

Rabbi Menachem Goldberger

בס"ד

הרב מנחם ראובן הלוי גולדברגר  
שליטא מרא דאתרא



Pushka total: \$881.40 (see p. 3)

18 Teves 5784/December 30, 2023

5746-5784

Celebrating our 38th year

1986-2023

**DAVENING SCHEDULE****Friday**

Candle Lighting: 4:33 pm  
Mincha/Maariv: 4:35 pm  
Men/Boys Learning: 8:30 pm

**Shabbos Day**

Daf Yomi Shiur: 8:00 am  
Shacharis (Hodu): 8:45 am  
Zman Krias Shema: 9:47 am  
Mincha: 4:15 pm  
Maariv: 5:45 pm  
Shabbos is over after: 6:04 pm  
Kol HaNaarim Learning: 7:00 pm

**Sunday**

Shacharis: 8:00 am  
Mincha/Maariv: 4:40 pm

**Monday- Friday**

Shacharis (Monday): 8:00 am  
Mincha/Maariv (Monday): 4:40 pm  
Shacharis: 7:00 am  
Maariv: 8:00 pm

**Next Shabbos- Shemos/Mevorchim Shevat**

Candle Lighting: 4:39 pm  
Friday Mincha: 4:40 pm

**Kitzur Shulchan Aruch Shiur**

Join Rabbi Goldberger for the Tuesday night shiur for men in the **Kitzur Shulchan Aruch**, at 7:35 pm, followed by Maariv. For more info, please contact Lev Avraham Rosenstock at 443-255-4343.

**Semichas Chaver Program**

Join Rabbi Elie Levi for a new semester of the Semichas Chaver program Sunday nights at 8 pm. Topics for this new semester include:

- Hilchos Shabbos
- Reheating foods
- Blechs/Warming drawers

**• Opening food packages**

Upon completion of the zman/semester, there is an optional written exam with a **certificate of accomplishment** to be presented at the conclusion.

**Holy Machlokes**

Join Rabbi Elie Levi this Monday, January 1, for another "Holy Machlokes" shiur from the Shulchan Aruch. Shacharis at 8:00 am, followed by the shiur at 9:15 am with coffee and danish. The shiur, "The Cleaves Get," is for men and teen boys.

**Rambam's Hilchos Tefillah**

Join Rabbi Goldberger for the Monday night shiur for men in the **Rambam's Hilchos Tefillah** following Maariv.

**Donations**

- In memory of Jack Taffel, father of Jay Taffel, by Klara Margaretten
- Yahrzeit donation by Bob Rosenfelt in memory of his father, Lou Rosenfelt
- In memory of Jack Taffel, by Ari and Caryn Blum
- Yahrzeit donation by Ari and Caryn Blum in memory of Malka Bas Yehuda Leib
- By Ronald Maltz in memory of Adina Speedone

**Want to Be a "Minyanaire"??**

Want to impress your Creator? Looking for a way to increase your "spiritual equity"? Come join the TY minyan. We are looking for a few (10+) good men ages 13-120 to join our daily minyan. Shacharis is at 7:00 am during the week, 8:45 am on Shabbos, and 8:00 am on Sunday. Mincha/Maariv on Sunday this week

at 4:40; weekday Maariv only at 8:00 pm. Please check the seasonal davening schedule or the Lev Echad for exact times. Extra credit if you are one of the first ten in shul for davening.

**A Short Vort**

Parshas Vayechi begins with **יחי יעקב** "Yaakov lived in the land of Mitzraim seventeen years" (Bersishis 47:28). Although the verse continues with "the years of his life – were one hundred and forty-seven years," we find an allusion in the word **יחי** that suggests that Yaakov "lived" for thirty-four years. The word **יחי** has a gematria of 34. Yosef was sold into slavery at the age of 17, and then Yaakov was reunited with Yosef in Mitzraim for the last 17 years of his life. If you add these two 17-year periods of time the two spent together, you get 34. Thus, Yaakov "lived" with his beloved son Yosef for thirty-four years. Chazal note that the Torah uses the word **יחי**, lived, rather than **ויגר**, sojourned, alluding to the tranquility and harmony Yaakov experienced in Mitzraim at the end of his life.

