

20 Shevat 5780

15 February 2020

# KJ HAPPENINGS

## Rabbi's Message

By Rabbi Natan Halevy

Bsd



In this week's parasha, we read about Matan Torah, the giving of the Torah, and the Ten Commandments. When Israel reached Mount Sinai, the Hebrew wording used to describe their encampment at the mountain says, "Vayichan sham Yisrael neged ha'har," the beginning of which translates as "Israel encamped there." Interestingly, the verb "vayichan" or "encamped" is in its singular form, the form used for just one person as in, for example, "*he* encamped"—not "*they*." The commentators state, "They encamped there as one person with one heart." Their excitement for receiving G-d's word united them as a nation like never before. At Mount Sinai, the Jewish people truly achieved a level of unity that made them as one, in body and spirit. This unity elevated their consciousness to a higher level of being.

When we are joined together, our power is much greater than when we are apart. As we see in our daily lives, the weight that two people are able to lift together is significantly greater than what they can each lift separately. The message for us is this: Our unity as a nation is the most important thing we can give HaShem. In many ways, we are like children in relation to Him. As many people know, there is no greater pleasure for a parent than when their children have unity and peace between them.

When we read the Ten Commandments annually it is considered as if we are receiving the Torah anew, as if it is being given to us for the first time. This is a moment of great empowerment for us all. For this reason, it is highly encouraged that children attend this part of the Torah reading, just as our entire nation was present when the Torah was given the first time. Indeed, we are told that even Jewish souls not yet born were there, including the souls of all future converts to Judaism. It was absolutely necessary that we were all there together and spiritually present so that we might achieve the high level of unity required to become the nation of G-d.

We also learn that before the Torah was given, there was a separation between the higher and lower spiritual realms. Spirituality did not really permeate humanity's physical realm. Although there were spiritual people who existed, the actions they took didn't fully impact or alter the make-up of physical objects around them. However, once the Torah was given, this innate boundary was shattered and physical objects started to be permeated with holiness.

Indeed this is one of the main purposes of the Torah's commandments: the mitzvot. Through our physical performance of the mitzvot, we draw down powerful godliness and spirituality not only into our lives and spirits but also into the physical world, the substances around us. As the Talmud states, "The Torah wasn't given to the angels," but rather to us, the inhabitants of this physical reality, this object-oriented world.

When Moses ascended to heaven to receive the Torah, the angels complained to HaShem: "Why is this son of a woman doing your holy work G-d?" They could not understand how a being who existed in the physical world, in a body, could be entrusted with such spiritual power and responsibility—receiving the Torah. HaShem told Moshe how to answer the angels. Moshe retorted, "Did you go down to Egypt? Do you have parents that you must be commanded to honor? Do you have the temptation to steal? Do you have any evil inclination for that matter?"

The angels were not entirely wrong. We live in an imperfect, physical world. It can be confusing at times, and it presents us with challenges and dilemmas.

However, 'Torah' is connected to the word for 'teaching' in Hebrew. Without challenges, we have no opportunity to learn, no chance to transmute and change this physical world, to elevate it, too, along with ourselves. Perfect beings, like the angels, cannot do this—they cannot do what we can do, precisely because they do not have the opportunity that we have: the chance to change and learn.

## Parashat Yitro Decalogue

Torah: Ex. 18:1–20:23, 75 Pesukim  
Hertz 288–301; Stone 394–415  
Haftara (§): Is. 6:1–13  
Hertz 302–304; Stone 1154–1155  
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

Friday, February 14th

Candle lighting..... 5:18 pm  
Minha ..... 5:15 pm  
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit..... 5:45 pm

### Yom Shabbat

Saturday, February 15th

Shaharit..... 8:30 am  
Keriat HaTorah ..... 10:15 am  
Musaf ..... 11:30 am

Minha ..... 5:00 pm  
Seuda Shelisheet ..... 5:30 pm  
Arvit..... 6:10 pm  
Havdala ..... 6:18 pm

*(Continued on page 2)*

Through thick and thin, through our highs and lows, the Torah is meant to teach us, to guide us on our way in this life. And, it links us to HaShem. We are blessed to have this deep connection with Him.

May HaShem guide us on our path at all times, fill our lives with clarity and peace, and help us deeply connect to all His ways. Shabbat Shalom

## Yom Yom Odeh La'El

יום יום אודה לא אשר בחר בנו.  
מן העמים לסגלה לו לקחנו.  
על הר סיני את תורתו הנחילנו.  
עשרת דברות קדשו השמיענו:

צבא מרום רבותים ירדו עמו.  
בעת אשר נגלה לישראל עמו.  
מסיני בא וזרח משעיר למו.  
בקול שופר חזק מאד יעננו:  
חרד ורגז הר סיני עת ביאתו.  
להנחיל דת לישראל סגלתו.  
על יד משה עבד א נאמן ביתו.  
ושם עין בעין ראתה עינינו:

קדוש באז תגלה מלכותך עלי.  
למקדשי שובה ושכון תוד אהלי.  
ולי הטה שלום במי נהר אולי.  
ועינינו יראו וישמח לבנו:

### 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!

## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored  
in loving memory of

**Norma Dabby**  
**Naima bat Farha, z"l**

by  
Karen and Frank Dabby

### Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron  
Sylvia Cohen • Esther Duke • Mehry bat Miriam  
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Chaya Rachel bat Simcha Ruhama • Rahel bat  
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Avigayil • Mark Jonah • Albert Nissan ben  
Victoria • David ben Tova • Reuven Halevi ben  
Batsheva • Shaoul ben Lulu • Joseph Sassoon  
Yosef Haim ben Aharon Elisha

(Continued from page 1)

### Sunday, February 16th

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

### President's Day / Monday, February 17th

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

### Tuesday-Friday, February 18th-21st

Shaharit ..... 6:25 am

### Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, February 21-22

Candle lighting ..... 5:23 pm  
Friday Minha ..... 5:15 pm  
Shaharit ..... 8:30 am  
Saturday Minha ..... 5:00 pm  
Havdala ..... 6:28 pm

## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from February 15 to 22, 2020. We light memorial candles, give tsedaka, & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

### 20 Shevat / Shabbat, February 15th

Edward Mussry *Yehezkiel Ezra ben Yaakov Saleh*

Edward David *Edward ben Meir Shemtov*  
Nissim Moondani *Nissim ben Moondani*  
Georgette Solomon

### 22 Shevat / Monday, February 17th

Raymond Isaac *Rahamim ben Eliyahu*

### 23 Shevat / Tuesday, February 18th

Victoria Elie *Victoria bat Caden*  
Maurice Shamash *Menashe Hayim*  
Carl Zekaria *Keduri ben Sion*

### 24 Shevat / Wednesday, February 19th

Snira Klein *Snira bat Devora*  
Rachel David *Rahel bat Regina*

### 25 Shevat / Thursday, February 20th

Norma Dabby *Naima bat Farha*  
Morton Raymond Einy *Mordecai ben Rahamim*  
Abraham Sales *Avraham ben Sassoon*

### 26 Shevat / Friday, February 21st

Moshe Solomon *Moshe Hai ben David*  
Abraham Haim Yaacov *Avraham ben Haim*

### 27 Shevat / Shabbat, February 22nd

Ezra Avrahamy *Ezra ben Yosef*  
Nathan Bass *Nathan ben Yisrael*

# THE LOST CROWN

**Sephardic Educational Center**  
presents the Los Angeles premiere of

## The Lost Crown

**A captivating true-life detective story surrounding  
the mysterious disappearance of the Aleppo Codex,  
the world's oldest manuscript of the Hebrew Bible.**

**February 26th, 2020 at 7:00pm**

Laemmle Royal Theatre  
11523 Santa Monica Boulevard, L.A. 90024

**Tickets \$18**

[www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) (search: the lost crown)

Post screening discussion led by Rabbi Abraham Lieberman  
Followed by a dessert reception



Rabbi Lieberman is an accomplished scholar, educator and historian who has published material on the Cairo Genizah and manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible.

For more information, please contact the SEC office at  
(323) 272-4574 or email [info@secjerusalem.org](mailto:info@secjerusalem.org)

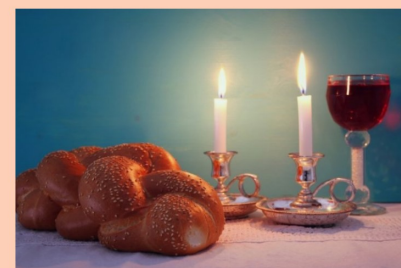
KAHAL JOSEPH

## Bat Mitsva Club

MARCH 8TH

3:00 TO 5:00 PM

RSVP TO BRACHA



## KJ Family Shabbat

**Celebrate Shabbat with your kids!**  
**Saturday, March 21st 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—Saturdays 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](http://kahaljoseph.org)

 Follow us at [kahaljoseph.congregation](https://www.facebook.com/kahaljoseph.congregation)

# CALLING ALL PURIM CARNIVAL SPONSORS

Support KJs 15th Celebration!

\$2500 ▪ Platinum Sponsor

\$1000 ▪ Gold Sponsor

\$500 ▪ Silver Sponsor

\$250 ▪ Bronze Sponsor

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

## VOLUNTEERS

### KJ 15th Annual Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 1st 2020

*You make the magic happen...*

***Click here to volunteer!***



### KAWAI PIANO RAFFLE

**DRAWING AT  
CASINO NIGHT**

MARCH 15, 2020  
KAHAL JOSEPH

**TICKETS \$50  
ONLY 100 SOLD**

*Need not be  
present to win*

PRE-OWNED  
BABY GRAND PIANO  
WINNER RESPONSIBLE  
FOR PICKUP

## PURIM BAKING

Bake for KJ 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

\$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](mailto:molly@emetek.com)