



SAVE THE DATE

The Congregation Beth Aaron Annual Dinner will take place on Sunday, May 9, 2010, at Keter Torah. Guests of Honor are **Renee & Harry Harcsztark**. Service Awardees are **Nechama & Steven Pudell**.

There will be a **shul Board meeting** this Wednesday, January 13th, at 8:15 P.M., in the shul basement.

Congregation Beth Aaron

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 Laurence Rothwachs, Rabbi

Ronnie Schwartz, President

Shabbat Announcements

Parashat Shemot January 9, 2010 23 Tevet 5770

- Latest Candles: 4:28 P.M.
- *Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat*: 4:30 P.M.
- Rabbi Weinreb *shiur*: 8:00 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*: 9:40 A.M.
- Early *Mincha*: 1:45 P.M.
- *Daf Yomi*: 2:50 P.M.
- Rabbi Weinreb *shiur*: 3:00 P.M.
- Women's Learning Group: will not meet this week.
- *Mincha*: 4:15 P.M. followed by *Seudah Shlishit* and a *shiur* by Rabbi Weinreb.
- *Maariv*: 5:28 P.M.
- *Havdalah*: 5:37 P.M.
- Parent-Child Learning: 6:15 P.M.

Schedule for Week of January 10th:	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Earliest Tallit</i>	6:19	6:19	6:19	6:19	6:18	6:18
<i>Shacharit</i>	6:30	6:08	6:08	6:08	6:07	6:07
	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>	4:35	4:35	4:35	4:35	4:35	4:40
<i>Maariv</i>	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	
	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	

Mazal Tov:

- *Mazal Tov* to Tom and Marsha Friedman on the birth of a granddaughter, born to their children Rabbi Jonathan and Nechama Price.
- *Mazal Tov* to David and Diane Fogel on the birth of their granddaughter Shifra Shefa Bracha, born to their children Na'ama and Rabbi Seth Nadel of Har Nof, *Yerushalayim*.
- *Mazal Tov* to Michael and Sari Samuel on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Arielle.

It with great pride that I am pleased to announce that, after seven and a half years of study, our **Wednesday night gemara shiur has completed the fifth perek of Bava Kama**. Next Wednesday night, at 8:30 P.M., we will *be"h* begin to study the sixth chapter, *perek ha-Kones*. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to invite anyone who would want to consider becoming a participant in this *shiur* to take advantage of this rare occasion to "jump aboard" at a new starting point. Over the years, a very special bond has been forged among the *shiur's* participants. Through our collective analysis of the *gemara* and *meforshim*, group discussions and challenging debates, an atmosphere of meaningful Torah study has been established and enhanced over time. The *shiur* is comprised of individuals with diverse backgrounds and various levels of experience. If you think that you are (even slightly) interested in giving it a shot, please don't miss this unique opportunity. No commitments are required. Looking forward to seeing you there!
 —LR

We are honored to welcome **Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb** who is joining us as Scholar-in-Residence this *Shabbat, Parshat Shemot*. Rabbi Weinreb is currently the Executive Vice President Emeritus of the Orthodox Union, serving as senior advisor to the lay and professional leadership of the OU, developing educational programming for its website, and consulting for its publications. In such capacity he acts as "ambassador" for the organization, representing the OU at conferences and forums all over the world. Rabbi Weinreb served as Executive Vice President of the OU from January 2002 until April 2009. A talented teacher, writer and orator, Rabbi Weinreb was previously the spiritual leader of Congregation Shomrei Emunah in Baltimore, MD, which he joined in January, 1989. Rabbi Weinreb will be speaking three times over *Shabbat*.

