

Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim



Nov. 25, 2016, Chayei Sarah 18 Cheshvan 5777

Chayei Sarah Times & Number.

Candle Lighting- 4:14
 Mincha- 4:15
 Shacharit- 9:00 am
 NO TeenMinyan
 (Kushner Shabbaton)
 Junior Cong.- 10:15
 Tot Shabbat- 10:15 upstairs
 Mincha- 4:10 pm
 Shabbat Ends- 5:16



NO MITZVOT IN THIS PARSHA

Although none of the *Taryag* (613) *mitzvot* are counted from *Chayeh Sarah*, we learn about burial of the dead, and funeral practices such as eulogizing the dead. We also find lessons relating to marriage in this *Parsha*.

NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 105
 NUMBER OF WORDS: 1402
 NUMBER OF LETTERS: 5314

NEW BEGINNER*TEFILLAH CLASS

Last week's Beginner's Tefillah Class was such a success we will be doing it again on December 17th!

Led by our very own **Rabbi David Bendory**, we now offer a beginner's learning prayer service open to men, women and teens. Rabbi Bendory will take you on a journey through our Siddur as you will learn the ins and outs of davening.

CHANUKAH: BEHIND THE MENORAH- 2 weeks left!

Yoni's NEW 6-part after school class for teens studying the fascinating history of The Maccabess, Chanukah, its traditions & what they mean today.

THIS WEEK- TUE. NOV. 29, 6:00-7:00PM. Non-members welcome.

FRESH PIZZA & PASTRIES!

Congregation Etz Chaim: www.etzchaimnj.org
 Rabbi Sam Kliбанoff
 Rabbi Natan Kapustin, Assistant Rabbi
 Presidents: Neil Kaplan & Allan Schall
 Youth Director: Yoni Glatt

MATCHMAKER, MATCHMAKER, FIND ME A FIND...

While Avraham is an old man of 137, his son Yitzchak is no spring chicken at the age of 40. It is time for Yitzchak to get married. Avraham calls upon his servant Eliezer to find Yitzchak a wife. This is no simple task. The local ladies of Canaan just won't do. They've had a curse attached to them since the days of Noach. So Avraham sends Eliezer to Charan, Avraham's home country, where he might find the right girl. With any *mazal*, Eliezer will find a woman from Avraham's own family to marry Yitzchak. Eliezer heads out for Charan loaded with gifts for the lucky lady. He also has a letter from Avraham guaranteeing that Yitzchak will inherit all of his father's possessions.

The trip to Charan should take 17 days, but *Hashem* sweeps Eliezer along the super-*shidach* highway and gets him there in only three hours! Eliezer finds himself by a well; this is where the daughters of the townspeople draw water in the early evening. Eliezer is sure that if the right girl for Yitzchok is out there, she will go out to the well, but how will Eliezer know which girl is the one? He devises a little test. In a prayer to *Hashem*, Eliezer decides that since Yitzchak needs a charitable girl, whichever girl offers him and his camels a drink will be the one. What's so tough about that test, you may ask. Well, did you ever see how much water a camel can drink? *Hashem* helps Eliezer out: The first girl he meets is Rivka, and sure enough, she offers the Camels a drink too. Rivka reveals that she is the daughter of Besuel. BINGO! Besuel is Avraham's nephew, his brother Nachor's son. Rivka also offers Eliezer and his camels a place to stay.

Rivkah certainly seems to know that Midot Matter Most, and she is truly an altruist (See opposite page). She is a tzadekes, one we should all try to emulate. You may no longer be able to give water to your guest's camels, but you can still try to make them as comfortable as possible. Doing *Gemilut Chasadim* (acts of kindness) certainly worked out for Rivkah- after all, she got quite the match.

"Quote of the Week"

"Civilization began the first time an angry person cast a word instead of a rock."

-Sigmund Freud

DID YOU KNOW.....

