

Shabbat Vayetze, December 6, 2008

Candle Lighting: 4:09 PM / Shabbat Ends: 5:12 PM

Torah Reading: Genesis 28:10-32:3 / Haftarah: Hosea 12:13-14:10

A Teaching from Rabbi Weintraub

Our Torah Portion this week, Vayetze, begins as Jacob, having swindled his powerful, brutish, impulsive twin brother Esau out of an inheritance, flees from his Esau's murderous wrath. "And Jacob went out from Be'er Sheva, and went towards Charan." Rashi in a famous comment wonders why the text needs to mention Jacob's departure from Be'er Sheva, since this would be understood by simply writing that he went to Charan.

He answers: "It is only to tell us that the departure of righteous man from any place makes an impression. For during the time that righteous man is in a city, he constitutes its glory, he is its splendor, and he is its crown, but when he departs, there departs its glory, there departs its splendor, and there departs its crown." Rashi point out a similar usage in the beginning of the story of Ruth, when Ruth, leaving Moab, "went out of the place where she was...to return to the land of Judah" (Ruth 1:7). There as well, the Midrash comments that the departure of the righteous "osah roshem" makes an impression.

We may justifiably wonder however why this formulation, "from x to y" was never used to describe the wanderings of Abraham and Sarah, who were also saintly and constantly picking up and going? The difference, commentators suggest, is not with the virtue of the ancestor but with the sensitivity of his neighbors. Abraham and Sarah lived among rigid idolators who were not educable. Jacob had a mother, father, and fellow students who appreciated his reflection and insights.

"Ma'ase Avot Siman LaBanim" We ought to learn from the stories of our ancestors. Do we have great people among us whose vision we are not appreciating? It is often the case that we dismiss the message of political or religious leaders not because it is unwise, but because it is challenging. We would prefer not to change our habits, and so decide that there simply aren't any good teachers around anymore. Often this defense manifests itself in romanticizing the "real" leaders who we had when we were younger (forgetting of course that as much younger people we were also much more impressionable).

I try to pay attention to successful political and religious leaders even if I disagree with them. I ask myself whether it is really the teaching that I reject, or whether I am just discomforted by the consequences of listening.

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Weintraub

Schedule of Services

Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday at 6:00 PM

Shabbat Morning: Saturday at 9:30 AM / Mincha: Saturday at 1:00 PM

Shacharit: Sunday at 9:00 AM

SINGING SERVICE

This popular, informal service uses the power of singing to build group spirit and to explore the deeper meanings of the prayers. It meets in the Chapel at 10:00 AM and is led by our Music Enrichment Director, Joey Weisenberg.

YOUTH SERVICES

All of our Junior Congregations (Mini-Minyan for ages 2-5; Junior Congregation for grades K-3; KC Minyan for grades 4-6) take place on the Second Floor of the Goldman Education Center at 11:00 AM each Shabbat.

PUTTING ON TEFILLIN FOR THE FIRST TIME

We invite you to our 9:00 Sunday Morning Minyan on December 7, as Isaac Nemetz, our Bar Mitzvah on December 13, will put on Tefillin for the first time in a Kane Street Minyan. Join Isaac and his family as he takes this wonderful step in Kiyyum Mitzvot, Jewish observance, and begins his week of celebration at Kane Street. Mazal Tov also to Linda, Avi and Jonah.

Dedication in Memory of Saul Zeesman, z'l and Karl Solomon, z'l

This Sunday, December 7, immediately after the morning Minyan, we will honor the dedication of a Synagogue classroom in memory of Saul Zeesman, father of Marsha Zeesman Solomon and Karl Solomon, father of Eliot Solomon, and in recognition of Eliot and Marsha's participation in our first capital campaign. Eliot and Marsha invite the community to join them in this brief service of dedication.

Mazal Tov B'rucha Ha'ba'a

We are delighted to inform you of the birth on November 16th of a daughter to Evan and Anna Freidman. We wish the new family much nachis and health together, and look forward to welcoming the new daughter into our covenant and people in a "Simchat Bat" baby naming ceremony in the near future.

Upcoming Kane Street Events

KANE STREET SYNAGOGUE FAMILY PROGRAMS

"This is MY Side of the Tent" — Saturday, December 6, 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM

For all families with children in grades 4-7

This first Shabbaton program presents sibling rivalry and family conflict in the Torah stories of Jacob and Esau. Children and their parents will have the chance to play interactive games and engaging learning activities to revisit these stories and apply them to 21st century life. We will end with a special KC minyan. Please note: the time has been changed from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. and breakfast has been eliminated. Please refer all questions to Rabbi Valerie Lieber at vlieber@kanestreet.org or 718-875-1550x123.

KADIMA/USY

For Membership Forms and a complete Calendar of Events go to <http://kanestreet.org/community/teens/>

Friday, December 5, 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Congregation Mount Sinai, 250 Cadman Plaza West at Tillary Street

KADIMA SHABBAT DINNER & GAME NIGHT

Celebrate Shabbat with friends, good food, & a bunch of games!

