



# THE ETZ CHAIM BULLETIN

## PARSHAS VAYECHI

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

Mincha	5:25PM
Candle Lighting	5:26PM

### SHABBOS, JANUARY 11 SHABBOS MORNING

Daf Yomi Class	7:45AM
Sephardic Minyan	8:30AM
Shacharis	8:30AM
Latest Shema	9:59AM

Please join us for a special kiddush in the social hall following services in honor of the Bas Mitzvah of **Simma Fraida**, sponsored by **Rabbi Mayer and Ita Rabinowitz**. Please join us for food and zemiros led by the Kollel.

Prophetic Visions Class with Rabbi Fisch	4:30PM
Mincha	5:15PM
Followed by Seudah Shlishis	
Maariv & Havdallah	6:29PM

### SERVICES THIS WEEK: SHACHARIS

Sunday	8:15AM
Monday-Friday	6:45AM

### MINCHA

Sunday-Thursday	3:40PM
Sunday-Thursday	5:30PM

### TORAH READING

Parshas Vayechi	Page: 268
Haftorah Vayechi	Page: 1145

## MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

"Thou shalt Love the Lord your God." This is not only a well-known mitzvah but also featured in the beginning of the Shema, arguably our most significant declaration of faith. The notion of loving G-d sounds like an excellent idea. Who can possibly oppose this? In reality, the notion of loving an eternal and infinite Almighty G-d is rather easier said than done. How does one begin to observe this mitzva in a practical way? The Talmud provides compelling insight on this seemingly bizarre verse. The Talmud in the Tractate of Yoma states: that the name of heaven become beloved through you. When people see a student of Torah, he should solicit a positive and sterling image of himself, and G-d forbid not the opposite. In that manner, the name of G-d becomes beloved in the world as the masses identify the students of the Torah, which is G-d's gift to the Jews with integrity and honor. Unfortunately, when seemingly religious Jews behave in a manner that is wrong and distasteful, it reflects poorly not only on those specific individuals but on Judaism as well. If this is the way the strict adherents of faith can behave, what does it say about Judaism and the G-d that commanded us to act this way? Over the years, I have been embarrassed to read these cringe-worthy headlines of Observant Jews behaving poorly and thus reflecting poorly on the rest of us.

It is precisely for this reason that I was delighted to read some of the reactions in the media to the Non-Jewish personnel that staffed the various Siyum Hashas around the world. These festivities, as the WSJ coined, it was the Super Bowl of Jewish Learning, and there were multiple positive reactions from the personnel that staffed these events. Consider the following:

*Becky Syrett, Operations Manager of the SSE Arena in London, expresses what*

*surprised her most about hosting close to 7,000 at England's Siyum Hashas. Syrett wrote that the stadium staff was blown away" that there was "not a single incident" of "drunkenness, boisterous or rowdy behavior," during the event, which she says in her 28 months of working at the arena at over 300 events, has never happened before. On this side of the pond at Metlife Stadium, which hosted over 90,000 Jews, several members of law enforcement that were present reported that this was the first time people came over to them before and after an event to thank them for their services.*

The event of the Siyum Hashas was indeed an uplifting and historic event that brought honor and glory to all the students of Torah Study and the Daf Yomi in particular. The cherry on top of this glorious day was the impressive behaviors exhibited by the attendees who brought glory to the name of G-d on that freezing day in New Jersey. I hope and pray that this event will be a catalyst for ones in the future.

*Have a Great Shabbos,  
 Rabbi Yaakov Fisch*

# ADULT EDUCATION & EVENTS

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

9:00am Sunday Morning Chaburah and The Jacksonville Kollel at Etz Chaim

## MONDAY, JANUARY 13

7:00pm Mini Series with Rabbi Yaakov Fisch - In Love With Zion

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

7:00pm \*New Kollel Series\* Mini Series with Rebbetzin Ita Rabinowitz—How to Attain a Pure and Peaceful Marriage (Women Only)

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

8:45am Java for the Soul with Rabbi Feigenbaum studying Maimonides' 13 Principles of Faith

