



Kehilat Nitzan's Weekly News
Wednesday November 19, 2008

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Shabbat Services – held at 99 Hotham Street, East St Kilda

Shabbat & Candle lighting 7.58pm

**Friday night shule service:
6.15pm. With the change to
daylight saving time, come and join
us for an uplifting, spiritual
experience of a music and song
Kabbalat Shabbat service.**

Shabbat morning service: 9.30 am

Shabbat ends: 9.02pm

**PARASHAT CHAYE SARAH – BIRKAT
HAHODESH**

November 22, 2008 – 24 Heshvan 5769

Triennial Cycle: Genesis 24:10 – 24:52
(Etz Hayim, p. 132; Hertz p. 83)

Haphtarah: I Kings 1:1 – 31
(Etz Hayim, p. 143; Hertz p. 90)

*Mazal Tov to Michael Rechtman who will be
celebrating his Bar Mitzvah this coming
Shabbat*

*Debbie & Robert Rechtman have kindly
sponsored the Kiddush to follow the service on
the occasion of Michael's Bar Mitzvah*

UPCOMING K.N. FUNCTIONS

K. N. BOOK CLUB

Sun 23 Nov @ 7.30pm

The next book club meeting will be held at 2/2 Ardoch Avenue, E. St. Kilda on Sunday 23rd November at 7.30 pm. We will be over-viewing Gabriel Garcia Marquez' magnificent novel **100 Years of Solitude**. This should make for a fascinating discussion. Geula will be facilitating

MONDAY NIGHT SHIUR

Mon 24 Nov @ 8pm

One Jew, Two Opinions: Rabbinic Theology through the Lens of Abraham Joshua Heschel

Our Monday night shiurim, from now until the end of the year, will focus on A.J. Heschel's book *Torah min-Shamayim*, (translated to English by Rabbi Gordon Tucker as "Heavenly Torah"). The study which is meant to challenge us to reappraise our assumptions pertaining to the foundations of rabbinic Judaism will be done partly in a Beit Midrash style of *chevrutot*, - groups of two who study the text together and then present it to the entire group.

YOUTH FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

Fri 28 Nov @ 6:15pm

Our Shlichim are holding another of our youth activities for 13-18 years old, on the last Friday of this month. Please join them for dinner - Friday night **November 28** following the shule service @ 6:15pm at B'nai B'rith – fully Kosher catered @ \$10 per head.

Expect lots of fun activity, great food and company. Please RSVP by email to Michal at: michs2310@yahoo.com. Michal, Yair and Vered are really excited and hope to see as many of Kehilat Nitzan's youth as possible.

Parashat Chayei Sarah – Revering Rebekah

By Dr. David Kraemer

In Chayei Sarah, we are introduced to perhaps the most powerful woman in Torah (or the Bible as a whole, for that matter), Rebekah. The model that Rebekah offers is a challenging one, well worth considering in an age when powerful women often imagine (and not without some reason) that Jewish tradition preserves few models for the kind of women they aspire to be.

The Torah makes it clear that Rebekah is exemplary of traditional values. First, we are told that in addition to being beautiful, she is (at the time we first meet her) "a virgin, neither had any man known her" (Genesis 24:16). She is modest as well; upon being introduced to Isaac, "she took her veil and covered herself" (24:65). She is even pious; when afflicted with two children struggling within her womb, "she went to inquire of the Lord" (25:22).

At the same time, Rebekah is a confident woman, willing to assert herself and use the power available to her. When asked whether she would accompany Eliezer to Canaan, she responds without hesitation: "I will go" (24:58). After God reveals to her which of her sons would rule the other (25:23), she does not hesitate to orchestrate affairs so that God's will would be done. Rebekah is the insightful partner, the protector of the covenant; Isaac is blind to it all (until the very end).

Thus, we may understand that there is no necessary conflict between the Torah's vision and a woman of power and insight. Whatever one wants to make of "traditional womanly values," taking command of her own affairs and the affairs of her nation need not be thought to be in tension with such values.

*Celebrate the first night of Chanukah
under the stars at Kehilat Nitzan's Family
Chanukah Party*

When: Sunday 21st December 2008 at 6:30 – 9:30pm

Where: 30 Creswick Street, Hawthorn 3122 (by the Yarra)

What's on: The Maccabean games, songs, dreidels

*What's on the menu: Sausages, latkes, ponchkes
and bring a big salad or a fruit platter or something to drink*

RSVP by email to evelyn@kehilatnitzan.org.au

WEEKEND RETREAT

February 20 – 22, 2009

Following our very successful Retreat earlier this year, Kehilat Nitzan is organising another weekend retreat at the Surf Coast Spa in Anglesea on the Great Ocean Road, for the weekend Friday February 20th till Sunday afternoon February 22nd. The Resort is located at the banks of the river, where it meets the sea.

Rooms are air-conditioned; indoor heated pool; flood lit tennis court; 1 session of yoga/relaxation; bush walking, group jogging with Kangoo Jumps on the beach. Available but at extra cost is canoeing, horse riding, kayaking and abseiling. We will be holding our regular shule services during Shabbat. Saturday night will be a fun packed games night suitable for all ages. Check in any time after 2pm on Friday and check out by 5pm on Sunday.

There are various room configurations available. Bookings will be accepted on a "first come – first served" basis. Fully Kosher catered meals provided at an extra cost of \$50 per adult and \$15 per child. We require a deposit of \$200 immediately to secure your reservation. Finalisation of bookings to be made by January 23rd, 2009.

COMMUNAL ACTIVITIES

JEWISH TASKFORCE AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

Thu 27 Nov @ 8pm

A major community forum on - "Child Sexual Assault – it DOES happen here!" will be held at Caulfield shule hall, 572 Inkerman Street, Caulfield. See attached flier for more details.

The Leon Cebon Memorial Lecture Series

Sun 7 Dec @7:00pm

Miriam Muntz will speak on "Jewish Day Schools in Melbourne: The Length and the Breadth of our Community". Having worked in and with Melbourne's Jewish schools for many years, Miriam will provide an overview of the rich diversity of the community including how the schools came to be set up, their philosophies and their challenges for the future. 53 Walpole St, Kew @ 8pm

Roslyn Smorgon Program in Jewish Communal Service and Leadership

Do you know anyone who wants to do post graduate study in Jewish Communal Service?

To find out more about these courses, scholarships and subsidies offered in the Department of Jewish Civilization at Monash University read the attached brochure or call Course Coordinator Melanie Landau at melanie.landau@arts.monash.edu.au 0425 825362 or ++61 425 825362 Applications can be done online and close on November 28. See attached flier