

Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim



April 22, 2017 Parshat Shemini 26 Nisan 5777

Shemini Times & Numbers

Candle Lighting- 7:25
 Mincha- 7:00
 Shacharit- 9:00 am
 Teen Minyan- 9:45
 Junior Cong.- 10:15
 Tot Shabbat- 10:15
 Mincha- 7:05 pm
 Shabbat Ends- 8:28



NUMBER OF *MITZVOT*: 17
 6 *MITZVOT ASEH* (POSITIVE COMMANDMENT)
 11 *MITZVOT LO TAASEH* (NEGATIVE COMMANDMENT – PROHIBITION)
 NUMBER OF *PESUKIM*: 91
 NUMBER OF WORDS: 1238
 NUMBER OF LETTERS: 4670

**MAZEL TOV TO
 JACOB ZUCKERMAN &
 THE ENTIRE ZUCKERMAN
 FAMILY, ON THE
 OCCASION OF
 JACOB'S
 BAR-MITZVAH THIS
 SHABBAT!**



**WIN A SPECIAL
 ISRAEL COLORED
 FIDGET SPINNER!!
 AT JUNIOR CONG.
 NEXT SHABBAT
 APRIL 29**



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

THE KOSHER KINGDOM

Hashem commands the *Bnai Yisrael* to be a holy people. How? By eating only Kosher animals, birds and fish. *Hashem* shows Moshe every species that will EVER exist so that he may teach the *Bnai Yisrael* which are kosher and which are not. The *Torah* mentions the two tell-tale signs of a kosher animal: 1. Split hooves 2. It chews its cud.

Certain animals chew their food, swallow it and then return the food to the mouth again for a second chewing. A kosher animal **MUST HAVE BOTH** kosher signs - don't be fooled by some animals that have only **ONE** sign and not the other.

- A Camel chews its cud but does not have fully split hooves.
- A Hyrax chews its cud but does not have split hooves.
- A Rabbit chews its cud but does not have split hooves.
- A Pig has split hooves but does not chew its cud.

Did you know that other than the ten animals listed in the *Torah* (*Devarim, Parshat Reeh 14,5*) as kosher, no other species has **EVER** been found? The same is true of the 'one sign' kind. Only the 4 animals listed here, have only 1 of the 2 kosher signs (this list includes all animals in the species, for example a wart hog is classified as a "pig").

"Quote of the Week"

"When a person realizes he has faults, he is in a much better situation than one who does not realize it, since he can now work on improving himself."

-The Chofetz Chaim

DID YOU KNOW???

Did you know that for approximately the first 3000 years of existence the Jewish months didn't have names? It wasn't until the Babylonian exile starting in 586 b.c.e. that the Hebrew months were referred to by the names we know them as now. Until that time people referred to them as numbers (e.g. Nissan= Chodesh Rishon).

MIDDLE RIDDLE

THE FIRST KID TO TELL YONI THE ANSWER GETS \$3 MM, THE SECOND GETS \$2, AND THE THIRD GETS \$1- NO TELLING THE ANSWER TO EACH OTHER!

I only have one sign of being Kosher, but I'm not (technically) mentioned in this week's parsha. I might ask you WHAT am I, but I'll give you a hint and say WHY.

Last Week:

What is the only Mitzvah in the Torah that can only be performed WITHOUT Kavana (intent)?

A- Tzedakah



ATTENTION ETZ CHAIM FAMILIES!

The JRA needs you- and your cars- to help pack and deliver food packages for very needy families and handicapped individuals.

Can you please help us Sunday, May 7th from 9:30am- 11:30pm?

**LUNCH AT
THE YOUTH
HOUSE FOR
ALL TEENS IN
GRADES 8-12-
SHABBAT
APRIL 29TH
PLEASE RSVP
WITH YONI.**

**MIDOT MATTER MOST:
IF THE WORLD IS BAD TO
YOU, THAT IS NOT AN
EXCUSE TO BE BAD TO THE
WORLD.**

Altruism- Al·tru·ism

(אַלְטְרוּיִזְם) *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: THE CHOFETZ CHAIM 2/6/1838- 9/15/1933

Rav Yisrael Meir Kagan, aka The Chofetz Chaim (The CC), was born in Belarus, on February 6, 1838. When Rav Kagan was ten years old, his father died. His mother moved the family to Vilnius in order to continue her son's education. While in Vilnius, The CC became a student of Rav Jacob Barit. The CC's mother later re-married & moved to Poland. At 17, The CC married the daughter of his stepfather, and settled in Raduń, Poland. From 1864 to 1869 he taught Talmud in Minsk and Washilishok, Belarus. The CC later then served as the town rabbi of Raduń for a short period before resigning from this position to set up the yeshiva which eventually became famous as the "Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim of Raduń" in 1870. The Yeshiva flourished & was successfully re-established by the CC's son-in-law in the US during WWII.

The Chofetz Chaim was very active in Jewish causes. He traveled extensively to encourage the keeping of the Mitzvot amongst Jews. He became one of the most influential rabbis within Orthodox Judaism during the late 19th and early 20th century, taking a central leadership role in the World Agudath Israel movement in Eastern Europe. He received the name "Chofetz Chaim" as it was the title of his first book (1873), which is renowned for teaching the *halachas* of *Lashon Hara* (the laws regarding gossip and slander). The CC wrote the definitive works on *Lashon Hara* and his "*Shemirat HaLashon (Guarding of the Tongue)*", "A Lesson A Day" and "A Daily Companion" are must-owns for anyone looking to combat *Lashon Hara* (shouldn't we all be doing that?). He wrote several other incredibly important books including "The Mishnah Brurah", "The Concise Book of Mitzvot", and "Ahavas Chesed (Loving Kindness)", among several others. The Chofetz Chaim passed away at age 95 on September 15/ 24 Elul, 1933 in Poland. The *Chofetz Chaim's* teachings inspired the establishment of the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation, dedicated to the dissemination of his teachings to Jewish communities around the world.