

KIDDUSH /SHALOSH SEUDOT FUND

Mr. Larry Bernstein for his father
 Mrs. Linda Borenstein for her mother
 Mrs. Ruth Goldschmidt for her mother
 Stanley and Eugene Goodman for their father
 Mrs. Gloria Greenman for her father
 Ms. Jacqueline Insel for her mother
 Mr. Ernest Kahn for his mother
 In recognition
 Gladys and Matthew Maryles in honor of the birth of a great grandson

Marilyn David IVDU Upper School is looking for businesses to allow student to volunteer by them in the following industries:

- IT networking, wiring or any placement that involves hardware.
 - Office work such as scanning, data entry, phone calls
 - Graphic Design
 - Jewelry making
 - Hair/ Wig Salon
- Please speak with Sheldon David [917 450-9502](tel:9174509502)

Choir Fund

If you enjoyed the davening this past Shabbat and would like to have more services like it, become a sponsor of our "Choir Fund". Pay either on line at our website (yiflatbush.com or .org), or by check to the *Young Israel of Flatbush*. Either way remember to earmark it "Choir Fund".
 Choir Master- \$500 Sponsor -\$50

ALL OCCASION CARDS ARE AVAILABLE THRU YIF
 For purchases or more information please contact: Sylvia Hoffman at 718-252-6270.

Mazal Tov to Gladys and Matthew Maryles upon the birth of a great-grandson, Roeh Eitan, born to their grandchildren, Yahav and Aryeh Jacobowitz, of Yakir, Israel. Mazal Tov also to the grandparents, Robin and Bezalel Jacobowitz of Jerusalem, and the entire family.

Mazel Tov to Tamar and Jacob Lazaros on the birth of a boy. Mazal tov to the grandparents, Donna and Michael Lazaros and Leslie and Richard Grazi. Mazal Tov to the great-grandparents, and all the aunts, uncles and cousins.

THE YIF EDUCATION PROGRAM—5778

The Shiurei HaShanah for 5778 are sponsored by
 Dr. Beverly Lipschitz
 In Memory of her Parents
 Sylvia Lipschitz a”h
 (Shulamis bat Harav Yehoshua Hessel)
 and
 Jack Lipschitz a”h
 (Yaakov Yitzchak ben Harav Meyer)
 And her brother
 Herbert A. Lipschitz a”h
 (Tzvi Aba ben Yaakov Yitzchak)

Great Controversies in Jewish History

Each week we will study a different event or issue that created a major division in the Jewish Nation.

The classes will meet at 10:00 AM in the Beth Hamedrash

Open to both men and women.

Monday, December 11, 2017
 Beit Hillel and Bet Shammai - What Fueled Their Endless Halachic Disagreements?

The Young Israel would like to thank Barbara Stern and Family for the dedication of our AED (defibrillator) cabinet in memory of her father Shimon Michael ben Yechiel HaKohen A”H

Anyone who wishes to speak at Shalosh Seudot please contact Arye Stein, 718-435-2145, or call the office.

Kriyat HaTorah for Bereshith

Sponsored by

Ellen and Mitch Bemak

In memory of Loved Ones A”H

**YOUNG ISRAEL
 OF FLATBUSH**

BULLETIN

**Sponsor a
 Shiur in
 honor of a
 loved one.**

**PARSHAT: VAYESHEV
 HAFTORAH: KO AMAR**



PARSHAT VAYESHEV



December 8-9, 2017

21 Kislev, 5778

EREV SHABBAT

Candle Lighting 4:11 PM
 Mincha 4:16 PM
 SHABBAT
 Shacharit 7:45 AM, 8:45 AM
 Latest Kriat Shema 9:28 AM
 Torah: Bereshith 37:1 Artscroll Page 198
 Haftorah: for Vayeshev Artscroll Page 1142
 Afternoon
 Talmud Class 3:05 PM
 Mincha 4:05 PM
 Shalosh Seudot Speaker:
 Rabbi Mordechai Ziemba
 Maariv 5:12 PM
 Shabbat ends: 5:17 PM

WEEKDAY

Sunday 6:45 & 8:00 AM
 Monday 6:35 & 8:00 AM
 Tuesday 6:45 & 8:00 AM
 Wednesday 6:35 & 8:00 AM
 Thursday 6:35 & 8:00 AM
 Friday 6:35 & 8:00 AM
 Candle Lighting next Friday 4:12 PM
 Mincha Next Friday 4:17 PM
 Mishnayot Class: 15 minutes before
 1st Minyan Monday - Friday
 Daf Yomi 7:20 am Sunday - Friday
 Daily Mincha this week: 4:15 PM
 Maariv following immediately

