

KIDDUSH /SHALOSH SEUDOT FUND
 Mr. Larry Bernstein for his grandfather
 Mr. Stuart Blander for his mother
 Mrs. Gloria Bronfeld for her father
 Mrs. Sylvia Hoffman for her brother
 Mrs. Francine Kann for her mother
 Mrs. Zhanna Lipnitsky for her mother
 Dr. Beverly Lipschitz for her grandmother
 Mrs. Sandy Maryles for her father
 Mr. Jonathan Schussler for his grandfather
 In recognition
 Miriam and Larry Kutnicki in honor of the birth of a granddaughter

The Young Israel would like to thank all the Sponsors and Choirmasters to this coming year's Choir Fund.

Choirmaster
 Anonymous
 Ellen and Mitch Bemak
 Robyn and Eric Frohmann
 Freda Rosenfeld and Howard Wallick

Choir Sponsorship
 Anonymous
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 Sherine Levine
 Naomi Lipnick
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It's never too late to join and be a sponsor. Send your check to the office of pay online.

Mazal Tov to Barbara Schussler upon the Bat-Mitzvah of her granddaughter, Sophia Bess Mittman, daughter of Deborah and Benjamin Mittman of Merion Station, Pennsylvania. Mazal Tov to Sophia's brothers Ezra and Isaac.

Mazal Tov to Miriam & Larry Kutnicki on the the birth of a Granddaughter, Ruby Stella Chiger, daughter of Chana & Elliot Chiger of West Hempstead. Mazal Tov to Elliot's parents Beth Chiger & Neil Sambrowsky and to the Great Grandmothers Joyce Jakubovitz & Susan Hershkovits.

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, January 1, 2018
 Zealots and Pacifists - Idealism Clashes With Pragmatism Yielding Tragic Results.

PLEASE NOTE: Classes Monday morning may be cancelled due to the weather. Please check with Rabbi Auman before attending at 718-338-9412.

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

**PARSHAT: VAYECHI
 HAFTORAH: VAYIKREUV YEMEI DAVID**



December 29-30, 2017 **12 Tevet, 5778**

EREV SHABBAT	
Candle Lighting	4:19 PM
Mincha	4:24 PM
SHABBAT	
Shacharit	7:45 AM, 8:45 AM
Latest Kriat Shema	9:39 AM
Torah: Bereshith 47:28	Artscroll Page 268
Haftorah: for Vayechi	Artscroll Page 1145
Afternoon	
Talmud Class	3:15 PM
Mincha	4:15 PM
Shalosh Seudot Speaker:	Sheldon Kier
Maariv	5:21 PM
Shabbat ends:	5:26 PM

WEEKDAY	
Sunday	6:45 & 8:00 AM
Monday	6:45 & 8:00 AM Legal Holiday
Tuesday	6:45 & 8:00 AM
Wednesday	6:45 & 8:00 AM
Thursday	6:35 & 8:00 AM
Friday	6:45 & 8:00 AM
Candle Lighting next Friday	4:25 PM
Mincha Next Friday	4:30 PM
Mishnayot Class:	15 minutes before 1st Minyan Monday - Friday
Daf Yomi	7:20 am Sunday - Friday
Daily Mincha this week:	4:25 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

Upcoming Events

Saturday night at the Movies- Jan 20 7:30PM-*The Book Thief* (admission \$5; snack)

Zayin Adar Seudah- volunteers needed

Shaloch Manot Project- speak with Sherine Levine or Barbara Mazor to volunteer

Anniversary Dinner- join in the planning, date TBD

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

The Greatness of Man By Rabbi Ben Tzion Shafie

“And Yisroel came close to the day of his death, and he called to his son, to Yosef, and he said, “If I have found favor in your eyes, do to me a chessed and truth, please do not bury me in Mitzrayim.” – Bereishis 47:29

Rabbeinu Tam explains that Yaakov Avinu didn't want to be buried in Mitzrayim because this would prevent HASHEM from bringing the ten makkos (plagues) on the land in which he lay. Therefore, he asked Yosef to take an oath that he would not bury him there. This concept seems very difficult to understand. The makkos were critical for teaching emunah (belief) to the generations. Why would the mere presence of Yaakov's body, more than two hundred years after his death, prevent HASHEM from bringing the makkos?

The importance of man, the reason for Creation The answer to this question seems to be that the Torah has a vastly different understanding of the role of man and his importance than we commonly assume. The Mesillos Yesharim teaches us that since the world was created solely to serve man, its very existence is dependent upon him. When man uses the world appropriately, he becomes elevated, and the world becomes elevated through him. On the other hand, when man is pulled after the world, he becomes corrupted and thereby corrupts the very world that supports him. As the sole purpose of the world is to serve man, only when it is used properly does it have a reason to exist. When a tzaddik uses a part of the world, he provides that portion with its purpose in existence. Effectively, the tzaddik is the pillar and sustainer of the world he uses. Without him, that part shouldn't exist. But when a wicked man uses part of the world, he robs it of its reason to exist, and by that account, it should be destroyed.

Yaakov was the pillar of the world When a man reaches Yaakov Avinu's level of perfection, it isn't just the part of the world that he uses that fulfills its reason for existence. It isn't only his city or hometown that benefits. The entire world gains. On some level, the entire world is needed to support the tzaddik, and thereby serves the tzaddik. For there to be a land of Canaan, there needs to be a planet Earth, and for there to be a planet Earth, there must be a sun providing light, energy and heat. For there to be sun, there must be a Milky Way providing the gravitational balance to keep the sun in orbit. So just as Canaan cannot exist in a vacuum in space and is supported by the rest of the universe, so too everything the tzaddik uses is built on another part of the world, and thereby fulfills its purpose. Effectively, Yaakov Avinu kept the entire globe in existence. His proper use of the world was the sustaining factor for the entire Creation.

