

(Yahrzeits begin the night before the date below)

Shabbat – 5 January/28 Tevet Mrs Sylvia Bennett, Mrs Myra Wolfe, Mr Anthony Larholt, Mr Rodney Stone

Sunday – 6 January /29 Tevet Mrs Margaret Althasen, Mrs Joanne Marcon, Mr Norman Lapp, Mrs Betty Steel, Mr Richard Rubin, Mr Alan Shalet, Mrs Jacqueline Phillips

Monday – 7 January /1 Shevat Mrs Betty Nathan, Mr David Black, Mr Gary Black, Mr Mark Levy, Mrs Doreen Reindorp, Mr Alan Braden

Tuesday – 8 January /2 Shevat Mr Terry Leigh, Mrs Bernice Abrahams, Mrs Wendy Secunda

Wednesday – 9 January /3 Shevat Mr Aaron David, Mr Ivor Finer, Mrs Andrea Robinson, Mr Stuart Fisher, Mrs Helena Rosenberg, Mr Derek Hyams, Mrs Adrienne Sussman, Mrs Miranda Royston, Mrs Stacey Brown

Thursday – 10 January /4 Shevat Mrs Netta Harper, Mr Henry Harris, Mrs Linda Riseman, Mrs Helen Davis

Friday – 11 January/5 Shevat Mrs Geraldine Symons

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

REGULAR EVENTS & NOTICES

<p>Monday Club Restart 14th January Social club with card games 11:45 - 3:30pm, Shul Hall Call Maurice 01702 351845</p>	<p>Bereavement Support Group Monday 28th January at the home of Angela & Robert Ereira Contact Janice Steel on 07752 874065</p>	<p>AID Society Bridge Sunday 6th January Thorpe Bay Bridge Club Call Geoff Cohen 339601 or Jan Linden 343289</p>
<p>Cheder Registration and welcome session 11am-12noon Sunday 6th January</p>	<p>J.A.C.S. Wednesdays Restart 16th January Call Allan Goldstein 01268 771978 for more info</p>	<p>Pop-In Shul Hall Tuesday 22nd Jan 2019, 2-4pm Email Jan swhcfc@gmail.com</p>
<p>Shul Library swhc.org.uk/facilities/library sonnykosky@blueyonder.co.uk 01702 589105</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>SIYC Watch out for details on the new weekly Club starting in January 2019!</p>



5th January 2019 | 28th Tevet 5779

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This week's Newsletter is kindly sponsored by Susan & David Baker, who are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jaimee, to Michael, son of Steve & Elaine Gee of London. Mazel Tov!



New Moon is on
Sunday 6th January at 11.13am

We extend a warm welcome to those attending our services this week and hope we will see you again soon.



Newsletter No.1069

SHABBAT VA'ERA

FRIDAY NIGHT

Shabbat begins/candle lighting 3:44pm
Mincha *then* Kabbalat Shabbat 3:45pm

SHABBAT DAY

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

Shabbat ends 5:03pm
Ma'ariv 5:30pm

(Shul car park gates will be open)

WEEKDAY SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAY

Shacharit 8:30am
Ma'ariv 8:00pm

MONDAY (Rosh Chodesh)

Shacharit 8:30am
Ma'ariv 8:00pm

TUESDAY - THURSDAY

Shacharit 8:30am
Ma'ariv 8:00pm

NEXT FRIDAY

Shacharit 8:30am
Shabbat begins/candle lighting 3:53pm
Mincha *then* Kabbalat Shabbat 3:55pm

Torah Reading	Tzvi Chaim Fraylich & Yosef Yehoshua Fraylich	Soncino Pg 351
Haftorah Va'era	Anthony Larholt	Soncino Pg 372
Blessing the New Month	Shevat	Sacks Singers Pg 424

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

THOUGHTS ON THIS WEEKS PARSHA *From Jeremy Symons*

Open miracles seem to be a very important part of our early Jewish history. In this week's Sedra, every Plague which struck Mitzraim (Egypt) blood, frogs, etc. were all such miracles. Each one represented a fantastic manipulation of nature which was turned upside down to help release B'nai Yisrael from their bondage.

To explain why the Ten Plagues had to be, we need to first explain the Jewish view on miracles in general. The main focal point is that all the processes which make up the physical universe are miraculous in itself. We have just become so used to it that we simply do not notice. Judaism holds that nature does not act independently of Hashem but, at the same time, Hashem created the laws of nature and certainly it goes without saying that Hashem is capable of doing whatever He likes, but He doesn't like to play around with the physical world and its workings. Therefore, those natural phenomena we witness with our own eyes are considered miracles because of their impeccable good timing.

The Ten Plagues however are a notable exception to this rule as they are clear examples of Hashem flipping the laws of nature on its end. We have hail which should be frozen that was consumed with fire; there is darkness so dense that no one can see or move; Plagues that affected the Egyptians but were not happening to anyone else living in close proximity.

