

Bet David Weekly News

עד כאן Ad Kan

Shabbat Shoftim

22 August 2015 – 7 Elul 5775

Friday 21 August – 17.00 Challah Baking for Children; 18.00 Family Shabbat Service; followed by a light supper sponsored by Kendyll and Paul Fingleson to celebrate the brit milah of their son, Mason Mark.

Saturday 22 August – 08.30 Religion School; 10.00 Shabbat Morning Service followed by a b'rachah sponsored by Mick and Sonya Leiman in honour of their 70th wedding anniversary; **10.30-11.30 Children's Service (Youth Centre)**

Sunday 23 August – 10.00 Clean-up of Childrens' Section at West Park Cemetery. (RSVP to the office.)

Thursday 27 August – 18.00 The Prayers of the High Holy Days – Workshop (Rondavel)

Friday 28 August – 18.00 Kabbalat Shabbat Service includes August birthday blessings; 18.00 Child-care in the Youth Centre

Saturday 29 August – 08.30 Religion School; 08.45 Breakfast Shiur – Torah Study; 10.00 Shabbat Morning followed by a b'rachah sponsored by Michelle Eliason in honour of her birthday and daughter Sarah's August birthdays, **10.30-11.30 Children's Service (Youth Centre) [Rabbi Margolis at Temple Israel]**

Thursday 3 September – 18.00 The Prayers of the High Holy Days – Workshop (Rondavel)

Friday 4 September – 18.00 Kabbalat Shabbat Service; 18.00 Child-care in the Youth Centre

Saturday 5 September – 08.30 Religion School; 08.45 Breakfast Shiur – Torah Study; 10.00 Shabbat Morning Service includes the Bar Mitzvah of Alex Schlapobersky. Service is followed by a b'rachah sponsored by parents Ivan and Karen in Alex's honour, **10.30-11.30 Children's Service (Youth Centre)**

Rosh HaShanah Dinner (2nd night): Change of costs per head

Bet David's ManCom was able to adjust the costs per head for the Rosh HaShanah Dinner. We can thankfully announce that it is now **R150 for adults. Children under the age of 13 are free.**

Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service: Our next Family Service starts with a special, awesome and fun **Challah Baking** at **17.00** in the Rondavel, **on Friday 21 August**, followed by our inclusive, all-generations service led by our two Rabbis. **A light supper (including Pizza!)** follows in the foyer, sponsored by Kendyll and Paul Fingleson to celebrate the brit milah of their son, Mason Mark. The service is not an exclusive service for families only - everyone is welcome to join, and to participate. Please RSVP if you and your family would like to take part in the baking of the Challot to the office: admin2@betdavid.org.za.

The prayers of the High Holy Days – Workshop on two evenings. On **27 August** and **3 September @ 18.00** in the Rondavel. Just before the High Holy Days Rabbi Schell invites you to dive into the liturgy of the High Holy Days and to learn more about the history and ideas of these wonderful prayers – a special opportunity to prepare yourselves for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. This study session is open for all. Please bring your *Machzorim* (Gates of Repentance High Holy Day prayer books).



Bev and Jack Bancroft celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary. Joined by their sons Evan and Joshua, family and friends at the service and b'racha on 15 August.

Mazal Tov

Mick and Sonya Leiman on their 70th wedding anniversary on 19 August.

Happy birthday to all who have birthdays this week [16 – 23 August]: Kirsten Bromberg; Kerry Cassel; Michelle Eliason; Lynda Garb; Juanita Levin; Bianca Jutan; Jean Jordaan; Bianca Tanchel; Craig Stone; Children – Alex Schlapobersky.

Condolences

Elaine and Mendel Levin on the passing of Elaine's sister, Irene Lewin, mother of Karene Lewin.

Thank you for recent donations

Yahrzeit – David Woolf in memory of Anne and Felix Woolf; Arthur Kruger in memory of Bella Kruger; Anne Martin in memory of Mary Agnes Katz.

Speedy Recovery-Refuah Shleimah

Trevor Egnal; Betty-Ann Weitzmann; Ruth Jordan; Chris Sherlock; Gabrielle Smith; Joshua Smith. *Please contact our office to report illness and advise whether you would like a visit from one of our Rabbis.*

Weekly Yahrzeits

Mary Agnes Katz remembered by Anne Martin; **Estella Abro** remembered by Lynne Raphaely; **Gary Beder** remembered by Michael Beder; **Allison Telem** remembered by Molly Smith; **Jesse Weinstein** remembered by Rodney Weinstein; **Reuven Milner** remembered by Ben Miler; **Ruth Joelson** remembered by Bruce Joelson and Harold Joelson; **Henna Berold** remembered by Barry Berold; **Garth Solomon** remembered by Steven and Monica Solomon; **Percy Taback** remembered by Jack Taback; **Bella Kruger** remembered by Arthur Kruger. *Zichronam livracha, may their memories be for a blessing.*

Open position

Looking for a fulltime person to do Marketing and Events Management at Bet David. If interested please call Michelle on 082 492 0562 or send an email to eliason@mweb.co.za.

