

Shabbat Chukkat

7 Tammuz 5784 / 12-13 July 2024

Erev Shabbat

18:30 Erev Shabbat Service (in the Beit Tefillah)
Led by Rabbi Golan, Rabbi Hannah and Katie.

Shabbat Morning

10:30 Shabbat Morning Service (in the Beit Tefillah)

Led by Rabbi Hannah and Rabbi Elliott, wit guitar.
The Torah will be read by Leila and Miriam Selsick.
The sermon will be given by Rabbi Nicola.
There will be an unsupervised kids corner in the Beit Tefillah.

10:30 Kollot (in the Upstairs Prayer Space)

Led by Rabbi Golan.
The Torah will be read by Steve Miller.
The D'var Torah will be given by Helena Miller.

Both our services will come together for kiddush to celebrate with Rabbi Nicola to celebrate her ordination.

Shabbat Morning

15:00 Mincha Service (in the Beit Tefillah)

Led by Lynette Chazen.
The Torah will be read by Alexander Wayne.

Shabbat Services at Alyth during our Building Renewal

Throughout Jewish history, Shabbat has been at the heart of Jewish life, a distinctive and special time, different from the working week. At Alyth, we strive to uphold this holiness of Shabbat, with learning and multiple services to meet the needs of the community. Please help us to ensure that everyone can pray and participate by thinking about the needs of those around you. If you need to leave the service to avoid disturbing others, please note that the service can be watched on livestream, this week in the kindergarten.

To help us to separate Shabbat from the rest of the week, please switch off your mobile phone, and do not take photographs or video, or smoke/vape on the premises on Shabbat. When we want to show appreciation during a service, it is traditional not to applaud but to shout ‘*yasher koach*’ or ‘*sh’koach*’, which means ‘strength to you.’ Please refrain from applauding but join in this greeting.

Until summer 2024, our Shabbat services will take place alongside the renewal of the Alyth building. We are grateful for your understanding while the South (Leo Baeck) wing of the building is being rebuilt. Important information during the building works:

- In case of an emergency, evacuation of the building is either through the main entrance doors, congregating on Temple Grove, or via the kindergarten into the cemetery. Please do not gather on Alyth Gardens as this may block emergency services access.

- The main toilets during the building work are upstairs. These can be accessed using the stairs outside the kindergarten. There is also a new, fully accessible toilet downstairs. Please use the facilities upstairs if you are able, to leave the accessible toilet for those who need it.
- We will make Kiddush together over wine and challah on Friday nights and Shabbat mornings to end our services. We ask that you please not drink or eat until we have said the blessings.

- Please help us to look after the siddurim and kiddush glasses by putting them on the tables at the back of the Beit Tefillah as you leave.

On Shabbat, as through the week, we rely on the contribution of many of our members. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this Shabbat special. *Shabbat Shalom*

Additional Songs and Readings for Shabbat

Hineh Ma Tov

Words: Psalm 133:1

Music: Miami Boys Choir

הִנֵּה מַה־טוֹב וּמַה־נָּעִים שָׁבֶת אַחִים גַּם־יַחַד:

How good it is and how pleasant when brothers live in unity together.
Hineh ma tov uma na'im shevet achim gam yachad

Sham’ah vatis’mach

Words: Psalm 97:8

Music: Daphna Rosenberg

שְׁמֵעָה וְתִשְׁמַח, צִיּוֹן,

וְתִגְלָנָה, בְּנוֹת יְהוּדָה

Zion heard and rejoiced, the daughters of Judah were glad.
Sham'ah vatismach sham'ah vatismach Tsiyyon Tsiyyon
Vatageilnah b'not Y'hudah

Or Zarua

Words: Psalm 97:11

Music: Jeff Klepper

אור־זָרַע לְצַדִּיק וּלְיִשְׁרָיִלָב שְׁמָחָה:

A harvest of light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the constant heart
Or zaru'a la-tsaddik, ul'yishrei leiv simchah

Ufros Aleinu/Lo Yissa Goy

Words: Evening liturgy and Isaiah 2:4

וּפְרֹשׁ עָלֵינוּ סִכַּת שְׁלוֹמֶךָ.

Spread over us the shelter of Your peace

Ufros aleinu sukkat sh'lomecha

לֹא־יִשָּׂא גּוֹי אֶל־גּוֹי חֶרֶב וְלֹא־יִלָּמְדוּ עוֹד מִלְחָמָה:

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation; never again shall they train for war

Lo yissa goy el-goy cherev v'lo yilm'du od milchamah

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה. הַפּוֹרֵשׁ סִכַּת שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל־עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל־כָּל־הָעוֹלָם:

Blessed are You God, spreading the shelter of peace over us, over Your people Israel, and over all the world.

