



DECEMBER 3-9, 2022
9-15 KISLEV, 5783

THE ETZ CHAIM BULLETIN

MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

PARSHAS VAYETZEI

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Mincha	5:10PM
Earliest time to light	4:21PM
Candle lighting	5:08PM

SHABBOS, DECEMBER 3

Sephardic Minyan	9:00AM
Shacharis	9:00AM
Latest Shema	9:41AM
Gateway to Prayer Class with Rabbi Uhr	10:00AM
Mincha	5:00PM
Maariv	6:09PM

Following services, Kiddush will be served in the Social Hall.

Seudah Shlishis will be served in the Social Hall.

MINYAN THIS WEEK:

SHACHARIS

Sunday	8:30AM
Monday-Friday	6:45AM
Second Minyan	8:15AM

MINCHA - MAARIV

Sunday-Thursday	5:10PM
Additional Maariv at the Kollel Monday - Thursday	8:45PM

DAF YOMI

Monday - Friday	5:45AM
Shabbos	8:15AM
Sunday	7:30AM

TORAH READING

Parshas Vayetzei	Page: 124
Haftorah Vayetzei	Page: 1137

"They lived happily ever after". Many Disney films end with that comforting expression. It is a fantasy that many people attach themselves to and wonder why their life is not perfectly happy, stress free, or "happily ever after". Real life is quite different. It is not to suggest that real life must be sad and tragic. There are countless reasons for anyone to choose to be happy no matter the circumstances of that individual's life. However, the journey of life does make some twists and turns and some of these turns are on treacherous roads. A person of faith does not have the illusion that his life will be perfect or always happy simply because of their religious observance or piety.

As we study the Book of Bereishes there is no lack of examples of righteous people committed to G-d that had a life full of hardships and tragedy. Avraham had the challenge of a son Yishmael and Yitzchak had a son Esav. Yaakov had to escape to a foreign land as his brother wanted to kill him only because he listened to the wishes of his mother. His father-in-law swindled him multiple times. Upon his return to the land of Israel (which G-d commanded) his daughter Dina gets kidnapped and raped. Yosef, the beloved son of Yaakov is sold as a slave by his brothers and taken to a dungeon in a foreign land. In this week's Parsha, we learn about extraordinary altruism of Rachel. She is rewarded with many years of childlessness and eventually dies during the childbirth of her second son. Her husband buries her not in the ancestral family Machpeilah Cave but on the side of the road. One can reasonably ask, how is it that the righteous suffer on such a magnitude? After leading devout lives full of piety and declaring their commitment to G-d and His ways, is this remotely fair?

Although we may not be on the level of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs listed in Sefer Bereishis/Genesis, we have all our share of sadness and tragedy. Last week in Jerusalem, a young 16-year-old boy in Jerusalem went to study in Yeshiva in the morning. He was killed at a bus stop at 7:30 am by a bomb planted by a terrorist. His funeral was at 4:00 pm that afternoon. Imagine, parents, sending a child to yeshiva around 7:00 am and burying him at 4:00 pm the very same day. How do we begin to reconcile such events with the belief in a Benevolent and Just G-d?

Sefer Berieishes/Genesis teaches us that a pious life is not always aligned with a life that has no anguish or stress. The truly pious anticipate there will be problems in this world. As King David wrote in Psalms, גם כִּי־אֵלֶךְ בַּגִּיט, This is translated as "though I walk in the valley of death, I fear no evil for You are with me." It's important to note that G-d does not promise that there will be no death will occur. Rather, he promises, he will fear no evil for "You are with me". That in a small sentence is the life of the devout and committed. They do not expect they are entitled to a problem-free life. They understand that the journey of life will come with its share of pain and anguish. They also know that even during those dark moments they are not alone for He is with them. When a person is truly able to internalize the notion of "You are with me", he actually in a different way may "live happily ever after".

Have a peaceful Shabbos,

Rabbi Yaakov Fisch

Printed forms
are available at
the Etz Chaim
Synagogue lobby
for your
convenience!



SAVE THE DATE!

