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Congregation Beth Aaron

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Ronnie Schwartz, President
Laurence Rothwachs, Rabbi

Shabbat Announcements

Parashat Vayetze November 28, 2009 11 Kislev 5770

- Latest Candles: 4:12 P.M.
- *Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat*: 4:15 P.M.
- *Shacharit. Hashkamah*: 7:15 A.M.
- Rabbi Krohn's *Tefillah shiur*: 8:20 A.M.
- Main *Shul*: 8:45 A.M.
- Youth *Minyan*: 9:15 A.M.
- *Sof Zman Kriat Shema*: 9:21 A.M.
- Early *Mincha*: 1:45 P.M.
- *Daf Yomi*: 2:55 P.M.
- Women's Learning Group: 3:05 P.M. We will be completing **Sefer Shmuel**. A *siyyum* is being planned, and we will be starting *Sefer Melachim*. All women are welcome.
- *Mincha*: 4:05 P.M.
- *Maariv*: 5:12 P.M.
- *Havdalah*: 5:21 P.M.

Schedule for Week of November 29th:	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
	29	30	1	2	3	4
<i>Earliest Tallit</i>	5:59	6:00	6:01	6:02	6:03	6:04
<i>Shacharit</i>	6:30	5:49	5:53	5:53	5:52	5:53
	7:15	6:20	6:30	6:30	6:20	6:30
	8:00	7:10	7:15	7:15	7:10	7:15
	8:45	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
<i>Mincha</i>	1:00					
<i>Mincha/Maariv</i>	4:15	4:15	4:15	4:15	4:15	4:15
<i>Maariv</i> :	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	
	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	

Weekly Shiurim:

- *Daf Yomi. Shabbat*: 2:55 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.
- **Rabbi Simon's shiur**: Monday evening at 8:15 P.M.
- **Parshat ha-Shavua shiur by Rabbi Neil Lauer**: "Naming Names" - Tuesday evening, 8:45 to 9:30 P.M.
- **Rabbi Rothwachs' Bava Kama shiur**: Wednesday evening at 8:30 P.M.
- **Chabura by Rabbi Herschel Grossman on Sefer Nefesh ha-Chaim** - Thursday evening, 8:15 to 9:00 P.M.
- **Morning Mishnah Chabura**: Monday and Thursday - 6:55 A.M.; Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday - 7:00 A.M.

Mazal Tov:

- *Mazal Tov* to George and Ellen Friedman on their being honored by the Jewish Learning Experience at their annual dinner.
- *Mazal Tov* to Jack and Miriam Rudman on the marriage of their daughter Aliza to Reid Stein.

Condolences:

- Condolences to Danny Shedlo on the passing of his beloved father David Shedlo.
- Condolences to June Glazer on the passing of her beloved father Herman Barsky. June is sitting *Shiva* at 313 Rutland Avenue and visiting hours are as follows: Friday: 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.; *Motzaei Shabbat*: 7:30 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.; Sunday - 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Please consider participating in the upcoming **Project Ezrah Dinner**, to be held on Saturday night, December 5th, at Keter Torah. Among the honorees at this year's dinner, receiving the *Ahavas Chesed* Award, are our own **Chaviva and Rabbi Rothwachs**. Project Ezrah is a unique organization that continues to offer considerable support to many members of the greater Teaneck community. I can personally think of NO more important cause towards which we, as a community, should focus our efforts at this time.

To RSVP, contact Susan Alpert, susan@ezrah.org. Needless to say, even if you are unable to attend the dinner, donations can be always made directly to Project Ezrah or through the shul's discretionary fund. Thank you for your generosity and consideration.
--Ronnie Schwartz

Each year, the *TeaneckShuls* e-mail list-serve sponsors a **fundraiser for a local tzedakah** to give members an opportunity to recognize the benefits that *TeaneckShuls* provides to the entire community. All donations are tax deductible and payable directly to the designated recipient.

