

PRAYER

Throughout the ages you blessed us, God,
With women who tended the altars of our faith.

*Through these noble women Israel was redeemed;
Because of them Israel survived.*

They have inspired and guided our youth;
They have preserved and transmitted Your word.

*The women in our generation, like those in the past,
Keep Israel an eternal witness to You.*

They, like Sarah, zealously guide their young,
Keeping them constant and steadfast in faith.

*And thus our children remain
Ever devoted to You.*

Like Rebecca, plucked from hearth and home
To take up the baton of Sarah's journey,

*They join the knowledge of the past with the understanding of the present,
Transforming it into the vision and hope of the future.*

Like Rachel, they are deeply concerned
For the children of Israel wherever they dwell,

*Sharing their glory, feeling their pain,
Providing succor and safety for those in need.*

They, like Hannah, who joyfully brought
Her young Samuel to *Shiloh* for service to God,

*Bring their children also in the tender years,
For guidance and light to this House of God.*

To learn the traditions, the teachings, the law;
To learn of prophets and sages, of martyrdom and nobility.

*Through such noble women shall Israel be redeemed;
Through the merits of their children shall Israel survive.*

Unknown

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

True love does not come by finding the perfect person, but by
learning to see an imperfect person perfectly.

Jason Jordan



November 19, 2011

כב חשוון תשע"ב

Parashat Chaye Sarah: Genesis 23:1-25:18 (חיי שרה)

Hertz – p 80

Stone – p 106

Haftarah – First Kings 1:1-31 (מלכים א')

Hertz – p 90

Stone – p 1136

Kiddush sponsored by The Farkas Family

Special cakes provided by
Sondra Dobinsky in honor of
Jordyn Tobias' 13th birthday
and by
Bill Gold in honor of
Nanci's birthday

Rabbi Gordon's Talmud Class **3:15 PM**

Minchah – 4:15 PM

Shabbat Ends – 5:28 PM

On This Week's Torah Portion

חיי שרה

This morning's *parasha* is called "*Chaye Sarah*," translated as "Sarah's Lifetime." It is the fifth portion of *Bereisheet*, or Genesis – the first of the five books that make up the *Torah*. This portion is jam packed with activity. A brief summary of the events is as follows: Sarah dies, Abraham mourns her and purchases a special place to bury her (the cave of *Machpelah*). Then Abraham sends his trusted servant back to his native land to find a life partner for his son Isaac. On the journey, the servant Eliezer prays to God to help guide him to the right mate for Isaac. He meets Rebecca, who draws up water from a well, over and over again until he and all his camels had finished drinking. This was no small feat, since camels can drink as much as twenty-five gallons of water after a desert trek! The servant's choice was now clear, and Rebecca agreed to return with him to the Land of Israel and become Isaac's bride.

According to sources, there are four important themes in this *parasha*: The first is Jewish attitudes and practices at the time of death. In our cycle of life, we learn from Abraham to take the time to mourn a loved one, to remember their life and good deeds. We learn that talking, expressing our sorrow and weeping with others helps to support us and ease our loneliness and pain. Judaism provides us with rituals and customs to guide us in this process.

The second theme is paying the full price for what we acquire. Abraham wanted to purchase land for a family burial plot, but it was offered to him by the landowner, Ephron, as a gift. Abraham refused to accept the land/cave for free, and insisted on paying for its full worth. Rashi and other scholars suggest that he actually overpaid for the property, but did so in order to establish his claim to the land beyond a shadow of a doubt. Besides wanting the official title to the land, Abraham did not want to remain obligated to Ephron sometime in the future. As a result, the field and cave "passed from the Hittites to Abraham" and therefore to the Jewish people. Located in Hebron, Sarah's burial site is considered the first purchased possession of the Land of Israel.

The third theme is beauty. Rebecca's beauty was not only physical, but more importantly, it was her beautiful personality that led Eliezer to choose her for Isaac's wife. The description for how she offers hospitality to Eliezer and his camels demonstrates her very generous and giving nature.

The fourth theme is the meaning of love. Although Isaac and Rebecca have a love-at-first-sight encounter, the *Torah* teaches us that the real success of our love relationships depends upon how we work at them. Love must be nurtured each day to grow and mature.

My family wishes each of you a very peaceful Sabbath. May we all continue to love, learn and grow from these four important life lessons.

Shabbat Shalom!
Barbara Gaponoff Berson

UPCOMING EVENTS

Motzei Shabbat, November 19 **Israel Bonds Dinner, 7:00 PM. Honoring our *Eishet Chayil*, Cyndee Levy.** Guest Speaker Dr. Jonathan Adelman: "Israel and the Mideast: Hope or Despair?"

Thursday, November 24 **Thanksgiving Day Football for Youth/Adults at the Rinders'. 10:00 AM following *Shacharit*.**

Monday, November 28 **Last chance to be photographed for our 2012 Membership Directory.** Photographers will be here from 2:30-9:00 PM; go on-line to www.tradcong.org to book your appointment, or call the office if you need assistance. No obligation, you'll receive a free 8"x10" portrait just for coming in. A FEW APPOINTMENTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE, FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE.

December 2-4 **Scholar-in-Residence Program with Rabba Sara Hurwitz.** Full program information is available in our November Newsletter and in your mail. Join Rabba Hurwitz for *Shabbat Dinner*, Dec. 2--\$25/adult, \$12/children, paid reservations by Mon. Nov. 21.

Sunday, December 11 **Stitch 'N Schmooze, 10:00 AM.**

The Barbara Mendelson Tomchei Shabbos Fund Thanksgiving Food Drive, through Nov 20th. Shabbat items, non-perishable foods and paper & toiletry items, dry or canned soups, rice, pasta, beans, cholent mix, pasta sauce, cereal, baking supplies, canned fruits and vegetables, Shabbat treats, instant potatoes, couscous, pancake mix, etc. **Place items in blue barrel outside TC office.** Also needed are donations for purchase of meat and chicken through *Irv and Kay Diamant Meat Fund*. Checks payable to the "Barbara Mendelson Tomchei Shabbos Fund," mail to Diamant Meat Fund, #4 Millstone Campus Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146, please note "DMF" in the memo.

The Traditional Cares Committee would like to know if you or someone you know is ill and would like a caring call or visit, or if you are aware of not seeing a synagogue member for some time, please contact Shelby Kopp 314-991-1035 or the shul office 314-576-5230. If you are ill and would prefer to be contacted by email rather than by phone, please let us know that as well.

Have you seen... Our Shabbat Tot puppets?? They are missing—one girl, one boy. They are "3-dimensional with hair and facial features that stand out as compared to painted-on features, they stand about 10-12 inches long. If you or your children know where they might be, please contact the office ASAP.

DAILY SERVICE TIMES

Sunday morning – 9:00 AM Monday–Friday morning – 7:00 AM
Monday-Thursday evening – 6:30 PM (*Arvit* only)
Friday evening – 5:45 PM