- Friday Night, 8:00 P.M., at the shul: **Abraham Lincoln and Menachem Mendel of Kotzk: Transforming Psychological Faults into Spiritual Strengths**
- *Shabbat* afternoon, 3:00 P.M. at the *shul*: **The Polarization in Jewish Life: What Can Be Done?**
- *Seudah Shlishit* program to start approximately 4:40 P.M.: **Heroes to Inspire Us: A Personal List.**

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous donations which have helped make this week-end possible:

- **David Barach and Judy Saden-Barach**
- **Patty and Sam Borodach**, in memory of Pauline Reichberg Madow, Pesha bat Chaim Yekutiel, and in commemoration of the fourteenth *yahrtzeit* of Seymour Madow, Shalom Shmuel ben Nachum Dovid.
- The **Burbank Family**, in honor of our wonderful rabbi, Rabbi Rothwachs, and his Rebbetzin Chaviva
- **Tal and Marc Felsen**, in memory of Tal's father's William Marocco, Baruch Ze'ev ben Yehudah Aryeh, whose first *yahrtzeit* was *tet vav Tevet*.
- **Mollie Fisch**
- **Rabbi Chaim Frazer**, in honor of all the work Rabbi Weinreb does on behalf of the *klal*.
- **Dick and Estelle Harris**
- The **Karasick Family**, in memory of grandmother Glickel Wakmann.
- The **Karasick Family**, in memory of father Joseph Ulevitch.
- **Lenny and Susan Presby**
- **Miriam and Izzy Salomon**, to commemorate the *yahrtzeit* of Miriam's father, Moshe ben Shmerel.

Miscellaneous Shul Announcements

The next **Sisterhood Book Club** selection is "**All Other Nights**," by Dara Horn -- a new historical fiction book that takes place during the Civil War. Our next Book Club meeting will be this Saturday night, January 9th, at 6:30 P.M., at the home of Rachel Frazer, 286 Edgemont Terrace. All Beth Aaron women are welcome to join us for this book discussion. For more information, or to suggest a book for future discussion, please contact Diane Fogel, (201) 837-0651, difogel@aol.com.

The **Third Annual Men's Club Cholent Challenge** will take place on Friday evening, January 15th, from 8:00 to 10:00 P.M. Time slots to prepare your *cholent* will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. All cholents must be prepared between 8:00 and 11:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 14th. All ingredients must be brought to the shul in sealed, appropriately-*hechshered* packages at the assigned time slot. We cannot accept requests to prepare *cholents* on Friday morning. The Men's Club will provide crockpots and utensils. The *cholents* will start cooking Thursday night (not Friday morning as previously stated) and will cook until 8:00 P.M. on Friday evening. Everyone is invited to come to the shul on Friday evening, January 15th to taste all of the *cholents* and participate in the judging process. The *cholent* with the most votes will win a \$100 gift card to Chef Central.

On Sunday, January 17th, at 2:30 P.M., the Beth Aaron Boys' Choir will be performing at the Daughters of Miriam in Clifton. The *tzibur* is invited. We wish our boys *b'racha ve-hatzlacha*.

On Friday, January 22nd, at 10:30 AM, the Beth Aaron Sisterhood will be going to **Disney on Ice -- 100 Years of Magic**. Tickets are \$20 each. For information regarding ordering, please contact Aliza Fischman, (201) 833-0801 or fisch.chips@att.net.

The next **iRabbi** program, which provides the youth of our *kehillah* with the opportunity to discuss issues of personal importance with the Rabbi, will take place on *Shabbat, Parashat Vaera*, January 15-16. On Friday evening, January 15th, at 7:45 P.M., boys in grades 9-10 will meet at the Rothwachs home, 288 Schley Place. On *Shabbat*, January 16th, at 3:00 P.M., girls in grades 9-10 will meet at the Rothwachs home. Participants are encouraged to come prepared with questions to ask the Rabbi about topics of concern to them -- *hash-kafa, halacha*, social issues, etc. Questions may also be e-mailed anonymously in advance to iRabbi@live.com.

Introducing an innovative and intensive **Bar Mitzvah training class**! In this eight-week Sunday morning seminar, beginning February 7th at TABC, from 8:30 to 10:00 A.M., your son will have the opportunity to personalize his Bar Mitzvah experience through hands-on learning about (1) *tefilin*, (2) becoming a *chazan*, (3) preparing a Bar Mitzvah speech and project, and more. For more information, please contact Rabbi Stephen Knapp, RabbiKnapp@gmail.com, (917) 837-2810.

