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We are pleased to announce that the **Beth Aaron Boys' Choir** is available for shul functions and Beth Aaron Community's *simchas* (except on *Shabbat*). For more information, or to join the choir, contact Benjy Rosenbluth, (201) 357-5685, or Yehiel Levy, (201) 357-5495, yehiel@optonline.net.

Congregation Beth Aaron

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 Laurence Rothwachs, Rabbi

Ronnie Schwartz, President

Shabbat Announcements

Parashat Bereshit October 17, 2009 29 Tishrei 5770

- Latest Candles: 5:56 P.M.
- *Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat*: 6:00 P.M.
- *Shacharit*: *Hashkamah*: 7:30 A.M.
- Rabbi Rothwachs' *Tefillah shiur*: 8:20 A.M.
- Main *Shul*: 8:45 A.M.
- Youth *Minyan*: 9:30 A.M.
- *Sof Zman Kriat Shema*: 9:55 A.M.
- Early *Mincha*: 1:45 P.M.
- Rochi Lerner's *Rosh Chodesh shiur*: 4:30 P.M., at the *shul*. All are invited to attend.
- *Daf Yomi*: 5:00 P.M.
- Women's Learning Group: will not meet this week.
- *Mincha*: 5:40 P.M., followed by *Seudah Shlishit*, at which Rabbi Benjamin Yudin will speak.
- *Maariv*: 6:56 P.M.
- *Havdalah*: 7:05 P.M.

Schedule for Week of October 18th:	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
	18	19	20	21	22	23
<i>Earliest Tallit</i>	6:10	6:11	6:13	6:14	6:15	6:16
<i>Shacharit</i>	6:20 7:15	6:00 6:10	6:02 6:30	6:03 6:30	6:04 6:20	6:05 6:30
	8:00	7:05	7:15	7:15	7:10	7:15
	8:45	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
<i>Mincha</i>	1:45					
<i>Mincha/Maariv</i>	5:50	5:50	5:50	5:50	5:50	5:50
<i>Maariv</i> :	8:00 9:30	8:00 9:30	8:00 9:30	8:00 9:30	8:00 9:30	8:00

Weekly Shiurim:

- *Daf Yomi*: *Shabbat*: 5:00 P.M. For other *Daf Yomi shiurim*, go to www.teaneckshuls.org/daf
- **Chabura on Revadim method of Talmud Study**: Sunday evening at 8:15 P.M. This *chabura* will explore and apply the *Revadim* method of Talmud study pioneered by Rabbi Pinchas Hayman, a former Beth Aaron member now living in Israel.
- **Rabbi Baruch Simon's shiur**: Monday evening at 8:15 P.M.: "*Hilchot Tefilat ha-Derekh*"
- **Parshat ha-Shavua shiur by Rabbi Neil Lauer**: Tuesday evening, 8:45 to 9:30 P.M.: "The *Kivshan ha-Aish* and Other Burning Issues of the Day" (see page 2 for further details)
- **Rabbi Rothwachs' Bava Kama shiur**: Thursday evening at 8:30 P.M.
- **Morning Mishnah Chabura**: Monday - 6:50 A.M.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 7:00 A.M.; Thursday - 6:55 A.M.

We are resuming our **Shalom Bayit/Chinuch Chabura**, led by Rabbi Rothwachs, which will meet every other week on Tuesday evenings. If interested in participating, please contact Rob Ernst, robernst@gmail.com, for more details on time and location

