



Kehilat Nitzan's Weekly News
Wednesday July 21, 2010
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Shabbat Services – held at 99 Hotham Street, East St Kilda

Shabbat Candle lighting time:
5.07 pm
Friday night shule service: 6.00pm
Shabbat morning service: 9.30
Shabbat ends: 6.08 pm

PARASHAT VA'ETHANAN – SHABBAT NACHAMU

July 24, 2010 – 13 Av 5770

Triennial (Deut. 5:1-7:11): Etz Hayim p. 1015; Hertz p. 765

Haftarah (Isaiah 40:1-26): Etz Hayim p. 1033; Hertz p. 776



Mazal Tov to Samuel Korman on his Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.
Fiona and Tony Korman have kindly sponsored the kiddush to follow the service.

Dear members,

Many thanks to all of you who responded to our request to send letters to Prime Minister Netanyahu recording your opposition to the passage of the MK David Rotem Conversion Bill. Our efforts together with those of many thousands of Masorti and Progressive Jews throughout the world were extremely important. Through the Masorti Movement's website link alone we know of 23,000 emails that went to Prime Minister Netanyahu and we understand that the office of the Prime Minister, in total, received in excess of 50,000 emails.

These efforts were not in vain. We are happy to share with you the good news that MK Rotem, realizing that he will not have majority to his bill, decided not to present it to the Knesset at this stage. It is indeed a very comforting message for this Shabbat Nachamu.

We hope that we will not have to call on you again as the Knesset reconvene after the High Holiday but we are comforted in knowing that KN members together with the world Masorti community are there when needed.

Zvi Civins

Rabbi Ehud Bandel

MONDAY NIGHT'S SHIUR Monday July 26 @ 8pm

The Rabbi's weekly shiur will continue to focus on the rabbinic saying: "Jerusalem was destroyed because its inhabitants failed to rebuke one another" We shall study and discuss Biblical and Rabbinic sources on rebuke. The shiur will be held at Pam's, 2 Lempriere Avenue, East St Kilda. **New entrants are welcome!**

NITZANIM SINGERS Sunday July 25 @ 2pm

Our merry troupe of singers will entertain the residents at Princeton View, 29 Heathfield Road, Brighton East. Please come and join us – no experience needed. For further information contact June Simmonds on 9512 0488

SUNDAY AFTERNOON @ THE COPACABANA August 1 @ 1pm – 4pm

Come join us for an afternoon of fun at the Copacabana, 139 Smith Street, Collingwood. Enjoy dancing or listening to a 17 piece Big Band including some of Melbourne's BEST musicians performing lots of top popular standards in Jazz and Swing. Entrance fee of \$20.00 is charged at the door. PLEASE mention you are with the "Alan Tinner Group" for special seating at a reserved table. Doors open at 12.30pm for 1.00pm start. Booking is essential. Contact Alan Tinner on 9578 3735 or atinner7@gmail.com

INTERFAITH EVENING Sunday August 8, 7pm at B'nai B'rith

KN invites you to a unique event - the KN interfaith evening to be held at B'nai B'rith.

On 8 August at 7pm our Kehilah will host a special gathering that will bring together people from a wide and diverse variety of faiths under the one banner of community. This evening will feature guests from the faiths of Baha'i, Islam, Christian Baptist, Hinduism, Tibetan Buddhism, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and others. Our guests have been involved in the planning of last year's Parliament of the World's Religions as well as various other interfaith initiatives. Each guest will share personal stories, reflections about their faith as well as how interfaith dialogue and inter-religious understanding can grow into the future. There will be ample time to mingle with our guests and plenty of question time also. This event is not one to be missed. Having such a diverse group of people appearing all together is a rare opportunity. We encourage our Kehilah to be involved in welcoming our guests. Some have been to our Kehilah before but for the majority this will be their first experience of the Jewish community. Let's welcome them together.

Contact Michael Korman or Ruth Arber for details and Evelyn for reservations.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING August 15 at 7.30pm @ BBH

The AGM will be held Sunday August 15, 7.30pm at B'nai B'rith. Please diarise the date and make every effort to attend. If you are interesting on nominating for a Board position, please contact the office for a nomination form.

Parashat Vaetchanan - Shabbat Nachamu - Seeing the Goodness By Rabbi Matthew Berkowitz

On Tishah b'Av, commemorated Tuesday, the Jewish community focused on the many tragedies which have befallen the Jewish people throughout the ages. Indeed, commemoration and memory are sacred to the collective consciousness of the Jewish people. Yet, as we find ourselves commemorating tragedy, we must also ask, "How is it that we affirm life?" How do we make sure that we always take note of the small blessings of everyday life? How do we focus on the good?

Rabbi Menahem Mendl of Kotzk (1787-1859), gives us insight into the extent to which we are commanded to find beauty and good in life. Sparked by Moses' request, "I will pass, I pray thee, and I will see the good land" (Deuteronomy 3: 25), Rabbi Mendl of Kotzk asks "Why does the verse state 'I will see?'" This is obvious! By virtue of passing into the land, he would surely see it! Rather, Rabbi Mendl explains, "Moses prayed that in his coming to the Land of Israel he would merit seeing the goodness which rests in the Land - that he would see the land as good, and not as the spies had perceived it, a land of many faults."

Moses' prayer to see the good is a prayer from the depth of his heart. To view the good in a situation is far more difficult than to dwell on the bad. Perhaps that is why it is so difficult for us to avoid lashon hara, evil language and gossip. Yet, the time has come to make lashon tov, good language, a part of our vocabulary.

Let us always strive to see the good in others: - their thoughts and deeds. And, may we all, like Moses, even in this week of negative memories, merit seeing the goodness of the Land of Israel shining through.

KN CARE

The Tikkun Olam Committee is pleased to announce that the first group of KN CARE volunteers have completed the training to become confidential Community Visitors and are now available to visit (and support) Kehilat Nitzan members or their families who are in need.. The volunteers are supported by professional advisers and the program is co-ordinated by Rabbi Bandel.