

# Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim

**June 9, Parshat Shelach, 26 Sivan 5778**



## Shelach Times & Numbers:

Candle Lighting- 8:08pm  
Mincha- 7:00pm  
Shacharit- 9:00 am  
Teen Minyan- 9:45  
Jr. Congregation- 10:15  
Tot Shabbat- 10:15  
Mincha – 8:05  
Shabbat Ends- 9:17 pm



NUMBER OF MITZVOT: 3  
MITZVOT ASEH: 2 MITZVOT LO TASEH: 1  
NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 119  
NUMBER OF WORDS: 1540  
NUMBER OF LETTERS: 5820

## YEAR END RAFFLE

**ONLY MITZVAH MONEY WILL  
BE ACCEPTED. TICKETS  
WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE  
FOR PURCHASE-SO START  
SAVING UP!  
AT THE SHUL DINNER  
MONDAY, JUNE 18**

## WHERE IN LIVINGSTON IS YONI???

Each Friday afternoon for the first three weeks in June at approx. 3:00pm. Yoni will be posting/sending out a selfie in a local establishment. The first 4 kids to figure out where Yoni is & show up there win prizes from that place of business *and* tickets for the year-end raffle!

Congregation Etz Chaim: [www.etzchaimnj.org](http://www.etzchaimnj.org)  
Rabbi E. Samuel Klibanoff  
Rabbi Natan Kapustin, Assistant Rabbi  
Presidents: Neil Kaplan & Alan Schall  
Youth Director: Yoni Glatt  
Rabbinic Intern: Yoni Gold

## THE SLANDER OF THE SPIES

Moshe sends out 12 spies to check out the Holy Land. Forty days later, on the 8th of Av, the spies return to the *Midbar*. They go past Moshe's tent, straight for the public address system and broadcast their report to the entire nation. They start out by saying that the land really does flow with milk and honey and that the land grows huge fruits. So far so good, but at this point the spies turn against Moshe and announce that only superhumans could live in such a land. The spies go on to discourage the *Bnai Yisrael* with lots of reasons not to even attempt to enter *Eretz Yisrael*: There's no place for a sneak attack; There are giants living there; There's disease and plague wherever you go... The crowd is in an uproar! Moshe tries to remind them that *Hashem* will do the real fighting but they don't want to hear it! Then Calev steps up to the plate. He yells out, "And that's not all Moshe did to us!" The crowd quiets down with the hopes of hearing more *Lashon Hora*. But instead, Calev reminds the people of Moshe's dedication: "Moshe split the sea & got the *Maan* to rain down every morning and he will lead us to conquering the land of Israel with *Hashem's* help!" Moshe takes it from here, reminding the people that Yehoshua agrees that they can win it.

But the score is ten to two and the bad report wins in a shout out. There's no going back. Darkness has fallen and the spies have doomed *Bnei Yisroel* to remember *Tisha B'Av* (the 9th of Av) as a dark day. What could have been a great *Kiddush Hashem* has instead become a *Chilul Hashem* racked with *Lashon Hora*.

**MAZEL TOV TO GABRIEL HALPERN &  
THE ENTIRE HALPERN FAMILY ON  
GABE'S BAR MITZVAH  
THIS WEEKEND AT  
ETZ CHAIM!!**



## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Rabbi Gershom Mendes Seixas was the first Rabbi born in America (in 1745)? In late August, 1776, the British were on the march to NYC. As Rav of Congregation Shearith Israel (then on Mill St. and now on Central Park West) Rabbi Seixas closed the shul & safeguarded its ceremonial objects, which are still displayed to this day. He moved the congregation to Philadelphia for the duration of the Revolutionary War, and eventually participated in George Washington's inauguration in 1789. His brother, Benjamin, was also one of the founders of the New York Stock Exchange.

