



Chayei Sarah

26 b'Cheshvan 5781 • Friday, November 13, 2020

Shabbos M'vorchim

Candle Lighting (20 min.)	5:04 PM
Mincha / Kab. Shabbos	5:05 PM
Shacharis	9:00 AM
Last Shema (Gr"i)	9:51 AM
Mincha	Kollel: 4:00 PM GMS: 4:45 PM
Sunset	5:23 PM
Ma'ariv	6:00 PM
Shabbos ends (40 min.)	6:04 PM

The Week of Nov. 8

	SUN	M-F
Shacharis	8:00 AM	6:30 AM
On Tuesday, Rosh Chodesh Kislev, Shacharis will be at 6:20 AM.		
Mincha/Ma'ariv		5:05 PM

Virtual Beis Midrash

www.golfmanorsynagogue.org

Daf Yomi

Sunday	7-8 AM
Weekdays	6-6:30 AM

Hebrew Reading

Sundays	8:00 PM
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Derech Hashem

Mondays	8:30-9:10 PM
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Hands-On Halacha

Tuesday	8:30-9:10 PM
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Shmuel Plotsker's classes:

712-770-4945, access code 664943#

Intro to Talmud 101 (Chagiga)

Mon/Wed/Fri	10:30-11:15 AM
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Intro to Midrash (B'reishis Rabbah)

Sundays	8:45-9:45 AM
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When Moshiach Comes/Kol haTor

Mondays	1-2 PM
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Tanach Tuesdays (M/W)

I Kings 19	7:30-8:30 PM
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Sponsors

Shmuel & Dr. Elana Plotsker, in honor of the bas mitzvah of their dear daughter, Sarah Menucha.

Rabbi Avraham & Rebbetzin Navah Avnit, upon the occasion of their wedding anniversary; and in memory of Rabbi Avnit's father, HaRav Simcha Bunim ben HaRav Chaim Yosef HaKohen, and Rebbetzin Avnit's mother, Leah bas Reb Yosef.

Rabbi Moshe & Mrs. Janet Berlove, in honor of the birth of granddaughter Miriam Yaffa to Melech and Chana Leba Berlove, in New York; and in memory of Janet's mother, Toiba Dena bas Yaakov Zussman, whose *yahrzeit* is 3 b'Kislev.

Mr. William & Dr. Sarah Lazarus, in memory of Sarah's mother, Peryl Toba bas Meir Dovid, whose *yahrzeit* is on Shabbos, 27 b'Cheshvan.

Shul Announcements

Our **Annual Golf Manor Synagogue/Kalmanson-Baras Memorial Blood Drive**, benefitting patients in 31 local hospitals, complete with swag and snack! Sunday, December 6, 9 AM-3 PM; see the flyer for more details. Please sign up at hoxworth.org/groups/golfmanor or call 513-451-0910.

In the Community

Mazal tov to YY & Rena Davis and family, on the birth of a baby boy!

Shalom Zachar 7:30-10 tonight in the Davis driveway, 2324 Vera Ave.

B'ris on Wednesday morning, *bshtu"m*, in GMS, after the 6:30 minyan.

Take-home b'ris bags will be available, distancing and masking required.

The congregation extends its condolences to Ethan Eichelberg and Dr. Yakir & Mrs. Rena (Eichelberg) Muszkat and family, on the passing of Mr. Hugo Eichelberg. Shiv'a is being observed at the Eichelberg house, 6845 Farm Acres Dr. Go to <https://signup.com/go/bfeknCA> for minyan info.

The Eruv is sponsored this week by the #DafbyAY shiur, in honor of their amazing *maggid shiur*, Rabbi A.Y. Braunstein, & the siyum on Mes. Eruvin.

Friday Night Kollel at the Kollel: 8:30-10 PM, with Daf Yomi at 8:30 PM.

Sh'miras Halashon Couples Learning Project—learn daily *halachos* with your spouse! Starts Rosh Chodesh Kislev (**this Sunday!**). See flyer or contact Rabbi Stettin for more info.

