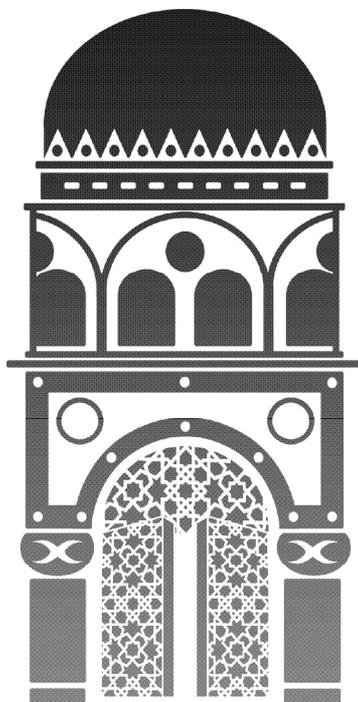


WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

ק"ק שער ציון

WELCOMES YOU



שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם
SHABBAT SHALOM

19-20 October 2018

11 Cheshvan 5779

SHABBAT SHALOM AND WELCOME TO WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

FRIDAY

6.00pm:

Erev Shabbat Combo Service

Led by Rabbi Julia, Rabbi David and Rabbi Neil

Wardens:

Gillian Westwood, Vivien Feather & Steven Rowe

Beadle:

Monica Jankel

SATURDAY

10.30am:

Coffee Morning

11.00am:

Shabbat Morning Service

Led by Rabbi Julia and Rabbi David

Sermon by: Rabbi Julia

Torah Read by: Roda Infield (Adult Bat Mitzvah)

Wardens:

Gillian Westwood, Vivien Feather & Steven Rowe

Beadle:

Monica Jankel

Torah:

Genesis 12: 1-9

Haftarah:

Isaiah 43:10-25

Please join us for Shabbat kiddush after the service.

Doctor or fully trained first aider?

If you are a doctor or trained first aider please make yourself known to the wardens and beadle.

PARASHAT LECH L'CHA

Lech L'cha marks the beginning of the Jewish story when Abram is told by God to leave everything he knows to move to the land of Canaan. God tells him his descendants will inherit the land and be a blessing. But there was strife with Lot over land and they separated. Genesis 15 depicts the mysterious 'covenant between the pieces' where Abram is warned about the captivity in Egypt and the Exodus. Sarah was jealous of Hagar who bore a son Ishmael and sent her away. The portion ends with the establishment of circumcision.

COMMUNITY NEWS

We wish a warm mazal tov and good wishes to:

- Roda Infield on her adult Bat Mitzvah.
- Rabbi Emily Jurman and Renee Reitsma on their Auf Ruf and upcoming Chupah.
- Ruth Warshaw and her family on her baby blessing.
- Robin and Danit Birn on their wedding anniversary.
- Vivien Feather on her birthday.

וַיֹּאמֶר יְיָ אֶל־אַבְרָם לֵךְ־לְךָ מֵאֶרֶץ־עֵבֶר וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ
 אֶל־הָאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֲרָאָה; בְּוַעֲשֶׂיךָ לְגוֹי גָדוֹל וְאַבְרָכְךָ וְאֶגְדְּלָהּ שְׁמֶךָ
 וְהָיָה בְרָכָה; גּוֹאבְרָכָה מְבַרְכֶיךָ וּמִקְלָלְךָ אָאֵר וְנִבְרָכוּ בְּךָ כָּל
 מִשְׁפְּחֹת הָאָדָמָה:

וַיֵּלֶךְ אַבְרָם כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אֱלֹהֵי יְיָ וַיֵּלֶךְ אִתּוֹ לוֹט וְאַבְרָם בְּרִחְמֵשׁ
 שָׁנִים וְשִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה בְּצֵאתוֹ מִחָרָן: הָ וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָם אֶת־שָׂרִי אִשְׁתּוֹ
 וְאֶת־לוֹט בְּרִי־אָחִיו וְאֶת־כָּל־רְכוּשָׁם אֲשֶׁר רָכְשׁוּ וְאֶת־הַנֶּפֶשׁ
 אֲשֶׁר־עָשׂוּ בְּחָרָן וַיֵּצְאוּ לְלֶכֶת אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן: וַיַּעֲבֹר
 אַבְרָם בְּאֶרֶץ עַד מְקוֹם שְׁכֵם עַד אֵלֹן מוֹרָה וְהַכְּנַעֲנִי אָז בְּאֶרֶץ:

וַיֵּרָא יְיָ אֶל־אַבְרָם וַיֹּאמֶר לִזְרַעְךָ אֲתָן אֶת־הָאֶרֶץ הַזֹּאת וַיְבִן שָׁם
 מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה הַנִּרְאָה אֱלֹהֵי: ח וַיַּעֲתֵק מִשָּׁם הָהָרָה מְקַדֵּם לְבֵית־אֵל וַיֵּט
 אֶהְלֵה בֵּית־אֵל מִיָּם וְהָעֵי מְקַדֵּם וַיְבִן־שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה וַיִּקְרָא בְּשֵׁם יְיָ:
 ט וַיִּסַּע אַבְרָם הַלּוֹךְ וְנִסּוּעַ הַנִּגְבָּה:

GENESIS 12:1-9

Adonai said to Abram, "Go forth from your, your birthplace, your father's house to the land that I will show you.² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and it shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and I will pronounce doom on those who curse you; through you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴ So Abram went forth as Adonai had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai, his brother's son Lot, all the possessions they had amassed, and the people they had acquired in Haran. They set forth for the land of Canaan, and they arrived in the land of Canaan. ⁶ Abram then traversed the land as far as the sacred site of Shechem, as far as the Oak of Moreh. (At that time the Canaanites were present in the land.)

