

# WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

ק"ק שער ציון

WELCOMES YOU



שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

SHABBAT SHALOM

10/11 January 2020

7 Tevet 5780

# SHABBAT SHALOM AND WELCOME TO WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

## FRIDAY

**6.00pm:**

### **Erev Shabbat COMBO Service**

Led by: Rabbi Julia, Rabbi David & Rabbi Neil

Speaker: Ben McIntyre

**Wardens:**

Oliver Walton, Steven Rowe & Monica Jankel

**Beadles:**

Julia and Julian Markson

## SATURDAY

**10.30am:**

### **Coffee Morning**

**11.00am:**

### **Shabbat Morning Service**

Led by: Rabbi Sybil & Student Rabbi Elliott

Sermon by: Student Rabbi Elliott

**Wardens:**

Oliver Walton, Steven Rowe & Monica Jankel

**Beadles:**

Julia and Julian Markson

**Torah:**

Genesis 50:1-10

**Haftarah:**

I Kings II: 1-12

*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.

## SHABBAT VA-Y'CHI

*Va-Y'chi* may be translated "and he lived" and records the last years and death of Jacob. After living in Egypt for seventeen years, Jacob calls his son Joseph and his grandsons, Manasseh and Ephraim, to his bedside for a blessing. He asks Joseph to bury him with Abraham and Isaac at the cave of Machpelah. Afterwards he calls all of his sons to his side and blesses each one. When Jacob dies, Joseph and his brothers bury him in Hebron. After their father's death, Joseph's brothers begin to fear that Joseph will now punish them for selling him into slavery. He reassures them that they are safe and promises to care for them and their families. Joseph lives to the age of one hundred and ten. Just before he dies he tells his family that God will return them to the Land of Israel and instructs them to carry his bones up from Egypt at that time.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

We wish a warm Mazel Tov to:

- Sam Lewis on his Bar Mitzvah.

א וַיִּפֹּל יוֹסֵף עַל-פְּנֵי אָבִיו וַיִּבְדַּח עָלָיו וַיִּשְׁק-לוֹ: ב וַיִּצְוּ יוֹסֵף אֶת-עַבְדָּיו אֶת-הַרְפָּאִים לַחֲנוּט אֶת-אָבִיו וַיַּחֲנוּטוּ הָרַפָּאִים אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל: ג וַיִּמְלְאוּ-לוֹ אַרְבָּעִים לוֹם כִּי כֹן יִמְלְאוּ יְמֵי הַחַיִּטִּים וַיִּבְכּוּ אֹתוֹ מִצָּרִים שְׁבַעִים יוֹם:

ד וַיַּעֲבְרוּ יְמֵי בְכִיתוֹ וַיְדַבֵּר יוֹסֵף אֶל-בְּרִית פְּרָעָה לֵאמֹר אִם-נָא מְצַאֲתִי חַן בְּעֵינֶיכֶם דַּבְּרוּ-נָא בְּאָזְנֵי פְּרָעָה לֵאמֹר: ה אָבִי הִשְׁבִּיעַנִי לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי מֵת בְּקִבְרֵי אֲשֶׁר כְּרִיתִי לִי בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן שָׁמָּה תִקְבְּרֵנִי וְעַתָּה אֶעֱלֶה-נָא וְאֶקְבְּרָה אֶת-אָבִי וְאֲשׁוּבָה: ו וַיֹּאמֶר פְּרָעָה עֲלֶה וְקַבֵּר אֶת-אָבִיךָ כַּאֲשֶׁר הִשְׁבִּיעָךָ:

ז וַיַּעַל יוֹסֵף לְקַבֵּר אֶת-אָבִיו וַיַּעֲלוּ אֹתוֹ כָּל-עַבְדָּי פְּרָעָה זְקֵנֵי בֵיתוֹ וְכֹל זְקֵנֵי אֶרֶץ-מִצְרָיִם: ח וְכֹל בֵּית יוֹסֵף וְאֶחָיו וּבֵית אָבִיו רַק טַפָּס וְצֹאֲנָם וּבְקָרִים עֲזָבוּ בְּאֶרֶץ גֹּשׁוֹן: ט וַיַּעַל עִמּוֹ גַם-דָּרְכָב גַם-פָּרָשִׁים וַיְהִי הַמַּחֲנֶה כְּבֹד מְאֹד: י וַיָּבֵאוּ עַד-גֵּרֹן הָאֵטָד אֲשֶׁר בְּעֶבֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן וַיִּסְפְּדוּ-שָׁם מִסְפַּד גָּדוֹל וְכָבֵד מְאֹד וַיַּעַשׂ לְאָבִיו אֶבֶל שְׁבַעַת יָמִים:

## GENESIS 50:1-10

1 And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him. 2 And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father: and the physicians embalmed Israel. 3 And forty days were fulfilled for him; for so are fulfilled the days of those which are embalmed: and the Egyptians mourned for him threescore and ten days.

4 And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spake unto the house of Pharaoh, saying, If now I have found grace in your eyes, speak, I pray you, in the ears of Pharaoh, saying, 5 My father made me swear, saying, Lo, I die: in my grave which I have digged for me in the land of Canaan, there shalt thou bury me. Now therefore let me go up, I pray thee, and bury my father, and I will come again. 6 And Pharaoh said, Go up, and bury thy father, according as he made thee swear.