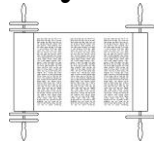
**Winter Learning for Men and Boys!**

Bring your son. Bring your son's son. Bring the boy next door. Everyone is welcome to come and learn - men and boys' learning has returned to TY! Friday night learning seder (individual or with a chavrusa) with Rabbi Yehuda Leib Goldberger will be from 8:30 to 9:15 pm, followed by a 10-minute shiur given by Rabbi Yehuda Leib. Light refreshments!

Kol HaNaarim Learning with Rabbi Elie Levi will be motzei Shabbos from 7:00 to 7:30 pm, followed by pizza and raffles. Both learning programs in the upstairs Bais Medrash. Please contact Rabbi Yehuda Leib at 443-546-0072 or Rabbi Elie Levi at elieclevi@gmail.com for more information.

**This week's Lev Echad is in honor of:**

Parshas Vayechi – the last Parsha in Sefer Bereishis – Chazak! Chazak! Venischazeik!

**Weekly Parsha****Parshas Vayechi**

By Rabbi Oizer Alport

**“When I came from Paddan, Rochel died on me in the land of Canaan on the road, while there was still a stretch of land to go to Ephrat; and I buried her there on the road to Ephrat, which is Bethlehem.” (48:7)**

When Yaakov realized that the time of his death was near, he became concerned that he would be buried in Egypt and not in his family’s burial plot in Me’aras HaMachpeilah in Chevron. He called in his son Yosef, who wielded power in Egypt, and asked him to ensure that he would be buried with his forefathers in the land of Israel, a request to which Yosef agreed. Yaakov then continued and told Yosef that when he was returning to Eretz Yisroel, Rochel died on the road, so he buried her there in Beis Lechem.

Rashi explains that after asking Yosef to exert himself to arrange for his burial in Me’aras HaMachpeilah, Yaakov felt the need to justify why he did not do the same for Yosef’s mother Rochel. Therefore, Yaakov informed Yosef that Hashem told him to bury Rochel by the side of the road where she died so that she could help her descendants by weeping and praying for them when they passed by her burial place on their way to exile, as the verse says, “A voice is heard on high, wailing, bitter weeping; Rochel weeps for her children,” to which Hashem replies, “There is reward for your act ... and your children will return to their border” (Yirmiyahu 31:14-16). For this reason, we refer to Rochel as “Mama Rochel,” our mother to whom we cry out in exile, who in turn beseeches Hashem on our behalf, and whose petitions are accepted as Hashem promises her that her children will ultimately return home.

In his autobiography, Rav Yisroel Meir Lau, the former Chief Rabbi of Israel and a well-connected political figure, records the following fascinating story regarding the unique status of Kever Rochel, an unparalleled place of prayer to which countless Jews have travelled throughout the generations to pour out their aching hearts. Rav Lau writes that when the Israeli government was negotiating with the Palestinians following the Oslo accords, the question of the status of the city of Beis Lechem came up. Although Beis Lechem was considered a Palestinian city, Kever Rochel is also located there, and the Israeli

negotiators insisted that Kever Rochel must remain under Jewish control.

However, to reach Kever Rochel from Yerushalayim, one must traverse a short road from Gilo, the closest Jerusalem neighborhood. The Palestinians insisted that this road be under their authority, such that Kever Rochel itself would be under Israeli auspices, but the road to reach it would be controlled by the Palestinians. Yitzchok Rabin, the then Israeli Prime Minister, agreed to this arrangement. When word of this compromise got out, people were gravely concerned that with the Palestinians controlling the access road, it would no longer be safe to visit Kever Rochel.

Rav Lau intervened, meeting with Rabin and telling him that he must renegotiate and insist that the access road remain under Israel control to ensure safe passage for Jews traveling to Kever Rochel. Rabin, who was not observant, could not comprehend why the Chief Rabbi was making such an issue about Rochel’s burial site. Rav Lau explained, “Rochel is our Mama, and a person never abandons his mother!” Rabin was impressed and moved by Rav Lau’s poignant declaration, and shortly thereafter he announced that he had changed his position on the issue and would demand that Israel retain control over the road to Kever Rochel, access which we continue to enjoy today, all because of Rav Lau’s impassioned words about the unique power of Mama Rochel.

