



# THE ETZ CHAIM BULLETIN

## PARSHAS YISRO

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Mincha	5:50PM
Candle Lighting	5:56PM

### SHABBOS, FEBRUARY 15 SHABBOS MORNING

Daf Yomi Class	7:45AM
Sephardic Minyan	8:30AM
Shacharis	8:30AM
Youth Program	8:30AM
Latest Shema	9:54AM
Unlocking the Closed Book With Rabbi Feigenbaum	10:00AM

Please join us for kiddush in the lobby following services.

Prophetic Visions Class with Rabbi Fisch	4:55PM
Mincha	5:40PM
Seudah Shlishis sponsored by David & Rise Pearl	
Maariv & Havdallah	6:58PM

### SERVICES THIS WEEK: SHACHARIS

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

### MINCHA

Tuesday—Thursday	3:40PM
Sunday—Thursday	6:00PM

### TORAHREADING

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## MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

Finnish Lapland is as close as reality gets to those who dream of a winter wonderland. The contrasts in seasons are a key factor in the allure of Lapland, where 24-hour sunlight in the summer replaces the dark winter days. It is one of the must-see destinations on many people's wish lists (including mine) to see the wonders of the world. This paradise on earth is looking a lot less attractive to visit as this area in Finland seems one of the latest casualties to be rocked by the coronavirus. The deadly virus has now spread to Lapland, a region stretching into the Arctic Circle that has seen an increase in Chinese tourism. A tourist visiting from Wuhan tested positive after reporting being ill to local health workers on Jan. 29. Officials sent an epidemiologist and a Chinese-speaking researcher north from Helsinki who helped track down 21 people who had been in contact with the tourist, said Jussi Sane, who coordinated the response from the country's Department of Health Security. Many of the 21 possible contacts have also been placed in quarantine for 14 days. This Scandinavian country is about 5,000 miles away from Wuhan, China.

Meanwhile, in China, the country that boasts the world's largest population, the authorities have gone into full-blown panic mode. The Chinese government has begun a mass roundup of its citizens in certain parts of the country to contain the virus. The orders to begin mass quarantines in Wuhan came down from the government last week to "round up everyone who should be rounded up," part of a "wartime" campaign to contain the fast-spreading coronavirus outbreak. This potentially deadly virus is now a global menace that has thus far killed over 1,300 people. The financial impact is

staggering as it dealt not only a massive blow to the mighty Chinese economy but to economies around the world. The Israeli government instructed health authorities to work toward a vaccination against the coronavirus. It approved plans to establish a vaccine factory in the country last week, amid the continued spread of the illness across the globe.

Maimonides writes in the Laws of Public Fasting that when society is faced with a calamity, one is obligated to begin a process of reflection and introspection. That should lead a person to prayer and a call to the Almighty to bring an end to the devastation. If one takes the opposite approach and chooses to be indifferent and says it is a mere coincidence, the Maimonides writes that not only is this a lost opportunity but downright dangerous. This is because he writes, G-d is trying to wake up the masses, and we must take note. If we intentionally ignore the warning signs, the Maimonides writes that the situation can further deteriorate. It's important to note that historically the Maimonides was known for his rationalist approach to life. He was known to be a fear monger or superstitious in the slightest.

I sense that we are at a pivotal moment here. The largest country in the world is at its knees because of a virus that emanated from a bat or a snake. Let us take a moment or two to reflect, introspect, and pray that this menacing virus comes to an end once and for all.

*Have a Great Shabbos,  
 Rabbi Yaakov Fisch*

# ADULT EDUCATION & EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9:00am Sunday Morning Chaburah with Avi Smith, "Why do we eat Gefilte fish on Shabbos" at Etz Chaim

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

7:00pm Mini Series with Dr. Elliott Rosenbaum—Life Coaching

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

7:15pm Tuesday Night Class - The Shabbos Kitchen with Rabbi Appelbaum at the Kollel

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

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

12:00 pm Mandarin Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Feigenbaum.

