

28 Tevet 5780

25 January 2020

# KJ HAPPENINGS

## Rabbi's Message

By Rabbi Natan Halevy

Bsd

Shalom, in this week's parasha, Moshe comes to Hashem with a complaint: "Why did you send me to save the Children of Israel? Since I have gone to Pharaoh their situation has become worse."

Moshe refers to the fact that Pharaoh issued a new decree to withhold straw from the Jewish people. They themselves now needed to gather straw for bricks. When they didn't meet their quota, they were beaten severely. Moshe felt great pain at this unfortunate circumstance that followed his intervention on their part.

Hashem responds to Moshe. "I appeared to the fathers, with the name of "E-I Sh-adai" (the hyphens preserve the sanctity of the name when it is printed). Hashem tells Moshe, "I have appeared to you in a much greater fashion than I ever revealed myself to the Forefathers. They never questioned me, no matter how great their struggles were". Abraham, Isaac and Jacob refrained from questioning Hashem even in situations when the opposite of what Hashem had promised them was happening. For example, even though Hashem had promised the land of Israel to Avraham, he was still forced to buy a burial plot for his wife Sarah. And yet, he did not complain.

In contrast, at the first sign of adversity, Moshe is upset. Hashem is frustrated that Moshe lacks faith in the divine plan. Hashem responds to Moshe, "Now you will see what I will do Egypt and Pharaoh their king, for they will push Israel out of their land [as a result of the plagues that I will bring upon them]."

Moshe also asserts to Hashem that he feels inadequate to do this job because he has a speech impediment. How can he speak to a leader like Pharaoh? As the generation's leader, Moshe reflects deficiencies our nation had at that time. The Jewish people in Egypt



display lack of faith in the divine plan. They also speak badly about each other, as shown by how they accuse Moshe when he strikes down the Egyptian taskmaster. This despite the fact that the Egyptian taskmaster is extremely cruel and is physically and verbally abusive to the Jewish man after having committed crimes against him the night before.

As Moshe's actions reveal the deficiencies of the Jewish nation, he teaches us a powerful lesson. He shows us that our nation, and this world as a whole, is an organically united entity. We all affect each other and influence one another. Every one of us has responsibility in this world. No one can excuse himself by saying they are not important in the grand scheme of things. Every single person is the most important actor in their own play, their own life.

In response to Moshe's claim of having a speech deficiency, Hashem sends Aharon to be Moshe's translator when he speaks to Pharaoh. Moshe would speak in the holy tongue while Aharon would translate his words into Egyptian. For this reason, Hashem tells Moshe he will make him 'Elokim' over Pharaoh. This is a name of Hashem which is connected to judgement and punishment.

Imagine how frustrating it was for Pharaoh to have to listen to a language he didn't understand, while knowing he was hearing threatening words. Nevertheless Pharaoh resisted sending the Jews. He hardened his heart during the first five plagues. This wasn't Hashem's doing, at least not yet.

After the first plague, when the water of the Nile River turned into blood, the servitude of the Israelites ended. There was no more water to mix the mortar with. Not only this, but the Egyptians needed to buy water from the Hebrews. This began a complete role reversal, and was the beginning of the fulfillment of G-d's promise to take his nation out of Egypt.

We should note that Moshe wasn't the one who struck the Nile River to turn water into blood. Aharon took Moshe's staff and did this job. The reason for this is self

## Parashat Va'era

### First Seven Plagues

Torah: Ex. 6:2–9:35, 121 Pesukim  
Hertz 232–244; Stone 318–339  
Haftara: Ezek. 28:25–29:21  
Hertz 244–247; Stone 1149–1150  
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Hakhrizat  
Shevat (Mon)

## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

Friday, January 24th

Candle lighting..... 4:57 pm  
Minha ..... 4:50 pm  
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit..... 5:20 pm

### Yom Shabbat

Saturday, January 25th

Shaharit..... 8:30 am  
Keriat HaTorah ..... 10:15 am  
Sermon..... 11:20 am  
Musaf ..... 11:30 am  
Minha ..... 4:40 pm  
Seuda Shelisheet ..... 5:10 pm  
Arvit..... 5:50 pm  
Havdala ..... 6:01 pm

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-evident. The Nile was used to save Moshe as a baby, so he could not punish an entity from which he had benefited. This teaches us a valuable lesson as humans. We must honor not only people, but places and objects which have been good for us.

