

Office Hours:
8.00am to 3:00pm

Thursday
17 November 2011
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20 Cheshvan 5772

SHAVU N

Your Weekly Shabbat Update

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From the Rabbi's desk...

Chayei Sarah

This week's parsha opens with a somewhat sombre tableau. Avraham has just said goodbye to his wife and lifelong mate Sarah and now he wants to acquire a place to bury her. Standing in front of the assembly of Canaanites he asks if he may purchase the Machpela cave that is on the border of Efram's fields. Recognising that Avraham is a man of God, a light unto the nations, the Hittites offers him the choosiest land for nothing – "You are a Prince of God in our midst; we will not withhold anything from you..." But Avraham refuses, "I am a stranger and a resident among you, please let me pay full price..." And so it was, Avraham purchased the land with the cave for the burial of his wife. So why go to so much fuss over a piece of land if they were willing to give it to him. Well Avraham did not want to owe the Hittites anything. He wanted at one time to be both to remain independent and free and at the same time to serve as a loyal resident in the land where he lived.

This is contrary to the story we heard about Lot in last week's parsha. Lot seemed to be a man that made a great effort to assimilate. He wanted to become one with the people of Sodom and Gomorra. He lived the lifestyle of the people in these cities and did not want to stand out. He conformed to the ways of others trying to gain their acceptance and in doing so he instead completely lost their respect.

The story of Avraham and Lot's is to some extent quite similar to the one that we as modern Jews are faced with. Living as a small minority in a sea of other people we constantly are confronted with the questions: should we give up our special character, our unique historical and cultural make-up in order to conform to the values of other or should we retain these distinctive traits and maybe stand out. Should we send our children to Christian school because that is what everyone does and thus they can become like their contemporaries in a secular society or should we emphasise Jewish life at home and Jewish education? Should we choose to live the life of the many so as not encounter too much resistance or should we choose to take on the high moral obligation of a Jewish lifestyle?

In my humble opinion the answer lies with Avraham. He chose not to conform, not to give up, to remain faithful to the ways of G'd. Even though the Hittites knew that he wanted to remain outside their clan they respected him for his choice, they saw him as "A Prince of God". Lot, as we all know, suffered a quite different fate and his final days in Sodom were less than glorious.

So will the future generation think of each one of us as Jews when we have left, with high moral standards, a light to mankind or will we be forgotten and swept under the carpet for conforming to a grey standard? The choice is ours, every single day, every hour, to pick up what our people have shared for thousands of years and what have kept us alive as a people through the ages. It is never too late and today is as good a day as any to bring out that little bit of Avraham that burns inside us all!

Join us on [Facebook](#)

Shabbat: Chayei Sarah

<u>Artscroll:</u>	<u>Soncino:</u>
Torah: Pg: 106	Torah: Pg: 80
Haftarah: Pg: 1136	Haftarah: Pg: 90

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Samuel Altschul



Yom Huledet Sameach!! Happy Birthday!!

Sophia Brown
Shlomo Elisar
David Jaffe
Maria Shnayderman
Gavin Berman
Mary Katzen
Daniel Lord
Jacob Maasland
David Spalter
Emily Conway
Wyat Halm
David Stiasny
Michael Stiasny

Mazal Tov:

Mazal Tov to **Lauren Bergman** who will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat at Greys Ave.
Mazal Tov also to proud parents Andrew and Natalie, brother Michael, granny Eve, granny Gerda and uncle Jack who are visiting from abroad.
The Bergman family warmly invites the community to the Friday Night Kiddush to celebrate this Simcha with them!

News from Emma & Ephraim

This week was the inauguration of the Leining club!
The Leining club is a new initiative by the youth in the Auckland Hebrew congregation headed by Ephraim, to ensure that locals of the two Synagogues can take an active role during the prayer service.
The program will be held weekly to teach the reading and melody of the Torah reading, and to teach the other functions needed to operate the service.
Participants will commit to learning and reading a small amount of Torah portions on an annual basis and to help their counterparts read as well, by doing the hand signals during the reading of the Torah.
In appreciation of their commitment the AHC is offering every participant a scholarship towards a Jewish activity of their choice.

Gearing up for Summer Camp, BA held a "Bnei Akiva's Pizzeria" after school for the kids at Kadimah which will happen every Wednesday at 3PM for following weeks leading up to camp. The pizza's were sold out in minutes so don't miss the next sale!



Deli'liscious News...

www.greysavedeli.co.nz
Kosher Kiwi Guide – you can find it online and in the Deli (\$10 per copy)
Kosherkiwidirectory.co.nz

The long-awaited chickens arrived... due to circumstances beyond our control the schecht was much smaller than expected so we will have to limit purchases to **3 items per family** at this point. We also expect a large delivery of Australian meat next week followed by a local lamb schecht.



OLD RABBI'S HOUSE – HEPBURN STREET, FREEMANS BAY

We are delighted to announce that the Hepburn Street house has sold and settled. Thanks very much to Elaine Silverman who was the real estate agent, Jack Porus and his team at Glaister Ennor for attending to the legals and to the Chevra and certain members of the Auckland Hebrew Congregation Trust Board who so very generously contributed funds towards the ownership of the house.

From AHC's perspective it no longer has to service a mortgage of \$***** plus associated rates, insurance and maintenance and more importantly the sale has enabled the AHC to make a profit of some \$***** which as you know will be wisely spent / invested.

In addition, thanks to Claudio and Greg for maintaining the house in good condition and preparing it for sale.

