

CONDOLENCES *May G-d comfort you among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.*

Angela & Robert Ereira and Richard Ereira on the loss of a daughter & sister, **Sharon Ereira**

Margaret Althasen, Peter Denenberg & Ronnie Goldstein on the loss of a mother and sister, **Gertie Denenberg**

Yahrzeits *Rabbi Bar and the whole community wish the following members, Long Life.*

(Yahrzeits begin the night before the date below)

Shabbat – 13 January / 26 Tevet Mrs Helene Platman, Ms Hilary Platman, Mrs Jane Barnett, Mrs Sylvia Bennett

Sunday – 14 January / 27 Tevet Mrs Netta Harper, Prof John Harper, Mr Michael Kutner, Mrs Sandra Winston, Mrs Anita Salomon

Monday – 15 January / 28 Tevet Mrs Sylvia Bennett, Mrs Myra Wolfe, Mr Anthony Larholt, Mr Rodney Stone

Tuesday – 16 January / 29 Tevet Mrs Margaret Althasen, Mrs Joanne Marcon, Mr Norman Lapp, Mrs Betty Steel, Mr Richard Rubin, Mr Alan Shalet, Mrs Jacqueline Phillips

Wednesday – 17 January / 1 Shevat Mrs Betty Nathan, Mr David Black, Mr Gary Black, Mrs Freda Levy, Mr Mark Levy, Mrs Doreen Reindorp, Mr Alan Braden

Thursday – 18 January / 2 Shevat Mr Terry Leigh

Friday – 19 January / 3 Shevat Mr Ivor Finer, Mrs Andrea Robinson, Mrs Helena Rosenberg, Mrs Adrienne Sussman, Mrs Miranda Royston, Mrs Stacey Brown

VISITING THE SICK If you know anyone who would like a hospital or home visit from Rabbi Bar or a member of the *Community Care Committee*, please email swhcf@gmail.com or call Janice on 07752874065 or the Shul Office on 01702 344900.

REGULAR EVENTS & NOTICES

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| <p>Monday Club Resumes 15 Jan Social club with card games 11:45 - 3:30pm, Shul Hall Call Maurice 01702 351845</p> | <p>Bereavement Support Group Monday 29 Jan At the home of Martin Dorne Call Janice on 07752 874065</p> | <p>15 Minute Easy Insights on the weekly Sedra with sumptuous hot food Thursdays 8:45pm Men only</p> |
| <p>Cheder Classes Tuesdays rabbibar@gmail.com</p> | <p>AID Society Bridge 4 Feb Thorpe Bay Bridge Club Call Geoff Cohen 339601 or Jan Linden 343289</p> | <p>Pop-In Talmud Torah Tuesday 23 Jan 2pm-4pm Email Janice swhcf@gmail.com</p> |
| <p>SJYC – Youth Club New Sunday Club starting 14th Jan - Call Sarah Miller 07818 412425</p> | <p>Stock Rd Cemetery, SS2 5QF Sunday – Friday Winter 10am – 3pm GMT Summer 10am – 4pm BST</p> | <p>Ladies Guild Kiddushim Contact Lisa Berg on 07760141162 or swhc.org.uk/ladies-guild/#kiddush</p> |
| <p>Tree of Life - Shul Hall Mark your Simcha with a leaf on the tree for £110</p> | <p>Newsletter Sponsorship Contact the Shul Office £25 donation</p> | <p>J.A.C.S. Wednesdays Call Allan Goldstein 01268 771978 for more info</p> |



13 January 2018 | 26 Tevet 5778

Rabbi Binyamin Bar
Rabbi

Stanley Robinson
Geoffrey Pepper
Gabbaim

Finchley Road
Westcliff-on-Sea
Essex SS0 8AD

Telephone 01702 344900

Fax 01702 391131

Email shuloffice@swhc.org.uk

Website www.swhc.org.uk

Facebook facebook.com/swhc.org.uk



New Moon is Wednesday
17^h January 2:25am

We are delighted to welcome all members and guests/visitors today. Everyone is invited to the Kiddush after the service which we hope you will enjoy.

בס"ד



Newsletter No. 1018

SHABBAT VA'ERA

FRIDAY NIGHT

Shabbat commences 3:55pm
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 3:55pm

SHABBAT DAY

Shacharit 9:30am
Children's Service 11:00am
Kiddush & Mincha *follows the main service*

Shabbat ends 5:13pm
Ma'ariv 5:45pm

WEEKDAY SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAY

Shacharit 8:30am
Mincha 1:45pm
Ma'ariv 8:45pm

MONDAY & TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY (*Rosh Chodesh*)

THURSDAY

Shacharit 8:00am
Mincha 1:45pm
Ma'ariv 8:45pm

NEXT FRIDAY

Shacharit 8:00am
Shabbat commences 4:06pm
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:05pm

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|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Torah Reading | Rabbi Bar | Soncino pg 351 |
| Haftorah Va'era | Simon Belson | Soncino pg 372 |
| Blessing the New Month | Shevat | Sacks Siddur pg 424 |

If you would like to repeat your Bar Mitzvah Haftorah, please contact the Gabbaim.

PHARAOH'S FREE WILL *Thoughts on the Parsha*

In last week's Parasha, Moshe expressed reluctance to serve as Hashem's spokesman. He felt that his speech impediment could prevent him from carrying out his duties and felt that someone else be the spokesman. Hashem eventually agreed to his desires and proposed an alternate arrangement: Moshe would continue to communicate with Hashem, but Aharon would assume the role of spokesman.

