



Times of Services

Friday 18 November
Shabbat begins: 3.52 pm
Mincha/
Kabbalat Shabbat: 3.45 pm

Shabbat 19 November
Shacharit: 9.30 am
Haftorah: Brian Robinson
Shabbat ends: 4.57 pm

Sunday 20 November
AJEX Sunday
Shacharit: 8.40 am

Friday 25 November
Shabbat begins: 3.45 pm
Mincha/
Kabbalat Shabbat: 3.30 pm

Reading the Haftarah

If you would like to read Haftarah to mark a special event or just to make your personal contribution to the service, please contact Brian Robinson, who will be delighted to help with any preparation or revision.



Sponsoring an Event

If you are celebrating a Simcha or commemorating a family Yahrzeit, or if you are just feeling generous, please consider sponsoring a Shabbat morning Kiddush, Seudah or Sunday morning breakfast. Contact Joan Michaels: 020 8579 4261.



AJR—Meets the 1st Tuesday in every month at 2.00 pm. Contact Leslie Sommer: 020 8993 7574.

Israeli Dancing!



Tuesday evenings, 8.00 pm at Ealing United Synagogue, Grange Road.
Sunday mornings, 10.30 am at Ealing Liberal Synagogue, Lynton Avenue. All welcome. Nominal charge of £1.00.

In the event of a bereavement, in the first instance please contact the Burial Office : 020 8950 7767.
Rabbi Hershi Vogel: 07970 829758
Brian Robinson: 020 8567 6558

Ealing Synagogue

שבת שלום

Friday 18 November 2016/Shabbat 18 Cheshvan 5777
Sidra: Vayera



Ealing Synagogue

MAZAL TOV

To Rabbi Hershi and Rebbetzen Zelda Vogel on the Pidyon HaBen of their grandson Netanel Daniel Vogel, which was held on Wednesday 16 November. The Ealing community extends a hearty Mazal Tov to parents Dovi and Katie Vogel, grandparents Rochelle and Eli Sassoon, great-grandparents and all the family. Thanks to Tony Hitman for the photos.



EALING SYNAGOGUE'S MITZVAH DAY TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2.30PM

Ealing Synagogue will once again be hosting the residents of the St David's Home and Chestnut Lodge for tea at 2.30pm. This has become an annual event and the residents of St David's and Chestnut Lodge very much look forward to the occasion.

For catering purposes, please contact Leslie Sommer.

Everyone is invited.

Ealing Synagogue,
15 Grange Road, London W5 5QN
Reg. Charity No. 242552

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Ealing Synagogue Newsletter: esnewsletter@btinternet.com
Ealing Synagogue Website: www.ealingsynagogue.org.uk

Mitzvah Day

27th November 2016

Ealing Synagogue is collecting food for the Ealing Food Bank and clothing for Emmaus House for the Homeless in Acton.

Tins of food, jars of peanut butter, bottled sauces such as tomato sauce, mayonnaise, Marmite and food spreads are particularly requested. Clothing should be in good condition. Socks and underwear are especially needed, as well as warm outer clothing.

Please bring any items to the synagogue on Tuesdays or Thursdays or before Mitzvah Day. Please do not leave them outside the synagogue premises.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS FACILITATORS WANTED

Northwood Holocaust Memorial Day Events runs a series of workshops for schools in January and February each year, around Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January).

They have devised a tried and tested programme which has proved to be very successful. This has been introduced to synagogues such as Belmont, Watford and Borehamwood.

We want Ealing Synagogue to be a hub for similar events for schools in and around the area. In the first instance, we are looking for some enthusiastic volunteers to be facilitators. This is open to everyone. There is no age limit and no previous teaching experience is required. You just need to have an interest in the subject and not be afraid to talk to a group of 15 year-old teenagers!

You will be required to attend a 1/2 day training session. Sessions are held throughout December and January. First time volunteers will be allocated to a workshop at another synagogue to see how the programme works.

It is envisaged that we can then run a similar programme at Ealing Synagogue next year.

More information about NHMDE can be found on their [HMD website](#).

If you are interested in being a facilitator, please contact Marianne Temple.

