

**KIDDUSH FOOD FOR
THOUGHT/NEXT WEEK'S
ZOOM LEARNING
IS CO-SPONSORED
BY**

Howard and Diane Schachat In honor of the blessed memory of **Howard's father, Tzvi Melech ben Benzion Ya'akov (Harry)** ז"ל on this 60th Yahrtzeit. Gone too soon, but always loved and never forgotten.

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Gloria Scarf. I recently vacated my condo rental in La Jolla. The void is filled with my, (and **Irwin's** ז"ל), love for the Adat community. Hopefully I will be back when this pandemic is over! Be well and stay strong!



**The Congregation
Expresses
Condolences**

to

Hana Olivensky on the loss of her brother, **Feivel ben Aharon.**

Mazel Tov

to

Eli and Ilana Glovinsky on the birth of their granddaughter, **Rachel Leah**, to their daughter and son-in-law, **Alexi and Shalva Mikhelashvili.**

MINYON SCHEDULE

1/1 Shacharit.....	6:45 a.m.
1/1 Plag.....	3:51 p.m.
1/1 Candles.....	4:34 p.m.
1/1 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat.....	4:40 p.m.
1/2 Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
1/2 Sh'ma: Latest Time.....	9:22 a.m.
1/2 Mincha.....	4:30 p.m.
1/2 Parsha Class by Gavin Horn.....	4:55 p.m.
1/2 Ma'ariv.....	5:35 p.m.
1/2 Shabbat Ends.....	5:40 p.m.
1/2 Melava Malka Experience.....	on hiatus

THIS COMING WEEK

1/3/2021 - 1/7/2021

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sun. Shacharit.....	8:30 a.m.
Mon. & Thu. Shacharit.....	6:30 a.m.
Tue., Wed. & Fri. Shacharit.....	6:45 a.m.
Sun. - Thu. Mincha/Ma'ariv.....	4:40 p.m.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday	
Daf Yomi (RJW).....	8:00 p.m.
Monday - Thursday	
Talmud in Depth (RJW).....	7:45 a.m.
Tuesday - Thursday	
Daf Yomi (RJW).....	8:00 p.m.
Monday	
Pirkei Avot (RJW).....	7:30 p.m.
Daf Yomi (RJW).....	8:15 p.m.
Tuesday	
Women's Class (RJW).....	11:00 a.m.
Wednesday	
Working Man's Kollel (RDR).....	on hiatus (1)
Great Debates (RDR).....	on hiatus (1)
Thursday	
Torah & Cholent (RDR).....	on hiatus (2)

RDR = Rabbi Reich's Zoom Room
RJW = Rabbi Wohlgeleenter's Zoom

**Special Note Regarding
Rabbi Reich's Classes**

- (1) Rabbi Reich's classes are on hiatus at this time and will resume on 1/6/2021.
- (2) Rabbi Reich's class is on hiatus at this time and will resume on 1/7/2021.

In Memory of Linda Neiman

**THE CONGREGATION ADAT YESHURUN
WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN**

**Daniel Reich
Rabbi**

**Jeffrey Wohlgeleenter
Rabbi Emeritus**

Brian Marcus, President

Vayechi

18 Tevet 5781 January 2, 2021



This Week's Torah Reading

The Torah Reading begins on page 198 in the Hirsch, page 268 in the Stone.
The Haftorah begins on page 842 in the Hirsch and page 1145 in the Stone.

THE PARSHA BEGINS with an account of Ya'akov's life in Egypt. It is interesting to note Ya'akov is described as "Vayechi," "and Ya'akov lived" as opposed to "and he settled" or "and he dwelt". Our commentaries offer various explanations. The Akeidah and others comment that finally, after all his suffering, Ya'akov was united with all his children and was able to enjoy 17 years of tranquility. He finally 'lived'. The Tosefos Harosh says Ya'akov 'lived' for 34 years (the numerical value of the word Vayechi), 17 years before Yosef was sold and 17 years after the reunion. All his other years were not really living. The Daas Zekeinim posits that the first 17 years correspond to the years during which Ya'akov sustained Yosef, the later to those Yosef sustained Ya'akov in Egypt. R' Munk makes a comparison to the name of this week's Parsha and Chayei Sarah, which both record the death of a righteous person using the term "life". He recalls the Gemarah in Berachos which states the righteous never die, they continue to live in the spiritual heritage they leave to their children.