This year, *TeaneckShuls* has selected **NNJKIDS (Northern New Jersey Kehillot Investing in Day Schools)** -- a new community initiative which seeks to address the challenge of day school affordability, ensuring access to high-quality, dual-curricular education to all children in the community. All proceeds will be distributed to local day schools, mitigating the rising costs of tuition. We recognize that many of *TeaneckShuls*' members may have already contributed to this *tzedakah*, but we respectfully request that you consider an additional contribution in lieu of the annual dues that many would gladly pay to participate in *TeaneckShuls*. Checks payable to NNJKIDS should be sent to Shari Lindenbaum, 464 Winthrop Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666. Donations of any amount are welcomed and appreciated.

Miscellaneous Shul Announcements

The **Young Members' Committee** is pleased to announce that our **sixth Round Town Shabbat Lunch** will be held on *Shabbat*, December 5th. The Round Town Lunch program allows young members of Beth Aaron to meet other young members with common interests. A Round Town Lunch is hosted every other month, and we rotate hosts so that, ideally, every family that signs up will have a chance to meet every other family participating in the program. Each family will ordinarily host every third lunch. If you are interested in participating, or would like more information, contact Rob Ernst, bethaaronrsvp@gmail.com, Moishe Singer, moishe@gmail.com, or Tzippy Staum, (201) 862-0307.

The **Sisterhood Book Club** will meet on Sunday night, December 6th, at 7:30 P.M., at the Markovitz home, 201 Grayson Place. We will be reading "The Zookeeper's Wife," by Diane Ackerman, a nonfiction book about a Polish woman who saved Jewish lives during the Holocaust by hiding people in the zoo. All Beth Aaron women are welcome. For more information, contact Diane Fogel, (201) 837-0651, difogel@aol.com.

On Sunday, December 6th, after the 8:45 A.M. *minyan*, Beth Aaron's resident tech guru, **Avi Greengart** will discuss and answer your questions about the latest cell phones, PDAs, home theatre equipment, MP3 players, etc. Admission is free and a light breakfast will be served.

On Friday, January 22nd, at 10:30 A.M., Beth Aaron Sisterhood will be going to **Disney on Ice -- 100 Years of Magic**. Tickets are \$20, and priority seating goes to those who pre-order by Wednesday, December 2nd at 5:00 P.M. For more information, please contact Shannon Gononsky, shan1yael@yahoo.com, (201) 836-4644.

We are pleased to announce that the **Beth Aaron Boys' Choir** will be presenting the following *Chanukah* performances at the shul: On Sunday, December 6th, at 2:00 P.M., the choir will perform at the Youth Department *Chanukah Chagiga*. On *Shabbat Chanukah*, December 12th, the choir will be singing *An'im Zemirot* and *Adon Olam* on the *bimah* at the conclusion of the *main minyan*. All are invited to attend.

The annual **Chanukah Toy Drive** is underway. We are collecting **new, unwrapped items**, such as electronic and board games, arts and crafts supplies, books, dolls, sports equipment, Hebrew music tapes 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. Our deadline is December 4th. 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. For more information, go to www.bctoydrive.com.

Beth Aaron Youth:

- The **learning group for 3rd grade boys** will meet this *Shabbat*, November 28th, at **3:00 P.M.**, at the Neugroschel home, 100 Edgemont Place. We will continue studying *Sefer Shmuel*. For more information, contact Doug Dubitsky, douglas_dubitsky@glic.com.
- The **learning group for 4th grade boys** will meet this *Shabbat*, November 28th, at **2:45 P.M.**, at the Sklar home, 700 Queen Anne Road. Please bring your own *Mishnah (Masechet Beitza)*. For more information, please contact Rebecca Kurz, rkurz1@yahoo.com, or Esther Klavan, eskslp@aol.com.
- This *Shabbat*, November 28th, there will be a **Seudah Shlishit for all 3rd-5th graders** in the shul basement between *mincha* and *maariv*. Come and enjoy delicious food and *divrei Torah*!
- On Sunday, December 6th, at 2:00 P.M., we will have a **Chanukah Fun Day** at the *shul*.
- Want to celebrate your child's birthday with their friends in *Shabbat* morning groups? You can sponsor a **birthday kiddush** for your child's group for \$36.
- If you would like to sponsor any of these events, please contact Erica and Jason David, bethaaronyouth@yahoo.com.

