

Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim

Nov. 11, Parshat Chaye Sarah, 22 Cheshvan 5778



Chaye Sarah Times & Numbers:

Candle Lighting- 4:24pm
Mincha- 4:25pm
Shacharit- 9:00 am
Teen Minyan- 9:45
Junior Congregation- 10:15
Tot Shabbat- 10:15
Mincha -4:20
Shabbat Ends- 5:31 pm



NO MITZVOT IN THIS PARSHA

Although none of the *Taryag* (613) *mitzvot* are counted from *Chayeh Sarah*, we learn about burial of the dead, and funeral practices such as eulogizing the dead. We also find lessons relating to marriage in this *Parsha*.

NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 105

NUMBER OF WORDS: 1402

NUMBER OF LETTERS: 5314

ISRAEL THROUGH THE AGES

Our free ongoing class for grades 8-12 continues with Yoni this Tue. 11/14 at 5:45pm. Dinner and snacks served. This Week's Class: **BABYLON FALLS!**

COMING TO SHUL FRIDAY NIGHTS IS ABOUT TO GET A LOT MORE EXCITING! (MORE INFO. NEXT WEEK)

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

MATCHMAKER, MATCHMAKER, FIND ME A FIND...

While Avraham is an old man of 137, his son Yitzchak is no spring chicken at the age of 40. It is time for Yitzchak to get married. Avraham calls upon his servant Eliezer to find Yitzchak a wife. This is no simple task. The local ladies of Canaan just won't do. They've had a curse attached to them since the days of Noach. So Avraham sends Eliezer to Charan, Avraham's home country, where he might find a girl with a better upbringing. With any *mazal*, Eliezer will find a woman from Avraham's own family to marry Yitzchak. Eliezer heads out for Charan loaded with gifts for the lucky lady. He also has a letter from Avraham guaranteeing that Yitzchak will inherit all of his father's possessions.

The trip to Charan should take 17 days, but *Hashem* sweeps Eliezer along the super-*shidach* highway and gets him there in only three hours! Eliezer finds himself by a well right outside Charan; this is where the daughters of the townspeople draw water in the early evening. Eliezer is sure that if the right girl for Yitzchok is out there, she will go out to the well, but how will Eliezer know which girl is the one? He devises a little test. In a prayer to *Hashem*, Eliezer decides that since Yitzchak needs a charitable girl, whichever girl offers him and his camels a drink will be the one. What's so tough about that test, you may ask. Well, did you ever see how much water a camel can drink? *Hashem* helps Eliezer out: The first girl he meets is Rivka, and sure enough, she offers the Camels a drink too. Rivka reveals that she is the daughter of Besuel. BINGO! Besuel is Avraham's nephew, his brother Nachor's son. Rivka also offers Eliezer and his camels a place to stay.

Rivkah certainly seems to know that Midot Matter Most, and she is truly an altruist (See opposite page). She is a *tzadekes*, one we should all try to emulate. You may no longer be able to give water to your guest's camels, but you can still try to make them as comfortable as possible. Doing *Gemilut Chasadim* (acts of kindness) certainly worked out for Rivkah- after all, she got quite the match.

"Quote of the Week"

"It's when the wind blows the hardest that you need the deepest roots."

-Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

DID YOU KNOW.....

Did you know that the movie *RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK* isn't totally inaccurate when it comes to what happened to the Holy Ark? (Spoiler Alert) In the movie, cinema's greatest hero, Indiana Jones, finds the Ark in Egypt. In real life a Pharaoh named Shishak did in fact plunder Jerusalem a few years after King Solomon's death and took many of Israel's riches back to Egypt- the Ark could have been included. However, it is more likely the original Ark (don't forget- there were two!) is either buried deep in the area of the Kotel tunnels or in Har Nevo. There are other highly unlikely theories that the Ark's in Rome, Ethiopia, Yemen, South Africa or England.

MIDDLE RIDDLE ?????

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

Avraham bought Maarat Hamachpelah
And David bought the Temple Mount
Look at the end of Samuel II for that account
Find the total sheckels spent by both men
For our Holiest sites, both now and then

Last Week-

The Midrash says to S'dom I once went
And was nearly robbed of every cent
A judge said to pay the robber for making him bleed
So I hit the judge and had *him* pay for the deed
A- Eliezer

A FUN NEW JEWISH GAME AT JUNIOR. CONG.:

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.



YARCHEI KALLAH

Join over 300
other Jewish
HSers for an
amazing NCSY
weekend in
Stamford, Ct. Dec
27-31. Talk to
Yoni or Jennifer
for more details.

ISRAEL IN THE PARSHA

JENNIFER ROMANOFF'S
AFTER SCHOOL CLASS
RETURNS THIS TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 14 BEFORE
YONI'S CLASS

**MIDOT MATTER MOST:
TELLING THE TRUTH IS VERY
IMPORTANT, BUT SOMETIMES
IT'S BETTER TO SAY NOTHING
AT ALL.**

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 RAMBAN 1194-1270 C.E.

Rav Moshe Ben Nachman, aka Nachmanides (The Ramban) was born to a noble family in Girona, Spain. His teachers in Talmud were Rav Judah ben Yakkar and Rav Meir ben Nathan of Trinquetaille. The Ramban studied medicine which he practiced as a means of livelihood; he also studied philosophy. During his teens he began to get a reputation as a learned Jewish scholar. He learnt from the famous kabbalist Zacharia Coppel Gold At age 16 Ramban mastered all of Talmud and began his writings on Jewish law.

For many years the Ramban lived a relatively quiet life in Spain learning Torah and practicing medicine. When he was nearly seventy years old, an apostate Jew, masquerading as a devout Catholic, Pablo Christiani, had challenged the Jews to a religious disputation. He induced King James I of Aragon to summon the renowned Rabbi of Gerona to a public debate in Barcelona. Reluctantly the Ramban accepted. The Ramban easily refuted all the arguments of Pablo, and proved effectively that the Jews were entitled to retain their own beliefs and faith. For four days the public disputation was carried on, and the Ramban's brilliant defense of his faith was too much for his adversaries (the transcripts are still available today). It made them anxious to end the debate. The king was so impressed with the scholarship, wisdom and eloquence of the Ramban, that he visited him in the synagogue the following Shabbos. At a farewell audience to which the King invited the Ramban, the king praised him highly, and gave him a rich present as a token of respect and admiration.

The Ramban was later condemned as a "blasphemer" and forced to leave Spain. At the age of 72, leaving his family behind, he set out for Israel, hoping to find peace and solace there. Unfortunately, he found the Holy Land in great desolation; the Jewish communities were scarce and scattered; young and old alike were poor and ignorant of Jewish knowledge. The Ramban at once began a campaign to improve the position of his brethren in the Holy Land, both spiritually and materially. He reorganized the communities, set up schools, rebuilt the synagogues (including the now famous Ramban Synagogue in Jerusalem), gave public lectures and discourses. Here he wrote his brilliant commentary on the Torah, and other works. The Ramban died at the age of 76, and was buried in Haifa, although some say that he was buried in Chevron near Maarat Hamchpaylah.