



CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

An intimate space... Grow at your pace.

December 9-10, 2016 ▪ 10 Kislev, 5777 ▪ Shabbos Vayeitzei
Mincha: 5:00P / Candlelighting: 5:03P ▪ Shabbos Ends 6:11P

KIDDUSH this Shabbos is sponsored by the members of the Guarantee Kiddush Club: Wes & Tricia Sutkin, Yaakov & Susan Rich, Ben & Lauren Nise, Jeff & Suzanne Luftig, Chana Esther Day, Ari & Naomi Goldberg, Eli Goldberg and Ibriy & Amy Martin. **SHALOSH SEUDOS** this Shabbos is sponsored by the shul. Please contact Rabbi Yaakov Rich at 972-835-6016 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE

Friday Night, December 9th

- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos/Maariv – 5:00P
- » Candlelighting – 5:03P
- » Tkatch Shalom Zachor (7104 Mumford Ct.) – 8P

Shabbos Day, December 10th

- » Shacharis followed by Kiddush–8:30A
- » Mommy & Me with Tricia Sutkin–Canceled this Shabbos
- » Chumash/Pirkei Avos Shiur (M&W)–3:50P
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos for men in shul – 4:50P
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- » Avos U’Banim–7:15P

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40A
- » Mincha followed by 20-min Chassidus shiur–5:05P
- » Gemara Shiur (Kesuvos)–8P
- » Maariv followed by 5-min halacha shiur–9P

■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

MEN

- » Aryeh Laibel ben Leah (Friend of Suzanne Luftig)
- » Yisroel Michoel ben Shulamis (Father of Chani Tkatch)
- » Zoosav ben Lipke (Father of Suzanne Luftig)
- » Yechiel Mordechai ben Devorah (Brother of Ken Jarmel)
- » Itai ben Shoshana (Son of Ehoud & Shoshana Wilson)

WOMEN

- » Chana Shulamis bas Sara Feiga (Mother of Tricia Sutkin)
- » Chaya Gittel bas Shandel (Friend of Suzanne Luftig)
- » Leah Esther bas Yenta Leah (Lori Jarmel)
- » Yenta Leah bas Shayna (Mother of Lori Jarmel)

■ WHAT’S NU AT CTC

- » **Mazel tov to Doni & Chani Tkatch on the birth of a son.** May the parents be zoche L’Gadlo L’Torah L’Chuppah U’L’Maasim Tovim, U’L’Hachniso Bivriso Shel Avrohom Avinu B’Zmano U’B’Ito. (May the parents merit to raise their son to Torah study, Marriage and Good Deeds and bring him to the Bris of Avrohom Avinu in the proper time.)

- » **Refuah Shelaim to Tricia Sutkin’s mother** (Chana Shulamis bas Sara Feiga) who underwent surgery today.

- » **Chanukah Melava Malka for Adults Only:** Motzei Shabbos, December 24, First Night of Chanukah, 8 PM at Congregation Toras Chaim, 7103 Mumford Ct.

CTC will host a Melava Malka including:

- Catered Chinese food and open bar with specialty drinks
- Rabbi Eliyahu Heller as guest speaker
- Dovid Rosenfield playing the violin.

Cost:

- Member Price \$20/person, \$36/couple.
- Non-Member Price \$36/person, \$50/couple.

- » **Chassidus shiur for men & women: Chassidus: Peeling back the page to reveal the mystical essence of Torah thought and spirituality.**

- Monday-Thursday, for 20 minutes, beginning 15 minutes after start of Mincha at CTC. Please refer to the CTC calendar on the website in the right sidebar for Mincha start times.

- This shiur is for men & women.
- You may attend in person (best way) or on the phone (for convenience).
- Dial-in Number: (515) 739-1030 and the Access Code: 471-997-271. This is a free conference call.
- Very Important: We are beginning the discussion of Chanukah Thursday, December 8, 2016.

