Dudu*

Rachel Jacob *Rahel bat Salha Mattana*

**5 Kislev / Tuesday, December 3rd**

Elias Ezekiel Isaac *Eliyahu ben Yehezkel Itzhak*

Silas Moshe Kadoorie *Silas ben Moshe Kadoorie*

Nassim Reuben Suleiman

Molly Zachariah *Mazal bat Shalom*

Saul Sassoon

**6 Kislev / Wednesday, December 4th**

Maggie Dabby *Marjorie bat Sam*

**7 Kislev / Thursday, December 5th**

Emma Shapiro

Eliyahu Ezer *Eliyahu ben Yoseph*

**8 Kislev / Friday, December 6th**

Diana Saul *Yael bat Florence*

**9 Kislev / Shabbat, December 7th**

Isaac Joseph *Itzhak ben Yoseph*

Ezra Itzhaki *Ezra ben Reuven*

Sholkhat Zekharia *Sholkat bat Zekharia*

**Refua Shelema**

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron • Sylvia Cohen • Esther Duke • Mehry bat Miriam Hakimipour • Tilda Levy • Yvonne Moalim • Florice Newberry • Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria • Chaya Chana bat Batya • Katie bat Farha • Miriam bat Yetta • Miryam bat Malka • Moshe Ezra ben Mazal Tov • Habiba bat Farha • Dina bat Rahel • Chaya Rachel bat Simcha • Ruhama • Rahel bat Ramah Regina • Karen bat Chana Meir • Eti Esther bat Fortuna • Ezra ben Rahel • Eliahu Shalom ben Avigayil • Mark Jonah • Albert Nissan ben Victoria • David ben Tova • Reuven Halevi ben Batsheva • Shaoul ben Lulu • Joseph Sassoon



## Kahal Joseph Participates in November 30 Mass Kaddish for Jews Buried in Arab Lands

For the second year running, prayers will be recited in synagogues across the world in remembrance of Jews buried in inaccessible cemeteries in Arab lands. This year the mass *Hashkaba* (kaddish) will take place on 30 November, the official day to commemorate the exodus of Jewish refugees from Arab countries and Iran, which in 2019 falls on Shabbat.



Grave of Sasson Moshi Peress, grandfather of Sass Peress

The mass Kaddish is the initiative of a Montreal resident of Iraqi origin, Sass Peress. For decades, families have been prevented from reciting prayers at the gravestones of their loved ones buried in Arab lands. Last year, 18 synagogues in Canada, the US, the UK, Mexico and Germany recited the prayers. This year, Sass Peress is hoping that 50 congregations will take part, 'helping to create a positive and cathartic event for all'.

Inspired by a Facebook post by a Muslim friend in the United Kingdom referring to Miss Israel's selfie with Miss Iraq in 2017, Peress embarked on a project to locate and clean up his grandfather's grave in the Sadr City Jewish cemetery in Baghdad. This was done in secrecy in case of official interference.

"While some Iraqi Muslims stepped up and saw the positive in helping me discover my grandfather's grave, some tried to get in the way, to the point of threats against the lives of those who sought to help me," Peress recalls.

Before long, the clean-up was extended to 150 graves. Their inscriptions were photographed and translated into English by Sami Sourani, a historian of the Iraqi-Jewish community based in Montreal. Peress hopes to obtain a photographic record of all 3,000 graves in the Sadr City cemetery.

Jewish cemeteries across the Arab world have been vandalised or destroyed by Arab governments. The Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein reportedly planted grenades among the gravestones in Sadr City Cemetery. The government under General Kassem (1958 - 61) refused to revoke an order to bulldoze the old Baghdad Jewish cemetery so that a highway could be built. Most of the tombs were destroyed, including the mass grave containing the remains of the victims of the 1941 *Farhud*.

## KJ Family Shabbat

**Celebrate Shabbat with your kids!**

**Saturdays, December 7 & January 11 @ 10:45 am  
Upstairs Synagogue with Rabbi Halevy**

*Sing together, learn together, pray together  
Spiritual, accessible service at Kahal Joseph*

**Join KJ Kids Club! Earn bracelets & tokens!  
Collect them for prizes during Hannuka!**  
*Kiddush Luncheon to follow services*

10505 Santa Monica Bl, LA 90025  
310.474.0559 [kahaljoseph.org](http://kahaljoseph.org)

Class@8pm  
w/Rabbi Halevy

12.  
18.  
19.

the light in the  
darkness  
Hanukkah revealed



light of Hanukkah

LEARN WHAT IT REALLY MEANS  
TO BECOME A BAT MITZVA

AN INNOVATIVE, YEAR-LONG  
PROGRAM FOR GIRLS AGE 11-13

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**BAT MITZVA  
CLUB**



FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH, NEXT MEETING DEC 1  
MEETINGS WILL BE FILLED WITH ENGAGING  
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516.220.2453

**The  
Kahal Joseph  
HANUKKAH PARTY**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22  
11AM TO 12:30PM

Join us for  
candelighting,  
games, crafts,  
friends, food  
and more!

RSVP at  
310.474.0559

An event for families & children  
of all ages!