

For the week ending Shabbat **20th December 2008**
23rd Kislev 5769:Shabbat Vayeshev

Dear Members & Friends .

The West St Newsletter will resume on the 7th January 2009. Detailed timetables will resume mid January.

Safe journeying to members travelling over the holiday season & best wishes for a successful & meaningful rest.

Timetable for the new week attached.

Rabbi Kacev's Dvar Torah,Vayeshev below.

Rabbi Kacev's Channukah Dvar Torah attached

Four-Day Weather forecast below.

Reminder: Rosh Chodesh Tevet: Shabbat the 27th Dec. & Sunday 28th = 1st Tevet ,Sunday

Reminder: Fast of Tevet [10th of Tevet] :Tuesday 6th January :Fast begins at 4.01am : Ends 7.24pm

Shul Strategy Meeting

A provisional date for a Shul strategy meeting is scheduled for **Sunday night 25th January 2009**. The agenda will relate to the needs of members & direction of the Shul going forward. Open discussion . More details & time to follow.

Holiday Times table for weekday Shacharit & Mincha:

With the holiday season, additional pressure is placed on both the morning and afternoon minyonim. The Shul remains open throughout the holiday period. Members & friends to date have been supportive with a **99% success rate**. This may be hard to maintain over the next three weeks. Thanks for your support to date, **but your further assistance is urged.**

Over the holiday period including the first week of January, Shacharit each morning will be at 07H00,
except for Sundays and Public Holidays, when Shacharit will be at 07H45.
Mincha/Ma'ariv throughout the holidays will be at 18H15

Chanukah Reminder:- first night will be on **Sunday 21st December**, concluding Monday 29th December. The last candlelighting will be on the evening of Sunday 28th December.
Refreshment, light meal after Ma'ariv on the 21st

YAHRTZEITS

West St Shul wishes a long & good life to the following members observing their Yahrts' in the new week:

SUNDAY 21st :- **ACHI FRANK (F)**

MONDAY 22nd :- **MENDEL KAPLAN (M)**

THURSDAY 25th :- **STAN DAVIDSON (M)**_____

And the following weeks:-

Monday 29 Decmber **Issy Shlapobersky [b.i.law]**

Sunday 4th January **Achi Frank [M]**

Thursday 1st January **Michael Chafkin [M]**

Friday 9th January **Sarah Schach [Sstr]**

Friday 2nd January **David Pimstein [F]**

Friday 9th January **Zvi Zadikiv [F]**

Refuah Shleima to **Ziona Scop** who has been hospitalised with Pneumonia .West St Shul wishes Ziona a speedy recovery.

Rabbi Kacev

23th Kislev 5769

Vayeshev:

headlines

The ability to read beyond the

Towards the end of the parsha, Yosef is in jail and the next episode is introduced. “ And it was, that after these things the butler and the baker of the king sinned before their master”. The use of the word “**And**” indicates that there is a connection between these two events.

Rashi explains the connection as follows:

“Since the cursed woman got everyone talking about Joseph by degrading him, Hashem brought about the offence of the butler and the baker so that all would turn their attention to them rather than to Joseph”

Such was the way of the media in those days and nothing has changed in modern times. Everyone was talking about Yosef, his rise to fame and then, what a pity, his sudden fall from favour. Hashem therefore created a new story and Yosef falls off the first pages of the newspapers. The midrashim discuss what exactly the baker and butler did, but I am sure the newspapers were filled with rumour and conjecture as to what exactly they did. What is really critical is that the introduction of a new scandal took the limelight off Yosef.

Rav Hirsch points out that this rise and then fall of Yosef was important for his personal growth. He will rise again yet this time he will be cynical about the glamour for he will have gained much insight. He knows how fickle Pharaoh can be, how today’s favourite is tomorrow's throw out.

We too learn about how fickle politicians and media can be. Everyone is but a passing story. The wisdom is to live beyond the fickle behaviour of people and the ability to read beyond the headlines.

Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Kacev

Four-Day Forecast:Johannesburg

Friday-19	Shabbat-20th	Sunday-21st	Monday -22nd
			
27° C 12° C	28° C 13° C	31° C 14° C	32° C 16° C
Clear	Clear	Clear	Scattered Clouds
http://www.wunderground.com/global/stations/68368.html			

Proudly Sponsored by



Designed by RAW Media Concepts

Edited by Maurice Oskowitz