

DEBAR TORAH by RABBI ROHDE

Sarah lived a long time: one-hundred-twenty-seven years, the beginning of our Parasha tells us. Abraham dies at the end of our Parashah at the even more advanced age of one-hundred-seventy-five. We were told two weeks ago that Abraham had his first son Ishmael when he was eighty-six years old and his second son Isaac when he was one-hundred, although he seems to have had many more after that. Abraham doesn't take care to find a wife for Isaac until quite a while after Sarah's death: Next week's Parasha tells us that Isaac was forty when he married Rebecca. It took Abraham twelve years after Sarah's death to even think about finding a wife for Isaac. What took him so long? And then Isaac is sixty when Rebecca gives birth. Later generations of Israel seem to reproduce much faster and more prolifically. What do these advanced ages of the early patriarchs as well as their early barrenness mean or signify?

Well, for one thing, we see that the early Patriarchs were largely acting as individuals or individual households. They had not yet truly established themselves as a community, although in settling themselves in Canaan they had taken steps towards marking off communal territory. Becoming a community leads to intra- and extra-communal strife, as we shall soon see. But becoming a community also leads to increased blessing and strength. No matter how worthy Abraham and Isaac were, it was difficult for them to achieve blessing and proliferation as long as they remained just individual and didn't establish a community. Of course, Abraham and Isaac took great care and trouble in laying the foundations of what would eventually become a community. Their early care in starting their families is praiseworthy, but it also took much time. Later generations were not nearly so careful, but blessings and growth happened faster because they had become a community. Abraham was a great hero. He was blessed with many gifts and much wealth for which he was grateful. But to really perpetuate his legacy he would have to found a community, for the fruits of the labors of individuals acting solitarily are too few and far between to be likely to carry on and succeed. A community, by contrast, can help each other to succeed. The early Patriarchs do reach advanced ages and do gather wealth. But only by founding a community, or trying to, even given the imperfections of that community, would Abraham and Isaac reap and perpetuate God's blessing.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Haye Sarah

November 22-23, 2024 | 22 Marheshvan, 5785

SCHEDULE

Kaplan: p. 100 | Haftarah: p. 1066

Hertz: p. 80 | Haftarah: p. 90

Candle Lighting | 4:15 pm

Evening Services | 4:15 pm | Main Sanctuary

Friday Night Lights | Baruch-Lev Kelman | after services | *5785 Season sponsored by the Julis Romo Rabinowitz family | Session sponsor: anonymous, in honor of Ezra b. Yitzhak v'Tefaba & Saida bat Sasson v'Tefaba*

"Language City" Shabbat Dinner | *for registered guests* | after Friday Night Lights | Levy Auditorium

Zemirot | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

Shahrit | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

Tot Shabbat | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room

Youth Groups & Junior Congregation | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

Kiddush | following services | Levy Auditorium | *Anonymous Arak sponsor, in honor of Baruch-Lev Kelman*

Shabbat Afternoon Class | 3:30 pm | Baruch-Lev Kelman

Teen Shiur will return next week.

Evening Services | 4:10 pm

Habdala | 5:00 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings

Sun | 8:05 am / Mon-Wed & Friday | 7:05 am / Thurs (Thanksgiving): 7:45 am

Evenings (Arbit Only)

Sunday-Thursday | 6:30 pm

CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

If registration required, sign up at shearithisrael.org

Thanksgiving Day Schedule

Thursday, November 28

7:45 am-8:15 am | Morning Services with Special Thanksgiving Hallel

8:30 am-9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik's Address

8:30 am-9:00 am | Children's Hessed Craft Activity for Pack-A-Thon participants | Fidanque Youth Room

9:00 am-11:00 am | Hunger Alleviation Pack-a-thon | SIGN UP!

9:00 am-11:00 am | Parade Viewing for Children | Portico | SIGN UP!

Annual Thanksgiving Pack-A-Thon

in partnership with the Jewish Center, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, West End Church, and Masbia

Thursday, November 28 | 9:00 am | Paved Paradise Pavilion

At this annual event, we will pack over a thousand nutritious food packages for those in need, and Masbia will distribute them to those who need them. Help us feed thousands of struggling families!

Thanksgiving Parade Viewing for Youth

Thursday, November 28 | 9:00 am | Portico

CSI Members: Free!

Children of Pack-A-Thon donors of \$180 & up: Free!

Non-Members: \$50 in advance | \$70 at the door

Year of Hope Carpet Installation Update

Exciting! Main Sanctuary Carpet Installation Starts THIS MONDAY

1) **We suggest that you clear your personal items from the pews**, including *tallitot*, books, etc. The space will be affected by dust and you may not have access to the Sanctuary until January. Items left in drawers will remain there until the conclusion of the work. Any books that are not removed from the benches will be packed by our staff on Sunday for safekeeping.

2) Starting next week through the end of the year, Shabbat Services will be held in the Levy Auditorium, and Kiddush will be held in the Elias Room.

COMING UP

If registration required, sign up at shearithisrael.org

(Virtual) Sunday Matinee with Sisterhood

All proceeds will be donated to help families of Israeli soldiers

All three films: \$21.00 | Single film: \$10.00

Film Discussions: Sundays | 4:00 pm | on Zoom

November 24 | Sallah Shabati (1964)

December 22 | Time of Favor (2000)

January 26 | Walk on Water (2004)

A link is sent to registrants to watch the film a week before the appointed date, together with a second link to join the Sunday discussion on Zoom.

Medical Innovation in the Aftermath of October 7th:

Update from The Soroka Medical Center with Dr. Uri Greenbaum

Thursday, December 12 | 7:00 pm (following 6:30 pm Evening Services)

With a wine and cheese reception

Exclusive Exhibition of the Tel Dan Stele at The Jewish Museum

Rabbi Soloveichik in conversation with

James Snyder, Director of the Jewish Museum

Thursday, December 19 | 7:00 pm

With a wine and cheese reception

Sisterhood Jewelry-Making Workshop

Sunday, December 15 | 4:00 pm | \$25 per person

The Sisterhood invites you to a hands-on jewelry-making workshop with handcrafted jewelry designer Ofra Lerner of Ofra Jewels. Come make a Hanukkah gift for yourself or a loved one! Parents and children can work together to create beautiful jewelry with real pearls, semi-precious stones, crystals, and charms.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

We mourn the loss of our member, **Iris Sasson**.

Condolences to her daughter, **Edie (& Michael) Sasson-Gelman**.