■ THE REST OF HIS LIFE: RABBI LABEL LAM

And he arrived at the place and lodged there because the sun had set, and he took some of the stones of the place and placed [them] at his head, and he lay down in that place. (Breishis 28:11) and he lay down in that place: [The word **וַיִּשָׁן**] is a restrictive expression, meaning that [only] in that place did he lie down, but during the fourteen years that he served in the house of Eber, he did not lie down at night, because he was engaged in Torah study. –Rashi

From Yaakov’s brief rest here, we have a minor hint that points to the fact that Yaakov did not go directly to Charan to find a wife as his father had directed him. Rather he took a fourteen year detour to study Torah with extreme diligence in preparation for meeting the challenges of the world. What kind of Torah was Yaakov studying there? The Torah had not been given for many generations. How was he preparing?

Even though the Torah as we know it had not been revealed, there were traditions from the time of Adam regarding the Hebrew Language and the meaning of everything. Eber would be a bearer of those traditions. There is an ancient book from that time called Sefer Yetzira- “Book of Creation” which is still extant today. It is written there: “Twenty-Two foundation letters: He engraved them. He carved them. He permuted them. He transformed them, and with them He depicted all that was formed and all that would be formed.”

What does this mean? It is talking about the Hebrew Aleph -Beis! Was the world really created with the letters of the Aleph-Beis? Yes! Imagine artistically as you read the statement above from Sefer Yetzira that it is talking about the elements on the periodic table: ‘He engraved them and carved them and permuted them and transformed them and with them He depicted all that was and would be formed!’ Amazing! Everything in the physical world including you and me is constructed from some combo of those same elements.

The Hebrew Language is more like chemistry than any other language. Western languages employ letters that make sounds. There is nothing inherently significant about an A, or a B, or a C. In the eastern lands, there are only pictures of a flower, or a house, or friendship. Those pictures awaken files of spoken language.

It’s not surprising that Hebrew, the original and Holy Language has both pictographic and ideographic features. The name of the letter LAMED, means to learn. It has the shape of a profile, of a silhouette of a person sitting and learning. As a prefix it means “to”. Through learning a person gains a direction.

The letter BEIS, can be found inside a letter PEH in white. BEIS means a house. When the Tanna said that he called his wife his BAIS, his house, what did he mean? When the pitch was being placed on Noah’s ark, it is written that it was placed, “M’bais u B’Chutz” from inside and outside. BEIS means inside! Used a prefix

BEIS means “in” or “for”. The Tanna was saying that his wife was the essence of the home. She was the internality of the house. LAMED and BEIS point together to learning about the inner world. LAMED + BEIS = LEV or HEART. The SHEM- name of a thing is not just an arbitrary sound but rather a description of the optimal purpose for which it was created.

There is more information around these days than ever before, but wisdom is at an all-time low. Imagine a combination of stores, Staples, Home Depot, Tiffany’s, with all their goods piled into the middle of a warehouse floor with no proper organization: The priceless and the worthless lying side by side. With all the “information” and no clear knowledge about what’s of lasting value and what’s a passing fancy, the lines between reality and fantasy are lost. Yaakov was preparing for the complexities of life, building shelves, and pricing everything in advance. Fourteen sleepless years was a small investment in the internal infrastructure for the rest of his life.

■ **YAAKOV & LEAH: ABARBANEL ON THE PARSHA**

In this week’s Torah portion it is difficult to determine Yaakov’s true feelings towards Leah. After having been tricked into marrying Leah, Yaakov then marries Rachel after committing to seven more years of labor for Lavan. The Torah tells us that Yaakov “...consorted also with Rachel, and loved Rachel even more than Leah.” The Torah seems to be telling us that although he loved Leah, he loved Rachel even more. The problem is that the Torah then tells us immediately that “G-d saw that Leah was hated, so he opened her womb.” After Leah gives birth to her first-born, she says, “Because G-d has discerned my humiliation, now my husband will love me.” Then, after giving birth to her second son, she says, “Because G-d has heard that I am hated, He has given me this one also.”

From the last three quotations it appears that Leah was hated by Yaakov, while the first quotation seems to indicate that she was certainly loved, just to a lesser degree than Rachel. Abarbanel explains that there is actually no inconsistency. The first verse is not an indication that Yaakov loved Leah. (Perhaps, as Ramban explains, Yaakov had consistently negative feelings toward Leah as a result of her having deceived him on his first wedding night.)