Price: FREE RSVP; By December 3rd. Event for 6th to 8th Graders

Saturday, December 6, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Meet/Pick-up @ Park Slope Jewish Center, 1320 8th Ave @ 13th Street

USY HAVDALLAH & NIGHT ICE SKATING AT WOLLMAN RINK

Price: FREE; Admission & Rental for Members; \$15 for Non-Members

RSVP: By December 3rd. Event for 9th to 12th Graders

COME TO THE BOOK FAIR!

Book Court — Sunday, December 14, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 163 Court Street

Books are the quintessential Chanukah gift and the Hebrew School is here to help you find wonderful books while supporting the synagogue. The Hebrew School will receive a percentage of all the purchases you make. Book Court is an independently owned bookstore, and a treasure right in our neighborhood.

THE 5TH ANNUAL BROOKLYN ISRAEL FILM FESTIVAL AT KANE STREET

Thursday, January 22 at 8:00 PM

THE BEETLE (70 mins): Yishai Orian, the director of the movie and the owner of an old, beloved Volkswagen beetle is about to become a father. The exciting, funny, sad, and intimate memories of the VW Beetle's previous owners blend with the director's personal story. *2008 Opening Film of the DocAviv Int'l Film Festival, Israel; 2008 Audience Top Ten Laurel Choice, HotDocs International Film Festival, Canada.*

Saturday, January 24 at 8:00 PM

NOODLE (90 mins): A touching comic drama spun around an El Al flight attendant's life-affirming adventure and the captivating plight of an abandoned Chinese boy. It's also the story of relationships between sisters, wives and husbands, friends and strangers. After the screening, Noodle's director Ayelet Menahemi will talk about her film. *2007 Israeli Film Academy ten nominations and Best Supporting Actress Award. "The Israeli movie of the year. Highly recommended. Charming, humanly, heartwarming and moving." Channel One, Israel.*

Sunday, January 25 at 7:00 PM

CHILDREN OF THE SUN (70 mins): This documentary tells the profound story of the kibbutz movement and breaks down myths through personal stories and evocative rare footage that was shot at kibbutzim between 1930 through 1970. *2008 Israeli Academy Award for Best Documentary; 2008 Fiat Award for Best Usage of Archival Footage.*

Ticket prices are \$25 for series tickets and \$10 for each film.

Community

GIVE AN HOUR ON SHABBAT MORNINGS TO WELCOME NEWCOMERS

In order to engage newcomers to our community warmly and knowledgeably, we have re-established the "welcome station." Every Shabbat morning we organize a table with Synagogue literature and two people to shake visitors' hands, offer a "Shabbat Shalom", answer questions about our community and direct

people to our Sanctuary, alternative or youth services. As numerous studies have shown, these “small acts of welcome “ influence people’s later decisions about continued involvement in the Synagogue.

Please consider taking a shift on some Shabbat mornings. The Membership Committee will provide a quick, easy training for those who want to be greeters. The shifts are 9:15-10:15, 10:15-11:15, and 11:15-12:15. We ask greeters, if it is possible, to remain for the Kiddush after services to integrate newcomers even more into our community. To volunteer, please contact Idelle Abrams at irabrams@earthlink.net

TIKKUN OLAM / SOCIAL JUSTICE

Volunteer for the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue's Homeless Shelter

Thank you to the over fifty members of our community who have volunteered! For more information or to get involved email socialjustice@kanestreet.org.

Kane Street Food Rescue

Many thanks to Tamar Laks & Jay Silverstein and Betsy & Dick Hurley for participating in KSFR last Shabbat. The KSFR helps our congregation fulfill the commandment of me'achal re'evim, feeding the hungry, and the commandment of ba'al tash'chit, not wasting food.

Please email ksfoodrescue@gmail.com if you are interested in donating the leftover food from an upcoming sponsored kiddush or are interested in volunteering for the KSFR team.

MOM (Mitzvah of the Month) for November-December is a New York Cares Coat Drive

Did you know that 90% of homeless adults need a new, warm coat each? But it's not just homeless people who need our help; thousands of New Yorkers are forced to make a choice between buying a winter coat or meeting other basic survival needs. Each December, New York Cares collects nearly 80,000 gently used winter coats and distributes them to thousands of men, women, and children who would otherwise go without. Please donate your gently used coats in the receptacle in the Goldman Building Lobby.

NEXT Cobble Hill Health Center Visit — December 20, 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

380 Henry Street, corner of Congress St. (in the Recreation Room). All ages welcome.

For over twenty-five years, Bob Marx has made monthly Shabbat visits to the Cobble Hill Health Center. Join Bob and the Social Justice Committee, as we spend an hour with Cobble Hill residents of all ages schmoozing, conversing about current events, telling stories, and singing songs.