Bet David Kehillah

THE UNITED SISTERHOOD – Our MEGA Jumble Sale draws CLOSER! Beit Emanuel – **6th September** – doors open at 10.00. We continue to collect jumble and bric-a-brac. Please let us have your old shopping packets and bags. We invite you to volunteer some of YOUR VALUABLE TIME.

- **We need volunteers to help set up from Monday 31st August to Friday 4th September.**
- **We need volunteers to help with the sale on Sunday 6th September.**

Tzedakah is not limited to monetary gifts; time is also a form of charity.

Please contact me if you can help. With thanks - Marian 011 646 2409 or mariang@unitedsisterhood.org.za.

- **Bet David Kehillah is collecting good jumble and bric-a-brac for The United Sisterhood Mega Jumble Sale.** Items can be dropped off at the shul office, weekdays 09.00 - 14.00.

Monthly Feeding Schemes Food Collection – next on Sunday 30 August - 09.00 to 13.00 at Pick 'n Pay South Rd, Morningside and Hyde Park branches. Contact Lesley Rosenberg 0832366823 if you can help for one hour or more. Place non-perishable groceries in the *trommel* in the foyer for the feeding schemes.

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 (next 28 August);

FAMILY SERVICE 18:00—21 August; 23 October; 06 November; 04 December

SATURDAY MORNING: 08:30 - 10.00 Religion School Term 3: 25 July - 26 September

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

CONGREGATIONAL SUPPER – 16 October, following the 6pm service

BREAKFAST SHIUR WITH RABBI SCHELL 08.45— 29 August; 5.9.; 19.9.; 17.10.; 31.10.

Save the date – Bet David's "4-Fore-Four" Annual Charity Golf Day – Tuesday 03 November 2015

Rabbi Adrian M. Schell – rabbi.schell@betdavid.org.za;

Rabbi Julia Margolis – rabbi.margolis@betdavid.org.za

Tel: +27 11 7837117 Fax: 0865569413 / Office hours 09.00 – 14.30 (Mon-Thurs)

09.00 –13.00 (Fri & Erev Yom Tov) / accounts@betdavid.org.za (Diane)

admin1@betdavid.org.za (Glynnis); admin2@betdavid.org.za (Sharon)

www.betdavid.org.za

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

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

RABBI MARGOLIS' WEEKLY COLUMN

The High Holidays are around the corner...

Although the month of Elul—the sixth month of the year, which immediately precedes Rosh HaShana has no special importance in the Bible or in early rabbinical writings various customs arose sometime during the first millennium that designated Elul as the time to prepare for the high holidays because these days are filled with so much meaning and potency, they require a special measure of readiness. We are called upon to enter them thoughtfully and to consider what they mean. As the Maharal of Prague said, “All the month of Elul, before eating and sleeping, a person should look into his soul and search his deeds, that he may make confession.”

Jewish tradition points to the name of the month as symbolically appropriate—the letters of Elul form an acronym for the words in the verse Ani le dodi ve dodi li—“I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine” (Songs of Songs 6:3) Believing that the “beloved” refers to God, the sages take this verse to describe the particularly loving and close relationship between God and Israel. Elul, then, is our time to establish this closeness so that we can approach the Yamim Noraim, or Days of Awe, in trusting acceptance of God’s judgment. We approach the trial not out of fear, but out of love. One of the important commandments is to visit the graves of our loved once, please join us this coming Sunday to clean the children's section in West Park cemetery. Please let me know if you are planning to attend: rabbi.margolis@betdavid.org.za

Shabbat Shalom. Rabbi Julia Margolis (Source: *masorti.org*)

Clean-up of the Children’s Section at West Park Jewish Cemetery

Please join our Rabbis in an effort to clean up the area around the Children’s Section of West Park Cemetery on **Sunday 23 August 2015 at 10.00**. Perform a mitzvah - meet at WPC with small gardening tools, rubbish bags etc. **Please RSVP to rabbi.margolis@betdavid.org**.

Torah Reading for Shabbat Shoftim

Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9 (Reading: 20.4-21.9 - Plaut p.1302; Hertz p.831)

Haftarah: Isaiah 51:1-52:12 (Plaut 1316; Hertz p.835)

The *pursuit of justice* is one of the most frequently repeated concerns, and not only of the Torah, but of Jewish tradition. Any society, so the teaching, is to pursue justice in dealing with social, political, and international matters. In addition, Jewish tradition teaches, “speak up for those who are silent, for the rides of the unfortunate. Speak out, judge justly, champion the poor and the needy.”