Abarbanel offers a grammatical explanation of the first verse quoted. The literal translation of that verse is Yaakov “consorted also with Rachel, and loved Rachel from Leah.” The Hebrew letter mem, which literally means “from”, can also mean “because of”. Now the verse translates as he “loved Rachel because of Leah.” Abarbanel explains that because of Yaakov’s total inexperience with women, his desire for a particular woman, i.e. Rachel, was intermingled with his basic desire for any woman. Therefore, when he had relations first with Leah, this aspect of his physical desire should have been satisfied, and his ardor for Rachel should have cooled somewhat. However, the opposite occurred. After marrying Leah, rather than having his connection to Rachel diminished, it was actually augmented. He now realized that his feelings toward Rachel went far beyond simple physical desire, as that aspect had already been experienced. Thus, because of his experience first with Leah he experienced a deeper and more authentic love for Rachel. Furthermore, having been with Leah, his love for Rachel

took on a second dimension. His initial love for Rachel was for who she was, independent of others. But now, however, he could compare her to Leah, and see even more clearly how she completely fulfilled his purpose in life. Again, it was because of Leah that Yaakov’s love for Rachel deepened.

■ **PARSHA Q&A: VAYEITZEI**

1. When Yaakov traveled to Charan, the Torah stresses that he departed from Beer Sheva. Why? 28:10 - The departure of a righteous person leaves a noticeable void in that place.
2. On the night of his dream, Yaakov did something he hadn’t done in 14 years. What? 28:11 - Sleep at night lying down.
3. G-d compressed the entire Land of Israel underneath the sleeping Yaakov. What did this symbolize? 28:13 - That the Land would be easy for his descendants to conquer.
4. Yaakov said “I will return with shalom.” What did he mean by “shalom”? 28:21 - Completely without sin.
5. Why did Yaakov rebuke the shepherds? 29:7 - He thought they were loafing, stopping work early in the day.
6. Why did Rachel, and not her brothers, tend her father’s sheep? 30:27 - Her brothers weren’t born yet.
7. Why did Yaakov cry when he met Rachel? 29:11 - He saw prophetically that they would not be buried together; or because he was penniless.
8. Why did Lavan run to greet Yaakov? 29:13 - He thought Yaakov was carrying money.
9. Why were Leah’s eyes tender? 29:17 - She cried continually because she thought she was destined to marry Esav.
10. How old was Yaakov when he married? 29:21 - Eighty-four.
11. What did Rachel find enviable about Leah? 30:1 - Her good deeds, thinking they were the reason Leah merited children.
12. Who was Yaakov’s fifth son? 30:5 - Dan.
13. Who was Leah’s handmaiden? Was she older or younger than Rachel’s handmaiden? 30:10 - Zilpah. She was younger.
14. How do you say dudaim in Arabic? 30:14 - Jasmine (Yasmin).
15. “G-d remembered Rachel” (30:22). What did He remember? 30:22 - That Rachel gave Leah the “signs of recognition” that Yaakov had taught her, so that Leah wouldnt be embarrassed.
16. What does “Yosef” mean? Why was he named that? 30:24 “Yosef” means “He will add.” Rachel asked G-d for another son in addition to Yosef.
17. G-d forbade Lavan to speak to Yaakov “either of good or of bad.” Why didnt G-d want Lavan to speak of good? 31:24 - Because the “good” that comes from wicked people is bad for the righteous.
18. Where are there two Aramaic words in this weeks Parsha? 31:41 - Yagar Sahaduta, meaning “wall of testimony”
19. Who was Bilhah’s father? Who was Zilpah’s father? 31:50 - Lavan.
20. Who escorted Yaakov into Eretz Yisrael? 32:1 - The angels of Eretz Yisrael.

Good Shabbos

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■ **CLASSES**

- » Hilchos Niddah for men (Sunday 7-8A)
- » Before Shacharis Gemara Yevamos for men (M-Fr, 6-6:40A)
- » NQ Daf Ha Yomi Kesuvos for men (Sunday-Thursday following Maariv)
- » Pirkei Avos/Chumash for men & women (Shabbos 60 mins before mincha)
- » Marriage Chaburah for women (Tuesday 7:15-8:00P)
- » In-Depth Hilchos Shabbos for women (TBD)