Rashi notes that the verse apparently only had to tell us that Yaakov travelled to Charan. What is the significance of the Torah pointing out his departure from Be’er Sheva?

Beis HaLevi explains that when a person travels from one city to another, many times the purpose of the departure is specifically in order to arrive at the second location. There are times, though, that the departure from one city is in order to leave the first city. Yaakov’s travels, however, had both purposes. On the one hand, Rivkah told Yaakov to go to Charan in order to leave the city in order that he would not feel the wrath of Esav, who wanted to kill him. On the other hand, Yitzchak told Yaakov to go to Charan in order to take a wife from the daughters of Lavan and not from Canaan. In order for Yaakov to fulfill his obligation of honoring his parents, he had to leave Be’er Sheva and he also had to travel to Charan. Therefore, the verse expounds that Yaakov went out from Be’er Sheva and also traveled to Charan.

PRAYER - OUR TOOL FOR GROWTH

Yaakov instituted the evening prayer, as the Torah says: “וַיַּעֲמֹד בְּכַפֹּס וַיַּסְבֵּן יָשָׁר וַיִּשְׁכַּב בְּאֶלְּפַיִם לְאָמָה לְאָמָה. “And he encountered the place and spent the night there because the sun had set.” Bereshis 28:11

What can we learn from the fact that Yaakov’s unique addition to our Minhagim is seemingly instituted at this particular point in his life? What is this moment in Yaakov’s life, and how do we understand its unique role in Minhagim?

Rabbi Tzvi Haskell notes that at this point Yaakov is just leaving the Yeshiva of Shem and Ever (see “הַבָּרְאָה לְיֵשׁוֹבָה בַּכַּפֹּס”). There he was totally immersed in Torah, resembling a heavenly existence, not yet encumbered with the enormous challenges that lay ahead of him. There he was able to bask and grow in a Torah environment unequaled even by Yitzchak’s household. Yet, how is one meant to create a bridge between such dissimilar worlds, one a world of spirituality resembling Olam Haba, the other the house of Lavan, which was full of lying and cheating that would challenge the integrity of even Yaakov Avinu?

Perhaps the Torah is teaching us that the bridge between these worlds is prayer. Only through prayer do the “mundane” aspects of this world become a tool for becoming close to Hashem. Only in יִשְׂרָאֵל can we transform those frightening challenges, even if we fail in the short term this time, into moments of a creation standing in front of his Creator begging Him to help him to not be swallowed up by the spiritual dangers that lurk around him. The relationship of יִשְׂרָאֵל and worldly dealing goes so far that Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato, in Derech Hashem, explains that the difficulties of providing a livelihood for one’s family are not meant to hinder יִשְׂרָאֵל, but rather to help it – to force a human to pray for his sustenance.

Thus it was particularly now that Yaakov achieved a new pinnacle in his life. No longer was he only the וַיִּשְׁכָּב בְּאֶלְּפַיִם, whose connection to Olam Hazeh was a fleeting one, where it could only be a hindrance. He now struggled with livelihood and honesty and used these difficulties as a source of becoming close to Hashem.

If the above is true, the application to our lives, with our constant worries,
ranging from large to small, is obvious. May we, too, be ever motivated to stand before our Creator and turn our challenges to our spirituality into opportunities.

GIVE AND THEREBY GAIN

The Gemara expounds upon the verse in Tehillim (112:3) that speaks of charity: “Wealth and riches are in his house, and his charity endures forever.” Rav Huna and Rav Chisdai each offered an explanation. One said that this refers to one who studies Torah and teaches it. And the other one said that this refers to one who writes Tanach scrolls and lends them to others. - Kesubos 50a