Snapshot Torah



GUIDE TO THE WEEKLY PARSHA

THIRD EDITION / ISSUE 4

19th November 2016

Vayera

18th Cheshvan 5777

Kohen - First Aliya: Chapter 18, Verses 1 – 14

- ✚ Even though Avraham (Abraham) was still healing after his Bris Mila, Hashem found him sitting at the opening of his tent, looking out for visitors who were passing through on their travels.
- ✚ In the Heat of the day Avraham looks up and sees three strangers approaching him. Avraham then immediately rushes out to greet them and invited them back to his tent, in order for them to wash and partake in a meal which his wife Sarah helped to prepare.
- ✚ The three men were really three angels in disguise who informed Avraham that Sarah will give birth to a son. Upon overhearing this news Sarah laughed telling herself how impossible that sounded because both Avraham and her were now too old to bore any children.

Levi - Second Aliya: Chapter 18, Verses 15 - 33

- ✚ Upon leaving, the Angels told Avraham Hashem's intentions of wiping out the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their wickedness.
- ✚ Avraham pleaded and bartered with Hashem to save Sodom from destruction if 50 righteous men were found to be dwelling there right down until Avraham had to concede to the fact there were no righteous men at all living there and hence had to be destroyed.

Shlishi - Third Aliya: Chapter 19, Verses 1 - 20

- ✚ Disguised once more as men, two angels arrived in Sodom and were greeted by Lot who even though was breaking the cardinal law of Sodom, welcomed them into his home with open arms.
- ✚ After trying to save the 2 men from the hostile town folk of Sodom, the angels reveal their true identities and commands Lot to take his family and leave immediately and don't look back so they can save themselves from the oncoming destruction of the city.

R'VI'I - Fourth Aliya: Chapter 19, Verse 21 – Chapter 21, Verse 5

- ✚ Lot's wife did look back and was turned to a pillar of salt.
- ✚ Thinking that they were now the sole survivors after the destruction, Lot's two daughters got Lot drunk and impregnated themselves in order to repopulate the world. (Their offspring later became the nations of the Moabites and the Ammonites.)
- ✚ Sarah is kidnaped by Abimelech and once more Avraham had to claim she was his sister to survive and rescue her.
- ✚ later at the age of 99 Sarah gives birth to a son whom is called Yitzchak (Isaac)

Chamishi - Fifth Aliya: Chapter 21, Verses 5 - 21

- ✚ Hagar and Ismael are banished from the home of Avraham. Hashem promises her that the offspring of Ishmael will become a great nation.

Shishi - Sixth Aliya: Chapter 21, Verses 22 - 34

- ✚ Abimelech asks Avraham to sign a peace treaty, agreeing that neither party would not wage war against each other for at least two generations. Avraham assented on the condition that a dispute over the ownership of some wells were addressed first. **Please read 'Weekly Discussion' for more insights.**

Sh'vi'i - Seventh Aliya: Chapter 22, Verses 1 - 24

- ✚ (The Akeidah) Hashem tells Avraham to take his son Yitzchak and offer him up as a Korban (Sacrifice).
- ✚ Without delay Avraham obeys. Proving himself; an angel halts Avraham in the nick of time and a Ram caught up in a nearby bush is sacrificed in Yitzchak's place.

Haftorah – 2nd book of Kings Chapter 4 verses 1 to 37

OVERVIEW:

- ✚ This week's Haftorah contains two stories about the prophet Elisha.
- ✚ Firstly, an unnamed woman who is in debt comes to Elisha for help. Her husband has died, and she is so destitute that her children are about to be taken away to be sold as slaves.
- ✚ The only thing of value she had was a small jug of pure oil. Elisha then instructs her to borrow as many vessels as she can from her neighbours and to pour the oil from her vessel into the other ones. Miraculously, the oil does not run out, lasting long enough to fill all the borrowed jugs.
- ✚ Elisha, then tells her, "Go sell the oil and with the profits, pay off your debts and, then you and your children will be able to live comfortably on the remainder.
- ✚ The second story is about a Shunamite woman who was unable to conceive children. To reward her for her kind hospitality towards him, Elisha blessed her with a son unfortunately the child dies young, so grieving woman returns once more to Elisha for comfort.
- ✚ With Hashem's help, Elisha was able to perform a miracle and managed to resurrect the boy's life.

