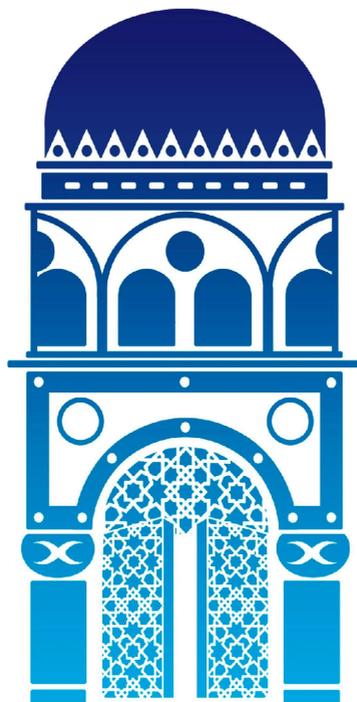


WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

ק"ק שער ציון

WELCOMES YOU



שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

SHABBAT SHALOM

31 May/ 1 June 2019

27 Iyyar 5779

SHABBAT SHALOM AND WELCOME TO WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

FRIDAY

6.00pm:

Erev Shabbat Service

Led by Rabbi Helen and Rabbi David

Sermon by: Rabbi David

Wardens:

Gillian Westwood, Vivien Feather and Steven Rowe

Beadle:

Monica Jankel

SATURDAY

10.30am:

Coffee Morning

11.00am:

Shabbat Morning Service

Led by Rabbi Helen and Rabbi Sybil

Sermon by: Rabbi Sybil

Wardens:

Gillian Westwood, Vivien Feather and Steven Rowe

Beadle:

Monica Jankel

Torah:

Numbers 1:1-19

Haftarah:

II Samuel 24:1-14

Please join us for Shabbat kiddush after the service.

Doctor or fully trained first aider?

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

PARASHAT B'MIDBAR

The second book of the Torah, Exodus, concludes with a description for setting up the sanctuary on the first day of the first month of the second year after the Israelites leave Egypt. The fourth book of the Torah, known in Hebrew as *B'midbar*, or "in the desert," or in English as Numbers, begins with God commanding Moses to take a census of the entire Israelite community. The commandment is given on the first day of the second month of the second year after the Israelites' departure from Egypt. All males over the age of twenty are counted, and it is reported that there is a total of 603,550. This number excludes 22,000 Levites, who are exclusively responsible for all services of the sanctuary and are to camp around the sanctuary at all times. After counting all firstborn Israelite males over the age of one month, Moses is instructed to compare their number of 22,273 with the total of 22,000 Levites and to charge a redemption tax for the additional 273. It is to be paid to Aaron and his sons for service to the sanctuary. Moses also lists and counts the Kohathites separately from the Levites since the Kohathites are responsible for lifting and carrying the sacred objects of the sanctuary. They are not to be present when the sanctuary is either dismantled or set up.

COMMUNITY NEWS

We extend a warm Mazel tov to:

- Jack Olsher and his family on Jack's Bar Mitzvah.

