

Rabbi Adrian M Schell



Rabbi Hillel Avidan, Emeritus

Ad Kan אד כאן טע

Shabbat Va-y'chi 13/14 January 2017 – 15/16 Tevet 5777

Friday 13 January 2017 – 18.00 Kabbalat Shabbat service; Kids' Club with Kendyll

Saturday 14 January – 08.30 Cheder opens (Term 1); **08.45** Torah Breakfast; **10.00** Shabbat Morning Service. Service will be followed by a b'rachah sponsored by Antonio Coreejas and Doron Kanar in honour of their recent birthdays; **10.00** Youth service and activities with Kendyll; **12.45** "Modern Jewish Philosophy" shiur with Brett Steingo; **17.00** Havdallah service and meet-and-greet/welcome for ITJ Course of 2017. All congregants are invited to attend.

Thursday 19 January – 18.30 Introduction to Judaism (ITJ) 2017 classes begin

Friday 20 January – 18.00 Kabbalat Shabbat service; Kids' Club with Kendyll

Saturday 21 January – 08.30 Cheder; **08.45** Torah Breakfast; **10.00** Shabbat Morning Service, including the Hebrew naming of Erin Mascall. Service will be followed by a b'rachah sponsored by the Mascall and Garb family; Youth activities with Kendyll **12.45** "Modern Jewish Philosophy" shiur with Brett Steingo

Friday 27 January – 18.00 FAMILY Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by light supper (sponsors welcome); January birthday blessings (sponsor for chocolates welcome)

Saturday 28 January – 08.30 Cheder; **08.45** Torah Breakfast; **10.00** Shabbat Morning Service. Service will be followed by a b'rachah (sponsor welcome); Youth activities with Kendyll **12.45** "Modern Jewish Philosophy" shiur with Brett Steingo

Back to school greetings

We wish all returning and new learners a very good and successful new school year.

Cheder Classes will be every Saturday morning at 8.30 – 9.45, followed by a service (main or youth) from 10.00-11.00 and Jewish Studies from 11.00-12.00.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND SHABBAT SERVICES

Join Kendyll this **Friday** at 18.00 for fun activities (ages 3 to 10) and on **Shabbat morning** for fun children's activities from 10.00 to 12.00.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Holiday Services

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Service leaders, Shamashim, Gabbaim and all who led and assisted with services during the holiday period - Brett Steingo, Bev Bancroft, Janis Jordan, Doron Kanar, Glynnis Kanar, Monica Solomon, Roger Scheuble, Gail Scheuble, Rabbi Joshua Salters, Gail Saul, Jenny Rauner, Madeleine Hicklin, Rudi Buirski; David Woolf, Michael Eliason and Rabbi Adrian Schell.

Thank you who brought items to the Saturday b'rachot. There was a wonderful attendance at services and we thank our dedicated community for their support during this season.

Mazal tov

Mazal Tov to all learners of the **Mitzvah School** from last year. The students achieved a dream result in the Matric exams: Only two learners have to write supplementary exams in February. **The school achieved a 75% Bachelor (university) pass. Kamogelo Tswai, the dux scholar, achieved 7 distinctions.**

To all Bet David's 2016 successful matriculations and university students.

We look forward to you sharing your achievements with us.

Ari and Barbara Lustbader on the birth of a son, **Roman Carter**, on 03 January 2017, brother to Ember.

Ryan Brittan and Gillian Read and **Jared Lipsitz and Tayba Vaughan** on their recent engagements.

Happy birthday to all who have birthdays during the week 09 to 15 January - Stanley Smollen;

Gerald Sobel; Glynis Fox; Warren Maselle; Doron Kanar; Antonio Coreejas; Dale Rosenberg;

Antoinette Milner; Candice Frank; Sylvia Borstein; Leanne Myers; Delene Grobler

Children under 14 years – Ryder Prestia; Amy Margolius.

We gratefully acknowledge recent donations

Yahrzeit donations – Sylvia Borstein in memory of Yetta and Benjamin Barwin; Len Gronemann in memory of Robin Gronemann; Ron Klipin in memory of Jeanie and Ralph Klipin;
B'rachah sponsorship – Val and Barry Sinclair in honour of Val's birthday; Antonio Coreejas and Doron Kanar in honour of their January birthdays.

