



Times of Services 2015

Friday 30 October
Shabbat begins: 4.23 pm
Mincha/
Kabbalat Shabbat: 4.30 pm

Shabbat 31 October
Shacharit: 9.30 am
Shabbat ends: 5.24 pm

Sunday 1 November
Shacharit: 8.40 am

Friday 6 November
Shabbat begins: 4.10 pm
Mincha/
Kabbalat Shabbat: 4.15 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!



Every Tuesday evening at 8.00 pm at Ealing Synagogue. All welcome. No charge.

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
Neil Shestopal: 020 8579 5099

Ealing Synagogue Newsletter



שבת שלום

Friday 30 October 2015/Shabbat 18 Cheshvan 5776

Sidra: Vayera

SHABBAT 24 OCTOBER 2015

SHABBATUK



ShabbatUK was a tremendous success at Ealing Synagogue. We were delighted to host our guests, Aron and Rochel-Leah Lovatt who led the activities for the day. Our Shabbat morning service was enhanced by Aron's leyning and the first of three

Divrei Torah. Over 50 people attended a sumptuous lunch organised by Dawn Shestopal. Zemirot were sang and to keep the mood light we had a multiple choice quiz composed by Ella Marks. Questions were answered by holding up different coloured card depending on the answer (although some people couldn't remember what colour card represented which answer). During the afternoon, Aron led an interactive discussion about Abraham, the sacrifice of Isaac and the tests of G-d. There was more food with a Seudah Shlishit including a D'var Torah by Rochel-Leah Lovatt on the meaning of Shabbat and how it can influence the working week. The "ruach" of Shabbat was felt throughout the day and everyone joined in Havdalah to bring to an end a most enjoyable, entertaining and communal ShabbatUK.

Click on the following link to listen to the Chief Rabbi's ShabbatUK "wrap up message":

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BJ4b_PeT0E.

TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER AJR MEETING : 2.00 PM

At this month's AJR meeting Lesley Urbach will be speaking about Herbert Morrison, a Labour politician who held a variety of senior positions in the Cabinet in the 1930s and 1940s. There is a nominal charge of £1.50 for refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

Ealing Synagogue,
15 Grange Road, London W5 5QN
Reg. Charity No. 242552
Minister: Rabbi Hershi Vogel, BA
Administrator: Sandra Moses

Tel: 020 8579 4894; Fax: 020 8567 2348; Email: office@ealingsynagogue.org.uk
Ealing Synagogue Newsletter: esnewsletter@btinternet.com
Ealing Synagogue Website: www.ealingsynagogue.org.uk

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER

"LEGENDS OF SWING"

 Ealing
Synagogue

PRESENTS



RAY LOWE'S TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF

FRANK
SINATRA

DEAN
MARTIN

BOBBY
DARIN

SAMMY
DAVIS JR

SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER

Tickets £25.00pp • 6.30pm – Doors open
7.00pm – Supper • 10.30pm – Carriages

For tickets & information please contact:

020 8933 5645 esevents@btinternet.com
15 Grange Road, London, W5 5QN

Please join us for an evening of supper and song with Ray Lowe singing Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr and more. Supper will be hot dogs and salt beef. There will be a vegetarian option. Bring your friends and make up a table. Please contact Marianne Temple. **Payment must be made in advance to confirm your booking.** Cheques to be made payable to "United Synagogue" and sent to Ealing Synagogue, 15 Grange Road, Ealing, London W5 5QN. Please RSVP by **Monday 9 November at the latest.**

TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER : 2.30 PM

MITZVAH DAY

Ealing Synagogue will be hosting a tea for the residents and carers of the St David's Home for ex-Servicemen and Women. Please join us in welcoming our guests.

LOST SPECS

A pair of glasses were left behind last Shabbat 24 October. If you're missing your specs, please contact Dawn Shestopal.

Snapshot Torah



GUIDE TO THE WEEKLY PARSHA

THIRD EDITION

31st October 2015

Va'eira

18th Cheshvan 5776

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 kidnapped 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 Akedah) 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.