Mazal Tov

- *Mazal Tov* to Rabbi Larry and Chaviva Rothwachs on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Tzipora. *Mazal Tov* also to grandparents Bernard and Laurette Rothwachs and Rabbi Benjamin and Shevi Yudin, who will be joining us for *Shabbat*.
- *Mazal Tov* to David Hes and Shulamis Landesman on David's *aufruf* this *Shabbat* and on their forthcoming marriage. *Mazal Tov* also to their parents, Rev. and Mrs. Walter Hes and Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Lichstein, to their children Shira and Noam, and to the entire *mishpacha* who will be joining us for the *simcha*.
- *Mazal Tov* to Yosef and Razel Adler on the birth of their granddaughter Rochel Fraida, born to their children Gavriel and Etti Fagin.
- *Mazal Tov* to Nathan and Yocheved Lindenbaum on the birth of a granddaughter, born to their children Yehoshua and Yocheved Lindenbaum.
- *Mazal Tov* to David and Pearl Schachter on the engagement of their son Ariel to Chana Filler of Baltimore. *Mazal Tov* also to Ariel's mother, May Muskin, and to Chana's parents, Mordechai and Faigy Filler.
- *Mazal Tov* to the 3rd Grade Boys' Learning Group upon their *siyum* on *Sefer Shoftim* this *Shabbat*.
- *Mazal Tov* to the 4th Grade Boys' Learning Group upon their *siyum* of *Mishnayot Masechet Pesachim*.

At present, a member's *simcha* is usually included on the *shul* calendar only if a request has been made to use the *shul* for some part of the *simcha*. As a result, some *smachot* are inadvertently omitted from the *Mazal Tov* section of the weekly announcements, and several *smachot* are sometimes scheduled simultaneously. To attempt to forestall conflicts, we would request that all *smachot* of our members be added to our *shul* calendar, whether the *shul* is being used or not. To add an event to the calendar, please contact Joel Richter, joel.richter@us.hsbc.com, jrich613@optonline.net. (Please note that all *shul* rentals must follow the proper protocol, and that listing an event on the *shul* calendar does not constitute a reservation. Also, only *smachot* that are held at the *shul* will be shown on the printed calendar distributed to our members.)

On Monday, October 26th, from 2:00 to 9:00 P.M., at their headquarters, 855 Windsor Road, the **Teaneck Volunteer Ambulance Corps** (TVAC) will hold its 15th Annual Memorial **Blood Drive**, dedicated to the memory of three TVAC Life Members -- **Beth Aaron member Rabbi Stanley Fisch**, Police Captain Walter Pinches and Bill Shambroom. Refreshments are provided courtesy of Chopstix Kosher Chinese Take-Out and Butterflake Bakery. Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds and be at least 17 years old, and should be in good general health. For more information, please call Community Blood Services, (201) 251-3705.

Miscellaneous Shul Announcements

We would like to welcome everyone who is participating in the **5th Young Members' Luncheon**. We look forward to seeing you in the *Beit Midrash* after the Youth *Minyan* has concluded.

The next **Sisterhood Book Club** selection is "The Color of Water," by James McBride. We will be meeting this Saturday, October 17th at 8:00 P.M., at the home of Esther Toporovsky, 922 Ridgeway. For additional information, contact Diane Fogel.

This coming Monday, October 19th, *Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan*, at 8:30 P.M., there will be a **Rosh Chodesh Shiur for women** on Monday, October 19, at the Rothwachs home, 288 Schley Place. Please come for an inspiring and interactive evening of Torah. For more information, please contact Tzippy Staum, (201) 862-0307.

We are starting a **new Parshat ha-Shavua shiur** entitled "**Chut ha-Sidrah: Studies in the Weekly Parsha**," given by Rabbi Neil Lauer on Tuesday evenings, 8:45 to 9:30 P.M. The *shiur's* goals include: offering a fresh perspective on familiar material, revealing some of the more subtle lessons of the *Torah*, demystifying the relationship between the *Chumash* and *Torah she-ba'al peh*, and discussion of the relationship between *Halakhah* and *Aggadah* in the study of *Chumash*. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

