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## **Shabbat Vayeishev**

Sat. 20 - 21 Dec. 2019 - 23rd of Kislev, 5780

כ"ג בכסלו תש"פ

**שבת פ' וישב**

Issue Number 931

Baal Koreh <i>Yom Shabbat Kodesh</i>	Rabbi Asher Sebbag	(Page-198).
Mufteer & Haftarah	Mr Nissim Tricot	(Page -1142).

**Mevarchin Hahodesh,** מברכין החודש,  
**Rosh Hodesh Tevet Sat. & Sun. 28th-29th Dec.** ראש חודש טבת יום שבת וראשון 28 ו29 דצמבר.

Mincha, Shir Hashirim, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit. 15:30

Shabbat Candles. 15:37

Shabbat Shahrit - Followed by Kiddush. (Shema 09:57). 08:30

Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a. \*

Mincha Shabbat - Followed by Seuda Shelishit. (\*) (Sunset - 15:52). 15:20

Arbit Motzei Shabbat. **(Tomorrow, Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> Hanukkah Candle)** 16:52

Shahrit Weekday - (Sunday - 7:30). 06:30

Mincha & Arbit. 15:30

Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a. 16:00

Next Friday: Mincha, 1st minyan 12:45

Next Friday: Mincha, 2nd minyan, Shir Hashirim, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit. 15:30

Next Friday: Candles. **Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh & Hanukah 6th Day. Miketz** 15:41

## **Vayeshev** 5780 (Genesis 37-40)

Dec 15, 2019 | by [Rabbi Yitzchak Zweig](#)

**GOOD MORNING!** Hanukah begins this upcoming Sunday night, December 22nd. My friend Hannah, frustrated by the "political correctness" that so defines America in 2019, told me the following story about her grandmother Goldie.

**Goldie** went to the post office to buy stamps for her Hanukah cards. She said to the cashier, "May I please have 50 Hanukah stamps?" The cashier then asked, "What denomination?"

**Goldie** replied, "Oy vey, has it come to this? Okay, give me 6 Orthodox, 12 Conservative, and 32 Reform."

## **Q & A: WHAT IS HANUKAH AND HOW DO WE CELEBRATE IT?**

**In 167 BCE**, the Syrian-Greek emperor, Antiochus, set out to destroy Judaism and incorporate the Land of Israel and its inhabitants into his empire. His soldiers descended upon Jerusalem, massacring thousands of people and desecrating the city's holy Second Temple by erecting an altar to Zeus and sacrificing pigs within its sacred walls.

**However**, the evil Antiochus knew that a mere physical attack on the Jews would not accomplish his goal. Instead, he decided to focus on destroying the structure of Judaism. First, he prohibited studying and teaching the Torah. He

likewise issued a ban prohibiting the practice of three *mitzvot*: 1) Shabbat 2) Sanctifying of the New Month (establishing the first day of the month by testimony of witnesses who saw the new moon) 3) *Brit Mila* (entering the Covenant of Abraham through Torah-ordained circumcision).

**Why these** three *mitzvot*? Shabbat signifies that God is the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe and that His Torah is the blueprint of creation, imbuing the world with meaning and values. Sanctifying the New Month determines the monthly calendar and the exact day of the Jewish holidays. Without a functioning calendar, there would be communal chaos. *Brit mila* (circumcision) is a sign of our special covenant with the Almighty. These three *mitzvot* form a foundation for the structure of Judaism. Without them, our cultural integrity would quickly deteriorate and dissolve, and we would slowly submit to the Greek culture.

**A family** of Jewish priests - Matityahu and his 5 sons, known as the Maccabees - would not have it. They started a revolt and three years later succeeded in evicting the oppressors. The victory was a true miracle - on the scale of present day Israel being able to defeat the combined forces of all of today's super-powers (this might also explain why the emblem of the State of Israel is a menorah). Once the Jewish people regained control of the Temple in Jerusalem, they wanted to rededicate it immediately.