12:00pm Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Feigenbaum

What is a Healthy Argument Hosted by River Garden at 11401 Old St. Augustine Rd, 32257  
Sponsored by Jim & Deena Richman in honor of Jim's parents: David & Shirley Richman

1:00pm Morning Club with Rabbi Schochet

7:00pm Mesilas Yisharim class with Rebbetzin Schochet at The Kollel

8:00pm Women's Partners in Torah at The Kollel

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

7:45pm Mishmar followed by Maariv at The Kollel

## ACKERMAN TORAH DEDICATION

Please join us for a festive and historic occasion as we welcome the new Sefer Torah to Etz Chaim Synagogue. This Torah will be called the Ackerman Torah in honor of Scot and Alex Ackerman. Many people have come forward in dedicating a Sefer, Parsha or letter in honor of the new Torah.

The festivity will start on Sunday, January 26 at 9:30 am with a procession from the Jacksonville Kollel amid singing and dancing to its new home at Etz Chaim. There will be a brunch following the Hachnasas Sefer Torah in the Etz Chaim Social Hall. The brunch is open to the entire community.

At 6:00 pm, there will be a dinner at the Cummer Museum in honor of Scot and Alex Ackerman.

We are looking forward to this amazing day as we welcome our new Torah and pay tribute to Scot and Alex Ackerman!

## PARSHA SYNOPSIS

Jacob lives the final 17 years of his life in Egypt. Before his passing, he asks Joseph to take an oath that he will bury him in the Holy Land. He blesses Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, elevating them to the status of his own sons as progenitors of tribes within the nation of Israel.

The patriarch desires to reveal the end of days to his children, but is prevented from doing so.

Jacob blesses his sons, assigning to each his role as a tribe: Judah will produce leaders, legislators and kings; priests will come from Levi, scholars from Issachar, seafarers from Zebulun, schoolteachers from Simeon, soldiers from Gad, judges from Dan, olive-growers from Asher, and so on. Reuben is rebuked for "confusing his father's marriage bed"; Simeon and Levi, for the massacre of Shechem and the plot against Joseph. Naphtali is granted the swiftness of a deer, Benjamin the ferociousness of a wolf, and Joseph is blessed with beauty and fertility.

A large funeral procession consisting of Jacob's descendants, Pharaoh's ministers, the leading citizens of Egypt and the Egyptian cavalry accompanies Jacob on his final journey to the Holy Land, where he is buried in the Machpelah Cave in Hebron.

Joseph, too, dies in Egypt, at the age of 110. He, too, instructs that his bones be taken out of Egypt and buried in the Holy Land, but this would come to pass only with the Israelites' exodus from Egypt many years later. Before his passing, Joseph conveys to the Children of Israel the testament from which they will draw their hope and faith in the difficult years to come: "G-d will surely remember you, and bring you up out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

## Youth – Parent & Child Learning



## SHABBOS YOUTH PROGRAM

**Every Shabbos and Yom Tov**, the shul provides regular youth services to accommodate the needs of our growing community.

Please be aware that a parent must be readily available to take responsibility for the child while he/she is attending groups.

**Babysitting** is a supervised free play program for boys and girls ages infant through 3 years old. This group is staffed by professional sitters.

**Gan Shabbat** is for boys and girls in nursery and Pre-K, the children are entertained with stories, games, songs, and organized activities.

**Tot Shabbat** is for boys and girls in 'K' and 1st grade. The children are entertained with stories and songs; they pray together and play together with organized activities led by our teenage group leaders.

**Junior Congregation** now meets with distinct groups for boys and girls for grades 2 through Bnei mitzvah, and the girl's group is for grades 2 through B'not Mitzvah. The children begin their morning with group morning prayers and continue with stories, and other activities.

**NCSY Teen Workshop** is a discussion based group dedicated to giving deeper insight into the Parsha and general hashkafa and is for boys and girls b'nei mitzvah through 12th grade. This group is currently studying the Ethics of Our Fathers and is led by Joey Hamaoui.

### **Yom Rishon Enrichment Program with Rabbi Rabinowitz** **Sundays from 9:15am-10:15am**

The vision of the Yom Rishon Enrichment Program at Etz Chaim Synagogue is to educate the children about their heritage in a fun and engaging manner.