Beth Aaron Youth:

- The **learning group for 3rd grade boys** will meet this *Shabbat*, January 9th, at **3:00 P.M.**, at the Kahan home, 561 Standish Road. 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*, January 9th, at **3:00 P.M.**, at the Klavan home, 927 Red 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*, January 9th, from 9:15 to 9:30 A.M., all 3rd-5th graders are welcome to join **Tefilah and Shoko**. Cookies and chocolate milk will be served.
- **Parent-Child Learning** will take place at the shul this *Motzaei Shabbat*, January 9th, at 6:15 P.M.
- A **Seudah Shlishit** for 1st and 2nd graders will take place next *Shabbat*, January 16th, downstairs between *mincha/maariv*.
- Not going away for winter vacation? **Under-Night 2010** for 3rd-5th graders -- come have fun at the Davids' home (12 Grayson Place) making your own pizza, watching a movie, playing games, and enjoying ice cream sundaes. Girls' Night is on Tuesday, January 26th, from 6:00 to 9:30 P.M. Boys' Night is on Wednesday, January 27th, from 6:00 to 9:30 P.M. The cost is \$6 per child.
- 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):

- On Sunday night, January 31st, at 6:00 P.M., we will be having a **Winter Regional Psych-Up Night** at the shul. Come eat pizza, learn the chapter cheers, and help us make a chapter banner and t-shirts! The cost is \$10, and we hope you will come even if you are not attending Winter Regional.
- Registration for the **Winter Regional Shabbaton** is now open! It will take place on the weekend of February 5th-7th in West Orange, at Congregation Ahawas Achim Bnai Jacob and David. The early-bird price is \$58 until January 15th. The buses will be leaving from school on Friday and returning to Beth Aaron on Sunday. The bus will cost an additional \$20 (more information on the buses to follow). To register, go to njncsy.org and click on the Winter Regional link.
- If you have any questions about our events, please contact Danielle, bethaaronjuniors@gmail.com, or (201) 247-7961.

Beth Aaron Teens (grades 9-12):

- On *Motzaei Shabbat*, January 16th, beginning at 7:00 P.M., we will be having a **Study Party** at the shul. Either bring your notes and study in a "quiet room" in the shul basement, or take a break, hang out with your friends, and eat. The cost is \$5.
- On Friday evening, January 29th, at 8:00 P.M., we will be having an **Oreg** at the shul.
- On Friday, February 5th, Beth Aaron will be hosting Teaneck NCSY for a **Shabbat dinner**! All local teens are invited to the *shul* for lots of great *divrei Torah* and *zmirot*.
- Beth Aaron Teens are invited to join Teaneck NCSY at their **winter snowtubing trip**! It will take place on Thursday, January 21st. The bus will leave from Bnai Yeshurun at 3:15 P.M. The cost is \$30 for tubing and the bus. Please let us know A.S.A.P. if you would like to come, since there are limited spots.
- 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 4:35 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 4:15 P.M., followed by a *shiur* on *Masechet Ketubot* at 4:30 P.M. *Maariv* will be at 5:31 P.M.

This Saturday night, January 9th, at the Jewish Center of Teaneck, 70 Sterling Place, there will be a showing of the film "**Four Seasons Lodge.**" The film features a small group of German and Polish Jews (aging Holocaust survivors) who have gathered at the Four Seasons Lodge in the Catskill Mountains to reminisce about their childhoods and find comfort in one another's company. Light refreshments will be served, and Rabbi Zierler will lead a discussion, after the showing of the film, with the film's producer, Kelly Sheehan. The cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members. Please RSVP, (201) 833-0515.

The **yahrtzeit of Rabbi Barry Stern, z"l**, will be observed this *Shabbat*, January 9th. To commemorate his *yahrtzeit*, Rochi Lerner will present a *shiur* in the sanctuary of Congregation Arzei Darom on *Shabbat* afternoon at 3:00 P.M. The *shiur* is open to all.

The **72nd Annual Dinner of the Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey**, honoring Dr. Michael and Jennifer Wiederkehr and Mrs. Helen Adler, will be held on Sunday, January 17th. For more information, go to www.rynj.org.

There will be a **Rosh Chodesh shiur** for women on Monday, January 18th, at 8:30 P.M. at the Teitelbaum home, 181 Cherry Lane. The *shiur* will be given by Shoshana Pudell. For more information, contact Tzippy Staum, (201) 862-0307.