Junior NCSY (grades 6-8):

- This Friday evening, November 27th, we will be having a **Turkey Stuffed Oneg** at the shul at 8:30 P.M.
- **Nosh of Torah** is back! We will have a Nosh of *Torah* program this *Shabbat*, November 28th, at 3:15 P.M., in the shul basement. Come for learning, shmoozing, and good food!
- On Saturday night, December 5th, Regional NCSY is sponsoring a **Lock-In at Funtime America**, 111 Highway 35, Cliffwood, NJ. This all-night arcade event features unlimited video games, laser tag, rock wall climbing, bumper cars, simulator rides, and an all-night-long pizza party. The bus leaves Teaneck at 10:30 P.M. and will return to the shul on Sunday morning at 9:30 A.M. The cost is \$45, plus \$20 bus fare, to be paid when you get on the bus. To sign up, go to www.njncsy.com and click on the "Lock-In" link.
- On Sunday, December 13th, we will be having a **Chanukahpalooza with Yachad** from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at Congregation Arzei Darom. Come for singing, dancing, games, pizza and jelly doughnuts! The cost is \$10. This event is being hosted by Arzei Darom and by the Beth Aaron and Fair Lawn Junior NCSY chapters.
- To RSVP, or if you have any questions about our events, e-mail Danielle, bethaaronjuniors@gmail.com, or call (201) 247-7961.

Beth Aaron Junior NCSY is planning on sponsoring an **American Red Cross Babysitter's Training course** (designed for 11 to 15 year-olds) over Yeshiva break. The course will cost \$55 and will be taught in two sessions. Spaces are limited, so if you are interested, please e-mail Moishe B. Singer, moishe+babysitting@gmail.com. Please include your name, child's age, e-mail address, phone number, and what part of Yeshiva week you will be available. We are looking at repeating this course later in the year, so if you are interested in taking it, but that week does not work for you, please let us know so we can look into future offerings.

Beth Aaron Teens (grades 9-12):

- We will be ending off Thanksgiving weekend with a bang at a **Movie Night** at the shul. Join us this *motzaei Shabbat*, November 28th, at 8:30 P.M., for a night of popcorn, pizza -- and a movie, of course! The cost is \$8, and RSVPs are requested. If you have a favorite movie you would like to see, suggestions are welcome.
- On Friday night, December 18th, at 8:00 P.M., BA Teens will be celebrating *Chanukah* at a **Chanukkoneg** at the Metzger home, 250 Merrison Street. We hope you'll join us as we celebrate *Chanukah* and *Shabbat* all in one shot! If you would like to host an *oneg* at your home in the future, please let us know.
- Join us on *motzaei Shabbat*, December 19th, from 8:00 to 10:00 P.M., for an **Ice Skating Extravaganza** at the Ice House, 111 Midtown Bridge Approach, Hackensack. The cost is \$12, including skating and skate rentals. Please arrive on time, so we can include you in the group rate.
- Stay tuned for more details about a Study Party we'll be having right around midterms/finals time. After all, what's better than having lots of candy and friends to talk to during study breaks?
- We hope to see you (and your friends) at our events. All events are open to all local 9th to 12th graders. We'd love to hear feedback about past events and ideas for future events. We can be contacted at bethaaronteens@gmail.com, or by calling Shiffy (Staiman) Friedman, (201) 341-6022, or Noam Friedman, (201) 937-6249.

