

PRAAYER

I am a Jew because Judaism demands
no abdication of my mind.

*I am a Jew because Judaism asks every possible
sacrifice of my soul.*

I am a Jew because wherever there are tears
and suffering the Jew weeps.

*I am a Jew because whenever the cry of
despair is heard the Jew hopes.*

I am a Jew because the message of Judaism
is the oldest and the newest.

*I am a Jew because the promise of Judaism
is a universal promise.*

I am a Jew because, for the Jew, the world is
not finished; human beings will complete it.

*I am a Jew because, for the Jew, humanity is
not fully created; mortals are creating it.*

I am a Jew because Judaism places human
life above Judaism itself.

*I am a Jew because, above the individual,
Judaism places the oneness of God.*

Edmund Fleg (adapted)

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

To try is to risk failure. But risk must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing. The person who risks nothing does nothing, has nothing, and is nothing. He may avoid suffering and sorrow, but he simply cannot learn, feel, change, grow, live, or love. Chained by his addictions, he's a slave. He has forfeited his greatest trait, and that is his individual freedom. Only the person who risks is free.

Leo Buscaglia



November 5, 2011

ה חשוון תשע"ב

Parashat Lech Lecha - Genesis 12:1-17:27 (לך לך)

Hertz – p 45

Stone – p 54

Haftarah – Isaiah 40:27-41:16 (ישעיה)

Hertz – p 60

Stone – p 1133

Kiddush sponsored by Sisterhood

Talmud Class with Rabbi Gordon – 3:30 PM
Minchah – 4:45 PM **Shabbat** Ends – 6:40 PM

On This Week's Torah Portion

לך לך

Many of the events in this week's *parasha* involve G-d commanding Abraham (then Abram) to do things. At the start of the *parasha*, Abraham is to leave his home to travel to an unspecified destination; at the end, he is to circumcise himself and all the other Jewish men. Even though these were not easy things to do, Abraham's faith in G-d was strong and he obeyed.

When Abraham and Sarah (then Sarai) went to Egypt, he asked Sarah to pretend to be his sister. Some people think this meant Abraham was not sure that G-d would protect him from being killed because he was Sarah's husband. Others think it might have been a scheme to engineer one of a number of wealth transfers from the Egyptians. But, there is little doubt that Abraham had trouble believing G-d's prediction that he and Sarah would soon have a son. His skeptical laugh gave Isaac his Hebrew name.

Abraham, our first patriarch, who had done and would do so many difficult things in the service of G-d, had a moment of doubt, but his faith in G-d stayed strong. We are much less holy than Abraham and our doubts and failures much larger, but we can follow Abraham's example and not let them diminish our faith in G-d.

*Shabbat shalom,
Sid Levin*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 6 **Stitch & Schmooze**, 10:00 AM

Shabbat, November 12 **Kiddush Luncheon** co-sponsored by Gloria Friedlander in honor of her birthday, and by Mauricio & Marcia Lisker in honor of Marcia's birthday

Sunday, November 13 **Travel Me Jewish Program** for Teens in grades 8-12 and their parents, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. This week's session will include developing a "Jewish family travel kit." Please RSVP to Marian if you plan to attend; for additional information, contact Ken or Cyndee Levy, Mimi Levy or Rabbi Gordon.

Motzei Shabbat, November 19 **Israel Bonds Dinner, 7:00 PM. Join us to honor our Eishet Chayil, Cyndee Levy.** Guest Speaker Dr. Jonathan Adelman: "Israel and the Mideast: Hope or Despair?" Paid reservations due by 11/4.

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.

December 2-4 **Scholar-in-Residence Program with Rabba Sara Hurwitz.** Full program information is available in our November Newsletter and in your mail this coming week.

Condolences to...Anat Reschke, Nathan & Stephen Rosenberg, and Alan & Donna Rosenberg, on the passing of their husband, father, and son, Matt Rosenberg.

Mazal Tov to...Ron & Bette Abeles and Frank & Ilse Altman on the birth of a granddaughter/great-granddaughter, Cobi, daughter of Andy & Rachel Abeles.

...Bill & Nanci Gold on the *Bat Mitzvah* of their granddaughter, Tahlia Altgold, in Chicago
Refuah Sh'leimah to Marsha Puro

DAILY SERVICE TIMES

Sunday 9:00 AM & 4:30 PM (at the Reschke/Rosenberg residence)

Monday morning – 7:00 AM (at the Reschke/Rosenberg residence)

Tuesday-Friday mornings – 7:00 AM

Monday-Thursday evenings – 6:30 PM (*Arvit* only)

Friday evening – 5:45 PM