Did you know that the movie *RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK* isn't totally inaccurate when it comes to what happened to the Holy Ark? (Spoiler Alert) In the movie, cinema's greatest hero, Indiana Jones, finds the Ark in Egypt. In real life a Pharaoh named Shishak did in fact plunder Jerusalem a few years after King Solomon's death and took many of Israel's riches back to Egypt- the Ark could have been included. However, it is more likely the original Ark (don't forget- there were two!) is either buried deep in the area of the Kotel tunnels or in Har Nevo. There are other highly unlikely theories that the Ark's in Rome Ethiopia, Yemen, South Africa or England.

MIDDLE RIDDLE ??????

THE FIRST KID WHO TELLS YONI THE ANSWER GETS \$3 MM, THE SECOND GETS \$2, & THE THIRD GETS \$1- NO TELLING THE ANSWER!

Og visits Sarah with news of Akaydat Yitzchak
He says her son's dead and she dies of shock
This is a Torah story that you may know
But this great Rav proves it probably wasn't so

Last Week:

Two Jewish men split a loaf of bread. One ate half and had to say *birchat hamazon* (Grace After Meals). The other ate the other half and did not have to say *birchat hamazon*. How is this possible?

A- Guy #2 just nibbled the bread over a long period of time, never eating a kazayit

**MORAH GOLDSTEIN &
YONI GOLD ARE BOTH
RETURNING NEXT
SHABBAT OF DEC. 3-
STAY TUNED FOR INFO
ON MEALS AND
PROGRAMMING**

SHABBAS MAGIC!

With Magician **JOE GILL**

Our incredible
monthly magic
workshop!

Returning this
Shabbat Dec. 17th
For grades 1-7 only.

LEARN HOW TO DO
MAGIC,
ILLUSIONS, AND
JUGGLING!

**MIDOT MATTER MOST:
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO
SAY "PLEASE", DON'T
BOTHR ASKING.**

Altruism- Al·tru·ism

(אַלְטְרוּיִזְם) *n.*

1. Unselfish concern for the welfare of others; selflessness.
2. Zoology-behavior by an animal that is not beneficial to or may be harmful to itself but that benefits others of its species.

TORAH GREATS: R' MORDECAI BEN HILLEL C. 1250-1298

Little is known of Rav Mordechai's early life. He belonged to one of the most prominent families of scholars in Germany and he and his wife Zelda had five children. His principal teacher was Meir ben Baruch of Rothenburg. He witnessed many cruel pogrom that destroyed whole communities and centers of learning. Perhaps because of his tragic experiences he devoted his entire life to gather, record, and analyze much of the Talmudic literature which had been created in the course of several centuries before him. In this way he rendered an everlasting service to our people, for where it not for him, most of this learning would have been lost during those troublesome times.

About 1291 the family moved to Goslar, Germany. But his right of residence there was disputed by Moses Tako, the local rabbi; although the suit was decided in Mordechai's favor, it was conducted with such bitterness that Mordechai left Goslar and settled at Nuremberg. For the next seven years, he operated a Yeshiva there which attracted students from all over Europe. Then catastrophe struck Germany. A civil war started, and as was so often the case in the Middle Ages, the Jews became victims of false blood libel accusations. They were scapegoats, and easy prey for finances. Thus, 72 Jews of the town of Sinzig were locked in a small synagogue and burned alive by a cruel mob. Rav Mordecai wrote Lamentations which were included in the Selichoth (Prayers said on Fast Days) to mourn the death of the martyrs.

Soon after a fanatic Jew hater named Lord Rindtfleisch led a pogrom across Germany, killing Jews which he said he did "in the name of heaven". Sadly, Rindtfleisch's mob continued to grow; more and more communities were slaughtered. Eventually the mob reached Neurenberg, where Rabbi Mordechai fought bravely to his death, refusing the reprieve offered if converted to Christianity. There were another 621 Jews who refused & died as martyrs. Tragically, his wife and children were killed as well. King Albert I eventually caught and hanged Rindtfleisch, but the damage was done: 146 communities were destroyed and some sources say as many as 100,000 Jews were killed (though many scholars say that number was much smaller). Rav Mordecai's life work, *Sefer Hamordechai*, was published after his death. To this very day, The Mordecai is an inexhaustible source of knowledge to all Talmud scholars.