Sponsored by The Law Firm of Rudolph, Israel and Ellis, PA

Location –River Garden 11401 Old St. Augustine Road 32257

1:00pm Morning Club with Rabbi Schochet at River Garden

7:15pm NJOP: Read Hebrew America with Rabbi Avi Feigenbaum

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

7:45pm Mishmar followed by Maariv at The Kollel

## PARSHA SYNOPSIS

**Moshe' father-in-law, Jethro, hears of the great miracles which G-d performed for the people of Israel, and comes from Midian to the Israelite camp, bringing with him Moshe' wife and two sons. Jethro advises Moshe to appoint a hierarchy of magistrates and judges to assist him in the task of governing and administering justice to the people. The children of Israel camp opposite Mount Sinai, where they are told that G-d has chosen them to be His "kingdom of priests" and "holy nation." The people respond by proclaiming, "All that G-d has spoken, we shall do."**

**On the sixth day of the third month (Sivan), seven weeks after the Exodus, the entire nation of Israel assembles at the foot of Mount Sinai for the Giving of the Torah . G-d descends on the mountain amidst thunder, lightning, billows of smoke and the blast of the shofar, and summons Moshe to ascend.**

**G-d proclaims the Ten Commandments, commanding the people of Israel to believe in G-d, not to worship idols or take G-d's name in vain, to keep the Shabbat, honor their parents, not to murder, not to commit adultery, not to steal, and not to bear false witness or covet another's property. The people cry out to Moshe that the revelation is too intense for them to bear, begging him to receive the Torah from G-d and convey it to them.**

## PARENT AND CHILD PROGRAM



## NCSY PROGRAMS



Annual mishloach manos fund raiser for NCSY will be going live in the next two weeks and if someone would like to add a name to our list please email [Hamaouij@NCSY.org](mailto:Hamaouij@NCSY.org).



# ETZ CHAIM PRESENTS SHABBOS OF CHAZANES WITH YAAKOV MOTZEN

PARSHAS YISRO FEBRUARY 14-15

## Friday Night

Candle Lighting - 5:55pm  
Mincha - 5:55pm  
Kabbalas Shabbos - 6:15pm  
Shabbos Dinner - 7:15pm  
(with reservation)  
Followed by Tisch with Chazzan Motzen

## Shabbos Day

Shacharis- 8:30am  
Following Services Kiddush will  
be served in the lobby  
Lunch (with reservation) - 12:15pm  
Mincha - 5:40pm  
Followed by Seuda Shilishis  
Marriv 6:58pm



ETZ CHAIM SYNAGOGUE



The Jacksonville Kollel Presents:

# *A Night In The Shtetel*

Motz'ei Shabbos, February 15th, 8:00pm

*Join us for a  
musical Havdala  
and a journey  
back in time  
through songs  
and stories of  
our past...*

Featuring world renowned  
cantor

**Yaakov Motzen**  
Musically accompanied  
by his wife,  
**Marsha Motzen**



At The Kollel, 3651 Crown Point Rd.



## THE IDF

### AS A FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

Mon, Feb 24 | 7 - 8:30 pm



With more start-ups per capita than any country in the world, the Start-Up Nation is attracting world wide attention. Get an insider's look at the IDF's role in this phenomenon with Captain Yaakov Selavan. This program is co-sponsored by Etz Chaim Synagogue.

***Advanced registration is requested. Free to the community***

For more information and registration,  
call 904.730.2100 ext. 228.



## DAILY CLASSES

### Daf Yomi

Weekdays	5:45am
Shabbos	7:30am
Sundays & legal holiday	7:15am

Rabbi Hauptman will teach Daf Yomi class daily.

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 Edyot.

## YOUTH PROGRAM



## KOSHER CORNER - A WORM AND AN ONION

Q: I used a kosher knife to cut an onion, and I found that I sliced through a worm. Does my knife need kashering? Can I use the rest of the onion?

A: If one slices a spicy, non-kosher food, the knife requires kashering. An onion is a davar charif (spicy food), but a worm is not. If one slices through an onion that contains a worm, how do we view this? The Maharil maintains that a worm in an onion has the status of a davar charif; therefore, the knife requires ne'itza (a cleaning kashering method described below). The Chochmas Adam (38:27) agrees that a worm in an onion is considered spicy. Nonetheless, kashering is not required because the worm is pagum (repugnant) and does not affect the kosher status of the knife. One should scrape the cut portion of the onion and remove any substance of the worm that might have adhered to the onion.

