

Mazel Tov/Shalom Zachor Tonight

Mazel Tov to Dan Avi & Gali Israeli on the birth of a son. May the bris take place *b'ito u'vizmano*. There will be a Shalom Zachor at the home of Dan Avi & Gali Israeli, Friday Evening, IYH, around 7 PM 4824 W. 27th St.

Page Numbers/Etc.

Shabbos Parshas Toldos. Artscroll: Page 124, Hirsch p. 110, Haftorah Artscroll 1137. Hirsch 829. Shabbos Mevarchim Kislev Rosh Chodesh is Tuesday and Wednesday.

Rabbi Waxman's Question

This Week's Question: Which names of women in the תורה are shared by two people? **Answer to last week's Question:** What תפילה is said exactly 100 times a year? *ידוד ה אורי*.

Bnos 2:30-3:30

PK: Nechama Yardley
K: Chaya Rochel Gres
1st: Basya Geretz
2nd-3rd: Chanie Weinberg
4-5: Liba Kutoff

PK and K Pirchei at the home of Shlomo Dovid Marcus

Bais Yaakov Chanukah Chocolates

Back By Popular Demand! In honor of Chanukah, The G.O. of Bais Yaakov High School of the Twin Cities presents Homemade Gourmet Pareve Chocolates, under the Hashgacha of Rabbi Shimon & Hadassah Perez. Each elegant box contains a dozen chocolates, priced at \$7.00. The chocolates will be available for pick up during school hours at the Bais Yaakov office now until December 22nd. For more information or to order, please call Calah Murray 952-924-0654, Gittel Weinberg – 952-922-8854, or the Bais Yaakov Office – 952-915-9117. Orders may be placed by BYTC Students as well.

Motzoei Shabbos Swim Sessions

Swimming for women and girls will take place this Motzoei Shabbos, November 29th. 6:45-7:45 P.M. at the J.C.C. This is the third in the series. The next time will be on December 13th. For more info call Aliza Frank at 952-929-2550.

Rebbetzen Gibber to Give Shiur on Prayer

Rebbetzen Suri Gibber will be giving a shiur on "Prayer: Language of the Soul" Monday nights, November 24th-Jan 5th, excluding December 22nd at her home 2704 Joppa. 8:15-9:00 P.M.

Boys swimming this Sunday November 30th 5-6 P.M. at the J.C.C.
Next swimming time: Dec 14

Schedule of Services/Events

Shabbos Parshas Toldos

Shacharis	8:30 A.M.
Mincha	4:05 P.M.
Shabbos Over	5:25 P.M.
Father/Son Learning	7:00 P.M.

Sunday

Shacharis	7:00 & 8:00 A.M.
Sports & Learning	8:45 A.M.
Kollel Mincha	2:45 P.M.
Mincha/Maariv	4:15 P.M.
Second Maariv	10:00 P.M.

Monday - Thursday *

Shacharis	6:40 & TBA
Kollel Mincha	2:45 P.M.
Mincha	4:15 P.M.
Second Maariv	8:00 P.M.
Third Maariv	10:00 P.M.

Shabbos Parshas VaYetzei

Shacharis	6:40 and 7:00 A.M.
Mincha	4:15 P.M.
Candle Lighting	4:14 P.M.

Shiurim Given by HaRav Moshe Tuvia Lieff:

Sunday:	Pre/Post Bar Mitzva Tefillen 1/2 Hour pre Mincha
M - W:	Mesechta Kiddushin at 7:15 P.M.
M-W:	Mesechta Bava Kamma at 6:10 A.M.
Tu & W :	Mesechta Rosh Hashana at 8:15 A.M.
Wednesday:	Lunch and Learn. Noon. Altman & Izek
Thursday:	Hillel. 3PM UoM

For membership information or general information regarding activities and events at Bais Yisroel, write Congregation Bais Yisroel, 4221 Sunset Blvd., St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55416 or contact HaRav Moshe Tuvia Lieff at (952) 926-7867 or (952) 922 8881. **E-mail:** BaisLine@BaisYisroel.org Be sure to visit the Bais Yisroel Website at <http://www.baisyisroel.org>. *The BYSO is published in conjunction with Puma Press.*



THE BAIS YISROEL SHABBOS OBSERVER

Issue Number 503

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Parshas Toldos

November 28 & 29, 2003

The Bais Yisroel Shabbos Observer is a weekly publication that brings you divrei Torah on the week's parsha from around the world and around the block as well as events going on in the Bais Yisroel Community. To submit a dvar Torah or item of interest to the community contact Hindy or Arnie Frishman at 952-927-5134 before Thursday of each week.