The next meeting of **Partners in Caring**, a group which has been created to help individuals who have experienced the loss of a child, sibling or grandchild, will take place on Wednesday, January 20th, at 8:00 P.M., at Congregation Arzei Darom, 725 Queen Anne Road. For more information, contact partnersincaring@gmail.com or call (201) 833-7663.

Registration for the 2010 Yavneh Youth League season is now open for all 1st-8th graders (boys and girls) who attend any Hebrew day school in the North Jersey area. Yavneh Youth League provides students with an appropriately competitive season on Sunday mornings and weekday evenings in the spring. The focus is on baseball skill building, sportsmanship and fun. Games begins after *Pesach* (with practices scheduled for late March), and playoffs and championships conclude by the end of the school year. For more information, or to download registration materials, go to <http://yavnehyouthleague.com>.

UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey's Israel Programs Center offers both **needs-based** and **merit scholarships to high school and college students wishing to participate in an Israel Experience**. To learn more about **Scholarships to Israel**, go to www.uianni.org/ipc. The application deadline is **Friday, February 26th**.

On *Shabbat Parshat Mishpatim*, February 12th-13th, Beth Aaron is excited to welcome Jewish music sensation, **Eitan Katz**, for a very special weekend. Eitan's latest album release, *Boruch Hu*, is a continuation of Eitan's trademark style, in which he has been able to both entertain and spiritually uplift the listener. Eitan will be the guest *ba'al tefilah* throughout *Shabbat*, which will include an inspiring and *ruach*-filled davening on Friday night. There will be a spirited *Oneg Shabbat* with Eitan at the Rothwachs home at 8:15 P.M. on Friday night, which will include singing and *divrei Torah* and promises to be a very special experience. Eitan and his band will also be performing a concert on *motzaei Shabbat* at the shul at 8:00 P.M. Admission at the door will be \$10 per person. For more information about Eitan and his music, please go to www.eitankatz.com.

Weekly Shiurim:

- **Daf Yomi:** *Shabbat*: 2:50 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:** "*Inyanei Birkat Kohanim*," Monday evening at 8:15 P.M.
- **Parshat ha-Shavua shiur by Rabbi Neil Lauer:** Join us this week as we begin *Sefer Shemot*: "Uncovering The Truth Behind the Lice," 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 and Friday - 7:00 A.M.

Parasha Questions for Parashat Shemot:

1. (a) Why does the *Torah* specify that *Yosef* died, then that all his brothers died, and finally that the whole generation died; why did the *Torah* not just state that all of *Yosef's* generation died? (b) Since *Hashem* told *Avraham* that *Bnei Yisrael* would be enslaved for 400 years, why were they in *Mitzrayim* only for 210 years (2 reasons)? (c) How many years before *yetziat Mitzrayim* did *Bnei Yisrael* begin (1) working for *Pharaoh* voluntarily? (2) laboring as slaves? (3) laboring "*be-forech*" (with crushing hardness)? (d) What *halacha* concerning *talmud Torah* and its reward do we learn from the first verse of *Sefer Shemot*? (*Shemot* 1:1,6,13)
2. (a) Who were the midwives *Shifra* and *Puah* (2 opinions)? (b) (1) What were the "*batim*" (houses) that *Hashem* gave the midwives (3 explanations)? (2) How were the midwives rewarded *mida ke-neged mida*? (*Shemot* 1:21)
3. (a) On what date was *Moshe* conceived? (b) Why was *Yocheved* unable to hide him more than 3 months? (c) What event occurred 8 decades after she put *Moshe* on the Nile in the ark? (d) Since, according to *Pirkei de-Rebi Eliezer*, *Bnei Yisrael* merited redemption by keeping their Hebrew names, how was it possible that *Moshe*, their redeemer, was given an Egyptian name by *Pharaoh's* daughter (3 explanations)? (e) What were *Moshe's* 9 other names? What do they mean? (*Shemot* 2:2,10)
4. (a) Why did *Hashem* command *Moshe* to remove his shoes when He spoke to him (4 explanations)? (b) Why did *Hashem* describe *Eretz Yisrael* as "a land flowing with milk and honey," rather than praising it as a land flowing with wine and olive oil, which are two of the *sheva minim* (the 7 species for which *Eretz Yisrael* is famous)? (*Shemot* 3:5,8)
5. (a) Why were 2 signs *Moshe* was to show *Bnei Yisrael* his: (1) staff turning into a snake, and (2) hand becoming *tzara'at*? (b) Why did *Hashem* select the inarticulate *Moshe*, i.e., "heavy of mouth and heavy of tongue," as his messenger? (*Shemot* 4:10)
6. (a) What was the reward of the *shotrim* (*Bnei Yisrael's* foremen/guards) for being beaten when the slaves failed to meet their quotas? (b) Since *Hashem* had told *Moshe* in advance (3:19) that *Pharaoh* would not free *Bnei Yisrael* now, why did *Moshe* complain that He had not rescued them? (*Shemot* 5:14,23)
7. In the *haftara*, to what does the *Navi* refer when he says: (a) "Did he strike him as he struck those who struck him? (b) Was he slain like the slaying of those he slew?" (*Yeshayahu* 27:7)

