

the SHABBAT *Talk*

MAKE A NOTE OF IT

Friday Evening
30th December
 Service at 3:30pm

Thursday 5th January
Fast of Asarah B'Tevet
 Fast Commences: 6:17am
 Fast Ends: 4:54pm

Shabbat 21st January
 Harry Green and Jamie
 Scott's Bar Mitzvahs

Wednesday Evening
25th January
 Holocaust Day showing of
 paperclips film See Ad.

Shabbat 28th January
 Alexander Reuben's Aufruf

There is NO Cheder this week

PARSHAT "VAYIGASH"
 5 TEVET 5772 - 31 DECEMBER 2011
 FRIDAY EVENING: 7:00PM - SHABBAT MORNING: 9:00AM

THIS WEEKS' SEDRAH
 Soncino Chumash: p252 Hertz Chumash: p155 Living Torah: p200 ArtScroll: p222
Haftorah:
 Soncino Chumash: 1187 Hertz Chumash: p990 Living Torah: p1365 ArtScroll: p1212

Vayigash: With the discovery of the goblet in Binyamin's sack, the brothers are confused. Yehuda alone steps forward and eloquently but firmly petitions Yosef for Binyamin's release, offering himself instead. As a result of this act of total selflessness, Yosef finally has irrefutable proof that his brothers are different people from the ones who cast him into the pit, and so he now reveals to them that he is none other than their brother. The brothers shrink from him in shame, but Yosef consoles them, telling them that everything has been part of G-d's plan. He sends them back to their father Yaakov with a message to come and reside in the land of Goshen. At first, Yaakov cannot accept the news, but when he recognises hidden signs in the message which positively identify the sender as his son Yosef, his spirit is revived. Yaakov together with all his family and possessions sets out for Goshen. G-d communicates with Yaakov in a vision at night. He tells him not to fear going down to Egypt and its negative spiritual consequences, because it is there that G-d will establish the Children of Israel as a great nation even though they will be dwelling in a land steeped in immorality and corruption. The



Torah lists Yaakov's offspring and hints to the birth of Yocheved, who will be the mother of Moshe Rabbeinu. Seventy souls in total descend into Egypt, where Yosef is reunited with his father after 22 years of separation. He embraces his father and weeps, overflowing with joy. Yosef secures the settlement of his family in Goshen. Yosef takes his father Yaakov and five of the least threatening of his brothers to be presented to Pharaoh, and Yaakov blesses Pharaoh. Yosef instructs that, in return for grain, all the people of Egypt must give everything to Pharaoh, including themselves as his slaves. Yosef then redistributes the population, except for the Egyptian priests who are directly supported by a stipend from Pharaoh. The Children of Israel become settled, and their numbers multiply greatly.



This week's Haftorah - In the year 2964 - 797 b.c.e, following the death of Shlomo Hamelech (King Solomon), the nation was divided between Rechavam ben Shlomo and Yiravam ben Nivat. Rechavam ruled over Yehudah and Binyamin, and Yiravam ruled over the other 10 Tribes. Rechavam was a direct descendant of Dovid Hamelech, and Yiravam was a descendent of Ephrayim. In this week's Haftorah, Yechezkel Hanavi (Ezekiel) prophesied the time when the divided kingdom's of Yehudah and Yisroel would unite beneath the single banner of the family of King David.

The connection to our Parsha is obvious. Our Parsha begins with a confrontation between Yehuda and Yoseph. Both were destined to be Kings over the Jewish people. However, Yoseph's reign was limited to necessity and circumstance while Yehuda's would be as eternal as the Jews themselves.