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 4:15 P.M. *Shacharit* will be at 9:00 A.M., followed by a hot *Kiddush*. Youth groups begin at 9:30 A.M. *Mincha* will be at 4:05 P.M., followed by a *shir* on *Masechet Ketubot* at 4:20 P.M. *Maariv* will be at 5:18 P.M.

Registration for the 2010 season of the **Teaneck Baseball Organization** (TBO) is now open. Children ages 5 to 14 (as of July 31st) are eligible to participate in our baseball/softball programs. To register, go to www.teaneckbaseball.org. Registration ends November 30th.

On Sunday, November 29th, at Congregation Keter Torah, 600 Roemer Avenue, ATARA (the Sisterhood of Keter Torah) will be having a **Chanukah Mini Mall** as well as a **children's show by Jay Jay the Balloon Guy**. The Mini Mall will be held from 3:00 to 7:00 P.M., and the children's show will take place from 4:00 to 5:30 P.M. The cost of the show is \$7 per child if reserved by November 22nd, and \$9 per child at the door. For reservations for the children's show, e mail rtjzme@gmail.com.

Directed by the Rosh Yeshiva of the highly regarded Ner Israel Yeshiva, Rabbi Aaron Feldman, **Yeshivas Ohr Yosef**, invites parents and their sons to an **open house** on Sunday, November 29th, at 2:00 P.M., at its new permanent building, 435 River Road, New Milford. For more information, contact Shmuley Brodsky, SJBrodsky@aol.com, (212) 726-2390, Rabbi Herschel Grossman, rabbihg@yahoo.com, (201) 921-4921.

On Sunday, December 6th, at Keter Torah, 600 Roemer Avenue, from 9:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., the **National Association of Chevra Kadisha** is sponsoring a special **Yom Iyun** for the North Jersey Jewish community. Although primarily intended for members of the *Chevra Kadisha*, the program is open to the entire community. To RSVP, contact Arnon Hiller or Warren Levie, YomIyun2009@yahoo.com.

On Sunday, December 6th, at Congregation Bnai Yeshurun, TorahWeb.org is sponsoring a *Leil Iyun*. At 8:00 P.M., **Rav Mayer Twersky** will speak on "Withstanding Corporate Pressure: Succeeding in Corporate America with My Neshama Intact," and at 8:45 P.M., **Rav Dr. Abraham J. Twerski** will speak on "Withstanding Social Religious Pressure: Living By *Hashem's* Standards."

On Sunday, December 6th, from 6:00 to 10:00 P.M., **Sinai Schools** will be sponsoring a **Chanukah Boutique** at the Torah Academy of Bergen County, 1600 Queen Anne Road. Featured items include hats; candle oil jewelry; tablecloths; hostess, baby and general gift items; children's and ladies' clothing; men's shirts and ties; hair accessories, *kippot* and more. For more information, contact Sandy, (201) 837-1848, bern1836@aol.com; **Leorah**, (201) 837-8309, imarcus14@gmail.com, or Laurie, (201) 387-8218, blgopin@verizon.net.

On Tuesday, December 8th, from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M., **Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls** will be hosting a **Chanukah boutique**. Gifts, hats, jewelry and more will be sold. Israeli artist, Tamar Messer, will be featured. For more information, contact Reva Judas, (201) 692-9302.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS

Due to recent changes in post office procedures relating to bulk mail, *shiva* cards announcing the passing of close relatives and providing *shiva* information (which are time sensitive) will no longer be mailed out. The information formerly included on these cards will continue to be sent out via phone squad messages and via e-mail messages on BAAAnnounce. They will also be posted on our Beth Aaron website and on the shul bulletin board. To ensure that you receive these notifications, as well as other announcements, you must be included in the BAAAnnounce and phone squad contact lists. If you are not currently receiving e-mail messages or phone squad calls from the shul and wish to receive them, please contact Shira at the shul office, (201) 836-6210, bethaaron@optonline.net, and ask to be added onto the contact lists. Please note that only full members receive phone squad messages. Thanking you for your continued cooperation.

— Ronnie Schwartz

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.hsb.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.)