ASYA'AKOV GREW weaker he called his son Yosef to his side. Ya'akov made Yosef swear not to bury him in Egypt, in order to insure that his children would understand there is only one land of importance to the Jew, Eretz Yisroel. If Ya'akov was unable to be there in his lifetime, it was imperative to him that he be there in his death.

R' S. R. HIRSCH comments that Ya'akov's wish to be buried in Eretz Yisroel was based on his knowledge of what happened with his children in Egypt over the course of 17 years. They were beginning to settle down and call Egypt home, and it was to this that Ya'akov reacted. He did not want to be buried there for fear they would never leave. Rashi explains Ya'akov's hesitation to be buried in Egypt for three reasons: first, the earth would turn to vermin during the plagues; second, at the time of the resurrection of the dead, those who are buried outside of Eretz Yisroel will have to roll underground to be a part of "techiyas hamaysim"; and finally, explains Rashi, Ya'akov was worried the Egyptians would deify him.

AFTER THIS ENCOUNTER, Ya'akov became ill. Yosef returned to him with his two sons in order to receive Ya'akov's blessing. It is interesting to note that Ya'akov was the first person to become ill before he died. Rabbinic tradition teaches us that Ya'akov prayed for illness to be introduced before death so a person would have the ability to straighten his affairs in this world before he died.

PARSHA CONTINUES

AT THIS MEETING Ya'akov formally transferred the birthright to Yosef and made Menashe and Ephraim equal to the other sons. In this way he transferred the double portion of the inheritance to Yosef, because he was the eldest son of his primary wife, Rachel.

YA'AKOV BLESSED YOSEF'S sons, placing his right hand on the younger Ephraim's head and his left hand on the older Menashe's head. Yosef tried to switch his father's hands to the correct position, but Ya'akov assured him that he knew what he was doing. He blessed the younger one with his right hand because eventually his offspring would be spiritually greater than those of Menashe. Ya'akov gave them the additional blessing of "HaMalach HaGoel" which is used every time a Jewish parent wishes to bless his sons.

KELIYAKAR GOES to great lengths explaining that being born first does not really mean anything and that "big things come in small packages." Yitzchok, the younger son, was chosen over Yishmael, Ya'akov was chosen over Esav, Yosef over Reuvane, and Ephraim over Menashe. R' S. R. Hirsch explains this phenomena teaches us that greatness does not lie in birth order, but rather in one's actions. In the spiritual world, inheritance does not bring with it superiority. Our sages explain that Menashe still remained the first born in practical terms, but in the future Ephraim's greatness would exceed Menashe's.

IN A VERY beautiful explanation, the B'er Moshe says that Menashe and Ephraim represented two different outlooks on life. Menashe was involved in his father's business, very much involved in worldly matters. Ephraim, on the other hand, was sitting and learning, involved in matters of the spirit. Ya'akov gave presents to Ephraim to show that his was the right approach. However, he did not reject Menashe's way.

YA'AKOV CALLED ALL his sons to his side and conferred a blessing on each one of them, each receiving his appropriate blessing. Then Ya'akov reiterated his command that when he died he was to be buried in The Cave of the Patriarchs in Eretz Yisroel.

THE TORAH THEN records the death of Ya'akov, and Yosef's reaction. Later Yosef orders his father's body to be embalmed. There is much discussion on the propriety of Yosef's action. The Egyptians embalmed their people because they believed the soul would eventually return to the same body. However, Judaism rejects such a philosophy and believes the person's body must return to the dust. Yosef's intentions, however, were not religious. Rather he was concerned that due to the long journey to Eretz Yisroel, his father's body would decompose. According to Rabbi Yehudah Hanassi, Yosef was punished by Hashem for this act by dying before all his brothers. The Sages, however, disagree and maintain that Yosef's actions were correct, and his early death was not a punishment for this act. Earlier, as he was acting as Viceroy to his brothers and he listened to his father being degraded by Yehudah, he did not protest. The Torah relates how everyone mourned for Ya'akov and how he was buried. After Ya'akov's death, the brothers feared retribution by Yosef and they made an agreement of peace with him. Yosef made his brothers promise that he too would be buried in Eretz Yisroel. The Parsha and the book of Bereishis conclude with the death of Yosef.

HOW TO APPROACH THIS WEEK'S PARSHA

WHEN READING THE Brachos that Ya'akov gave his children we have to understand that these aren't mere wishes that a father had for his son, rather they are life shaping blessings. When Ya'akov is blessing his children he is defining for them what their strengths are and thereby giving them the insight into what they should be doing with their lives. These strengths weren't merely for themselves, but by developing those strengths they were shaping the future of Klal Yisroel. Viewed this way, we realize the basic nature and values of the Jewish people and we too understand what we need to be developing within ourselves.

