

# KJ HAPPENINGS

## Guest Message

By Rabbi Eliyahu Touger

Bsd

This week's Torah reading contains the mitzvah: "And you shall serve G-d your Lord." This mitzvah refers to the obligation to pray, as Maimonides states: "It is a positive *mitzvah* to pray..., as it is written, 'And you shall serve G-d your Lord.' According to the oral tradition, we learned that... this service is prayer, as it is written: 'And serve Him with all your heart' and our Sages said: Which is the service of the heart? This is prayer." Prayer must be a service in the heart and with the heart, for prayer involves changing over the nature of our emotional reactions. It's natural for us to be attracted to things that are physically appealing and to fear things that threaten our material welfare. Less frequently, do we have a natural attraction and/or awe for the spiritual.

That is the purpose of our efforts in prayer. G-d does not need us to pray to Him; He is complete and perfect in and of Himself. Why are we asked to pray? For our own good. Not only for our material welfare — to make requests of Him, but primarily, for our spiritual welfare — to align our consciousness with our inner spiritual potential. *Tefillah*, the Hebrew term for prayer, relates to the root *tofal* which means to put together or to fuse. Prayer involves fusing the different dimensions of our personalities with our inner spiritual essence, enabling the G-dly potential that lies at the core of each of our beings to surface and take control of our conscious thought and feelings.

This endeavor involves two fundamental thrusts: a) awakening the natural love for G-d that each one of us possesses. Every person's soul is an actual part of G-d, a spark of the Divine that yearns to unite with its source. Nevertheless, because of our involvement with worldly matters, that yearning retreats deeper and deeper into our subconscious. During prayer, we heighten our awareness of that inner potential and give it the opportunity for expression. b) Heightening the awareness of G-d's greatness, as Maimonides writes: "When a person contemplates Hashem's wondrous and great deeds...

appreciates His infinite wisdom... he will immediately love Hashem, yearning with tremendous desire to know [G-d's] great name.... When he [continues] to reflect on these same matters, he will immediately recoil in awe and fear, appreciating how he is a tiny... creature, standing... before He who is of perfect knowledge."

Both of these thrusts are necessary. If a person relies only on the essential love lying within their soul, they will be lacking integrity. There will be a schism between their G-dly core and their day-to-day mindset. Even when they bring their G-dly essence to the surface, it will not necessarily be integrated with conscious thoughts and feelings; it will simply overpower them. Therefore, contemplation is necessary. Conversely, if one works only on developing a human, intellectual love and fear of G-d, they will be forfeiting the infinite power of their G-dly soul. For intellectual love and fear are limited, while the love and fear from our fundamental G-dly potential are unbounded, like G-d Himself.

This week's Torah reading concludes with a repetition of the description of the Giving of the Torah. Now, just a week ago, in the portion of *Yitro*, that event had been described in elaborate detail, why must its description be repeated again? And why are the verses describing the Torah's laws and judgments included in between? It can be explained that there are two dimensions to the Sinai experience: G-d's giving of the Torah and man's receiving it. G-d's giving of the Torah was highlighted last week, in *Parashat Yitro*. This week, the focus is on man's receiving it.

In a larger sense, man's receiving the Torah, internalizing it within his being, and then using it to change the world in which he lives is an ongoing process that only began at Sinai. In every generation, that process is continued, as the Torah's truth is extended into new and different situations. The culmination of this process will come...when "the knowledge of G-d will fill the earth as the waters cover the ocean bed." Our efforts to both internalize and spread that knowledge serve as a catalyst to hasten the fulfillment of that Divine promise.

*Shabbat Shalom*

### Parashat Mishpatim Shabbat Shekalim

Torah (§): Ex. 21:1–24:18, 118 Pesukim  
Hertz 306–322; Stone 416–443  
Haftara: Jer. 34:8–22, 33:25–26  
Hertz 323–324; Stone 1156–1157  
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Hakhrizat  
Adar (Tue and Wed)

## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat

*Friday, February 21st*

Candle lighting ..... 5:23 pm  
Minha ..... 5:15 pm  
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit ..... 5:45 pm

### Yom Shabbat

*Saturday, February 22nd*

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

Minha ..... 5:05 pm  
Seuda Shelisheet ..... 5:35 pm  
Arvit ..... 6:15 pm  
Havdala ..... 6:24 pm

*(Continued on page 2)*

## KJ Welcomes

Guest Speaker

Naya Lekht

who will join us this weekend on Saturday, February 22nd during morning services. A leader of Club Z, an organization that promotes Israel consciousness among teens, she will present a brief history of anti-Semitism and discuss its new forms visible in today's society.

## Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored  
in loving memory of

**Mordecai A. Cohen**

*Mordecai Hyam ben Avraham Shalom  
z"l*

## 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

*(Continued from page 1)*

*Sunday, February 23rd*

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

*Mon, Thu-Fri, February 24, 27-28*

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

**Rosh Hodesh / Tue-Wed, February 25-26**

Shaharit..... 6:05 am

**Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, February 28-29**

Candle lighting..... 5:30 pm  
Friday Minha..... 5:25 pm  
Shaharit..... 8:30 am  
Saturday Minha ..... 5:15 pm  
Havdala ..... 6:34 pm

## In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from February 22 to 29, 2020. We light memorial candles, give tsedaka, and attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

**27 Shevat / Shabbat, February 22nd**

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

**28 Shevat / Sunday, February 23rd**

Charles Dabby *Saleh ben Yehezkel*  
Hilda Jacob *Haviva bat Masooda*  
Nassim Shamash *Nassim ben Sarah Khatoun*

**29 Shevat / Monday, February 24th**

Ramah Duke *Ramah bat Salha Khatoun*  
Georgia Jiji  
Mordechai Sassoon *Mordechai Hayim ben Moshe*

**30 Shevat / Tuesday, February 25th**

Nagi Avraham *Nagi ben Murad*  
Shaul Cohen *Shaul ben David*  
Haim Elazar *Haim ben Yisrael*  
Catherine Moses *Khatoun Matana bat Masouda*

**1 Adar / Wednesday, February 26th**

Yosef Sofer *Yosef ben Eliyahu*  
Joseph Mingail *Yosef ben Haim Baruch*

**2 Adar / Thursday, February 27th**

Aaron J. Moses *Aharon ben Yosef*  
Joseph Faraj Moses *Yoseph Faraj ben Yoseph Haim*  
Abraham Aslan *Avraham ben Meneshe*  
Mordecai Abraham Cohen *Mordecai Hyam ben*  
*Avraham Shalom Hacohen*

**3 Adar / Friday, February 28th**

Yoseph Avrahamy *Yoseph ben Abraham*  
Farang Jahanbani  
Herschel Tzvi Sarne  
Abraham Shalom *Abraham Shalom ben Shaul Sopher*

**27 Shevat / Shabbat, February 22nd**

Simy Bensabat *Simy bat Mesody*  
Baacker Jalali *Baacker ben Avraham*

## 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**

# 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!*

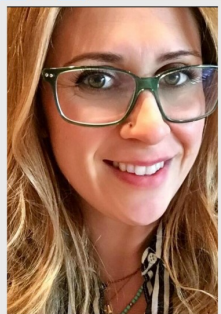


## A BRIEF HISTORY OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND ITS NEW FACE



Learn about contemporary antisemitism, how to identify it, why and where it has resurfaced, and what we as a community can do about it. This dynamic lecture will address the rise of antisemitism in America, the BDS movement on college campuses, and why being an Israel supporter makes you a target for hate and discrimination.

**Saturday, February 22nd**  
**Kahal Joseph Congregation**  
**10505 Santa Monica Blvd**  
Questions: [odin@clubz.org](mailto:odin@clubz.org)



**SPEAKER BIO:** Naya Lekht was born in the Former Soviet Union and immigrated to the United States. She received her PhD in Russian-Jewish literature from UCLA. Naya is the Director of Education at Club Z, a youth Zionist Institute that prepares our teens to be articulate and proud Zionists.



**Kahal Joseph Congregation**  
presents



## Purim Megillah

**Monday, March 9th @ 7:30 pm**

**Tuesday, March 10th @ 7:30am, 9:30am, or 5:30pm**

**Listen to the Megillah!**

**Dress in costume! Sound the noisemakers!**  
Listen to the age-old story in Shushan, with Mordechai, Ester, Vashti, and the wicked Haman!



### KJ PURIM SCHEDULE

**Baking for KJ Purim Baskets**  
Sunday, February 23rd at 10:00 am

**PURIM CARNIVAL**  
Sunday, March 1st, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Fast of Esther / Taanit Esther**  
Monday, March 9th from 5:56 am to 7:36 pm

**PURIM EVE, MEGILLAH READING**  
Monday, March 9th at 7:30 pm



**PURIM DAY**  
Tuesday, March 10th  
Morning Megillah 1st Reading 7:30 am  
2nd Reading 9:30 am  
Last Reading, 5:30 pm

**CASINO NIGHT**  
Sunday, March 15th



**Kahal Joseph Congregation**  
10505 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

**For more information call**  
310.474.0559



## 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)