We should also note that, despite Moshe's hesitation and initial trouble having faith, he rose to the challenge of his position and responsibilities. As in the days when we left Egypt, may we all experience liberation and light in our lives, amen.  
Shabbat Shalom

## Thank You

Shabbat hamin  
is sponsored in memory of

Shalom Nagi ben  
Hacham Mordecai Harkham, z"l

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

There is a warm place for you in the happy camaraderie of Kahal'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

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### Sunday, January 26th

Shaharit ..... 7:30 am  
Talmud Torah ..... 9:45 am

### Rosh Hodesh Shevat

Monday, January 27th

Shaharit ..... 6:05 am

### Tuesday-Friday, January 28th to 31st

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

### Next Shabbat

Friday-Saturday, January 31-February 1

Candle lighting ..... 5:03 pm  
Friday Minha ..... 4:55 pm  
Shaharit ..... 8:30 am  
Saturday Minha ..... 4:45 pm  
Havdala ..... 6:08 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 yearzeit anniversaries from January 25 to February 1, 2020. We light memorial candles, give tsedaka, & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

### 28 Tevet / Shabbat, January 25th

Aziza bat Amam

Maurice Zekaria Moshe ben Seon  
Edmund Sayers Ezra Moshe ben Moshe Hai Ezra

### 29 Tevet / Sunday, January 26th

Mollie Einy Konigsberg Mazal tov bat Masooda

### 1 Shevat / Monday, January 27th

Mozelle Solomon Mozly bat Haviva

### 2 Shevat / Tuesday, January 28th

Joseph Haghighi Yosef ben Ezra

Mahboobeh Haykani

Samuel Sheff Shlomo ben Binyamin

Albert Zekaria Abdullah ben Seon

### 4 Shevat / Thursday, January 30th

Khorshid Farzaneh Farahi Rahel bat Esther

### 6 Shevat / Shabbat, February 1st

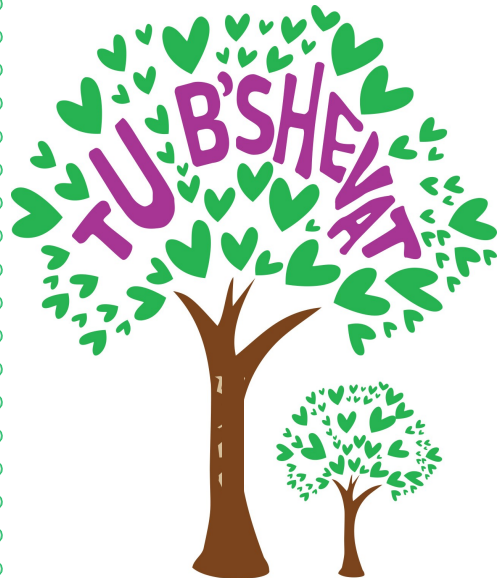
Albert Gaub Avner Abraham ben Khatoon

Maurice Jacob Jonah Maurice ben Yaacov

## 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





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

## Community Hike

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

*Bring a picnic lunch & have  
fun with family & friends!*

Will Rogers Park  
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

## 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!



**amazon**smile  
You Shop. Amazon Gives.



Simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), and choose  
**Kahal Joseph Congregation** as your charity.

Every time you shop from [smile.amazon.com](https://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](https://kahaljoseph.org)  
Follow us at [kahaljoseph.congregation](https://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!