

# Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim

**Dec. 1, Parshat Vayishlach, 14 Kislev 5778**



## Vayishlah Times & Numbers:

Candle Lighting- 4:12pm  
Mincha- 4:15pm  
Shacharit- 9:00 am  
Teen Minyan- 9:45  
Jr. Congregation- 10:15  
Tot Shabbat- 10:15  
Mincha -4:10  
Shabbat Ends- 5:20 pm



ONE MITZVAT LO TAASEH IN THIS PARSHA  
(Negative commandment): The first of the  
Torah's 365 prohibition; the only one in  
*Bereishit*- Not to eat the *Gid HaNashe*- the  
sciatic nerve on the hip joint of an animal.  
NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 154  
NUMBER OF WORDS: 1976  
NUMBER OF LETTERS: 7458

## ISRAEL THROUGH THE AGES

Our free ongoing class for  
grades 8-12 continues with  
Yoni Monday Dec. 4th at  
5:45pm. Dinner and snacks  
served. This Week's Class:  
**MY BIG FAT GREEK  
REBELLION**

**READY TO GET YOUR  
MIND BLOWN?**

## THE **MENTALIST**

is coming to Congregation Etz Chaim  
for Shabbat Chanukah- Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>!  
(Special show following Junior Cong.)

Congregation Etz Chaim: [www.etzchaimnj.org](http://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

## **O Brother Where Art Thou?!**

As the *Parsha* opens, the *Torah* tells us that of all twelve sons, Yosef, Rachel's son, is Yaakov's favorite. That's only one reason why the ten sons of Leah, Bilha and Zilpa don't like Yosef that much. The number one reason is that Yosef is a tattle-tale! It's important to remember that all ten brothers are in fact *tzadikim* (righteous people). But *tzadikim* are judged more harshly than others, and Yosef has a bad habit of playing both judge and jury. He waits in the bushes for his brothers to make a slip, and then, instead of gently correcting them, he runs to his father and tattles on them.

The brothers turn into a bunch of nervous wrecks! After all, look how Avraham kicked Yishmael out of the house for Yitzchak's sake. Everyone knows that Yosef is the first-born of Rachel, the favorite wife. Maybe Yaakov will kick them out too?! It doesn't help when Yaakov makes Yosef a real cool long-sleeved silk coat of many colors. Now Yosef struts around in his new duds advertising that he's the favorite. The brothers end up selling Yosef, but soon after are overrun with guilt. For years they look after Yosef, but with no luck. The brothers, as righteous men, should have known better, and ultimately spent years living in regret. Had they been wicked, they would have been happy to be rid of Yosef, and not remorseful.

## *"Quote of the Week"*

*"We do not pass over an opportunity to  
perform mitzvos."*

*-The Reish Lakish*

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

Did you know that none of the five Maccabee brothers died a natural death? While their father, Matisyahu, died an old man of natural causes his sons did not. Eliezer and Judah were killed in battle- the former being crushed by an elephant and Judah martyring himself. Yochanan was betrayed and assassinated by an Arab tribe (later decimated by his remaining brothers). Yonatan was deceived by a Greek general and killed in captivity, and Simon was assassinated by his own son-in-law.

## 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!

I look like Israel, I sound like Israel, but I'm in Utah. Who am I?

### Last Week-

AN ANCIENT PLACE TO LEARN  
WHERE OUR FOUNDING  
FATHERS DID TURN  
ITS FOUNDERS WERE KIN  
WHO STAYED AWAY FROM SIN  
A- YESHIVAT SHEM V' EBER

## SAVE THE DATE

# ETZ CHAIM

# CHANUKAH CHAGIGAH

## SUNDAY, DEC. 17 11:00AM

### **-ARTS AND CRAFTS! -GAMES!**

### **-BLOW UP RIDES!**

### **-FOOD! -SAND ART!**

### **-FACE PAINTING!**

And of course our

### **- PRIZE LOADED RAFFLE!!!!**

## Yarchai Kallah

Join 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 MONDAY DEC.  
4TH BEFORE YONI'S  
CLASS

**MIDOT MATTER MOST:  
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS  
CONTROL HOW YOU FEEL,  
BUT YOU CAN CONTROL  
HOW YOU ACT.**

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: MATTISYAHU 2<sup>ND</sup> CENTURY BCE

The father of Judah and the other Maccabee brothers, Mattisyahu was from a rural priestly family and served in the Beit Hamikdash (Temple). His family lived in a town called Modiin, which was about 12 miles northwest from Jerusalem. (The town exists today, and is about 20 miles west of modern Jerusalem.) Mattisyahu was a son of Yohannan the Kohen, grandson of Simeon, and was a direct descendant of Pinchas the Kohen Gadol (Aharon's grandson).

After the Seleucid (Greek) persecutions began, Mattisyahu returned to Modiin. In 167 BC, when asked by a Seleucid Greek government representative under King Antiochus IV to offer sacrifice to the Greek gods, he not only refused to do so, but slew with his own hand the Jew who had stepped forward to do so. He then killed the government official that required the act, and called for all who believe in Torah to follow him. The Greek soldiers in attendance tried to quell the outburst, but other Jews in the crowd were armed and the Greeks were no match for them. Upon the edict for his arrest, Mattisyahu took refuge in the wilderness with his five sons, and called upon all Jews to follow him. Many eventually responded to his call. Originally they organized a force of about 3,000 men. Later it grew to 6,000 and eventually reached almost 12,000 men.

This was the first step in the war of the Maccabees against the Seleucid Greeks, the result of which was Jewish independence, which had not been enjoyed for 400 years. Sadly, in 166 BCE Mattisyahu died in the early goings of the rebellion of natural causes in his bed. His now famous son Yehuda took over in his father's place. Mattisyahu was buried in Modiin. His tomb still exists today and Jews from across Israel come to pray at it.