

WEST STREET SHUL

43 WEST STREET HOUGHTON JOHANNESBURG

Newsletter

בס"ד

WEBSITE <http://www.weststreetshul.co.za>

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For the week ending Shabbat 18th

October 2008

19th Tishrei 5769:Shabbat:Succoth Chol

Hamoed

Dear Members & Friends

Repeat Timetable, Yom-Tov Period

Sukkoth/Shemini Atzereth/Simchat Torah Time table attached in MS Excel.

or if you cannot open the Excel, try eml copy.

Four Day Weather forecast below

YAHRTZEITS

West St Shul wishes a long life to following members observing their Yarzets in the new week:

Shirley Hyman: [F]Wednesday 22 Oct

Sheryl Kaplan [M] Shabbat 25 Oct

Maurice Katz [F] Thursday 23 Oct

Evelyn Zadikov [F] Sunday 26 Oct

Cancelled:-

Visiting Rabbis/Speakers: Hoshanna Rabba Evening

Still On :-

Simchat Torah Dinner:

Tuesday Night the 21 October

Please advise on numbers : Ronnie 082 446 9264 or reply to westshul@icon.co.za

Mazaltov-a baby girl

A hearty mazaltov from West St Shul on the birth a baby girl,**Olivia,to Tessa & Steven Friedman**.Proud grandparents **Michelle & Nathan Friedman**.

Mazaltov-a baby boy

A hearty mazaltov from West St Shul to **Jared & Lisa Kahan** on the birth a baby boy.Proud granparents Ziona Scop,
Jill Kahan & Joel Kahan.

Rav Kook ז"ל

19th Tishrei 5769

Sucloth Chol Hamoed :

Extracts: Two Sucloth Reflections

"For seven days ... all who belong to the people of Israel will live in *sukkot* " [Lev. 23:42].

1

Beautifying the Law-The Spirit of the Law

Jerusalem was destroyed, the Sages taught, because they judged according to Torah law. The Talmud [Baba Metz'ah 30b] explains: the judges,*then*, would rule according to the strict letter of the law. They failed to take into account the **spirit of the law** and pursue a ruling both **just and compassionate** - "*lifnim mishurat hadin*".

The *mitzvah* of *sukkah* is based on God's law, but there is an ancient custom to adorn the *sukkah* with decorated cloths, fruits and grains [Sukkah 10a].

We should similarly 'adorn' the Torah law. We should go beyond the minimum requirements of the Law, and aspire to the highest level of God's word, in its purest ethical form. Then we will merit that the

"fallen sukkah of David" will rise once again, speedily in our days.

2

The Role of the Willow

You have to feel sorry for the poor *Arava*, the willow branch waved together with the other three species of the "*arba'a minim*" on Succoth. It lacks the fragrance of the etrog and the myrtle, nor does it produce fruit like the date-palm. The willow has come to represent simple folk, who are neither learned in Torah nor have a wealth of good deeds.

Yet, there is an ancient oral tradition, going all the way back to Mount Sinai, that on the last day of the Succoth holiday, the *Arava* becomes the star of the show. In the days when the Temple stood in Jerusalem, the *kohanim* would raise the willow boughs around the altar. Today, at the end of the *Hoshana* prayers, the congregants beat the willow on the floor.

The custom to hit the floor with the willow is not to punish the willow (for not studying enough Torah), or vent our anger or sins, as is often thought. It is rather to show that the willow is also a force to be reckoned with - a natural, healthy power that is part of the arsenal of the Jewish people. We don't strike the willow. We strike **with** the willow.

[adapted from *Mo'adei HaRe'iyah* pp. 111-113; Celebration of the Soul p. 73]

http://www.ravkooktorah.org/SUKKOT_67.htm

.Four Day Weather forecast for Johannesburg :October 08

Friday-17th	Shabbat-18th	Sunday-19th	Monday-20 th -Hoshana Rabba
			
28° C 14° C	28° C 14° C	29° C 14° C	28° C 14° C
Scattered Clouds	Scattered Clouds	Partly Cloudy	Scattered Clouds

Chag Sa'Meach :Shabbat Shalom: West St Shul

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