

# Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim

**Nov. 25, Parshat Vatetzei, 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 16<sup>th</sup>! (Special show  
following Junior Cong.)

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

## **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 *tzedakah*.

### **"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

### [\*\*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

(ăl' trōō- īz' ēm) 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.

## **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!!!!**

## **TORAH GREATS: RABBI MEIR BAAL HA'NES 3<sup>RD</sup> 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