Speedy Recovery-Refuah Shleimah

Dr Arnold Levin; Arthur Kruger; Margaret Fish; Marlene Nelson. *Please contact the office to report a hospitalisation or illness and to direct us in the most appropriate way to respond.*

Condolences

Isaac Livni on the passing of his beloved wife, **Leah**, on 30 December 2016, mother of Amit, Tali and Nadav. Leah was buried in Israel on 03 January. A memorial in Leah's honour will be held at a later date.

Weekly Yahrzeits

Fanny Fred (Fay) Yates remembered by **Jeffrey Yates**; **Morry Spitz** remembered by **Celia Coburn**; **Dolly Jankelowitz** remembered by **Mike Jankelowitz**; **George Lipschitz** remembered by **Barry Lipschitz**; **Jacqueline Levin** remembered by **Mendel and Elaine Levin**; **David Schmidt** remembered by **Brenda Riesnik**; **Doris Berman** remembered by **Melanie Bailey**; **Jeanie Klipin** remembered by **Ron Klipin**; **Albert Greenberg** remembered by **Steven Solomon**; **Barry Stransky** remembered by **Alon Stransky**; **Ruth Lipson** remembered by **Julian Lipson**; **Freda Smith** remembered by **Karen Lob**.

Zichronam livracha, may their memory be for a blessing.

Gabbaim, Bimah Duty and Service Leader Seminar

Following up some requests, Rabbi Schell is offering a Sunday seminar for everyone who likes to take on a more active role in the service.

In the seminar we will go through every part of the service and see what we have to do and how and why. This will be a hands-on seminar, meaning that everyone has the chance to practise also the important steps, such as "Doing Hagba'ah" or "How to take out the Scrolls?". How to help with the Torah reading, how to call up people for an Aliyah and some of the choreography of the service will be explained.

We should allow us some time to discuss questions such as "How to prepare the service on the day?", "How to welcome new people?", "Whom can I give which honour?", and much more. Basic Hebrew knowledge is a big help, but not for all parts necessary.

The daylong seminar will be held **on 19 February from 10.00 to 16.00** in the Shul.

Please RSVP to Rabbi Schell (rabbi.schell@betdavid.org.za) if you like to take part.

Bet David Kehillah

Celebrate a Simcha with your community - Sponsor Shabbat sweets; Birthday chocolates; Erev Shabbat l'chaim; Shabbat morning b'rachah. For information call the office 011 7837117.

Monthly Feeding Schemes Food Collection – **Sunday 15 January at Pick n Pay Hyde Park, Morningside and South Road**. Please contact Lesley on 083 2366823 if you can help for an hour or more. Please also continue to bring non-perishable groceries to shul for our feeding schemes.

Please join now for 2017: Kehillah's 50/50 CLUB - Don't miss out! **For only R180 per year you can help raise money in a fun way. The more people who participate..... the larger the monthly prize.**

The 50/50 Club is a draw in which half of the money raised goes to Bet David community projects and the other half is paid out to the members as cash prizes. There is a draw every month.

Please transfer the starting money of R180,- to BET DAVID SISTERHOOD, NEDBANK SANDTON, BRANCH CODE: 197005 ACC. NO: 1970476214 - please put as reference: 50/50 Surname

After your transfer, please email your details to admin2@betdavid.org.za, including your name, address, email-address and telephone number. We wish you good luck! [Forms in the shul or attached to Ad Kan]

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs for children born 2004 and 2005

Bet David is currently scheduling 2017 and 2018 Bar & Bat Mitzvahs.

Parents should please contact Glynnis in the office in this regard.

It is not the end of the story, but only the beginning

This Shabbat, we conclude the Book of Genesis with Parashat Va-y'chi. Whenever we finish reading a book, even a book of Torah, it is important to reflect on where we have been, what we have covered since the beginning of the book.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks notes that Genesis, like the Tanach as a whole, "is a story without an ending which looks forward to an open future rather than reaching closure". Although the loose ends of this particular part of the story are neatly tied up, we know we are not at the end of the story, but only at its beginning.

Indeed, throughout Genesis there has been a tension between the past and the future, between what was and what is yet to be. The covenant that God makes with Abraham serves to direct our attention toward the future. But, we also learn early on that this future will include being "strangers in a land not theirs" and being "enslaved and afflicted for four hundred years."