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**The End of Days**

Parshas Vayechi is my bar mitzvah parsha, my dear son Akiva Simcha’s bar mitzvah parsha, and that of our illustrious and beloved baal-korei, Rabbi Elie Levi. Vayechi is the final parsha in Sefer Bereishis, and is the culmination of the story of Yosef and Yaakov that defines the beginning of the shibud Mitzraim, the grueling exile foretold by G-d to Avraham: “Know with certainty that your offspring shall be aliens in a land not their own – and they will serve them, and they will oppress them – four hundred years” (Bereishis 15:13). The parsha is described by Rashi as סתומה, closed, because in the entire Sefer Torah, Parshas Vayechi is unique in that there is no extra space between it and Parshas Vayigash, in contrast to the general rule that a Sidrah begins on a new line or that it is separated from the previous one by at least a nine-letter space (Artscroll Stone Chumash). Rashi asks: Why is this passage “closed”? He answers: Because once our forefather Yaakov passed away, the eyes and heart of Israel were closed because of the suffering of the

enslavement, for the Mitzrim began to enslave them. Breaks between passages are intended to provide for a pause for contemplation (see Rashi to Vayikra 1:1). The Be’er BaSadeh relates that the change in the Bnei Yisroel’s relationship with the Mitzrim came so suddenly that they did not have the opportunity to pause and contemplate their situation. The Tur adds that immediately after Yaakov’s death, the “spiritual” exile began, even though the physical and emotional travails of enslavement did not commence until after the death of all his sons. Rashi agrees, and states that although the enslavement did not begin until the last of the sons of Yaakov had died, that refers to enforced enslavement. With the death of Yaakov, however, the Mitzrim began to cajole the Bnei Yisroel into hard labor (Mizrachi; Sifsei Chachamim).

Alternatively, Rashi suggests that the passage is “closed” because Yaakov wished to reveal the end to his sons, but it was “closed” off from him (Bereishis Rabbah 96:1). “Then Yaakov called for his sons and said, ‘Assemble yourselves and I will tell you what will befall you in the End of Days’” (Bereishis 49:1). Rashi explains that Yaakov wished to reveal the end to his sons, “the ultimate conclusion of all the exiles of the Jewish people,” but the Shechinah departed from him and he began to say other things; he proceeded to give them each a blessing.

It seems to me that the last two parshios, Vayigash and Vayechi, could be considered the “bridge” between Sefer Bereishis and Sefer Shemos. In fact, as the Ramban points out, the opening phrases of Shemos are identical to those found in Vayigash (Bereishis 46:8); the earlier verse introduces the exile, whereas the verse in Shemos “picks up the thread of the narrative and continues it” (R’ Bachya). R’ Yaakov Kamenetsky explained that Yaakov Avinu was like the sun, and his sons were like stars. When the sun is out, stars are not visible, but when the sun sets, the stars take over the sky. So too, after Yaakov’s death, the tribal ancestors achieved greater importance, for the presence of their light in the increasing darkness of the exile in Mitzraim kept hope alive in their offspring (Artscroll Stone Chumash). I would like to suggest that perhaps this was the reason Yaakov wished to reveal the End of Days to his sons before he blessed them. Yaakov clearly foresaw not only the exile and redemption from Mitzraim, but also the Final Exile and Redemption. I believe that he was attempting to bring hope and comfort to his sons; that they should pass down to their descendants that following a long and bitter exile, comes redemption. Although Yaakov was zoche to be shown the “End of Days” before his death, Hashem had His reasons for “closing” it off, preventing him from revealing it to his sons. Just as Sefer Bereishis flows into Sefer Shemos, so too does the leadership of

Yaakov Avinu seem to flow to the leadership of Moshe Rabbeinu. It was Moshe, not Yaakov, who would reveal Hashem's Ways and be the one to teach Yaakov's descendants, through His Torah, the path a Jew should follow that leads us to the End of Days and the Final Redemption.

