

WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

ק"ק שער ציון

WELCOMES YOU



שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

SHABBAT SHALOM

13/14 September 2019

14 Elul 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:

Vivien Feather, Liliane Chan and Stewart Sether

Beadles:

Monica Jankel and Orlando Ortega-Medina

SATURDAY

10.30am:

Coffee Morning

11.00am:

Shabbat Morning Service

Led by Rabbi David and Rabbi Neil

Sermon by: Rabbi David

Torah Read by: Mia Beim (Bat-Mitzvah)

Wardens:

Vivien Feather, Liliane Chan and Stewart Sether

Beadles:

Monica Jankel and Orlando Ortega-Medina

Torah:

Deuteronomy 22:1-12

Haftarah:

Amos 5:14-24

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 KI TEITZEI

This parashah begins with a series of laws that attempt to establish boundaries in difficult situations. A man may marry a beautiful captive taken in war, but must allow her to mourn her parents and may not set her aside. If he marries two women, allowed in biblical times, he may not favour the children of the preferred wife. More controversial is the law of the 'stubborn and rebellious son' who was judged by the elders and if he didn't repent, was stoned. The Talmud was clearly uncomfortable with this law and hedged it around with enough provisos to make sure it never happened. Chapter 21 ends with a rule that even the corpse of a criminal must be cut down before nightfall. Chapter 22 includes a variety of ethical laws, including the famous one about the birds nest, if you are taking the eggs, you must chase the mother bird away to live another day. Chapter 23 includes the rules of exclusion from the community, specifically the 'mamzer', the product of a forbidden union. Chapter 24 gives legal restrictions motivated by compassion, allowing a new husband to stay home with his wife and denying a rich creditor the right to take a poor man's garment as a pledge. The agricultural laws ensured the poor had rights to glean in the field. Chapter 25 includes other significant laws, both the law of levirate marriage and the need to 'Remember Amalek' that we read each year before Purim.

COMMUNITY NEWS

We wish a warm Mazel Tov to:

- Mia Beim on her Bat Mitzvah.
- Jeremy Robson on his significant birthday.

א לֹא-תִרְאֶה אֶת-שׁוֹר אָחִיךָ אוֹ אֶת-שׁוֹר נֹדָחִים וְהִתְעַלַּמְתָּ מֵהֶם הַשֵּׁב תְּשִׁיבֵם לְאָחִיךָ: ב וְאִם-לֹא קָרֹב אָחִיךָ אֲלֶיךָ וְלֹא יָדַעְתּוּ וְאִסְפָּתוּ אֶל-תְּנוּךְ בֵּיתְךָ וְהִיָּה עִמָּךְ עַד דָּרַשׁ אָחִיךָ אֹתוֹ וְהִשְׁבַּתוּ לוֹ: ג וְכֹן תַּעֲשֶׂה לְחִמּוֹ וְכֹן תַּעֲשֶׂה לְשִׁמְלָתוֹ וְכֹן תַּעֲשֶׂה לְכָל-אֲבֹדֹת אָחִיךָ אֲשֶׁר-תֵּאבֹד מִמֶּנּוּ וּמִצִּאתָהּ לֹא תִוְכַל לְהִתְעַלֵּם: ד לֹא-תִרְאֶה אֶת-חִמּוֹר אָחִיךָ אוֹ שׁוֹרוֹ נֹפְלִים בַּדֶּרֶךְ וְהִתְעַלַּמְתָּ מֵהֶם הֵקֵם תִּקֵּים עִמּוֹ: ה לֹא-יִהְיֶה כְּלִי-גִבּוֹר עַל-אִשָּׁה וְלֹא-יִלְבַּשׁ גִּבּוֹר שִׁמְלַת אִשָּׁה כִּי תִזְעַבְתָּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ כָּל-עֲשֵׂה אֵלֶּה:

ו כִּי יִקְרָא קוֹרֵצִפּוֹר לִפְנֵיךָ בַּדֶּרֶךְ בְּכָל-עֵץ אוֹ עַל-הָאָרֶץ אֲפֹרָחִים אוֹ בִּיצִים וְהָאֵם רֹבֶצֶת עַל-הָאֲפֹרָחִים אוֹ עַל-הַבִּיצִים לֹא-תִקַּח הָאֵם עַל-הַבָּנִים: ז שְׁלַח תְּשַׁלַּח אֶת-הָאֵם וְאֶת-הַבָּנִים תִּקַּח-לָךְ לְמַעַן יֵיטֵב לָךְ וְהֶאֱרַכְתָּ יָמִים: ח כִּי תִבְנֶה בַּיִת חֲדָשׁ וְעָשִׂיתָ מַעֲקָה לְגִגְדוֹ וְלֹא-תִשֵּׂים דָּמִים בְּבֵיתְךָ כִּי-יִפֹּל הַנֶּפֶל מִמֶּנּוּ: ט לֹא-תִזְרַע בְּרִמָּה כְּלָאִים פְּרוֹ-תִקְדָּשׁ הַמְּלֶאֶה הַזֶּרַע אֲשֶׁר תִּזְרַע וְתִבּוֹאֶת הַכֶּרֶם:

י לֹא-תִחַרֵּשׁ בְּשׁוֹר-וּבַחֲמֹר יַחְדָּו: יא לֹא תִלְבַּשׁ שְׂעִטָּזוֹ צֶמֶר וּפְשָׁתִים יַחְדָּו: יב גְּדִלִים תַּעֲשֶׂה-לָךְ עַל-אַרְבַּע כַּנְפוֹת כְּסוּתֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר תִּכְסֶה-בָּהּ:

DEUTERONOMY 22:1-12

22 If you see your fellow Israelite's ox or sheep straying, do not ignore it but be sure to take it back to its owner. 2 If they do not live near you or if you do not know who owns it, take it home with you and keep it until they come looking for it. Then give it back. 3 Do the same if you find their donkey or cloak or anything else they have lost. Do not ignore it. 4 If you see your fellow Israelite's donkey or ox fallen on the road, do not ignore it. Help the owner get it to its feet. 5 A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the Eternal One your God detests anyone who does this.