“Nevertheless, Leah and Rachel did not recognize their father’s worship at all. Their the same time, they worshipped idols as a medium between themselves and Hashem. At this, they proclaimed, (Bereshis 24:50) “This matter has eminated from God.” At the convincing story of the servant of Avraham and how he discovered Rivka by the road, Rivka, each possessed some degree of understanding of Hashem. When they heard the incidents, it is clear that even before Yaakov arrived, Leah and Rachel were endowed with special souls, and they knew intuitively that their lives were to be dedicated to the pursuit of the knowledge of Hashem. We find that our sages credit Avraham with recognizing Hashem when he was three years old. This means that he was blessed with a soul that led him to arrive at such a profound realization on his own. This, then, was also the case with Sarah, Rivka, Leah and Rachel. Their souls were inspired with a heavenly spirit which paved the way for each of them to understand the concept of Hashem and His worship. It is also important to note that Besuel and Lavan, the father and brother of Rivka, each possessed some degree of understanding of Hashem. When they heard the convincing story of the servant of Avraham and how he discovered Rivka by the road, they proclaimed, (Bereshis 24:50): “This matter has eminated from God.” At the same time, they worshipped idols as a medium between themselves and Hashem. Nevertheless, Leah and Rachel did not recognize their father’s worship at all. Their

Rav Huna and Rav Chisdai each elaborate and offer an example to understand the verse in Tehillim (112:3) which states that one has wealth and riches in his house, yet his righteousness endures forever. How can a person be righteous and maintain his wealth if his riches remain in his house? One Amora explains that the verse refers to one who is steeped in Torah, and he teaches it to others. Here, his knowledge remains with him, but he attains righteousness by sharing with others, at no loss to himself. The other Amora explains that the verse can refer to a person who writes or obtains scrolls or texts of Torah, and he shares them or lends them to others. Once again, he can hold on to his resource without its becoming depleted. By sharing with others and allowing them to use his library, he accumulates merit. Maharsha points out that the verse speaks of riches. Someone who has financial resources, and distributes a portion of his money to tzedakah, not only is not losing his money, but is also gaining a blessing. The Gemara (Taanis 9a) specifically assures us that we can be certain that giving tzedakah leads to prosperity.

We also find that not only does one who teaches Torah not lose, but he also actually gains in Torah knowledge, as we find (Taanis 7a): “I have learned much from my Rabbeim, and even more from my friends and comrades. But I have learned the most from my students.” In a practical sense, anyone who purchases sefarim and makes them available to a local yeshiva, beis midrash or shul is included in this unique blessing of writing or obtaining Torah texts and providing them for others to use. “His righteousness endures forever!”

INSPIRED SOULS

Our holy matriarchs, Leah and Rachel, were the daughters of Lavan, a worshipper of idols. From where did these outstanding women learn to recognize Hashem and to appreciate His worship? It cannot simply be that they learned everything they knew about belief and trust in Hashem from Yaakov, because the Midrash seems to clearly describe both Leah and Rachel as being righteous and understanding of the way of Hashem even before Yaakov arrived on the scene. That Leah prayed that she not be married to Eisav (see Rashi on Verse 17) indicates that she understood and appreciated that the purpose of life is spiritual pursuits. Furthermore, when Rachel met Yaakov by the well, she told him that she was the daughter of Lavan, who was a deceitful man according to the Midrash. When Yaakov told her that he was capable of contending with Lavan on those terms, Rachel asked, “Is it permissible for the righteous also to deal dishonestly with those who are evil?” (See Rashi on Verse 12) From these incidents, it is evident that even before Yaakov arrived, Leah and Rachel were truly righteous, well aware of the lifestyle of the correct and the proper. From where did they learn this?

Rabbi Yosef Chaim ben Eliyahu of Baghdad, the Ben Ish Chai, writes that it is evident that from birth these girls were endowed with special souls, and they knew intuitively that their lives were to be dedicated to the pursuit of the knowledge of Hashem. We find that our sages credit Avraham with recognizing Hashem when he was three years old. This means that he was blessed with a soul that led him to arrive at such a profound realization on his own. This, then, was also the case with Sarah, Rivka, Leah and Rachel. Their souls were inspired with a heavenly spirit which paved the way for each of them to understand the concept of Hashem and His worship.

It is also important to note that Besuel and Lavan, the father and brother of Rivka, each possessed some degree of understanding of Hashem. When they heard the convincing story of the servant of Avraham and how he discovered Rivka by the well, they proclaimed, (Bereshis 24:50): “This matter has eminated from God.” At the same time, they worshipped idols as a medium between themselves and Hashem. Nevertheless, Leah and Rachel did not recognize their father’s worship at all. Their
concept of Hashem was from a holy source from their very youth, not at all connected to the distortions which were practiced in their home. The philosophy of these outstanding women was nurtured from their powerful and pure souls.