וַיֹּדְבֵר יְיָ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְבַר סִינַי בְּאֶהָל מוֹעֵד בְּאַחַד לַחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁנִי
 בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁנִית לְצֵאתְכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לֵאמֹר: ^אשְׂאוּ אֶת־רֹאשׁ
 כָּל־עֵדֹת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתֵם לְבֵית אֲבֹתְכֶם בְּמִסְפָּר שְׁמוֹת
 כָּל־זָכָר לְגִלְגֻלְתֵּם: ^במִבֶּן עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וְיָמְעָלָה כָּל־יֵצֵא צֶבֶא בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל
 תִּפְקְדוּ אֹתָם לְצִבְאוֹתֵם אֹתָהּ וְאֶהְרֹן: ^גוְאֹתְכֶם יִהְיוּ אִישׁ אִישׁ לְמִטָּה
 אִישׁ רֹאשׁ לְבֵית־אֲבֹתָיו הוּא: ^דוְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר יַעֲמְדוּ
 אִתְּכֶם לְרֹאשׁוֹן אֱלִיצוּר בֶּן־שִׁדְיָאוּר: ^הלְשִׁמְעוֹן שְׁלֹמִיאֵל בֶּן־צוּרִישַׁדִּי:
^ולְיִהוּדָה נַחֲשׁוֹן בֶּן־עַמִּינָדָב: ^זלְיִשָּׁשָׁר נַתַּנָּאֵל בֶּן־צוּעָר: ^חלְזַבּוּלוֹן
 אֱלִיאָב בֶּן־חֲלוֹן: ^טלְבִנְיָמִן יוֹסֵף לְאֶפְרָיִם אֱלִישַׁמֶּע בֶּן־עַמִּיהוּד לְמִנְשֶׁה
 גַּמְלִיאֵל בֶּן־פְּדָהצוּר: ^ילְבִנְיָמִן אֲבִידֹן בֶּן־גְּדֵעֲנִי: ^{יא}לְדָן אַחִיעֶזֶר
 בֶּן־עַמִּישַׁדִּי: ^{יב}לְאֲשֶׁר פְּגַעִיאֵל בֶּן־עַכְרֹן: ^{יג}לְלֵד אֶלְיָסָף בֶּן־דְּעוּאֵל:
^{יד}לְנַפְתָּלִי אַחִירַע בֶּן־עֵינָן: ^{טו}אֵלֶּה קְרִיאֵי [קְרוּאֵי] הָעֵדָה נְשִׂאֵי מִטּוֹת
 אֲבוֹתֵם רֹאשֵׁי אֲלֵפֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הֵם: ^{טז}וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה וְאֶהְרֹן אֶת הָאֲנָשִׁים
 הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר נִקְבּוּ בְּשֵׁמוֹת: ^{יז}וְאֵת כָּל־הָעֵדָה הִקְהִילוּ בְּאַחַד לַחֹדֶשׁ
 הַשְּׁנִי וַיִּתְּלְדוּ עַל־מִשְׁפְּחֹתֵם לְבֵית אֲבֹתְכֶם בְּמִסְפָּר שְׁמוֹת מִבֶּן
 עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וְיָמְעָלָה לְגִלְגֻלְתֵּם: ^{יח}כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְיָ אֶת־מֹשֶׁה וַיִּפְקְדֵם
 בְּמִדְבַר סִינַי:

NUMBERS 1:1-19

¹The Eternal one spoke to Moses in the tent of meeting in the Desert of Sinai on the first day of the second month of the second year after the Israelites came out of Egypt. He said: ²“Take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man by name, one by one. ³You and Aaron are to count according to their divisions all the men in Israel who are twenty years old or more and able to serve in the army. ⁴One man from each tribe, each of them the head of his family, is to help you. ⁵These are the names of the men who are to assist you: from Reuben, Elizur son of Shedeur; ⁶from Simeon, Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai; ⁷from Judah, Nahshon son of Amminadab; ⁸from Issachar, Nethanel son of Zuar; ⁹from Zebulun, Eliab son of Helon; ¹⁰from the sons of Joseph: from Ephraim, Elishama son of Ammihud; from Manasseh, Gamaliel son of Pedahzur; ¹¹from Benjamin, Abidan son of Gideoni; ¹² from Dan, Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai; ¹³from Asher, Pagiel son of Okran; ¹⁴from Gad, Eliasaph son of Deuel; ¹⁵from Naphtali, Ahira son of Enan.” ¹⁶These were the men appointed from the community, the leaders of their ancestral tribes. They were the heads of the clans of Israel. ¹⁷Moses and Aaron took these men whose names had been specified, ¹⁸and they called the whole community together on the first day of the second month. The people registered their ancestry by their clans and families, and the men twenty years old or more were listed by name, one by one, ¹⁹as the Eternal One commanded Moses. And so he counted them in the Desert of Sinai.

