

Rabbi Adrian M Schell
Rabbi Hillel Avidan, Emeritus



Rabbi Julia Margolis

Bet David Weekly News
Ad Kan אד כאן טע
Shabbat Vayetzei 5776
21 November 2015 – 09 Kislev 5776

Thursday 19 November – 18.00 – 19.30 Prayers of our Siddur, a shiur with Rabbi Schell (foyer)

Friday 20 November - 18.00 Kabbalat Shabbat Service; 18.00 Child-care in the Youth Centre.

Saturday 21 November - 08.30 Religion School; 08.45 Breakfast and Torah Study with Rabbi Schell; **10.00 Shabbat Morning Service; No Children's Service.** B'rachah follows the service co-sponsored by Saul Shagam and Yola Tome for Saul's recent birthday and Brenda Leiman Abelkop in honour of her parents Mick and Sonya Leiman.

Thursday 26 November – 18.00 – 19.30 Prayers of our Siddur, a shiur with Rabbi Schell

Friday 27 November - 18.00 Kabbalat Shabbat Service includes November birthday blessings; L'chaim follows in the foyer, sponsored by **Peter and Carol Alexander** in honour of their birthdays; **18.00** Child-care in the Youth Centre.

Saturday 28 November - 08.30 Religion School; 10.00 Shabbat Morning Service includes the Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Goodman and Aufruf of Bradley Taitz and Laine Walldorf. B'rachah follows in Ethan's honour sponsored by his parents, Alan and Kim Goodman **10.30-11.30** Children's Service (Youth Centre)

Sunday 29 November 2015 from 10.00 to 12.00 - Cemetery Clean up - please RSVP to the office.

Thursday 03 December – 18.00 – 19.30 Prayers of our Siddur, a shiur with Rabbi Schell

Friday 04 December - 18.00 Kabbalat FAMILY Shabbat Service, followed by a light supper (sponsors welcome) [Rabbi Schell at Bet Menorah]

Saturday 05 December - 08.30 Religion School (last for 2015); 10.00 Shabbat Morning Service; B'rachah follows (sponsor welcome); **10.30-11.30** Children's Service (Youth Centre) [Rabbi Schell at Bet Menorah]

The South African Centre for Religious Equality and Diversity
Proudly presents a talk entitled

**AGAINST ALL ODDS?
SHOULD I STAY OR
SHOULD I GO?**
by Darren Bergman MP (DA)
Deputy Shadow Minister for Sports and Recreation

2nd December at 18:30

Slome Auditorium, Beit Emanuel Progressive
Synagogue, cnr Oxford and 3rd Avenue
(entrance on 3rd), Parktown

R20 per person (may be paid at the door)
Light refreshments to be served
Booking is open to all faiths (and essential for catering purposes)

RSVP to:
The chairperson of SACRED
Rabbi Julia Margolis
Email: rabbijuliamargolis@gmail.com or
Cell: 076-673-0750

I would like to extend a warm invitation to you to attend our last "**SACRED evening of interest**" this year. We (SACRED) are having a talk on **2 December at 18.30**. Venue is the Slome Auditorium, at Beit Emanuel Progressive Synagogue, Parktown. We would love to welcome you and any special guests you may wish to bring with you. Further details of for the evening of interest are attached - booking is essential. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any queries.

Rabbi Julia Margolis

Community 'Triple' Suppers

My thanks to all those who have sponsored 'triple' suppers for the past 18 months - without this financial support we would not be able to have these without charging for them. My thanks also to all those who have attended, my helpers who have kept me sane, and Justice who does the setting up and washing up! You have all added to the community spirit at Bet David.

Our next supper is on **15 January 2016**, kindly sponsored by Rabbi Adrian and Dr Chayim Schell. Please rsvp by 8 January 2016 for catering purposes. Let's make this first one of the year a bumper one! **Monica Solomon**



Four generations came together to honour **Jack Jankes** by putting up a memorial leaf on our Tree of Life. **Left:** Bucka Jankes surrounded by her family.

Mazal Tov

Happy birthday to all who have birthdays the week 16 to 22 November: Shana Frank da Cunha; Doug Smollan; Sandra Bruhns; Sandra Kronson; Toni Sachs; Dr Arnold Levin; Martin Burke; **Children under 14 years** – Jessica Sachs; Jamie Sachs.

