

Shabbat Vayeshev; December 19-20, 2008 Mevarekhim HaChodesh

Candle Lighting: 4:11 PM / Shabbat Ends: 5:14 PM

Torah Reading: Genesis 37:1-40:23 / Haftarah: Amos 2:6-3:8

A Teaching from Rabbi Weintraub

This week's Parsha, Vayeshev, begins the longest continuous narrative in the Pentateuch the "Joseph Saga", set in ancient Egypt. Joseph and his family enrich as well as benefit from life in Egypt, even as they live in their own, discrete ethnic-religious enclave.

Our Synagogue reading of these stories always coincides with the Holiday of Chanukah, which will begin, with G-d's help, next Sunday night. The Maccabean story, like the Joseph story, portrays a complicated and ambivalent relationship of the Jewish community with their surrounding culture. While the Macabbeans rebelled heroically against brutal Greek totalitarianism, they were also part of a Jewish world deeply influenced by Hellenistic philosophy.

Both Egyptian and Greek thought inspired Judaism to ponder more openly the idea of an afterlife. While the Bible is vague about the afterlife, the subject becomes one of intense theological exploration, beginning with the Maccabean era (second century BCE) and continuing through the Talmudic period (first five centuries, CE). Talmudic references to Olam Haba, the world to come, are ubiquitous and imaginative. By developing this belief, the Rabbis sought to affirm that those who lived righteously in this world would enjoy reward and influence beyond the grave. They remained focused centrally on this world even as they taught of life in the next one.

As belief in the world to come grew through interpenetration with other cultures, so the Rabbis insisted that the bliss of that world was not reserved only for Jews. In the spirit of Chanukah, which is a victory for all persecuted minorities against all tyrants, I close with a legend about Rabbi Chayim of Volozhin, head of the Yeshiva of Volozhin, Lithuania, the chief center of Talmudic study in 19th Century Europe.

When R. Chayim died, it is told, he had lived such a righteous life that he was offered immediate admission to Heaven. However, he refused to enter until he could be assured that all the teachers and students of his Yeshiva would be admitted. After all, he argued, his success was a result of their labors. When this condition was accepted, he argued for the admission of all Jews since all Jewish households supported Yeshivas. When this was granted, he argued that all Gentiles must also be admitted, because they, after all, had provided homes for Jews in exile. In short, he insisted that all the world be admitted to Olam Habah, the perfect world to come. To this, he received a negative reply. He was told this request could not be met because the Messiah, who will assure universal harmony, has not yet arrived. So, R. Chayim refused to enter Paradise and his soul to this day waits at its portals, praying, (as we do thrice daily in the Aleinu) for the redemption of all humankind.

Shabbat Shalom, Chag Urim Samei'ach, Happy Chanukah — *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, 10:15 – 11:15 AM, and is led by our Music Enrichment Director, Joey Weisenberg. Please contact music@kanestreet.org if you have any questions or comments.

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. For more information please contact vlieber@kanestreet.org.

Upcoming Kane Street Events

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. Pick up a flyer in the back of the Synagogue or go to <http://kanestreet.org/community/israel-matters/> for more details.

KANE STREET ALMOST SPRING AUCTION

Sunday, March 1 from 5 to 8 PM

CELEBRATE THE FIRST INKLINGS OF SPRING AT KANE STREET

You're welcome to bring the kids for a buffet dinner, music, a huge raffle and an edge-of-the-seat live auction. Now, think about what you might donate: a country house? a pair of tickets? a gift certificate from your favorite merchant? an insider tour? your special skills? Go ahead: Get creative! For more info, contact Andrea Glick at lieberglick@att.net.

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. The Membership Committee will provide a quick, easy training for those who want to be greeters. We ask greeters, if it is possible, to remain for the Kiddush to integrate newcomers even more into our community. To volunteer, please contact Idelle Abrams at irabrams@earthlink.net

TIKKUN OLAM / SOCIAL JUSTICE

Pick up a brochure in the back of the Synagogue or go to <http://kanestreet.org/community/social-justice/> for more details.

THIS SHABBAT: 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!

Join Bob Marx 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.

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, at the Cobble Hill Health Center, at 380 Henry St. Any members interested in participating (accompanying or just showing up) are invited to be part of this event. Please call Nigel FeBland at 212-675-3790, or email feblandgrp@aol.com.

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

Please donate your gently used coats in the receptacle in the Goldman Building Lobby.

HOPE 2009 — January 26, 2009

Kane Street Synagogue will be joining once again with Congregation Beth Elohim & Old First Reformed Church to participate in HOPE 2009. The Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) is a survey of all individuals living on city streets, in city parks, and in the subway system. It will be held on Monday, January 26th beginning at 10:30pm. Email socialjustice@kanestreet.org to join our team.

Kosher Conscience — February 28th

Simon Feil of Kosher Conscience to teach at Kane Street During Shabbat Morning Services on February 28th. Save the date!

Education

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 718-875-1550.

LIMMUD NY 2009

January 15-19, 2009

A 4-DAY FESTIVAL OF ALL THINGS JEWISH IN THE CATSKILLS

Get away Martin Luther King Weekend with 1,000 Jews of all ages and backgrounds. Celebrate the rich diversity of Jewish life, culture, ideas and perspectives. Choose from 300+ sessions – up to 15

concurrently – including lectures, hands-on workshops, text study, music, film, yoga, nature walks, and more. Or just hang out, relax, eat, meet new friends and grow your Jewish world at Limmud NY 2009, January 15-19, 2009. Note: Scholarships are widely available. Be a Part of Limmud NY: Register Now! <http://www.limmudny.org/register> • info@limmudny.org • 212-284-6968

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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