It is important to note that the close relationship between Yehuda and Binyamin, even though they were not from the same mothers, was maintained throughout history. It gives additional meaning to the Rashi on pasuk 40:14 that explains why Yoseph and Binyamin cried for each other at the time of their reunion. Rashi explains that the tears were for the eventual destruction of the Mishkan and the Bais Hamikdash. In truth, the removal of Hashem's presence from our midst occurs when there is hatred and divisiveness. The Tribe of Binyamin should have been closest to Ephrayim and Menashe. Instead, the division of the Land placed Yehudah closest to Binyamin, allowing for a singular unity between the two tribes that would allow them to share the actual structure of the Bais Hamikdash. It was as if Hashem was telling us that Yehuda's willingness to sacrifice for Binyamin at the beginning of Parshas Vayigash is the kind of unity that will maintain Hashem's presence in our midst.

The coming of Mashiach can only happen when a divided nation reunites. May it happen soon, and in our life times!

The Tenth of Tevet (Thursday 5 January 2012)

Fast Commences: 6:17am - Fast Ends: 4:54pm

The Tenth of Tevet is one of the four fast days that commemorate dark times in Jewish history. The Tenth of Tevet marks the onset of the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylonia, and the beginning of the battle that ultimately destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple of Solomon, and sent the Jews into the 70-year Babylonian Exile. The date of the Tenth of Tevet is recorded for us by the prophet Yechezkel, who himself was already in Babylonia as part of the first group of Jews exiled there by Nebuchadnezzar, 11 years earlier than the actual destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem itself.



Maintaining Strong Family Bonds by Rabbi Berel Wein

As the story of Yosef and his brothers unfolds and reaches its climactic end in this week's parsha, we are left with the bewildering sense that there is no absolute right or wrong in the unfolding tale. Yosef is judged wrong in his original behaviour towards his brothers in bringing inaccurate tales regarding them to their father. The brothers are judged wrong in casting him in a pit and thereafter selling him into slavery.

All of the brothers including Yosef are judged to have caused their aged father pain and suffering in not revealing to him the story and Yosef himself is criticised for not revealing himself to Yaakov for the first nine years of his rise to power in Egypt. Yet in spite of all of the negativity and guilt involved, the Torah portrays the reunion of the family in happy and complimentary terms.

This is true even though all of them realise that the family will reside in Egypt for a long time and that the return to the Land of Israel is to be a long postponed dream yet to be realised. Families are not perfect and events within them do not always proceed smoothly. However the parsha emphasises that the family unit must overcome all of the obstacles that lie in its way and must strive at all costs to preserve the sense of family amongst all of its members.

The story of Yaakov's family is the story of almost all later Jewish family life - of quarrels, misunderstandings, misjudgments, and yet somehow of goodness, kindness, tolerance and reconciliation. Jewish tradition teaches us that all later disputes within the Jewish world - and there have been many bitter ones over the millennia - are already foretold in the story of Yosef and his brothers. And yet in spite of it all, the Jewish people remain a family with shared ideals and an optimistic vision for its future.

The Torah records for us that Yosef's revelation of his identity to his brothers was a simple two word statement - ani Yosef - I am Yosef. Implicit in that statement is the demand of Yosef to be seen by the brothers as a unique individual and not as a carbon copy of his father or of any of his brothers. Yosef is the ultimate nonconformist in the family and the entire dispute arises due to his brothers' unwillingness to allow him that nonconformist role in the family.

Shabbat Times

Shabbat Begins:
 3:45 p.m.
Shabbat Ends:
 4:55 p.m.

Next Week:
Shabbat Begins: 3:53 p.m.
Shabbat Ends: 5:02 p.m.

Every family has nonconformists in its midst. How the family deals with this situation is truly the measure of its inherent unity and purpose. Many of the problematic issues that plague the Jewish world generally stem from the fraying of family bonds and the loss of an overriding sense of family under all circumstances. All human failings – greed, jealousy, mean-spirited behaviour, spitefulness and even violence – are evident in family situations. Recognising the symptoms of such behaviour before they develop – and become chronic - is one of the keys of maintaining the necessary sense of family bonds that alone can prove vital and successful under all circumstances.

