

# Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim

**Jan. 6, Parshat Shemot, 19 Tevet 5778**



## Shemot Times & Numbers:

Candle Lighting- 4:20pm  
 Mincha- 4:20pm  
 Shacharit- 9:00 am  
 Teen Minyan- 9:45  
 Jr. Congregation- 10:15  
 Tot Shabbat- 10:15  
 Mincha -4:15  
 Shabbat Ends- 5:29 pm



**NO MITZVOT IN THIS PARSHA**  
**NUMBER OF PESUKIM : 124**  
**NUMBER OF WORDS: 1763**  
**NUMBER OF LETTERS: 6762**



NCSY Chessed Mission

## **NASHVILLE, TN**

FEB 21-25  
 \$500

10TH-12TH GRADE

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, AMAZING SHABBAT, LIGHT TOURING.  
 GRANTS AVAILABLE THROUGH DESTINATION JEWISH SERVICE  
 LEARNING BY JTEEN



## **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)



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

## **Why Moshe Had Trouble Talking**

The Midrash goes like this: When Moshe was a three year old boy sitting on Pharaoh's lap, he grabbed Pharaoh's crown right off his head, and popped it on his own. Most people would laugh about such cute hijinks, but not in Pharaoh's court. Immediately, Pharaoh's advisors said to him, "This must be the boy we saw in the stars who will one day free the *Bnai Yisrael*. Kill him right now."

"Wait!" yells Yitro, who was then one of Pharaoh's most trusted advisors. "Why all this fuss about a three year old," he said. "It's perfectly normal for a child that age to be attracted to something shiny. It's a nice toy." What's Pharaoh to do? Which advisor should he listen to? They decide to test little Moshe to see if he really understands what gold is. They place two bowls in front of him. One is a bowl of burning hot shiny coals, the other is a dish of gold coins. The coals are shinier than the gold. "If he goes for the coals, it shows he's just a baby attracted to shiny things. But if he goes for the coins, he knows the value of gold & is a danger to Pharaoh, and we must kill him." Well, little Moshe was very smart, & starts to reach for the gold, when *Malach Gavriel* pushes his hand, and he grabs a coal. Screaming, he puts his burning hand and the hot coal into his mouth, burning his tongue. He always had difficulty speaking after that. But despite his speech impediment, Moshe grew up to become the greatest man that ever lived. We all have obstacles, but if we overcome them like Moshe we too can reach levels of greatness.

## **"Quote of the Week"**

*"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference."*

-Elie Wiesel

## **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 there is DNA evidence that shows that nearly all Kohanim are descendants of Aharon? It was discovered that a genetic Y- chromosome marker, which can only be found on men (remember, being a Kohen is paternal), was shared by 98.5% Ashkenazic, and nearly 100% of Sephardi men! Data also shows that the ancestral founder of this genetic line goes back 106 generations- the exact time when Aharon HaKohen lived. There is also similar fascinating evidence of the genetic relation of Leviim as well.

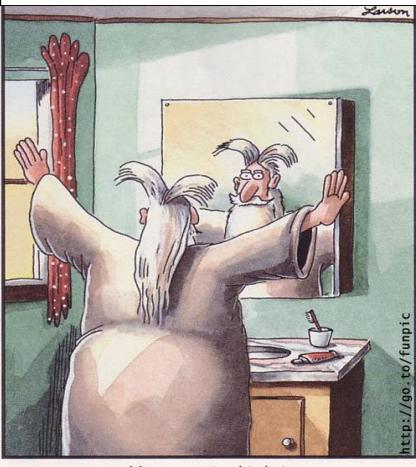
## MIDDLE RIDDLE

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

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

### Last Week-

Kosher animals in this Parsha can be found  
So take some time and look around  
I'm looking for the first one that we see  
You will win if you're one of the first three  
A- A Bull (Bereishis 49:6)



Moses parting his hair

### Congrats to Jacob

**Zuckerman (again!) on defeating Rabbi Klibanoff and winning this year's fantasy football league!**

**MIDOT MATTER MOST:  
HAVING GREAT MIDOT OFF THE COURT MEANS VERY LITTLE IF YOU HAVE BAD MIDOT ON THE COURT.**

Altruism- Al·tru·ism

(ăl' trōō-ĭz'əm) 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.

## MORAH GOLDSTEIN IS COMING BACK JANUARY 6TH!

**SHABBAT MORNING PROGRAM AT 10:15  
UPSTAIRS IN CLASSROOM 2 FOR MIDDLE  
SCHOOL GIRLS.**

**FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER AT THE KLIBANOFFS  
FOR MIDDLE-SCHOOL GIRLS AND LUNCH AT  
THE YOUTH HOUSE FOR GRADES 8-12  
THIS SHABBAT- JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>- 1:10PM  
65 SHREWSBURY DR**

(There will be a special cholent ;)

## TORAH GREATS: AMRAM GAON 8??- 875 C.E.

Rav Amram ben Sheshan was a pupil of Natronai II, Gaon of Sura (in modern day Iraq), and was exceptionally honored with the title of Gaon ("Genius") within the lifetime of his teacher. Upon Natronai's death, about 857, the full title and dignities of the gaonate were conferred upon Amram, and he held them until his death. He is the author of about 120 responsa (the greater part published in Salonica, Greece, 1792, in the collection entitled "Sha'are Tzedek") touching almost every department of Jewish law. They are of great value in affording an insight into the religious conditions among the Jews of that period. The Gaon ruled that a slave who has embraced Judaism, but desires to postpone the necessary circumcision until he feels strong enough for it, is not to be hurried. The Gaon also combats superstition, and places himself almost in opposition to the Talmud when he protests that there is no sense in fasting on account of bad dreams, since the true nature of dreams is not known.

The most important work of The Gaon, which marks him as one of the most prominent of the gaonim, is his "Prayer-book," the "Siddur Rav Amram." He was the first to arrange a complete liturgy for use in synagogue & home. His book forms the foundation both of the Spanish-Portuguese and of the German-Polish liturgies, and has exerted great influence upon Jewish religious practice and ceremony for more than a thousand years, an influence which to some extent is still felt at the present day (even within Ashkenazic siddurim). The Gaon did not only put down the text of the prayers, but in a running commentary added many Talmudical & gaonic regulations relating to them and their allied ceremonies.

His siddur served as the model for Saadia Gaon's and Rambam's own prayer rituals. No early manuscripts of his prayer book survive, and later manuscripts appear to be heavily edited to conform with the rites in use at the time: we therefore cannot be certain of the exact wording preferred by Amram Gaon himself. Yet, the siddur was published complete for the first time in Warsaw, in 1865, under the title "Seder Rav Amram Gaon." However, by that time The Gaon's original siddur was edited a good a deal (with tefilot like Selichot and Kedusha being added), as was his commentary- some of which cannot be attributed to The Gaon.