



Table Talk



Volume 2 Issue 8

www.kdhs.org.uk/
tabletalk

Birthdays



Sophia	Bergman
Marcus	Buchanan
Chaya	Kupperman
Ella	Seligman
Zack	Singer
Harley	Sommer
Benjamin	Tobias
Ella	Capek
Rachel	Pine
Isabel	Seager
Natasha	Woolfstein
Sara	Geller
Nathan	Brookes
Zoe	Gibson
Deborah	Nesbitt
Natalie	Mocton
Eloise	Rivlin-Derrick
Gabi	Lapedus
Orli	Provisor
Elliot	Serember

A Bite of Inspiration

Chayei-Sarah - from Chabad.org

This week's Parshah tells of Isaac taking Rebecca as his wife. "*And Isaac brought her to the tent of Sarah his mother.*" Rashi, explains this to mean more than the obvious. When she entered the tent, it was as if she was Sarah, Isaac's mother. Because Sarah was of such saintly character, she was granted three special miracles. Her Shabbat candles burned the entire week, her dough was particularly blessed, and a heavenly cloud attached itself to her tent. When Sarah died, these blessings disappeared. When Rebecca arrived on the scene, they resumed immediately. In fact, this was a clear sign to Isaac that Rebecca



the *shidduch* was made in Heaven. Each of those three miracles, human input first. A candle and had to be prepared and a tent would intervene and make those He does help us but we must

was indeed his soul mate and that

however, required some form of fire had to be found, the dough had to be pitched before G-d miracles happen. In other words, help ourselves first.

It's a little like the fellow who would make a fervent prayer to G-d every week that he win the lottery. After many months and no jackpot in sight, he lost his faith and patience. In anguished disappointment, he vented his frustration with the Almighty. "Oh, G-d! For months I've been praying to you. Why haven't you helped me win the lottery all this time?" Whereupon a heavenly voice was heard saying, "Because you haven't bought a ticket!" I wish it were that simple to win lotteries. But the fact is that it is the same in all our endeavours. We believe in miracles--but we mustn't rely on them. The combination of our own hard work and efforts coupled with G-d's blessing is the ideal road to success. G-d helps those who help themselves. May we all do our part. Please G-d, He will do His.

**שבת
שלום**

Side Dish

Operation Magic Carpet - November 8, 1949

During Israel's first year, while fighting for survival in the War of Independence against her Arab neighbours, more than 250,000 Jews came home to Israel. One of the most dramatic mass immigrations of people was the Jews of Yemen through Operation "Magic Carpet". For hundreds of years, this community within Yemen was no stranger to persecution and hate. In May 1949, the Imam of Yemen agreed to

"release" 45,000 of the 46,000 members of the Yemenite Jewish community.

Since the late nineteenth century, Jews from Yemen had been escaping to Palestine. By 1948, it was estimated that there were close to 28,000 Jews of Yemenite descent living in Israel.

Fulfilling their desire to return to Zion and escape further persecution in Yemen, Jews from all over Yemen made the risky and extremely dangerous journey to Aden (capital of Yemen) where they would await airlift to Israel. This highly complex operation took place from 1949 to 1950 with support of the British and American airlines. In all, some 380 flights were conducted to save the Jews of Yemen. The project was so secret that there is very little video footage of the operation. In fact, it wasn't until months after the completion of Operation "Magic Carpet" that the news was released to the media. Operation "Magic Carpet" is just one of dozens of inspiring examples of rescue projects undertaken by the Israel to provide refuge to distressed Jews. Today, the Jews of Yemen are just one of many cultures that make up the landscape and diversity of modern Israeli society.





Table Talk



ZULUS !!!

The acclaimed educational multicultural Zulu experience came to King David this week after being invited by the Music Department to support the year 9s studies in African music and art.

