

# Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim

**September 8, Parsha Ki Tavo, 18 Elul 5777**



## Parshat Ki Tavo Times & Numbers:

Candle Lighting- 6:59pm  
 Mincha- 7:00  
 Shacharit- 9:00 am  
 Teen Minyan- 9:45 am  
 Junior Congregation- 10:15  
 Mincha- 6:50 pm  
 Shabbos Ends- 8:57 pm



NUMBER OF MITZVOT: 6  
 NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 122  
 NUMBER OF WORDS: 1747  
 NUMBER OF LETTERS: 6811

## **WHERE DO I GO?**

Grades 7 & up: Teen minyan- 9:45-  
 Upstairs Bet Midrash  
Grades 2-6: Junior Congregation  
 10:15- UPSTAIRS Classroom  
Ages 3-6: Tot Shabbat-  
 Upstairs - 10:20  
Ages 2 & under: Babysitting  
 available upon request upstairs.  
 Please speak to Yoni.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**  
**SUNDAY, OCT. 8-4:45PM**  
**CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT**  
**SPECIAL MAGIC SHOW WITH**  
**ERIC WILZIG, A PIZZA PARTY**  
**IN THE SUKKAH AND OUR**  
**FIRST EVER SUKKOT RAFFLE!!**

Congregation Etz Chaim: [www.etzchaimnj.org](http://www.etzchaimnj.org)  
 Rabbi E. Samuel Klibanoff  
 Rabbi Natan Kapustin, Assistant Rabbi  
 RavShlomo Krupka, Senior Rabbi  
 Presidents: Neil Kaplan & Alan Schall  
 Youth Director: Yoni Glatt  
 Rabbinic Intern: Yoni Gold

## **FIRST FRUITS**

When a farmer sees the first fruit of his crop, he runs back to the house, grabs a string and ties it around that fruit or stalk, and declares. "This is *Bikurim*." This *Mitzvah* only applies to the seven famous fruits of *Eretz Yisroel* as mentioned in *Parshat Eikev (Devarim 8:8)*: This does not apply during a *Shmita* year, when the land rests. The first of any or all of these famous seven *Minim* (species), must be marked and brought to *Yerushalayim*. This is called "*Bikurim*." *Bikurim* are a gift for *Hashem* and is presented to *Hashem* as you'd give a present to your friend, in a nice basket.



The best time to bring *Bikurim* is between *Shavuot* and *Sukkot* (but you can still bring *Bikurim* until *Chanukah* if need be.) The first fruits are paraded through the streets of *Yerushalayim* and are eventually eaten by the *Kohain*, who is dedicated to the service of *Hashem*. This is *Hashem*'s gift to the *Kohain* who has no land of his own in Israel.

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

*"Do what you feel in your heart to be right - for you'll be criticized anyway."*

-Eleanor Roosevelt

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

Did you know that Israel airlifted over 23,000 Ethiopian Jews out of Sudan and Ethiopia in three operations known as "Moses" (1984), "Joshua" (1985), and "Solomon" (1991)? Operation Solomon was the most impressive: In 36 hours, non-stop flights of 34 Israeli aircrafts, including cargo planes, transported 14,325 Ethiopian Jews to Israel. The operation set a world record for single-flight passenger load on 5/24/91 when an El Al 747 carried 1,122 passengers to Israel.

## **KIDDIE RIDDLE**

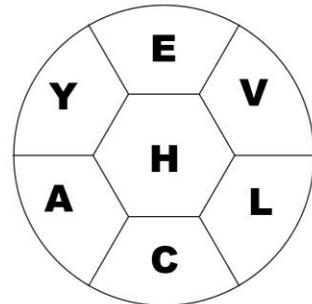
THE FIRST KID WHO TELLS YONI THE ANSWER GETS \$3 MM, THE SECOND GETS \$2, & THE THIRD GETS \$1- NO TELLING THE ANSWER!

**Some mighty Jews there  
have been  
Who fought wars they did  
not win  
In Tanach & Talmud name 3  
that were slain  
In battles that ended their  
military campaign**

**A FUN NEW JEWISH GAME IS COMING TO JUNIOR CONGREGATION:**

## **THE JEWISH SPELLING BEE!**

**Win Mitzvah Money at Jr. Cong. figuring out  
what Jewish word is in the hives- you must use  
every letter at least once.**



**BASKETBALL IS BACK  
FRIDAY 4:00 PM  
AT THE YOUTH HOUSE  
BOYS IN GRADES 7  
AND UP  
ARE WELCOME**

(Weather permitting)



**In case you didn't know,  
Yoni Gold will be returning  
to Etz Chaim this year as  
our new Rabbinic intern!**

**MIDOT MATTER MOST:  
DON'T KNOCK SOMEONE  
OVER TO CATCH A FOUL BALL.**

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.

## **TORAH GREATS: THE FIRST KOTZKER REBBE 1787- 1859**

Menachem Mendel Morgenstern aka The Kotzker Rebbe (KR) was born near Lublin, Poland in 1787. He received a thorough Torah education from his father, Leibush Morgenstern, who was a zealous opponent of Chasidism. When the KR was 13 years old he had mastered the entire Talmud. A year later he was married. Soon after he became an ardent follower of the Chozeh (Seer) of Lublin and Rabbi Simcha Bunam of Pshis'cha, whom he eventually succeeded.

When he became the Rebbe of Kotzk, thousands of chasidim flocked to that city and a great number of outstanding young Torah scholars were attracted by his saintly personality and wide range of knowledge. Reb Mendel attracted a young, brilliant, aspiring youth. He demanded self-analysis and disdained mitzvot performed with a whiff of self-interest. He recognized the centrality of the ego, but refused to accept it. He taught that neither old age nor vast wealth should prevent a person from growing spiritually. The KR is considered to be the founder of the Ger Chassidim as Rabbi Yitzchak Meir Alter was one of his most prominent students. He never published any works, and while he did write many manuscripts, he had them all burned before his death.

Several collections of his famous sayings have been published, most notably *Emes VeEmunah (Truth and Faith)*. In 1839 he decided to live a life of seclusion, and barely left his home for the last 20 years of his life. He was married twice, and had five children. His eldest son, Dovid, succeeded him as Rav. Rabbi Jonathan Morgenstern of the Young Israel of Scarsdale is an 8th generation direct descendant of the Kotzker Rebbe. His grave in Kotzk, Poland is still an important pilgrimage site for many Jews today.