

15th Av 5768/16th August 2008

Minister: Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Emeritus Chazan: Rev. Moshe Dubiner

Parshat Va'etchanan - Shabbat Nachamu—Tu B'Av Festival of 15th Av

Hertz Cohen Stone Gutnick

Sedra	755	1008	958	1146
Haftarah	776	1028	1196	1470



Shabbat 8.09pm
Shabbat ends 9.13pm

LOVE, MARRIAGE AND TU B'AV

This Shabbat is the 15th day of the month of Av, abbreviated in Hebrew to *Tu B'Av*, a festive day in the Jewish calendar- but hardly anyone seems to know that. A search of the *Shulchan Aruch* ("Code of Jewish Law") reveals no observances or customs for this date, except for the instruction that the *tachanun* (confession of sins) and similar portions should be omitted from the daily prayers - as is the case with all festive dates - and that beginning on the 15th of Av, one should increase one's study of Torah, since at this time of the year the nights begin to grow longer and "*the night was created for study.*" Yet the Mishnah in Tractate *Ta'anit* tells us: "*No days were as festive for Israel as the 15th of Av and Yom Kippur.*" What is this all about?

Our Sages explain: "*Yom Kippur symbolizes God's forgiving Israel for the sin of the Golden Calf in the desert, for it was on that day that He finally accepted Moses' plea for forgiveness of the nation, and on that same day Moses came down from the mountain with the new set of tablets.*" *Tu B'Av* signifies the atonement for the sin of the Spies, where ten came bearing such negative reports which reduced the entire nation to panic. As a result of that sin, the nation remained in the desert for 40 years, and no person aged 20 or over entered Israel. This is why our Sages equated the 15th of Av and Yom Kippur for festiveness, for there is no greater joy than having one's sins forgiven - on Yom Kippur for the sin of the Golden Calf and on *Tu B'Av* for the sin of the spies.

Various other reasons for celebrating on *Tu B'Av* are cited by the Talmudic [commentators](#), all of them associated with the reversal of a tragic event, but today it seems just to mark an informal "high" to counter the "low" of the [Three Weeks](#) leading up to [Tisha B'Av](#). Because it comes a mere six days after the saddest day of the year, it is symbolic of our people's resiliency, our capacity to recover from all the tragedies which befall us. Beginning with *Tu B'Av*, we start preparing ourselves spiritually for the month of Elul, the prologue to the coming High Holydays. The weather, too, helps us to take spiritual stock: the hectic days of the harvest are over for the farmer, and the pace has slowed down considerably, and now that the days and nights are cooler, it is easier to examine one's actions.

But this day also has another theme running through it - that of love and marriage. In ancient times this was a day devoted to matchmaking. The Talmud describes how "*the daughters of Jerusalem would go dance in the vineyards on the 15th of Av, and whoever did not have a wife would go there to find himself a bride.*" Marriage represented the bounce back from the greatest tragedies which occurred on Tisha B'Av, the destruction of the Holy Temples and our people's ensuing bitter exile. Indeed in modern Israel, even secular Jews recognise the romantic associations of *Tu B'Av*, and it is looked on as the Jewish equivalent of Valentine's Day.

In earlier times, it was the custom already from the 15th of Av to use as one's greeting "May your inscription and seal be for good" (*ketiva vachatima tova*) - the same blessing that we today use on Rosh Hashanah. Interestingly, the *gematria* (arithmetical value) of that expression adds up to 928 - as do the words for "15th of Av." May it be a day of love and goodness shared by all of us.

Contributed by Rabbi Rosenfeld

Next Shabbat - Ekev

22nd—23rd August 2008

Commences 7.55pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 6.30pm

Announcements

Kiddush Sponsor

Mazal Tov to Dean Clifford on his aufruf today and forthcoming marriage to Natalie Shulman. Janice Serlin invites the congregation to Kiddush in the Bloomstein Hall after the service to celebrate . Mazal Tov to both families

Breakfast Sponsor

Breakfasts this week are sponsored by Barbara & Stanley Green to celebrate the birth of a great grandson in Israel.