The annual **Chanukah Toy Drive**, a unique opportunity to bring the joy of *Chanukah* to Jewish children less fortunate than our own, is underway. We are collecting **new, unwrapped items**, such as electronic and board games, arts and crafts supplies, books, dolls, sports equipment, and toys with Jewish themes and content. While this is called a "toy" drive, please keep in mind when selecting presents that many recipients are older children and young teenagers. Ideas for this age group include portable tape players, radios, jewelry, watches, stationery, diaries, books, posters and sports equipment. Hebrew music tapes are especially appreciated for all age groups. Please remove all price tags, and remember -- no used items! Our deadline is December 4th, so that the items can be delivered to the children in time for *Chanukah*. Please drop off all gifts at the Leifer home, 150 Chadwick Road, (201) 807-0309. Zoldan's Judaica Center and Judaica House will take 10% off the price of any non-sale item bought for the Toy Drive. Special collection boxes will be set up in both stores.

Beth Aaron Youth:

- The **learning group for 3rd grade boys** will meet this *Shabbat*, October 17th, at **4:00 P.M.**, at the Dubitsky home, 259 Carlton Terrace. We will continue studying *Sefer Shoftim*. For more information, please contact Doug Dubitsky, douglas_dubitsky@glic.com.
- The **learning group for 4th grade boys** will meet this *Shabbat*, October 17th, at 4:15 P.M., at the Greengart home, 28 Grayson Place. Please bring your own *Mishnah (Masechet Beitza)*. For more information, contact Rebecca Kurz, rkurz1@yahoo.com, or Esther Klavan, eskslp@aol.com
- **Happy Birthday to Amalya and Rami Knapp**. In honor of their birthdays, the Knapps are sponsoring a **birthday cake kiddush** this *Shabbat* in the pre-school and 1st-2nd grade groups. To sponsor a birthday *kiddush*, contact Erica & Jason David, bethaaronyouth@yahoo.com.

Junior NCSY (grades 6-8):

- Our next **Nosh of Torah** session will be this **Shabbat, October 17th**, at 5:15 P.M. Please join us in the shul basement for a little bit of *Torah*, shmoozing, and yummy nosh!
- **This Sunday, October 18th**, from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M., the Beth Aaron and Fair Lawn Junior NCSY chapters will be going **Bowling** at Parkway Lanes, 200 U.S. Route 46, Elmwood Park. The cost is \$15.
- On the weekend of November 6-7, we will be going to an **NCSY Shabbaton** at Congregation Ohev Emeth in Highland Park. On Friday, November 6th, buses will be leaving from school (more information to come shortly), and we will return to Beth Aaron about 10:30 P.M. on Saturday night, November 7th. The cost is \$42 if you register before October 26th, and \$48 afterwards. To register, go to www.njncsy.com and click on the Highland Park *Shabbaton* link. Our chapter will be putting on a short skit at the *Shabbaton*, and we need your help! If you want to play a part in the skit, please let me know.
- To RSVP, or if you have any questions about our events, e-mail Danielle, bethaaronjuniors@gmail.com, or call (201) 247-7961.

The **Torah Academy of Bergen County** will be sponsoring a **learning program for all 7th and 8th grade boys**. On Monday evenings, from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M., from October to December, these boys will have the opportunity to learn *be-chavruta* with TABC's finest juniors and seniors. Refreshments will be served. To register, please email teenlearning@tabc.org by Sunday, October 18th. For more information, contact Rabbi Sarel Malitzky, (646) 706-2553, or Charlie Wollman, (201) 803-8196.

Beth Aaron Teens (grades 9-12):