Ne'eitza is a procedure for cleaning a knife. The word ne'eitza means thrusting. If at some time, one used knife once to cut a hard, non-kosher food like hard cheese, or repeatedly to cut any soft, non-kosher food, there is a concern that non-kosher residue will remain on the surface of the knife. To remove this residue, rinsing the knife with water is not sufficient. Instead, Chazal instituted a method of cleaning called ne'eitza, whereby one thrusts the knife into the ground ten times. The soil must be hard, unplowed earth (Chochmas Adam 3:4). In practice, ne'eitza is seldom performed today. Instead, one cleans the knife by immersing it in boiling water (hagalalah), or by pouring hot, soapy water over the knife, in this way, removing any residue. Rav Yaakov Kamenetsky zt"l (Emes L'Yaakov YD 89, footnote #38) maintains that one may also clean the knife with steel wool. He posits that this might be even better than ne'eitza. His reasoning is that steel wool scrapes the blade, and is the same as rubbing a knife against a sharpening stone. This is an extremely effective method of removing the non-kosher fat from the knife.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

RACHELLI FISCH  
SARAH HERMAN  
GEORGE KULISH  
SHLOMO RABINOWITZ  
JACOB ROGELBERG  
AVI ZAGURI

## REFUAH SHELEMAH

MARILYN SCHWARTZ  
DR. ED JOSEPH  
RABBI AVI SCHOCHEM  
PHYLISS SPECHER  
FERN ESTNER  
MORRIS BENDIT  
LOUISE LEVINE  
SUSAN GOLDMAN  
SY SCHWARTZ  
RICHARD BROWDY  
MARTIN SCHWARTZ  
MURRAY HUSNEY  
JAY LIPPER  
ABE GOLDENTHAL  
BERTICA HUBSCH  
HOPE TIKVAH KULISH

## YAHRZEIT

EGON BERLINER  
BEATRICE BROWDY  
BERNARD NORMAN  
JOAN PATCH  
HARRIET SPERBER  
WARREN WELTMAN



ETZ CHAIM SISTERHOOD  
INVITES YOU TO A NIGHT  
OF PING PONG

PRIVATE ROOM, OPEN CASH BAR,  
WOMEN ONLY

SMASH 8206 Philips Hwy #6  
Saturday night, February 29<sup>th</sup>  
8:30PM - 10:30PM  
COST \$8



## UNVEILING



Jean Goodman's  
unveiling will take place  
at 10:30AM in the  
Jacksonville Community  
Center section of the  
Evergreen Cemetery.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Clifford & Laurie Alsberg and family  
Alan & Susan Hepker and family  
Meir Golub  
Adva & Susan Hepker and family

# PARSHAS YISRO

We once again see in this week's Torah reading the Torah's penchant to use outsiders and their ideas to advance the welfare of the Jewish People. After the granting of the Torah on Sinai, Moshe attempts to institute a one-man – himself – system of justice for the Jewish people. In theory, this is the ideal system, for everyone would wish to be heard and judged by Moshe. There cannot be anyone better or wiser to hear disputes and render clarifications of Torah ordinances and values than Moshe Rabbeinu. Yet, like many, if not even the greatest ideas in theory, do not usually work out in practice in the messy world of everyday human behavior and life.

It is the complete outsider, Yitro, who immediately grasps the danger to the people and to Moshe that is inherent in his role as the sole judge of the Jews. Yitro cautions Moshe that under such a system, Moshe and the people will wither away because of the impossible physical, emotional and organizational strain. Yitro proposes an alternate system of justice, more bureaucratic and cumbersome but infinitely more workable than the one Moses proposed. And Heaven agrees with the outsider, and Yitro's proposal becomes the accepted norm for justice for that generation of Jewish people. Moshe himself agrees with the wisdom of Yitro's words. The fact that Yitro is a complete outsider in Jewish society of that time in no way disqualifies his observations and suggestions.

Generally, people ignore and even resent the comments and opinions of outsiders on internal or domestic matters. What can an outsider possibly know about how we should behave or how we should run our home, business or society? Yet, as the professional fields of counselling in all sectors and disciplines in our society continue to grow and expand, we are witness to the value of outside guidance. It is their 'outsiderness' that provides a perspective that the person or society cannot achieve by itself.

The rabbis if the Talmud phrased it succinctly and correctly: "A prison inmate cannot free himself by himself from his incarceration." As it was in the case of Yitro, it is the outsider – oftentimes the ultimate outsider – who may be the key to progress and who offers a better perspective on the challenges facing us. We should never deliberately close our ears to what is being said about us or to advice given, even if it is not requested.

The great unmatched humility of Moshe allowed him not only to accept the words and advice of Yitro, but also to cherish them, and even openly credit Yitro for his insight and wisdom, Moshe will say to Yitro later in the Torah, "you have been to us our guide and eyes," Only outsiders can free us from the bonds of our own self-imposed subjectivity. This is one of the great subliminal teachings that fill the Torah and instruct us about life.

Shabbat shalom

Rabbi Berel Wein

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