

20th Kislev 5771/27th November 2010.

Minister: Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Emeritus Chazan: Rev. Moshe Dubiner

Parashat Vayeshev

	Hertz	Cohen	Stone	Gutnick		
Sedra	141	229	198	242		Shabbat begins 3.44pm
Haftarah	152	248	1142	1392		Shabbat ends 4.50pm

'GROWING EACH DAY' THE MESSAGE OF THIS WEEK'S SIDRA AND OF CHANUKAH

The Torah portion begins with the words 'Vayeshev Yaakov' - "And Jacob settled." Rashi, the great French 11th Century Torah commentator explains that Jacob had experienced many difficult times in his life: he was forced to lie to his father, was pursued by his brother and cheated by his father-in-law. Now all he desired was to sit back, put his feet up and enjoy his remaining years; at this moment Jacob thought his life was complete. He had brought up twelve sons in the traditions of his forefathers and had reason to believe that now he could rest and enjoy retirement. But as the Yiddish proverb goes, "Man makes plans, and G-d laughs". As hard as we try to do something, G-d often has other intentions; even though we think we know what is best for us, only G-d knows what is right. Sure enough, hardly have we read the words *And Jacob settled* before the Torah continues with the sale of Joseph, and the affair of Judah and Tamar. These may seem unconnected narratives, but nothing in life is a coincidence. In actuality, the tranquility that Jacob desired directly led to the problems in his family.

To understand why, we need to learn a lesson from Chanukah, whose first light is this coming Wednesday night. There is a debate in the Talmud between the academic houses of Hillel and Shammai as to how the menorah should be lit: Shammai says in descending order, i.e. eight lights on the first night, seven on the second, etc., down to one on the eighth night. The House of Hillel disagrees; candles should be lit in ascending order, i.e. one on the first night, two on the second night and so on.

We follow the ruling of Hillel, and just as each succeeding day the Chanukiah gives off a brighter flame, so we need to grow in our commitment to Judaism, striving to do a little more each day, never saying "I am incapable of doing any more."

This was the mistake that Jacob made. He thought that now he could settle, having achieved all that he could. So G-d sent a wake-up call, that it wasn't yet time to rest.

We can see this idea in the Chanukah Festival. The Maccabees fought the Greeks and the Hellenized Jews who had adopted the Greek culture. It was a revolt not just against the Greek's occupation of Judea but also against their desire to eradicate the Jewish way of life. Hellenism saw the body as a palace, to be revered, admired and cared for; that rest and pleasure be raised to the highest level. Judaism in contrast was where spiritual and intellectual passions and long-term growth outweighed immediate reward: work rather than inaction. While the Greek went to the gymnasium to improve his physical body, and to the sauna to recline, the Jew went to synagogue and study-hall to improve his mind and character.

In this lies the mistake that Jacob made. He should have realized that he still had the ability to grow and live. As the House of Hillel explained regarding Chanukah, every day it is important to add another flame on the menorah, to increasingly develop to the best of our abilities.

May G-d give us the strength and ability to grow a little more each day.

Shabbat Shalom.

From a Dvar Torah by Michael D. Gros

Next Shabbat - Miketz—Shabbat Chanukah

3rd—4th December 2010

Commences 3.39pm Mincha, Candlelighting & Kabbalat Shabbat **3.30pm**

Announcements

We thank our Kiddush Sponsors

Vivienne & David Woolf: to mark the Yahrzeits of David's beloved parents Valerie & Raymond Woolf of blessed memory.

Roslyn Braun: to welcome her parents Edith & Israel Braun from New York, grandparents of Aliza

Breakfast Sponsor

Breakfasts for the morning minyan this week are kindly sponsored by Lawrence Harding to mark the Yahrzeit of his beloved brother Barry Harding of blessed memory

Birth Announcement-Mazal Tov

To Alison & Charlie Hanbury on the birth of their first child, a daughter, Erin Libby, and to Ruth & Philip Hanbury on the birth of their first grandchild

Birthdays—Mazal Tov to:

Gabriel Shear

Clive Gee

Pamela Davis

Henry Knobil

Joseph Bromberg

David Silver

Elizabeth Wax

Jenny Tabachnik

Lilian Danns

Wedding Anniversary—Mazal Tov

Andree & Howard Shore

Suzette & Peter Steckelmacher

Lydia & Manfred Gorvy

Refuah Shleimah

Renata Knobil

Gemma Levine

Lisbeth Morgan

Gala Colover

M.A.

