

Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim



Dec. 29, Parshat Vayichi, 12 Tevet 5778

Vayichi Times & Numbers:

Candle Lighting- 4:20pm
Mincha- 4:20pm
Shacharit- 9:00 am
Teen Minyan- 9:45
Jr. Congregation- 10:15
Tot Shabbat- 10:15
Mincha -4:15
Shabbat Ends- 5:29 pm



NO MITZVOT IN THIS PARSHA
NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 85
NUMBER OF WORDS: 1158
NUMBER OF LETTERS: 4448



NCSY Chessed Mission

NASHVILLE, TN

FEB 21-25

\$500

10TH-12TH GRADE

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, AMAZING SHABBAT, LIGHT TOURING.
GRANTS AVAILABLE THROUGH DESTINATION JEWISH SERVICE
LEARNING BY JTEEN



FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLE!

Every week a new amazing prize will be given away- but you must be in shul to win!

Returns Jan 5th-Win a:

\$100 Barnes & Noble

BARNES & NOBLE

Shopping spree!
(Books & Games only)

BARNES & NOBLE

Congregation Etz Chaim: 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 ESSENCE OF TEAMWORK

Perhaps the most important lesson about brotherhood in the entire Torah is found near the conclusion of Bereishit, in the blessings that Yaakov gives his children at the end of his life. These blessings, though difficult to read & understand, serve as a fitting conclusion to the book of Bereishit & also as a solution to the problem that plagues many of the major characters throughout the book – how to forge a harmonious relationship with one's potential competitors.

Through the blessings to his children, Yaakov was the first to explicitly realize and formulate the idea that specialization of tasks is the key to group cooperation. Granted, this idea is already available from the start of the book, when the first two brothers-Cain & Abel-pursue different and potentially symbiotic livelihoods. Obviously, they didn't take advantage of this idea. Still, the idea is never spelled out until Yaakov blesses his children. With his carefully individualized and complementary blessings, Yaakov provides an important lesson for his kin – that leadership is only one of many indispensable roles that must be taken for a family to maximize its success. As Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch explains there is a need for the merchant as well as the scholar as well as the leader. If one role may be more glamorous than another, specialization allows each brother to take on an essential function on behalf of the group. This strategy for family harmony is as simple as it is brilliant. It enables each family member to excel in what he (or she) does best, thereby allowing for self-actualization, while defusing concern about being beaten out by a rival sibling. Furthermore, it creates interdependence, which leads the individuals to see themselves as part of a team. Simply put, if my teammate does well it benefits not only him/her but me as well.

"Quote of the Week"

"Judaism is a religion of continuity. It depends for its very existence on the willingness of successive generations to hand on their faith and way of life to their children, and on the loyalty of children to the heritage of their past."

-Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

DID YOU KNOW.....

Did you know that the letter "K" cannot be trademarked and any person/company can put a "K" on their product? This means that a company could put a "K" on ham or pork and claim it's Kosher! While a "K" on Kellogg's products *is* acceptable, we have to be very careful when buying products that only have a "K" on it. Just because there's a "K" on a box, it doesn't necessarily mean the item is Kosher. In fact in some cases (like some Dannon yogurts) the products are actually tref.

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!

Kosher animals in this Parsha can be found
So take some time and look around
I'm looking for the first one that we see
You will win if you're one of the first three

Last Week-

There are six of these every year
One of which is very near
Say them in any order but
Start with the most important of all
And you'll be standing proud and tall
A- Yom Kippur, Tzom Gedalia, 10 Tevet, Taanit Esther, 17 Tammuz, 9 Av

MORAH GOLDSTEIN IS COMING BACK JANUARY 6TH!

**SHABBAT MORNING PROGRAM AT 10:15
UPSTAIRS IN CLASSROOM 2 FOR MIDDLE
SCHOOL GIRLS.**

LUNCH AT THE YOUTH HOUSE FOR GRADES 8-12

**SHABBAT- JANUARY 6TH- 12:00PM
65 SHREWSBURY DR
(There will be a special cholent ;)**

ISRAEL THROUGH THE AGES

**Our free ongoing class
for grades 8-12 continues
with Yoni Tuesday Jan.
2nd at 5:45pm. Dinner
and snacks served. Next
Week's Class:**

THE RETURN OF THE KINGS

**CONGRATS TO JACOB
ZUCKERMAN ON
DEFENDING RABBI
KLIBANOFF AND
WINNING THIS YEAR'S
FANTASY FOOTBALL
LEAGUE!**

**MIDOT MATTER MOST:
THERE'S AN "I" IN TENNIS. BUT
THERE'S NO "I" IN BASEBALL,
BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, HOCKEY,
OR SOCCER. IF YOU'RE ON A TEAM,
BE A TEAM PLAYER.**

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.

TORAH GREATS: AMRAM GAON -9TH CENTURY CE

Amram Gaon (AG) was a famous *Gaon* or head of the Jewish Talmud Academy of Sura (in Iraq) in the 9th century. He was a pupil of Natronai II, Gaon of Sura, and was exceptionally honored with the title of Gaon within the lifetime of his teacher. Upon Natronai's death, about 857, the full title and dignities of the gaonate were conferred upon Amram, and he held them until his death in 875. He is the author of about 120 responsa (the greater part published in Salonica, 1792, in the collection entitled "Sha'are Tzedek") touching almost every department of Jewish law. It is characteristic of Amram's method to avoid extreme rigor; thus he decides that a slave who has embraced Judaism, but desires to postpone the necessary circumcision until he feels strong enough for it, is not to be. He combats superstition, and places himself almost in opposition to the Talmud, when he protests that there is no sense in fasting on account of bad dreams, since the true nature of dreams is not known.

But the most important work of AG, which marks him as one of the most prominent of the geonim before Saadia, is his "Prayer-book," the so-called "Siddur Rab Amram." Amram was the first to arrange a complete liturgy for use in synagogue and home. His book forms the foundation both of the Spanish-Portuguese and of the German-Polish liturgies, and has exerted great influence upon Jewish religious practice and ceremony for more than a thousand years, an influence which to some extent is still felt at the present day. For AG did not content himself with giving the mere text of the prayers, but in a species of running commentary added very many Talmudical and gaonic regulations relating to them and their ceremonies. His Prayer-book served as the model for Saadia's and Rambam's own prayer rituals. It was published complete for the first time in Warsaw, in 1865, by N. N. Coronel, under the title "Seder Rab Amram Gaon."

Three different manuscripts of the Siddur are extant, and additional fragments have been discovered in Cairo. The present work is not that written by Amram, and contains later interpolations. Moreover, a thorough study of the Seder, show that over time changes were introduced into Amram's original text, both in the sections comprising the prayers and in those dealing with the laws. Some scholars even maintain that Amram sent to Spain only the "order" of the prayers and blessings together with the relevant laws but not the actual text of the prayers and blessings, which were added later.