Eruv Tour and Siyum on Maseches Eruvin—Sunday, November 22; outdoors, socially distanced, with masks. Join David Alden and Rabbi Chaim Heinemann for a tour of our eruv, focusing on key locations and concepts from the gemara, followed by a community *siyum* (with food) at CST. Finalized details and RSVP info to come. *Sponsorships are available.*

Kollel Dirshu looks forward to beginning Maseches Menachos on Monday morning, November 23. Please contact Rabbi Katzman or Rabbi Preis for information about this *Amud Yomi Chabura*. There are on-site and virtual options, plus an option for testing and stipends.

Jewish Fertility Foundation / Cincinnati—

• **Pathways to Parenthood 101**—open discussion with experts, Sunday, Nov. 22, 8 PM. See flyer. RSVP: jewishfertilityfoundation.org/pathways

Refuah Sh'laima

Bracha Leah
bas Rochel Mushka
(Barbara Nagler)

Eitan Chaim ben Elisheva
(Ethan Kadish)

Gavriel ben Pesha
(Gary Walsh)

Chana Rivka bas Ethel
(Juanita Weiss)

Nesanel ben Chaya Rochel

Tzvi Michael ben Leah
(Hirsch Wise)

Daisy bas Lulu
(Mrs. Daisy Kattan)

Z'ev Shmuel
ben Malkah Rochel

Reuven ben Malkah
Simcha Leib haLevi
ben Devorah

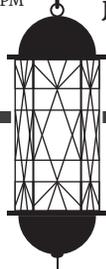
Esther Hitzel bas Gittel
(Esther Deutch)

Bunim Tzemach Aharon
ben Leiba
(Barry Silver)

Ruchama Aviva
bas Shaina Chana

Liora Esther bas Sarah

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Rabbi Stuart Lavenda RABBI EMERITUS
Rabbi Hanan Balk RABBI EMERITUS
Yosef Kirschner CHAIRMAN

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V'Dibartah Bam

THIS WEEK'S PARSHA, CHAYEI SARAH, BEGINS WITH the passing of our first matriarch, Sarah Imainu, and concludes with the passing of our first patriarch, Avraham Avinu. It is far from coincidental that this past week, as we approached parshas Chayei Sarah, we experienced the passing of two great Jewish leaders: Rabbi Dovid Feinstein, leading halachic authority in America, and tremendous Torah scholar; and Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, internationally recognized for inspiring thousands, perhaps millions, with his eloquent and powerful teachings and messages. May we find comfort in our ability to continue to learn from them, and become greater people because of them. May their memory be a blessing for the Jewish people.

I share with you an essay on this week's parsha from Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, z"l.

The World's Oldest Man

ON 11 AUGUST 2017, THE WORLD'S OLDEST man passed away, just a month short of his 114th birthday – making him one of the ten longest-lived men since modern record-keeping began. If you knew nothing else about him than this, you would be justified in thinking that he had led a peaceful life, spared of fear, grief and danger.

The actual truth is the opposite. The man in question was Yisrael Kristal, Holocaust survivor. Born in Poland in 1903, he survived four years in the Lodz ghetto, and was then transported to Auschwitz. In the ghetto, his two children died. In Auschwitz, his wife was killed. When Auschwitz was liberated, he was a walking skeleton weighing a mere 37 kilos. He was the only member of his family to survive.

He was raised as a religious Jew and stayed so all his life. When the war was over and his entire world destroyed, he married again, this time to another Holocaust survivor. They had children. They made aliyah to Haifa. There he began again in the confectionery business, as he had done in Poland before the war. He made sweets and chocolate. He became an innovator. If you have ever had Israeli orange peel covered in chocolate, or liqueur chocolates shaped like little bottles and covered with silver foil, you are enjoying one of the products he originated. Those who knew him said he was a man with no bitterness in his soul. He wanted people to taste sweetness.

In 2016, at the age of 113, he finally celebrated his bar mitzvah. A hundred years earlier, this had proved impossible. By then, his mother was dead and his father was fighting in the First World War. With an almost poetic sense of fittingness, Yisrael died on erev Shabbat Ekev, the parsha that includes the second paragraph of the Shema with its

commands to wear tefillin and teach Torah to your children, “so that you and your children may live long in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors.”