## **YIDDLE RIDDLE** ??????

THE FIRST KID WHO TELLS YONI THE ANSWER GETS \$2 MM,  
THE SECOND GETS \$1, & THE THIRD GETS \$1- NO TELLNG  
THE ANSWER!

**Spy vs. Spy, it's what happens this week  
Bad things about Israel some did speak  
40 years later spies are sent once more  
Tell me their names and you will score**

### Last Week-

Four consecutive words there are  
That have the same root, how bizarre?!  
Look in the first 5 chapters of sefer Bamidbar,  
If you go any further, then you've gone too far.  
A- Bamidbar 4:47

## **FRIDAY AFTERNOON BASKETBALL IS BACK!**

**FRIDAYS- 4:30  
AT THE YOUTH HOUSE!  
GRADES 7 AND UP.  
WEATHER PERMITTING.**



## **ISRAEL THROUGH THE AGES**

**Our free ongoing class for  
grades 8-12 will end  
Tuesday, June 12 @ 5:45PM.  
Dinner & snacks served.  
Next class:**

***UNDERSTANDING THE  
PALESTINIAN ISSUE II***

## **ISRAEL IN THE PARSHA**

**JENNIFER ROMANOFF'S  
CLASS WILL CONTINUE  
JUNE 12 BEFORE YONI'S  
CLASS.**

**MIDOT MATTER MOST:  
CLOTHES DON'T  
MAKE THE MAN.  
GOOD MIDOT DO.**

Altruism- Al-tru-ism

(אַלְטְרוּיִזְמוֹ n.

1. Unselfish concern for the welfare of others; selflessness.
2. Zoology-behavior by an animal that is not beneficial to or may be harmful to itself but that benefits others of its species.

## **JEWISH HEROES: DONNA GRACIA MENDES 1510-1569**

Donna Gracia Mendes was born in Lisbon, Portugal, into a prominent and affluent family of forcibly converted Jews known as *Conversos* (also called Marranos). While still Jewish, the family fled to Portugal when the Catholic Monarchs, Queen Isabella I of Castile and King Ferdinand II of Aragon, expelled the Jews in 1492. Five years later, in 1497, they were forcibly converted to Catholicism along with all the other Jews in Portugal at that time. Mendes was born 12 years later.

Garcia married the incredibly wealthy banker Francisco Mendez-Nassi. After he died in 1535, Donna Gracia decided to leave Portugal together with her only child Reyna and several other relatives. Though Gracia had to leave a considerable part of her huge wealth behind, she fled Portugal and settled in Antwerp, where her brother-in-law Diogo was the head of the branch of the Mendez-Nassi firm which had connections with most European courts.

She began to make plans to leave Antwerp for a free country. Suspecting that she planned to leave with her entire wealth, Emperor Charles V tried to seize her fortune. But Donna Gracia succeeded in leaving Antwerp in 1549 with her daughter, her windowed sister, her niece, and most of her wealth. Together they traveled to Venice, en route to Constantinople. The king of France, a willing tool of the church, was very angry at her slipping away from Antwerp, and for her taking most of her wealth before he could confiscate it. At his instigation, the governor of Venice put her and her family in prison, & confiscated her huge wealth before she could sail for Turkey. But then Don Joseph Nassi used his influence with the Turkish Sultan who was only too glad of an excuse to start trouble with the Church. After two years of negotiations and threats of actual war, Gracia was released, and, with her daughter, settled temporarily in Ferrara, where they finally shed their hated Catholic exterior and openly returned to Judaism.

In 1552, Gracia settled in Constantinople, where she became the center of worldwide help for Marranos and Jews in suffering. Her wealth was not only used for business, but to buy the favors of princes, opening many doors to the persecuted. She built synagogues, established Yeshivot and libraries, and supported scholars and students of Torah. She funded the rebuilding and resettling of Jews in Tiberius, Israel. She helped to save and resettle hundreds of Marranos overall, and enabled them to return to Judaism. She was a cross of Queen Esther and Harriet Tubman.