

KJ HAPPENINGS

Guest Message

By Rabbi J. Sacks, "Encountering God" redacted

It is one of the great visions of the Torah. Jacob, alone at night, fleeing from the wrath of Esau, lies down to rest, and sees not a nightmare of fear but an epiphany:

He came to a certain place [vayifga bamakom] and stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream. He saw a ladder resting on the earth, with its top reaching heaven. God's angels were going up and down on it. There above it stood God . . . Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "God is truly in this place, but I did not know it."

On the basis of this passage the sages said that "Jacob instituted the evening prayer." Thus Jacob completed the cycle of daily prayers. Abraham instituted *shacharit*, the morning prayer, Isaac *minchah*, the afternoon prayer, and Jacob *arvit*, the prayer of nighttimes.

This is a striking idea. Though each of the weekday prayers is identical in wording, each bears the character of one of the patriarchs. Abraham represents morning. He is the initiator, the one who introduced a new religious consciousness to the world. With him a day begins. Isaac represents afternoon. There is nothing new about Isaac. Many of the incidents in Isaac's life recapitulate those of his father. Isaac's is the quiet heroism of continuity. He joins one generation to the next. Isaac is steadfastness, loyalty, the determination to continue. Jacob represents night. He is the man of fear and flight, the man who wrestles with God, with others and with himself. Jacob is one who knows the darkness of this world.

There is, however, a difficulty with the idea that Jacob introduced the evening prayer. In a famous episode in the Talmud, Rabbi Joshua takes the view that the evening prayer is not obligatory. Why? Tradition offers three answers. The first is that our daily prayers are based, not on the patriarchs but on the sacrifices that were offered in the Temple. There was a morning and afternoon offering but no evening sacrifice. The second is that there is a law that those on a journey are exempt from prayer. Therefore Jacob offered up his entreaty not as an obligation but as a voluntary act – and so it remained. The third is a tradition that, as Jacob was travelling, "the sun set suddenly" – not at its normal time. Jacob had intended to say the afternoon prayer, but found, to his surprise, that night had fallen. *Arvit* did not become an obligation, since Jacob had not meant to say an evening prayer at all.

There is, however, a more profound explanation. Abraham initiated the quest for God. Isaac represents the religious experience as conversation between the word of God and the word of mankind. Jacob's prayer is very different. He does not initiate it. His thoughts are elsewhere – on Esau from whom he is escaping, and on Laban to whom he is travelling. Into this troubled mind comes a vision of God and the angels and a stairway connecting earth and heaven. He has done nothing to prepare for it. It is unexpected. Jacob literally "encounters" God. That is why Jacob's prayer could not be made the basis of a regular obligation. None of us knows when the presence of God will suddenly intrude into our lives. As for Jacob so for us, it feels as if we are waking from a sleep and realising as if for the first time that "God was in this place and I did not know it." *Vayifga bamakom* means that, thinking of other things, we find that we have walked into the presence of God.

Parashat Vayetse

Torah: Gen. 28:10–32:3, 148 Pesukim
Hertz 106–117; Stone 144–169
Haftara (Sephardim): Hos. 11:7–12:12
Hertz 135–137; Stone 1139
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Birkat Halevana

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, December 6th

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

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, December 7th

Shaharit	8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah	10:15 am
Family Shabbat	10:45 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 8th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Talmud Torah 9:45 am

Weekdays

Mon-Fri, December 9th to 13th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, December 13 & 14

Candle lighting 4:26 pm
Friday Minha 4:25 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 4:10 pm
Havdala 5:30 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 mitzva 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 Dec 7 to 14, 2019. We light memorial candles, donate tsedaka, and attend Shabbat services to honor our memory of loved ones.

9 Kislev / Shabbat, December 7th

Isaac Joseph *Itzhak ben Yoseph*
Ezra Itzhaki *Ezra ben Reuven*
Sholkhat Zekharia *Sholkat bat Zekharia*

10 Kislev / Sunday, December 8th

Ruhama Abbo *Ruhama bat Chana*

11 Kislev / Monday, December 9th

Ludwig Altman *Ludwig ben Avraham*
Sassoon Cohen *Sassoon Shimon Duek Hacohen*
Rachel bat Simha

12 Kislev / Tuesday, December 10th

Yedidiah Yehudah *Yedidiah ben Yehudah*

13 Kislev / Wednesday, December 11th

Eliza Maslavi *Eliza bat Tifaha*

14 Kislev / Thursday, December 12th

Helen Levi *Habiba Havah bat Farha*

15 Kislev / Friday, December 13th

Nora Isaac Ives *Naima bat Simcha*
Sassoon Menashe *Sassoon Sassoon ben*
Menashe Sassoon

Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron
Sylvia Cohen • Esther Duke • Mehry bat Miriam
Hakimpour • 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



Finding Common Threads from the Middle East to the West: The Untold Stories...

Thursday, December 12th, 6:30 pm at Sinai Temple

The Consulate General of Israel invites you to a memorable evening of storytelling, musical performance & community as we commemorate the Expulsion of Jews from Arab Lands and Iran. Our performers & panelists will share stories of Jewish refugees and other communities. Their experience of displacement, oppression, and suffering may not be familiar to Angelenos. And their narrative sends a message of hope to all immigrants.

Keynote Speaker

Former Mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa

Musical Performance

Chloe Pourmorady, Liran Shalom, Yoni Arbel
& Asher Levy of Bazaar Ensemble

Panel

Susan Azizzadeh, President, Iranian American Jewish Federation will moderate, **Saba Soomekh**, Assistant Director, Interreligious and Community Affairs & Scholar-In-Residence at AJC, **Penina Meghnagi**, Storyteller and Jewish Refugee from Libya; **Pastor Ricardo Escobedo**, LA City Director Christians United for Israel (CUFI)

Space is limited & registration is required:

<https://bit.ly/35jkh9H>

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

Class@8pm
w/Rabbi Halevy

12.
18.
19.

the light in the
darkness
Hanukkah revealed



light of Hanukkah



SEC FOOD & KAHAL JOSEPH
PRESENT

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hanukkah
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holiday
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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!