Yisrael Kristal faithfully did both. On his bar mitzvah he joked that he was the world's oldest tefillin-wearer. He gathered his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren under his tallit and said, “Here's one person, and look how many people he brought to life. As we're all standing here under my tallit, I'm thinking: six million people. Imagine the world they could have built.” This was an extraordinary man.

His life sheds light on one of the most tantalising verses in the Torah. Describing the death of Abraham, our parsha says that he “breathed his last and died in good old age, old and satisfied” (Gen. 25:8). His is the most serene death in the Torah. Yet consider his life, fraught as it was with trial after trial.

To pursue the call of God, he had to say goodbye to his land, his birthplace and his father's house and travel to an unknown destination. Twice, famine forced him into exile, where his life was in danger. Promised countless children – as many as the dust of the earth and the stars of the sky – he remained childless until old age. Then God told him to send away his son by Sarah's handmaid Hagar. And if that trial were not heartbreaking enough, God then told him to sacrifice his only son with Sarah, Isaac, the one whom God had told him would be his spiritual heir and bearer of the covenant into the future.

Seven times promised a land, when Sarah died, he owned not a single square inch of territory in which to bury her, and had to entreat the Hittites to let him buy a field and burial cave. This was a life of disappointed hopes and delayed fulfillments. What kind of man was this that the Torah can say that he died “in good old age, old and satisfied”?

I learned the answer to this question through a series of life-changing encounters with Holocaust survivors. They were among the strongest, most life-affirming people I have ever met. For years I wondered how they were able to survive at all, having seen what they saw and known what they knew. They had lived through the deepest darkness ever to have descended on a civilisation.

Eventually I realised what they had done. Almost without exception, when the war was over, they focused with single-minded intensity on the future. Strangers in a strange land, they built homes and careers, married and had children and brought new life into the world.

Often they did not talk about their experiences during the Shoah, even to their spouses,

their children and their closest friends. This silence lasted, in many cases, for as long as fifty years. Only then, when the future they had built was secure, did they allow themselves to look back and bear witness to what they had suffered and seen. Some of them wrote books. Many of them went around schools, telling their story so that the Holocaust could not be denied.[1] First they built a future. Only then did they allow themselves to remember the past.

That is what Abraham did in this week's parsha. He had received three promises from God: children, a land, and the assurance that he would be the father, not of one nation but of many nations (Gen. 17:4-5). At the age of 137, he had one unmarried son, no land, and had fathered no nations. He uttered not a single word of complaint. It seems that he realised that God wanted him to act, not to wait for God to do the work for him.

So, when Sarah died, he bought the first plot in what would become the Holy Land, the field and cave of Machpelah. Then he instructed his servant to find a wife for Isaac, his son, so that he might live to see the first Jewish grandchildren. Lastly, in his old age, he married again and had six sons, who would eventually become progenitors of many nations. He did not, except briefly, sit and mourn the past. Instead he took the first steps toward building the future.

That, in his own way, is what Yisrael Kristal did – and that is how a survivor of Auschwitz lived to become the world's oldest man. He too died “in good old age, old and satisfied.”

That is what the Jewish people did collectively when, a mere three years after standing eyeball-to-eyeball with the angel of death at Auschwitz, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the Jewish State in our people's ancient homeland, the land of Israel. Had world Jewry sat passively and wept from then till now for the murdered generations of European Jewry, it would have been an understandable reaction. But it did not. It was as if the Jewish people had said collectively, in the words of King David, “I will not die but live” (Ps. 118:17), thereby giving testimony to the God of life. That is why the West's oldest nation is still young, a world leader in life-saving medicine, disaster relief, and life-enhancing technology.

This is a transformative idea. To survive tragedy and trauma, first build the future. Only then, remember the past.

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To read more from Rabbi Sacks z"l, please visit www.rabbisacks.org. You can also follow @RabbiSacks on social media.