Arnold Lee

Paul Faiman

Lewis Clein

Stuart Caplan

Aitan Cobb

Mereleh bat Raizel Berel

Tsipora Chana bat Eliezer

Chaya bat Miriam

Chana bat Yehudit

Devorah bat Yocheved

Aharon ben Esther Halevi

Shraga ben Faige

Yehudah Yonah ben Liba

Zelig ben Etta Rasha Hacohen

Aitan Gavriel ben Shulamit

Aviva

Pinchas ben Anita

Noah ben Miriam Chaya

Shmuel Zeev ben Sara Rivka

Natan ben Miriam

Ben Zion ben Yitta

Condolences

To Frank (Hammond) Sonnenthal and family on the passing of his wife Lilian z"l

Friday 26th November

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

Shabbat 27th November

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

Sunday 28th November

- 8.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast and D'var Torah by Alan Goldberg
10.00am Cheder Aged 4—12 years. Contact Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld for further information on 07811202244 or email rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk or Miriam Kaye marblearchcheder@hotmail.com

Monday 29th November

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

Tuesday 30th November

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

Wednesday 1st December—CHANUKAH TONIGHT

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast and Parsha Shiur by Ervin Landau
Evening Light first Chanukah Candle

Thursday 2nd December—Chanukah 1st Day

- 7.15 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & D'var Torah by Ervin Landau

Friday 3rd December—Chanukah 2nd Day

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

Come and strengthen our Friday night and Shabbat Afternoon Minyamin— both at 3.45pm

Mincha, Chanukah Lighting & Ma'ariv through the week
Sun 28th Nov —Thurs 2nd Dec 3.45pm

Kiddush Rota

Suzanne Puito. Linda Sharpe

You can contact Rabbi Lionel & Natalie Rosenfeld at:
rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk

Tel: 020 7535 0458 mobile: 07811202244

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SPECIAL EVENTS

This 28th November at Central Synagogue— Rehearsals for the Sound of Music in preparation for the joint 2011 Purim Celebrations

Actors, singers, stage hands, technical help with lighting, sound, sets and costumes. No experience necessary just people interested in having fun. There will only be limited number of rehearsals. Contact Raquel on 020 7580 1355 for more details

Sefer Torah Dedication & Reception Sunday 5th December at 11.30pm, in the presence of the Chief Rabbi

You are invited to join the Khalili family who will be dedicating a Sefer Torah in honour of the Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks of Aldgate. Please phone the office on 020 7723 9333 or email office@marblearch.org.uk to confirm your attendance

Tuesday 7th December 2.30—5.00pm Archers Chanukah Party (Free Admission)

Please come along with your friends for our Annual 'Chanukah Bash' for our senior members where there will be good food, good company, good entertainment with the Claudio Allod Trio, Lighting of the Menorah and singalong with Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld and a free super prize draw.

Communal Dinner and Evening with Santa- Sebag Montefiore— 17th January 2011

In support of the charity Ovarian Cancer Action Funding research, raising awareness, giving a voice.

Reception 7.15pm, Dinner 7.45pm, £45 per head. Please call or email the office today to make your booking. 020 77239333, office@marblearch.org.uk

Bar & Bat Mitzvah Classes begin next term

Rabbi Rosenfeld begins a new once- weekly class for boys and girls a year away from their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, beginning January 2011. All interested families should contact him

ONGOING EVENTS

Pirkei Avot Shiur—26th November after Kabbalat Shabbat (for 30 minutes)

Alan Lee will be looking at the timeless wisdom of the 'Ethics of the Fathers'. All are welcome to attend.

Rabbi Rosenfeld's Shiur for Ladies

Next Shiur Monday 29th November at 10.30am. Ladies who have not previously attended are most welcome.

Monday Mornings -Healing at WMA

Sonia Shalam continues with her healing sessions on Monday mornings. Please phone her on 07799353708 to book a session or for further information.

GCSE—'Judaism' weekly course for teenagers taught by Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld every Thursday at 6.00pm

Operation Winter Survival—soon to end

We have been collecting warm winter items for help towards this good cause. This year they require new and nearly new winter hats, gloves and scarves. Please bring your goods along to the Synagogue as this appeal must close soon