This I believe is the reason why: 'Idolatry!' The whole essence of idol worship is the credence that every force in nature has a particular god that controls it. In Mitzraim they worshipped the Nile god, the Sun god, the Sheep god and hosts of others too. The Ten Plagues were designed by Hashem to demonstrate not just for the Jewish people and Egyptians living in that time but for all of humanity, until the end of time, that He alone controls all of nature and the physical world - there is nothing outside of His control which he cannot manipulate to do his bidding.

If we examine the plagues carefully we can readily see that each one was designed to show Hashem's control of all the forces in nature and its creations. Yet despite this, you cannot help to be amazed by the amount of resistance on the part of not just Pharaoh, but the whole of the population of Mitzraim, of not caring if the whole country is devastated by these continuous tragedies, just as long as B'nai Yisrael remained in their control.

I am convinced that, had the Egyptians learned from any if not all of the previous nine plagues, forcing Pharaoh to free B'nai Israel sooner because Hashem had proven he does not go around making idle threats, then Hashem would have never taken the drastic action of Killing their first born.

Everyone needs to take Hashem's warnings seriously. If not, then unfortunately, we just have to suffer the consequences. However, Hashem is fair, and will always allow anyone the chance to be spared if we do Teshuva and obey his wishes. May Hashem help all those who still need to learn this lesson today in order to make our world become a better place. *Amen*

MAZEL TOV! *A hearty Mazel Tov from the SWHC community.*

Rhoda Lever on her 90th Birthday.

Leslie Lesser on his 85th Birthday.

Maureen & Derek Hyams on their Emerald Wedding Anniversary.

Laraine & Roy Barnes on their Sapphire Wedding Anniversary.

Stephanie & Danny Greenbaum on the Batmitzvah of their grand-daughter, **Liora**. Held in Brisbane Synagogue on 29th December. Mazel tov to Liora's parents, **Marc & Simone Greenbaum**, and to the other grandparents, **Pamela & John Hunt** and to Liora's sister, **Elise**.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

This Shabbat 5th January | We have pleasure in welcoming back **Tzvi Chaim Fraylich & Yosef Yehoshua Fraylich**, who will be leining for us.

Sunday 6th January, 11am -12noon | **Cheder Registration and Welcome** Come along to register your children for the Spring term and meet our new Cheder teacher Mrs Yvonne Baxter and her teaching assistants. Refreshments will be served. Talmud Torah.

Next Shabbat 12th January | The Kiddush is generously sponsored by **Ruth & David Solomons** in celebration of **Lilly's Batmitzvah**. Mazel Tov to all the family!

Thursday 17th January, 7:30pm | **"Raid on Entebbe" MDA Event** An evening of "Grey Goose" and Chocolate Mousse with speaker Major Rami Sherman. Tickets £15 (no appeal) from Linda Burns 07968 103269 / itburns@hotmail.co.uk or Simon Belson 07774 778383 / simonbelson@aol.com.

Shabbat Beshalach 19th January | From the Gateshead Talmudic Centre, we welcome the return of **Dovid Chalk, Eli Hepner** and **Alex Krausher** who will be leading the services over Shabbat. They were last here nearly 2 years ago and after the morning service finished, the Wardens were besieged by members of the Community saying how much they were uplifted by the heart-stopping service & sermon. Everyone invited to the Kiddush which follows the service.

Sunday 20th January, 7:30pm | **Comedy Evening** with Rachel Creeger, celebrating Tu B'shevat (New Year for Trees). Tickets £10 members/£12.50 non members, to include fruit and tea refreshments and a Grand Raffle. Please contact the Shul Office on 01702 344900 or shuloffice@swhc.org.uk

Thursday 24th January, 6pm | **Holocaust Memorial Day** Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6ER. Guest speaker Dr Martin Stern OBE, a Holocaust Survivor, will be introduced by Rabbi Sufrin. There will also be music, poetry and readings. The event is free to attend and will be followed by refreshments provided by the Ladies Guild. Parking on site will be free for this event.

Friday 25th January, 12 noon | **Holocaust Memorial Tree Planting Ceremony**
The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Derek Jarvis will plant a tree at the junction of Maplin Way North & Bishopsteignton, SS3 8AD.

Shabbat Yitro 26th January | **Ann & David Wine** will be celebrating David's second Barmitzvah, Mazel Tov! We also have pleasure in welcoming the return of **Rabbi Eli Brunner**.

Just Kosher SWHC *Your one-stop Kosher Shop!*

If you want to place an order for collection:

EMAIL justkosherswhc@gmail.com PHONE/TEXT 07780 449081

OPENING HOURS	Monday 10am-1pm	Wednesday 10am-1pm
	Thursday 11am-5pm	Friday 9am-1pm
		Sunday 9.30am-12.30pm

Orders for ALL GOODS for Thursday collection MUST be placed by Monday 12 noon latest!