The Shaarim Chinese Auction, which was held this past Sunday night at the JCC, was a big success with lots of great food and prizes. Pictured here are two volunteers at the event, Rabbi Yaakov Roberts and Meir Chodos. Yasher Koach to all who participated.

משה טוביה לייף
רב קהילת בית ישראל
מיניאפוליס ' מיניסוטה

Message From the Rav

Creating Something From Nothing

Yaakov Aveinu, under the advice of Rivkah Immeinu, receives the brochos from Yitzchak Aveinu. All the brochos. There is nothing left for Eisav. Esaiv asks his father whether he has reserved a brocha for him.

This issue of the Bais Yisroel Shabbos Observer is sponsored by Joe Mendelson on the Yartzeit of his Father, Michel Ben Gedaliah on the 14th of Kislev.

Yitzchak responds ויבך. וככה אפוא מה אנשׁה בני. *And for you, where, what, can I do, my son. (Toldos 27:37).* In other words, there was no brocha left in the world for Yitzchok to give Eisav. He cannot create something from nothing. Yet, a posuk later, Yitzchok seems to find a brocha for Eisav: הנה משמני הארץ יהיה מושבך ומטל השמים מעל דינך. *Behold, of the fatness of the earth shall be your dwelling and of the den of the heavens above. (Toldos: 27:39-40).* Where did these brochos come from? Maran Rav Gifter, ZTL, Telshe Rosh Reshiva, explained that something phenomenal occurred. Eisav cried. וישא עשו קרו. ויבך. *And Eisav raised his voice and wept. (Toldos 27:38).* The cry moved heaven and earth. It changed nature and altered the course of the world. One cry, coming from the essence and soul of one man, who was not even a tzaddik or an eved Hashem. Yet, it was a real cry, with nothing held back. It literally created something from nothing.

This is the power of prayer and of tears. If such can be achieved by an Eisav, imagine how effective can the tefillos of Klal Yisroel be. We can change the world. We can bring healing and prosperity to our community and to all of am Yisroel.

Let us learn how to apply our potential and daven with focus and faith. Through our sincere efforts, we can hasten the Geulah.



Parshas Toldos

After 20 years of marriage, Yitzchak's prayers are answered and Rivka conceives twins. The pregnancy is extremely painful. G-d reveals to Rivka that the suffering is a microcosmic prelude to the worldwide conflict that will rage between the two great nations descended from these twins, Rome and Israel. Esav is born, and then Yaakov, holding on to Esav's heel. They grow and Esav becomes a hunter, a man of the physical world, whereas Yaakov sits in the tents of Torah developing his soul. On the day of their grandfather

Avraham's funeral, Yaakov is cooking lentils, the traditional mourner's meal. Esav rushes in, ravenous from a hard day's hunting, and sells his birthright (and its concomitant spiritual responsibilities) for a bowl of lentils, demonstrating his unworthiness for the position of firstborn. A famine strikes Canaan and Yitzchak thinks of escaping to Egypt, but G-d tells him that because he was bound as a sacrifice, he has become holy and must remain in the Holy Land. He relocates to Gerar in the land of the Philistines, where, to protect Rivka, he has to say she is his sister. The Philistines grow jealous of Yitzchak when he becomes immensely wealthy, and Avimelech the king asks him to leave. Yitzchak re-digs three wells dug by his father, prophetically alluding to the three future Temples. Avimelech, seeing that Yitzchak is blessed by G-d, makes a treaty with him. When Yitzchak senses his end approaching, he summons Esav to give him his blessings. Rivka, acting on a prophetic command that the blessings must go to Yaakov, arranges for Yaakov to impersonate Esav and receive the blessings. When Esav in frustration reveals to his father that Yaakov has bought the birthright, Yitzchak realizes that the birthright has been bestowed correctly on Yaakov and confirms the blessings he has given Yaakov. Esav vows to kill Yaakov, so Rivka sends Yaakov to her brother Lavan where he may find a suitable wife.

