

Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim

Feb. 9, Parshat Mishpatim, 25 Shvat 5778



Mishpatim Times & Numbers:

Candle Lighting- 5:07pm
Mincha- 5:10pm
Shacharit- 9:00 am
Teen Minyan- 9:45
Jr. Congregation- 10:15
Tot Shabbat- 10:15
Mincha -5:05
Shabbat Ends- 6:16 pm



NUMBER OF MITZVOT: 53!
23 MITZVOT ASEH
30 MITZVOT LO TAASEH
NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 116
NUMBER OF WORDS: 1681
NUMBER OF LETTERS: 6423

havdalah in Pajamas

Saturday Night, February 10
6:30 pm - 8:30pm

Havdalah with Rabbi Klibanoff
Dinner Dessert Crafts for Kids

FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLE!

You must be in shul to win!

Returns Feb. 16th-Win a:

New Drone! Complete with HD camera, WIFI, and 2 batteries for extra long flying time!



Congregation Etz Chaim: 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

THE IMPORTANCE OF KINDNESS

There is A LOT going on in this Parsha. But there's one particular lesson to be learned in regards to Mitzvot between man and his fellow man (or woman). *Hashem* wants us to be especially nice to three groups of people: A *Ger* (convert), widows and orphans. We must be kind to a non-Jew who becomes a Jew. Many times a *Ger* is alone in the world since he/she has abandoned his/her family and friends to become a Jew. A *Ger* might be very sensitive about not really being an "original" part of *Klal Yisroel*. *Hashem* wants us to remember what it felt like when we were strangers in *Mitzrayim*. We might take our Judaism for granted, as we were born with it. But a *Ger* has to work very hard to become a Jew, and deserves respect (and at the very least kindness) for his/her journey.

Widows & orphans also command our kindness. They are used to being protected by the security of their family. Now that their family has been pulled apart, they feel all alone, and in some cases they are without any other family & are literally alone. The *Torah* wants us to take care of all people who are weak or helpless. It gives us the specific examples of an orphan & a widow as they might be more obvious. However our acts of kindness (*chesed*) should not end with them. We should strive to show compassion to anyone who has been through a trying and difficult time. On a deeper level one can say that eventually almost all of us become orphans, and therefore the *Torah* is commanding us to continually be kind (and altruistic ;) to each other.

"Quote of the Week"

"If water, which is so soft, can wear away a hard rock, surely a little Torah can get into my hardened heart."

-Rabbi Akiva (before he became a great Rav)

DID YOU KNOW.....

Did you know that Herod the Great was quite controversially "great"? While Herod had great political relationships with Marc Antony & Augustus Caesar and was probably the greatest builder in ancient Jewish history (e.g. Masada, the revised Second Temple, Caesaria) he also killed A LOT of his own family. First he had his young Kohen Gadol brother-in-law, Aristobulus III, killed. Herod feared the popular High Priest might be made king. Next he killed his own wife in a fit of rage and jealousy. Finally, later in life he had his own sons killed as he feared they were plotting to overthrow him. Ultimately Herod ruled for 33 controversial years before dying in the year 4 BCE.

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!

One verse has all the letters of the Hebrew aleph-bet
It might be hard to find, it sure ain't no sweat
So look in Shemot in a place where the Jews did eat
And you might be able to accomplish this difficult feat

Last Week-

With Yitro's it's said I used to advise
I was in Egypt and heard the babies cries
In a list of Tanach you might look
Mine is the name of a biblical book
A- Iyov (Job)

SAVE THE DATE!

**THIS YEAR'S PURIM CARNIVAL WILL BE
IMMEDIATELY AFTER MEGILLAH
READING ON PURIM NIGHT FEB. 28**

FACE PAINTING!

BALLOON SCULPTING!

MAKE YOUR OWN CAPE!

PRIZE LOADED RAFFLE!

INCREDIBLE JUGGLING SHOW!

ISRAEL THROUGH THE AGES

Our free ongoing class for
grades 8-12 will return

Tuesday

Feb. 13th @ 5:45pm. Dinner &
snacks served. Next class:

THE FALL OF THE TEMPLE II

ISRAEL IN THE PARSHA

JENNIFER ROMANOFF'S
CLASS WILL CONTINUE
TUESDAY THE 13TH
FOLLOWING YONI'S CLASS.

**MIDOT MATTER MOST:
LIES ARE LIKE HOUSES OF
STRAW, BUT THE TRUTH IS
LIKE A HOUSE OF BRICKS.**

Altruism- Al-tru-ism

(אַלְטְרוּיִזְמוֹ) *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.

HAMANTASHEN BAKING & CHESED PROJECT SUNDAY, FEB. 25 12:30 PM AT ETZ CHAIM

KIDS OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOMED
TO HELP US MAKE HAMANTASCHEN
AS PART OF MICHLOACH MANOT
PACKAGES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF
JCC SENIOR HOUSING...AND
OF COURSE THEY CAN KEEP A FEW
FOR THEMSELVES. KIDS CAN ALSO
WRITE "HAPPY PURIM" LETTER TO
THE RESIDENTS AS WELL!

PACKAGES WILL BE DELIVERED BY
LOCAL JTEEN-GMW PARTICIPANTS.

