

Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim

Nov. 25, Parshat Vayetzei, 7 Kislev 5778



Vayetzei Times & Numbers:

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



NO MITZVOT IN THIS PARSHA
NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 148
NUMBER OF WORDS: 2021
NUMBER OF LETTERS: 7512

ISRAEL THROUGH THE AGES

Our free ongoing class for
grades 8-12 continues with
Yoni Monday Dec. 4th at
5:45pm. Dinner and snacks
served. This Week's Class:
**MY BIG FAT GREEK
REBELLION**

**READY TO GET YOUR
MIND BLOWN?**

THE **MENTALIST**

is coming to Congregation Etz
Chaim for Shabbat Chanukah-
December 16th! (Special show
following Junior Cong.)

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

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Yaakov arrives at Har Hamoriah just as the sun is setting. So he *davens Maariv* and heads for bed. Well, actually there are no beds in sight, so stones will have to do. Yaakov takes twelve stones and makes a "pillow" out of them on the ground. He doesn't know it, but, miraculously, all 12 stones merge into one "fluffy" rock pillow, supporting this *tzadik* as he sleeps. Yaakov dreams of a ladder that stretches from the ground next to him all the way up to the heavens. On this ladder, a line of *Malachim* (angels) are climbing up to *Shamayim* (heaven). These are the *Malachim* that have protected him while he was in *Eretz Yisroel*. Along side them, another line of *Malachim* make their way down the ladder to the earth. These new heavenly recruits are coming to protect Yaakov in Charan. *Hashem* appears to Yaakov, promising him that he will be protected until he returns to *Eretz Yisroel*.

When Yaakov wakes up he exclaims "I knew that this was a traditional sacrificial area, but who knew this was such a holy place?" Now he realizes he is by the gateway to heaven. If only he had known this before, he would never have slept here! Yaakov marks the spot with the stone he slept on. He promises that if *Hashem* will truly protect him, give him food and clothing and return him safely to *Eretz Yisrael*, on this spot he will offer sacrifices and always give *Hashem* 10% of everything he earns. This is called *Maaser* (tithing). Like Yaakov, we too should give at least 10% of our earnings to *tzeddakah*.

"Quote of the Week"

"Walk before every man in modesty and humility. Not only before those of your religion, but before every man."

-Rabbi Meir (see opposite side)

DID YOU KNOW.....

Did you know that Antiochus IV isn't the only bad guy in the Chanukah story? Sure, he gets a lot of the "credit" for enacting all the terrible decrees against the Jews. But he in fact dies at the "half-way" point of the Chanukah story. His son actually makes peace with the Jews, but is murdered shortly after by Demetrius I who resumes the oppression of the Jewish people- and whose forces kill Judah Maccabee. Demetrius's men are later defeated by Yonatan Maccabee.

MIDDLE RIDDLE ?????

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

**AN ANCIENT PLACE TO LEARN
WHERE OUR FOUNDING
FATHERS DID TURN
ITS FOUNDERS WERE KIN
WHO STAYED AWAY FROM SIN**

Last Week-

In Jewish history I've got a very bad name
I'm a well know king of great international fame
Maybe I wasn't that bad in every single way
After all Jeremiah told the Jews to do what I say
A- Nebuchadnezzar

SAVE THE DATE

ETZ CHAIM

CHANUKAH CHAGIGAH

SUNDAY, DEC. 17 11:00AM

-ARTS AND CRAFTS! -GAMES!

-BLOW UP RIDES!

-FOOD! -PHOTO FUN!

-FACE PAINTING!

And of course our

- PRIZE LOADED RAFFLE!!!!

Yarchai Kallah

**Join over 300
other Jewish
HSers for an
amazing NCSY
weekend in
Stamford, ct. Dec
27-31. Talk to
Yoni or Jennifer
for more details.**

ISRAEL IN THE PARSHA

**JENNIFER ROMANOFF'S
AFTER SCHOOL CLASS
RETURNS MONDAY DEC.
4TH BEFORE YONI'S
CLASS**

**MIDOT MATTER MOST:
PHONINESS IS LIKE GLASS.
PEOPLE CAN SEE RIGHT
THROUGH IT AND IT
BREAKS EASILY.**

Altruism- Al·tru·ism

($\text{ä}^{\text{f}} \text{tr} \text{ö} \text{.} \text{I}_z^{\text{f}} \text{ə} \text{m}$) *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: RABBI MEIR BAAL HANES 3RD CENTURY C.E.

Rabbi Meir or Rabbi Meir Baal Hanes was a Jewish sage who lived in the time of the Mishna. He was considered one of the greatest of the Tannaim of the fourth generation (139-163). According to a legend, his father was a descendant of the Roman Emperor Nero who had converted to Judaism. "Meir" though, is actually more of a nickname — his real name is thought to have been Nahori or Misha. The name *Meir*, meaning "Illuminator," was given to him because he enlightened the eyes of scholars and students in Torah study. The epithet *Baal HaNess* simply means "Who Does Miracle(s)".

Rabbi Meir was a student of the great Rabbi Akiva. R' Meir lived during the time of the horrible plague when 24,000 students of R' Akiva died. Only five survived (!), and Rabbi Meir was one of them. He made his living as Sofer (Torah scribe) and lived a humble life. His wife Bruriah is one of the few women cited in the Gemara. She is greatly admired for her breadth of knowledge in matters pertaining to both halacha and aggadah

In the Talmud, Tractate Gittin 4a, it says that all anonymous Mishnahs are attributed to Rabbi Meir; for the rule is "stam mishneh Rabbi Meir". His arguments were so brilliant that even his own contemporaries could not get to the very depths of his thoughts and therefore the *halacha* did not often follow his opinion. R' Meir was also a master at giving *mosholim*-fables- in order to get his point across.

Although Rabbi Meir died outside of the Land of Israel, he was brought to Tiberias (the same city where his teacher Rabbi Akiva is buried) and buried there in a standing position near the Kinneret. He requested that he be buried in Israel by the seashore so that the water that washes the shores of Eretz Yisrael should also lap his grave (Jerusalem Talmud, Kelaim 9:4). Visitors to his grave traditionally recite Tehillim and a special prayer at his tomb. This prayer is found in the prayer book "Aneini". Every year, thousands of Jews make pilgrimage to his grave to receive blessings for health and success