Several commentators ask the question: Why does Moses repeat the word *Tzedek*, or “justice,” in his statement: “*justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may thrive and occupy the land that Adonai your God is giving you?*” - Pointing out that the commandment could stand without the repetition since the Torah does not often repeat words, interpreters offer a number of explanations:

Some say that by repeating the word *Tzedek* Moses underscores the importance of pursuing justice as a means of community survival. Others argue that the term is repeated to convey the idea that the pursuit of justice is not only the responsibility of government, of judges within the society, but also an imperative for each individual. This may have been what Rabbi Acha meant when he quoted Rabbi Tanchum, who said, “though a person may be a scholar of Torah and a teacher of greater renown, careful in observing all the ritual commandments, if such a person is able to protest wrongdoing neglects to do so, he is to be considered cursed.” Or in the words of Rabbi Chijah: “if a person is neither a scholar, nor a teacher, nor known for observing all the ritual commandments, but stays up to protest against evil, such a person is called a blessing.”

For rabbinic interpreters the pursuit of justice in society was paramount. Correcting the evils originated by human beings was considered the highest ethical priority. Moses’ repetition of “justice, justice” was understood to mean: “don’t be satisfied with observing wrongdoing. Stand up and protest against it!” Obviously, the pursuit of justice is critical and of central concern for any society. Within the Bible and imbedded within rabbinic commentary, the accomplishment of justice is a requisite for truth in peace. We are commanded to pursue justice because no human community can survive without it.

- **Rabbi Adrian M Schell** (Source: *Fields, Parashat Re'eh*)

The Torah Study Breakfast Shiur with Rabbi Schell continues on **Shabbat, 29 August at 08.45.**

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

The High Holy Days at Bet David

The countdown to the High Holy Days has begun! Information regarding the upcoming High Holy Days has been emailed to all members. Membership is vital to our congregation - please ensure that your account payments are up to date. High Holy Day Admission Tickets will be emailed during the first week of September, to all congregants whose accounts are in good standing. Please contact Diane at the office should you have any queries regarding your account.

Bet David Rosh HaShanah Dinner 5776



Join the Bet David Family on the second night of Rosh HaShanah for a festival service followed by a Communal Dinner on **Monday 14 September 2015**. Service starts at 18h00, dinner at 19h15 in the Middleton Hall.

Cost per head:

Adults R150; Children under 13 years free

We will celebrate the beginning of the New Jewish Year with apples and honey, and a festive meal with soup, a main course (fish/vegetarian), assorted salads, and a dessert. Soft drinks are provided; you may bring your own wine to the dinner. Kindly complete the attached form and return to: admin2@betdavid.org.za.

High Holy Day Appeal

An exciting year is coming to an end. 5775 has brought Bet David many changes, such as a new rabbinic team, and exciting opportunities for growing and expanding our services. Many of these changes have only been possible because we received support from our congregants. We are very thankful for your help. As it is customary at this time of the year to make a donation to your synagogue, we appeal to you to give consideration to the needs of Bet David, your congregation and those whom we assist throughout the year. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated.

High Holy Day Calendar September / October 2015 – Tishrei 5776

Date	Time	Service
Sunday 13 September	18.00	Erev Rosh Hashanah
Monday 14 September	10.00	1 st Day Rosh Hashanah
	11.00	Children and Youth Service and Activities with Rabbi Schell and Netzer
Monday 14 September	13.30	Tashlich Ceremony
Monday 14 September	18.00	Erev 2 nd Day Rosh Hashanah, followed by a communal dinner in the Middleton (please book your place)
Tuesday 15 September	10.00	2 nd Day Rosh Hashanah, followed by b'rachah
Friday 18 September	18.00	Kabbalat Shabbat for Shabbat Shuvah
Saturday 19 September	10.00	Morning Service for Shabbat Shuvah
Tuesday 22 September	18.00	Kol Nidrei
Wednesday 23 September	10.00	Yom Kippur Morning
	11.00	Children and Youth Service and Activities by Netzer
Wednesday 23 September	13.30	Shiur – Study Session
Wednesday 23 September	14.30	Yom Kippur Afternoon/Mincha
Wednesday 23 September	16.45	Tree of Life Memorial Leaf Dedication (Shul Foyer)
Wednesday 23 September	17.00	Yizkor Service followed by the Neilah Service
Wednesday 23 September	18.39	Havdalah – followed by Breaking of Fast (Rondavel)
Sunday 27 September	18.00	Erev Sukkot
Monday 28 September	10.00	Sukkot Morning, followed by b'rachah (Bet David)
Sunday 04 October	18.00	Erev Simchat Torah
Monday 05 October	09.30!	Shmini Atzeret Torah (Beit Emanuel)

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