INVITATION TO A "TASTE OF LIMMUD" THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER 7.30PM 47 MARKET ROAD REMUERA LAUGHTER, COFFEE AND CAKE \$10

Leonard Wise, a huge success at LIMMUD Toronto, presents an amusing and analytical discussion of what is so distinctive about Jewish humour, illustrated by jokes that disclose the unique nature of the Jewish psyche. Lenny, a published writer, actor and retired attorney, will tell you everything you wanted to know about Jewish humour but were afraid to ask.

Come and celebrate the end of a year with LIMMUD volunteers and tell us how you want to VOLUNTICIPATE for LIMMUD NZ 2012, 18 AND 19 August 2012.



Support Shalom Court by purchasing your cards made by the residents.

Cards for all occasions. Mazel Tov, Bat/Bar Mitzvah, all Jewish holidays, New Home, N.Z Scenes Baby, and yes even Seasons Greetings.

All available through **The Deli** Moderately priced and cards to order can be delivered to the Deli within 5/7 working days.

For bulk orders Phone Judy on 520 3232



Join us for **MEGA** fun at **MEGAZONE** this **Sunday** **3.30-5.30** at **Panmure megazone** **All groups** *Please bring \$20*



Thanks to everyone who made friends with 'Bnei Akiva Summer Camp' on facebook...as you can see, the second poster has been revealed!!!! BUT there is still a third poster to be released! If you want to speed up the wait until the third and final poster is released then Facebook message 'Bnei Akiva Summer Camp' what you think the theme is from looking at the second poster.

“To the moon and back!”



Join Emma’s Women’s Rosh Chodesh Club

When: Wednesday 30th November
Time: 8-9pm
Where: 33 Gwilliam Place, Freeman’s Bay

Rabbi’s classes...



Ask the Chevra

I want to help the Chevra – what can I do?

Your services would be greatly appreciated, whether helping with Tahara, attending Minyanim or Levaya (funerals) or helping with cemetery maintenance.

Yiddishkeit 101 - No prerequisites required - even if you already know half you can get to know the rest here...

What are the basic of Jewish faith and practises? What do we believe in? What is it that we do when we Jew it? And more importantly why?

This class looks at the fundamental building blocks of Judaism. We will touch on issues of belief, history, kashrut, prayers, synagogue services, Jewish festivals, lifecycle rituals and much more.

Runs every Tuesday at 8:00 pm @ the Rabbis house.
Last time this year 13 Dec 2011, Returning 7 February 2012.

Jewish Thought - No prerequisites required

Is there a conflict between science and religion? What is the source of morality? These and many other questions will be discussed and debated in this bi-weekly class looking at Jewish thought in past and present.

Runs every Second Thursday at 8:00 pm@ the Rabbis house.
Dates 2011: Nov 17, Dec 1 & Dec 15
Returning 9 Feb 2012

**Care Comfort
Compassion**

*Please support the
Auckland
Chevra Kadisha by
remembering and
honoring the memory
of your loved ones.*







Yahrzeits for the coming week...

Sandra Clancey remembers Lionel Albert
 Merle Newland and Ron Eisig remember their father Heinz Eisig
 Roy Esterman remembers his son Ross Esterman
 Margaret Freeland remembers her father Arthur Freeland
 Bessey Joshua, Harold Goldwater and Rose Benjamin remember their mother Sophie Goldwater
 Brian Green remembers his mother Nita Green
 Vernon Levy remembers his father Geoffrey Levy
 Sybil Cornell remembers her mother Dina Paper
 Robert Narev remembers his uncle Ernst Rothschild
 Edith Clemans remembers her father Jacob Wolpowitz

*We wish you
long life...*

Calendar for the next week...

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
18 21 Cheshvan Bat Mitzvah: Lauren Bergman Stiebel: 6:30pm Greys Ave: 7pm  7:53pm	19 22 Cheshvan Shacharit: Greys Ave & Stiebel: 9:15am Bar Mitzvah Guy Netzer  8:55pm	20 23 Cheshvan Shacharit 9am BM Lessons 9-11am @ Greys Ave 9:30am Cheder class @ Greys Ave AGM: AJC 4:30pm @ RFL	21 24 Cheshvan Shacharit 7am	22 25 Cheshvan Rabbi's Shiur Yiddishkeit 101 8pm @ Rabbi's Residence	23 26 Cheshvan 3pm @ Kadimah Bnei Akiva's Pizzeria 6pm @ Greys Ave - Leining Club	24 27 Cheshvan Shacharit 7am J-Tec by Emma & Ephraim 4-6pm @ RFL
25 28 Cheshvan Stiebel: 6:30pm Greys Ave: 7pm  8:00pm	26 29 Cheshvan Shacharit: Greys Ave & Stiebel: 9:15am Bar Mitzvah Guy Netzer  9:03pm	27 1 Kislev Rosh Chodesh: Shacharit 9am BM Lessons 9-11am @ Greys Ave 9:30am Cheder class @ Greys Ave	28 2 Kislev Shacharit 7am	29 3 Kislev Rabbi's Shiur Yiddishkeit 101 8pm @ Rabbi's Residence	30 4 Kislev 3pm @ Kadimah Bnei Akiva's Pizzeria 6pm @ Greys Ave - Leining Club 8pm Rosh Chodesh Club @ Zuriel's Home	1 5 Kislev Shacharit 7am J-Tec by Emma & Ephraim 4-6pm @ RFL Jewish Thought Shiur 8pm @ Rabbi's Residence

For events happening at the RFL this week, follow them on [Facebook](#) or email info@rfl.org.nz for details.

Shabbat Shalom!