



PARSHAS TOLDOS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Shacharis - 6:45am
Earliest time to light - 4:23pm
Candle lighting - 5:11pm
Mincha - 5:15pm

SHABBOS, NOVEMBER 18

Sephardic Minyan - 9:00am
Shacharis - 9:00am
Latest Shema - 9:33am
Gateway to Prayer class
with Rabbi Uhr - 10:00am
Enhanced Kiddush sponsored
by Amy and Doug Kahn, Rabbi
Sammy and Ariel Kahn will be
served in the Social
Hall - following services.
Parsha Shiur with
Rabbi Green - 4:20pm
Mincha - 5:00pm
Maariv - 6:12pm

MINYAN THIS WEEK

SHACHARIS

Sunday - 8:30am
Monday-Wednesday - 6:45am
Thursday-Friday (Federal
Holiday) - 8:30am
Additional Minyan
Monday-Wednesday - 8:15am

MINCHA - MAARIV

Sunday-Thursday - 5:10pm
Additional Minyan for Mincha
Monday-Wednesday - 3:45pm
Additional Minyan for Maariv at the
Kollel Monday-Wednesday - 8:45pm

DAF YOMI

Shabbos - 8:15am
Sunday - 7:30am
Monday-Wednesday - 5:45am
Thursday-Friday - 7:30am

TORAH READING

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Haftorah Toldos- Page 1137

NOVEMBER 18-24, 2023 | 5-11 KISLEV, 5784

THE ETZ CHAIM BULLETIN

MESSAGE FROM RABBI GREEN

This past Tuesday I had the special opportunity to stand in Washington with over 250,000 Jews in the March for Israel rally. There are quite a number of lessons and takeaways from the trip to Washington which I hope to be able to share over the course of this Shabbos.

The question arises, however, as to what was the actual purpose of the rally. Tens of thousands of Jews traveled for many hours, came from many states, and spent a lot of money to join the rally. Why? What was the goal? Why was this rally, supposedly the largest crowd in history to come together in support of the Jewish people and State of Israel, organized?

Off the bat, I want to describe what I believe was NOT the purpose. We should not trick ourselves into believing that we can convince the world of the plight of the Jewish people and succeed in having the world understand which side is filled with morality, godliness and decency and which side is not. We can scream until we're blue in the face on CNN, FOX or BBC and will often be frustrated with the results. In the beginning of this week's Torah reading, we read of Rivkah's pregnancy and that "the children (Yaakov and Eisav) struggled within her" (Breishis 25:22). Rashi describes that the struggle was an existential one, with Yaakov and Eisav battling over the rightful "owners" for both this world, and the next. We see that the battle between Yaakov and Eisav already began from the womb, before the existence of any Jewish state, Israeli army or claims of stolen land. The Jewish people, until the coming of the Messiah, will ALWAYS have enemies. There will always be SOME nations who will hate, and try to destroy, us. Rashi writes later in the book of Breishis (33:4) that "It is a halacha (established fact) that Esav hates Yaakov..." Rav Moshe Feinstein (Igros Moshe, Choshen Mishpat 2:77) writes "...and why is the word halacha relevant here? It is because just as halacha never changes, so also Esav's hatred of Yaakov never changes."

If so, what was the goal? Why did we exert all the time, energy and money to rally outside of the Capitol? The most basic

answer, of course, is that although we will never succeed in convincing the ENTIRE world in choosing good over evil and light over darkness, there is always change that CAN be made. Individual politicians, community leaders and even nations are impacted by such gatherings. Elected officials are attune to public opinion and are affected by rallies, phone calls and public outcry. We have seen this throughout history, perhaps most famously in the rallies of the 1980's for Soviet Jewry as Natan Sharansky so beautifully described on Tuesday. This was a crucial goal of the rally, and one which we pray will be accomplished in the fullest sense of the word.

I do believe that there was an additional, more spiritual benefit, one which perhaps even the organizers of the event did not consciously have in mind. Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi (1745-1812) writes (Tanya, Igeres Hakodesh 23) "I have received from my masters that if a ministering angel was to find himself amongst 10 Jews, even if they were NOT studying words of Torah, he would be overcome with an incomprehensible sense of fear and dread from the Divine presence hovering upon them." If the Divine presence shines forth in such a way when 10 Jews gather together, imagine the light brought down at the gathering of over 250,000! There is an inherent value and impact when we come together for even mundane purposes, all the more so for spiritual ones.

