

# KJ HAPPENINGS

## Rabbi's Message

By Rabbi Natan Halevy

Bsd



Shalom, this week's parasha is the pinnacle of our nation leaving Egypt. Pharaoh himself drives us out, as he is so overwhelmed with the finality of the last plague that he finally gives up. However, very soon after having let Israel leave, Pharaoh and the Egyptians regret making this decision. Egypt begins a chase with their entire army to force Israel to return to slavery.

As the children of Israel stand at the Sea, they see Egypt's army behind them. They are extremely terrified. Although, they have been free from slavery for a year and have witnessed all the plagues that have taken place as a part of their liberation, a big part of them is still connected to the slave mentality. It's not so easy getting rid of a mentality or identity that one has been subjected to for as long they were in Egypt.

There are differing opinions among the Jewish nation as to what they should do in this situation. One faction wants to commit suicide by jumping in the Red Sea. One faction wants to return to Egypt and slavery. One faction wants to fight against the Egyptians. The last faction thinks that prayer to G-d is their best option. Moshe answers all of these groups in this verse, "Don't be afraid, stand firm and see the Lord's salvation that He will wreak for you today, for the way you have seen the Egyptians is [only] today, [but] you shall no longer continue to see them for eternity. The Lord will fight for you, but you shall remain silent."

Stand still, and don't jump in the sea! You will never see the Egyptians again after today, and you aren't returning to Egypt and slavery! Hashem will fight for you, and there is no need for you to fight against them! Be silent, and don't pray at this moment!

Hashem says to Moshe "Speak to the children of Israel, and tell them to travel onward."

Although they have left Egypt, the Jewish nation's true liberation doesn't occur until the splitting of the Sea. Hashem pushes us in the direction of the sea and away from Egypt and all that it represented.

This teaching has relevance in our lives. 'Pharaoh' and 'Egypt' represent the parts of our being and psyche and the world around us that want to limit us and keep us in 'slavery.' They represent whatever is holding us back from elevation and liberation in our existence.

We all have personal challenges and struggles. That is one of the conditions of being human. One response to these limitations is to escape this world and our struggles by 'jumping into the sea of spirituality,' so we are no longer challenged by forces that limit us.

Some say, "Why deal with this world and our issues if they are so challenging?" That person may prefer to give up on the challenges they face, even if there is great loss connected to giving up. We know that this is not a rational response, as it doesn't really help us deal with life's challenges. Rather, giving up is a form of escape. Problems we run away from remain problems, and may even become greater when we ignore them.

Another response is, "I will never overcome my issues and these worldly challenges, so I may as well give in to them." This is like going back to Egypt and slavery. We must never give up, because then we have surely lost the battle. This path usually leads to a life of pain, guilt and regret.

Some take the approach of fighting themselves and their struggles. They feel that life is pure struggle, and this is the path they take with everything and everyone. This is a tiresome approach, and it is not very feasible in the long run. We accomplish much more by taking a loving, peaceful approach in life. Of course we must face our issues, but we must do so with compassion and understanding towards ourselves and others.

And lastly, some take the approach of "praying." They leave everything up to G-d. We know that this is not what Hashem wants from us. He wants our prayers, yet

## Parashat Beshallah Shabbat Shira

Torah: Ex. 13:17–17:16, 116 Pesukim  
Hertz 265–281\*; Stone 366–393  
Haftara (§): Judg. 5:1–31  
Hertz 283–287; Stone 1153–1154  
Tefillot: Vatikah Miriam, Mashiv Haruah,  
Birkat Halevana

## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

Friday, February 7th

Candle lighting..... 5:10 pm  
Minha ..... 5:05 pm  
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit..... 5:30 pm

### Yom Shabbat

Saturday, February 8th

Shaharit..... 8:30 am  
Keriat HaTorah ..... 10:15 am  
**Family Shabbat w/Rabbi Halevy 10:45 am**  
Guest Speaker ..... 11:20 am  
Musaf ..... 11:30 am

