

## **Rabbi's Column – November 25, 2019**

This coming Friday night, we will recite at least two Kaddishes. One will be the usual one where we remember those who have died during the past year and those for whom Yahrzeit is being observed during the coming week. The second Kaddish will be done using the Sephardic version, (which has some different words) in solidarity with Mizrachi and Sephardi Jews who have, within the past few years, begun trying to have a moment where a large number of Jews will help recite Kaddish for those who are buried in the Middle East and North Africa with nobody left to visit the graves. (There would have been Jews there to do so had they not been kicked out or killed either during the Farhud or after Israel became a State.

This week's Torah portion, Toldot, brings a focus onto Isaac and Rebecca's married life. Isaac is the only Patriarch who acts to try and alleviate his wife's emotional pain before being requested to do so. Neither Abraham nor Jacob appear quite so understanding of the emotional status of their spouses.

The portion also exposes us to a lot of sibling rivalry, which gets reflected in birthrights and blessings.

May our lives this week be filled with opportunities to express our gratitude to both God and humanity for the many things that exist.