

16th Kislev 5769/13th December 2008

Minister: Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Emeritus Chazan: Rev. Moshe Dubiner

Parashat Vaylishlach

Hertz Cohen Stone Gutnick

Sedra	122	195	170	210
Haftarah	137	224	1141	1390



Shabbat Begins 3.36pm

Shabbat ends 4.46pm

A Lesson For Us All

Sarah Cohen is a lonely lady who is visited by many people. They don't stay very long, but they come from all over the world, say similar things, and in return listen to snatches from the same story. They buy a Cholah cloth, or maybe a multi spangled kippah, and pass on their way towards the nearby shul which is now a national landmark.

Maybe if they are lucky they will bump in to one or two of the other surviving residents of what was once a bustling and vibrant community, elderly, dignified people who with a smile, answer, in a resigned manner questions which have been put to them each day by Tourists both Jew and Gentile. Answers which point to the fact that a community which at one time was measured in thousands, and had nine synagogues is now made up of about half a dozen families and probably no more than about 30 or 40 people with one beloved synagogue which sometimes cannot muster the requisite quorum

We visited Cochin and Sarah just two days before the recent tragedy, the effect of which became even more poignant by the anticipation which existed in the minds of members of that isolated community. There had been talk of revival in the form of a visit which had only recently been made by representatives of Chabad with a view to establishing a house in that historic region. Land and property had been viewed, and the attraction of providing a facility for travellers, or more important a refuge for the wandering addicts was something being planned by the very people who died.

The irony is that the only previous suffering sustained by the Jews at the hands of others was by the Portuguese in the 16th century, and one attack by Muslims in 1524 precipitated by suspicions of Jewish traders interference in the pepper trade. Other than these incidents it is a history to this very day of tolerance, peace, and respect from their neighbours.

And this is a history which goes back quite some way, some sources point to settlement along that coastal area of Malabar when King Solomon reigned, and that Jews arrived in 700BC, for this area was on the trade routes and the trade winds blew in a westerly direction from the Gulf of Arabia. It is also believed that Jews came after the destruction of the second temple, and they and their descendants became known as the "Black Jews" Subsequently there came the "White Jews" known as "Paradesi" or foreigners who came from Holland, Spain and the Middle East in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. They were respected for their trading ability, and favoured by the Rajah who allotted to them land for homes and synagogues near to his own palace "Mattancherry" it was called, and the "Mattan" part of that name indicating a gift.

They helped the Rajah as soldiers in battles with his enemies, but true to their faith would not fight on the Sabbath.

If only the relationship with their neighbours had been similarly effective with their co-religionists, for here is the key to the tragedy of Cochin.

The Black Jews and the White Jews were entrenched across a small estuary, with a synagogue on either shore, and they would never pray or visit the synagogue of the other group. This in turn meant there could be no intermarriage within the faith, and as their numbers dwindled, and the choice of partner diminished there ensued intermarriage with those of others faiths, and eventual emigration by many.

It is this story of within faith irresolution that is the reason for the diminution of the Jewish Population of Cochin, this is why Sarah Cohen is a lonely lady, and this should be a lesson to any of us who live within a community riddled by strife.

By Barrington Black

Shabbat Shalom

Announcements

A warm welcome to Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan & Lady Sacks who will be with us this Shabbat

Kiddush Sponsor

The Honorary Officers and Board of Management are delighted to invite the congregation to Kiddush to honour Linda Sharpe for all her hard work and dedication to the Kahilla

Breakfast Sponsor

Breakfasts this week for the morning minyan are sponsored by Lawrence Harding to commemorate the Yahrzeit of his brother Barry Harding z"l

Birthdays—Mazal Tov to:

Jonathan Winton	Elliot Woolf
Nathalie Esfandi	Deborah Wallace
Stuart Levy	Jaime Gilinski
Peter Roth	Marcia Green
David Khalili	Marion Reichwald
David Sage	Michael Lewis
Ruth Phillips	Augusta Kaye
Lorna Larn	

Wedding Anniversary— Mazal Tov to:

Rosalyn & Nicholas Springer
 Georgio & Iris Laurenti Levi
 Angela & John Kessler
 Naomi & Harold Klug
 Elissa & Anthony Isaacs

Refuah Shelemah

Caroline Buchler	Miriam bat Sara
Sidney Jaque	Shlomo ben Sara
Nat Winsor	Noach ben Miriam
	Chaya
Gertie Endfield	Rachel bat Yehudit
Raphael Etesami	Raphael ben Michal
Seymour Freed	Shmuel Ze-ev ben
	Sara Rivka

Next Shabbat - Vayeshev

19th—20th December

Commences 3.38pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 3.45pm

Friday 12th December

7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Haftarah Shiur by Ervin Landau
3.45 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat, D'var Torah by The Chief Rabbi

Shabbat 13th December

8.45 am Shiur with Ervin Landau
9.15 am Shacharit
3.45 pm Mincha, followed by Seudah Shlishit, & D'var Torah by The Chief Rabbi
4.46 pm Maariv & Havdalah

Sunday 14th December

8.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast and Thought for the Day by Alan Goldberg
Winter Break Cheder Age 4 – 12 years. Contact Batsheva Burns for further information on 0796 88 555 96 or email cheder.marblearch@gmail.com

Monday 15th December

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

Tuesday 16th December

7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Shiur by Rabbi Yosef Vogel

Wednesday 17th December

7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast and Parsha Shiur by Ervin Landau

Thursday 18th December

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

Friday 19th December

7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Haftarah Shiur by Ervin Landau

**Mincha & Ma'ariv through the week
Sun 14th - Thurs 18th December 3.45pm**

Security Rota

Malcolm Brenner. Dean Clifford. Benedict Price.

Kiddush Rota

Linda Sharpe.

Office Hours over the Public Holidays

Please note that the Synagogue office will close at 3.00pm on Wednesday 24th December, re-opening on Sunday 28th December until 3.00pm on Wednesday 31st December, reopening on Friday 2nd January

Our Rabbi

You can contact Rabbi Lionel & Natalie Rosenfeld at
rabblir@marblearch.org.uk
Tel: 020 7535 0458, mobile: 07811202244

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Rabbi Rosenfeld's Parsha Shiur for Ladies

A weekly series. New participants are most welcome. Next Shiur Monday 15th December at 10.30am.

Rabbi Rosenfeld's GCSE—Judaism Class

There are now 6 teenagers studying in this class. There is still time to enrol. Email Rabbi Rosenfeld on rabblir@marblearch.org.uk or call the office.

Sunday 21st December

Lighting of the first Chanukah Candle.



First day Chanukah Monday 22nd December

Consecration

The consecration of the stone in loving memory of Leonard Sanitt z"l will take place on Sunday 21st December 2008 at Bushey at 12 noon.

Please make a note now in your diary:

Monday 19th January 2009 at 7.45pm

Rabbi Dr. Akiva Tatz—'Dangerous Therapy in Medicine and Surgery'

Rabbi Dr. Akiva Tatz was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. After practising as a doctor in both South Africa and the U.S., he moved to Israel where he practised both in hospital and general medicine in Jerusalem and engaged in a number of year's Talmudic study and later teaching in Jewish thought and medical ethics in Jerusalem. He is the Founder and Director of the Jerusalem Medical Ethics Forum and has written a number of books on the subject of Jewish Thought and Philosophy.

Thursday 22nd January 2009 at 5.00pm

Holocaust Memorial Day

We will be hosting a service and reception to commemorate those who perished in the holocaust. This will be attended by the Lord Mayor of Westminster as well as Government Ministers and those who will be attending the Conference of the Association of Police Authorities who are conferring at WMA on that day. Please contact the office to reserve a place at the reception as soon as possible as space will be limited.

Bloomstein Hall Update

New lighting and flooring have been completed and the decorations are almost complete. A new meat kitchen has been created and will be fitted soon.

The Hall is looking great.

Our Website: For details of times of services and future events, go to www.marblearch.org.uk