Join us prior to Shacharit at 8:35 AM in the Main Shul Shabbat morning for a short shiur on the Haftorah of the week

Chanukah -Tuesday Dec.12 - Wednesday, Dec. 20

5:00 PM - Best time to light
 3:35 PM - Earliest time to light

(Candles must burn until 5:30 PM)

Chanukah - Shacharit
 Wed. - Fri. 6:35 & 8 AM
 Next Week
 Sunday 6:45 & 8 AM
 Mon. - Wed. 6:30 & 8 AM

Norman Rosenblum, President Sherine Levine, Sisterhood President
 Kenneth Auman, Rabbi, rabbi.k.auman@gmail.com
 Howard Stern, Gabbai, Ezrame@aol.com
 Arye Stein, Weekday Gabbai

(718 377-4400) Website: www.yiflatbush.org, yiflatbush.com, email: yiflatbush@gmail.com

Tamar's Twins
by Rabbi Abba Wagensberg

Among the many events in this week's parsha is the story of Yehuda's daughter-in-law, Tamar, giving birth to twins. The Torah goes into substantial detail about this event (Genesis 38:27-30): As Tamar is giving birth, the hand of one twin emerges, and the midwife ties a string around it so she will know which child was born first. This baby then draws back his hand and his brother, Peretz, is born. Only then does Tamar give birth to the baby with the string on his hand, who is named Zerach.

All the details about this birth seem unnecessary, especially given that the Torah recounts almost nothing further about Peretz and Zerach. The Torah does not describe the births of Abraham or many other great personalities. What is the relevance of the play-by-play description of the birth of these twins?

The Kedushat Levi provides a metaphorical understanding of this passage that will help us gain deeper insight. The Talmud (Niddah 30b) teaches that every unborn baby has a candle lit at its head, and the baby's soul can see from one end of the world to the other. When the baby emerges from its mother's womb, an angel taps it on the lips, and the baby forgets all the Torah it learned in the womb.

According to the Kedushat Levi, this tap on the lips should be understood not as a punishment, but rather as a Divine gift. This world is filled with temptation, and knowledge is sometimes misused to pursue corrupt goals. At the moment of birth, God takes away all our knowledge so that we will enter this world in a state of purity. The innocence of infancy enables us to begin life with a pure, complete connection to God.

As we grow and mature, God creates a barrier (*mehitza*), making it more difficult for us to achieve the complete Divine connection that was so natural for us as children. Nevertheless, we can use our mature intelligence to reconnect to God - if we realize that this world is purposeless for its own sake. Our Sages state this idea succinctly: "The more flesh, the more worms" (Avot 2:7). Pure physicality, devoid of purpose, lacks meaning.

This is hinted to in the names Peretz and Zerach: We can choose to use our intelligence to recognize this, and to connect to God by breaking through (*paratz*) the barrier that our knowledge creates. Once this barrier is broken, God will shine (*zarach*) a holy light upon us.

SHINING LIGHT

On a deeper level, this is the lesson that the Torah is conveying to us through the story of the birth of Tamar's twins. The paradigm of birth applies to all of us, hinting to our desire to recreate ourselves and grow in positive directions. At the beginning of the passage describing the birth, the Torah tells us, "*and he put out his hand*" (Genesis 38:28). This can be understood as God extending His hand - a metaphorical interpretation of the Divine assistance we receive at birth when our knowledge is removed, enabling us to begin life in a state of purity without succumbing to temptation.

The next verse, "*and he withdrew his hand*" (Genesis 38:29), can be understood as God removing His assistance as we mature, since the barrier of knowledge makes it more difficult to connect to the Divine.

When the Torah states, "*And behold! his brother emerged,*" we have a hint to the birth of a child, coming into the world with the potential to come close to the Divine and to reach a state of "brotherhood," as it were, with God.

As we grow up and our knowledge matures, we can make the choice to break (*paratz*) the intellectual barriers that separates us from God. This makes us worthy of the name Peretz (literally, "breaking"). When we make this choice, God shines (*zorey'ach*) a holy light upon us, as is indicated by the name Zerach (literally, "shining").