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**SHABBOS PROTECTS US**

We continue with a series highlighting actions we should all consider taking, communally and personally, to extend ourselves in our mitzvos and tefillos, as we beckon to Hashem for salvation. We have a hallowed duty to call out to Hashem in times of adversity. Klal Yisrael is not unfazed by threats, both spiritual and physical, and we once again are facing a situation which demands our response (see below). We are presenting a short feature series of actions we can offer to combat these dangers. While the words below were directed specifically to our brothers and sisters in Eretz Yisrael, the need to strengthen the observance of Shabbos is a world-wide national concern and priority.

Recently the Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Yerushalayim, HaRav Shlomo Amar, wrote a letter to public officials in light of the tense security situation in the south of Israel, encouraging them to strengthen shemiras Shabbos.

“Refrain from breaching the restrictions of Shabbos,” Rav Amar wrote. “Shabbos is what protects us. It has always been the custom of Am Yisrael during times of distress to gather for tefillah, tzedakah and introspection of our actions: ‘And they cried out to Hashem in their distress.’

“And now, the enemies of Yisrael are penetrating every site and threatening us and harming us. Their goal is well-known and public: ‘They said, Come, let us cut them off from nationhood so that the name of Yisrael won’t be remembered any longer.’

“This is the time to arise and be strengthened and fulfill the statement of the kodesh poet Rav Shlomo Elkabetz: ‘Shake off the dust – arise! Don your splendid clothes, My people.’

“We don’t have any clothes more splendid than sheimiras Shabbos HaMalka’, and the poet wrote these words in the Shabbos song: ‘Lecha Dodi likras Shabbos, the Shabbos presence, let us welcome!’

“I request of public figures, mayors and their leaders – please have mercy on Klal Yisrael and you in general and don’t breach the boundaries of Shabbos, so Hashem’s protection of His people Yisrael should not be breached: “ירא אしっかりと שבת כל קאייה” – ‘Because I protect the Shabbos, Hashem will protect me.’ “

Rav Dovid Lau, the Chief Rabbi of Israel, traveled to Israel’s south to encourage the residents residing there. He also emphasized how our strengthening our observance of Shabbos will serve to protect us.

Rav Lau said, “We’ve merited to live in the land about which the Torah testifies: ‘The land which the eyes of God your Lord are on it from the beginning of the year until the end of the year.’ The eyes of Hashem are on it and we see and hear sounds of explosions slightly south and east from here. They’re firing at us without regard to men, women and children, but they’re firing at those protected by the Iron Dome of the Creator of the World.

“We’ll fortify ourselves with kibbud av v’eim,” continued Rav Lau, “to show the Creator of the World that we’re worthy of His protection and brachah. We’ll fortify ourselves with sheimiras Shabbos kodesh. Shabbos has safeguarded and protected Am Yisrael for generations. We’ll fortify ourselves with our bond to the mesorah of the generations of our ancestors. This mighty Iron Dome which Hakadosh Baruch Hu guides should send brachah and hatzlachah to all IDF soldiers and security forces and be of assistance in guarding Am Yisrael in His land,” Rav Lau concluded.

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**Halachic Corner**

**Zmanim for Parashas Vayeitzei 5780**

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"רבא דרבי יוחנן" (See Yeshayahu 58:13) - The conversation in which one engages on Shabbos should differ from that which is spoken during the rest of the week. One should not speak on Shabbos about those things which are prohibited on Shabbos. For example, one should not say, “Tomorrow I will drive to a particular place,” or “Tomorrow I will buy these items.” It is, however, permissible on Pesach to talk about chametz that one will eat after Pesach, or to speak on Yom Kippur about the food that will be served after the fast is over. (Shemiras Shabbos K'hilchasa 29:59) On Shabbos one must not worry about his business. The Torah tells us: “Six days you shall labor and do all your work.” Yet, Chazal ask, is it really possible for one to complete all his work in 6 days? Rather, one should feel so relaxed and tranquil on Shabbos that it will be as if all his work were complete, and he should not worry about it at all. (Ibid. 65)

