

Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim

Feb 1, 2020 Parshat Bo 6 Shvat 5780



Vaera Bo and Numbers
 Candle Lighting- 4:55pm
 Mincha- 5:00pm
 Shacharit- 9:00 am
 Teen Minyan- 9:45am
 Tot Shabbat-10:15
 Junior Cong.- 10:15 upstairs
 Mincha- 4:55 pm
 Shabbos Ends- 5:57pm



NO MITZVOT IN THIS PARSHA
NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 121
NUMBER OF WORDS: 1748
NUMBER OF LETTERS: 6701

BUDDIEZ PROGRAM- DOUBLE POINTS: THIS SHABBAT OF FEBRUARY !!!!

ETZ CHAIM YOUTH DEPARTMENT

FAMILY ICE SKATING NIGHT
SAT. NIGHT FEBRUARY 8
7:30-8:45PM

\$10 PER SKATER (INCLUDES SKATES)
**ALL AGES WELCOME. AGES 6 AND UNDER MUST
HAVE ADULT ACCOMPANIMENT**

**RICHARD CODEY ARENA 560 NORTHFIELD AVENUE
WEST ORANGE, NJ 07052**

Congregation Etz Chaim: www.etzchaimnj.org
 Rabbi Sam Klibanoff
 Presidents: Dr. Michael Rieber & Jeff Suskind
 Youth Director: Yoni Glatt

THE POWER OF THE DARK SIDE

When Moshe and Aharon announced that they were sent as messengers of *Hashem* to take *Bnai Yisrael* out of *Mitzrayim*, not everybody believed them. Even with all three signs that Moshe used to prove they were the real deal, you still had a pessimistic bunch that declared Moshe and Aharon to be frauds. They figured that they'd live and die as slaves in *Mitzrayim* & even if Moshe could somehow free them without tripping an alarm, they'd starve in the desert.

Well, there's some bad news for the dissenters: *Hashem* decides to clean house before this plague is up! The wicked Jews were punished during the 9th plague.

Why during the plague of darkness? Because even though these people deserved to die, how would it look to the Egyptians if they saw so many Jews dying at the hands of their own G-d? *Hashem*, did not want the Egyptians to say that the *Bnai Yisrael* were no better than they were. Therefore, *Hashem* brought the darkness so that the *Bnai Yisrael* could quietly bury their dead without being seen.

The darkness in Egypt becomes so thick that the Egyptians can't even move! The Egyptians stand like statues for three days. Just imagine how scary it must have been, being stuck in one place for so long in the dark!

“Quote of the Week”

“To be kind is more important than to be right. Many times, what people need is not a brilliant mind that speaks, but a special heart that listens.”

-The Lubavitcher Rebbe

Welcome to Dovid Abromowitz & Rachel Hoffman- Candidates to be our new youth directors!

DID YOU KNOW.....

Did you know the Beit Hamikdash was built as a place of worship for Jews and gentiles? In his magnificent speech inaugurating the Beit Hamikdash, Shlomo Hamelech (King Solomon) also includes gentiles as those who will want to come pray at the holy Temple- and they are allowed to do so. This is especially amazing as the Jewish nation was perhaps never more powerful on an international level than at this point in time. It would have been easy for Shlomo to be condemning of gentiles & allow the Temple only for Jews- but instead he opens G-d's house to all.

YIDDLE RIDDLE!

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

**These are kosher, they might be a treat
But many say it's something they'd never eat
You can see them in the air
And too many might give you a scare**

Last Week:

Frogs here, frogs there, frogs are jumping everywhere..." But Ibn Ezra says zephardeah might have been a different creature So tell me what the 2nd plague did feature

A- Crocodiles



THIS WEEK WITH MORAH NICOLE! (WEATHER PERMITTING). MORAH DEBBIE RETURNS NEXT

WEEK ON FEB. 8

10:15 IN THE BEIT MIDRASH FOR CHILDREN IN GRADES 1 AND UNDER.

PRISONER EXCHANGES IN ISRAEL

**Yoni's after school
JTEEN U class
returns on February
4th at 5:45pm-
Teen Bet Midrash
upstairs.
Grades 8-12.
Dinner will be
served.**

**MIDOT MATTER MOST:
WHEN IT SNOWS
DON'T LET YOUR
PARENTS DO ALL THE
SHOVELING.**

Altruism- Al·tru·ism

(ăl' trü'ă̄z̄əm) 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: RABBI MEIR BAAL HA'NES 3RD CENTURY C.E.

Rabbi Meir or Rabbi Meir Baal Hanes was a Jewish sage who lived in the time of the Mishna. He was considered one of the greatest of the Tannaim of the fourth generation (139-163). According to a legend, his father was a descendant of the Roman Emperor Nero who had converted to Judaism. "Meir" though, is actually more of a nickname — his real name is thought to have been Nahori or Misha. The name *Meir*, meaning "Illuminator," was given to him because he enlightened the eyes of scholars and students in Torah study. The epithet *Baal HaNess* simply means "Who Does Miracle(s).

Rabbi Meir was a student of the great Rabbi Akiva. R' Meir lived during the time of the horrible plague when 24,000 students of R' Akiva died. Only five survived (!), and Rabbi Meir was one of them. He made his living as Sofer (Torah scribe) and lived a humble life. His wife Bruriah is one of the few women cited in the Gemara. She is greatly admired for her breadth of knowledge in matters pertaining to both halachah and aggadah.

In the Talmud, Tractate Gittin 4a, it says that all anonymous Mishnahs are attributed to Rabbi Meir; for the rule is "stam mishneh Rabbi Meir". His arguments were so brilliant that even his own contemporaries could not get to the very depths of his thoughts and therefore the *halacha* did not often follow his opinion. R' Meir was also a master at giving *mosholim*-fables- in order to get his point across.

Although Rabbi Meir died outside of the Land of Israel, he was brought to Tiberias (the same city where his teacher Rabbi Akiva is buried) and buried there in a standing position near the Kinneret. He requested that he be buried in Israel by the seashore so that the water that washes the shores of Eretz Yisrael should also lap his grave (Jerusalem Talmud, Kelaim 9:4). Visitors to his grave traditionally recite Tehillim and a special prayer at his tomb. This prayer is found in the prayer book "Aneini". Every year, thousands of Jews make pilgrimage to his grave to receive blessings for health and success.