At a time when the world is being filled with more and more darkness, let us counter it with light by taking each and every opportunity to come together with other Jews no matter the purpose. We hope and pray that during this month of Kislev, where the light of Chanukah shines bright, that Hashem will reveal Himself in the ultimate way with the coming of the Geulah (redemption) speedily in our days.

Have a Peaceful Shabbos,
Rabbi Aharon Green

NEW MINI SERIES WITH DR. ELLIOTT ROSENBAUM

Jewish Personality Typologies

Monday Nights
November 20th and 27th
December 4th
7:30 PM
Mirkis Chapel

This course aims at introducing participants to a series of different systems of understanding personalities based on Jewish sources. Through a greater awareness of our own and others' intrinsic natures, strengths and weaknesses, motivations and limitations we can become more accepting and forgiving of others, help others in our care grow into their full selves and grow personally by maximizing our highest potential.



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE
OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 23 AND 24, IN
OBSERVANCE OF THE FEDERAL
HOLIDAYS.

COME START YOUR WEEK OFF WITH LEARNING!



**SUNDAY MORNING CHABURAH
W/ BREAKFAST**

@
**ETZ CHAIM SYNAGOGUE
MIRKIS CHAPEL**

SUNDAY MORNINGS AFTER SHACHARIS

BEGINS 10.15.23 • 9:15-10AM

RABBI SAMMY KAHN
THE WHYS AND WHATS OF JEWS EATING
AT KIDDUSH

RABBI AHARON GREEN
AN IN DEPTH LOOK AT A RECENT
DAF YOMI TOPIC (DAF YOMI
STUDY NOT REQUIRED)

RABBI MOSHE SANDERS
EXPLORING THE FUNDAMENTALS OF A
COMMITTED LIFE: A STUDY OF THE
SHA'AREI TESHUVA/GATES OF REPENTANCE



For More Information : Rabbigreen@etzchaim.org



NEW MORNING CLASS!

TAPPING INTO TEHILLIM

TUESDAY MORNINGS WITH RABBI GREEN
8:45 AM

Location
Etz Chaim Social Hall

More Information :
rabbigreen@etzchaim.org





Chanukah Party

Motzai Shabbos

December 9, 2023

7:30pm

Register now!

Early bird registration (by December 4 at 4:00pm):
Members: \$25 per household | \$10 per person
Non-Members: \$30 per household | \$15 per person

Get 1 raffle ticket per registration for amazing prizes!

Register at etzchaim.org/chanukah

Registrations will resume at the door on Motzai Shabbos, December 9th for:
Members: \$30 per household | \$15 per person
Non-Members: \$35 per household | \$20 per person

- CRAFT BEER
- DELICIOUS FOOD
- MENORAH CONTEST
- PRIZES FOR KIDS
- ENTERTAINMENT
- FACE PAINTING
- RAFFLES FOR ADULTS



Two of our staff Rabbis, Rabbi Green and Rabbi Joey, and some of the Torah Academy High School students joined nearly 300,000 people in Washington D.C. this past Tuesday in a Rally in Support of Israel.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SUSAN GOLDMAN
ARIELLA HAMAOU
AIDAN KEMPNER
DINA MIRSKY
KATHY OSTERER
SIMMA RABINOWITZ
MARK SHORSTEIN

REFUAH SHELEMAH

ELANA CLAYMAN
FERN ESTNER
CHANA FISHMAN
AHUVA GOLDENTHAL
SUSAN GOLDMAN
BONNIE HARDY
HOPE KULISH
DON KUPFER
FOMA MAKHTINA
HILDE MEYER
RIVKA OHAYON
FRAN ZIONTS BAS MARTHA

Yahrzeit

GERALD DEITSCH
LEBA BAS MENACHEM MENDEL
YEHUDA OHAYON

RABBI FISCH IN ISRAEL

Rabbi Fisch has traveled to Israel representing our community as he meets with IDF soldiers and displaced citizens. He'll be participating in a learning program as well. Follow our Facebook and Instagram pages for updates on his travels.



Thank you

Thank you to Amy, Doug, Rabbi Sammy and Ariel Kahn
for sponsoring Kiddush this Shabbos
in honor of Sammy's siyum on one of the 6 books of the
mishna (Seder Zeraim - pronounced zi-rah-eem)
and in memory of Amy's father, Sammy's grandfather's
fifth yahrzeit tomorrow,
Shmuel ben Ephraim.