

6 Shevat 5780

1 February 2020

KJ HAPPENINGS

Rabbi's Message

By Rabbi Natan Halevy

Bsd

Shalom, the book of Exodus begins with events that took place in the land of Egypt. At first, our ancestors lived comfortable, lavish, physical existence when Joseph was second in command. A few generations later, they were performing backbreaking labor as slaves to Egypt and Pharaoh. Moshe was chosen as the messenger and emissary of G-d to take the children of Israel out of Egypt and away from this terrible slavery.

The first portion of Exodus deals with Moshe's birth, his upbringing in Pharaoh's home, and his subsequent escape from Egypt. He becomes a shepherd who travels far in the wilderness with his flock. G-d reveals himself to Moshe in the burning bush and commands him to undertake the awesome task of confronting Pharaoh.

During last week's Torah portion, Moses embarks on his mission with Aharon, and the plagues begin. Numerous times during these plagues, we hear about how Pharaoh hardens his heart. Even when faced with the overwhelming evidence of G-d's miracles, Pharaoh resists acknowledging the existence of G-d. He doesn't believe in a G-d that is above nature and who can affect our physical reality. For this reason, the Torah uses the word "kaved" to describe when Pharaoh hardens his heart. The literal translation of "kaved" communicates that Pharaoh's heart is "heavy." He does not allow his heart to believe in this spiritual power of G-d which is behind all reality.

Another translation of "kaved" in Hebrew is "liver." Our sages offer a funny commentary. Just as liver is very hard to cook, so too Pharaoh's heart became like a liver, because he wouldn't receive the influence of G-d in his heart. He only believed in tangible spirituality with practical effects, a spirituality that could be proven in our physical realm. For this reason, Egypt was full of necromancy and spell weaving. The only spirituality



that interested the Egyptians was one that they could manipulate for their own purposes. If spirituality involved a world beyond them and their preferences, they weren't interested in it.

Spirituality for its own sake was not compelling to them. Egypt was full of idol worship and impure actions. Nevertheless, G-d came down and revealed himself in Egypt out of his great love for our nation. This was indeed the true birth of our nation. Through this whole experience, we were broken down and then lifted up to higher levels of spirituality. Our true connection with G-d began with the entire process of liberation from Egypt. We began our elevation after our descent into slavery. We rose from our lowest level and began the countdown to receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai.

In this week's parasha, G-d commands Moshe to sanctify the new moon. This is officially the first commandment of our nation. (Although our forefathers had been commanded to fulfill circumcision, it is not considered our first commandment, because it occurred prior to the formation of our nation.) There is deep symbolism in the commandment to sanctify the new moon. If we think about it, we realize that Jewish celebrations revolve around special timings. For example, the new moon begins each Jewish month; that is Rosh Hodesh. Similarly, our annual holidays offer continual spiritual influence and an energetic influx into our lives. And, they are determined by the lunar calendar.

By giving us the mitzvah of Rosh Hodesh, G-d gave over to us the power of determining these times. When we celebrate Rosh Hodesh, determining when each Jewish month begins with the new moon, our action is symbolic; it represents how we are influencing the higher spiritual worlds through our deeds down here in this physical realm.

This is especially connected to the festival of Passover which was celebrated for the first time ever in Egypt. By rejoicing on this night and demonstrating our faith in G-d, we are reliving the entire experience of going out of Egypt on a spiritual level. We can experience a level of liberation which is truly exalted on the night of Passover. It

Parashat Bo

Exodus from Egypt

Torah: Ex. 10:1–13:16, 106 Pesukim

Hertz 248–262; Stone 340–365

Haftara (Iraqis): Is. 19:1–25

Handout; not in the Hertz or Stone

Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, January 31st

Candle lighting..... 5:05 pm

Minha 5:00 pm

Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit..... 5:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, February 1st

Shaharit..... 8:30 am

Keriat HaTorah 10:15 am

Sermon..... 11:20 am

Musaf 11:30 am

Minha 4:50 pm

Seuda Shelishet 5:20 pm

Arvit..... 6:00 pm

Havdala 6:08 pm

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gives us the power to move beyond our limitations in our individual lives. In addition, the Passover Seder has power and influences the rest of our year. For this reason, we are commanded to eat matzot and not hametz (leavened products made of five grains—wheat, oats, barley, rye, or spelt) throughout the eight days that this holiday takes place outside of Israel. G-d himself rejoices with us on the Seder night. Our liberation creates a great, parallel liberation of spiritual energy in all the realms. May we all experience this liberation and growth in our lives, Amen. Shabbat Shalom!

