

Rabbi Adrian M Schell
Rabbi Hillel Avidan, Emeritus



Rabbi Julia Margolis

Bet David Weekly News
Ad Kan אד קאן טע
Shabbat Vayera 5776
31 October 2015 – 18 Cheshvan 5776

Thursday 29 October – 18.00 – 19.30 Prayers of our Siddur, a shiur with Rabbi Schell (foyer)

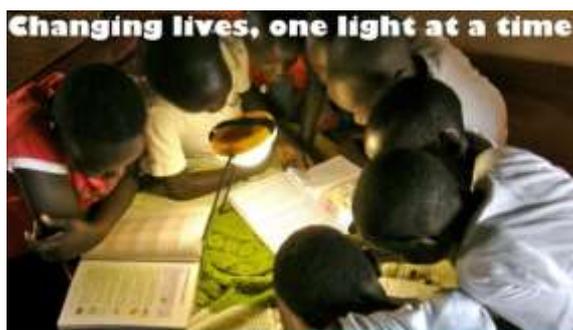
Friday 30 October – 18.00 Kabbalat Shabbat Service; Birthday blessings for October celebrants, chocolates sponsored by Cynthia Rosen; **18.00** Child-care in the Youth Centre. Service followed by a l'chaim sponsored by Len and Lali Gerber in honour of their three new grandchildren

Saturday 31 October – 08.30 Religion School; 10.00 Shabbat Morning Service; B'rachah follows co-sponsored by Jeremy and Kevin Kahn in honour of the naming of their daughters, and Ari Lyons and Jarred Mailer in honour of their Aufruf; **10.30-11.30** Children's Service (Youth Centre)

Tuesday 03 November – 12.30 Bet David's fifth **"4-Fore-Four" Charity Golf Day (Houghton Golf Course)**

Friday 06 November – 18.00 Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service, followed by a communal pizza supper sponsored by Dax Fine and Gen Edwards in honour of their birthdays; Chocolates sponsored by Dax, Gen and Yoni Fine

Saturday 07 November - 08.30 Religion School; 08.45 Breakfast and Torah Study with Rabbi Schell; **10.00 Shabbat Morning Service;** B'rachah follows co-sponsored by David Woolf and Alan Goodman in honour of their birthdays. **10.30-11.30** Children's Service (Youth Centre)



Changing lives, one light at a time
The UJW Johannesburg together with the Mormon Church and other faith groups have committed to

Bring Light to the People

On Mitzvah Day, 22 November 2015

Please contribute by donating R100 to enable us to purchase a solar light for families living in squatter camps who have no access to electricity.

Banking Details
Union of Jewish Women
Standard Bank Kikeroey
Account Number: 00-167-4218
Branch Code: 007205
Reference: Light up a life

For more information or if you would like to get involved please contact UJW on 011 648 1053 or email projects@ujw.co.za



Please can donations be made by 15 November 2015

MitzvahDay
MAKE YOUR MARK



"Mitzvah", a wonderfully expressive Hebrew word, has two distinct meanings. The first is a commandment of the Jewish law; the second is a meritorious or charitable act.

For the "Mitzvah Day 2015" on 22 November 2015, various religious groups have committed themselves to working together on a theme of "Bringing light to the people of South Africa." Our campaign is aimed at making a difference to many who live in abject squalor and poverty in the dreadful squatter camps that are such a blight on our society. These families have no access to electricity, no lights, no heating, and are forced to rely upon paraffin lamps which, while being fairly ineffective, are at the same time frighteningly dangerous and have resulted in tragedies too numerous to mention.

But we have an answer: specialized solar lights, that can provide up to 60 hours of cost free light, are charged by exposure to sunlight, and which simultaneously protect the environment from the damaging effect of pollution.

For a mere R100 per unit, the lives of these families will be irrevocably changed, but for the better. And this is where you can help – your much appreciated donations will bring light into their lives. Can we count on your support? I hope so – because that is the essence of Mitzvah day: doing meritorious or charitable acts for those who have so much less. **Please join BET DAVID in this important event. Details available at the office: admin1@betdavid.org.za**

Ad Kan emailed on Thursday; deadline Tuesday. Submissions to admin1@betdavid.org.za

Cemetery Clean up – new date

Following the first cemetery clean up in August, we will meet for cleaning up the second half of the graveside for children on **29 November 2015 from 10.00 to 12.00**. Please join us in this very important Mitzvah. RSVP to the office. Thank you!



