

Alyth Supper Quiz Returns - Be Part Of The Planning Group
On Sunday 1 February, the Alyth Tu Bishvat Supper Quiz returns. If you are interested in being part of the organising working group, please email sarah@alyth.org.uk by 24 October.

Haftarah for Shabbat Noach

Isaiah 54:1-13

¹Shout, O infertile one, you who bore no child! Shout aloud for joy, you who did not travail! For the children of the wife forlorn shall outnumber those of the espoused—said God. ²Enlarge the site of your tent, extend the size of your dwelling, do not stint! Lengthen the ropes, and drive the pegs firm. ³For you shall spread out to the right and the left; your offspring shall dispossess nations and shall people the desolate towns. ⁴Fear not, you shall not be shamed; do not cringe, you shall not be disgraced. For you shall forget the reproach of your youth, and remember no more the shame of your widowhood. ⁵For the One who made you—whose name is “God of Hosts”— will espouse you. The Holy One of Israel—who is called “God of all the Earth”— will redeem you. ⁶God has called you back as a wife forlorn and forsaken. Can one cast off the wife of his youth?—said your God. ⁷For a little while I forsook you, but with vast love I will bring you back. ⁸In slight anger, for a moment, I hid My face from you; but with kindness everlasting I will take you back in love —said God your Redeemer. ⁹For this to Me is like the waters of Noah: as I swore that the waters of Noah nevermore would flood the earth, so I swear that I will not be angry with you or rebuke you. ¹⁰For the mountains may move and the hills be shaken, but my loyalty shall never move from you, nor My covenant of friendship be shaken—said God, who takes you back in love. ¹¹Unhappy, storm-tossed one, uncomforted! I will lay carbuncles as your building stones and make your foundations of sapphires. ¹²I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of precious stones, the whole encircling wall of gems. ¹³And all your children shall be disciples of God, and great shall be the happiness of your children.

Shabbat Morning Study Passage

The Parables of Flood, Ark, Rainbow

Rabbi Arthur Waskow z”l, excerpted from his teaching on Parashat Noach

What can we learn from this preposterous story? We can see it not as factual history but as a teaching story, a parable.

One oddity in the story can point us toward a specific change: Dates. Times. It specifies the date when the rain began to fall as "the seventeenth day of the second month." It names the date when the Ark’s passengers could disembark and receive the Rainbow Covenant: the "twenty-seventh day of the second month." One lunar year plus eleven days: exactly one solar year... and the story specifies how long the rain lasted, the date when the waters stopped their rising, the date when dry ground first appeared, the date when the Ark landed. They are the only dates in all of Genesis: not Abram’s leaving home, not Jacob’s Godwrestle. Connect this fascination with the specific terms of God's response in the Rainbow Covenant. God mentions precisely the timely cycles through which life renews itself: “Never again will I doom the earth... Never again will I destroy all life so long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease...”

What are we to learn from this? In the age of Modernity, the sacred cycles of time have been thwarted. We have let our desire for “productivity” destroy our sense of holy time and holy cycles. We have become so drunk on our new ability to produce goods that we have forgotten to rest, reflect, contemplate, meditate, celebrate.

This hyper-productive mode, in which time is only a raw material of production, has taken us to the brink of hyper-destruction. In a world that discards meditation and celebration as —literally — a waste of time, the H-bomb, deforestation, the climate crisis, are all inevitable. The Flood and the Rainbow remind us that we must renew the cycles and our celebration of them in order to live.

Special Visitors from Israel over the Next Month

NIF Human Rights Award Winner

Friday 31 October (17:15)

We are delighted to welcome one of this year’s UKNIF Human Rights Award recipients, Hanan Alsanah - Director of Itaach Maaki – Women Lawyers for Social Justice, multi-award winning (including recently from Israel's President Herzog) and a Bedouin activist with a range of experience with Palestinian NGOs (within Israel). Hanan trained as a lawyer and was the first Negev representative to the UN in CEDAW (the Convention on the Elimination Of All Forms Of Discrimination Against Women). She has worked for years in unrecognised villages in the Negev as the Education & Development Manager at Sidra. Over 3000 women participated in her adult education projects. Together with Shir Nosatski, Hanan was the face and the force behind the joint Arab-Jewish Emergency Relief Centre in the Negev, set up after the atrocities of 7 October.

Rabbi Ron Kronish

Friday 14 November (17:15)

We are delighted to welcome Rabbi Ron Kronish, who will be our guest on Friday 14 November. Founding Director of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI), Ron is now an independent scholar, educator, speaker and writer. He has lived in Jerusalem since 1979. His most recent book is Profiles In Peace (2022). There will be an opportunity to meet Rabbi Ron before the service, and he will give the D'var Torah in our Erev Shabbat service.

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.

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

Marilyn Abrahams, mother of Barry Abrahams

Jill Barrington, mother of Saul Barrington

Miriam Beresford, sister of Eva Mendelsson

Miriam Bermant, aunt of Hannah Jacobs

Louis Bloch, father of Cyril Bloch

Maxwell Brodie, father of Alan Brodie

Freda Chazen, mother of Lynette Chazen and Debbie Korel

John Dudley, father of Annabelle Daiches

Thomas Egri, husband of Susan Egri and father of Charles Imber

Ruth Eker, mother of Jane Arkin

Minnie Ferrer, mother of Alan Ferrer

Henry Fridjohn, father of Dorothy Sefton-Green and Sara Sayers

Sandra Gee, wife of Steven Gee

Max Gordemer, father of Avril Shattock

Phyllis Gordemer, mother of Avril Shattock

Barbara Green, mother of Mark Green

Gloria Guiloff, sister of Roberto Guiloff

Jessie Jay, mother of Melvyn Jay

Solomon Kantor, father of David Kantor

Sandra Kessel, mother of Anthony Kessel

Bill Levy, mother of Mike Levy

Anne Loebl, mother of Naomi Baker and Miriam Grabiner

Rosa Manzur, grandmother of Aviva Wiser

Alan Massing, grandfather of James Massing

Norman Meyerowitz, father of Felicia Meyerowitz Singh

Sally Mordecai, sister of Aslan Mordecai

Betty Overlander, mother of Michael Overlander

Stella Price, mother of Robert Price

Muriel Silverman, mother of Maxine Libson, Sandra Fox and Hazel Morris

Leo Simmons, father of Tina Stanton

Ephraim Smith, father of Maureen Rivlin

Ralph Stern, husband of Joan Stern

Harry Urban, father of Mark Urban

Arthur Weissmann, father of Doreen Merkel

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Rabbinic Team

Rabbi Hannah Kingston, Rabbi Elliott Karstadt, Rabbi Colin Eimer, Rabbi Nicola Feuchtwang
Rabbi Josh Levy (Emeritus)