## DAILY CLASSES

### Daf Yomi

Weekdays	6:15am
Shabbos	8:15am
Sundays & legal holiday	8:15am

Please join us each morning before services in the Mirkis Chapel. Hot coffee is served.

### Limmud Yomi

Rabbi Fisch will teach a brief lesson on "Climb the Ladder" following Minyan every morning.

### Mishna Yomi

Rabbi Fisch will teach a brief Mishna between Mincha & Maariv every evening. We are studying Tractate Shavuot.

## MAZEL TOV

### Mazel Tov on your Bar Mitzvah from Etz Chaim Synagogue



*Simma Fraida  
Proud Parents:  
Rabbi Mayer & Ita Rabinowitz*

## Sunday Morning Breakfast Lecture Series

### With Iris Kraemer



This presentation will briefly summarize the history of Jewish settlement as well as the recent fluctuating economy in these South American countries. It will describe how the programs provided by the Jewish Federation's Overseas Partner Agencies, The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), and The Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), have shaped Jewish life.



**Sunday, January 12, 10:00AM  
Etz Chaim Synagogue**

# Yom Limmud

A Day of Exploring

Fun  
Free Child  
Programming



With World Famous Lecturer  
Rabbi Jonathan Rietti

Free light  
Lunch will be  
served

THE LAWS OF THINKING  
DOES JUDAISM COMMAND ME WHAT TO THINK?  
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FREE-WILL?



Rabbi Jonathan Rietti – a descendant of the Sephardic leader the Ben Ish Chai and son of the famous British actor Robert Rietti, known as 'The Man of a Thousand Voices' and 'King of the Dubbers' received his rabbinical diploma from Gateshead Talmudical College, England. Having received a master's in education, he has practiced for over thirty years as an educational consultant to parents of gifted children and those with ADD. With Montessori training, he has developed a curriculum which dovetails a Torah education with Montessori methodology. He is also a Senior lecturer for Gateways. He runs educational seminars and lectures, focusing on inner growth, relationships, positive parenting, health, Jewish life and identity throughout the United States. Rabbi Rietti is the author of a book entitled "The Art of Healthy Living" and authored over two hundred lectures on topics including inner growth, health, parenting and Jewish identity, and draws upon his background in the film and advertising industries to entertain the listener while sharing powerful insights on love, happiness and 'emotional intelligence.'

## Sunday, February 9, 2020

Registration 11:45AM • Seminar 12:15PM – 2:00PM

**LOCATION:** Etz Chaim Synagogue • 10167 San Jose Blvd. 32257

**INFORMATION:** (904) 262-3565 • [RabbiFeigenbaum@EtzChaim.org](mailto:RabbiFeigenbaum@EtzChaim.org)

**REGISTRATION:** [www.EtzChaim.org](http://www.EtzChaim.org)



Sponsored by  
Lawrence and Kathy Kanter & Family

## Of Barrels and Wine

### Question: I bought a used wine barrel. Must it be koshered before I put wine into it?

Shulchan Aruch (YD 137:1) writes that one may not place kosher wine into a barrel that previously held non-kosher wine. One would have to kosher the barrel, or else refrain from using the barrel for twelve months. When wine is stored in a barrel for more than twenty-four hours, the walls of the barrel will absorb some of the wine. This is true even though both the wine and the barrel are cold. If kosher wine is later placed into that barrel, some of the absorbed wine will emerge from the walls and mix with the kosher wine. However, there is a special leniency that exists regarding cold wine stored in barrels. Chazal ruled that instead of requiring that the barrels be koshered, one can simply put them aside for twelve months to allow the absorbed wine in the barrels to dry out completely. (Most poskim maintain that this leniency is unique to wine barrels, and one cannot apply them to other examples where vessels absorb non-kosher substances.) Please note that if one needs the barrels for immediate use, there are other methods of kashering.