Condolences

With sorrow we send our deepest condolences to the family and friends of

Eddy Sassoon, z"l

Ezra Meyer ben Binyamin

He is survived by his wife

Seemah Sassoon

his children

Aaron & Deborah

relatives

Sunny Sassoon

Lily Sassoon

grandchildren

extended family & friends

He was predeceased by his son, George Sassoon, z'l.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his loved ones. May they be comforted with all the mourners of Tsion.

Seudah Shelisheet

is sponsored
In loving memory of

Eddy Sassoon

Ezra Meyer ben Binyamin, z"l

by

Seemah Sassoon & Family

Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron
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Victoria • David ben Tova • Reuven Halevi ben
Batsheva • Shaoul ben Lulu • Joseph Sassoon
Yosef Haim ben Aharon Elisha

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Sunday, February 2nd

Shaharit 7:30 am
Talmud Torah 9:45 am

Monday-Friday, February 3rd-7th

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, February 7-8

Candle lighting..... 5:10 pm
Friday Minha..... 5:00 pm
Shaharit..... 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 5:00 pm
Havdala 6:15 pm

In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from February 1 to 8, 2020. We light memorial candles, give tsedaka, & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

6 Shevat / Shabbat, February 1st

Albert Gaub Avner Abraham ben Khatoon
Maurice Jacob Jonah Maurice ben Yaacov

7 Shevat / Sunday, February 2nd

Joe Meyer Yosef ben Abraham
Grace Tizabi Yudit bat Nazima

8 Shevat / Monday, February 3rd

Ezra Ekaireb Ezra Sion ben David
F. Ellis Meyer Eliyahoo Faraj ben Avraham Shalom
Rebecca Mizrahie Rivka bat Toba
Edward Shashoua Sion ben Elisha

9 Shevat / Tuesday, February 4th

Saul Zakoo Shaoul Hai ben Ezra Halevy

10 Shevat / Wednesday, February 5th

Naima Dabby Naima bat Chahla

11 Shevat / Thursday, February 9th

Malacj Khamani Serah bat Simcha

12 Shevat / Friday, February 10th

Abraham M. Cohen Avraham Shalom Mordechai
Yitzhak Hacohen
Matthew Ellenhorn Mattatehu ben Shmuel
Maurice Kadoorie Moshe ben Saleh
Rachel bat Masooda
Edward Mussry Ezra Haskel ben Yaakob Saleh

13 Shevat / Shabbat, February 11th

Sheila Cohen Sulha Khatoon bat Rivka
Nanejan Davoudian Nanejan bat Hacham Mola
Rebbe
Alex Sassoon

Purim Carnival Sponsors

Support KJs 15th annual
Purim celebration!

\$2500 ■ Platinum Sponsor

\$1000 ■ Gold Sponsor

\$500 ■ Silver Sponsor

\$250 ■ Bronze Sponsor

Email molly@emetek.com



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

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](https://www.facebook.com/kahaljoseph.congregation)

VOLUNTEERS

**KJ 15th Annual
Purim Carnival**
Sunday, March 1st 2020

You make the magic happen...
Click here to volunteer!

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 members
of our community. Join us, it's a mitzvah too!



**AT KAHAL JOSEPH
SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH**

PURIM IS COMING . . .

Blackjack, Roulette, Craps, Poker & More
 Silent Auction ♦ Raffle to win Kawai Piano
 Light Dinner by Dr. Sandwich ♦ Beer & Wine Served
 Old Las Vegas Theme ♦ Optional Dress ♦ \$250 play money
TICKETS ♦ \$60 BY 3/12 or \$75 at the door
 RSVP 310.474.0559 or

RESERVE TICKETS

Sponsorship Levels

\$2500 Platinum
 \$1000 Gold
 \$500 Silver
 \$250 Bronze

Kahal Joseph Congregation



**15th KJ Purim
Carnival**

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



To sponsor contact molly@emetek.com