- We had a great turnout at our first *Oneg* of the year in the shul *sukkah*!
- All high school students (as well as 7th and 8th graders) are invited to an **Oneg this Friday night, October 16th**, at 8:30 P.M., at the home of Karen Segal, 189 Johnson Avenue. This *Oneg* is sponsored by the Youth Department of Congregation Arzei Darom, but all Beth Aaron Teens are also invited to come for singing, food and games. Everyone is encouraged to bring a friend. See you there!
- Please join us at our next **Oneg**, Friday night, October 23rd, at 8:30 P.M., in the shul basement. Rabbi Beni Krohn will be joining us to hang out and share some words of Torah. As usual, delicious delicacies will be provided. Please use the side entrance and come straight to the basement, as there will be another event taking place upstairs.
- Beth Aaron Teens will be participating in the UJA's annual **Mitzvah Day** on Sunday, November 1st. We will be going to Bright Side Manor, 300 Teaneck Road, from 2:00 to 3:00 P.M., to play bingo and hang out with senior citizens. Please RSVP to bethaaronteens@gmail.com if you're interesting in coming, and also sign up on the Mitzvah Day web page, www.ujannj.org/mitzvahday
- If you have any questions about these events, or to RSVP, e-mail bethaaronteens@gmail.com, or call Shiffy Friedman, (201) 341-6022, or Noam Friedman, (201) 937-6249.

Answers continued from page 4

6. *Adam* and his descendants knew that as a result of his sin, the land would be cursed as long as *Adam* was alive. *Noach* was in the first generation born after *Adam's* death, which ended the curse (*Abarbanel*).
7. It was the custom of all who eat at the king's table to come on the festive day of *Rosh Chodesh*; when *Shaul ha-Melech* notices that *David's* seat is vacant, *Yonatan* will be able to determine, by the king's reaction, the king's attitude toward *David* (*Rashi*).

Community Announcements

CareOne, the kosher rehabilitation and nursing center located at 544 Teaneck Road, needs volunteers to help make a *minyán*. This Friday, *Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat* will begin at 6:05 P.M. *Shacharit* will be at 9:00 A.M., followed by a hot *Kiddush*. Youth groups through age 5 begin at 9:30 A.M. *Mincha* will be at 5:45 P.M., followed by a *shiur* on *Masechet Ketubot* at 6:00 P.M. *Maariv* will be at 6:57 P.M.

This Sunday, October 18th, from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., **Yeshivat Ben Porat Yosef** will be holding a **Special Mitzvah Carnival** at the school, East 243 Frisch Court, Paramus (take Route 4 to the Forest Avenue exit). The carnival will be indoors and will include a magic show, a petting zoo in honor of *Parashat Noach*, blow-up rides, arts and crafts, games, face painting, storytelling, refreshments, music and MP3 raffle prizes. The cost is \$10 per child or \$36 per family (parents are free). Proceeds will benefit the Ben Porat Yosef Scholarship Fund and the Kehillah Fund. For more information, contact Ruth Roth, RuthR@BenPoratYosef.org, (201) 845-5007 ext. 16.

Yavneh Academy invites prospective parents to an **Open House** on Wednesday, October 21st, at 8:00 P.M., at the yeshiva, 155 Farview Avenue, Paramus. For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Judy Katz, (201) 262-8494 ext. 325, jkatz@yavnehacademy.org.

Friends of the IDF New Jersey Chapter will be having its Fifth Annual IDF **Tribute Dinner** honoring the lone soldiers of the IDF on Saturday evening, October 24th, at the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel and Conference Center in East Rutherford. For more information, or to make reservations or place journal ads, please contact Benjamin Steward, (212) 244-3118, Benjamin.steward@israelsoldiers.org.

The **Libby Kolb Chapter of Emunah** will be honoring three *chesed* volunteers -- Sora Grunstein, Sharon Herenstein and Beverly Kastner -- at its annual **Shabbat Tea**, to be held on *Shabbat*, October 24th, at 4:00 P.M., at the home of Sharon Schur, 1510 Jefferson Street. The guest speaker will be Debby Flancbaum, author of "The Jewish Woman Next Door: Repairing the World One Step at a Time." For more information, or to RSVP, go to www.emunah.org, or e-mail faberronnie4@gmail.com.

Bnai Yeshurun Nursery School invites prospective parents to an **Open House** on Monday, October 26th, at 8:00 P.M., at the social hall of Congregation Bnai Yeshurun, 641 West Englewood Avenue. Registration forms will be distributed at the Open House, and families can register children for both classes immediately afterwards. Registration concludes at 9:30 A.M. on Friday, October 30th. For more information, please contact Fern Amper, (201) 836-6871 (after 3:00 P.M.), fernamper@aol.com.