So here we are today standing on the threshold of the "End of Days" that Yaakov wished to reveal to his sons. The Torah uses a double language to describe the "End of Days," as Yaakov says to his sons: "Assemble yourselves and I will tell you what will befall you **אשר יקרא אתכם** in the End of Days" (Bereishis 49:1), literally, "what will call to you." By using the root **קרא**, "call," instead of **קרה**, "befall," Yaakov taught that whatever event may "befall you," it must be understood as a "call" from G-d, for nothing is haphazard; everything has a purpose. It is for us to "hear" and seek to understand the call (R' Hirsch). In this context, the commentators generally concur that the "End of Days" refers to the era of Mashiach.

The Nesivos Shalom writes: "Our Sages taught that if the Jewish people are worthy, Hashem will hasten the redemption's arrival, and if they are not worthy, Hashem will bring it at its appointed time. The great Chassidic Rebbes cited the verse, 'Your people are all righteous' (Yeshayahu 60:21) and commented that this means that when the Jewish people are all united together, they are all considered righteous. This is the secret that was essential for Yaakov to reveal: even if Israel is unworthy, they should 'assemble themselves,' unite and gather together, and thereby become worthy of the redemption." This, says the Nesivos Shalom, is also the meaning of the teaching of our Sages that Yaakov wanted to reveal the "End of Days" and the Shechinah

departed from him. He writes: "The Chassidic Rebbes explained that if the Jewish people are worthy, the redemption will come sooner. Yaakov wanted to reveal the appointed time because he thought that Israel would be undeserving and he was giving advice for such a situation. He revealed that which was necessary to survive if they would be undeserving. They should join together and thereby will draw the light of Mashiach. This is the portion that Yaakov revealed, while the appointed time for the redemption – when it will come even if the Jewish people do nothing to deserve it – was not revealed." This, adds the Nesivos Shalom, is also part of "Assemble yourselves and I will tell you what will befall you in the End of Days." When the Jewish people unite, all evil will disappear, and this is a form of redemption. This was one of the novelties of the path of the holy Baal Shem Tov; the concept of a holy group tied together **איש אחד בלב אחד**, as one man with one heart, for this draws Divine illumination and the light of Mashiach. May we all be zoche to reach these levels of unity and bring Mashiach and the End of Days. A gutten Shabbos.

*-Lev Avraham Rosenstock*

### Yahrzeits

Giving tzedakah in the name of the departed has the power to elevate their soul. When you give charity on behalf of your loved one, consider giving to Tiferes Yisroel. And may the soul of your loved one be bound in the bond of life, together with the souls of Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov; Sarah, Rivka, Rachel and Leah; and together with the other righteous men and women in Gan Eden.

Abraham Hisler, Avraham ben Sender a"h, 22 Teves, father of Ira Hisler and Fran Hisler

William Beleck, Ze'ev ben Shimon HaKohen a"h, 24 Teves, father of Mordechai Beleck  
Richard Hochschild Hutzler a"h, 24 Teves, father of Talia Raun  
Laurence Louis Rosenfelt, Eliezer Lazar ben Mordechai a"h, 25 Teves, father of Bob Rosenfelt  
Mildred Goldsmith, Malka bas Yehuda Leib a"h, 19 Teves, grandmother of Caryn Blum  
Sylvie Grossman, Chava Simcha bas Yaakov a"h, 19 Teves, wife of Moshe Shaul Grossman  
Toby Swichkow, Toybeh Shaynah bas Moshe Fishel HaKohen a"h, 20 Teves, mother of Brooke Brodsky  
Sausa Etta bas Avigdor a"h, 21 Teves, grandmother of Victor Reznick a"h  
Nannette Winter a"h, 22 Teves, grandmother of Gail Feinstein  
Shaindle Reznick, Shaindle bas Yisroel Leib a"h, 23 Teves, mother of Victor Reznick a"h, grandmother of Howard Reznick  
Zillah Kruger Ezra, Tzyrl bas Dovid v'Yenta Baila a"h, 24 Teves, mother of Jared Ezra

### Parsha Poem

Oh, bury me not by the river Nile,  
The home of the jackal and the crocodile,  
Crimson with the blood of slaves,  
Let me rest, instead, in Efron's cave.