**In order** to do so, they needed ritually pure olive oil to re-light the

menorah in the Temple, which was a part of the Temple's nightly service. Only a single cruse of oil was found, just enough to burn for one day though they needed oil for eight days - the time it would take for new ritually pure olive oil to be produced. A miracle occurred and the oil burned for eight days. Thus, the Temple was rededicated; in fact, Hanukah means "to dedicate" in Hebrew!

**To commemorate** the miracle, we light Hanukah candles (or better yet, lamps with olive oil) for eight days. One light the first day, two the second, and so forth. The first candle is placed to the far right of the menorah with each additional night's candle being placed to the immediate left. One says three blessings the first night (only two blessings each subsequent night) and then lights the candles, starting with the furthestmost candle to the left. All of the menorah's candles should be the same height and placed in a straight line. Ashkenazi tradition has each person in the household lighting his/her own menorah. Sefardi tradition is that just one menorah needs to be lit per family. The blessings can be found on the back of the Hanukah candle box or in a siddur, prayer book. The candles may be lit inside the home. It is preferable to light where a passersby in the street can see them in order to publicize the miracle of Hanukah. In Israel, people light outside their homes in special glass boxes built for a menorah or little glasses with olive oil and wicks.

**The tradition** to eat *latkes* - fried potato pancakes - is to commemorate the miracle of the oil. In Israel, the tradition is to eat *sufganiot*, deep-fried jelly donuts. The traditional game of Hanukah uses a *dreidel*, a four-sided top with the

Hebrew letters *nun*, *gimmel*, *hey*, and *shin*. The first letters represent the phrase "*nes gadol haya sham* - a great miracle happened there." In Israel, the last letter is a pay for the word "*poh* - here."

**In times** of persecution, when learning Torah was forbidden, Jews would study anyway (we are, after all, "The people of the Book"). When the soldiers would investigate why there was a gathering of people, the assembled would pull out the dreidel and pretend that they were gambling. The rules for playing dreidel: *nun* - no one wins; *gimmel* - spinner takes the pot; *hey* - spinner get half the pot; *shin/pay* - spinner adds to coins to the pot!

**Here's a** question to think about: If enough oil was found to burn in the Temple menorah for one day and the oil lasted for eight days, then the miracle was really only for the seven additional days of lighting. Why then do we celebrate Hanukah for eight days and not seven?

**Stay tuned!** We will, God willing, elaborate on this concept next week when we delve even further into the mysteries surrounding Hanukah.



## TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK

### Vayeshev, Genesis 37:1 - 40:23

**This week's** portion includes four stories: 1) The selling of Yosef (Joseph) as a slave by his brothers -- which eventually positioned Yosef to be second in command in Egypt and enabled him to save the known world from famine 2) The indiscretion of Yehuda (Judah) with Tamar (Tamar) ... 3) The attempted seduction of Yosef by Potifar's wife, which ends with her framing Yosef and having him imprisoned 4) Yosef interprets the dreams of his fellow

prisoners, the wine steward (who was reinstated and forgot to put in a good word for Yosef) and the baker (who was hanged).

\* \* \*

### Memorial Service

**This Wednesday**, December 18th, the 20th of Kislev, will mark the end of the thirty day mourning period for our beloved teacher and mentor - Rabbi Kalman Packouz of blessed memory.

**Jewish** tradition has three stages of mourning upon the loss of a close relative (i.e. parent, sibling, spouse, or child). First there is the *shiva*, the primary mourning period that lasts seven days. Then there is a secondary stage known as *sheloshim* (Hebrew for 30, due to the 30 day duration). Throughout this time a mourner may not listen to music, shave, or get a haircut. Upon the loss of a parent, there is a third stage of mourning that lasts a full year during which one should not attend parties etc.