Parasha Questions for Parashat Vayetze:

- (a) Which 5 miracles did *Hashem* perform for *Ya'akov* during his journey to and arrival in *Charan*? (b) Instead of telling the events in this *parasha* (*Ya'akov's* dream, marriages, children's births, and confrontation with *Lavan*) in separate *parshiyot* (paragraphs), why is all of *Parashat Vayetzei* one long *parasha*? (c) In *Ya'akov's* dream, what do the ladder and the angels ascending and descending it symbolize (10 explanations)? (d) From where in *Ya'akov's* dream do we learn "*derech erez kodma le-Torah*" (basic decency and worldliness precede *Torah*)? (*Bereishit* 28:11-29:14, 12,21)
- (a) Why did *Ya'akov* weep when he kissed *Rachel* (4 reasons)? (b) Since *Mishlei* 31:30 states "*hevel ha-yofi*" (beauty is vain), why does the *Torah* tell us that "*Rachel* was beautiful of form and beautiful of appearance"? (*Bereishit* 29:11,17)
- (a) How old was *Rachel* when *Ya'akov* married her (2 opinions)? (b) How old was *Ya'akov* when he married her? (c) Why did *Ya'akov* offer to work 7 years before marrying *Rachel* (2 reasons)? (*Bereishit* 29:18-21)
- (a) After giving birth to *Levi*, *Leah* said, "for I have borne him [*Ya'akov*] 3 sons"; after giving birth to *Zevulun*, she said, "for I have borne him 6 sons." Why did *Leah* state the number of her sons only after these two births? (b) Why did *Leah* name her daughter *Dinah*? (*Bereishit* 29:34,30:20-21)
- (a) Why was *Ya'akov* permitted to deceive *Lavan* with the peeled rods to change the sheep's colors (2 reasons)? (b) From where do we learn that what people think about when they are conceiving a child affects the child's personality? (*Bereishit* 30:37-38)
- (a) What were the *terafim* that *Rachel* stole from *Lavan* (5 explanations)? (b) How do we know that although *Ya'akov* lived with *Lavan* for 20 years, he did not adopt *Lavan's* language? (c) After *Ya'akov* and *Lavan* concluded their treaty, why does the *Torah* say that "*Lavan* returned to his place" and "*Ya'akov* went on his way" (2 explanations)? (*Bereishit* 31:19,47;32:1-2)
- In the *haftara*, what does the *Navi* instruct the people of *Ephraim* to do when he reminds them: "And *Ya'akov* fled to the field of *Aram*; and *Yisrael* worked for a wife" (2 explanations)? (*Hoshea* 12:13)

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*: 7:30 P.M. at Keter Torah.

Sunday

· This Sunday, November 29th, Yeshiva University invites you to its **Midreshet Yom Rishon**, weekly Sunday morning learning for women.

The program which will be held at the Shenk Shul in the Schottenstein Center (on West 185th Street, between Audubon and St. Nicholas Avenues) is open to participants of all ages, backgrounds, and learning levels. Admission is free, and no registration is required. This week, Midreshet Yom Rishon will feature **Rabbi Baruch Simon** and **Mrs. Rachel Besser**. The first *shiur* starts at 9:30 A.M.; second *shiur* starts at 10:30 A.M. For more information or to download *mar'ei mekomot*, call (212) 960-0041, or visit www.midreshetyomrison.org.

· This Sunday, November 29th, Yeshiva University invites you to its **Kollel Yom Rishon**, weekly Sunday morning learning for men. The program, which will be held in Furst Hall Room 501 (500 West 185th Street, at the corner of Amsterdam Avenue) is open to participants of all ages, back-

grounds, and learning levels. Admission is free, and no registration is required. This week, Kollel Yom Rishon will feature **Rabbi Chaim So-sevsky** and **Rabbi Moshe Taragin**. The first *shiur* starts at 9:30 A.M., second *shiur* starts at 10:30 A.M. For more information or to download *mar'ei mekomot*, call (212) 960-0041 or visit www.kollelyomrison.org.