CHHC MUSIC ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Cobble Hill Health Center, 380 Henry St, Sunday, December 21st at 2:00 pm.

Singers, Musicians, Dancers of all levels welcome! Ms. Shoshana Tubi (Silverstein), congregation member, will be singing with the accompaniment of her flutist, Ms. Gina Tlamsa, and with dances provided by Roselle Silverstein. Any members interested in accompanying Ms. Tubi (guitar and keyboard) are invited to be part of this event. If interested please call Nigel FeBland at 212-675-3790 or email feblandgrp@aol.com. There will be a rehearsal prior to the event, for all participants.

If any Congregation members wish to offer their vocal or instrumental services for additional events, the Cobble Hill Health Center welcomes other performances. If you wish to perform there, we generally reach between 30-40 residents plus their guests. It is a "participatory" event as they join us in rhythm and sometimes take the microphone and lead us in song. This program offers an opportunity for Congregation members to donate their time to a worthwhile cause and showcase their own talents. This event is an off-shoot of Bob Marx's 25 year "run" at the Health Center. Please contact Nigel FeBland if you wish to participate in this ongoing performance series.

Education

GAP-YEAR IN ISRAEL FAIR

Sunday, December 7, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ivry Prozdor High School of JTS, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027

For students between high school and college. Open to New York City Students and Parents.

Contact Jeremy Fine for more details: jeremymichaelfine@gmail.com. RSVP requested, but not required

KANE STREET HEBREW SCHOOL

The Kane Street Hebrew School is in full swing; for any questions or registration, contact Rabbi Valerie Lieber, Educational Director vlieber@kanestreet.org or 718-875-1550.

KANE STREET KIDS

Kane Street's Goldman Educational Center is also home to our Preschool, Kane Street Kids. For information about Kane Street Kids, contact Director Joyce Heller, Kids@kanestreet.org, or call Joyce at 718-875-1550.

Events Around Town

"Landmark of the Spirit: The Eldridge Street Synagogue" Book Party

Sunday, December 7 — 2 to 4 PM at the Eldridge Street Synagogue, 12 Eldridge Street, NYC

Join Kane Street member Annie Polland for a festive reception celebrating the publication of her book, "Landmark of the Spirit: The Eldridge Street Synagogue" (Yale University Press). Annie is an accomplished historian, the Museum's Vice President for Education and one of Kane Street's favorite Me'ah instructors. In this groundbreaking text, she uses elements of the building's architecture to shine new light on the religious life of immigrant Jews and to analyze the significance of this special building within the larger American-Jewish experience. Copies of the "Landmark of the Spirit" will be available for purchase.

Please RSVP to 212-219-0888. There is no charge to attend although donations will be warmly accepted.

Shabbat Customs

Thank you for joining us as our congregation gathers for Shabbat (the Jewish Sabbath) services. It is a special time when we seek sanctuary from our busy lives to find community with friends and family, and participate in rituals and customs common to congregations throughout the world. Our services combine traditional nuscha'ot (prayer forms and melodies) with an open spirit and democratic lay leadership.

We invite you to join in our song and celebration. Our prayer books for Friday night and Shabbat morning Services include phonetic transliteration. On Shabbat, we create an atmosphere wherein each pray-er may reflect on his/her life, and so leave shul with renewed faith and optimism. Therefore, quiet is the proper mood for synagogue.

We are blessed with an abundance of lively, lovely children. Without diminishing our kids' playful natures and the enjoyment they take in each others' company on Shabbat, we want to foster a safe and respectful atmosphere. When children are not participating in youth services or babysitting, we expect parents to maintain their oversight so injuries are avoided, services are not disrupted and synagogue activities and property are not disturbed.

To preserve the sanctity of our bodies, our souls and the Sabbath, please refrain from smoking, using cell phones or other electronic devices and taking pictures at any time while in or around the synagogue. Our synagogue ushers will gladly provide more information about our community and our customs.

After services we gather for an Oneg, refreshments and socializing, in the community room.

Please join us.

Contact Us

WEBSITE

To find out all that Kane Street Synagogue has to offer, please visit our website at www.kanestreet.org. The KSS website now has a new feature. Shabbat candle light times are now easy to find in the drop – down menu under “Calendar”.

CONTACTS

Linda Kass-Mahler, Executive Director • office@kanestreet.org or call 718-875-1550

Samuel H. Weintraub, Rabbi • rabbi@kanestreet.org or call 718-876-1550. The Rabbi maintains “call-in hours” Tuesdays 10:15-12:15 and Wednesdays 11-1; these are times when you can be sure to snag him to make an appointment, to ask questions, etc. Feel free to call at other times; these are the times when you know he’ll be there, barring emergencies.

Jay Brodsky, President • president@kanestreet.org

Submissions to the Kane Yirbu should be emailed to Kane Yirbu editor Barbara Speregen at KaneYirbu@kanestreet.org by the Monday preceding publication.

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