A new support group, **Partners in Caring**, has been established to help those who have lost a child, sibling or grandchild cope with their loss. The group will meet in Teaneck on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 27th, at 8:00 P.M., at Arzei Darom. For more information, contact Ryan Hyman, PartnersInCaring@gmail.com, (201) 833-7663.

The **Moriah School** invites prospective parents to an **Open House** on Tuesday, October 27th, at 8:00 P.M., at the yeshiva, 52 South Woodland Street, Englewood. For more information, contact Erik Kessler, ekessler@moriahschool.org, (201) 567-0208 ext. 376.

UJA NNJ's Mitzvah Day will be held on **Sunday, November 1st**. Over 1,500 volunteers are expected at more than 35 sites on this special community-wide day of caring. To see all of the project choices and/or to register online, please go to www.ujannj.org/mitzvahday. For more information, please contact Alice Blass, (201) 820-3948, aliceb@ujannj.org.

On Sunday, November 1st, from 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., at Congregation Beth Abraham, 396 New Bridge Road, Bergenfield, **Rabbi Yaakov Marcus of Neve Yerushalayim** will present a philosophic/*hashkafic* lecture on "**A Diamond in the Crown: Discovering the Deeper Meaning Behind Hair Covering.**" The lecture will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

The **Torah Academy of Bergen County** invites prospective parents to an **Open House** on Sunday morning, November 1st, at 9:15 A.M., at the yeshiva, 1600 Queen Anne Road. For more information, please call the office, (201) 837-7696, or go to www.tabc.org.

The **Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey** invites prospective parents to an **Open House** on Tuesday, November 3rd, at 8:00 P.M., at the yeshiva, 666 Kinderkamack Road. For more information, contact Debbie Rosenberg, (201) 986-1414, rynjopenhouse@ynj.org.

Yeshivat Ben Porat Yosef invites prospective parents to an **Open House** on Wednesday, November 4th, at 8:00 P.M., at the yeshiva. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Ruth Roth, Director of Admissions, RuthR@benporatyosef.org, (201) 845-5007 ext. 16.

Yeshivat Noam invites prospective parents to an **Open House** on Sunday, November 8th, at 7:30 P.M., at the yeshiva, 70 West Century Road, Paramus. For more information, please contact Ruchie, (201) 261-1919 ext. 113, or go to www.yeshivatnoam.org.

Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls invites prospective parents and their daughters to an **Open House** on Sunday, November 8th, at 1:30 P.M., at the school, 1650 Palisade Avenue. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Rivka Kahan, (201) 833-4307 ext. 202.

Parasha Questions for Parashat Bereishit:

1. (a) What are 2 proofs in the first verse of the *Torah* that *Hashem* completed Creation in *Tishrei* (*Rebi Eliezer's* view – *Rosh Hashana* 27a) rather than in *Nisan* (*Rebi Yehoshua's* view)? (b) *Pirkei Avot* 5:1 states that the world was created "*be-asara ma'amarot*" (with 10 statements); why did He not create the world with one command (5 reasons)? (c) Why is the sky blue? (d) (1) In addition to *Adam* (mankind), which creatures did *Hashem* bless and why? (2) Which creatures did He not bless and why? (*Bereishit* 1:25)
2. (a) Why did *Hashem* end Creation with the forming of *Adam* (3 reasons)? (b) (1) *Hashem* created the potential for which 10 things on *erev Shabbat*, *bein ha-shemashot* (*Shabbat* eve, at twilight), immediately before the completion of Creation? (2) Why were these things created then? (3) Why did *Hashem* stop in the middle of creating *sheidim* on the 6th day? (*Bereishit* 1:26-31)
3. (a) Why does it not say *va-yehi erev, va-yehi boker* (and there was evening and there was morning) for the 7th day? (b) In which 5 ways did *Hashem* bless the *Shabbat*? (c) How does the day of the week a person is born affect his future? (*Bereishit* 2:2-3)
4. (a) (1) Why did *Hashem* cause *Adam* to sleep when He formed *Chava*? (2) What was *Adam* doing when the *nachash* (snake) spoke to *Chava*? (b) Since *Adam* received a direct command from *Hashem*, how could he possibly have disobeyed Him by eating the fruit from the *Eitz ha-Da'at* (3 explanations)? (c) Why were *Adam* and *Chava* not ashamed that they wore no clothing before they ate fruit from the *Eitz ha-Da'at* but were ashamed after they ate the fruit (2 reasons)? (*Bereishit* 2:21,25/3:2,7)
5. (a) Why did *Hevel* deserve to die? (b) After *Kayin* murdered him, *Hashem* said to *Kayin*: "*kol deme' achicha tzo'akim*" (your brother's bloods cry out); what does *Hashem's* use of the plural form "*deme'el*" tell us about the seriousness of *Kayin's* sin? (*Bereishit* 4:10)
6. When *Noach* was born, why did his father *Lemech* predict that *Noach* would ease mankind's burden of working the land that *Hashem* (in *Bereishit* 3:17) had cursed when *Adam* sinned? (*Bereishit* 5:29)
7. In the *haftara*, why did *Yonatan* tell *David* "*machar chodesh*" (tomorrow is *Rosh Chodesh*)? (I *Shmuel* 20:18)

Learning Opportunities

· The **Amud Yomi shiur** meets week nights at 9:30 P.M. at Rinat Yisrael.

Motzei Shabbat

Rabbi Reisman's satellite *Navi shiur*: 9:00 P.M. at Keter Torah

Sunday

· Yeshiva University Student Medical Ethics Society and Yeshiva University Center for the Jewish Future cordially invite you to attend the Fuld Family **Medical Ethics Conference -- "The Human Blueprint: Jewish Perspectives on Modern Genetics."** The conference will be held this Sunday, October 18th, from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., at the Wilf Campus of Yeshiva University in Washington Heights. Speakers will include **Rabbi Herschel Schachter**, **Rabbi Dr. Moshe D. Tendler** and **Rabbi Mordechai Willig**. The conference will provide participants with a strong medical background needed to understand human genetics, and will review the technologically advanced medical research and practices used today to prevent and manage genetic diseases. Participants will also be provided with an overview of the fundamental ethical dilemmas surrounding genetics, as

well as how *Halacha* approaches these complex issues. For more information, or to register (pre-registration is required), please go to www.yu.edu/medicalethics.

· The **Chofetz Chaim Women's Learning Group** will meet this Sunday, October 18th, at the home of Pearl Cohen, 630 Tilden Avenue.

· This Sunday, October 18th, at 8:00 P.M., at Congregation Keter Torah, **Rabbi Meir Soloveichik**, Associate Rabbi of Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun in Manhattan, will speak at a memorial lecture for Barry Morris, z"l, on "**The Scandalous Yichus of the Jewish Messiah.**"

Monday

· Each Monday, from 9:00 to 10:00 A.M., a **Tehillim group** will meet at Rochi Lerner's home, 274 Johnson Avenue.

· The **Bergen Community Kollel for Baale Batim** meets every Monday morning in the Beth Aaron library. The schedule is as follows: 8:00-8:20 A.M. - *Mussar Classics*; 8:20-9:30 A.M. - *Gemara Ketubot*; 9:30-10:00 A.M. - *Hilchot Shabbat*. All are invited to come for part or all of the *shiur*. No previous background is required. For more information, contact Dr. Andy

Fink, (201) 833-2527.

Tuesday

· Rochi Lerner's **Tehillim shiur** takes place every Tuesday evening at 8:30 P.M. at Rochi Lerner's home, 274 Johnson Avenue.