Thank you for recent donations

Yahrzeit – Peter Alexander in memory of Henry Alexander; **Mitzvah Day Project Solar Lights** – Smith Family; **General** – Rowan & Lisa Fine (*Compucart*) for a donation of toner for Rabbi Schell's laser printer.

Weekly Yahrzeits

Henry Alexander remembered by Peter Alexander; **Emil Trum** remembered by Marion Hassall; **Abraham Gordon** remembered by Kenneth Gordon; **Bob Ossman** remembered by Madeleine Rose-Hicklin; **Richard Harvey-Nel** remembered by Madeleine Rose-Hicklin; **Yetta Barwin** remembered by Sylvia Borstein; **Lois Joan Lurie** remembered by Steven Lurie; **Fred Sinek** remembered by Mike Sinek; **Barry Rubin** remembered by Mark Rubin; **Norman Isaacs** remembered by Deborah and Louise Isaacs; **Goldie Lipschitz** remembered by Barry Lipschitz; **Errol Cooper** remembered by Lesley Cohn; **Asher Goldin** remembered by Jenny Correia. *Zichronam livracha, may their memories be for a blessing.*

Condolences

We mourn the passing of **Edmund (Eddie) Rossi-Zalmans**, father of Bernard, Ronny and Harold Rossi-Zalmans and Yvonne Cohen.

Speedy Recovery-Refuah Shleimah

Arthur Kruger; Chris Sherlock; Chris Smit; Ruth Jordan; Valerie Sinclair.

Visits by Rabbi Schell or Rabbi Margolis can be arranged for congregants in hospital or ill at home. Please contact Glynnis to report illness and advise whether you would like a visit from one of our Rabbis.

Netzer Summer Machaneh Chalutzim 2015

From 13-27 December 2015 in 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.

Bet David Kehillah

Bet David Kitchen—Home-made delicacies available from our own kitchen! Place orders by Monday with Sharon 011 7837117/admin2@betdavid.org.za for collection on Friday 12h00. Kitchen closure for summer break: last take-home orders to be placed on Monday 7 December for collection on Friday 11 December.

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

50/50 Club—A special appeal for people to join the 50/50 club for R180 per person a year, going towards a good cause and then the member, if drawn, can also reap the benefits financially. The more people that join, the greater the benefits. Don't miss out! Email your details to admin2@betdavid.org.za. Bank Deposits to Bet David Sisterhood, Nedbank Sandton, branch code: 197005 acc. no: 1970476214, Reference: 50/50 surname.

Monthly Feeding Schemes Food Collection – **Sunday 13 December, 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



Left: Sharon Wapnick (WIZO), Dr Einat Wilf and Rabbi Julia Margolis; Right: Gillian Read, Jacqui Upton, Belinda Walt, Neebashnee Kristnasamy and Rabbi Margolis.

On Tuesday morning I attended with several of our ITJ students an “Exclusive Women’s Breakfast” organised by Sharon Wapnick, WIZO. **Dr Einat Wilf**, the invited guest speaker, led a discussion on **“Is there a place for feminism in the Middle East today?”** Since leaving the Israeli Parliament in 2013, Dr Wilf has travelled the world as a “roving ambassador” for Israel, presenting Israel’s case to Jewish communities, student groups and parliaments. She is a powerful advocate for women’s rights and feminism in the Middle East and Africa; world-acknowledged expert on the BDS crisis and how to combat it; and one of Israel’s most articulate representatives on the international stage.

Dr Wilf is an eloquent and charismatic speaker who speaks to all women irrespective of their status, age or creed; and who believes that the essence of peace is Palestinian recognition of Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people.

Some impressions from **Jacqui Upton**: *Yesterday we attended the women’s breakfast with Einat Wilf, who discussed the topic of whether or not there is a place for feminism in the Middle East today. One of her initial points was that in order to judge the wellbeing of a country, one needs to look at the treatment of the women, and namely the girls, within that country. While there seems to have been some progress made in this regard, the Middle East remains very much behind in terms of gender equality, especially in the Arab run countries. Israel continues to make significant progress with regards to gender equality although there are still significant gaps for women leaders within society. She compared Israel as being on par with other large European countries in terms of the amount of women within parliament. She also discussed studies from Columbia University that prove that when women are in positions of leadership, they tend to promote more women into higher positions of authority. Another point she made was that words such as ‘feminism’ and ‘Zionism’ have purposefully been tainted by those opposing the movements. If those that are practising feminist or Zionist principles withdraw from using those terms to describe their actions and beliefs, then the advances that have been made by both movements would be put in jeopardy.*

Wishing you a peaceful weekend. Shabbat Shalom.

