

the SHABBAT *Talk*

MAKE A NOTE OF IT

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

**Tuesday Night 7th
 February**
 Tu b'Shvat Fruit & Shiur
 @ 3 Alderton Mews 8pm

Sunday 12th February
 Jazz Evening - see advert

Shabbat 25th February
 Ben Sanders' Bar Mitzvah

**There is Cheder
 this week**

Shabbat Times

Shabbat Begins:
 4:13 p.m.
Shabbat Ends:
 5:22 p.m.

Next Week:
Shabbat Begins: 4:26 p.m.
Shabbat Ends: 5:33 p.m.

PARSHAT "SHEMOT"
 19 TEVET 5772 - 14 JANUARY 2012
 FRIDAY EVENING: 7:00PM - SHABBAT MORNING: 9:00AM
 SHABBAT MEVARCHIM CHODESH SHEVAT

THIS WEEK'S SEDRAH

Soncino Chumash: p351 Hertz Chumash: p232 Living Torah: p280 ArtScroll: p318
Haftarah:
 Soncino Chumash: p372 Hertz Chumash: p244 Living Torah: p1097 ArtScroll: p1149

Va'era: Hashem tells Moshe to inform the Jewish People that He is going to take them out of Egypt; however the Jewish People do not listen. Hashem then commands Moshe to go to Pharaoh and tell him to free the Jewish People. Although Aaron shows Pharaoh a sign by turning a staff into a snake, Pharaoh's magicians copy the sign, emboldening Pharaoh to refuse the request.



Hashem punishes the Egyptians and sends plagues of blood and frogs, but the magicians copy the miracles on a smaller scale, again encouraging Pharaoh not to grant Moshe's request. However, after the plague of lice, even Pharaoh's magicians concede that only the one true G-d could be performing these miracles.



Only the Egyptians suffer during the plagues, not the Jews in Goshen. The plagues continue with wild animals, pestilence, boils and fiery hail. However Pharaoh continues to harden his heart and refuses to let the Jews go despite Moshe's offers to end the plagues if he will let them leave Egypt.



This week's Haftarah - The theme of the Exodus is the Jew and the Egyptian recognising G-d's absolute mastery over all things. The nature of a slave / master relationship is for the slave to be dependent on the master and the master to feel a proprietorship over the slave. At the time of the Exodus, Pharaoh had to be humbled, the Jews had to be freed of their dependency upon Egypt, and the Jews would have to direct their

fealty to G-d, and G-d alone.

Egypt retained her position as a major world power into the era of the first Bais Hamikdash (Temple). It would be Babylon that would humble Egypt and strip her of her position as a major international power.

Yechezkel (Ezekiel), the Navi (Prophet), prophesied the downfall of Egypt around the year 3332 - 429 b.c.e. He compared Egypt to a great sea monster that dominated the sea. The fisherman caught the sea monster along with all the other fish that clung to the defeated monster, and dragged them into the wilderness to rot and become food for the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky. So too, the same would happen to Egypt and the Children of Israel who had formed an unholy alliance with Egypt against the might of Babylon. Nevuchadnetzar would eventually destroy Egypt along with Israel who had clung to Egypt for protection. In order for the Jew to be truly free of all-foreign domination and oppression he would have to accept his dependency upon G-d, and G-d alone.

A Hard Heart by Rabbi Berel Wein



Stubbornness can be a virtue or a terrible character defect. When it is a virtue we call it tenacity. When it is a defect it is just plain foolish and counter productive. Pharaoh's stubbornness, as exhibited in this week's parsha, is an example. His advisers inform him that Egypt is headed for disaster because of his stubbornness but he refuses to give in to the reality of the series of plagues that threaten to decimate Egyptian society.

Of course the Torah tells us that his tenacity was reinforced by the fact that God hardened his heart. The commentators, especially Maimonides, judge that to mean that the Lord gave him the courage of his convictions not to be influenced by the events

transpiring in his country but to continue on his evil path to enslave the Jewish people.

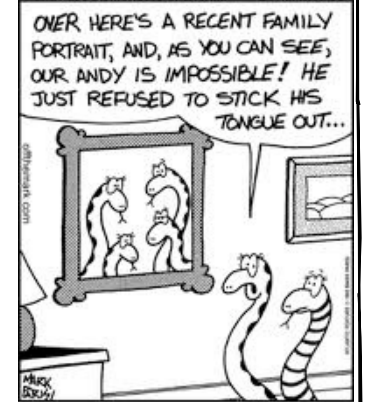
Hardening his heart did not influence Pharaoh's choices in the matter. It merely allowed him to transform what previously appeared to be tenacity into ultimate foolishness and disaster. Hitler, Stalin, Mao and other such leaders displayed this same reckless stubbornness over the past century, resulting in the destruction of societies and the deaths of tens of millions of people.