GEMATRIA LINKED TO THE SEDRA:

- ✚ How did the commentators of the torah come to the conclusion that the three men Avram saw approaching his tent were in fact three angels? The answer lies in gematria.
- ✚ The Numerical value of the phrase וַיֵּרָא שְׁלוֹשָׁה וַיֵּרָא וַיֵּרָא (and behold three) comes to 701. Which when added up together, corresponds to the same numeric value of three of the well-known angels. Michael, Gavriel and Rafael.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION:

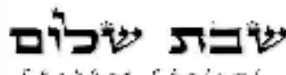
Hachnasat Orchim (welcoming guests) is a core Jewish value, perfectly modelled by Avraham and Sarah. When guests unexpectedly arrived at the tent of Avraham and Sarah, the couple warmly welcomed the visitors, made them comfortable, and fed them generously. This week's Sedra of Vayera, starts in the same fashion. On the third day after Avraham performed his Bris on himself at the age of 99 years, Hashem Himself comes to visit. (Which as a side issue, shows us the implications on how important it is for us to care for and visit those people who are unfortunately unwell.)

Surely having Hashem visiting you personally, can only be described as the ultimate spiritual height any person can experience. Yet surprisingly, instead of showing his gratitude and is elated to be in the company of such a great Presence. Avraham feels dejected and discomforted by Hashem being there, due to the lack of travellers around for Avraham to bestow his Chesed upon, enabling him to perform the mitzvah of Hachnasat Orchim. Noticing that Avraham is suffering more by the pain due to the absence of guests than by his own medical condition, Hashem decides to provide him with three wanderers who are quickly passing by. What does Avraham do? He briefly excuses himself, asks Hashem to wait, putting him on hold in effect, while he busies himself and his family to assist in feeding these three heat stricken strangers. Wow!

From here we learn that it is greater to play the host than to receive even the Divine Presence but where did Avraham learn this principle from? I once heard the following answer in a shiur I once attended. The verse in the torah states, "He saw and he ran to greet them..." i.e. Abram's feet went instinctively! His initial impulse especially after such an ordeal of going through a Bris was considered already correct. Avraham's perfected body was not an interposition between his 'Godly Soul' and its desire for generous action. Avraham was so refined to the nth degree that his physical body was no less than a rubber glove worn by a skilled surgeon or as the nimble fingers of a concert pianist. The true intention of his actions is easily expressed in an unimpeded fashion through the vehicle of his earthly limbs.

Further proof of this thesis is shown later on in the Parsha, by the Akedah (The Binding of Isaac) the verse records concerning Avraham, "And he sent out his hand and he took the knife to slaughter his son..." Ultimately we know that Hashem did not want him to kill Yitzchak but only to be willing to deliver him. Therefore we are told "he sent out his hand to take the knife". It's the same when you pick up your coffee in the morning. You don't need to send your hand out consciously to the mug. It automatically reaches in that vicinity because you are thirsty. Since Avraham's instinct was already presumed 'holy', he therefore needed to force his hand into action to in order to harm or kill his son i.e. to go against his moral instincts. To obey the word of Hashem, no matter what.

For fear that we'll be misled to believe that we ought to obey our limb's intrinsic actions, we have to recognise that Avraham was on a much higher level, than we could ever aspire to. We can however just like a pianist who practices the musical scales before reaching the musicality within; can train our limbs in the same way and dare not over-trust our gut reflexes or instincts. Otherwise we could end up in some hot water or worse. Therefore, we require a sophisticated Code of Law to navigate our lives affectively and to acquire, as Avraham did, those habits of action that can access the secrets and true desires



Compiled, Designed & Written by Jeremy Symons



Ealing
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PRESENTS

THE LEGENDS OF SWING



RAY LOWE'S TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF

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For tickets & information please contact:

020 8933 5645 esevents@btinternet.com

15 Grange Road, London, W5 5QN

OR BOOK ONLINE: <https://myus.theus.org.uk/events/19854/legends-of-swing/>

DELVE INTO SCRIPTURE



‘SCRIPTURAL REASONING’ AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

‘CHANGING LANDSCAPES’ - 15TH NOV 14:00-16:30

‘PILGRIMAGE’ - 22ND NOV 14:00-16:30

Two thought-provoking and interactive workshops exploring passages
from the Jewish, Muslim and Christian scriptures.

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

BOOKING: ‘What’s on’ at <http://www.britishmuseum.org/>

THE
BRITISH
MUSEUM



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge Inter-faith Programme

The Zemel Choir



Anniversary Concert and Dinner

Celebrating 60 Years 1955 - 2015



Sunday 22nd November 2015

North Western Reform Synagogue, Alyth Gardens
Concert at 6.30pm followed by Dinner. Tickets £25
Afternoon Workshops for Past Members of the Choir
email tickets@zemelchoir.org or call 07802 898400

For Registration Form please visit www.zemelchoir.org/tickets