Insights

We live in a world of addiction. And not just to drugs. There are addictions to sweets and chocolate, to TV programs and to golf. One modern addiction even has its own name: "Workaholism." Everyone needs to work. Every one needs to find a way to put chicken on the table for Shabbat. The Mishna in Pirkei Avot tells us that we should minimize our involvement with business and maximize our time spent learning Torah. We live in a physical world, but we must never become enmeshed in it. There is no mitzvah for a person to be a workaholic. Work was designed to be a curse: "By the sweat of your brow you will eat bread." The irony is that nowadays the curse has been embraced as a blessing. In this week's Torah portion, we find the world's first workaholic: "...Pour into me now some of that red red stuff..." Esav's other name is Edom, meaning "red". Esav returned so exhausted from work that he recognized the lentils Yaakov was cooking only by their color. Esav had lost the basic human recognition of "what things are," and degenerated to the level of "what things look like." He had lost the basic human understanding of essence, and grasped only the superficial. When Yaakov saw this spiritual degeneration he realized that Esav was in no way fit for the spiritual duties incumbent on the first-born, and immediately asked him to sell him the birthright. This is the difference between the descendants of Yaakov and Esav to this day. Yaakov grasps the world of the inside, whereas Esav lays hold of only the surface, the outside.

Being a workaholic is not a Jewish thing.

Parsha Questions

1. Why was it important that Yitzchak look like Avraham?
2. Why does the Torah stress that Rivka was Betuel's daughter and Lavan's sister?
3. What are the two differences between Tamar's pregnancy and Rivka's pregnancy?
4. Why was Esav named Esav?
5. Who gave Yaakov his name?
6. How did Esav deceive his father?
7. Why was Esav faint when he returned from the field?
8. Why are lentils a food for mourners?
9. What was the birthright that Yaakov bought from Esav?
10. Why was Yitzchak not permitted to go to Egypt?
11. Why did the Philistines plug up the wells? Why did Yitzchak lose his sight? (three reasons).
12. At what age should one anticipate his own death?
13. Why did Rivka ask Yaakov to bring two kid goats?
14. Why did Esav leave his special garments with Rivka?
15. What fragrance did Yitzchak detect on Yaakov's garments?
16. What was the "fat of the land" promised to Esav?
17. When will Esav be freed from subjugation to Yaakov?
18. What inspired Esav to marry the daughter of Yishmael?
19. Knowing that Machalat was Yishmael's daughter, it's self-evident that she was the sister of Nevayot. Why, then, does the Torah state that Esav married "Yishmael's daughter, the sister of Nevayot?"

1. 25:19 - So everyone would agree that Avraham was indeed his father. 2. 25:20 - To praise her, that even though her family was evil she was righteous. 3. 25:24 - Rivka gave birth at full term to two children, one righteous and one wicked. Tamar gave birth after seven months to two righteous children. 4. 25:25 - He was born fully developed. The name Esav is based on the Hebrew word for "made". 5. 25:26 - G-d. 6. 25:27 - Esav deceived Yitzchak by asking questions that suggested that he was very strict in mitzvah observance. 7. 25:29 - From having murdered. 8. 25:30 - They are round like a wheel and mourning is like a revolving wheel that eventually touches everyone. 9. 25:31 - The right to bring sacrifices. 10. 26:2 - Through the akeida he had attained the status of a korban and was forbidden to leave Eretz Canaan. 11. 26:15 - They felt that either marauders would attack to capture the wells, or if attacking for other reasons, they would use the wells as a water supply. 27:1 - a) From the smoke of the incense offered by Esav's wives to their idols; b) From the angel's tears which fell into Yitzchak's eyes at the time of the akeida; c) In order for Yaakov to receive the blessings. 12. 27:2 - When he reaches five years from the age his parents were when they passed away, until five years after. 13. 27:9 - One for Yitzchak and the other to offer as a korban Pesach. 14. 27:15 - He suspected that his wives might steal them. 15. 27:27 - The scent of Gan Eden. 16. 27:36 - Italy. 17. 27:40 - When the Jewish People transgress the Torah. 18. 28:7 - Seeing that his father despised his current wives, he resolved to take a wife from his father's family. 19. 28:9 - To indicate that Yishmael died between her betrothal and her wedding, and that it was Nevayot who gave his sister in marriage to Esav. Knowing the date of Yishmael's death, we can determine the date of Esav's marriage and thus Yaakov's age, 63, at the time of his flight from Esav.