II SAMUEL 24:1-14

The anger of Adonai again flared up against Israel; and God incited David against them, saying, "Go and number Israel and Judah." The king said to Joab, his army commander, "Make the rounds of all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beer-sheba, and take a census of the people, so that I may know the size of the population." Joab answered the king, "May Adonai your God increase the number of the people a hundredfold, while your own eyes see it! But why should my lord king want this?" However, the king's command to Joab and to the officers of the army remained firm; and Joab and the officers of the army set out, at the instance of the king, to take a census of the people of Israel. They crossed the Jordan and encamped at Aroer, on the right side of the town, which is in the middle of the wadi of Gad, and [went on] to Jazer. They continued to Gilead and to the region of Tahtim-hodshi, and they came to Dan-jaan and around to Sidon. They went onto the fortress of Tyre and all the towns of the Hivites and Canaanites, and finished at Beer-sheba in southern Judah. They traversed the whole country, and then they came back to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. Joab reported to the king the number of the people that had been recorded: in Israel there were 800,000 soldiers ready to draw the sword, and the men of Judah numbered 500,000. But afterward David reproached himself for having numbered the people. And David said to Adonai, "I have sinned grievously in what I have done. Please, Adonai, remit the guilt of Your servant, for I have acted foolishly." When David rose in the morning, the word of Adonai come to the prophet Gad, David's seer: "Go and tell David, 'Thus said Adonai hold three things over you; choose one of them, and I will bring it upon you.'" Gad came to David and told him; he asked, "Shall a seven-year famine come upon you in the land, or shall you be in flight from your adversaries for three months while they pursue you, or shall there be three days of pestilence in your land? Now consider carefully what reply I shall take back to God who sent me." David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hands of Adonai, for God's compassion is great; and let me not fall into the hands of men."

RABBI DAVID'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK v

These days societal trends encourage us to count everything - calories, steps, likes, money, votes, heartbeats and even friends. Of course, there is nothing wrong with taking stock, as is done in this week's Torah portion when the Israelites are named and counted at the beginning of the Book of Numbers. Likewise, counting can be a healthy way to mark a transition; right now we are counting the Omer, the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot, or, if you're still counting calories, between matzah and cheesecake. And yet, all this counting can become obsessive, especially when we focus more on what we have not achieved than on what we have. That is when our tradition tells us to stop and take stock in a very different way - appreciating not just what we've counted off, but also all those things we've failed to enjoy. As a less well-known passage in the Jerusalem Talmud teaches us: "*Rabbi Chizkiyah said in the name of Rav, at the end of your life you will give reckoning for everything your eyes saw which, although permissible, you did not enjoy*" (Kiddushin 4:12). In other words, count by all means, but don't spend so much time calculating every aspect of your life that you miss out on what truly counts.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 2 June

6.00pm: Meet the Author: 'Where Moses Stood - Shattering Biblical & Historical Illusions', with Robert Feather

Robert Feather's explorations in the Sinai Desert over four years, have confirmed the Exodus did take place, and revealed the exact location where Moses stood to receive the Ten Commandments, and the circumstances of the progression of the Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land.

Join us to hear these fascinating theories, from a seasoned author on the Copper Scroll of Qumran, who has also researched the origins of the Abrahamic faiths in the reign of the radical Pharaoh Akhenaton around 1350 BCE, and the role of Moses and a priestly community by the Dead Sea in the passing down of events and customs through the ages.

All warmly welcomed to this, the latest in our Meet The Author series.

For security reasons, please book you place in advance with Robert Feather at a8oct@btinternet.com.

BOOK NOW FOR DINNER!

**Saturday 8 - Sunday 9 June
Chosen? Tikkun Leyl Shavuot**

A NIGHT OF CHOICES...

18.00: Erev Shavuot Service

19.00: Communal Kiddush

19.15: Dinner & Quiz - £25, £15 conc.

Please book ahead with Kathryn on 020 7535 0259 or
kathryn.forro@wls.org.uk

21.00: Ask the Rabbis Panel

21.30: Plenary - 'Are WE the Chosen People?'

22.15: Choose Your Pudding - Dessert Buffet

22.50: ALL NIGHT STUDY

04.45: Shacharit Rooftop Service