

# Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim

**Feb. 24, 2017 Parsha Mishpatim 28 Shevat 5777**



## Mishpatim Times & Numbers

Candle Lighting- 5:25

Mincha- 5:25

Shacharit- 9:00 am

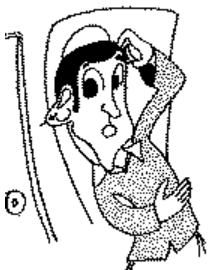
Teen Minyan- 9:45

Junior Cong.- 10:15

Tot Shabbat- 10:15

Mincha- 5:15 pm

Shabbat Ends- 6:25



NUMBER OF MITZVOT: 53

Only 3 parshas have more mitzvot

23 MITZVOT ASEH (POSITIVE COMMANDMENT)

30 MITZVOT LO TAASEH (NEGATIVE COMMANDMENT - PROHIBITION)

NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 116

NUMBER OF WORDS: 1681

NUMBER OF LETTERS: 6423

**YONI'S SUPERHEROES & JUDAISM CLASS RETURNS THIS TUESDAY NIGHT AT 6! FRESH PIZZA & PASTRIES. GRADES 7 & UP.**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**THIS YEAR'S PURIM CARNIVAL WILL BE IMMEDIATELY AFTER DAVENING ON PURIM DAY MARCH 12**

**YOUTH DEPARTMENT INFLATION!!! \$5 MITZVAH MONEY IS COMING SOON!**

Congregation Etz Chaim: [www.etzchaimnj.org](http://www.etzchaimnj.org)

Rabbi Sam Klibanoff

Rabbi Natan Kapustin, Assistant Rabbi

Presidents: Neil Kaplan & Allan Schall

Youth Director: Yoni Glatt

## THE IMPORTANCE OF KINDNESS

There is A LOT going on in this Parsha. But there's one particular lesson to be learned in regards to Mitzvot between man and his fellow man (or woman). Hashem wants us to be especially nice to three groups of people: A Ger (convert) - We must be kind to a non-Jew who becomes a Jew. Many times a Ger is alone in the world since he/she has abandoned his/her family & friends to become a Jew. A Ger might be very sensitive about not really being an "original" part of Klal Yisroel. Hashem wants us to remember what it felt like when we were strangers in Mitzrayim. We might take our Judaism for granted, as we were born with it. But a Ger has to work very hard to become a Jew, and deserves respect for hi/her journey, and at the very least kindness.

Widows and orphans also command our kindness. They are used to being protected by the security of their family. Now that their family has been pulled apart, they feel all alone, and in some cases they are without any other family and are literally alone. The Torah wants us to take care of all people who are weak or helpless. It gives us the specific example of an orphan and a widow as they might be more commonplace. However our acts of kindness (chesed) should not end with them. We should strive to show compassion to anyone who has been through a trying and difficult time. On a deeper level one can say that eventually almost all of us become orphans, and therefore the Torah is commanding us to continually kind (and altruistic) to each other.

### "Quote of the Week"

*"The happiest people are those who do the most for others. The most miserable are those who do the least."*

-Booker T. Washington



## MIDDLE RIDDLE ??????

THE FIRST KID WHO TELLS YONI THE ANSWER GETS \$3 MM,  
THE SECOND GETS \$2, & THE THIRD GETS \$1- NO TELLING  
THE ANSWER!

One verse has all the letters of the Hebrew aleph-bet  
It might be hard to find, it sure ain't no sweat  
So look in Shemot in a place where the Jews did eat  
And you might be able to accomplish this difficult feat

Last Week:

**WHO AM I? WHEN I WAS BORN I WAS NOT A BEN  
NOAH. ONLY WHEN NOAH DIED WAS I BEN NOAH.  
A- Avraham was 58 when Noach died. 85= :**

Join us for the **Metro West JSU and NCSY Shabbat Experience** March 3rd-4th! Friday night will be at Etz Chaim and Saturday day and afternoon at Suburban Torah! Dinner at ETZ CHAIM is FREE for shul members. Talk to Yoni to RSVP.



## DID YOU KNOW???

Did you know that Medieval European kingdoms banned Jews from working in most trades and that Christianity forbade Christians from lending money with interest? As a result many Jews were forced into the fields of money-lending and banking (Jews can't charge interest to other Jews though). This is a key reason why banking has been stereotypically called "the Jewish Profession".

## MIDOT MATTER MOST: THE HARDER YOU TRY TO BE COOL, THE MORE YOU LOOK LIKE A FOOL.

Altruism- Al·tru·ism

(אַלְטְרוּיזְם) 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.

## TORAH GREATS: THE MAHARSHAL 1510-1573 C.E.

Rav Shlomo Luria aka The Maharshal (Moreinu HaRav Shlomo Luria) was born in Posen, Poland. His father, Rav Yechiel Luria, a descendant of Rashi, was the rabbi of the Lithuanian city of Slutsk and an eminent Talmudist. He, however, passed away when the Maharshal was a young boy. The Maharshal returned to Poland and lived with his grandparents in Lublin. He studied under Rabbi Shalom Shachna, and later in the Ostroh Yeshiva in Ukraine under his future father-in-law Rav Kalonymus Haberkasten. The Maharshal served as Rabbi in Brisk, Belarus and various Lithuanian communities for 15 years.

When Rav Haberkasten assumed the position of Rosh Yeshiva in Brisk, the Maharshal replaced him as the official rabbi of the city and region of Ostroh. The Maharshal later succeeded Rav Shalom Shachna as head of the famed Lublin Yeshiva, which attracted students from across Europe. He would then go on to start his own Yeshiva. Its building, known as the "Maharshal's shul", remained intact until World War II.

The Maharshal was a major posek (halachic authority) and had many written works of significant importance, most notable his *Yam Shel Shlomo*. His correcting commentary *Chochmot Shelomo*, is printed in the standard editions of the Talmud. It corrects mistakes that might have been made by the copiers of Shas over the centuries.

The Maharshal passed away on the 12th of Kislev, 5334. He was survived by two sons, Rav Wolf and Rav Yechiel, and by three daughters who were married, respectively, to Rav Shimon Zev Auerbach, a rav and av beis din in Prague; Rav Eliezer; and Rav Ephraim Fischel. In addition to *Yam Shel Shlomo* and *Chochmas Shlomo*, the Maharshal wrote many other works. The inscription on his (still mostly intact) tombstone speaks volumes about the impact he had on the Jews of the world. It reads, "A great sage who illuminated Am Yisrael for generations."