THIS EXPLAINS MANY anomalies in the text. For example, why here, by the blessings do we put Zevulun before Yissochar, when all over the Torah Yissochar appears before Zevulun? If we understand that Zevulun and Yissochar represent philosophical approaches to Torah and life and to their integration into our lives, then it makes sense.

ALL OVER THE Torah we are presented with the theoretical approach of Yissochar but in the blessings we are being taught the reality, which places the approach of Zevulun before that of Yissochar.

THIS WILL ALSO explain why by the tribe of Dan we are taught that his blessing had to do with Shimshon, Samson. Samson wasn't on the surface a very wonderful fellow, so why would Ya'akov be prophesying about him specifically. Furthermore why is that even important to the Jewish nation as a whole. If we understand, though, that Ya'akov was shaping the nation we understand that he was defining the quality of teshuva amongst the people. Shimshon, no matter what he did in his lifetime, did teshuva in the end of his days, this wasn't an event but a life defining quality for the nation. No matter how far we sink we still have been given the strength to pick ourselves up.

USE THIS METHOD of understanding for each of the tribes and you will see exactly what strengths and characteristics we possess and that we are meant to develop.

SPONSOR A KIDDUSH FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Available Kiddush Options:

- \$295 - Regular Kiddush Sponsor
- \$175 - Regular Kiddush Co-Sponsor

DATES THAT ARE AVAILABLE:

Jan 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th

Contact the office at (858) 535-1196
or info@adatyeshurun.org to sponsor.

WE THANK OUR SECURITY VOLUNTEERS

Friday Evening

4:40 p.m. TBD

5:15 p.m. Adam Sragovicz

Shabbat Morning

9:00 a.m. Jerry Hermel

9:30 a.m. Rick Venger

10:00 a.m. Peter Bowers

**SHABBAT PARSHA CLASS
GUEST LECTURER
DR. GAVIN HORN**

**Please join us this week learning Torah
with our guest lecturer, Gavin Horn, as he presents:**

“Parsha Vayechi: I Buried her on the Road”

Between Mincha and Motzei Shabbat Ma'ariv hot drinks and light refreshments will be available while we spend the short break between the services learning Torah together (****All refreshments will be individually wrapped***).

Despite the cool air, join us for the warmth of Torah (and the warm drinks help!).

**PLEASE JOIN ANY OR ALL OF OUR SHUL
WHATSAPP GROUPS TO STAY CONNECTED!**

“Quick-Torah” from La Jolla is here to provide short Torah thoughts (less than 5 minutes each) from Rabbi Reich twice a day - morning and evening - to help you start and end your day with the beauty of Torah! Two minutes of Halacha in the morning lessons and Emunah in the evening! Now we have no excuse not to learn!! [CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

The ADAT Mishpacha - One of the most special things about Adat Yeshurun is our warm community. Many think of this amazing community as an extended family - the Adat Mishpacha! We as a family want to stay connected - especially during these challenging times. That is why we are launching - The ADAT Mishpacha WhatsApp Group! Stay connected with your Adat Family with real-time updates of what Adat is up to, what is going on in the community, all of our Torah offerings, and more - in real-time! [CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

Torah, Torah, Torah - Rabbi Jeff has begun an awesome WhatsApp Group to share Torah with everyone - Torah from our cherished rabbi emeritus Rabbi Jeff, Torah from Israel, Torah straight to your phone! This is not a chat, it is a way to stay connected with great Torah thoughts, classes, and articles. Twice a week Rabbi Jeff will send links to Shabbat thoughts, current events perspectives, and classes they give in Israel. To join Torah Torah Torah, Rabbi Jeff's WhatsApp group, please [CLICK HERE](#)

President's Corner

Dear Holy Congregation:

As we turn our calendars to a new year, we have pause to reflect for a moment on the past year. Who would have thought this time last year that we would have our beloved Rabbi Jeff and Shoshie make the big decision to stay on in Israel and that we would end the year with Rabbi Reich as our community rabbi? Who would have thought that we would spend the year on the roller coaster of emotions and new behaviours that COVID pandemic would dictate? And I personally would never have guessed that I would be president of this holy congregation!

I am very proud of our congregation. We have come together for each other in ways which highlight our values, which have been shaped over the years by our leaders. Rabbi Reich and Brooke continue to reach out to get to know our members on a personal level. And we have the benefit of Zoom classes from Rabbi Jeff from Israel to continue to learn Torah.