Year 9's (and staff) were treated to a unique presentation by professional multi-talented performers from the city of Durban, Kingdom of KwaZulu Natal in South Africa. The day started with a traditional Zulu tale, where students experienced a dynamic cultural performance including dancing, acting and singing. Through the performance, the Mighty Zulu Nation explained some of the culture, language, performing arts and ethos of their native land. There were then art workshops, and music workshops, where the students learned Zulu songs and had the opportunity to put questions to the visitors. Students discovered the answers to questions ranging from how Zulu life has changed since the end of apartheid, which traditions are still in place and what has modernised in Zulu life and tribal structure; to religion, customs regarding marriage and children (yes, Zulu men can have up to 4 wives, but not many can afford that many cows as a dowry), traditional clothing, hunting, food and recreation activities. This was an amazing opportunity and we would like to thank our friends at the Mighty Zulu Nation for making it such a special day.

Miss Buckley (Music)

Memorial Day

When Avraham cried for his deceased wife the Torah writes the word *Livkota Cry* with a small letter, teaching us that because she had lived a long life her death was not tragic. When life is cut short we ought to cry a lot. Though Armistice day commemorates events that happened before we were born, its' message is relevant to us all as it speaks of the qualities we will need if we are to build a decent future. In Jewish thinking the act of remembrance is not passive, but demands action. After we have remembered what are we going to do?

What is it about this day that makes it so powerful? Firstly it reminds us of the debt we owe to those who came before us. It is an act of **thanksgiving** by the present, to the past – perhaps the only gift the living can give the dead.

It also tells us that there can be no identity without a sense of history. A nation is not merely a place where we happen to be. It is also a story of which we are all part of. The story is built using the collective memory, learned at school, reflected in a country's art and literature, poetry and music. Lose these and a nation will suffer.

Today we face new battles, radically different from those in the past. There is the fight against terror and the preachers of hate. There is the fight against preventable disease that daily claims the lives of thirty thousand of the world's children. There is the campaign against environmental destruction that threatens the very future of life on earth. The challenges change but the

qualities needed stay the same: vision, courage, collective purpose, a willingness to sacrifice for the sake of the future – and above all a sense of history. When I lived in Norway I had to conduct funerals and stone settings. These events really taught me what makes a life worthwhile. It's an odd thing, but I never heard anyone praise the deceased for the magnificent car he drove, the splendid clothes she wore, or the exotic holidays they took. The people most mourned are those who enhanced the lives of others. They were kind, helpful; they had a sense of their responsibilities. When you needed them, they were there. The good we do lives after us, and it's the most important thing that does. I learned from these occasions that happiness has little to do with what we own. It's the ability to look back on a life and say: I lived for certain values. I gave. I made a difference to someone else's life.

The shops are gearing up to the annual festival of shopping. Christmas is on its way; and for us Jews so is Hanukkah. They've both become times when we buy presents to give others, and there's something beautiful about that. But when I think back to the presents I received, the pleasure they gave, lasted perhaps a week, and then they joined all the other objects in the cupboard. I can hardly remember what they were, now. But there's one gift we receive from family or friends we don't forget: the chance to see the ideals for which they live, and the sacrifices they make for the sake of others. Those are life-changing moments. So in the weeks to come think of the other kind of gift we can give people: the kind word, the healing gesture, the generous deed. There are some things you can't buy in shops, and sometimes they are the best gifts of all. And if these are learnt from those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives, then their death was not a waste. Learn from the past to enrich your future.

"Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you." If we forget how painfully freedom is won, we will lose it. If we take it for granted, it will not survive.

A Prayer from the Chief Rabbi for British Armed Forces

PRAYER FOR THE SAFETY OF THE BRITISH ARMED FORCES

God on high who dwells in might, the King to whom peace belongs, look down from Your holy habitation and bless the Servicemen and Women of the British Armed Forces who risk their lives for the sake of peace on Earth. Be their shelter and stronghold, and let them not falter. Give them the strength and courage to thwart the plans of the enemy and end the rule of evil. May their enemies be scattered and their foes flee before them, and may they rejoice in Your salvation. Bring them back safely to their homes, as is written: "The LORD will guard you from all harm, He will guard your life. The LORD will guard your going and coming, now and for evermore." And may there be fulfilled for us the verse: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, nor shall they learn war any more." Let all the inhabitants on Earth know that sovereignty is Yours and Your name inspires awe over all You have created – and let us say, Amen.

On Thursday night we were informed of the bitter news that Mrs Sarah



O'Flaherty-Davis had passed away after giving birth two weeks ago to a baby boy. Teachers and pupils remember her fondly.