

*This week's speaker after davening in the Youth Minyan will be Ari Bergman.

* This week the **shiur** on Gemorah Brachos at **Mark Franck's** house will commence @ **6:45pm**. Shabbos afternoon

D'var Torah

WASTING TIME

by Rabbi Shraga Simmons (aish.com)

The title of this week's Torah portion is "Chayei Sarah" - which literally means the "life of Sarah." But the strange thing is that our parsha does not discuss the LIFE of Sarah, but rather describes her death and burial. Then the parsha continues this theme and ends with the death of Abraham! If this parsha is all about death, why is it entitled "life?!"

Life is like a boat. Typically a boat is christened upon its maiden voyage. We have hopes and expectations that the boat will travel safely and successfully. But what happens many years later when the boat, all beaten and weathered, comes back to dock? Where are the cameras, the crowds and the champagne?

In Judaism we say that is precisely the time for celebration. Because that is when we can evaluate and appreciate the success of the vessel. Which explains why the Torah uses the DEATH of Sarah and Abraham to trumpet the great value of their LIFE.

Sometimes we might think, "I could be growing more, if only my life weren't so difficult." This is a fallacy. Because our greatest growth comes not during the easy times, but in the difficult times. The Talmud says that "all of Sarah's years were equal in goodness." But Sarah suffered 90 years



of Barrenness and was kidnapped twice! Abraham, too, fought wars and was thrown into a fiery furnace!

What this means is that no matter what happened, Sarah saw every event as an opportunity to learn and to grow. Human beings need to be constantly growing and learning. Because there's no such thing as "standing still." Life is in a constant state of entropy. So if we're not growing, we're withering.

Judaism says don't waste a minute. This doesn't mean having a book in front of you 24 hours a day. (I mean, we have to sleep, right?) Rather, the Jewish idea of "relaxing" means to tune into another aspect of living. It should be purposeful and directed. Relax, but don't "space out." When you sleep, it should be for the purpose of resting your body so that it will have the strength to do something truly meaningful. In this way, the sleep itself becomes meaningful. Even though you change gears, it's not quitting. It's growth.

As descendents of Abraham and Sarah, we have inherited their spiritual genes. Every moment of their lives was purposeful and meaningful. The clock is ticking. May their example inspire us to do the same.

Thoughts for the week:

*Glass, china and reputations are easily cracked and never mended properly.

*Failure is a lot closer to success then doing nothing.

I'm a vegetarian not because I like animals, but because I hate plants. (H. Boglea)

Other Developments

*Last Shabbos after Shacharis, **Rabbi Leon Goldman** addressed the Youth Minyan. He explained why the source for Avraham Avinu being the initiator of the Shacharis davening is based on the prayers he recited after the city of Sodom was destroyed and not on his earlier prayers to save the city. Leon explained that it is to teach us that even when it appears that our prayers have not been answered by Hashem, we still have to Daven to Him. Yasher Koach.

*Last Shabbos after Mussaf, **Eliezer Leibowitz** spoke. He began by farewelling **Rafi Goodman** who went overseas this week to complete his **Smicha** and then explained a calculation regarding the large quantity of bread served by Avrohom Avinu when he served his meal in honour of his three guests. Yasher Koach.

*Last Sunday after davening, the Shule hosted the **Bris of Zacharia Yosef (Kobi) Paluch**. Mazal Tov to the parents **Doron and Aviva** and to the grandparents **Kathy and Avi Paluch and Florette and Michael Matzner** and to all the extended family. Kobi should merit to grow L'Torah, L'Chupa UL'Massim Tovim.

A Member of the family

Both straw and fodder plenty do we have, and also lodging (24:25)

R'Baruch Mordechai of Warsaw had an open house to anyone who wished to enter. People came and went as they pleased, never asking permission, taking everything for granted. They really felt at home there. And R'Baruch Mordechai certainly did not care. That is how he wanted it!

R'Shabsai Yogel of Slonim described it well: "When R'Baruch Mordechai takes a nap on a couch at home, he said, "it is not as if it were his couch. Rather, it is because he happened to find it unoccupied first, before anyone else lay on it."

R'Baruch Mordechai himself came and went just like the others. He had no special place at the head of the table. He was served his meals just like the rest. He did not want anyone to make a fuss over him.

Small wonder, that when a poor man came to this house and stayed for several weeks, he did not even recognize R'Baruch Mordechai as the master of the house. He thought he was just another guest. Once this poor man turned to R'Baruch Mordechai and asked innocently, "I see that you are a steady guest here. You probably know what is customary here better than I do. Tell me, do you think they would mind if I stayed a few weeks longer?"

R'Boruch Mordechai shrugged his shoulders and reassured him, "No. I am sure you are welcome here. I have been living here-eating and sleeping-for a long time and no one has ever said anything..."

Announcements

- This week is Shabbos Mevorachim Kislev with Rosh Chodesh falling on next Friday 16 November 2001.
- **Minyanim times** for this coming week are: Mornings: first minyan @ 6:15am, second minyan @ 7:00am. Mincha at 7:55pm followed by shiurim. Ma'ariv at 8:35pm.
- Anyone interested in joining the roster for **presenting shiurim** in the Youth Minyan should speak to Ezra May, or email us here.
- Please join us for our **Katanga weekly Squash game** on Sundays @ 6pm at Gardenvale Squash Centre. If you are interested in attending, please let Mendi Slodowitz know.
- Katanga's Artscroll Gemorah Brochos has gone missing from the Shule. Would any person who knows its whereabouts please return it as soon as possible.

Parsha Overview - Chaya Sara (Breishis 23:1 - 25:18)
 Sarah dies at the age of 127. Avraham purchases a burial place for her in Ma'arat HaMachpela, Hebron. Avraham sends his servant, Eliezer, back to the "old country," his birthplace Charan, to find a wife for Yitzchak (Isaac). Eliezer makes conditions for the matrimonial candidate to fulfil and Rivka (Rebecca) unknowingly meets these conditions. Eliezer succeeds in gaining family approval, though they were not too keen about Rivka leaving her native land. Avraham marries Keturah and fathers six more sons whom he sends East before he dies at 175. Yitzhak and Ishmael bury Avraham in Ma'arat HaMachpela near Sarah. The portion ends with the listing of Ishmael's 12 sons and Ishmael dying at age 137.

Suggestions or comments regarding our website or newsletter? Email us – we would love to hear from you.



Wishing everyone a Shabbat Shalom & Gut Shabbos!
“The Editors”