

21 Tevet 5780

18 January 2020

KJ HAPPENINGS

Guest Message

By Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

One of the most unexpected heroes of the Hebrew Bible is Pharaoh's daughter, Batya. Without her, Moses might not have lived. The whole story of the exodus would have been different. She was not an Israelite. She had nothing to gain, and everything to lose, by her courage. She had no doubt, experienced no misgivings, made no hesitation. Pharaoh afflicted the children of Israel, it was another member of his family who saved the decisive vestige of hope: Pharaoh's daughter.

Recall the context. Pharaoh had decreed death for every male Israelite child. Yocheved, Amram's wife, had a baby boy. For three months she was able to conceal his existence, but no longer. Fearing his certain death if she kept him, she set him afloat on the Nile in a basket, hoping against hope that someone might see him and take pity on him. This is what follows:

Pharaoh's daughter went to bathe in the Nile, while her maids walked along the Nile's edge. She saw the box in the reeds and sent her slave-girl to fetch it. Opening it, she saw the boy. The child began to cry, and she had pity on it. "This is one of the Hebrew boys," she said.

Note the sequence. First she sees that it is a child and has pity on it. A natural, human, compassionate reaction. Only then does it dawn on her who the child must be. Who else would abandon a child? She remembers her father's decree against the Hebrews. Instantly the situation has changed. To save the baby would mean disobeying the royal command. That would be serious enough for an ordinary Egyptian; doubly so for a member of the royal family.

Nor is she alone when the event happens. Her maids are with her; her slave-girl is standing beside her. She must face the risk that one of them, in a fit of pique, or even mere gossip, will tell someone about it. Rumours flourish in royal courts. Yet she does not shift her ground. She does not tell one of her servants to take the baby and hide it with a family far away. She has the

courage of her compassion. She does not flinch. Now something extraordinary happens: *The [child's] sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a Hebrew woman to nurse the child for you?" "Go," replied Pharaoh's daughter. The young girl went and got the child's own mother. "Take this child and nurse it," said Pharaoh's daughter. "I will pay you a fee." The woman took the child and nursed it.*

The simplicity with which this is narrated conceals the astonishing nature of this encounter. First, how does a child – not just a child, but a member of a persecuted people – have the audacity to address a princess? There is no "Your royal highness" or any other formality of the kind we are familiar with elsewhere in biblical narrative. They seem to speak as equals.

Equally pointed are the words left unsaid. "You know and I know," Moses' sister implies, "who this child is; it is my baby brother." She proposes a plan brilliant in its simplicity. If the real mother is able to keep the child in her home to nurse him, we both minimise the danger. You will not have to explain to the court how this child has suddenly appeared.

We will be spared the risk of bringing him up: we can say the child is not a Hebrew, and that the mother is not the mother but only a nurse. Miriam's ingenuity is matched by Pharaoh's daughter's instant agreement. She knows; she understands; she gives her consent. Then comes the final surprise: *When the child matured, [his mother] brought him to Pharaoh's daughter. She adopted him as her own son, and named him Moses. "I bore him from the water," she said.*

Pharaoh's daughter did not simply have a moment's compassion. She has not forgotten the child. Nor has the passage of time diminished her sense of responsibility. Not only does she remain committed to his welfare; she adopts the riskiest of strategies. She will adopt him and bring him up as her own son. This is courage of a high order. Yet the single most surprising detail comes in the last sentence. In the Torah, it is parents who give a child its name, and in the case of a special individual, God Himself.

Parashat Shemot

Torah: Ex. 1:1–6:1, 124 Pesukim
Hertz 206–224; Stone 292–317
Haftara (Iraqis): Ezek. 16:1–13
Handout; not in the Hertz or Stone
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, January 17th

Candle lighting..... 4:50 pm
Minha 4:45 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit..... 5:15 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, January 18th

Shaharit..... 8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah 10:15 am
Sermon..... 11:20 am
Musaf 11:30 am
Minha 4:35 pm
Seuda Shelisheet 5:00 pm
Arvit..... 5:45 pm
Havdala 5:54 pm

(Continued on page 2)

How surpassingly strange that the hero of the exodus, greatest of all the prophets, should bear not the name Amram and Yocheved have undoubtedly used thus far, but the one given to him by his adoptive mother, an Egyptian princess.

This is the reward for those who do kindness. Although Moses had many names, the only one by which he is known in the whole Torah is the one given to him by the daughter of Pharaoh. Even the Holy One, blessed be He, did not call him by any other name.