The story of this birth appears in so much detail because it does not refer only to Peretz and Zerach; rather, it hints to the possibilities inherent in every birth. The Torah teaches us that we all have the potential to reconnect to God as we grow and mature.

May we be blessed to use our intellectual capacities to break down all barriers and regain our innate innocence and purity so that God will shine upon us the holy light.

BITS of INFO

Synopsis of current events from various news sources
Gleaned and Edited by Sherine Levine

✧ Every nation in the world has the right to designate its own capital - except for Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East. This historic decision will ultimately serve the cause of peace and reconciliation. Millions of people of all faiths have flocked to Jerusalem since 1967, knowing that unlike the years preceding the Six-Day War, everyone's rights to visit and pray are protected. Like President Harry Truman's singular recognition of the State of Israel, President Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel will be a seminal moment in Jewish history. [Rabbi Marvin Hier, Simon Wiesenthal Center]

✧ Canada will not follow the United States lead and recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, a move that was hailed by Canada's mainstream Jewish organizations. The Canadian embassy, like those of other countries, is in Tel Aviv. The press secretary for Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland said, "Canada's long-standing position is that the status of Jerusalem can be resolved only as part of a general settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli dispute." [Canadian Jewish News]

✧ Following Trump's lead, Czech Republic recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's Capital. A statement from the Czech Foreign Ministry noted: "... can start considering moving the Czech embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem only based on results of negotiations with key partners in the region and in the world." Czech President Milos Zeman is known for his pro-Israel views. [Algemeiner]

✧ The Arab League does not recognize the State of Israel, so it should come as no surprise that they do not recognize Jerusalem as its capital. Threatening violence in the event that the U.S. recognizes this fact should also come as no surprise. Prior to the establishment of the Jewish state, among others, the League took the following steps: ✓December 1945, the Arab League launched a boycott of "Zionist goods" that continues to this day; ✓December 1946, it rejected the first proposed Palestine partition plans, reaffirming "that Palestine is a part of the Arab motherland;" ✓October 1948, it rejected the UN "Partition Plan" for Palestine adopted by the General Assembly in Resolution 181. [Eli E. Hertz, mythsandfacts.org]

✧ Yonatan Razel, a popular *haredi* Israeli singer, covered his eyes with tape during a Jerusalem concert so he would not have to see women dancing. Watching women dance is considered forbidden in Orthodox Jewish law, but Razel's move at last Sunday's concert is being called unprecedented. He covered his eyes for a few minutes at the show in the International Conference Center when some women began to dance in front of the crowd near the stage. He removed the tape for the rest of the concert, after the women finished dancing. Razel's move prompted some criticism online and from women's groups. [JTA]

RECIPE

We eat foods fried in oil in commemoration of the miracle of Chanukah and the oil that lasted eight days. Sometimes it's interesting to try variations on our favorite recipes. Enjoy! Remember to send your favorite recipe to eahlieb@aol.com

Grilled Cheese Latkes (Melinda Strauss/My Jewish Learning.com)

2-3 large potatoes, peeled (2 cups grated)
1 egg
3 Tbsp plain bread crumbs
1 tsp salt
¼ tsp pepper
3 Tbsp butter
3 Tbsp light olive oil
5-10 slices cheddar cheese

Line a large bowl with a kitchen towel and line a baking sheet with two layers of paper towels.

Peel and grate the potatoes and place them in the towel then squeeze out all of the liquid from the potatoes. Discard the liquid then place the dried potatoes in the bowl.

Stir in the egg, bread crumbs, salt and pepper until combined. In a heavy saucepan, heat 1 tablespoon of butter and 1 tablespoon of olive oil over medium-low heat. To test if the oil/butter mixture is hot enough, drop a small piece of the potato mixture into the pan and if bubbles form around the edges, the oil is ready.

Carefully place two ¼ cup-sized scoops of the potato mixture in the pan and cook for two minutes, until the latkes are browning on the bottom. Flip the latkes over carefully with a spatula and place 1-2 slices of cheddar cheese on one latke. Cook for one more minute then place the second latke on top of the cheese and press down. Cook for 30 seconds then flip over the grilled cheese latke sandwich, press down and cook for 30 more seconds.

Place the hot grilled cheese latkes on the paper towels to drain, then repeat this process to make 3-4 more sandwiches Drain latkes.

You can also add avocado or spinach to the cheese while cooking or switch it up with your favorite cheese.