Bet David's "4-For-Four" Charity Golf Day - Tuesday 03 November 2015
In support of the shul, The Mitzvah School, Our Children's Fund, Zenzeleni and Leamogetswe Kehillah Feeding Schemes. Houghton Golf Club; 12.30 Shotgun start. Participate, sponsor a hole and/or sponsor prizes (sets of 4 appreciated). Four-ball R4000 includes Halfway House, dinner & great prizes. For details, call Diane 0117837117 accounts@betdavid.org.za.

Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service: The next Family Service will be on Friday evening **6 November**, followed by a communal supper (**pizzas**) sponsored by Dax Fine and Gen Edwards in honour of their birthdays. The service is not an exclusive service for families only - everyone is welcome to join, and to participate, and we encourage lay leader participation.



Mazal Tov

Len and Lali Gerber who celebrate the birth of three grandchildren at Bet David on Kabbalat Shabbat; **Jeremy and Kevin Kahn** on the naming of their twin daughters in shul on Shabbat; **Jarred Mailer and Ari Lyons** on their Aufruf this Shabbat and their chuppah taking place on 1 November; **Happy birthday to all who have birthdays the week 26 October to 1 November:** Robin Beale; Arnold Brower; Jeff Frank; Myrna Margo; Garth Suelzt; Trevor Meisel; **Children under 14 years** – Nathan Jutan; Jason Villavicencio.

Impressions from the Progressive Shabbat Project @ Bet David last Shabbat



Bar Bat Mitzvahs for children born 2003 and 2004 - Bet David is currently scheduling 2016 and 2017 Bar & Bat Mitzvahs. Parents should please contact Glynnis in the office in this regard.

Weekly Yahrzeits

Avis Blumberg remembered by Jock Blumberg; **Jaye Gronemann** remembered by Haydn and Barbara Goldman and Len and Lola Gronemann; **Nathan Brinkman** remembered by Abe Brinkman; **Alan Kronson** remembered by Daryl Kronson; **Trevor Kramer** remembered by Carol Kramer; **Bernard (Boundy) Kramer** remembered by Carol Kramer. *Zichronam livracha, may their memories be for a blessing.*

Thank you for recent donations

Yahrzeit – Len and Lola Gronemann in memory of Jaye Gronemann; **General** - Thank you to Lali Gerber for donating the materials for the Shabbat Project Candle Making Workshop and to Theresa Sobel and Lali Gerber for their amazing help during the workshop; **Birthday Chocolates** sponsored by Cynthia Rosen; **Family Service Supper** on 23.10 sponsored by Thalia Miltiadou.

Speedy Recovery-Refuah Shleimah

Arthur Kruger; Chris Sherlock; Jack Joselowitz; Ruth Jordan; Merle Abrams; Valerie Sinclair. *Please contact our office to report illness and advise whether you would like a visit from one of our Rabbis.*



Rabbi Julia Margolis participated in the Annual UJ Interfaith Staff and Student Memorial Service on 19 October 2015. “A very moving ceremony” with Pastor Jay Jay Ngwenya; Vice-Chancellor Prof Ihron Rensburg; Rabbi Margolis; Guru Deena Govender and Dr Rose Laka-Mathebula (photo left).

Monthly Feeding Schemes Food Collection – Sunday 08 November at Pick n Pay Hyde Park, Morningside and South Road. Please contact Lesley Rosenberg on 0832366823 if you can help for an hour or more. Please also continue to place non-perishable groceries in the *trommel* in the foyer for feeding schemes.

RABBI MARGOLIS' WEEKLY COLUMN

A haredi Orthodox lawmaker in Israel compared the Women of the Wall organization to the Muslim Murabitat, a banned group of women who harass Jewish visitors to the Temple Mount.

“The Murabitat women receive money from the Islamic Movement to create provocation and prevent Jews from ascending the Temple Mount,” Rabbi Yisrael Eichler of the United Torah Judaism party said. “Whereas the Women of the Wall get money from the Reform Jews to create disturbances at the Western Wall.”

Eichler made his comments on Sunday during a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee. He said in response to criticism from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he made the statement in order to see that it was recorded into the minutes of the meeting, the Israeli daily Maariv reported. Lawmakers Zehava Gal-on of the Meretz party and Shelly Yachamovich of the Zionist Union denounced Eichler at the meeting: “Eichler represents a very extreme Jewish minority who see the Kotel as their own private synagogue,” Women of the Wall said in a statement. “Women of the Wall’s struggle threatens this ‘Haredi Kotel’ vision, and in his perspective, anyone who does not agree with him is the enemy. If it were up to Eichler, women would be all together excluded from the Kotel or forced to dress up like the Taliban in order to enter.”