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 welcome. 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 evening, at 8:30 P.M., at the Yeshiva Gedolah, 1443 Palisade Avenue, **Rabbi Roberts** gives a **Parasha Shiur**, followed by *maariv* at 9:30 P.M.

· 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, which will explore the characters of *Yitzchak* and *Shimshon*.

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 *Bava Metzia*, Chapter 5; 10:50 to 11:40 A.M. - Rabbi Meier's *shiur* on Jeremiah (Thursday only); 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon - Rabbi Baum's *shiur* on *Sefer Ezra* (Tuesday only)

Answers to Parasha Questions:

1. (a) (1) *Hashem* shortened the day, setting the sun before its time because He wanted *Ya'akov* to sleep on *Har ha-Moriah*; (2) the stones that *Ya'akov* placed under his head merged into one big stone; (3) *kefitzat ha-derech* - *Hashem* shortened the route for him, and he arrived in *Charan* the same day he left *Be'er Sheva*; (4) he rolled the huge boulder, which always took the combined efforts of the shepherds to move, off the top of the well with one hand; (5) the well water rose and irrigated the fields of *Charan*; it did this during the entire 20 years that *Ya'akov* spent in *Charan* (*Targum Yonatan*). (b) While fleeing to *Charan* at the beginning of this *parasha*, *Ya'akov* made a *neder* (vow) that he would return to *Eretz Yisrael*; by including all of this *parasha's* events in one paragraph, the *Torah* teaches that *Ya'akov's* constant focus was his return to *Eretz Yisrael*, which he achieved in *Bereishit* 32:3, at the very end of the *parasha* (*Sefat Emet*). (c) The ladder: (1) whose *gematria* (*sulam* = 130) is the same as *Sinai*, symbolizes *matan Torah*, and the angels represent *Moshe* (and *Aharon*) who ascended to heaven and descended with the *Torah*; (2) symbolizes a person's financial station, where some ascend to wealth, while others descend into poverty; the *gematria* of *sulam* equals *mamon* (money) and also *oni* (poverty) (*Ba'al ha-Turim*). (3) represents the ascent of the guardian angels of Babylonia, Persia, Greece and Rome, each of which is pushed down at the end of *Bnei Yisrael's galut* by *Hashem* (*Pirkei de-Rebi Eliezer*). (4) represents the idol that *Nevuchadnetzar* put in the *Beit ha-Mikdash* (the *gematria* of *semel* (idol) is the same as *sulam*); and the angels represent *Chanania*, *Mishael* and *Azaria*, who descended into the furnace and ascended unscathed; (5) symbolizes the *mizbeich* in the *Beit ha-Mikdash* that "stood on the ground" with "its head in heaven"; the angels represent the *kohanim* who climbed the altar's ramp to offer *korbanot* (*Bereishit Raba*). (6) shows *Eretz Yisrael's* greatness, where angels in the land ascend to heaven and are replaced by lesser angels in *chutz la-aretz* (*Abarbanel*). (7) denote the soul which descends from above; the angels represent wise thought; (8) represents the vehicle by which one's prayers ascend and salvation descends (*ibn Ezra*). (9) signifies the medium to climb to attain a knowledge of *Hashem*; the angels represent the prophets (*Rambam*, *Moreh Nevuchim* 1:15). (10) represents the angel's attempt to destroy *Ya'akov* for daring to sleep in such a holy place; *Hashem* stood at the top to protect him (*S.R. Hirsch*). (d) The angels rose on the ladder planted on the ground (denoting *derech erez*) and its head reaching the Heavens (denoting *Torah*) (*Sefat Emet*).