Wednesday

· On Wednesday mornings, at 10:30 A.M., Rochi Lerner presents a **Megillat Esther shiur**, in memory of the Seidenfeld children, at the Lerner home, 274 Johnson Avenue.

· Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky's Wednesday evening *shiur* takes place at Bnai Yeshurun at 9:15 P.M.

Thursday

· **Rabbi Yissocher Frand's** weekly *shiur* will be broadcast at 9:00 P.M. at Keter Torah.

· Each Thursday morning until January 14th, from 11:00 A.M. to 12:15 P.M., **Rochie Lerner** will be giving a *shiur* at **Yeshivat Noam**, 70 West Century Road, Paramus, which will explore the characters of *Yitzchak* and *Shimshon*. The *shiurim* are open to the entire community, and there is no charge. For more information, or if you wish to sponsor a *shiur*, please contact esteeirsch@yahoo.com or shulamitholzer@yahoo.com.

Each Tuesday and Thursday morning, **Keter Torah** presents **Torah in the AM**: 9:00 to 9:40 A.M. - *Navi chavura* on *Sefer Shmuel Bet*; 9:45 to 10:45 A.M. - Rabbi Menachem Meier's *Talmud shiur* on *Baba Metzia*, Chapter 5; 10:45 to 11:45 A.M. - Rabbi Meier's *shiur* on Jeremiah; Tuesdays 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon - Rabbi Baum's *shiur* on *Ezra*.

Answers to Parasha Questions:

1. (a) (1) The letters of the word "*Bereishit*" can be arranged to spell "*alef Tishrei*" (1 *Tishrei*), the date of *Rosh Hashana*; (2) the *gematria* of "*Bereishit bara*" (In the beginning, [*Hashem*] created) is 1,116, which is the same *gematria* as "*be-Rosh Hashana nivra*" (on *Rosh Hashana* [the world] was created) (*Ba'al ha-Turim*). (b) (1) Because *Hashem* used 10 statements rather than one, He will inflict greater punishment on the wicked who ruin the world that He created with greater "effort" (*Rashi*). (2) *Hashem* created the universe in separate parts so that the wicked through their evil acts could not destroy the world completely, and as an act of *Hashem's* mercy, evildoers' penalties are lessened (*Ruach Chaim*). (3) To teach that the universe includes multiple and diverse parts which form an integrated whole, but all 10 parts represent a single entity (*Mahara*). (4) The world was created in steps to teach that man is the reason for creation; each *ma'amar* brought the world closer to its purpose – the existence of righteous people deserving *Hashem's* goodness; (5) the diversity of creation camouflages *Hashem's* Oneness, and gives man free choice to believe in His Oneness, rather than His having separate parts (*Ya'avetz*). (c) The sky reflects the *Kisei ha-Kavod* (Heavenly Throne), which is sapphire (*Chulin* 89a). (d) (1) *Hashem* blessed the fish and birds, which need His blessing because they are depleted by being hunted and eaten; (2) *Hashem* did not bless the land animals; although they also are hunted, He did not bless them because they include the *nachash* (snake), which was destined to be cursed (*Rashi*).

2. (a) (1) *Hashem* wanted *Adam* to find the world beautifully prepared for him; (2) He did not want *Adam* present during Creation so that heretics could not claim that *Adam* was His partner in creation; (3) so that people should not overestimate their importance, since even insects were created before them (*Sanhedrin* 38a). (b) (1) (i) *Pi ha-aretz* (the earth's opening that swallowed *Korach* and his *eida*); (ii) *pi ha-be'ir* (the opening of *Miriam's* well, which supplied water to *Bnei Yisrael* in the *midbar*); (iii) *pi ha-ason* (the mouth of *Bilam's* donkey); (iv) *ha-keshet* (the rainbow, a sign that *Hashem* would not again flood the earth); (v) the *mon* that *Bnei Yisrael* ate in the *midbar*; (vi) *ha-mateh* (the sapphire staff with which *Moshe* performed miracles); (vii) *ha-shamir* (the wormlike creature used to cut stones for the *Beit ha-Mikdash*); (viii) *ha-ketav* (the *alef-beit* script); (ix) *ha-michtav* (the first instrument to engrave letters on stone); (x) *ha-luchot* (the tablets that *Hashem* gave to *Moshe*). Some say that: (i) *mazikin* (demons), (ii) *kevrato shel Moshe* (the location of *Moshe's* grave), (iii) *eilo shel Avraham* (the ram *Avraham* offered instead of *Yitzchak*); and (iv) *tzevat* (the original tongs used to make other tongs) also were created at twilight before *Shabbat* (*Pirkei Avot* 5:8). (2) To show that all future miracles, which never were reproduced, were part of *Hashem's* plan for the world (*Sefer ha-Musar*). (3) Even though He could have finished before *Shabbat*, *Hashem* showed that whatever we are doing, we must stop before *Shabbat* (*Bereishit Raba*).