In fact, the Book of Genesis ends with the word Mitzrayim, "Egypt," as if to point us ahead to the Book of Exodus, which we will begin reading next Shabbat.

The tension between looking backward and ahead will continue throughout the Torah. When the Israelites are wandering in the wilderness, hopeful to reach the Promised Land, they occasionally pine for the good old days in Egypt as they face hardship along the way. But though going back to Egypt might appear attractive in theory, it is never a real possibility. The journey must always move forward, with bumps along the way and a few detours, but always focused on the future.

As Rabbi Sacks points out, Judaism views time markedly differently from other cultures. We don't see time as cyclical, characterised by endless repetition. Rather, Rabbi Sacks writes, Judaism believes in "covenantal time, the story of the human journey in response to the divine call, with all its backslidings and false turns, its regressions and failures, yet never doomed to tragic fate, always with the possibility of repentance and return, always sustained by the vision with which the story began, of the Promised Land..."

Despite this seemingly pessimistic note on which Genesis ends, there is one clue to remind us to be hopeful. This portion is named Va-y'chi, "And [Jacob] lived." Even when we reflect on his death, we are drawn to reflect on his life. Even as Genesis ends with death, we remember the vitality of the characters we have encountered, inspired by their lives. While one chapter of our people's story ends, the covenant assures us that it is not the end of the story, but only the beginning.

And so it is my wish and my hope for the new secular year 2017 that we are, despite all the negative experiences in 2016, looking with hope and an open mind into the future. That we continue to see the beauty in this world and the opportunities we have to contribute to a better world.

Shabbat Shalom and "a Happy New Year"

Rabbi Adrian M Schell (Source: Rabbi Bruce Kadden)

Podcast of Rabbi Schell's weekly Sermons Tuesdays on Radio Today (10h30) or: <http://goo.gl/LsHQrY>

Torah Reading Shabbat Va-y'chi

Genesis 47:28-50:26 (Gen 49:1-27)

Plaut p. 309; Hertz p. 183

Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12

Plaut p. 323; Hertz p. 191

In our Portion the great narrative of the biblical ancestors is coming to an end

- *Jacob blesses his grandchildren Ephraim and Manasseh.*

- *Followed by the twelve sons gathering around his deathbed, where each receives an evaluation and a prediction of his future.*

- *Joseph mourns his father's death and has Jacob embalmed. Jacob is buried in Hebron in the cave of the field of the Machpelah in the land of Canaan.*

- *Joseph assures his concerned brothers that he has forgiven them and promises to care for them and their families.*

- *Just before he dies, Joseph tells his brothers that God will return them to the Land that God promised to the patriarchs. The Children of Israel promise Joseph that they will take his bones with them when they leave Egypt.*

Hebrew Class at Bet David

Rina Vissoker is offering a Hebrew Ulpan (Class) for everyone who wants to improve their Hebrew. If enough people are interested Rina will run a beginner and a more advanced class. The class will be on Monday evenings at Bet David and will run approx. 12 weeks. Classes start in February. If you like to join the program, please contact the office and indicate your level of Hebrew.



Top to bottom:

Wedding Catherine and Darren Winer

Wedding Michelle and Marc Schwartz

Chanukah at Bet David

Lewandowski Chorale in Berlin

Sunday Talk with Rabbi Salters



SHABBAT SERVICES & EVENTS

FRIDAY EVENING: 18:00 Kabbalat Shabbat Service

KIDS' CLUB YOUTH ACTIVITIES 18:00 - 19:00 for ages 3–10 weekly with Kendyll, excl. Family Services

FAMILY SERVICE 18:00—27 January; **MONTHLY BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS** - 27 January;

SHABBAT MORNING: 08:30 - 12.00 CHEDER – Term 1: 14 January - 01 April 2017

10:00 SHABBAT SHACHARIT SERVICE;

12.15 Modern Jewish Philosophy shiur with Brett Steingo – 14 January

10.00 - 11.00 CHILDREN'S SERVICE; 11.00 - 12.00 YOUTH ACTIVITIES every Saturday with Kendyll

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM COURSE – 19 January Classes weekly on Thursdays at 18.30;

HEBREW CONVERSATION GROUP – From February, weekly on Monday evenings. See article page 3.

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