Something to think about.... Shabbat Shalom

**LOUGHTON LOUNGE PRESENTS
AN EVENING OF JAZZ**



**DIGBY FAIRWEATHER
+ FULL JAZZ BAND**

FEBRUARY 12 2012 • 7:00PM

LOUGHTON SYNAGOGUE HALL, BORDERS LANE, IG10 3JE

£35 P.P.

THREE COURSE GOURMET MEAL WITH WINE

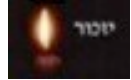
Selection of breads / Sweet potato and lemongrass soup with beetroot essence / Herb roasted chicken, Rich tomato jus Bowls of mint olive oil new potatoes / Roasted winter vegetables sprinkled with toasted cumin seeds
Vegetarian: Jewelled Cous Cous- saffron grains mixed with bell peppers, red onions, radishes and Seville oranges
Garden salad
Apple and berry crumble, vanilla custard and chocolate dipped physalis

Entry will strictly be by ticket only for this event Tickets will be limited and will be on a first come first served basis
R.S.V.P. Lesley Adams 020 8508 7337 OR lesley@diamondpersonnel.co.uk
Or Loughton Synagogue Office 020 8508 0303

Proceeds to:  **chai cancer care**
together we can care

THOSE OBSERVING YAHRZEIT IN THE COMING WEEK:

4 Tevet [30 Dec.] Mr Mark Levy for his father ר"ע Moshe ben Mordecai HaLevi
Mr Norman Pushkin for his father ר"ע Yehuda ben Mordecai
9 Tevet [4 Jan.] Mrs Donna Bermange for her father ר"ע Yaakov ben Aharon



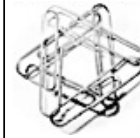
PLEASE HELP PERPETUATE AND RESPECT THE MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES BY ENSURING THAT KADDISH IS SAID FOR THEM ON THE APPROPRIATE DATE AND ON THE SHABBAT PRECEDING THE YAHRZEIT.

Join us for an in depth parsha shiur

Every Thursday evening at 8:pm Rabbi Aronovitz will give an interactive, contemporary and in-depth study on the week's parsha.

3 Alderton Mews

No experience necessary! Commencing 12 January 2012



Paper Clips

It began as a lesson about prejudice... What happened next was a **MIRACLE**

Lest we forget ... to mark

Holocaust Day - an amazing movie!

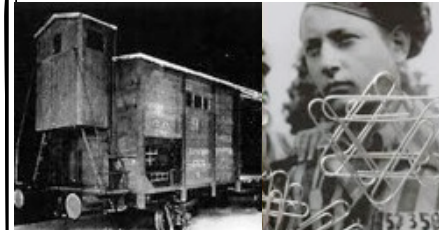
Loughton Synagogue

Wednesday 25th January 8pm

£3—Refreshments will be served

Reserve tickets at 0208 508 0303 or

Email: shirlylane@yahoo.com



Children's Service @ Loughton!

Starting Shabbat 8 January, and subsequently on the first Shabbat of each month, there will be a children's service on Shabbat Morning

10:30am - 11:30am.

Followed by a sweets kiddush (and cholent for the adults!)

KIDDIES DAVENING - FUN - GAMES - ACTIVITIES

Mazel tov to
Melanie Schlossberg
on the occasion of her appointment as a Magistrate Court Judge.

Security Rota:

30/12/2011 Friday
Danny Prever
Simon Raine
31/12/2011 Saturday
Irving Austin
Martin Bradley

Shiurim
Discuss - Learn - Grow
@ 8 p.m.
@ Dennis & Shelley Posner 67 Church Lane

How are Rabbis trained - what really happens in Yeshiva?

16 January 2012

The Written Word & The Jewish Library - Torah, Mishna, Talmud, Medrash and Shulchan Aruch - What are they?

14 February 2012

Zionism and the rabbis why were some pro and others anti?

28 February 2012

See you there BRING A FRIEND



Mazel tov
to Loughton Synagogue's Honorary Life President **Philip Leigh**

on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Philip will be reading the haftorah this week.

After the service on shabbat, Ruth and Philip invite the community to enjoy a kiddush.