Rabbi Julia Margolis

Recipe for Potato Latkes - for Chanukah – from Gillian Read (ITJ)

Ingredients: 1kg old or baking potatoes, peeled, soaked in cold water until needed; 1 onion, peeled; 25g plain flour (or fine matzah meal); 1 free-range egg, beaten; salt and freshly ground white pepper; olive or vegetable oil, for frying. **Method:** Finely grate the potatoes and onion and mix together. Place the grated potato and onion into a colander and squeeze out as much moisture as you can. Or roll up the potato and onion in a clean kitchen tea towel and wring well to extract the liquid. Mix the potato and onion with the flour, egg and salt and freshly ground white pepper. Heat the oil in a frying pan until moderately hot and then place heaped tablespoons of the mixture into the pan to shallow-fry. Lower the heat to medium, flatten each latke with the back of a spoon and fry for about five minutes on each side, turning over when the edges turn golden-brown. If the heat is too high, the latkes will become dark-brown on the outside before they are cooked inside. Remove the latkes from the pan and drain on brown paper bags (they absorb the oil, leave the latkes crisper and the latkes won't stick to the paper). Serve the latkes hot with soured cream and apple sauce.

Chanukah is this year from 6 December to 14 December. Enjoy your latkes!

Torah Reading for Shabbat Vayetzei

Genesis 28:10-32:3 (Reading 28:10-29:14; Plaut p.195; Hertz p.106);

Haftarah: Hosea 12:13-14:10 (Plaut p.214; Hertz p.118)

A joke is told about the New York man driving around desperately seeking a parking place. He can't find one, and so in desperation, he says, *"Oh God I pray that you give me a parking space, if you give me a parking space then I promise to go to synagogue every Shabbat, I promise to give more money to tzedakah and I promise to be more observant of mitzvot."* At that moment in front of him a parking space opens up and the man says *"Oh never mind God I found one."*

In our lives we often engage with this "If". If this happens, then I will do such and such. We set up the negotiation, the exchange between ourselves and God or between ourselves and the fates of the universe, imagining that that gives us some element of control.

In this week's Torah Portion, we get a very strange parallel moment of "If". Jacob, having left Be'ersheva on his way to Haran, has this amazing dream of a stairway leading up to heaven where he sees angels going up and coming down. Then God speaks to Jacob informing him that he, God, will be with his descendants, and that they will receive the land upon which he is sleeping as an inheritance. In the morning when Jacob awakes he is in no doubt about the significance of the dream. However, Jacob is then quoted by saying *"If, God remains with me, If God protects me on the journey that I'm taking and gives me bread to eat and clothing to wear and If I return safely to my father's house, then Adonai shall be God and this stone which I establish as a pillar shall be God's abode."*

After all that Jacob has just seen in that dream, after all of the promises which God gave to Jacob, Jacob feels the need to make a vow beginning with "If". There is the "If" of uncertainty, the "If" of doubt, and possibly even the "If" of fear. And so in trying to regain some control even in this moment after all that he has seen, Jacob says "If".

We often use the word "If" without all the signs and wonders presented to Jacob. And we do it for similar reasons, because we seek to regain that sense of control. Unfortunately, our lives are not arranged around certainty and control, and from time to time we need to let things happen as they happen. It was a long learning process for Jacob to accept that most things are out of his control, too, and he struggled with God for the rest of his life, but he also understood that this is the real sense of a partnership – the partnership with God.

Shabbat Shalom – Rabbi Adrian M Schell (Source: reformjudaism.org)

The Torah Study with Rabbi Schell continues this **Shabbat, 21 November at 08h45** (Rondavel).

"The Prayers of our Siddur" – class with Rabbi Schell **every Thursday** from **18h00 to 19h30** (Foyer).

Podcast of Rabbi Schell's weekly Radio Sermons Tuesdays on Radio Today (10h30) or online:

<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 (next 27 November)

FAMILY SERVICE 18:00—04 December

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

08.45 BREAKFAST SHIUR WITH RABBI SCHELL—21 November; 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 – 19.30

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

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

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

Tel: +27 11 7837117 / 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 / <http://www.facebook.com/BetDavidSandton>

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

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

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