Baruch attah Adonai, ha-poreis sukkat shalom aleinu v'al ammo yisra'el, v'al kol ha-olam

Nachman of Bratslav’s Prayer for Peace

May it be Your will, Eternal God, that war and bloodshed be abolished from the world, that a great and wondrous peace rule forever; that never again shall nation lift up sword against nation, and never again shall they train for war. But may all who dwell on the earth recognize and understand the basic truth: that we have not come into this world for strife and division, nor for hate and jealousy, contrariness and bloodshed; but we have come into this world to recognize and know You, may You be blessed forever.

A Prayer for the Release of Captives

Words: based on the words of Kol Haneshamah Reform Congregation, Jerusalem

Music: Nurit Hirsch

God of our ancestors, God of Abraham, the first who risked his life for the release of prisoners and hostages, we turn to You to release all hostages and captives, all who are enslaved to others. We pray now in particular for all those taken hostage by Hamas, all those missing and unaccounted for; citizens, soldiers, men, women and children who are imprisoned and in grave danger. May it be Your will, God of All, that they be released speedily and returned to their homes, to their families and communities, safe and sound in body and in spirit. Plant the power of hope in the hearts of their loved ones frantic and yearning for their deliverance. Grant wisdom to those labouring for their release, and may compassion be in the hearts of their captors.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִלֶּךְ הָעוֹלָם מַתִּיר אֲסוּרִים

Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam matir asurim.

Blessed are you our Living God, who frees captives.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוּמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן:

May the Maker of peace in the highest bring this peace upon us, upon all Israel. Amen.
Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu, v'imru amen.

Ozi v’zimrat yah

Words: Exodus 15:2 / Psalm 118:14

עֲזִי וְזִמְרַת יְהוָה לִי לִישׁוּעָה

God the Eternal is my strength and song and has become my salvation!

Ozi V’zimrat yah vay’hi li lishu'ah

Torah Portion for Shabbat Chukkat

Numbers 21:1–20

א וַיִּשְׁמָע הַכְּנַעֲנִי מִלֶּדְ־עַרְל יֹשֵׁב הַנֶּגֶב כִּי בָא יִשְׂרָאֵל דֶּרֶךְ הָאֲתָרִים וַיִּלְחֹם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּשָּׁב ׀ מִמֶּנּוּ שָׁבִי:
ב וַיֹּדֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל גִּדְּר לַיהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר אִם־נָתַן תַּתֶּן אֶת־הָעַם הַזֶּה בְּיָדִי וְהִחַרַּמְתִּי אֶת־עָרֵיהֶם:
ג וַיִּשְׁמַע יְהוָה בְּקוֹל יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּתֵּן אֶת־הַכְּנַעֲנִי וַיַּחַרֵם אֹתָהֶם וְאֶת־עָרֵיהֶם וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם־הַמָּקוֹם חֶרְמָה:

¹ When the Canaanite, king of Arad, who dwelt in the Negeb, learned that Israel was coming by the way of Atharim, he engaged Israel in battle and took some of them captive.
² Then Israel made a vow to the Eternal and said, “If You deliver this people into our hand, we will proscribe their towns.”
³ the Eternal heeded Israel’s plea and delivered up the Canaanites; and they and their cities were proscribed. So that place was named Hormah.

ד וַיִּסְעוּ מֵהָר הָהָר דֶּרֶךְ יַם־סוּף לִסְבָּב אֶת־אֶרֶץ אֲדוֹם וַתִּקְצַר נַפְש־הָעַם בַּדֶּרֶךְ:
ה וַיַּדְבֵּר הָעַם בָּאֱלֹהִים וּבַמֶּשֶׁה לֵּמָּה הֲעֲלִיתָנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם לָמוֹת בַּמִּדְבָּר כִּי אֵין לָחֹם וְאֵין מַיִם וַנִּפְשְׁנוּ קָצָה בַלָּחֹם הַקָּלָקָל:
ו וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוָה בְּעַם אֶת הַנִּחְשִׁים הַשֶּׂרָפִים וַיִּנָּשְׁכוּ אֶת־הָעַם וַיָּמָת עַם־רַב מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל:
ז וַיְבֹא הָעַם אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמְרוּ חַטָּאנוּ כִּי־דִבַּרְנוּ בַיהוָה וְכָךְ הַתְּפַלֵּל אֱלֹ־יְהוָה וְיִסַּר מֵעַלֵּינוּ אֶת־הַנִּחָשׁ וַיִּתְּפַלֵּל מֹשֶׁה בַּעַד הָעַם:
ח וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה עֲשֵׂה לָךְ שִׁרְיָ וְשִׁים אֹתוֹ עַל־גִּס וְהָיָה כָל־הַנָּשׁוּךְ וְרָאָה אֹתוֹ:
ט וַיַּעַשׂ מֹשֶׁה נַחֲשׁ נַחֲשֶׁת וַיִּשְׁמְהוּ עַל־הַגָּס וְהָיָה אִם־נָשָׁךְ הַנִּחָשׁ אֶת־אִישׁ וְהִבִּיט אֶל־נַחֲשׁ הַנִּחָשֶׁת וְחָיָ:

⁴ They set out from Mount Hor by way of the Sea of Reeds to skirt the land of Edom. But the people grew restive on the journey,
⁵ and the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why did you make us leave Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread and no water, and we have come to loathe this miserable food.”
⁶ the Eternal sent *seraph* serpents against the people. They bit the people and many of the Israelites died.
⁷ The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned by speaking against the Eternal and against you. Intercede with the Eternal to take away the serpents from us!” And Moses interceded for the people.
⁸ Then the Eternal said to Moses, “Make a *seraph* figure and mount it on a standard. And anyone who was bitten who then looks at it shall recover.”
⁹ Moses made a copper serpent and mounted it on a standard; and when bitten by a serpent, anyone who looked at the copper serpent would recover.

י וַיִּסְעוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּאֵבֶת:
יא וַיִּסְעוּ מֵאֵבֶת וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּעֵיִי הָעֵבְרָיִם בַּמִּדְבָּר אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי מוֹאָב מִמִּזְרַח הַשָּׁמֶשׁ:
יב מִשָּׁם נָסְעוּ וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּנַחֲל זָרַד:
יג מִשָּׁם נָסְעוּ וַיַּחֲנוּ מַעֲבַר אַרְנוֹן אֲשֶׁר בַּמִּדְבָּר הַיָּצָא מִגִּבְלֵ הָאֲמֹרִי כִּי אַרְנוֹן גְּבּוּל מוֹאָב בֵּין מוֹאָב וּבֵין הָאֲמֹרִי:
יד עַל־כֵּן יֹאמַר בְּסַפֵּר מִלְחַמַּת יְהוָה אֶת־וְהֵב בְּסוּפָהּ וְאֶת־הַנִּחָלִים אַרְנוֹן:
טו וְאֲשַׁל הַנִּחָלִים אֲשֶׁר נָטָה לְשַׁבֵּת עַר וְנִשְׁעַן לַגְּבּוּל מוֹאָב:
טז וּמִשָּׁם בָּאָרָה הָאָה הַבְּאֹר אֲשֶׁר אָמַר יְהוָה לַמֹּשֶׁה אֲסֹף אֶת־הָעַם וְאֶתְּנָה לָהֶם מַיִם:

¹⁰ The Israelites marched on and encamped at Oboth.
¹¹ They set out from Oboth and encamped at Iye-abarim, in the wilderness bordering on Moab to the east.
¹² From there they set out and encamped at the wadi Zered.
¹³ From there they set out and encamped beyond the Arnon, that is, in the wilderness that extends from the territory of the Amorites. For the Arnon is the boundary of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites.
¹⁴ Therefore the Book of the Wars of the Eternal speaks of "...Waheb in Suphah, and the wadis: the Arnon
¹⁵ with its tributary wadis, stretched along the settled country of Ar, hugging the territory of Moab..."
¹⁶ And from there to Beer, which is the well where the Eternal said to Moses, “Assemble the people that I may give them water.”

יז אֲזַ וַיִּשִׁיר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת עָלִי בְּאֵר עֶנּוּ־לָהּ:
יח בְּאֵר חֲפְרוּיָה שְׂרִים כְּרוּיָה גְּדִיבִי הָעַם בְּמַחֲקָק בְּמִשְׁעָנְתָם וּמִמִּדְבָּר מַתְּנָה:
יט וּמִמַּתְּנָה נַחֲלִיאֵל וּמִנַּחֲלִיאֵל בָּמוֹת:
כ וּמִבָּמוֹת הַגֵּיא אֲשֶׁר בְּשִׁדָּה מוֹאָב רֹאשׁ הַפִּסְגָּה וְנִשְׁקָפָה עַל־פְּנֵי הַיְּשִׁימוֹן:

¹⁷ Then Israel sang this song:Spring up, O well—sing to it—
¹⁸ The well which the chieftains dug,Which the nobles of the people startedWith maces, with their own staffs.
¹⁹ And from Midbar to Mattanah, and from Mattanah to Nahaliel,
²⁰ and from Nahaliel to Bamoth, and from Bamoth to the valley that is in the country of Moab, at the peak of Pisgah, overlooking the wasteland.

