

PRAYER

Is everyone awake?
It's morning, and we are alive,
So awake and give thanks.
Give thanks for your children
And for your friends,
But remember also
Those who are sad and ill.

Thanks.

*Thanks to You who lives eternally,
For this small slice of eternity – today.*

Today is here and I am alive.

Thanks.

Every morning we lean our arm awhile
Upon the window sill of Heaven
And gaze upon our God.

*Then, with the vision of our heart
We turn aside to meet the day.*
(adapted from a variety of sources)

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

Manners are like the zero in arithmetic; they may not be much in themselves, but they are capable of adding a great deal to the value of everything else.

Freya Madeline Stark



December 31, 2011

ה טבת תשע"ב

Parashat Vayigash - Genesis 44:18-47:27 (ויגש)

Hertz – p 169

Stone – p 250

Haftarah – Ezekiel 37:15-28 (יחזקאל)

Hertz – p 178

Stone – p 1144

Kiddush sponsored by Sisterhood

Special cake provided by

Stanley & Jean Estrin

in honor of their 30th anniversary

No *Talmud* Class this week

Seudah Sh'lishit sponsored by
Mel & Louise Saltzman to commemorate
the *yahrzeit* of Louise's mother,
Mildred Sobel

Minchah - 4:15 PM

Shabbat Ends – 5:30 PM

On This Week's Torah Portion - וַיִּגַּשׁ

Today's *parashah*, *Vayigash*, has an underlying theme which is carried from the previous *parashah*, *Miketz*. As the story goes, Yosef's jealous brothers sell him to merchants, who take him to Egypt. When the brothers go back to Yaakov, they tell him that Yosef has been killed by a wild animal. Since that day, Yaakov mourns over his favorite son.

Meanwhile, in Egypt, Yosef eventually becomes the chief advisor to Pharaoh. Because of a famine, many people from Canaan, like Yosef's brothers, travel to Egypt for food. When Yosef's brothers come before him requesting food, he recognizes them, but they do not recognize him. Yosef does not tell them who he is, until after he plays a little trick on Binyamin. After Yosef's servants "find" his goblet in Binyamin's bag, Yehudah pleads for Yosef to take him as a slave and not Binyamin. At this point, Yosef reveals himself to his brothers. As they weep, all the mean and bad things said and done seem to be forgotten. This in itself is amazing. Even after the brothers SOLD Yosef, he appears to forgive them.

So after rejoicing at the sight of his brothers, Yosef sends for his father and the rest of his household. At first Yaakov does not believe that his favorite son is alive. Why would he believe this? His other sons told him that Yosef was dead, killed by a wild animal. But after much persuading, he brings his family up to Egypt to see his son. When father and son meet, both cry, happy to be reunited. Now a family again, Yosef finds a home for his father, brothers, and the rest of the household in Goshen. During this time, the brothers do not seem to get questioned or admonished for what they did. Nowhere in this story does Yaakov speak of the lies about his son's death, nor does Yosef try to get his brothers to admit that they acted poorly or jealously.

Perhaps all was not forgotten, but the Torah only speaks of the joy of getting back together. To me this means a lot. It shows that even after everything they did to each other, they still made amends. The Torah, by emphasizing the weeping and unifying of this family seems to be teaching us that we should strive to do what Yaakov and Yosef and their family did. Looking out for each other even after all of our arguments and difficulties is more important than holding a grudge. If we do this, we will all learn to appreciate our parents, children and siblings more than we already do. Life is short; remember that when your family wants to hang out with you, consider it, they love you more than you know.

*Shabbat Shalom,
Madison Rinder*

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2-January 4

Office closed for vacation.

Thursday, Jan. 5

Last day for paid reservations for Family Game Night on January 7 (see below)

Friday, Jan. 6

Last day for paid reservations for Anna's Soup Kitchen on January 15 (see below)

Motzei Shabbat, Jan 7 **Family Game Night**, 7:30 PM. Bring your family, your friends, your board games; play games, schmooze & nosh, plus annual ping-pong tournament. \$5/person, *advance payment required by Thurs Jan. 5.*

Sunday, January 8

Stitch & Schmooze, 10:00 AM

Shabbat, January 14 **Kiddush luncheon sponsored by Steve & Sandy Bell** in honor of Steve's 70th birthday.

Sunday, January 15 **2nd Annual Anna's Soup Kitchen**, 5:30-7:00 PM. Soups 'n sides, \$12/person, \$48 family max (kids under 5 eat free). Carry-out available, \$3 additional /person. *Advance reservations required by Fri. Jan 6.*

Monday, January 16

Deadline for submission of articles, etc. for February Newsletter. Please email to Marian at tradcong@sbcglobal.net.

Do you have... A box at the Fox? A condo in the Ozarks? Tix to the Cardinals, Blues or Rams? A case of kosher wine? A service you can provide? We need your donation of items or services for our **Silent Auction** which will be held in conjunction with our fabulous **Casino Night on February 11th**. Get creative! Call Jennifer Tobias at 636-532-6621 and let her know what you can contribute to our Silent Auction.

DAILY SERVICE TIMES

Sunday & Monday mornings – 9:00 AM

Tuesday-Friday mornings – 7:00 AM

Monday-Thursday evenings – 6:30 PM

Friday evening – 5:45 PM