We all stand on the shoulders of those before us, and as we look ahead, we can hope and pray that we will continue to get even stronger and better in the future. My personal mission for the shul is be able to build a strong commitment to volunteerism by our members. Looking forward, it may still be a while that we are dealing with the restriction of the pandemic, but the end is in sight, and we can look forward to coming together again in person to participate in the spiritual and communal activities that we all need to nourish our souls!

Thanks to all our member volunteers that have kept the flame burning, through this most unique of years for our shul!!

This upcoming week, the following members are observing yahrzeit; Anne Arenson, Pearl Arenson, Rosa Basson, Jonny Borok, Arthur Cummins, Esperanza Daniel, Sofia Daniel, Lee Edelstein, Sari Esserman, Jack Forman, Mara Lynn Katzman, Pam Resnikoff, Joan Sable, Jane Scher, Eva Shore, and Yvonne Venger.

We wish them Long Life and may the Nishmot of those departed have an Aliyah.

Shabbat Shalom,
Brian Marcus

Eruv Checking Team Members Needed!!

Dear Members, we are in great need of people to help to check the Eruv. Some of our members have moved away over the past few years and now our current teams are pulling double duty.

The Eruv checking takes place typically every Wednesday and can be done (with a two member team) in around an hour.

If you are able to volunteer to help our community with this very important and crucial task please contact the office at info@adatyeshurun.org.

Thank you!!

Torah & Cholent Shas Survey

Resumes 1/7/21

Each week we learn a different Mesechta (tractate) in Talmud Bavli (starting from Brachos through Niddah) and give an overview of the Mesechta, and discuss one major topic of the Mesechta, one practical halachic topic that comes from the Mesechta, and a famous Aggadah (ethical story). A Shas "Highlight-Reel", if you will, put together as a group!

Every Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

Rabbi Reich's Zoom Room
<https://zoom.us/j/8930085483>
Meeting ID: 893 008 5483
Password – 456

Pirkei Avot

Come and learn firsthand the timeless wisdom of our sages. This lively class is a must for those who want to deepen their knowledge and understanding of how the Torah sees our development as incredible human being. Each week is a stand alone class of inspiration and uplifting thoughts.

Every Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Wohlgeleenter's Zoom Room
<https://zoom.us/j/6107329485>
Meeting ID: 610 732 9485
Password - 123

Daf Yomi

Daf Yomi is a worldwide program in which students learn a page a day of the Talmud, our ancient repository of law, stories, mysticism, and more. It is an awesome way to get a smattering and exposure to the world of Talmud study and a great view of the landscape of Torah. One of the biggest yields of Daf Yomi is the YOMI, daily engagement in serious Torah study. Come and see that many of our students have no prior background in Talmud study, but show up with a great desire to learn.

Saturday - Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

Rabbi Wohlgeleenter's Zoom Room
<https://zoom.us/j/6107329485>
Meeting ID: 610 732 9485
Password - 123

Working Man's Kollel "Mishnah: An In-Depth Study and Analysis"

Resumes 1/6/21

The Working Man's Kollel continues our venture into Tractate Shabbos as we learn through many of the laws of Shabbos.

Every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

Rabbi Reich's Zoom Room
<https://zoom.us/j/8930085483>
Meeting ID: 893 008 5483
Password – 456

Great Debates, Great Decision, and Great Deciders

Resumes 1/6/21

Come learn Jewish thoughts, ethics and laws through the lives of our great Rabbis, the debates they had, and the decisions they made.

Every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Reich's Zoom Room
<https://zoom.us/j/8930085483>
Meeting ID: 893 008 5483
Password – 456

Womens' Mesillat Yesharim Path of the Just

Mesillat Yesharim Path of the Just. Join us and learn how to strengthen your Jewish Character. The study of mussar is the study of how and why a Jew is meant to think. Lively, participatory class.

Every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

Rabbi Wohlgeleenter's Zoom Room
<https://zoom.us/j/6107329485>
Meeting ID: 610 732 9485
Password - 123

Talmud in Depth

Talmud in Depth meets Sunday through Thursday, on zoom, currently studying Tractate Megilla. We go slow, in-depth, with an eye towards Halacha. It is a lively class with tons of participation. A really great way to get your feet wet in learning Gemarah.

Sunday - Thursday at 7:45 a.m.

Rabbi Wohlgeleenter's Zoom Room
<https://zoom.us/j/6107329485>
Meeting ID: 610 732 9485
Password - 123