The issue was settled, and Moshe and Aharon were about to set out for Pharaoh's palace for their first historic confrontation, when Hashem suddenly disclosed to Moshe a very surprising piece of news in this week's Parasha:

"I will make Pharaoh's heart hard, and will have the opportunity to display many miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt; this is why Pharaoh will not pay attention to you. But then I will display My power against Egypt, and with great acts of judgment I will bring forth from Egypt My hosts — My people, the children of Yisrael. When I display My power and bring the children of Yisrael out from among them, Egypt will know that I am G-d." (Shemot 7:3-5).

We read these verses every year and are therefore familiar with them. We rarely consider their true meaning even as they present some difficulty to understand. In essence Hashem was telling Moshe: "Do not expect much of Pharaoh, because I will harden his heart and will prevent him from listening to you. The purpose of this exercise is to inculcate the people of Egypt with the knowledge that I am Hashem, The Lord."

What is the purpose of Hashem hardening Pharaoh's heart and taking his free will away? It seems that Hashem's miraculous intervention, with the ten plagues etc, is for the sole objective of the Egyptian people recognizing that Hashem is the only G-d. This appears contrary to what we were always told that the ten plagues are in order to liberate the Jewish people from Egypt!

The Torah teaches us here that the real purpose of the confrontation between Moshe, Aharon and Pharaoh, was to heighten the Egyptian people's awareness of Hashem thereby influencing them to disengage from their perverse ways of slavery. In order to achieve this, the Jewish people's redemption was delayed a full year, their suffering prolonged, and the revelation of the Torah at Mount Sinai was likewise postponed. Sadly the Egyptian people did not heed nor did they take this opportunity for change for the better and the rest, as they say, is history.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Binyamin Bar

MAZEL TOV! *A hearty Mazel Tov from the SWHC Community!*

Hilary & Derek Lee on the occasion of the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Sophie (Bushey)
Jeffrey Simmons on the occasion of his 83rd Birthday
Geraldine & Harvey Symons on the occasion of their Diamond (60th) Wedding Anniversary
Sara & Michael Vandermolén on the birth of a granddaughter, Lyla Zoë, born to **Brooke & Sebastian Vandermolén** and to great grandmother, **Sylvia Vandermolén**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Shabbat 13th January | The Kiddush this week is in honour of our Chevra Kadisha. Please come along and show your support for this mitzvah. If anyone feels they would like to join this worthy team, please contact the Shul Office.

Sunday 14th January, 8pm | The Astor Palm Court Orchestra returns with 11 musicians! Tickets £10/£8 from Yael please email, concertseries@swhc.org.uk.

Tuesday 16th January, 7:30pm for 8pm | PaL – Phone and Learn Flexible Jewish Learning on any Jewish topic via phone or skype tutorial. Rabbi Shimshon Silkin will be speaking about "Seven Wonders of Jewish History". Refreshments will be served with a chance to meet the PaL team.

Shabbat 20th January | The Kiddush will be generously sponsored by **Miriam & Lawrence Goldman** and **Helen & Ilan Frankel** in celebration of **Ruby Frankel's** Batmitzvah.

Tuesday 23rd January, 8pm | Southend Learning Circles in association with SWHC. Led by Rabbi Aryeh Sufrin MBE & Mrs Sufrin of Chabad. Venues to be announced. To volunteer your home to host an evening or for more info, contact Mrs Sufrin 020 8551 8604/mrssufrin@chabadilford.co.uk

Friday 26th January, 12 noon | Holocaust Day Tree Planting Ceremony Marine Parade Gardens, opp Crescent Rd, Leigh on Sea.

Sunday 28th January, 3pm | Holocaust Day Commemoration Service, Council Chamber, Civic Centre. Music, reflections, poetry and an address by Holocaust survivor, Mr Manfred Goldberg. Free parking will be available in the Civic Centre car park off Carnarvon Road. There will also be an Exhibition on display.

Monday 29th January, 6:45pm Shul Hall | Tu B'Shvat JLS Evening Limmud-style event, catered by Suzanne Elman. 8-8:55pm Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, Lord Monroe Palmer - "A view from The Lords". 9-9:50pm BBC Musical presenter Philip Hyman - 'Leonard Bernstein as a Jewish Musician' OR Rabbi Bar - "Eruv 101: how does it work?". £12.50 per person, £22.50 per couple. Call the Shul Office to book your place by 21st January. For more info, call Rabbi Bar 01702 393535.

Sunday 4th February 10am | Meeting in Shul Hall. If you have a question to pose, kindly send it in to the Shul Office no later than Tuesday 30th Jan. The Shul Office will close at 10am on this Sunday.

Shabbat 10th February | Sit-down Cholent Lunch with Guest Speaker £10 per person. Please make payment to the Shul Office.

Sunday 25th February 6:30pm | AID Society Music Quiz, Shul Hall. For details and tickets, please contact Rochelle O'Brart 01702 719297.

REGULAR SHIURIM WITH RABBI BINYAMIN BAR

What's bothering Rashi? Short Parasha Shiur | Friday evenings at the Shul after the evening service. Men and women welcome. **Rabbi, I have a Shaila... Halacha Shiur** | Join in our lively and interactive Shiur, on Monday evenings at 8:15pm prior to the evening service at Rabbi Bar's home. Men and women welcome.

MEET THE RABBI in the Talmud Torah | Monday, Tuesday & Friday 10am-11am Sunday 10.30am-11.30am. Members of the community are welcome to "drop in" to see the Rabbi if they so wish or to make appointments to see him in the office later in the day by mutual agreement.

THE SHOP - NOW BEING SUPPLIED BY **KOSHER DELI**
Kosher fresh, frozen, dry and baked goods available locally Butchers & Delicatessen
Open: Thursday | 10am-4:30pm **Friday** | 8:30am-11:30am **Sunday** | 9:30am-11:30am
01702 430307 (during opening hours) / alanmarkovitch@yahoo.co.uk / 07956 597271