**There is** a custom to hold a community memorial service at the conclusion of the *sheloshim* mourning period when the passing of a person impacts the entire community. Rabbi Kalman Packouz, of blessed memory, was such a person. Everyone is encouraged to participate and pay their respects to this great man. Here are the details for his *sheloshim* memorial service:

Memorial Service for Rabbi Kalman  
Packouz, OBM

Tuesday December 17th at 8 pm  
@ Aish Hatorah of Hollywood Florida  
4010 North 46th Ave, Hollywood, FL



In loving memory of  
Rabbi Kalman Packouz  
Kalman Moshe ben  
Reuven Avigdor  
1950-2019

*Shabbat Shalom,*  
Rabbi Yitzchak Zweig

**Condolences:** with deepest sadness we regret to inform the passing of **Kathleen** Benjamin ע"ה, a dear mother, grandmother, sister and aunt. We wish Lionel, Jeremy and all the family ה"י, long life, free of sorrow.

The levaya took place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at the Hoop Lane Cemetery. The family will be sitting Shiva at: 128 Bridge Lane NW11 9JS. The Shiva finishes Monday morning 24<sup>th</sup> December. **Shiva times are below:**

**Shachrit - 7.30am, Mincha - 1.00pm, Arbit - 8.00pm. Motsei Shabbat Arbit - 5.15pm.**

**Hot Kiddush:** sponsored by Susanna Brown ה"י, in memory of her late beloved mother, **Orly** Brown ע"ה. Also by Samira Shahsa ה"י, in memory her late husband **Yehaskel** ben Ragina Shasha ז"ל.

**Seuda Shilshit:** sponsored by Jacob Oved ה"י, in memory of his late beloved brother, **Mordechai** Emil ben Margarit & Aboudi Oved ז"ל.

**Chanukah Party 2019/5780:** Ohel David Eastern Synagogue with Crafts4kids events would like you to join us for a fun family afternoon to celebrate Chanukah. A full afternoon of candle lighting, arts and crafts, delicious doughnuts, nosh and drinks. Entrance: £5. - Date: 28<sup>th</sup> December 2019. - 17:30 - 19:00.

**Hanukah candle lightening:** 5780-2019 Our president Mr Ghassan Cohen will be lightening candle No.7 Motzei Shabbat, 28<sup>th</sup> December. It would be great to see all the community. The event starts at 7pm, opposite Golders Green Station. There will be lots of whiskey and fresh doughnuts.

**Security Alert:** Please be very vigilant when you leave the Synagouge. Do not stand in groups and chat, go home without gathering on the main road. Be safe and alert.

**Kolel every Sunday:** We are still having a Kolel every Sunday at the Synagogue hall from 09.30am - 12.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

THE KEHILLA WISHES חיים ארוכים "LONG LIFE"  
TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE YAHRZEIT

03 Kislev Mr Solly Yona	19 Kislev Mr Adel Darwish
04 Kislev Dr. Stephen Mark Cohen	20 Kislev Mr Moses Jacob
04 Kislev Mrs Hannah Cohen	20 Kislev Mr Isaac Cohen
06 Kislev Mr Tony Silver	25 Kislev Mr Moses Jacob
12 Kislev Mr Benny Benaiah	27 Kislev Miss Nancy Dwek
14 Kislev Dr Maurice Gubbay	28 Kislev Mr Azouri Attar
14 Kislev Mr Nadhim Mouallim	28 Kislev Mr Mayer Attar
17 Kislev Mrs Helen Georgy	

Quote of the Week

**Death ends a life, not a relationship.**



The 13<sup>th</sup> Global **Siyum HaShas** יום הש"ס  
of  
**Daf Yomi** 2020  
On Thursday - 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
The 13<sup>th</sup> of Tevet 5780  
at Ohel David Eastern Synagogue at 7.00pm

The President, the committee, and our Rabbi A. Sebbag Shlita  
Of Ohel David eastern synagogue,  
invite you to celebrate  
The **Siyum Hashas** 2020.  
We will celebrate with '**Seudat Mitzvah**'  
At the price of £15 per person.

To reserve a place ,Please call Kelly Saltoun on 07836389058  
**The list will be closed on 18 of December 2019**