2. (a) He: (1) was sad that he did not merit marrying *Rachel* in his youth and having children as a young man (*Sforno*). (2) saw with *Ruach ha-Kodesh* that *Rachel* would not be buried with him in *Me'orat ha-Machpeila*; (3) had come to *Rachel* empty-handed after *Eisav's* son *Elifaz* had stolen all his property (*Rashi*). (4) had kissed *Rachel* publicly, giving the wrong impression that he was immoral (*Yefat To'ar*). (b) The verse concludes "*isha yirat Hashem hee tit'halal*" (a woman who fears *Hashem* is to be praised); if a woman fears *Hashem*, she should be praised for her beauty, as well. If she does not fear *Hashem*, her beauty is vain. Since *Rachel* feared *Hashem*, the *Torah* praises her beauty (*Vilna Gaon*).

3. (a) (1) *Rachel* was 5 years old when she met *Ya'akov*. She was with the sheep because she was too young for the shepherds to molest; whereas, they could have molested her older sister *Leah*. He married *Rachel* when she was 12 (*R. Bechaya*). (2) *Leah* and *Rachel* were twins, 15 years old when they met *Ya'akov*; he married them at 22 (*Seder Olam*). (b) 84 years old (*Rashi*). (c) To: (1) allow *Rachel* to reach a marriageable age; (2) give *Lavan* time to find *Leah* a husband (*Sforno*).

4. (a) *Leah* knew prophetically that *Ya'akov* would father 12 tribes (sons) from 4 wives; after *Levi's* birth, she thanked *Hashem* for providing her portion (3 tribes), and after *Zevulun's* birth, she thanked Him for allowing her 2 of the 4 portions (6 tribes) (*Ba'al ha-Turim*). (b) *Leah* "*dinah*" (judged) that she should have a daughter. Since *Bilha* and *Zilpa* each bore 2 tribes, and *Leah* had 6 tribes, 2 tribes were most *Rachel* could give birth to. Since *Rachel* would be embarrassed by having fewer tribes than the maidservants if *Leah* bore a 7th son, *Leah* prayed that she not have a son, and *Hashem* exchanged the gender of the fetus in her womb with the gender of the fetus (*Yosef*) in *Rachel's* womb (*Targum Yonatan*).

5. (a) (1) With the trustworthy, he had to act honestly; with crooked people, he could act perversely (*Megilla* 13b). (2) He followed the instructions of the angel in his dream (*Bereishit* 31:12) (*R. Bechaya*). (b) If imagination was a determining factor for the nature of unborn lambs, certainly the moral purity of humans' thoughts during conception affects their children's souls (*R. Bechaya*).

6. (a) (1) Idols (*Rashi*). (2) Fertility gods (*Midrash Tanchuma*). (3) Astrological devices for divining future events and locating people (*ibn Ezra*; *Ramban*). (4) Magical devices that gave evil counsel (*Zohar*). (5) Objects used for immoral acts (*Midrash Tanchuma*). (b) When *Lavan* called the monument *Yegar Sahaduta* (witness mound) in Aramaic, the predominant language of *Charan*, *Ya'akov* used the term *Gal'eid*, which means the same in Hebrew, which according to *Ramban*, was the language of *Cana'an* and which the *Avot* adopted to maintain their connection to *Eretz Yisrael* (*Sforno*). (c) (1) After *Lavan* and *Ya'akov* parted, *Lavan* became poor, just as he had been before *Ya'akov's* arrival 20 years earlier. Meanwhile, *Ya'akov* kept his wealth under *Hashem's* protection (*Matnot Kehuna*). (2) *Lavan* returned to the corrupt lifestyle of deceit and greed that he had lived before meeting *Ya'akov*, while *Ya'akov* continued on his path of spiritual growth (*Meshech Chachma*).

7. The people should: (a) listen to *Hashem*, and He will be good to them, just as He was good to *Ya'akov* when he fled from *Eisav* (*Radak*). (b) seek *Hashem's* blessing, just as *Ya'akov* sought His blessing, and He blessed *Ya'akov* with wives and children and made him wealthy when he tended *Lavan's* flocks (*Ibn Ezra*).