Questions for Thought and Study

1. The Gemara in肾 (61a) says that a son who is an apostate (טרון) still inherits his father’s possessions. Why didn’t Eisav inherit Yitzchak’s possessions? See Ohr HaChaim 28:13
2. Why does the Torah say that Yaakov awoke “הישען” (from his sleep)? From what else
would he be awakening? How was Yaakov’s sleep unique? See Midrash Rabbah 28:16

3. Why did Rachel run to tell her father about Yaakov, yet Rivkah ran to tell her mother when Eliezer met her? See Rashi and Ramban to 29:12

4. How did Yaakov come up with the number seven when offering years to work for Lavan? See Ohr HaChaim 29:18

5. What deficiencies were in the tribes of Reuven, Gad and Menashe that caused them to eventually settle outside of Eretz Yisrael? See Yalkut Reuveni 30:11

6. How did Lavan find out that Yaakov had left with his family? See Targum Yonasan and Ba’al HaTurim to 31:22

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This Week Likutei Peshatim is Sponsored

• By Congregation Or Torah - Hebrew Theological College wishing mazal tov to Mordecai & Dr. Chani Tessler on the upcoming marriage of their daughter Leora to Gad Koenig; to Chaya Sarah & Eitan Miretzky on the birth of a daughter; and to HTC Board of Regents member Shmuel Brandman and his wife Rivka on the marriage of their granddaughter Aniel Goldberg to Shua Weiss.

• Hebrew Theological College, together with the entire Chicago community, extends heartfelt wishes to Rabbi Eliezer Irons, who touched our hearts with his tribute songs and electrifying kumzitz. Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this event such a success. It truly reflected HTC’s 97 years Dedicated to Excellence!

• Fasman Yeshiva High School has an opening for an experienced, talented, knowledgeable, warm, enthusiastic and dynamic Rebbe for the 2020-2021 school year. Please send résumé to Menahel, Rabbi David Kupchik, at david.kupchik@htc.edu.

• Hebrew Theological College extends its gratitude to all those who attended and contributed to our 97th Anniversary Dinner. Mazal tov to our honorees Rabbi Sender & Tova Kutner, Lev V’Nefesh Award, and Dr. Avi & Deena Stein, Distinguished Leadership Award. We surely enjoyed musical sensation Shulem Lemmer, who touched our hearts with his tribute songs and electrifying kumzitz. Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this event such a success. It truly reflected HTC’s 97 years Dedicated to Excellence!

• Hebrew Theological College’s Gourmet Torah at Shallots Bistro will take place this Thursday, December 12, 12:35-1:15. Rabbi Moshe Revah will speak. Complimentary appetizers as well as a discounted menu available for shiur participants. Men and women invited to attend. For more info: Rabbi Joshua Zisook at 847-982-2500 or jzisook@htc.edu.

• The Honors Program of Blitstein Institute announces the second installment of the Motzaei Shabbos Halacha Shiur Series for post-high school young women. Please join us this Motzaei Shabbos, December 7, at 8:30 PM in the Blitstein Library. Rabbi Eliezer Irons, will be giving the shiur this week on the topic of brachos, followed by a melava malka. The Motzaei Shabbos Halacha Shiur Series is sponsored îl’ilui nishmas Shoshana Friedman, ג’ע.

• Yeshivas Hakayitz 2020 enrollment is now open. Eligibility: Boys entering grades 6 through 11. Camp dates: June 30 - July 27. Join the 200 campers & counselors from coast to coast for the 41st year of summer camping’s most unique experience. We offer exciting Torah Studies, competitive sports leagues, electives, bunk activities, awesome daily trips, & the most inspiring Shabbosos. For application, related camp media, and more info: please visit yhk.htc.edu.

