

Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim

March 17, 2017 Parsha Ki Sisa 20 Adar 5777



Ki Sisa Times & Numbers

Candle Lighting- 6:48
Mincha- 5:45
Shacharit- 9:00 am
Teen Minyan- 9:45
Junior Cong.- 10:15
Tot Shabbat- 10:15
Mincha- 6:40 pm
Shabbat Ends- 7:48



NUMBER OF MITZVOT: 9

4 Mitzvot Aseh (positive commandment)

5 Mitzvah lo Taseh (neg.commandment)

NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 139

NUMBER OF WORDS: 2002

NUMBER OF LETTERS: 7424

**YONI'S FINAL
SUPERHEROES &
JUDAISM CLASS WILL BE
TUESDAY NIGHT THE 21ST!
FRESH PIZZA & PASTRIES.
GRADES 7 & UP.**

**IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN AND WILL
BE HERE OVER PASSOVER, PLEASE
LET YONI KNOW SO WE CAN
ACCORDINGLY PLAN YOUTH
PROGRAMMING**

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

Congregation Etz Chaim: www.etzchaimnj.org
Rabbi Sam Klibanoff
Rabbi Natan Kapustin, Assistant Rabbi
Presidents: Neil Kaplan & Allan Schall
Youth Director: Yoni Glatt

THE BAR-MITZVAH BUILDER

Hashem tells Moshe about some very fascinating, but intricate *Keilim* (vessels) that are to be made for the *Mishkan*, but Moshe wasn't going to be the one making them. So where among a bunch of ex-slaves was there to be found a master-craftsman who can do the job? Good news! Betzalel, the son of Uri, grandson of Chur and thereby Moshe's great-great-nephew), the *Bar-Mitzvah* boy from *Shevet Yehuda*, has a gift for melding gold into *kaylim*. But that's not all! Betzalel is a jack of all trades: He's a carpenter, an architect, a silversmith, a "seamster" and, on top of it all, he's got *Ruach HaKodesh* (the gift of the holy spirit). So he understands the deeper meaning behind the object he's building. Betzalel and his trusty assistant Aholiav, son of Achisamach, from *Shevet Dan*, will take on the *Mishkan*'s construction, doing the bigger work themselves and 'subcontracting' the rest of the jobs among *Bnai Yisrael*.

We can learn some valuable lessons from Betzalel. He shows us that youth shouldn't be underestimated and that boys of 13 are capable of amazing accomplishments. Betzalel is also very humble. He could have been self-absorbed and wanted to do everything himself. But he realized that he could share the mitzvahs and the honor of building the vessels, and let others help him build the Mishkan and its *Keilim*.

Betzalel serves as an excellent role model for Jewish youth. He was given wonderful gifts but did not waste or abuse them. From an early age he honed his abilities, and reached his potential. We are all given gifts from Hashem, but we must first recognize them and then put them to use. Yet, most of all we must remember not to become arrogant when we come to master our gifts. That was part of what made Betzalel so great; As talented as he was, he knew that Midot Matter Most.

"Quote of the Week"

"Why fit in when you were born to stand out?"

-Dr. Seuss

DID YOU KNOW???

Did you know that the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 was harmful to nearly a million Jews living in Arab countries? Much is heard about the plight of the Palestinian refugees from the aftermath of the War of Independence & 1967 Six Day War, but little is said about the Jews who were forced to flee from Arab states. There were 820,000 Jewish refugees from Arab states between 1948-1972; nearly all of which had their properties and possessions confiscated by their countries... the UN has never tried to get compensation for these Jews.

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!

The Golden Calf- what a foolish act
But more gold cows were made- it's a fact!
Tell me the Jewish leader who did this sin
Look in the Book of Kings & you could win

Last Week:

My descendant Haman was very bad
And when Saul let me live I was very glad
Then Samuel came and struck me down
But my son survived & the prophet did frown
A- Agag



**A FUN, EDUCATIONAL, AND PRIZE-LOADED GAME
AFTER JR. CONG ON MARCH 25!!!**



**Join more than 300 teens from our
Greater MetroWest NJ community
to participate in hands-on service projects.**

Sunday, April 2, 2017

11:15 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Alex Aidekman Family Jewish Community Campus
901 Route 10, Whippany, NJ

- 14 teen-led projects
- Inspiring teen speakers
- Meaningful Jewish learning
- Service opportunities Expo
- Food drive

To register for J-Serve visit
www.jteengmw.org/j-serve

For more information contact Michael Strom at
MStrom@JFedGMW.org or (973) 929-2963

Brought to you by:



MIDOT MATTER MOST: CONFIDENCE + KINDNESS= COOLNESS.

Altruism- Al-tru-ism

(אַלְטְרוּיִזְמ) 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: RAV OVADIAH OF BARTENURA 1445-1515 CE

Rav Obadiah ben Abraham of Bertinoro (ROB) was a 15th-century Italian rav best known for his popular commentary on the Mishnah, commonly known as "The Bartenura". ROB was a pupil of Rav Joseph Colon Trabotto (The *Maharik*), and became rabbi in Bertinoro, a town in Italy, whence he derived his by-name. The desire to visit Israel led him to Jerusalem; and he arrived there on March 25, 1488, having started his journey October 29, 1486. His advent marked a new epoch for the Jewish community there. The administration of Jewish communal affairs in Jerusalem had fallen into the hands of immoral officials. The poor Jews were harshly taxed by the Muslim government; the rich were similarly treated and driven from the city by exorbitant demands put upon them, so that the Jewish community was on the brink of ruin.

ROB's eloquence and great reputation as a scholar led to his being accepted as the spiritual head of the community immediately upon his arrival. His first care was to raise the intellectual plane of the community, involving the younger generation in the study of the Talmud and rabbinic literature, and he delivered sermons every other *Shabbat* in Hebrew, although the local language was Arabic, one which ROB never acquired. His connections in Italy supplied him with money for the support of the poor, which also added not a little to his influence. He succeeded in securing the abolition of the annual oppressive tax of 400 ducats; in lieu a simple poll-tax payable direct to the government was instituted.

When the Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492, many of the exiles settled in Jerusalem, & ROB became their intellectual leader. These Spanish Jews presented ROB with a site for a yeshivah in Jerusalem, which he founded, more than a thousand years after the extinction of the last academy in Israel. Considerable support for the maintenance of the yeshivah was given by the Jews of Egypt and Turkey at ROB's written solicitation. Thus a radical change occurred in Jerusalem. A few years later there were hospitals, charitable relief societies, and similar associations, all under excellent management. His fame spread to all parts of the Orient, and he came to be looked upon as a rabbinical authority of the highest eminence; even the Muslim population frequently called upon him to decide judicial cases. He harshly reprovved rabbis for exacting fees for services at weddings and divorces, a custom then general in Germany. He believed it their duty to perform religious ceremonies without monetary remuneration. ROB is usually known as the best commentator of the Mishnah; the importance of his commentary is illustrated by the fact that since its appearance (Venice, 1549) hardly an edition of the Mishnah has been printed without it. The commentary is based mainly on Rashi and the Rambam. ROB is also the author of a super-commentary upon Rashi's Torah commentary (published under the title *Amar Neké*). He was buried in The Mount of Olives, and his grave still exists today.