Please don't leave my bones behind,  
When finally comes the redemption time,  
In far Shechem, that's where I'll sleep,  
Where my brothers tended speckled sheep.

### From This Week's Daf

**"R' Mani bar Patish said: Which Tanna maintains that lesser guarding suffices for a muad? It is R' Yehudah, as we learned in a Mishnah: If its owner tied [the ox] with a rein, or locked the gate before it properly, but it went out and damaged, whether it is a tam or a muad, [the owner] is liable: these are the words of R' Meir. R' Yehudah says: If it is a tam, [the owner] is liable. However, if it is a muad, he is not liable, because it is stated: And its owner did not guard it, whereas this one was guarded. R' Eliezer says: It has no means of guarding except the knife." (Bava Kamma 55b)**

### Community

- **December 31:** The women of the community are invited to join Mesorah Baltimore as we welcome Rebbetzin Esti Hamilton for a shiur entitled **"Leading with Faith,"** at 10:30 am at Bnai Jacob Shaarei Zion. There is a \$10 charge for non Mesorah Baltimore members. For more info, please contact mesorah@mesorahbaltimore.org
- **January 1:** N'shei Agudath Israel of Baltimore presents a new series of halacha shiurim for women, **"Caring for Children on Shabbos,"** at 9 pm in the ladies balcony at Agudath of Park Heights. Suggestions for

### PUSHKA CAMPAIGN

### Participants

Sign up by emailing shlomhuva@aol.com. The pushka challenge is to put whatever amount of money one is able into a pushka every day or as often as possible. The recommended amount is only 36 cents a day.

When your pushka is full, please empty it into a ziplock bag marked with your name, and drop it into our locked mailbox at 3310 W. Strathmore Avenue. If it is difficult for you to drop it off, please contact Shlomo and Ahuva Goldberger at 410-358-4456 to arrange a pickup. If you need a shul pushka, you may take one from the shul window sill, and they will be replenished as needed.

### Latest contributors:

Rabbi and Rebbetzin Goldberger

Rabbi and Rebbetzin Goldberger  
Shulamis Heldoorn  
Klara Margaretten  
Jerry and Eileen Rosenbaum  
Lev Avraham and Rachel Rosenstock  
Elaine Tuchman

Running total for 5784:

**\$881.40**

future topics should be directed to Mrs. Miriam Sidell at [sidellmiriam1@gmail.com](mailto:sidellmiriam1@gmail.com) or 443-794-3336.

- **January 3:** A Single Impact invites from single, divorced, or widowed women and men of all ages to “**Parsha and Pizza**” on **Wednesday nights**, with a variety of speakers! Next class will be on January 3, from 8:00 to 9:00 pm. Cost is \$3.00 per person; sponsorships available. For more information, or to RSVP, please go to: [asingleimpact.com/event/pizza](http://asingleimpact.com/event/pizza).

## Coming Up

- **January 27:** Aufruf for Avi Pear.

## Used Book Sale

Our used book sale is located upstairs outside the Bais Medrash. All proceeds go to the shul. Most titles are still \$5 or less. There are many new titles each week.

## Refuah Shalaimah to

- Raizy Cohen, Raiselle bas Sarah
- Risha Saperstein, Risha Yonah bas Masha Shusha
- Sima Cooperman Rosenfelt, Sima bas Sarah
- Emunah Friedman, Emunah L'Or bas Naches
- Saul Cohen, Saul HaCohen ben Feiga Bryna

**No Peanuts!** The shul is peanut-free. In consideration of our members with peanut allergies, please refrain from bringing peanut products into the shul.

**Fragrances.** In consideration of our members and guests who are allergic to fragrances, or who are sensitive enough that they are unable to daven, we ask that you wear your fragrances and hairspray as lightly as possible so that other people are not aware of it.

**Mitzvah Cards.** For \$18, you get four cards that you can mail out yourself. For \$10, we will send the card out for you, and your donation will be announced in the Lev Echad.