6 If you come across a bird's nest beside the road, either in a tree or on the ground, and the mother is sitting on the young or on the eggs, do not take the mother with the young. 7 You may take the young, but be sure to let the mother go, so that it may go well with you and you may have a long life. 8 When you build a new house, make a parapet around your roof so that you may not bring the guilt of bloodshed on your house if someone falls from the roof. 9 Do not plant two kinds of seed in your vineyard; if you do, not only the crops you plant but also the fruit of the vineyard will be defiled.

10 Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together. 11 Do not wear clothes of wool and linen woven together. 12 Make tassels on the four corners of the cloak you wear.

AMOS 5:14-24

Seek good and not evil, That you may live, And that Adonai, the God of Hosts, May truly be with you, As you think. Hate evil and love good, And establish justice in the gate; Perhaps Adonai, the God of Hosts, Will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph. Assuredly, Thus said Adonai, Adonai, the God of Hosts: In every square there shall be lamenting, In every street cries of "Ah, woe!" And the farm hand shall be Called to mourn, And those skilled in wailing to lament; For there shall be lamenting In every vineyard, too, When I pass through your midst — said Adonai. Ah, you who wish for the day of Adonai! Why should you want The day of Adonai? It shall be darkness, not light! As if a person should run from a lion And be attacked by a bear; Or if a person got indoors, Should lean their hand on the wall And be bitten by a snake! Surely the day of Adonai shall be Not light, but darkness, Blackest night without a glimmer. I loathe, I spurn your festivals, I am not appeased by your solemn assemblies. If you offer Me burnt offerings - or your meal offerings - I will not accept them; I will pay no heed To your gifts of fatlings. Spare Me the sound of your hymns, And let Me not hear the music of your lutes. But let justice well up like water, Righteousness like an unfailing stream.

RABBI DAVID'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

This will be the first year that I cannot participate in a beautiful family ritual. Each year, as Rosh Hashanah approached, my deeply religious grandmother would arrange to see every one of her loved ones. A decade ago there would have been freshly baked honey-cake on the table. In more recent years, it was us bringing the honeyed treats to her bedside.

Although I visited my grandmother at least once a week, and spoke to her most days on my drive to the synagogue, this annual conversation was always very focused. After a few minutes of catching up, I would be asked to come and sit right next to her. She would hold my hands, look me in the eye and ask exactly the same question: "If, in the last year, I've done anything to hurt you, if I've failed you in any way, please will you forgive me?" The sincerity of her question, alongside her inability to have ever upset me, even once throughout my life, made it easy to reply without hesitation. I would then ask her the same question. When I was younger, I found the ritual a little awkward and formulaic. As the years went by, I came to relish it and to appreciate this ritual of genuine teshuvah (repentance).

Our tradition is very clear, you can pray all you like, you can do all sorts of actions to offset your guilt, but true teshuvah requires the hardest work of all, sitting down with the person whom you've hurt and asking for their forgiveness. As the Talmud states: "For sins that are between God and a person, Yom Kippur enables one to atone; but for sins that are between one person and another, Yom Kippur will not enable atonement until one has apologised to the other."

In a fortnight we will begin our Days of Awe. This year, with the passing of my grandmother, I no longer have the opportunity to take part in her beautiful ritual of teshuvah. Instead, I want to ask you, my congregants and friends, her heartfelt question: "If, in the last year, I've done anything to hurt you, if I've failed you in any way, please will you forgive me?"

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday 19 September

12.15pm: Seymour Group Lunch

Guest Speaker: Wing Commander Stephen Griffiths – ‘My Days as a Spy’. Stephen Griffiths was a career pilot in the RAF, a display pilot and flying instructor. He also worked for the Ministry of Defence in London, Norway and Belgium. £15 payable at the door.

Book early by phoning Hermy Jankel on 020 7722 8489. If she is unavailable please leave a clear message. Cancellations will only be accepted before 10am on the preceding Monday. Otherwise you will be charged. Parking? We aim to finish by 2.30pm.

Saturday 21 September

8.15pm: B’nei Brith European Days of Jewish Heritage & Culture and Selichot Service

Prepare for the High Holy Days with our moving choral Selichot service. The evening commences at 8.15pm in the Stern Hall with the chance to enjoy a glass of wine and special desserts and to meet up with old friends and make new ones. After that, we are privileged to have Rachel Kolsky, well known blue badge guide and expert in Jewish history, talk to us about Jewish history and heritage, with a special emphasis on West London Synagogue as we approach the 150th anniversary of our beautiful building.

This event is part of the B’nei B’rith European Day of Jewish Culture and Heritage so we will be welcoming visitors to our community.

We will make our way into the Sanctuary just before 10pm for a communal Havdalah followed by our beautiful and moving service, gently taking us into the Days of Awe.

Sunday 29 September

6.00pm: Erev Rosh Hashanah Intergenerational Family Seder

Come join Rabbis Julia and Helen as we experience a new departure for WLS, a partly Sephardi style Seder for Erev Rosh Hashanah, with a meal and service around the table. It’s fun for the children and educational for all.

Cost: £29.50 – Member

£35.00 – Non member

£15.00 - Children up to 12

Contact Kathryn on 020 7535 0259 or email kathryn.forrer@wls.org.uk