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, January 10th, 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 **Mrs. Sharon Richter** and **Dr. Shira Weiss**. 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.midreshetyomrishon.org.

· On Sunday, January 10th, 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 Allen Schwartz** and **Rabbi Herschel Reichman**. 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.kollelyomrishon.org.

· The **Chofetz Chaim Women's Learning Group** will meet this Sunday, January 10th, at the Hager home, 87 Sterling Place (there is no parking on Sterling Place.)

Monday

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

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, at 11:00 A.M., **Rochi Lerner** gives a *shiur* at Yeshivat Noam which explores the characters of *Yitzchak* & *Shimshon*.

Friday

· The **Bergen Community Kollel for Baale Batim** meets every Friday 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*. For more information, contact Dr. Andy Fink, (201) 833-2527.

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) While *Yosef* lived, *Bnei Yisrael* were on an elite rank above the *Mitzrim*. After he died, they dropped to a level equal to the *Mitzrim*. After *Yosef's* brothers died, their status further declined, and they became a despised minority. After the first generation died, their standing was lowered even further, and the *Mitzrim* enslaved them (*Ohr ha-Chaim*). (b) The period was shortened because of: (1) the harshness of the labor; (2) the tremendous number of slaves, due to their miraculous population increase (*Mishneh la-Melech*). (c) (1) 193 years – after *Ya'akov* died, when *Bnei Yisrael* were in *Mitzrayim* 17 years; (2) 116 years – after *Levi* died, when they were there 94 years (*Gur Aryeh*). (3) 86 years – when *Miriam* was born (*Rashi* – *Shir ha-Shirim* 2:11). (d) A person must study the text of the weekly *parasha* twice and the *targum* once (*shinayim mikra ve-echad targum*) (*Berachot* 8a-b); the 16 letters of the first 4 words of *Sefer Shemot*, “*ve-ayleh shemot Bnei Yisrael*,” are the initial letters of this phrase: “*ve-adam asher lomeid ha-seder* (one who studies the *parasha*), *shi-nayim mikra ve-echad targum* (reading the text twice and *targum* once), *be-kol na'im ve-yashar* (in a pleasant, straight voice), *yichyeh shanim rabot aruchim le-olam* (will live many long years)” (*Ba'al ha-Turim*).

2. (a) *Yocheved* and her (1) daughter *Miriam*; (2) daughter-in-law *Elisheva* (*Sotah* 11b). (b) (1) The *batim* were: (i) *Hashem's* reward that their descendants would become the Houses of *Kehuna* (priesthood) and *Malchut* (kingship) (*Rashi*). (ii) *Hashem's* protection from *Pharaoh's* wrath (*Sa'adia Gaon*). (iii) *Pharaoh* kept them under “house arrest,” so they could assist in no more births (*Rashbam*). (2) Since *Pharaoh* ordered the murder only of the boys, he did not threaten *Bnei Yisrael's* continuity, because their Jewish status was determined matrilineally; since patrilineal descent determined a *sheivet's* membership, the midwives, by saving the boys, assured the continuity of *Bnei Aharon* in *Sheivet Levi* and *Beit David* in *Sheivet Yehuda* (they were rewarded with being ancestresses of *Aharon* and *David* respectively – *Yocheved* was *Aharon's* mother, and *Miriam* married *Calev*, an ancestor of *David*) (*Y.D. Soloveitchik*).