MOTZAI SHABBOS
DECEMBER 17
2022
7:30PM

EARLY REGISTRATION
\$10 PER HOUSEHOLD
OR \$18 AT THE DOOR

ETZCHAIM.ORG/FORM/CHANUKAHPARTY2022

- FAMILY FUN
- MENORAH CONTEST
- ENTERTAINMENT
- HOT FOOD
- CRAFT BEER

CHANUKAH PARTY
AT ETZ CHAIM SYNAGOGUE

 ETZ CHAIM SYNAGOGUE

S.I.P Programming

Kashrus in the Kitchen: Q&A Session on Common Hilchos Kashrus

With Rabbi Yerucham Schochet on
December 11, 2022

10:30 a.m in the Mirkis Chapel

Rabbi Yerucham Schochet is Israeli born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa. As a young man, he attended Ner Israel in Baltimore, and received his S'micha (Rabbinic Ordination) from the Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Yakov Weinberg, Z"TL. The young Rabbi and his family spent time in Eugene, Oregon, where he was the interim Rabbi. After spending time in DeMoines, Iowa and New Haven Connecticut, the family moved to Savannah, Georgia, where they still reside. Rabbi Schochet trained as a Mohel in Jerusalem, Israel. His main focus as a Rabbi is in the field of Kashrus. He founded Kosher Savannah in 2010 and is very involved in AKO. Rabbi Yerucham Schochet oversees kashrus for several agencies including the OU, OK, Star-K, and Chaf-K, amongst others



Four Part Mini-Series With Rebetzin Rena Schochet:

Prophets, Prophecies, and History

What should we learn from the seeming historical repetitions in the Books of Neviim? We learn about the wars, how we settled and then there are the breakdowns between prophets, judges, and kings? What are the deeper meanings in these seemingly historical, almost predictable, uncertainties? We will plumb these depths together.

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Mirkis Chapel
(zoom option available)

November 21 & 28,
December 5 & 12





The Seasons First
**PARENT & CHILD
LEARNING**
Pizza | Learning| Prizes

MOTZAI SHABBOS, DECEMBER 3RD,
7:30PM
ETZ CHAIM SOCIAL HALL

SPONSORED BY BREINDY AND STUART LAZOR



**THE MAKING OF A MEZUZAH
WITH RABBI ASA**

EVER WONDER HOW A
MEZUZAH IS MADE?
JOIN RABBI ASA ON A
MEZUZAH JOURNEY AS HE
EXPLAINS HOW A MEZUZAH IS
MADE AND ITS USE.

**MIRKIS CHAPEL
DECEMBER 13, 2022 @ 7 PM**




You are invited to a
Shabbos Meal
FUN OVER FIFTY
*Friday Night Dinner
Catered Food
December 23, 2022
Etz Chaim Social Hall*

Registration: \$35/person
Registration deadline: December 14, 2022
Register through tammy@etzchaim.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DR. BENJAY KEMPNER
ANDREW RESTLER
RABBI AVI SCHOCHET
RIMMA SUKHAR

REFUAH SHELEMAH

FERN ESTNER
SUSAN GOLDMAN
HOPE KULISH
FOMA MAKHTINA
BONNIE HARDY
MYRON FLAGLER
JAY LIPPER
RIVKA OHAYON
BOBBY HANDMAKER
CHANA FISHMAN
ELANA CLAYMAN

YAHREZIT

GEORGE HENSCHER
SIEGBERT KAHN
SYLVIA KARP
LEBA MENDEL
YEHUDA OHAYON
ALICE SELEVAN
ROSEMARY TAXMAN

Thank you volunteers!

Thank you to the Torah Academy
High School girls
for helping us enhance
the Kiddush experience this Shabbos.
If you would like to volunteer, please



contact Tammy Fisch
(904) 262-3565
extension #5
Tammy@etzchaim.org



Mazel Tov!

To Rabbi Menashe and
Shayna Uhr upon the birth
of a baby girl.

5783 STANDING FOR THE TREE OF LIFE

Second Annual Campaign



Standing For The Tree Of Life is the financial lifeline for our beloved shul. Our shul is committed to offering an excellent and engaging family experience to nourish our diverse membership body's spiritual and emotional needs. The reality is that membership dues alone cover just a portion of the cost that our shul incurs for your benefit. Please consider joining the Standing For The Tree Of Life Campaign, as your contribution will strengthen our beloved shul and community.

May the merit of Tzedakah in our community usher in continued blessings for all of your families!

\$18,000

Scot and Alex Ackerman
Ken and Allison Jacobs
David and Kim Robbins
Gary and Nancy Perlman
Robert Handmaker
Karl Frisch
Michel and Suzette Allen
Barry and Lisa Ansbacher

\$7,500

Harry Frisch
Eugene and Brenda Wolchok
James and Irene Jaffa

\$3,600

Barry and Sima Chefer
Ed and Caroline Lee
Elliott and Emily Rosenbaum
Steve and Hadassah Pollack
Setzer Family
Ruben and Naomi Mirensky
Andrew and Sylvia Jaffa
Micki Green
David and Louise Levine
Clayman Family
Selevan Family
David and Cheyn Jaison
Mike and Sherry Herring