

15 Kislev 5780

14 December 2019

KJ HAPPENINGS

Rabbi's Message

By Rabbi Natan Halevy

Shalom, there are ways of nature which have been established in the world. Among those fixed laws are the principles governing assorted created beings. We humans are no exception.

As babies, out of necessity, we are very attuned to our physical needs. Babies communicate their basic needs of hunger, sleepiness or physical discomfort by crying. Infants' inborn, natural focus on the physical provides an opportunity for the evil inclination inside us to become stronger than our inner focus on the spiritual, good inclination.

The Zohar states "The good inclination comes to a person on the day when they become more pure." When does a person become purified? When coming to the age of mitzvot, on our Bar or Bat Mitzvah. At that time, we have the evil inclination on the left and the good inclination on the right. These are the two angels that are constantly with us. We have two powerful inner voices that give us conflicting messages.

Since the physically-oriented, evil inclination is with us from the beginning of our life, it gains a stronghold in our being and psyche. Our good inclination fights an uphill battle in the struggle between these conflicting sides of our spirit.

Why would Hashem do this? Why make our job harder during our lifetime? The Torah teaches that Hashem receives great pleasure from our struggles and the consequent service we do in refining our being.



And, the Torah gives us some advice. When a person works to become purified, the evil inclination becomes weaker. This is one of our main missions in this lifetime, the constant refining of our being with focus and determination.

We live in a world of challenges and temptations. We are constantly bombarded with stimulation and things that try to grab our attention. It seems like it can be a constant battle to stay focused and on the right path. Thankfully, we know that our brain and the body are very much creatures of habit. Whatever we choose to regularly feed our body and brain becomes part of our nature and part of our habitual behavior.

Our Patriarch Jacob is a shining example of this struggle for us. He constantly dealt with built-in adversaries like his twin brother Eisav and his father-in-law Lavan. He was deeply connected to these two antagonistic figures. He had to constantly raise his level in order to overcome their physical and spiritual fight against him. For this reason, the Torah tells us the story of how, on his return to Canaan, Jacob wrestled with and subsequently emerged victorious over the angel of Eisav. After the angel himself admits defeat, he tells Jacob about the additional name that Jacob will receive, Israel.

"Israel," as a name, signifies Jacob's battles with and victory over strong people and powerful angels. Jacob fought against the side of darkness to give us the spiritual power to overcome our challenges and shine light in our lives.

May we be blessed with light, clarity, and abundant peace in our personal lives. And may we see this light reflected all around us in our daily lives. Amen.

Parashat Vayishlach

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 13th

Candle lighting	4:26 pm
Minha	4:25 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit	5:00 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, December 14th

Shaharit	8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah	10:15 am
Sermon	11:20 am
Musaf	11:30 am
Minha	4:05 pm
Seuda Shelisheet	4:40 pm
Arvit	5:20 pm
Havdala	5:30 pm

Sunday, December 15th

Shaharit	7:30 am
Talmud Torah	9:45 am

(Continued on page 2)

Kahal Joseph

congratulates
Menucha Halevy
on the occasion of
her Bat Mitzvah

Mazal Tov

to
her parents
Rabbi Natan & Bracha Halevy
her siblings
Yosef Chaim
Menachem &
Noam
and the entire family

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!



(Continued from page 1)

Weekdays

Mon-Fri, December 16th to 20th
Shaharit..... 6:25 am

Monday, December 16th
**SEC Sephardic Hanukkah Cooking Demo
and Boutique**..... 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 18th
**Light of Hanukkah, a class at KJ with
Rabbi Natan Halevy**..... 7:00 pm

Next Shabbat

Fri-Sat, December 20 & 21
Candle lighting..... 4:29 pm
Friday Minha..... 4:25 pm
Shaharit..... 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 4:00 pm
Havdala 5:33 pm

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 yahrzeit anniversaries from Dec 14 to 21, 2019. We light memorial candles, donate tsedaka, and attend Shabbat services to honor our memory of loved ones.

17 Kislev / Sunday, December 15th

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

18 Kislev / Monday, December 16th

Raphael Emquies *Raphael ben Salomon*

20 Kislev / Wednesday, December 18th

Alec Jacob Jones *Avraham ben Yaacov*
Moshe Nissan *Moshe ben Hayim*

21 Kislev / Thursday, December 19th

Abdollah Shahrabani

22 Kislev / Friday, December 20th

Joseph Israel *Yosef ben Rabbia*
Ezekiel Isaac Raymond *Yehezkiel ben
Mulla Rahamim*

Edmond Kamara *Edmond ben Selim*
Meir Sawdayi *Meir ben Shaul*

23 Kislev / Shabbat, December 21st

Ronald Meyer Ronen *Sasson ben Avraham*
Gorjeh Youssefzadeh
Joseph Azar *Yosef Sion ben Yaacov*

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

UPCOMING KJ EVENTS

CELEBRATE WITH KAHAL

- ♦ SEC Sephardic Hanukkah Cooking & Boutique, Mon 12/16
- ♦ Rabbi's Class: Light of Hanukkah, Wed 12/18@8 pm
- ♦ Children's Hannukah Party, Sun 12/22@11 am
- ♦ Bat Mitzva Club w/Bracha Halevy, Sun 1/5
- ♦ Family Shabbat, Sat 1/11@10:45 am
- ♦ Tu Bishvat Community Hike, Sun 2/9
- ♦ Purim Baking for Community Baskets, Sun 2/23
- ♦ Purim Megillah, Mon & Tues 3/9 & 3/10

Class@8pm
w/Rabbi Halevy

12.
18.
19.

the light in the
darkness
Hanukkah revealed



light of Hanukkah

Sefer Persume Nisa Advertising the Miracle of Hanukkah

חום מסתורין בנושא ביותחום ומאצין בעבודת
השירה ומשתגלים כל תורה :
(א) ותנפ'עו לאגל אסתעדאל עמאיליהו אל רדיין :
(ב) בהל איאם אל קדושים לא יכון ימצי ביהום
בתוונים ובתמצ'ה ובלעב מן חית הל אשייה
פ' בע'ץ א איאם לאום א אנסאן יבעד נפסו מנהום
יהוהו חנוכה איאם אלדו מלתומו לנשבר אל

Persume Nisa, or advertising the miracle of Hanukkah,
is the primary mitsva of the holiday and
the reason we light the Hanukkah candles.

Written in Judeo-Arabic in Calcutta in 1887,
this 32-page booklet presents traditions and customs
of Iraqi Jews for Hanukkah, including the blessings
for the Hannukiah in Arabic and Hebrew.

See the text in full on our website at
www.kahaljoseph.org/iraqibooks

KJ Family Shabbat

Celebrate Shabbat with your kids!
Saturday, 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



SEC FOOD & KAHAL JOSEPH
PRESENT

a sephardic
hanukkah
cooking
demo
&
holiday
boutique



DECEMBER 16 | 7PM | \$36
10505 SANTA MONICA BLVD

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS &
TASTING BUFFET (MEAT) WILL FOLLOW DEMO

Valet Parking \$5

VENMO @SEC-LA or
CALL THE SEC OFFICE 323.272.4574



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!

