

WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

ק"ק שער ציון

WELCOMES YOU



שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

SHABBAT SHALOM

12/13 July 2019

10 Tammuz 5779

SHABBAT SHALOM AND WELCOME TO WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

FRIDAY

6.00pm:

Erev Shabbat Service

Led by Rabbi Helen and Rabbi Sybil
Sermon by: Fadila Efendic (Guest)

Wardens:

Gillian Westwood, Vivien Feather and Liliane Chan

Beadle:

Monica Jankel

SATURDAY

10.30am:

Coffee Morning

11.00am:

Shabbat Morning Service

Led by Rabbi David and Rabbi Neil
Sermon by: Rabbi Neil
Torah Read by: Anthony Stewart, Zachary Carruthers
and Rabbi David

Wardens:

Gillian Westwood, Vivien Feather and Liliane Chan

Beadle:

Monica Jankel

Torah:

Numbers 22:2-11

Haftarah:

Micah 6:1-8

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 BALAK

Parashat Balak takes its title from Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab. Afraid that the Israelites will attack his nation, Balak sends messengers to invite Bala'am ben Beor, a well-known pagan prophet, to come and curse the people of Israel. At first, God forbids Bala'am to grant Balak's request. Then the seer is sent but told that he must say only what God commands. On the way, Bala'am's donkey sees an angel standing before her and refuses to go forward. Bala'am beats her. After the donkey protests that she is being mistreated, Bala'am himself sees the angel. Fearful, he asks if he should return home, but the angel tells him to continue, warning once again that he is to say only what God commands. On three occasions King Balak asks Bala'am to curse the Israelites, but each time the seer blesses them. Furious, Balak tells Bala'am to return home. In parting, the seer predicts that Israel will soon "smash the brow of Moab." Later, when the Israelites camp in Shittim, they have sexual relations with Moabite women and offer sacrifices to the Moabites'god. As a result they are punished with a plague. When Pinchas, son of Eleazar the priest, witnesses an Israelite entering a tent with a Moabite woman, he takes a spear and kills both of them. His action ends the plague after 24,000 Israelites have died.

COMMUNITY NEWS

We extend a warm Mazel tov to:

- Maurice and Carole Stanton on their wedding anniversary.

PLEASE NOTE:

We will be closing the Sanctuary for annual maintenance works, from Sunday 21 July and will re-open on Friday 16 August. Whilst this is going on, please use the 33 Seymour Place entrance as all services will be held in the Stern Hall.

ב וַיֵּרָא בָלַק בֶּן־צֹפּוֹר אֶת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאַמְרֵי: ג וַיִּגֵּר מוֹאָב מִפְּנֵי הָעָם מֵאֵד כִּי רַב־הוּא וַיִּקְחָז מוֹאָב מִפְּנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: ד וַיֹּאמֶר מוֹאָב אֶל־זִקְנֵי מִדְּוָן עֲתִידָה יִלְחָכוּ הַקְּהֵל אֶת־כָּל־סִבִּיבֹתֵינוּ כְּלַחֲדֵי הַשּׁוֹר אֶת יֶרֶק הַשָּׂדֶה וּבְלַק בֶּן־צֹפּוֹר מֶלֶךְ לְמוֹאָב בָּעֵת הַהוּא:

ה וַיִּשְׁלַח מִלְאָכִים אֶל־בַּלְעָם בֶּן־בְּעוֹר פְּתוּרָה אֲשֶׁר עַל־הַנֶּהָר אֲרָץ בְּנֵי־עַמּוֹ לְקַרְאֵלוֹ לֵאמֹר הֲנִיחָה עִם יִצְחָק מִמִּצְרַיִם הֲנִיחָה כֶּסֶף אֶת־עֵין הָאָרֶץ וְהוּא יֵשֵׁב מִמְּלִי: ו וְעַתָּה לְכֵה־נָא אָרְה־לִּי אֶת־הָעָם הַזֶּה כִּי־עָצוּם הוּא מִפְּנֵי אוֹלֵי אוֹכְלֵי נֶכֶד־בּוֹ וְאַגְרָשְׁנוּ מִן־הָאָרֶץ כִּי יִדְעֹתִי אֶת אֲשֶׁר־תִּבְרָךְ מִבְּרָךְ: וְאֲשֶׁר תֵּאָר יוֹאָר: ז וַיִּלְכּוּ זִקְנֵי מוֹאָב וַיִּזְקְנוּ מִדְּוָן וַיִּקְסְמוּ בִידָם וַיִּבְאוּ אֶל־בַּלְעָם וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֵלָיו דְּבַרֵי בָלַק:

ח וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם לֵינוּ פִהּ הַלִּילָה וְהִשְׁבַּתִּי אֶתְכֶם דְּבַר כְּאֲשֶׁר יִדְבֹר יְיָ אֵלַי וַיִּשְׁבוּ שְׂרֵי־מוֹאָב עִם־בַּלְעָם: ט וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים אֶל־בַּלְעָם וַיֹּאמֶר מִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה עִמָּךְ: י וַיֹּאמֶר בַּלְעָם אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים בָּלַק בֶּן־צֹפּוֹר מֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב שָׁלַח אֵלָי: יא הֲנִיחָה הָעָם הַיִּצְחָק מִמִּצְרַיִם וַיִּכַּס אֶת־עֵין הָאָרֶץ עַתָּה לְכֵה קְבֵה־לִּי אֹתוֹ אוֹלֵי אוֹכְלֵי לֶהֱלַחֵם בּוֹ וַיַּגִּישׁוּתָיו:

NUMBERS 22:2-11

And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. 3 And Moab was so afraid of the people, because they were many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel. 4 And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time.

5 He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me: 6 Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed. 7 And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak.

8 And he said unto them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the Eternal One shall speak unto me: and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam. 9 And God came unto Balaam, and said, What men are these with thee? 10 And Balaam said unto God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me, saying, 11 Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and drive them out.

MICAH 6:1-8

Hear now what the Eternal One says; Rise; contend with the mountains, and may the hills hear My voice. Hear ye, O mountains, the controversy of the Eternal One; and you mighty ones, the foundations of the earth; for God has a controversy with His people, and with Israel He shall contend. O My people, what have I done, and how have I wearied you? Testify against Me. For I brought you up out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. My people, remember now what Balak king of Moab planned, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him. From Shittim to Gilgal, may you recognize the righteous deeds of the Eternal One. With what shall I come before the Eternal One, bow before the Most High God? Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with yearling calves? Will the Eternal One be pleased with thousands of rams, with myriad streams of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has told you, O man, what is good, and what the Eternal One demands of you; but to do justice, to love loving-kindness, and to walk discreetly with your God.

RABBI JULIA'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK^v

Last Shabbat was quite extraordinary. Friday night we celebrated with the Israeli soldiers who were with us as part of the Peace of Mind programme. The synagogue was packed for a joyous and noisy combo service, and our guests looked on bemused. They don't see many services like that in Israel! And later in the evening our guests told us a little about fighting in Lebanon, and the loss of their fellows. This is our fourth year hosting, but I have never seen our members so moved by a calm and factual account of battles and loss.

Then on Shabbat morning we had one big service, combining what had been a separate Pride service with our regular service. Long overdue, and very moving once again, with an amazing address by Sir Terry Etherton. And then, as if that were not enough, on Sunday morning we said goodbye to our guests, and in the afternoon Leo Baeck College's ordination service was held at WLS in the heat. Once again, hugely moving. The graduating year had experienced a great deal of loss between them, and that was mentioned, and became a theme of how to grow as rabbis, experiencing loss and using that experience to become supportive to others.

And on Friday, before all this started, we had celebrated a wedding in the synagogue. So we had all the emotions in one weekend- sadly, we lost two members and marked their passing before Kaddish. Joy and sadness, light and shade, huge enthusiasm, and abundant sorrow. It's a cliché to say it, but our ways of celebrating and grieving give us strength and a way to move almost effortlessly from one to another. Those who have died will of course be remembered, but I hope those who are living got a sense of the strength our faith can give us when we are together as a group.

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday 18 July

12.15pm: Seymour Group Lunch

With guest speaker: Lili Loebel-Todes – 'Don't ask me where I come from' How a refugee from Nazi Germany became a UN correspondent.

PLEASE NOTE THE COST IS £15 payable at the door. Book early by phoning Hermy Jankel on 020 7722 8489. If unavailable please leave a clear message. Cancellations only accepted before 10am on the preceding Monday. Otherwise you will be charged. Parking? We aim to finish by 2.30pm.

Saturday 27 July

1.00pm: The Library Hour

Orlando Ortega-Medina is going to give a talk on his newly published book, *The Death of Baseball...* if you are going to read one book this summer - then this is the one to read. He will also be discussing Chaim Potok (*My Name is Asher Lev*) and Isaac Bashevis Singer (*The Magician of Lublin*).

WLS TRIP TO INDIA: 9-22 January 2020

Follow in the footsteps of Jews who traveled to India and made their home there - from the time of King Solomon to the 20th century. Our trip takes us to Mumbai and Kerala and includes visits to local villages, synagogues, tea estates and museums...plus time to enjoy the wonderful culture and fabulous food.

£1930pp excluding international flights.

Contact sybil.sheridan@wls.org.uk for details.

Join us on Tuesday 23 July at 7.00pm, where we will run through our exciting itinerary and answer any questions you might have.