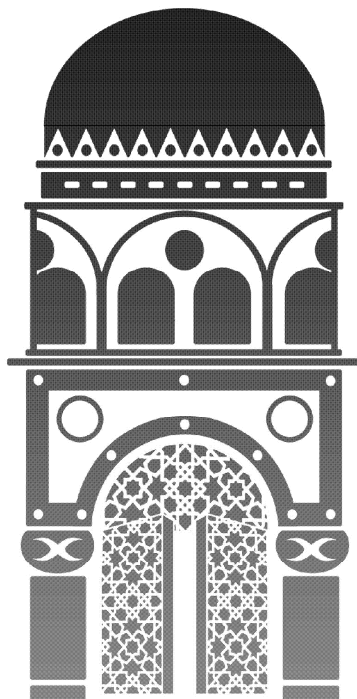


WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

ק"ק שער ציון

WELCOMES YOU



שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

SHABBAT SHALOM

20/21 September 2019

21 Elul 5779

SHABBAT SHALOM AND WELCOME TO WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

FRIDAY

6.00pm: **Erev Shabbat Service**
Led by Rabbi Sybil
Sermon by: Rabbi Sybil

7:15pm **Shabbat Shirah Service**
Led by Rabbi David

Wardens: Gillian Westwood, Oliver Walton and Steven Rowe
Beadles: Julia and Julian Markson

SATURDAY

10.30am: **Coffee Morning**

11.00am: **Shabbat Morning Service**
Led by Rabbi Helen and Rabbi David
Sermon by: Rabbi Helen
Torah Read by: Natasha Van der Zyl (Bat-Mitzvah)

Wardens: Gillian Westwood, Oliver Walton and Steven Rowe
Beadles: Julia and Julian Markson

Torah: Deuteronomy 26:1-12
Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-10 and 19:22

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 TAVO

Parashat Ki Tavo addresses the time when the Israelites will settle in the land of Israel. Moses instructs them to place in a basket the first fruits they have harvested and present them, together with a prayer, to the priest at the sanctuary. Their prayer is to be a formula recalling they were slaves in Egypt, liberated by God, and given the land whose first fruits they now enjoy. They are also to set aside a tenth part of their yield for the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and they are to keep all the commandments given to them. In this way they will be a treasured people to God. Moses and the elders tell them, when they have settled in the land, to write the commandments on large plastered stones and set them up on Mount Ebal, where they are also to build an altar to God. The representatives of the tribes of Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin are to stand on Mount Gerizim to hear the blessing describing the good times that will come as a result of observing God's commandments. Facing them on Mount Ebal, representatives from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali are to stand to hear the curse resulting from disobeying the commandments. God promises the Israelites blessings of plenty, security, and peace if they observe faithfully the teachings of Torah. Curses of destruction, agony, want, and exile will befall them if they spurn the teachings of Torah. "Observe faithfully all the terms of this covenant," Moses warns, "that you may succeed in all that you undertake."

COMMUNITY NEWS

We wish a warm Mazel Tov to:

- Natasha Van der Zyl on her Bat Mitzvah
- Sam Viner and Linda Wanders on their Auf Ruf
- Sebastian Viner on his baby neming ceremony
- Mark and Renee Gerson on their 70th wedding anniversary

א וְהָיָה כִּי־תָבֹא אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ נַחֲלָה וַיִּרְשָׁתָּהּ וַיִּשְׁבַּתָּ בָּהּ: ב וְלִקְחָתְךָ מִרְאשִׁית כָּל־פְּרִי הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר תֵּבֵיא מֵאֲרָצְךָ אֲשֶׁר יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ וּשְׂמַתָּ בַטֶּנָּא וְהִלַּכְתָּ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשִׁכְּוֹ שְׁמוֹ שָׁם: ג וּבָאתְךָ אֶל־הַכְּהֵן אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה בַיָּמִים הָהֵם וְאָמַרְתָּ אֵלָיו הִגַּדְתִּי הַיּוֹם לַיְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ כִּי־בָאתִי אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע יְיָ לְאַבְרָהָם לֵאמֹר:

ד וְלִקַּח הַכְּהֵן הַטֶּנָּא מִיָּדְךָ וְהִנִּיחוֹ לִפְנֵי מִזְבֵּחַ יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ: ה וְעָלִיתָ וְאָמַרְתָּ לִפְנֵי יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲרָמִל אֲבִד אָבִי וַיִּרְדּוּ מִצְרַיִמָּה וַיִּגְרַם שָׁם בְּמַתִּי מַעַט וַיְהִי־שָׁם לְגֹי גְדוֹל עָצוּם וָרָב: ו וַיִּרְעוּ אֹתָנוּ הַמִּצְרַיִם וַיַּעֲנוּנוּ וַיִּתְּנוּ עָלֵינוּ עֲבָדָה קָשָׁה: ז וַנִּצְעַק אֶל־יְיָ אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתֵינוּ וַיִּשְׁמַע יְיָ אֶת־קִלְנוּ וַיִּרְא אֶת־עֲנִינוּ וְאֶת־עַמְלָנוּ וְאֶת־לַחֲצָנוּ:

ח וַיּוֹצֵאֵנוּ יְיָ מִמִּצְרַיִם בְּיַד חֲזָקָה וּבְזֹרַע נְטוּיָה וּבְמָרָא גָדֹל וּבְאִתּוֹת וּבְמִפְתָּיִם: ט וּבִבְאֵנוּ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה וַיִּתֵּן־לָנוּ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת אֲרָץ זָבַת חֶלֶב וַיְדַבֵּשׁ: י וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה הִבֵּאתִי אֶת־דְּרָאשִׁית פְּרִי הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר־נָתַתָּה לִּי יְיָ וְהִנְחִיתוּ לִפְנֵי יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוִיתָ לִפְנֵי יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ: יא וּשְׂמַחְתָּ בְּכָל־הַטּוֹב אֲשֶׁר נָתַן־לָךְ יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ וּלְבִיתְךָ אַתָּה וְהַלְוִי וְהַגֵּר אֲשֶׁר בְּקִרְבְּךָ: יב כִּי תִכְלֶה לְעֹשֶׂר אֶת־כָּל־מַעֲשֶׂר תֵּבֹאוּ אֹתָךְ בַּשָּׂנָה הַשְּׁלִישִׁת שְׁנַת הַמַּעֲשֶׂר וְנָתַתָּה לְלוֹוִי לַגֵּר לַיְתוּם וְלָאֱלֻמָּה וְאָכְלוּ בְשַׁעֲרֶיךָ וּשְׂבָעוּ:

DEUTERONOMY 26:1-12

26 When you have entered the land the Eternal One your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, 2 take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the Eternal One your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the Eternal One your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name 3 and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the Eternal One your God that I have come to the land the Eternal One swore to our ancestors to give us."

4 The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the Eternal One your God. 5 Then you shall declare before the Eternal One your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. 6 But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labor. 7 Then we cried out to the Eternal One, the God of our ancestors, and the Eternal One heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression.

8 So the Eternal One brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. 9 He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; 10 and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, Eternal One, have given me." Place the basket before the Eternal One your God and bow down before him. 11 Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the Eternal One your God has given to you and your household. 12 When you have finished setting aside a tenth of all your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, you shall give it to the Levite, the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied.

ISAIAH 60:1-10 AND 19:22

Arise, shine, for your light has dawned; The Presence of Adonai has shone upon you! Behold! Darkness shall cover the earth, And thick clouds the peoples; But upon you Adonai will shine, And God's Presence be seen over you. And nations shall walk by your light, Kings, by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about: They have all gathered and come to you. Your sons shall be brought from afar, Your daughters like babes on shoulders. As you behold, you will glow; Your heart will throb and thrill - For the wealth of the sea shall pass on to you, The riches of nations shall flow to you. Dust clouds of camels shall cover you, Dromedaries of Midian and Ephah. They all shall come from Sheba; They shall bear gold and frankincense, And shall herald the glories of Adonai. All the flocks of Kedar shall be assembled for you, The rams of Nebaioth shall serve your needs; They shall be welcome offerings on My altar, And I will add glory to My glorious House. Who are these that float like a cloud, Like doves to their cotes? Behold, the coastlands await me, With ships of Tarshish in the lead, To bring your sons from afar, And their silver and gold as well - for the name of Adonai your God, For the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you. Aliens shall rebuild your walls, Their kings shall wait upon you - for in anger I struck you down, But in favour I take you back. No longer shall you need the sun For light by day, Nor the shining of the moon For radiance [by night]; for Adonai shall be your light everlasting, Your God shall be your glory. Your sun shall set no more, Your moon no more withdraw; for Adonai shall be a light to you forever, And your days of mourning shall be ended. And your people, all of them righteous, Shall possess the land for all time; They are the shoot that I planted, My handiwork in which I glory. The smallest shall become a clan; The least, a mighty nation. I Adonai will speed it in due time.

When I studied history at school, there was a great deal of memorizing of dates and Kings and Queens of England. It was a rather hierarchical view of the world that became unfashionable and was replaced with social history that studied the lives and challenges of ordinary people. Either way history is important, we can't have a sense of what is important unless we have knowledge of the past.

That is why ritual matters in Judaism, this week's Torah portion recounts the bringing of the first fruits, when the whole of Jewish history was recited at their presentation. That ritual, just like the ritual of a Passover Seder, brings the past to life and makes it relevant in the present.

Very soon we will be marking the Rosh Hashanah rituals, the synagogue and rabbis will be clothed in white and we will eat apples and honey, just as we do every year. It connects us to our Jewish ancestors, but also challenges us to renew the meaning each year. Apples and honey are wonderful, they herald a sweet New Year, but the apples also make us appreciate the bees who pollinate them and whose future is at risk by climate change. This sweet symbol of the New Year can reawaken our awareness of the need to cherish the natural world.

SEE YOU THERE

Saturday 21 September

1.00pm: The Library Hour

This month's guest speaker is Susan Greenberg who will be speaking on her newly published book *The Poetics of Editing*. This book is about how we all look at life, and in Susan's words how "to make room for reflection about what we put out into the world," and "the ability to see a text from different vantage points." This book examines how we shifted from "textual authority from religious and secular institutions to the romanticised self of the digital present."

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