Women of the Wall gathers at the Western Wall at the start of each Jewish month for the morning prayer service. Its members have clashed frequently with staff from the office of the rabbi of the Western Wall and the holy sites of Israel, and with police for holding services that violate the rules enforced by the office. A 2013 Supreme Court ruling acknowledged the women’s right to pray at the Western Wall according to their beliefs, claiming it does not violate what has come to be known as “local custom.”

Aiden Solovy, a teacher in Hebrew Union College, wrote a very strong response to this accuse. I urge you to read it. Unfortunately to the space limitation I can’t publish it here, but please follow the link: <http://goo.gl/6zDydI> . Wishing you a peaceful weekend. Shabbat Shalom. Rabbi Julia Margolis

Netzer Summer Machaneh Chalutzim 2015

Glencairn, Cape Town - Sign up online, or collect Camp forms at Bet David

For more info contact: Kathryn Henning camp@netzer.org.za www.netzer.org.za.

We were recently given a second-hand **children's golf set**, consisting of a bag and eight golf clubs, to raise funds for a good cause. We would like to sell the set to the highest bidder to be able to sponsor one or two children who want to go to the Netzer Camp in December. **Please send your offer to accounts@betdavid.org.za**

**NEW: The Prayers of our Siddur**

Continuing **this Thursday (29 October)**, Bet David offers an additional weekly learning opportunity for adults. Rabbi Schell will be leading Shiurim **every Thursday evening (18h00-19h30)** discussing **the Prayers of our Siddur**. He will explore with you the history of the prayers, their context and meaning, including the Hebrew original. This Shiur; is open for everyone; no background or Hebrew knowledge is needed. The **Torah Study** with Rabbi Schell continues **this Shabbat, 07 November at 08h45**.

Torah Reading for Shabbat Vayera

Genesis 18:1-22:24 (Reading 18:1-22; Plaut p.123; Hertz p.63)

Haftarah: Second Kings 4:1-37 (Plaut p.149; Hertz p.76)

Our parashah for this Shabbat continues with report of Abraham's and Sarah's journey. Both welcome the three unknown visitors and learn from them that Sarah will soon bear a son, despite of her old age. As the visitors had predicted, Sarah bears her son whom she names Isaac. The narrative then focuses on the lives of the two sons of Abraham. Sarah persuades Abraham to send Ishmael away, (together with his mother Hagar), which he only does, after God tells him that he "will make a nation of him [Ishmael]." Several years later, God tests Abraham's faith by ordering him to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Moriah. Isaac is saved at the last moment by an angel, sent by God.

The stories of Sarah's request to send away Ishmael, and Abraham being called by God to sacrifice his son, Isaac, are considered as one of the most important events in the Torah, because they raise the questions of faith and loyalty to God and to the people we share our lives with. How far can we go, if we are asked to do something that is wrong in our eyes; at which point turns faithfulness into religious fanaticism?

Rabbi Harvey Fields gives us a helpful guideline: "Loyalty to God does not mean 'blind faith.' Sometimes it means asking difficult questions about what it is that we should or should not be doing. Sometimes it means being willing to take risks for what we believe is just and right. Sometimes it means delaying action until the facts are analysed carefully. Sometimes it means being willing to reconsider opinions and to make changes when presented with new evidence or better perspectives." And sometimes it means to say no, and to stand for it. **Shabbat Shalom – Rabbi Schell**

Podcast of Rabbi Schell's weekly Radio Sermons on Radio Today, follow <http://betdavid.podomatic.com/>.

SHABBAT SERVICES & EVENTS

FRIDAY EVENING 18:00 Kabbalat Shabbat Service; **SUPERVISED CHILD-CARE** for ages 0 – 6 (Youth Centre)

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS—Last Friday of the month; **FAMILY SERVICE 18:00**— 06 November; 04 December

SHABBAT MORNING: 08:30 - 10.00 Religion School **Term 4: 17 October to 5 December**

08.45 BREAKFAST SHIUR WITH RABBI SCHELL—7 November; 21.11.; 12.12.; 19.12.

10:00 Shabbat Shacharit service, B'rachah follows; 10.30 Children's Service (3 – 10 years) (Youth Centre)

THURSDAY NIGHT LITURGY CLASS – every Thursday at 18.00

Triple C Community Supper after the Friday evening service – 15 January 2016

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Emergency numbers: CSO 0861800018; Hatzolah 0832221818; Shalom Bayit 0113210505

CAP 0861 227 227 / 0861 CAP CAP, to report any suspicious activity