SNAPSHOT GUIDE TO THE SIDDUR: Birchos HaShachar part 3

- ✚ Instead of perceiving things the way we like would something to be The fifth blessing of opening the eyes of the blind is to show our gratitude not only of the physical gift of sight but recognising things for what they really stand for and represent. Hence someone who is visually impaired can still recite this beracha as they have the same capacity to see the truth as a sighted person.
- ✚ The simple meaning for the next beracha of clothing the naked is the fact that Hashem has provided us with garments to protect us from the elements. However, it can also mean symbolically distinguishing us from all other of Hashem's creatures in the world who were not lucky enough to overcome their animalistic urges and instinct because they weren't given the gift of free will like us humans.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION:

To our modern sensibilities, there are two incidents mentioned in this week's Sedra that can be quite disturbing. The first is Avraham's nephew Lot offering up his daughters for prostitution in order to protect two strangers and later on the same daughter's having sexual intercourse with their father. Before we become too judgmental criticizing Lot and his daughter's for their actions, it's important to discover their motives of why they did what they did.

Firstly what do we know about Lot? He was an illustration of a man who once lived close to his godly relatives and despite unfortunately losing his way at times, never really lost his perspective or faith in Hashem totally, (which his righteous uncle Avraham had taught and conveyed to him during the time he lived with him.) Even though he knew what a corrupt city Sodom really was, Lot made the decision to move and dwell there. He even entered into their corrupt society as a judge. Yet! In spite of his position, the inhabitants of Sodom mistrusted and had no respect for him because they knew of his righteous upbringing which could be detrimental in the way Sodom was governed. Their hatred came to the fore when two angels posing as men visited the city. As a hospitable person, Lot welcomed them into his family home which was totally forbidden by the law of the land. Seeking revenge, the wicked men of the city surrounded Lot's abode demanding him to hand his guests over to them, so they could deal with these strangers appropriately. To help appease the situation, Lot begged the men of the city not to do this evil thing, and he offered up his two virgin daughters to the men instead to appease them.

The Torah does not reveal Lot's reasoning for offering up his daughters but despite his pure motives of trying to protect one's guests in an environment as cruel as Sodom, whatever his thought process was, it was wrong and indefensible. Was Lot right to offer his own daughters in place of the men the Sodomites wanted? No but we see in the story because of his true intentions, Hashem's divine messengers turned the tables and protected Lot and his daughters from the fate that the sodomites had in store for them.

The second incident occurs after Lot and his daughters had fled Sodom just before its destruction. (Lot's wife was not saved because of her disobedience and was turned into a pillar of salt as punishment.) Lot and his two daughters fled to live in a mountain cave to ride out the storm. Mistakenly afraid that the whole world had just been annihilated, not just Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot's daughters plotted to intoxicate their father so they could sleep with him; thereby assuring that they would preserving the family line and begin repopulating the world once more. Once again, even though the daughter's actions were also incorrect and indefensible they weren't punished either. This was because of their pure, untainted intentions; both of them were blessed with a child whom although born as a result of incest, both grew up to be the father of two great nations, despite the fact ending up as our past history records, showering Bnai Yisrael with an endless supply of suffering, still felt and effecting us even today.

Spending a lot of time studying the Torah in recent years, I've realised that sometimes Hashem gives us hints and reasons for allowing something to pan out but not very often. It is times like the two episodes I've highlighted above; we have to be careful not call Hashem into question when it comes into his divine judgement, character or his very nature as ultimately He is perfect and everything he does or allows is for our benefit. This is where our faith and emunah in Hashem comes into play. Yes, It's true that we can't expect to understand Hashem's mind perfectly, but we all have a responsibility to obey and trust Him implicitly, and to submit to His will, whether we understand it or not.

Lot did the things he did because he chose to try and live his life the easy way and he made choices to flirt with evil instead of living to honour Hashem. As a result, there was suffering for Lot, his wife and daughters, and, by association, the nation of Israel for years to come. The lesson for us is that we need to make choices that do not conform to the world and to submit ourselves unselfishly and wholeheartedly to the 'Word of Hashem', which will guide us into living our lives that are pleasing to him.

I would like to dedicate this week's edition in memory of Nachum Yitzchak ben Esther - Neil Shestopal z"l who sadly passed away this week.



Compiled, Designed & Written by Jeremy Symons