Because of his behaviour, Pharaoh becomes the paradigm for the self-destructive trait of foolish stubbornness. The Jewish people are also characterised as being a stubborn people. This trait has served us as well when we were and are tenacious in preserving our values and traditions. It is a foolish trait when we continue the policies and misbegotten certainties that have always led to our tragedies and misfortunes.

Rashi and Midrash teach us the source of Pharaoh's suicidal stubbornness. It lay in his belief in himself as a god - arrogant and convinced of his own infallibility. People who are never wrong never have to change their policies, beliefs or behaviour.

I am reminded of a sign that I once saw on the desk of a prominent public figure that said: "Don't confuse me with the facts; my mind is already made up!" He was joking about it (I think) but that danger lurks in all of us. Once we are convinced of the absolute rectitude of our position, we not only are tenacious in maintaining it, we become

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



downright blindly stubborn. Moshe meets Pharaoh at the river's edge where he went to perform his bodily functions. Pharaoh is exposed there - not as a god but only as a mortal man. Moshe means to teach Pharaoh that the justification for his stubbornness - his sham sense of infallibility - is itself false. A little humility on the part of Pharaoh would have saved himself and Egypt a great deal of grief. That is why the Torah stresses that the desired quality for true leadership is humility.

Moshe becomes the paradigm for humility just as Pharaoh - his arch-nemesis - is the paradigm for arrogant stubbornness. This lesson of wise tenacity versus foolish stubbornness exists in all areas of human life and society - family, community, national policy and personal development. May we be tenacious enough in life to avoid foolish moments of harmful stubbornness.

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 3AE

THREE COURSE GOURMET MEAL WITH WINE £35 P.P.

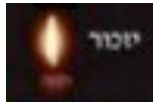
Selection of breads / Sweet potato and lemongrass soup with beetroot essence / Herb roasted chicken, Rich tomato Jus
Bowls of mint olive oil new potatoes / Roasted winter vegetables sprinkled with toasted cumin seeds
Vegetarian: Jewelled Cous Cous - saffron grains mixed with bell peppers, red onions, 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 OR admin@loughtonsynagogue.com

Proceeds to: chai cancer care

THOSE OBSERVING YAHRTZEIT IN THE COMING WEEK:

- 25 Tevet [20 January] Mr Gerald Bordell for his mother י"ע Chaya bas Shlomo
- 26 Tevet [21 January] Mr Robert Rogers for his father י"ע
- 27 Tevet [22 January] Mrs Jessie Glassar for her father י"ע David ben Yitzchak Yaakov
Mrs Anne Knott for her mother י"ע Malca bat Yaakov
Mrs Carol Segal for her mother י"ע Chana Ita bas Shlomo
- 28 Tevet [23 January] Mr Russell Scher for his father י"ע Baruch ben Yitzchak
- 29 Tevet [24 January] Mr Ian Cohen for his mother י"ע Soosel bas Yisrael
Mr Bernard Freedman for his mother י"ע
Mrs Carol Pushkin for her father י"ע David ben Aaron
Mrs Sandra Peters for her father י"ע
- 2 Shevat [26 January] Mrs Pearl Franklin for her father י"ע
- 3 Shevat [27 January] Mr Ian Levene for his mother י"ע Bloomah bat Shlomo



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 YAHRTZEIT.



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: shirylane@yahoo.com



Join us for an in depth parsha shiur

Every Thursday evening at 8:pm

Rabbi Aronovitz gives an interactive, contemporary and in-depth study on the week's parsha.

3 Alderton Mews

No experience necessary!



To celebrate
**Jamie and Harry's
Bar Mitzvah,**
the families take great pleasure
in inviting the congregation to a
Kiddush after the service.

Children's Service @ Loughton!

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

Shiurim

Discuss - Learn - Grow

@ 8 p.m.

@ Dennis & Shelley Posner 67 Church Lane

The Written Word & The Jewish Library - Torah, Mishna, Talmud, Medrash and Shulchan Aruch - What are they?
13 February 2012

Zionism and the rabbis why were some pro and others anti?
27 February 2012

See you there **BRING A FRIEND**

Security Rota:

Friday 20th

Simon Schaffer

Gary Roll

Saturday 21st

Ivan Kovler

Craig Tiller

Have you visited the new up-to-date website?

www.loughtonsynagogue.com

Jamie Scott & Harry Green

MAZEL TOV!

Mazel Tov to Amanda and David Green & Sara Cramer & Darren Scott on the occasion of Jamie and Harry's Bar Mitzvah

Mazel tov to all of your brothers and your grandparents

We wish you and your extended family much nachas and joy.