• Kayitz Adventure Trip 2020 for boys currently in grades 7 & up, Aug. 16-19. Whether you are enrolling your son in Yeshivas Hakayitz or not, this is a 5 full day, jam-packed adventure of great fun. Beautiful Camp Ao-Wa-Kiya on Stony Lake & Michigan’s west coast is our home. Adventures include instructional sailing & skiing, tubing, canoeing, kayaking, SUP, zipline, target sports, high ropes course, lakefront inflatables, Silver Lake boating, sand dune jeep tours, hikes, sandboarding, horseback riding, & more. See details: yhk.htc.edu.

• Are you downtown? Got 5, 15, 30 or 45 minutes? Learn & daven at M. Geller, Ltd, 29 E. Madison, Ste 1805, 1:05 PM, 30 minute shiru; 1:35 Mincha; 1:47, 5 minute dvar Torah. Shirurn led by: Monday- Rabbi Pinchas Zusis; Tuesday- Chicago Community Kollel- Rabbi Shmuel Sussman; Wednesday- Rabbi Moshe Simkovich; Thursday- Chabad- Rabbi Meir Hecht. Info: 312-984-1041.

• Park Plaza Senior Living Community enriches the quality of life for our residents through daily shiurim, live music, exercise classes, lectures, outings and much more. Park Plaza also has beautifully furnished apartments for rent: daily, weekly and long term or for your simcha. For more information, visit our website at www.park-plaza.org or contact Adina at 773-465-6700 or at adina@park-plaza.org.

• TAG Chicago is here to help! Now selling kosher email, talk and text, and talk-only phones. We offer free volunteer assistance to keep your devices safe. Visit tagchicago.org, call 847-920-8245 or email Help@TAGChicago.org to book your appointment. 8150 Central Park, Skokie. Remember - "Call before you buy!" We will help guide you.

• Join Congregation Or Torah for the 12th Annual Dr. Sy Greenfield z”l Memorial Lecture this Sunday, December 8, 10:00 AM, featuring Scholar in Residence Rabbi Dr. Aaron Glatt, “Vaccination Is Your Best Shot: A Medical and Halachic Analysis of the Ongoing Measles Outbreak”. Light brunch served.

• Please join Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation AG Beth Israel for the Hon. Gerald C. Bender Memorial Lecture: Comparative Criminal Justice: Balancing the Interests of the Accused and Victim Under U.S. and Israeli Law”. This Sunday, December 8th, from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. Featured speakers are Rabbi Yona Reiss, Howard Wise, and Paul Stark. Please RSVP to the Shul office: 847-676-0491. Sponsors welcome.

• Congregation KINS is proud to announce our Scholar in Residence, December 6 & 7, Parashat Vayetzei, with Rabbi Dr. Avraham Steinberg, world-renowned expert on Jewish Medical Ethics and Editor of the Talmudic Encyclopedia. Prof. Steinberg will be speaking Friday night at an Oneg, 7:30 PM at the home of Alan and Larry Cohen, 2040 Lunt Ave - “Personhood in Medicine and Halacha”; Shabbat morning following the Early Minyan: “Scape Resources/Triage Decisions”.

• Rabbi Dr. Steinberg will also speak following Musaf: “General Medical Ethics vs. Jewish Medical Ethics”; at a Family Seudah Shlishit (following Mincha at 3:30 PM): “Modern Genetics and Halacha”; and a special shiur Motzaei Shabbat at KINS for physicians and medical professionals: “Definition of the Moment of Death and Organ Transplantation”. Light refreshments will be served. Men & women invited to attend. For more information, visit our website www.congkins.org or call the shul office 773-761-4000.

• Joan Dachs Bais Yaakov – Yeshivas Tiferes Tzvi announces the opening of the Nursery and new student application process for the 2020-21 school year. We look forward to being a partner in your child’s educational journey. Nursery applicants should be 4 years old by November 30, 2020. Kindergarten/Pre-1A applicants should be 5 years old by November 30, 2020. For more information, please call 773-465-8889 x670, or email applications@jdbyytt.org.
Women & Girls 14+: Join No Shame On U & Kelim, Sat. night, Dec. 14, 7:30 at Chicago Torah Network for a free screening of Angst, a documentary, not available on streaming platforms or DVD, designed to raise awareness around anxiety. See interviews with kids, teens, educators, experts & parents. The 56-minute film will be followed by a panel of mental health professionals from our community addressing issues raised in the movie & answering your questions. Info: Helena Cohen 773-456-7050 or Miriam Ament 773-398-8488.