7 And Joseph went up to bury his father: and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, 8 And all the house of Joseph, and his brethren, and his father's house: only their little ones, and their flocks, and their herds, they left in the land of Goshen. 9 And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen: and it was a very great company. 10 And they came to the threshingfloor of Atad, which is beyond Jordan, and there they mourned with a great and very sore lamentation: and he made a mourning for his father seven days.

## I KINGS II: 1-12

When David's life was drawing to a close, he instructed his son Solomon as follows: "I am going the way of all the earth; be strong and show yourself a man. Keep the charge of Adonai your Sovereign, walking in Adonai's ways and following Adonai's laws, Adonai's commandments, Adonai's rules, and Adonai's admonitions as recorded in the Teaching of Moses, in order that you may succeed in whatever you undertake and wherever you turn. Then Adonai will fulfill the promise that Adonai made concerning me: 'If your descendants are scrupulous in their conduct, and walk before Me faithfully, with all their heart and soul, your line on the throne of Israel shall never end!'" "Further, you know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me, what he did to the two commanders of Israel's forces, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether: he killed them, shedding blood of war in peacetime, staining the girdle of his loins and the sandals on his feet with blood of war. So act in accordance with your wisdom, and see that his white hair does not go down to Sheol in peace. "But deal graciously with the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, for they befriended me when I fled from your brother Absalom; let them be among those that eat at your table. "You must also deal with Shimei son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim. He insulted me outrageously when I was on my way to Mahanaim; but he came down to meet me at the Jordan, and I swore to him by Adonai: 'I will not put you to the sword.' So do not let him go unpunished; for you are a wise man and you will know how to deal with him and send his gray hair down to Sheol in blood." So David slept with his fathers, and he was buried in the City of David. The length of David's reign over Israel was forty years: he reigned seven years in Hebron, and he reigned thirtythree years in Jerusalem. And Solomon sat upon the throne of his father David, and his rule was firmly established.

## RABBI SYBIL'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In synagogue this week we will be reading of the death of Jacob and how Joseph and his brothers took his body back to the land of Canaan for burial with his ancestors in the cave of Machpelah.

Bearing in mind the practice of speedy burial in Judaism, there are some rather bizarre decisions made in preparation for this journey. A host of Egyptians accompany the family, which shows the esteem in which the Egyptians held Joseph, but they take with them chariots and horsemen – an addition that seems unnecessary in the context of a funeral, but is probably deliberate to make one think about the Exodus. The only other places in Torah where chariots are mentioned are in reference to the escape by the Children of Israel across the Reed Sea. We have here, a pre-run of that Exodus story, confirmed by the strange route Joseph takes. Rather than go across the Sinai and due north to Hebron, he travels further east and up the other side of the Jordan, so that they must cross the river the same way the Israelites do on their re-entry into Canaan. The funeral cortege rests at Goren ha-Atad where the Egyptian entourage and extended family wait. Only Jacob's twelve sons carry him across the Jordan into the land and to his burial place, - just as their descendants the twelve tribes will carry the bones of Joseph across the river for burial, when the children of Israel return to their land.

There is more. Joseph does not ask Pharaoh directly if he can go to bury his father in Canaan – but request the household servants ask for him – rather strange for Pharaoh's right-hand man. He leaves all the children behind which is odd. Finally – it's those chariots again. The armed escort, maybe, was not to protect the group, but to ensure Joseph goes back to Egypt. Could it be that Pharaoh is concerned that Joseph might just take off and never return? Joseph maybe high up in Egyptian government, but that does not mean he is free to do as he wishes. In this, it appears, he is as much a slave to Pharaoh as are his descendants.

In just thirteen verses, we read the story of an exodus from Egypt. Next week, we begin to read the story of The Exodus for real. The parallels are not coincidence.

## SEE YOU THERE

### **Thursday 16 January**

#### **12.30pm: Seymour Group Lunch**

#### **Guest Speaker: Robin Michaelson – ‘London History Transplanted’**

£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 18 January**

#### **1.00pm: Library Hour**

#### **Guest speaker: Rabbi Sybil Sheridan**

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. Every month we invite a speaker to give a short talk about a favourite book of theirs in the collection. This is followed by a lively discussion.

For further information please email Debbie Sonin

### **Thursday 23 January**

#### **5.30pm: Rabbis Drinks**

All welcome to join the Rabbis for refreshments in the Samson Family Concourse

#### **6.30pm: In Concert with Natalie Clein**

Celebrated cellist and WLS member Natalie Clein illustrates beautifully with music her sister's readings of sacred and secular poetry. A lyrical evening in the magnificent setting of our Italian Moorish building. Tickets from £20, available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eretz](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eretz) or contact Kathryn on 020 7535 0259.

### **Sunday 26 January**

#### **6.00pm: International Holocaust Memorial Day: Standing Together *How One Synagogue Saved Children's Lives***

Rabbi Baroness Julia Neuberger and Rabbi Neil Janes, on behalf of West London Synagogue and the Lyons Learning Project, invite you to hear the incredible story of how West London Synagogue saved the lives of more than one hundred children in the Holocaust.

With guest speaker: Dr Jennifer Craig-Norton, world renowned scholar of the Kindertransport and refugee experiences.

RSVP for security and catering purposes by 16 January 2020 to Adi Ben-Naim on 020 7535 0291 or [admin@lyonslearning.org.uk](mailto:admin@lyonslearning.org.uk)