3. (a) When *Hashem* created *Adam*, he benefited from the special "*ohr*" (light) that He had created on the 1st day; when he sinned on the 6th day, he lost this benefit, but *Hashem* did not remove the *ohr* until after the 7th day, *Shabbat*. Since this *ohr* shone for 36 hours, with no darkness on that *Shabbat*, *Adam* did not perceive *erev* or *boker*; (b) (1) *Hashem* reimburses a person's *Shabbat* expenses; (2) *Shabbat* food is especially tasty; (3) the special *ohr* of the 1st day shone continuously for *Adam* on the 1st *Shabbat*; (4) *Bnei Yisrael* received a 2nd portion of *mon* in the *midbar* for *Shabbat*; (5) evildoers in *Gehinom* are not punished on *Shabbat* (*Bereishit Raba*). (c) A person born: (1) on Sunday tends to be a leader, since Sunday leads the week; (2) on Monday tends to be angry, since the waters were divided on Monday; (3) on Tuesday will probably be wealthy but immodest, since food was created on Tuesday but grew wildly; (4) on Wednesday will probably be brilliant, since the sun, moon and stars were created on that day; (5) on Thursday will probably be kind, since birds and fish, which do not cause people trouble, were created that day; (6) on Friday will run for *mitzvot*, since people rush to prepare for *Shabbat*; (7) on *Shabbat* will probably be holy (*Shabbat* 156a).

4. (a) (1) *Hashem* did not want *Adam* to see the side that He had taken removed from him, so that *Adam* should not despise *Chava* (*Rashi*). (2) *Adam* was asleep (*Bereishit Raba*). (b) (1) *Chava* gave *Adam* the fruit as juice, so he was not aware of its source; his sin was that had a duty to determine that the fruit was "kosher"; (2) *Chava* argued that since she had eaten the fruit, she will die; since all of Creation was completed on the 6th day, *Hashem* would not create another wife for *Adam*, and he could not live alone, since he was created to populate the world; she convinced him that it is better for them to share a common fate; (3) *Chava* screamed until *Adam* finally listened to her (*Bereishit Raba*). (c) Before they sinned: (1) *Adam* and *Chava* were adorned with a nail-like protection that covered their bodies; after the sin, they lost this covering, except on their fingers and toes (*Nidda* 17a). (2) *Adam* and *Chava* used their bodies only to fulfill *Hashem's* will, with no cause for shame; after the sin, the *yeitzer ha-ra* caused people to use their bodies for degrading and harmful personal pleasure for which they were ashamed (*Sforno*).

5. (a) *Hashem* accepted *Hevel's* *korban* by sending Heavenly fire to consume it; instead of withdrawing, *Hevel* gazed at the *Shechina*. *Moshe*, who was *Hevel's* *gilgul* (reincarnation), atoned for *Hevel* when, at the burning bush (*Shemot* 3:6), he was afraid to look at the *Shechina* (*Zohar*). (b) *Kayin* shed not only *Hevel's* blood, but also the blood of all of his descendants. (*Rashi*)

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