

# Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim

Jan. 13, Parshat Vaeira, 26 Tevet 5778



## Vaeira Times & Numbers:

Candle Lighting- 4:33pm  
 Mincha- 4:35pm  
 Shacharit- 9:00 am  
 Teen Minyan- 9:45  
 Jr. Congregation- 10:15  
 Tot Shabbat- 10:15  
 Mincha -4:35  
 Shabbat Ends- 5:42 pm



**NO MITZVOT IN THIS PARSHA**  
**NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 121**  
**NUMBER OF WORDS: 1748**  
**NUMBER OF LETTERS: 6701**

**“FREEZE” CHECK  
 FROM LAST WEEK:  
 LUNCH AT THE  
 YOUTH HOUSE FOR  
 GRADES 8-12  
 THIS SHABBAT-  
 JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>- 12:10PM  
 65 SHREWSBURY DR**  
 (There will be a very special cholent ;)

## FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLE!

You must be in shul to win!

Returns Jan 12<sup>th</sup>- Win a:

**\$100 Barnes & Noble  
 Shopping spree!**  
 (Books & Games only)

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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 HARD HEART**

Moshe appears before Pharaoh with a warning: either Pharaoh lets the *Bnei Yisrael* skidaddle or wild animals will be the next artillery in Hashem's battle! Of course, Pharaoh stubbornly refuses to let the Jews go- even though he's already seen what Hashem did with the blood, frogs, and lice! So Moshe heads back to Goshen before the first roar.

Imagine stepping out of the house just in time to see a herd of rhinos stampeding in your direction, crocodiles attacking people in the street; crowds running in all directions as lions and hyenas pounce. It's a scene of havoc everywhere in *Mitzrayim*- except in Goshen, of course, where the Hebrews are safe and sound. Panicked, Pharaoh calls for Moshe and Aharon. He's had enough of this G-d and His power. Pharaoh orders Moshe to get rid of the animals. The Jews can leave - good riddance - as soon as those beasts are gone! Moshe prays for Hashem to take away the beasts. Of course, as soon as they're gone, Pharaoh changes his mind again- and will do it six more times: What a stubborn guy! But of course that's Pharaoh's biggest problem: he's just too stubborn!

Being able to admit when you are wrong is an incredibly admirable trait. It shows you are mature, modest, and not stubborn. Pharaoh's heart was simply too hard, and he couldn't admit that he was wrong until it was too late.

### **“Quote of the Week”**

“The gentle words of the wise are heard above the shouts of a king over fools.”

*-King Solomon*

## **ISRAEL THROUGH THE AGES**

Our free ongoing class for grades 8-12 will return Tuesday Jan. 30th at 5:45pm. Dinner and snacks served. Next's Class:

***The Rise of Herod***

### **DID YOU KNOW.....**

Did you know that after the destruction of the Second Temple (Beit Hamikdash) in 70 CE Emperor Vespasian issued a brand new tax called the Jews' Tax? Now, this wasn't a tax just on the survivors of the Jewish rebellion in Judea, it was a tax placed on ANY Jew in the whole Roman Empire as punishment for the rebellion, even Jews who had never even been to Israel! While obviously unfair, this does show how when tragedy strikes Klal Yisrael it affects us all- in this case literally- whether we are directly a part of the tragedy or not.

## 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!

What had no life, could not move  
Until they did, and felt the groove  
Find how this was so  
In this parsha your eyes should go

### Last Week-

Moshe runs away as a younger man  
And starts a family in a foreign land  
When he returns to Egypt he's how old?  
It's easy math, you don't need to be told  
A- 80



## MIDOT MATTER MOST: AS WE SEE ABOVE, EVERY REQUEST SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE

Altruism- Al·tru·ism

(ăl trōō-ĭz'ĕm) 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.



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## **TORAH GREATS: RAV MOSHE FEINSTEIN 1895-1986**

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein (RMF) was born in the town of Uzda, near Minsk, Belarus where his father was the rabbi. He was born on 7 Adar, which is also the date of Moshe Rabbeinu's birth (and death). RMF studied with his father and also in yeshivas throughout Belarus, before being appointed rabbi of Lubań where he served for sixteen years. He married Shima Kustanovich in 1920 and had 3 children (Fay Gittel, Shifra, and David) before leaving Europe. Under increasing pressure from the Soviet regime, he moved with his family to New York City in 1936 where he lived for the rest of his life.

Settling on the Lower East Side, he became the rosh yeshiva of Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem. He later established a branch of the yeshiva in Staten Island, New York, now headed by his son Rabbi Reuven Feinstein. His son Rabbi Dovid Feinstein heads the Manhattan branch. Rav Moshe was president of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada and chaired the Moetzes Gedolei HaTorah of Agudath Israel of America from the 1960s until his death. Rav Moshe also took an active leadership role in Israel's Chinuch Atzmai.

RMF was revered by many as the *Gadol Hador* (greatest Torah sage of the generation), including Rabbis Yaakov Yisrael Kanievsky, Aharon Kotler, and Yosef Shalom Elyashiv, even though several of them were far older than he. Rav Moshe was also recognized by many as the preeminent Torah sage and *Posek* of his generation, and people from around the world called upon him to answer their most complicated Halachic questions. There are endless stories about his brilliance, and the amazing accomplishments he achieved through the power of Torah. His most famous works are the *Igros Moshe* (halachic responsive), *Dibros Moshe* (Talmud commentary), and *Darash Moshe* (Torah commentary).

When he passed away in 1986 there were over 300,000 people at his funeral, which is believed to be the biggest Jewish funeral since the Mishnaic era until the funeral of Rav Ovadia Yosef in 2013. Rav Moshe is buried in Har Hamenuchot, Israel.