⁷ Adonai now appeared to Abram and said, "I am giving this land to your descendants." Abram then built an altar there to Adonai who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved on to the hill country east of Beth El. He pitched his tent between Beth El on the west and Ai on the east. There he built another altar to Adonai and called upon the Name of Adonai. ⁹ And then Abram continued his journey—toward the Negeb.

ISAIAH 43:10-25

You are My witnesses, says the Eternal One, and My servant whom I have chosen; that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am God; before Me there was no God formed, neither shall any be after Me. I, even I, am the Eternal One; and beside Me there is no saviour. I have declared, and I have saved, and I have announced, and there was no strange god among you; therefore you are My witnesses, says the Eternal One, and I am God. Since the very first day I am God, and there is none that can deliver out of My hand; I will work, and who can reverse it? Thus says the Eternal One, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and I will bring down all of them as fugitives, even the Chaldeans, in the ships of their shouting. I am the Eternal, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your Sovereign. Thus says the Eternal One, who makes a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters; Who brings forth the chariot and horse, the army and the power--they lie down together, they shall not rise, they are extinct, they are quenched as a wick: Remember not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now shall it spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. The beasts of the field shall honour Me, the jackals and the ostriches; because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My people, My elect; The people which I formed for Myself, that they might tell of My praise. Yet you have not called upon Me, O Jacob, neither have you wearied yourself about Me, O Israel. You have not brought Me the small cattle of thy burnt-offerings; neither have you honoured Me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with a meal-offering, nor wearied you with frankincense. You have bought Me no sweet meal with money, neither have you satisfied Me with the fat of your sacrifices; but you have burdened Me with your sins, you have wearied Me with your iniquities. I, even I, am the One that blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and your sins I will not remember.

RABBI SYBIL'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

One of the most moving and rewarding experiences I have as a Rabbi, is to sit on the Bet Din of the Reform movement and listen to the stories of those who come to us, wishing to convert to Judaism. It is a real privilege to be able to tell them, that after their year of study, synagogue attendance and involvement in Judaism that we are proud to welcome them into the Jewish community and announce, 'You are our brother.' or, 'You are our sister.'

Some have been extraordinary. The young man, from a remote area of Portugal, for example, who was told on his thirteenth birthday that he was Jewish, but that he must never, ever tell anyone. He came from a long line of Marranos, worshipping as Catholics publicly, and hiding their Judaism – it was a secret his family had kept since the 15th century. Imagine his surprise, when he came to London to find Jews living openly without fear or shame.

There was the girl who met a man on a beach in Thailand. A casual conversation that turned into a life changing experience as they fell in love. He was Israeli – and it is in Israel they now live. And the woman on her death bed. Her husband had been Jewish and now, twenty years after his passing, she wanted to join him in his faith in the last hours of her own life.

West London synagogue has one of the best conversion programmes in the country and speaking to students on the course I am struck by the hugeness of their decision.

In our portion this week, God tells Abraham to leave his house, his parents and his country to go somewhere else – somewhere unknown that God will show him. The Hebrew term is *Lech lecha*. Which is variously translated as 'Go! Go!' 'Go for yourself,' or 'Go for your own sake.' It takes courage to leave all that is familiar behind and embark on a journey the end result of which is beyond your knowledge or understanding, but that is exactly what our 'Jpreppies' are doing.

Like Abraham and Sarah, the first converts to Judaism, they are leaving their past behind them and embarking on a journey into Judaism, - a journey that will take them to the Bet Din and beyond – who knows where? A Journey that will continue with them, for the rest of their lives.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 27 October

1.00pm: The Library Hour

Guest speaker: Debbie Sonin, speaking on the evolution of Jewish food

The Bob Shafritz Library opens its doors to all, immediately after the Kiddush following the Shabbat morning service. You can browse the shelves, talk to the Librarian, and borrow and return books. For further information please email Debbie Sonin at dsonin22@gmail.com

Sunday 28 October

10.30am: Lyons Learning Project Women of Westminster Walking Tour

Join Blue Badge Guide and author Rachel Kolsky and discover some fascinating women who battled, debated, campaigned and fought.

Cost £15 (students on 'Sister Suffragette' can attend as part of their course fee, other places are limited). Full details of start and finish location to be provided on booking (begins near Parliament).

Contact admin@lyonslearning.org.uk for more information or to book.

6.30pm: Charitable Fund Supper Quiz

Join us for an evening of fun food and an opportunity to display your extensive range of general knowledge, in aid of Dementia UK & Zichron Mennachem. The annual Raffle will be drawn, extra tickets can be bought on the night. Suggested voluntary donation: £25 per person, tables of 10 available.

Please note: advance ticket sales only. Contact Vivien Rose on 07831 094 202.

Monday 29 October

6.30pm: CBT Cafe

This month: 'Maintaining relationship when you don't feel up to it'

The CBT Café is a partnership between WLS and Sophie and Emma, who founded their company, 'Unravelling Minds', in order to help lessen the stigma surrounding mental health.

TheCafé is a place for those with lived experience of mental health, whether in their own lives or family or friends or those whom they work with professionally to come and share experiences and meet new people and help dissolve the stigma too often associated with mental health issues. It is a non-therapeutic environment for people to meet each other.

So drop in, unwind and learn, and what better way to do this than over a cup of tea and a piece of cake. After all, mental health is for everyone, just like cake!

RSVP appreciated but not essential. Cake donations welcomed! For more details or to RSVP, contact Tirza on 020 7535 0278 or tirza.waisel@wls.org.uk