

18th Kislev 5770/5th December 2009

Minister: Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Emeritus Chazan: Rev. Moshe Dubiner

Parashat Vayishlach

Hertz Cohen Stone Gutnick Shabbat 3.38pm

Sedra 122 195 170 210 Shabbat ends 4.46pm

Haftarah 135 220 1139 1386



Rabbi Gavriel and Rivka Holtzberg z"l

A year since their passing in Mumbai - An Appreciation in Loving Memory By Victor Lee

Continued from last week:

One week while I was there was the Shabbat of Parshat Balak; this has played on my mind over and over as I think how pertinent the story is to this situation. The narrative explains how the Moabite King Balak, considering himself to be in a position of weakness relative to the Israelites, attempted to enlist the help of the gentile prophet Bilam in order to curse the Jewish people into extinction. Bilam was seduced into agreeing to do so by the promise of immense wealth and influence, but each time he attempted to curse the Jewish people he would inadvertently bless them instead. I draw many parallels between this underhanded attempt at annihilation and the actions of the terrorists in Mumbai last week. Rather than waging a legitimate, confrontational, military war against the Israelite tribe, they attempted to covertly act to slay innocent, defenceless people that had no prior knowledge of an impending threat. The naming of the Torah portion after a sworn external enemy of the Jewish people is certainly a peculiar choice and the only such instance in the Torah. As Rav Gavriel explained at the Shabbat table, even this attempt to hurt the Jewish people resulted in the Jews emerging stronger and more united than beforehand. Despite Balak's efforts, his granddaughter Ruth came to see the virtues of the Jewish way and converted to Judaism, her descendant becoming King David. I hope and pray that the parallels of this story will continue and that the descendants of those who have committed this heinous crime will come to recognise the Jewish people for the honourable people that we are, so that peace can one day be absolutely achieved.

One of the exaltations with which Bilam unintentionally blessed the Jewish people is recited daily by millions of Jews worldwide as the first line of the prayer 'Ma Tovu'; it reads "How good are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel!" — "מה טוב אהליך יעקב, משכנותיך ישראל". I cannot think of a more appropriate prayer to pay tribute to the work of Gavriel and Rivka Holtzberg. How good was their Jewish dwelling? I experienced only one small part of what took place at the Chabad House of Mumbai house yet I still cannot begin to describe how good it was.

Since my time in Mumbai I have run a marathon, raising many thousands of pounds for charity in the process, I have begun to take care over my health and have shed around 25 Kilos of excess weight as a result, I have worked very hard to recover my grades and obtain a good university degree, I have quit smoking, I have laid Tefillin daily and I have resolved to live my life as a moral human being and a good Jew. I cannot imagine that I would have achieved anywhere approaching what I have managed over the last year and a half without the influences of my time in Mumbai. The Holtzbergs were amazingly selfless people, who gave up all of the simplicities of life in the western world in order to offer an oasis of Jewish life in a harsh city of chaos. Despite the fact that I only knew them for a relatively short period of time, I will be eternally grateful for the fortune of Gavriel and Rivka Holtzberg having played a role in my life.

Shabbat Shalom Victor Lee

Next Shabbat - Vayeshev—Chanukah

11th—12th December 2009

Commences 3.36pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 3.30pm

Announcements

Kiddush Sponsor

Rachael & Greg Phillips, to celebrate the engagement of their daughter Katy to Oliver Barnett, and Esther Isaacs & Richard Harris to celebrate Richard's mother Ann's 90th birthday and Richard's son Daniel's engagement to Dorit Lemel in the USA.

A warm welcome to Sophie (nee Aaronson) & Ian Glastein from Israel, who are with us this week.

Breakfast Sponsor

Breakfasts this week are kindly sponsored By Lawrence Harding to commemorate the Yahrzeit of his brother Barry Harding z"l

Birthdays—Mazal Tov to:

Jemima Levy	Jade Salem
Joshua Newmark	Dov Diamond
Adrian Wallace	Debra Ziff
Michael Green	Beverly Miller
John Fenner	Gerald Grossman

Wedding Anniversary—Mazal Tov

Valeria & Daniel Levy
Juliette & Stuart Levy
Susan & Clive Truman
Marion & Guy Naggar

Refuah Shlemah

H.W	Chaim Shlomo ben Manshi Hacohen
Seymour Freed	Shmuel Zeev ben Sara Rivka
Cheryl Stakol	Shira bat Leah
Gala Colover	Chana bat Yehudit
M.A.	Devorah bat Yocheved

Thanks for condolences

Nat, Esther & Nicky wish to thank all the members of Western Marble Arch Synagogue for their support during the week of Shiva for the sad loss of their brother Jack Winsor z"l

Friday 4th December

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

Shabbat 5th December

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

Sunday 6th December

- 8.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast and Thought for the Day with Alan Goldberg
10.00 am Cheder **Aged 4—12 years**. Contact Rabbi Rosenfeld for further information on 07811202244 or email rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk

Monday 7th December

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & D'var Torah by Michael Milston
10.30 am Ladies' Shiur with Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld
7.45 pm Adult Education Film Evening

Tuesday 8th December

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

Wednesday 9th December

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

Thursday 10th December

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

Friday 11th December—Light first Chanukah Candle

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

Mincha & Ma'ariv through the week
Sun 6th —Thurs 10th December 3.40pm

Kiddush Rota

Jane Mirwitch. Linda Sharpe

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 events, go to www.marblearch.org.uk

Hearing Assistive Loop System

The Synagogue is pleased to have installed a loop system for the benefit of hearing aid users. Please set your hearing aid to the 'T' setting to access this service

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

GCSE Judaism 1-Year Course for Teenagers

Rabbi Rosenfeld's GCSE Judaism Course will continue on Thursday December 10th at 5.00pm. Teenagers wishing to enrol should contact Rabbi Lionel by email: rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk or phone the office on 020 7723 9333

Adult Education & Cultural Events:

1. Film Evening , Monday December 7th 2009

"Looking for Love" - two films from the Maaleh Film School in Jerusalem, about young people searching for love "And Thou Shalt Love" and "Cheftzi" **Please put this date in your diary.**

2. Monday February 8th 2010—for your diary

Well known Scholar-in-Residence at the London Jewish Cultural Centre Clive Lawton on: 'Is the rest of the world a Jewish concern?'

Family Chanukah Wonderland Sunday 13th December 4pm—6.30pm— Menorah Lighting and Songs

Bring your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters to an afternoon of fun with dreidels, latkes, doughnuts, Juggling John and much more. RSVP the age and number of children 020 7723 9333 or office@marblearch.org.uk

The Archers Chanukah Party Tuesday 15th December at 2.30pm

Please join us for another afternoon of good company, live music and entertainment, celebrity guest speaker and special Chanukah tea and doughnuts, followed by candlelighting.

Newsletter Articles

We have some very interesting articles that have been written by members this week and in the coming weeks and we would like to have more. If you have a story to tell then why not publish it.? The article should be around 450 words and be emailed to the office.

An Evening with Cantor Malovany on 28th November

The concert held at the Western Marble Arch Synagogue raised an impressive £19,000 for Norwood. We thank everyone who attended for their generosity

Yadgaroff Library

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

Please note that the Synagogue Office will close at 3.00pm on Thursday 24th December and Thursday 31st December