Millions have seen him online, now you can see him live! Meir Kay, filmmaker, producer, and actor, will host the Q2, NCSY’s Ultimate Live Trivia Experience, on Saturday night, Dec. 21, at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center. The event will feature a fast-paced trivia competition and honor Noah & Suzanne Mishkin and Yossi & Shuli Tsadok. Doors open at 7:30 PM with a Dinner Reception, and the Game begins at 8:15. To register, visit midwest.ncsy.org/thew.

Everyone is invited to join Camp Maayan Midwest for the Best Party in Town. Dance with Elana this Sunday, December 8th, upstairs in Evita, 6112 N. Lincoln Avenue, from 7:30-8:30 PM. For girls 4th-10th grade. Meet our campers and staff. Get a glimpse of what camp is all about. Food, drinks, and fun. maayanmidwest.com, 847-440-4940.

Simcha Link joyously wishes a heartfelt mazal tov to Sender Katzenstein and Michal Feiler and to their families on their engagement. May Hakadosh Boruch Hu grant them birkas kol tuv. Simcha Link's shadchanim can be reached through our website: www.simchalink.org.

Anshe Sholom B’nai Israel Congregation invites you to “Seven Things That Will Surprise You About How People Observe Niddah”, with visiting scholar, Dr. Naomi Marmon Grumet, on Sunday, December 15, at 10:00 AM, at ASBI (540 West Melrose Street, Chicago, IL 60657).

State Representative Yehiel Kalish and Illinois Department of Revenue Director David Harris invite the community to a Town Hall, Monday, December 16, 6:30-8:00 PM, at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 Pratt, Lincolnwood, to discuss the current fiscal challenges facing the State of Illinois, as well as the impact of the proposed Fair Tax on the state’s budget as well as on the community.

The ATT proudly announces this year’s Pogrund Family Essay & Judaic Artwork Contests for students, grades 3-12, of its affiliated schools. Funded through the generosity of the Pogrund Family, the contests provide students the opportunity to demonstrate their creativity, ability to research Jewish topics, & express themselves through writing/art. Deadline for essay/art submission: Thursday, January 30. See Essay & Judaic Art Contest Rules at http://www2.att.org/news-announcements-1?aid=240 or call 773-973-2828.

The Ner Foundation and Ohel Shalom Torah Center are pleased to announce the next lecture of Rabbi Daniel J. Raccah’s Bible series, titled: “Reuven: Attributes and Sources”, to be held on December 7th at 7:30 PM, at Ohel Shalom, 2949 W. Touhy. Please join us. The next Shuir will be on December 14th.

Join Congregation Ezras Israel Friday night, Dec. 13, Parashat Vayeshev, for a special Oneg Shabbat with YU Torah Mitzion Kollel. Rabbi Yehudah Meyers and Rabbi Mayer Simcha Stomper will speak at the Domsky home, 7235 N. Albany, Chicago, 7:30 PM Oneg - 8:00 Drasha. On Shabbat day, Dec. 14, Rabbi Ari Zucker will speak (Shacharit 7:25:00 AM minyanim & 9:15 AM Shabbos Morning), and Rabbi Daniel Kanter (Shabbat Shlishiot 4:25). For more info or to help sponsor, call the shul office at 773-764-8320.

Bernard Horwich JCC Early Childhood Registration is open! Our accredited, nurturing, discovery-based preschool program inspires a love of learning and a celebration of Jewish identity. Schedule a Tuesday tour to see our unique indoor and outdoor classrooms in action. Currently taking registrations for children 2 to 4 years old. Log on to: jccchicagoearlychildhood.org or call Miriam Aberman at 773-516-5881.

Looking for ideas to build confidence and cooperation in your children while enhancing family relationships? Attend the ATT’s 33rd Annual Rabbi Isaac Mayefsky Memorial Lecture, Motzaei Shabbos, December 14, at ICJA Entrance - 8233 Central Park Avenue, Skokie – 8:00 PM, featuring Rabbi Levi Feldman, who will present the topic: “Inspiring Our Children in 2020”. There is no charge for admission. For more information, call the ATT at 773-973-2828.

