

7th Teveth 5769/3rd January 2009

Minister: Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Emeritus Chazan: Rev. Moshe Dubiner

Parashat Vayigash

	Hertz	Cohen	Stone	Gutnick		Shabbat Begins	3.48pm
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Sedra	169	277	250	298		Shabbat ends	4.58pm
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Haftarah	178	293	1144	1395			
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"GAZA PORTAYED" – From *The Jerusalem Post*, Monday December 29th

With the exception of the White House - which reacted to Israel's Gaza operation by labelling Hamas leaders "nothing but thugs" and blaming the "terrorists" for igniting the violence - international political and media reaction has, by and large, fallen into two broad categories: low-key even-handedness and knee-jerk condemnation. The even-handed school appreciates that no country can permit, indefinitely, its citizens to be bombarded by an enemy committed to its annihilation. Still, they oppose "disproportionate" Israeli measures - basically those that might actually compel Hamas to end its campaign of terror. Among these even-handed are Quartet envoy Tony Blair, Nicholas Sarkozy (who also holds the EU presidency), Prime Minister Gordon Brown and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier. The quintessentially even-handed Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy czar, holds any non-combatant deaths on the Palestinian side "unacceptable." His advice? Hamas should stop attacking Israel, and Israel should stop retaliating. But it is the Vatican's reaction that captures the very essence of even-handedness: "*Hamas is a prisoner to a logic of hate; Israel to a logic of faith in force as the best response to hate.*" What to do? "*One must continue to search for a different way out, even if that may seem impossible.*"

Then there are those who make no pretence at being even-handed. For them, Hamas has been exercising its inalienable right to resist "the occupation" by violently opposing the existence of the Jewish state. For them, practically out of the blue, the Zionists went berserk, massacring women, children, and the occasional Hamas "martyr." Desmond Tutu weighed in by calling Israel's use of its air force to stop Hamas "a war crime." Peter Beaumont, foreign affairs editor of *The Guardian*, said that Israel's actions ranked with (what he termed) the massacres of Deir Yassin and Sabra & Shatilla. Tim Butcher of *The Daily Telegraph* explained that as time goes on, Israel lowers the threshold for who it considers a legitimate target. In 2004, "*an elderly man in his wheelchair, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, was killed by an Israeli missile as he was pushed out of a mosque after weekly prayers.*" Butcher noted that Yassin "*was the Hamas leader responsible for ordering suicide bombings.*" Still, his point was that, nowadays, "*any Hamas traffic cop on a street corner has become fair game.*"

So, for the record: Israel embarked on this operation to compel Hamas to stop terrorizing our population in the South. It did so reluctantly, and only after Hamas rejected multiple appeals from Mahmoud Abbas and the Egyptian government to maintain the "cease-fire." Despite the difficulties inherent in presenting Israel's position to a not always sympathetic media, the Israeli Foreign Ministry and IDF recognize that public diplomacy is an integral element in getting Hamas to stop its attacks. To that end, the articulate former Israel UN representative Dan Gillerman has been appointed to coordinate response to the crisis. On the whole, Israeli spokespeople have rarely been more proactive or competent, stressing again and again that Israel has had no military or civilian presence in Gaza since 2005; that quiet would prevail across the Israel-Gaza border, and the Palestinians could build a model state, if their Hamas leadership were not insistently bent on attacking Israel. Hamas acknowledges as much: Even as its spokesman Taher al-Nunu was telling Al-Jazeera and other channels of the current "ferocious Zionist massacre," he was also emphasizing that Hamas will never abandon its determination to destroy Israel.

The declared Israeli aim - putting an end to a neighbouring terror-state's ability to threaten its populace - is precisely the goal that any other nation would set itself if attacked as Israel has been. All of this should be obvious to fair-minded observers everywhere. But when dramatic pictures from Gaza threaten to overwhelm clear thinking, Israeli leaders have formulated effective reminders: "Military actions are not easy to support," Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni noted in one interview, "but this is the only way we can change realities on the ground... This is our responsibility as a government to our citizens." Carefully chosen words set against dramatic images? It's an uneven media battlefield. But at least, this time, Israel is fighting.

Shabbat Shalom

Next Shabbat - Vayechi

9th—10th January 2009

Commences 3.57pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 4.00pm

Announcements

Kiddush Sponsor

The Honorary Officers and Board of Management invite the congregation to a Kiddish in honour of Reverend Ari Cohen in recognition of his continued support of our community

Breakfast Sponsor

Breakfasts this week for the morning minyan are sponsored by the Honorary Officers and Board of Management to honour Oded Loulay for all his hard work for the community.

Birth Announcement

Mazal Tov to Jarvis Astaire on the birth of his first great grandchild

Birthdays—Mazal Tov to:

Toby Glyn	Marsha Lee
Raphael Grunschlag	Valerie West
David Esdaile	Helen Cooper

Wedding Anniversary— Mazal Tov to:

Nathalie & Jonathan Esfandi
Norma & Selwyn Midgen
Rene & Howard Simons
Cheryl & Michael Stakol
Rosemary & Paul Faiman

Condolences

To Shirley Rayden on the loss of her husband and to Paul and Clive Rayden and Louise Ladenheim on the loss of their father, Wolf Rayden z"l, a much respected Elder of our Synagogue

Refuah Shelemah

Gerald Bloomberg	Yoseph ben Devorah
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
	Shira bat Leah

Friday 2nd January

- 8.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Haftarah Shiur by Ervin Landau
3.45 pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat, D'var Torah by Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Shabbat 3rd January

- 8.45 am Shiur with Bernard Silver
9.15 am Shacharit
3.45 pm Mincha, followed by Seudah Shlishit, & D'var Torah by Rabbi LR
4.58 pm Maariv & Havdalah

Sunday 4th January

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

Monday 5th January

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & D'var Torah
10.30am Ladies' Shiur with Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Tuesday 6th January—Fast of Teveth

- 6.16 am **Fast begins**
7.30 am Shacharit
1.30 pm First Mincha
4.55 pm **Fast Ends**

Wednesday 7th January

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

Thursday 8th January

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

Friday 9th January

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

**Mincha & Ma'ariv through the week
Sun 4th—Thursday 8th January 2009 3.45pm**

Security Rota

Denis Aaronson. Ben Kaye. Mark Mishon.

Our Rabbi

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

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Rabbi Rosenfeld's Parsha Shiur for Ladies

A weekly series. Monday 5th January at 10.30am

Rabbi Rosenfeld's GCSE—Judaism Class

There is still time to enrol for the January term.
Email Rabbi Rosenfeld on rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk or call the office.

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.

Consecration

The consecration of the stone in loving memory of Trude Reiss z"l will take place on Sunday 25th January 2009 at Willesden at 11.00am

Yadgaroff Library

The Yadgaroff Library is open every day for those wishing to study or browse the fine selection of books.

Sponsoring an Event

If you are celebrating a Simchah or commemorating a family Yahrzeit or if you are just feeling generous please consider contacting the office and sponsoring a Shabbat Morning Kiddush, the Morning Minyan breakfasts or the weekly Newsletter.