To purchase mitzvah cards, please contact Glenna Ross at [mitzvahcards@tiferesyisroel.org](mailto:mitzvahcards@tiferesyisroel.org).

**Ride G'mach.** Call the Ride G'mach at 410-358-RIDE (7433). We need ride offers when anyone drives interstate, any direction. Not door-to-door, just city-to-city.

**Shul Rentals.** To reserve the use of the shul's Simcha Hall or the Nancy Taffel Annex, please contact Eileen Rosenbaum at 410-764-8443 or

[facilityrental@tiferesyisroel.org](mailto:facilityrental@tiferesyisroel.org). For availability, go to [www.tiferesyisroel.org](http://www.tiferesyisroel.org), and click on the “Calendar” button on the left. This online calendar is kept up-to-date continuously.

**Sponsorships.** To arrange your sponsorship of the Lev Echad, email [levechad@tiferesyisroel.org](mailto:levechad@tiferesyisroel.org). Please send your donation to Congregation Tiferes Yisroel, 6201 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215 or make your donation on the website.

To sponsor Shemen Lamaor for a month or the Lev Echad for a week, the donation is \$36. To sponsor Father/Son Learning for a week, the donation is \$90. Half-sponsorships are also available for \$45.

For the following, please contact Caryn Blum [carynblum@icloud.com](mailto:carynblum@icloud.com):

Siddur \$50

Chumash \$75

Yahrzeit Plaque \$360

Other seforim may be dedicated as well.

## TY SHIURIM SCHEDULE

(Unless otherwise noted, all shiurim listed here are for men only)

### Sunday:

- 9:15-10 am: Men's **Gemara Sukkah** shiur given by Rabbi Goldberger following Shacharis. Rashi, selected Tosfos and Maharshas.

- **Women's Tehillim** for cholim at 10:15 am. (Please contact Rebbetzin Bracha for your assignment).

- 8:00 pm: Men's **Semichas Chaver Program** with Rabbi Elie Levi.

### Monday:

**Rambam's Hilchos Tefillah** with Rabbi Goldberger following Maariv.

### Tuesday:

- 7:35 pm: **Kitzur Shulchan Aruch** with Rabbi Goldberger followed by Maariv.

### Wednesday:

- **Rabbeinu Bachya** with Jay Taffel following Maariv.

### Daily (Monday-Friday):

- Every morning following davening - Dvar Halacha by Rabbi Goldberger and Rabbi Yehuda Leib Goldberger.

### Shabbos:

- 8:00 am: **Daf Yomi** shiur with Rabbi Yehuda Leib before Shacharis.
- After davening Friday night: **Sidduro Shel Shabbos**, with Nossi Gross.
- After Mussaf on Shabbos morning: **Sidduro Shel Shabbos**, with Nossi Gross.

## OFFICERS

- **President** Binny Margolese, [president@tiferesyisroel.org](mailto:president@tiferesyisroel.org)
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- **Davening Schedule** Jay Taffel 410-358-9029
- **Kol HaNaarim** Rabbi Elie Levi 410-318-8932
- **Gabbai Rishon** Jay Taffel 410-358-9029
- **Gabbai Sheni** Mo Margolese 410-358-7387
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- **Supplies Ordering** Shulamis Heldoorn 443-540-0199 [suppliesordering@tiferesyisroel.org](mailto:suppliesordering@tiferesyisroel.org)
- **Tzeischem L'Shalom Coordinator** Aaron Pearlman [aaronpearlman@gmail.com](mailto:aaronpearlman@gmail.com)
- **Used Books** Steve Schwarz 410-446-8330 [simchamelech@aol.com](mailto:simchamelech@aol.com)
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- **Yahrzeit Records** Alisa Mandel 410-963-2977 [yahrzeits@tiferesyisroel.org](mailto:yahrzeits@tiferesyisroel.org)

Lev Echad Deadline:  
**Wednesday, noon**  
[levechad@tiferesyisroel.org](mailto:levechad@tiferesyisroel.org)

*Good Shabbos!*

**Rabbi Goldberger's Shul  
Congregation Tiferes Yisroel**

6201 Park Heights Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
410-764-1971  
[tiferesyisroel.org](http://tiferesyisroel.org)