This Tuesday evening! Women and teenage girls are invited to “Journey of Inspiration: Opening up About Mental Health”. Hear the personal stories of three women from your community who will speak about their journeys with mental health. Tuesday, December 10th, 8:00 PM, at the WiFi Beit Midrash. This program is hosted by NILI: Chicago Institute of Women's Learning.


NILI- Chicago Institute of Women's Learning invites all women to their Annual Pre-Chanukah Shirah with Mrs. Emma Katz, NILI Community Scholar, “Celebrating the Mundane: Insight Into the First Night of Chanukah”. Monday, December 16, 8:30 PM, at Geha Bear, 9051 N. Skokie.

The Chicago Orthodox Student Union continues its Learning Program directed by YU Torah Mitzion Kollel, this Monday, December 9, at KINS, 7:45 PM Dinner - 8 PM Shirah. CLIK - “College Learning Initiative at KINS” Shirah - “Magic in Judaism - Real or Phony?”, led by Rabbi Gedalya Shames. Meat/veggie food included! Questions?: Please email chicoorthodoxstudentunion@gmail.com.

Torah classes for seniors now offered at the Chicago Mitzvah Campaign, featuring prominent community Rabbis, educators and guest speakers. Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 11:00 AM, Parashat HaShavua. Tuesday 2:30 for women, Wednesday morning 1:30 for women. Transportation available and hot soup and snacks served. For more info call 866- MY RABBI (866-697-2224).

Please join us to help assemble hundreds of gift packages that CMC volunteers will distribute on Chanukah to hospital patients and to hundreds of nursing home residents. Your participation in this great mitzvah would be greatly appreciated on Sunday, December 15th, 1:30-3:30 PM, at the CMC headquarters, 2939 Touhy. Volunteers are also needed to deliver these gift boxes during Chanukah. For more information, call 1-866-MY RABBI (697-2224).

Hanna Sacks Bais Yaakov H.S’s Biennial June Handler Memorial Career Fair was a memorable event for all who attended. Our gratitude to the 50 professionals who volunteered their time to share their knowledge and expertise regarding a variety of careers. Many thanks to our dedicated PTA Career Fair Committee led by Mrs. Chana Frank, assisted by Mrs. Julie Freidin & Mrs. Chavee Gottlieb, & our student committee headed by Devorah Frank, with Zahava Aronson, Ella Gottlieb, Rena Harris, & Sarah Tokarskiy.

Hillel Torah’s Early Childhood Program invites current and prospective families to our Sunday Funday! Preschool and Kindergarten children and their parents are invited to a fun-filled morning, Sunday, December 15, from 10:00 - 11:30 AM, at our preschool campus, 8825 East Prairie in Skokie. Join us for an afternoon of experiential and interactive Chanukah-related activities, led by our engaging and talented teachers. Info: margot.parnass@hilletorah.org.
A righteous person (because he fled) is equal to the numerical value of (240). (Amalek also informed Pharaoh - as well.

An island was lost in the sea during the days of the early Benei Yisrael, and the sea swallowed them. As a result, the sea did not reach them. (Shechem) was tainted, only half of Menashe didn’t settle in Eretz Yisrael.

The gifts and blessings that Hashem gave to Avraham were only on the condition that they eventually would be given only to Yitzchak and Yaakov. That is why Avraham is called "גָּאוֹן" (your father), as if Yaakov was a direct descendant of Avraham. When such a condition is made, the inheritance bypasses even legitimate heirs.

Mizrahi - Religious Zionists of Chicago, in partnership with YU Torah MiTzion Kollel, proudly presents the next shiur in our 5780 lecture series, “Exploring the Foundations of Religious Zionism”, sponsored by the Bellows family, this Tuesday, December 10, 2019, 7:30 PM, in the RZC Center, 3740 Dempster, Skokie. Join us as Rabbi Dr. Zev Eleff speaks on “The Early and Contentious Debate over Yom HaAtzmaaut”. For more information: office@rzcz.us or 847-674-9733 x2.