For that reason, the honor and respect due to him is beyond our imagination. For decades he was the foundation of the world - he alone kept the entire universe in existence - and as such, the credit due to him is too enormous to comprehend. The mere burial of his body in Mitzrayim would have been such a mitigating factor that HASHEM would have said (if it could be), “How can I bring plagues on that land? The body of Yaakov is buried there.”

Secular viewpoint - man is but one occupant of the planet This is an eye-opening example of the Torah view of the role of man and his importance. It is especially pertinent to us as it contrasts sharply against Western culture's almost universal disregard for the dignity of man. From the Western viewpoint, we are all occupants of the planet: the birds, the fish, the sheep, the cows, and man. Some fly, some crawl, and some walk, but our ancestry is the same, and so is our purpose and destiny. Even though we feel ourselves apart and distinct from the prevailing culture of the times, it still has an effect, often tainting our own thinking and attitudes. The real danger of a non-Torah perspective is that we begin to set our goals and aspirations according to those limiting beliefs. If the human is but an animal that walks and talks, then he is no different than the rest of the animal kingdom. How much can we expect from him? After all, the call of the wild dominates, and why should man be any different? He is but a beast, ruled by drives and passions. As such, we can't expect much from him beyond what we would expect from a dog or horse.

The Torah's view of man On the other hand, from the Torah's perspective, that man is unique in Creation. Not only does he tower over it, he is the reason for it all. The cosmos themselves depend on him for their very existence. This understanding allows a person to perceive his greatness and potential, to recognize what he is capable of, and to set his expectations and goals accordingly. One of the great truisms in life is that you live up to what you expect of yourself. Only when a person understands that he has almost limitless potential can he set lofty goals, aspire to them, and reach the potential that HASHEM has given him – to be a truly great individual, the reason for Creation.

BITS of INFO

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

✧ New Jersey announced it will divest from Danske Bank, Denmark's largest bank, after the bank stated it would not invest in two Israeli companies. Danske has blacklisted two Israeli defense contractors, Aryt Industries and Elbit Systems from investments for its customers. New Jersey is the third state to outlaw state business with Danske Bank. Previously, New York and Colorado stopped doing business with the bank due to their anti-boycott laws. A report stated that Danske has signed a \$593 million contract with 10 Iranian banks, including Bank Sepah which has a history of supporting Iran's missile program. [unitedwithisrael.org]

✧ On its Twitter account, Fatah posted a photo of a young boy hurling rocks with a slingshot, together with the following explanation to Palestinians how to best throw rocks: *In order to hit the target, there are three conditions: 1) Stand stably and balance your legs, arms, and body well; 2) Focus your gaze on the center of the target and do not look at anything else; 3) Keep the desired balance between your body and your weapon. You are the one that controls the weapon.* Rock throwing at cars has caused hundreds of injuries and many deaths, including the following babies who were killed by stones thrown at their family's cars: *Yehuda Haim Shoham (5 months); Jonathan Palmer (12 months; his father Asher was also killed); Adele Biton (age 3).* The five people convicted of murdering Adele were all teens. [PMW Bulletin]

✧ After Guatemala became the first country to follow the United States and recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the Deputy Foreign Minister announced that at least 10 other countries are in talks and could make the move as well. Israeli officials are being discreet about naming those countries in question so as not to prejudice the outcome. A Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed that the campaign to convince other nations to move their embassies is underway and gaining support, saying: “It's our policy not to speak about specific countries at this time because we want them to make their choice without undue pressure.” Media have speculated that the most likely nations to follow Guatemala are Honduras, Paraguay, Romania and Slovakia. [World Israel News]

✧ The Knesset approved a bill that would require Israeli officials to “consider Jewish tradition” when issuing permits to work on Shabbat. Under the current law, work can only take place on Shabbat if the Labor Minister determines that not performing the work would “harm national defense, physical security or property, or greatly damage the economy.” The newest version of the law requires that the Minister would also have to consider factors such as the effect on workers, if the work could successfully take place on a different day and the effect of violating Shabbat in the public sphere. The law passed early Tuesday morning on a second and third reading as part of a marathon Knesset session. [VosizNeias]

RECIPE

This chicken recipe has a little twist as it is made with cinnamon. Recent research found that cinnamon can increase your memory power. Please remember to send your favorite recipes to Leahlieb@aol.com.

Cinnamon Honey Chicken -
(The Bulletin, Nov. 22 2017)

Ingredients:

1½ cups dry red wine (or any wine)
2 tbsp cinnamon
1 cup honey
1/3 cup lemon juice
2 large cloves garlic, crushed
Salt and pepper to taste
3 lb whole chicken, or 8 chicken quarters

Mix together wine, cinnamon, honey, lemon juice, garlic, salt and pepper. Arrange chicken pieces in a single layer. Pour marinade over chicken, turn pieces to coat well. Refrigerate overnight, longer if desired; turn pieces occasionally.

Drain marinade and reserve. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-50 minutes; depending on the size of the pieces, basting with marinade and turning once or twice. If desired chicken can be grilled on outdoor barbecue.

UPDATED WEBSITE

Please visit our newly designed website
yiflatbush.org, or yiflatbush.com.

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