

Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim

Dec. 8, 2018, Miketz -Rosh Chodesh Tevet 5779



Miketz Times & Numbers

Candle Lighting- 4:11pm

Mincha- 4:15

Shacharit- 9:00 am

Teen Minyan- 9:45 am

Tot Shabbat- 10:15

Junior Cong.- 10:15 upstairs

Mincha- 5:10 pm

Shabbos Ends- 5:19pm



NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 146

NUMBER OF WORDS: 2022

NUMBER OF LETTERS: 7914

This Shabbat is one of the very few times we read from 3 Torahs! 1 for Shabbat, 1 for Chanukah and 1 for Rosh Chodesh.



MAJOR LEAGUE DREIDEL

**COME GIVE IT A
WHIRL TO WIN LOADS
OF MITZVAH MONEY
AND CANDY
FOLLOWING JUNIOR
CONGREGATION
THIS SHABBAT!**

Congregation Etz Chaim: www.etzchaimnj.org

Rabbi Sam Klibanoff

Rabbi Natan Kapustin, Assistant Rabbi

Presidents: Jeff Susskind & Dr. Michael Rieber

Youth Director: Yoni Glatt

FROM RAGS TO RICHES

Yosef has just told Pharaoh about the seven years of famine. But what can Pharaoh do about it? Well, lucky for Pharaoh, Yosef has an environmentally sound answer: Hire a wise man to store away grain during the years of plenty so that there'll be enough to eat when the famine comes along. Yosef is the wisest man Pharaoh's ever met. Pharaoh removes his ring and places it on Yosef's finger. Next thing you know, Yosef is dressed in the finest linen and wears a gold necklace and even rides around in Pharaoh's chariot. In a matter of hours, Yosef has gone from a thirty year old jail bird to Viceroy of Egypt- second in command to the king!

There is a valuable lesson one can learn from this. Even when times are tough and it seems like hope is lost, one can never know what the future might bring. Just look at Yosef! A true rags to riches tale. And things got even better for Yosef! Pharaoh gives Yosef Potifar's daughter, Osnat, for a wife. And guess what... according to the midrash she turns out to be the daughter of Dina, who had been adopted by Potifar. See how sometimes everything is *bashert* (destined)? Even in Egypt, Yosef manages to find a nice Jewish girl! And Yosef is blessed again: Two sons are born to him before the famine years, Menashe and Ephraim.

"Quote of the Week"

"Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness."

-Anne Frank

DID YOU KNOW?....

Did you know that a wicked Kohen Gadol named Menelaus can be considered the real villain of Chanukah? Menelaus was from the tribe of Binyamin and NOT a Kohen. It was he who persuaded Antiochus IV to push Hellenization in Israel. He assisted Antiochus when he marched on Jerusalem, killed thousands, and plundered the Temple. This led to the Jewish revolt. After the Maccabees won, Menelaus was eventually executed by being thrown off a 75-foot tower. This was ordered by the young Antiochus V, as part of the boy-kings concession to the Maccabees.

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!

Where is there a hidden allusion to Chanukah on the first page of the Torah?

Last Week-

The Maccabees ruled large
While Yehuda was in Charge
But after he was gone
I continued on
A- Yonatan Maccabee

ROCK N' ROLL N' JUDAISM

Yoni's new after-school class for grades 8-12.

Starting Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 5:45.

Dinner will be served.

For those about to rock (and learn Torah), we salute you!

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



**MIDOT MATTER MOST:
DON'T LET YOUR
SUCCESSSES GO TO YOUR
HEAD...OTHERWISE THEY
MAY TURN INTO FAILURES.**

Altruism- Al·tru·ism

(ăl·tr̩oo·iz̩m) 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.

JEWISH HEROES: YEHUDA HAMACCABEE- 2^N CENTURY BCE

Judah Maccabee is best known as the hero of the Hanukkah story. In the second century B.C.E., Judah Maccabee, also known as Yehuda HaMaccabee Maccabeus is related to the Aramaic word for hammer, and it is believed Judah was given this name because of his valor as a soldier. He led the Jewish revolt against the Greek-Syrians. The success of the revolt is celebrated today by the Hanukkah festival.

When the priest Mattityahu of the Hasmonean family died in 167 B.C.E., he named his son Judah to be the leader of the rebellion. Mindful of the superiority of Seleucid forces during the first two years of the revolt, Judah's strategy was to avoid any engagement with their regular army, and to resort to guerrilla warfare, in order to give them a feeling of insecurity. The strategy enabled Judah to win a string of victories. At the battle of Nahal el-Haramiah (wadi haramia), he defeated a small Assyrian force under the command of Apollonius, governor of Samaria, who was killed. Judah took possession of Apollonius's sword and used it until his death as a symbol of vengeance. After Nahal el-Haramiah, recruits flocked to the Jewish cause. After several years of conflict Judah drove out his foes from Jerusalem, except for the garrison in the citadel of Acra. He purified the defiled Bet Hamikdash and on the 25th of Kislev (December 14, 164 BCE) restored the service in the Temple. Upon hearing the news that the Jewish communities in Gilead, Transjordan, and Galilee were under attack by neighboring Greek cities, Judah immediately went to their aid. Judah sent his brother, Shimon, to Galilee at the head of 3,000 men; Simeon proceeded to successfully fulfill his task, achieving numerous victories and transplanted a substantial portion of the Jewish settlements, including women and children, to Judea. He personally led the campaign in Transjordan, taking with him his brother Yonatan. After fierce fighting, he defeated the Transjordanian tribes and rescued the Jews in fortified towns in Gilead. At the conclusion of the fighting in Transjordan, Judah turned against the Edomites in the south, capturing Hebron and Maresha. He then marched on the coast of the Mediterranean, destroyed the altars and statues of the pagan gods in Ashdod, and returned to Judea with much spoils.

However, the war between the Jews and the Greek-Syrians continued. In 160 BCE, Judah died in battle and was buried in the Hasmonean family grave in Modiin, which some scholars believe still exists today. His death, reinvigorated the Maccabean revolt, and his brother Yonatan led the way to Jewish autonomy.