Condolences

With sorrow we send our deepest condolences to the family and friends of
Helen Jacob, z"l

Chaviva bat Ezra Tsion, who passed away this week. Her funeral took place Monday, January 13th, in New York.

Helen and her beloved husband, Sol Jacob, z"l, were dear, devoted, longtime members of Kahal Joseph Congregation. Helen was also a pillar of several other Los Angeles Jewish organizations. She was a beloved teacher for numerous years at Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy and, in addition to her close ties within the Kahal community, was involved with Beth Jacob's congregation.

Helen is survived by her children: Larry Jacob, Audrey Barasch, Cathy Hoffman, and Joy Devor; her grandchildren; additional family and friends.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her loved ones. May they be comforted together with all the mourners of Tsion. *Min hashamayim tenuhamu.*

Thank You

Shabbat hamin
is sponsored in memory of

Shalom Nagi ben
Hacham Mordecai Harkham, z"l

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, January 19th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Talmud Torah 9:45 am

Monday-Friday, January 20th to 24th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, January 24-25

Candle lighting 4:57 pm
Friday Minha 4:45 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 4:40 pm
Havdala 6:02 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 January 18 to 25, 2020. We light memorial candles, give tsedaka, & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

21 Tevet / Shabbat, January 18th

Solomon Reuben *Shlomo ben Reuven D'loomy*
Behejohn Yehudah *Behejohn bat Yehudah*

22 Tevet / Sunday, January 19th

Matooka Girgiyr *Matooka bat Farha*

23 Tevet / Monday, January 20th

Kovkah Cohen *Kovkah bat Yaakov Hacohen*
Pinchas Khalili *Pinchas ben Nissan*
Emma Moses *Amuma bat Farha*

24 Tevet / Tuesday, January 21st

Rev Moses Hai Abraham *Moshe Hai ben Avraham*
Louise Jacob *Louise Jacob*
Sulman Sheeri *Sulman ben Yosef*
Shather Shokri *Shather ben Yaacov*

26 Tevet / Thursday, January 23rd

Ronnie Assia *Ronnie ben Naji*

27 Tevet / Friday, January 24th

Sassoon Elias *Sasson ben Elias*
Stanley Feinberg *Stanley ben Jesse*

28 Tevet / Shabbat, January 25th

Aziza bat Amam
Maurice Zekaria *Moshe ben Seon*
Edmund Sayers *Ezra Moshe ben Moshe Hai Ezra*

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
Yosef Haim ben Aharon Elisha

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



Kahal Joseph &
Norma & Sam Dabby
Talmud Torah
invite you to a

Community Hike

Sunday, February 9th
10:00 am Hike
11:30 am Picnic
Will Rogers Park

*Bring your picnic lunch and
have fun with your family
and friends!*

SAVE THE DATE! PURIM BAKING

Bake for Community Gift Baskets
Sunday, February 23rd
10:00 am

Bake traditional Iraqi treats for Purim!
Share your skills or learn something new!
The delicious pastries will be shared in gift baskets
KJ donates to share the joy of Purim with mem-
bers

Shopping on Amazon? You can benefit Kahal Joseph!



amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.



Simply go to smile.amazon.com, and choose
Kahal Joseph Congregation as your charity.

Every time you shop from smile.amazon.com,
Amazon will donate to Kahal Joseph!

A simple, easy way to support Kahal this new year!

KJ Family Shabbat

Celebrate Shabbat with your kids!
Saturday, February 8th at 10:45 am
Upstairs Synagogue with Rabbi Halevy

Sing together, learn together, pray together!
Spiritual, accessible service for families and kids.

Join KJ Kids Club! Earn bracelets and tokens & collect them for prizes!
Save the dates—Sat 2/8, 3/21, 4/25
Kiddush Luncheon to follow services

*The prayers of children are so precious to Hashem. This is a very special opportunity for anyone
who wants to dedicate an event for success or as an honor for a loved one who has passed.
To donate and support our children's spiritual growth, call our office.*

10505 Santa Monica Bl, LA 90025
310.474.0559 kahaljoseph.org
Follow us at kahaljoseph.congregation

SAVE THE DATE!



AT KAHAL JOSEPH

SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH

PURIM IS COMING . . .

Blackjack, Roulette, Craps, Poker & More

Silent Auction & Raffle

Light Dinner

RSVP 310.474.0559



KAHAL JOSEPH INVITES YOU TO

PURIM CARNIVAL

Games! Food! Fun! Prizes!

**Sunday, March 1st
11 am to 3 pm**

Amazing Rides

Purim Treats

**great prizes and more!
All proceeds benefit Kahal!**