Increase your confidence! Do you get nervous when you speak in public? Toastmasters has over 16,000 clubs worldwide to help people improve their public speaking skills. We are trying to gauge the level of interest in creating a new Toastmasters Club in the Chicago Jewish community. If you may be interested in joining 90-minute meetings 1-2 times per month, please contact Ari Siegel at publicspeakerschicago@gmail.com.

Congregation Or Torah Youth Department and Chicago Yachad invites you to join our Chanukah Carnival on Sunday, December 15, at 12:30 PM. RSVP at https://www.ortorah.org/Chanukahcarnival.

New to the mental health profession? Upcoming opportunity to meet additional clinicians! Expand your referral network. Attend Nefesh Chicago’s first Speed Networking Event. The event is open to clinicians: seasoned and incoming, agency & private practice. Save the date: Motzaei Shabbos, Jan. 11th, at 7:30 Olga Kisten, LPCPC, MACFT at olga@chicagofamilytherapy.com.


By Nachie & Marci Siebzener wishing mazal tov to our son, Ari Siebzener, on becoming an NASM certified personal trainer, and wishing him much hatzlacha in his personal training business helping men in our community to a healthier more fit lifestyle. He can help you too – be in touch with him.

By Pearls of Chicago wishing hatzlacha to Kaituz Wigs on the Wig Sale, Wednesday, December 11th, 9:30 AM to 8:30 PM, to be held at Pearls of Chicago in Lincolnwood. All Bella Wigs, all colors, lengths and textures. Buy one get one free. Warranty included.

In loving memory of Judy Kahn, נו, wonderful daughter, mother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend, on the occasion of her 6th yahrtzeit on 8 Kislev. She is forever in our hearts. May her neshama have an aliyah. - The Kahn, Rosenfeld, Musat, and Gutfreund family.

In memory of our beloved Bubie, Tessie Halpert, נו, from all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren on the occasion of her 18th yahrtzeit on 13 Kislev. We all miss her. May her memory be for a blessing.

Likutei Peshatim is endowed by Les & Ethel Sutker in loving memory of Max and Marsha Lissker and Louis and Lilian Klein, נו. May their memory be for a blessing.

Answers:
1. The gifts and blessings that Hashem gave to Avraham were only on the condition that they would be given only to Yitzchak and Yaakov. That is why Avraham is called "גָּאוֹן" (your father), as if Yaakov was a direct descendant of Avraham. When such a condition is made, the inheritance bypasses even legitimate heirs.
2. Yaakov (and other righteous people) ascend to heaven during sleep and review the secrets of Torah. Yaakov was awakened not just from sleep but from his learning - "יִרְאֶה" - as well.
3. Rashi says that Rachel’s mother had died, so she ran to her father. Ramban says that Rachel ran to her father because Yaakov was her father’s relative, not her mother’s. Also, Yaakov did not give Rachel jewelry, as Eliezer had done with Rivkah, so she did not have anything to show her mother.
4. A righteous person falls seven times before defeating his enemies (see Moshe 24:16). Yaakov also bowed before Eisav seven times. Additionally, the standard term of a Jewish slave is six years. Yaakov wanted to make sure that the deal was accepted, so he offered one extra year of work.
5. Reuven was conceived through deception, as Yaakov thought he was marrying Rachel. Gad was born through Zilpah, who was given to Yaakov by Leah without first consulting him. Menashe was born through Osnas, who was born through Dinah and Shechem. Since half of Osnas’s lineage (Shechem) was tainted, only half of Menashe didn’t settle in Eretz Yisrael.
6. Targum Yonasan says that the wells that provided water for Lavan’s cattle all dried up, as they were only filled through Yaakov’s merit. Ba’al HaTurim says that Amalek (Eisav’s grandson) told Lavan that Yaakov had left with his family. This is alluded to as the numerical value (240) of "זַער יָא" (because he fled) is equal to the numerical value of "הֵרָע א" (240). (Amalek also informed Pharaoh when Bnei Yisrael left Egypt.)

Prepared by Rabbi Ben-Zion Rand, Editor, and Mrs. Naomi Samber, Managing Editor
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