Engagement

Mazal Tov to Rachael & Greg Phillips on the engagement of their daughter Katy to Oliver Barnett and Mazal Tov to grandmothers Bubbles Capper and Joan Phillips

Birth Announcement

Mazal Tov to Barbara & Stanley Green on becoming GREAT grandparents, and to their children Debbie & Ari on becoming grandparents

Mazal Tov

To Rabbi Lionel & Mrs. Natalie Rosenfeld on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary

Birthdays—Mazal Tov to:

Edmond Soning. Amanda Clore.
Sheridan Barnett. Richard Harris.
Neil Davis. Alma Ward.
Barrington Black. Ronald Shear.

Wedding Anniversaries—Mazal Tov to:

Brenda & Brian Cooper
Ruben & Becky Cohanim

Refuah Shelema

Seymour Freed	Shmuel Zeev ben Sara
B.A	Baruch Pinchas Ben Zissel
Sidney Jaque	Shlomo Ben Sarah

Our Rabbi

You can contact Rabbi Lionel & Natalie Rosenfeld at rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk
Phone: 020 7535 0458 mob: 07811202244

Our Website:

www.marblearch.org.uk

Diary Notes

Friday 15th August

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Haftarah Shiur by Alan Goldberg
6.45pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat & D'var Torah by Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Shabbat 16th August

- 8.45 am Shiur with Henry Knobil
9.15 am Shacharit
8.00 pm Mincha, followed by Seudah Shlishit, & D'var Torah by Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld
9.13 pm Maariv & Havdalah

Sunday 17th August

- 8.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast and Thought for the Day by Alan Goldberg

Monday 18th August

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & D'var Torah by Michael Milston
10.30 am Rabbi Rosenfeld's Parsha Shiur for Ladies

Tuesday 19th August

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Shiur by Eli Abt

Wednesday 20th August

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast and Parsha Shiur by Rabbi Yosef Vogel

Thursday 21st August

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & D'var Torah by Bernard Silver

Friday 22nd August

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Haftarah Shiur by Alan Goldberg

**Mincha & Ma'ariv through the week
Sun 17th - Thurs 21st August 6.45pm**

Security Rota

Benedict Price. David Sorany.

Kiddush Rota

Esther Isaacs. Linda Sharpe. Carol Truman.

Have you a few hours to spare each week?

General office help, i.e. filing etc. If you can be of any assistance, please contact the Synagogue Office 020 7723 9333.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Luncheon Club—30th August for Members

& Visitors. Everyone welcome. Please advise the Office if you wish to attend

GCSE Classes

Rabbi Rosenfeld is offering to teach a GCSE course in Judaism for post Bar and Bat Mitzvah teenagers, to be held after school one day a week. He is also offering a similar course for adults, one evening a week.

Anyone who is interested should contact Rabbi LR email: rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk

Shanah Tovah Magazine

This year's Shanah Tova Magazine is being compiled by Howard Richenberg, which with your help we hope will be an even bigger success than last year. Many members of the congregation use the Magazine to send New Year Greetings and as the brochure has become so important, please ensure that you are included in this worthwhile cause.

Please send or email your advert today to the Synagogue Office. Please send us your articles or letters that you wish to be considered for publication in the brochure.

Yizkor Book 2008/5769

Please remember to return your form to the Synagogue office before going on holiday. Closing date Monday 1st September 2008.

Temporary Seats

Please contact the Synagogue Office to order your extra seats for family and friends for the Chagim

Haftarah

Would anyone wishing to read the Haftarah on Shabbat, eg on the anniversary of their Bar Mitzvah, to mark a special occasion or for any other reason, please contact the Honorary Officers as we wish to involve as many people as possible

Sponsor a Member – Do a real Mitzvah!

We all know that over 100 members in our community require financial assistance in one form or the other because for whatever reason they have fallen on hard times and struggle to pay their membership / burial contributions. Let me give you a real example

Mr B—Has been successful in business all his life but unfortunately over the last 2 years things were not as good as planned. He is now well over 60, so he finds it difficult to revive his business and financial affairs. Being an honourable man he offered to change his seats to a "cheaper class" to reduce his contribution. We did not want to embarrass him especially since he attends service very regularly and thus offered a substantial discount.

Making a donation to this fund will be a real Mitzvah and will have a major impact on the lives of our less fortunate members. Please donate whatever you can afford. Whatever amount you will donate - may we thank you in advance for your generosity