Haftarah Portion for Shabbat Chukkat

2 Kings 18:1-8

In the third year of King Hoshea son of Elah of Israel, Hezekiah son of King Ahaz of Judah became king. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years; his mother's name was Abi daughter of Zechariah.

He did what was pleasing to GOD, just as his forefather David had done. He abolished the shrines and smashed the pillars and cut down the sacred post. He also broke into pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until that time the Israelites had been offering sacrifices to it; it was called Nehushtan. He trusted only in the ETERNAL the God of Israel; there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those before him. He clung to GOD; he did not hesitate to be directed, but kept the commandments that GOD had given to Moses.

And GOD was always with him; he was successful wherever he turned. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him. He overran Philistia as far as Gaza and its border areas, from watchtower to fortified town.

Save the Dates

Machzor Evening
Tuesday 16 July, 19:00

We are very excited that the new Reform Machzor - the first for 40 years - has been printed and copies will soon be available to collect from Alyth for those who have pre-ordered. If you would like to purchase a copy, please visit the Alyth website. We are delighted that Rabbi Paul Freedman, Senior Rabbi at Radlett Reform Synagogue and co-editor of the new Machzor, will be joining us to speak about the process of putting it together; why a new machzor is needed; how it should look and what it should contain. Copies of the machzor will also be available to purchase on the evening.

The General Meeting of Congregants
Thursday 18 July, 19:30

The General Meeting of Congregants to approve subscriptions will take place in person and online via Zoom. Please register via the Alyth website and let us know you are attending.

Community News

Alyth is built on a foundation of mutual care, in which we share one another's joys and sorrows, and accompany one another through our life journeys.

On this Shabbat we celebrate with:

Leila Selsick, who is reading Torah for the first time in our Shabbat morning service to celebrate becoming Bat Mitzvah.

Miriam Selsick, who is reading Torah for the first time in our Shabbat morning service to celebrate becoming Bat Mitzvah.

Alexander Wayne, who is reading Torah for the first time in our Shabbat afternoon service to celebrate becoming Bar Mitzvah.

Jon Epstein, on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Nicola Feuchtwang, who has now been ordained by the Leo Baeck College as Rabbi.

Richard Hermer KC, a member of Alyth and former leader in RSY-Netzer - has been appointed as the UK's new Attorney General.

We regret to announce the death of:

Marilyn Selby, wife of Roger Selby, mother of Miranda Selby and Zoe Matthews, and sister of Maurice Mosco, Carole Mosco and Stephen Mosco.

Noreen Webber, mother of Tessa Goldin and Ian Webber.

We join with those marking the anniversary of the death of a loved one:

Peter Abbey, father of Anthony Abbey

Susan Angel, sister of Jane Kerner

Yvonne Bakir, sister of Jeanette Jonas

Pearl Cobb, mother of Sonia Lubkin

Jack Collins, father of Angela Lyons

Michael Connor, husband of Susan Connor

Renee Deyong, mother of Elizabeth Deyong

Anne Freeman, grandmother of Elisabeth Shinder and Kate Albert

Denise Friedman, mother of Brian Friedman

Mariane Games, mother of Daniel Games

Sheila Gertler, mother of Frances Gertler

Pamela Goldman, mother of Elizabeth Wright

Louis Herman, brother of Jack Herman

Frederick Hogan, father of Michael Hogan

Miriam Isaac, mother of Jeanette Jonas

Roy Langsford, father of Paul Langsford

Sidney Leeman, father of Aviva Leeman

Dora Lewis, mother of Michael Lewis

David Lubliner, son of Carol and Michael Lubliner, and brother of Monique Plein

Hans Lubliner, father of Michael Lubliner

Maureen Margolis, mother of Stephen Margolis

Lily Matthews, mother of Roslyn Levitt

Enid Melamet, mother of Suzanne Caro

Samuel Miller, father of Basil Miller

Alan Mindel, father of Morris Mindel

Rachel Mindel, mother of Morris Mindel

Justin Plein, father of Gary Plein

Ron Rappoport, father of Abigail Rappoport

Eva Retkin, grandmother of Adam King

Phyllis Sher, mother of Harold Sher

Philip Taylor, husband of Patricia Taylor

Dorothy Tessler, birth mother of Gloria Sherrington

Marek Zvelebil, brother of Marketa Zvelebil

Contact Us

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Sam Heller

Head of Member Engagement
(currently on maternity leave)

Rabbinic Team

Rabbi Golan Ben-Chorin, Rabbi Hannah Kingston, Rabbi Elliott Karstadt (On Sabbatical)

Rabbi Colin Eimer, Student Rabbi Nicola Feuchtwang

Rabbi Josh Levy (Emeritus)