## Israeli tech company making water from air gets top honor in Las Vegas

Genny, the Israeli-innovated home appliance that generates water out of thin air, was named the Consumer Technology Association's Energy Efficiency Product of the Year in the 2020 Smart Home Mark of Excellence Awards at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas Wednesday night – an award series that annually recognizes the tech industry's top smart home innovations. Created by the environmentally savvy Rishon Lezion-based tech company Watergen, the water-from-air system taps into atmospheric water using patented heat-exchange technology, producing up to 30 liters of potable water to your home or office every day – significantly reducing plastic usage and disposal by eliminating the waste caused by drinking bottled water.

How exactly does the system work? First, Watergen's built-in blower draws air into the system's atmospheric water generator. There, an internal filter cleans the air by removing dust and dirt. Once clean, the air is directed through the GENius heat exchange and cooling process, and condensed into water. The water is then filtered again to remove impurities and add minerals, resulting in fresh, drinking-quality water. Once produced, the water is continuously circulated in a built-in reservoir to preserve its freshness.

The water produced by Genny is

therefore of a higher quality than water running through filtration systems attached to municipal water lines. Genny also has the potential to serve as an air purifier and dehumidifier, circulating clean air throughout your home through a small tweak in the water generation process, using the already existing technology to create a multipurpose product.

"Our company's mission is to eliminate the need to rely on outside sources for life necessities and to help people become more environmentally friendly," says Dan Clifford, President of Watergen North America. "We are especially honored to be named Energy Efficiency Product of the Year at this year's CES show, because this award directly supports one of the top values Watergen stands for."

The company, chaired by Israeli-Georgian businessman and philanthropist Mikhael Mirilashvili, recently set its sights on expanding its renewable and energy-efficient clean water solution to the 2.1 billion people worldwide who lack access to safe water at home – and wherever else it might be needed.

Last year, the company's large-scale system was donated to authorities in Brazil, Vietnam and India. It also assisted rescue and recovery efforts during the 2018 California wildfires and provided clean water to the residents of Texas and

Florida in the aftermath of the devastation caused by hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

The large-scale version, called Gen-L, can produce up to 5,000 liters of clean water a day, requiring no infrastructure other than a standard electricity supply. According to the company's website, it is "perfect for villages, off-grid settlements and factories."

While the technology is now firmly focused on tackling the global water shortage, the company has maintained the energy-efficient edge of its early-day designers and boasts the world's most energy-efficient atmospheric water production system.

Whereas other commercially available water generators rely on conventional air conditioning and dehumidifying technology to generate drinking water using 650-850 watt-hours of electricity per liter, Watergen produces safe drinking water at only 250Wh/L – a mere two to four cents per liter.

"My first priority is not how to make money but to help people, the planet and make kiddush hashem [sanctification of God's name]," Mirilashvili told The Jerusalem Post. "Regarding the revenues, only God decides who makes money and how much."

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FERN ESTNER  
NEAL FINKELSTEIN  
JONATHAN GOODMAN  
SMICHA KAHN  
NAUM LIPOVROVSKI  
MARIA NATOVICH  
EFRAT OHAYON  
AIDEN SMOLENSKY  
GALINA VOLOSHIN  
Yael Zaguri

## REFUAH SHELEMAH

FERN ESTNER  
MORRIS BENDIT  
LOUISE LEVINE  
SUSAN GOLDMAN  
JEFF AARONSON  
SY SCHWARTZ  
RICHARD BROWDY  
MARTIN SCHWARTZ  
MURRAY HUSNEY  
JAY LIPPER  
ABE GOLDENTHAL  
BERTICA HUBSCH  
DAVID ROBBINS  
HOPE TIKVAH KULISH  
BARBARA FELDMAN

## Yahrzeit

ALFRED FRISCH  
ESTHER OHAYON  
LEON SAROFF  
PAUL SCHWARTZ

## MAZEL TOV WAYNE AND LAURA



Mazel Tov to our resident JSO police officer, Wayne Speicher on his engagement to fellow officer, Laura Sipes!

## JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY SIYUM HASHAS

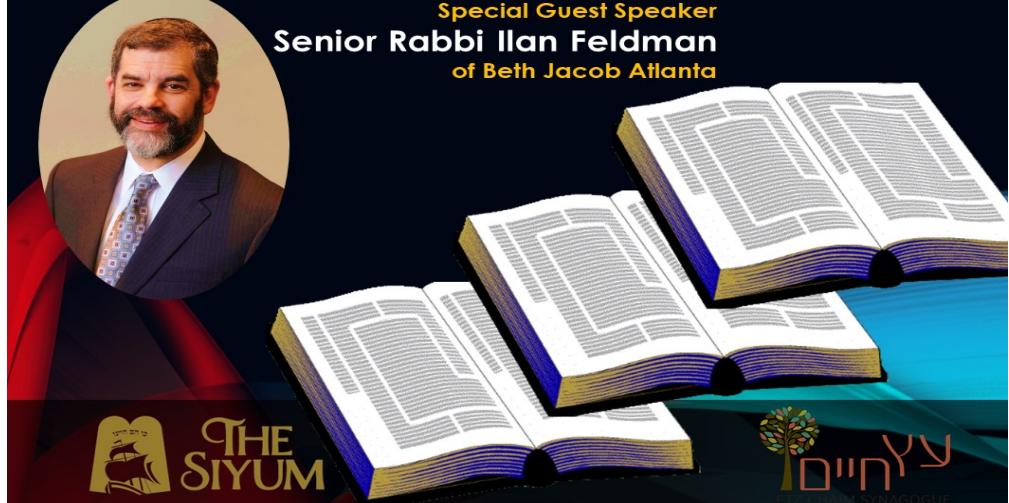
**Etz Chaim Social Hall  
Wednesday, January 15 @ 7pm**

Join us for a catered dinner and inspirational evening honoring the dedicated members of Jacksonville's Daf Yomi group.

**FREE ADMISSION**

RSVP [ECOffice@EtzChaim.org](mailto:ECOffice@EtzChaim.org) no later than Monday, January 13, 2020

Special Guest Speaker  
**Senior Rabbi Ilan Feldman**  
of Beth Jacob Atlanta



# PARSHAS VAYECHI

The conclusion of the book of Bereshith sets the stage for all of the remaining history of the Jewish people. Jacob and his family have settled in the land of Egypt, and live under the most favorable of circumstances. Their son and brother, Joseph, is the de facto ruler of the country that has provided them with prosperity. However, Joseph himself warns them that the situation is only temporary and that there are troubled days ahead.

He tells them that they will leave the land of Egypt, whether they wish to or not, and that when they leave they should remember him and take his bones with them, to be buried in the land of Israel, the home from which he was so brutally taken when he was about 17 years old.

I would imagine that the family of Jacob, when hearing these predictions of Joseph, were amazed, and probably were unable to fathom how their situation could change so drastically from greatness and wealth to slavery and persecution.

The Jewish people are by nature an optimistic people. We always believe that somehow things will turn out well, no matter how bleak the present circumstances may appear to be. Yet, only by remembering Joseph's words would the eventual redemption from Egyptian bondage be realized. Joseph's warnings would accompany them with his remains through the 40-year sojourn in the desert of Sinai. It would remind them to be aware of the historical dangers they would always have to face.

The conditions under which Jews have lived in exile and in the diaspora for millennia have always varied and fluctuated. But the basic message was that we were we were not really at home. We continually ignored warning signs, and somehow believed that things would get better. Ignoring the warnings of Joseph, many times in our history we doomed ourselves to tragedy and disaster.

If Joseph, the viceroy of Egypt, warned us that Egypt is not our home, then that message could not have been clearer to Jews in the coming millennia. But as the story of Egypt and the Jews unfolds in the book of Shemot, the majority of Jews forgot Joseph's message. And it remained only for Moshe himself to bring Joseph's bones out of Egypt for eventual burial in the Land of Israel.

The Torah will record for us that later Egyptian pharaohs and the Egyptian nation forgot about Joseph and his great accomplishments. The ironic tragedy is that much of the Jewish people as well forgot about Joseph and his message to them. In the annals of Jewish history, this forgetfulness on the part of Jews has often been repeated – and always with dire consequences. The story of Joseph and of the Jewish settlement in Egypt provides the prototype for all future Jewish history. We always need to ask ourselves what Joseph would have to say about our current Jewish world. This is worthy of contemplation.

Shabbat shalom,  
Rabbi Berel Wein

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