Minha ..... 4:55 pm  
Seuda Shelisheet ..... 5:30 pm  
Arvit..... 6:00 pm  
Havdala ..... 6:11 pm

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he also desires our efforts to do our part in this world, and not leave everything up to him. Indeed the Torah says, "Hashem your G-d will bless you, in all you do." The key word is "do." There needs to be effort on our part to achieve success in this world. When we make an effort, we simultaneously realize that blessings come from Hashem in our lives. It is a unique, harmonic balance we must all

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achieve in our lives. No two people are alike, and we each have struggles we must face.

We need to work within the confines of our physical reality. We must realize that specific challenges we have in our lives are meant for us to overcome. If we have been presented with these challenges, it is a sign that we have the ability to face them and refine them in a way that will increase peace and clarity in our lives, and in the lives of all those who are connected to us.

May we blessed to have clarity and abundant peace in our lives, Amen. Shabbat Shalom!

## Shabbat Speaker

Joe Samuels

Since Rabbi Halevy will be busy officiating at the Family Shabbat upstairs, Mr. Joe Samuels will deliver this week's Dvar Torah. His topic is *Religion in Our Lives*. See you Shabbat morning!

## Purim Carnival Sponsors

Support KJs 15th annual  
Purim celebration!

\$2500 ■ Platinum Sponsor

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\$500 ■ Silver Sponsor

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Email [molly@emetek.com](mailto:molly@emetek.com)

## Mazal Tov

Rabbi Natan and Bracha Halevy  
on the birth and brit  
of their beloved baby boy

**Shimon Shalom Yitzchak**

**Besiman Tov**  
to his siblings  
& the entire family

## 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

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*Sunday, February 9th*

Shaharit ..... 7:30 am  
**Tu B'Shvat Hike @Will Rogers 10:00 am**

*Monday-Friday, February 10th-14th*

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

**Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, February 14-15**

Candle lighting..... 5:17 pm

Friday Minha..... 5:10 pm

Shaharit..... 8:30 am

Saturday Minha ..... 5:10 pm

Havdala ..... 6:21 pm

## In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from February 8 to 15, 2020. We light memorial candles, give tzedaka, & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

**13 Shevat / Shabbat, February 8th**

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

**14 Shevat / Sunday, February 9th**

Shaul Saberi *Shaul Shimon Haim*  
Albert Harry Saltoun *Avdala ben Eliyahu*

**15 Shevat / Monday, February 10th**

Joseph Mussry *Yoseph ben Yaacob Saleh*  
David Sarraf *David ben Ezra*

**16 Shevat / Tuesday, February 11th**

John Judah *Yehudah Hai ben Yehudah*  
Menashe Sarraf *Menash ben Yousef*  
Yehudah Sarraf *Yehudah ben Mordechai*  
Saul Sassoon

**17 Shevat / Wednesday, February 12th**

Simon Irani *Shimon ben Eliyahu*  
Ashraf Nassi *Ashraf bat Hayim Moshe*

**18 Shevat / Thursday, February 13th**

Raphael Mizrahie *Raphael Hai ben Eliyahu Mordehai*  
Menachi Kemareh *Menashe ben Ezra*

**19 Shevat / Friday, February 14th**

Doris Shemtov *David Doris bat Kahela*  
Sassoon Moshe Sassoon *Sassoon ben Moshe*

**20 Shevat / Shabbat, February 15th**

Edward Mussry *Yehezkiel Ezra ben Yaakob Saleh*  
Edward David *Edward ben Meir Shemtov*  
Nissim Moondani *Nissim ben Moondani*  
Georgette Solomon





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.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 Click below to purchase

**RESERVE TICKETS**

### Sponsorship Levels

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\$250 Bronze

### **Kahal Joseph Congregation**



## **15th KJ Purim Carnival**

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



To sponsor contact [molly@emetek.com](mailto:molly@emetek.com)