3. (a) On 7 *Elul*, 6 months and a day before his birth on 7 *Adar*; (b) *Pharaoh's* advisors saw astrologically that she had conceived, and they came to drown the baby after 9 months, 3 months after she had given birth; (c) *Yocheved* put him in the ark on 6 *Sivan*, 3 months after his birth, 8 decades before *matan Torah* on *Shevuot* (*Rashbam*). (d) (1) *Batya*, *Pharaoh's* daughter, converted and actually gave him a Hebrew name; (2) *Yocheved* named him *Moshe*, and *Batya* approved (*Chizkuni*). (3) The name is composed of “*mo*,” Egyptian for “water,” and “*sheh*,” Egyptian for “drawing out”; the name meant the same thing in both Egyptian and Hebrew (*Malbim*). (e) (1) *Amram* called him *Chever* (uniter) since: (i) *Amram* reunited with *Yocheved* for his sake, and (ii) he united *Bnei Yisrael* with *Hashem*; (2) *Yocheved* called him *Yekutiel* (gathered (or hope) to *Hashem*) since: (i) she gathered him to her bosom after *Hashem* restored him to her, and (ii) he brought *Bnei Yisrael* hope; (3) *Miriam* called him *Yered* (descend) since: (i) for his sake, she descended to the Nile to watch over him, and (ii) he brought down the *Torah* from *Hashem*; (4) *Aharon* called him *Avi Zano'ach* (my father left) since: (i) his father left his mother but took her back, and (ii) *Moshe* caused *Bnei Yisrael* to leave idol worship; (5) *Kehat* called him *Avi Soko* (father protected) since *Moshe* was protected from the *Mitzrim* for 3 months; *Bnei Yisrael* called him (6) *Shemaya* (*Hashem* listens) since *Hashem* listened to his *tefillot*; (7) *Ben Netanel* (*Hashem* gave) since he gave them the *Torah*; (8) *Avigdor* (fence) since he instituted fences to protect the *Torah*; and (9) *Tuvia* (good) since, at his birth, his mother saw that he was perfect (*Yalkut Shimonil Vayikra Raba*).

4. (a) (1) *Moshe*, standing on *admat kodesh* (holy earth), increased his holiness with no separation between his feet and the ground (*Ramban*). (2) *Moshe* had to remove his shoes where he was, before approaching the holy ground of the burning bush, because even the ground where he stood was holy (*Sforno*). (3) The relation of the shoe to the body is comparable to that of the body to the soul; just as shoes cover the lowest part of the body, the body covers the lowest part of the soul, with the root of the soul extending to the upper world; *Moshe*, who just was beginning his prophecy, was at a low level of contact with the *Shechina*, symbolized by his shoes (*Nefesh ha-Chaim*). (4) Since *Hashem* fashioned the body from the earth's dust, the body should be holy; due to man's sins, it lost its holiness; *Moshe* had to be in contact with holy ground to gain holiness (*Shelah*). (b) Milk and honey are kosher, but derived from non-kosher sources; *i.e.*, milk comes from blood (*Nidah* 9a), and honey comes from bees. *Eretz Yisrael's* benefit is that it awakens a person engulfed in non-kosher activities to do *teshuva* and become holy (*Ohr Torah*).

5. (a) The snake and *tzara'at* are symbols of *lashon ha-ra* – the *nachash* was the first in the *Torah* to speak *lashon ha-ra* (*Bereishit* 3:4), and *Hashem* punished *Miriam* with *tzara'at* for her *lashon ha-ra* (*Bamidbar* 12:10). *Hashem* showed *Moshe* he had spoken *lashon ha-ra* against *Bnei Yisrael* by stating that they would not believe him (*Ramban*). (b) *Hashem* wanted *Pharaoh* and *Bnei Yisrael* to realize that *Moshe's* success was not due to his eloquence – *Hashem* determines a person's achievements (*Ran*).

6. (a) *Moshe* selected them as *zekeinim* (elders) in *Bamidbar* 11:17; *Hashem* gave them *ruach ha-kodesh* (divine spirit) so they would share *Moshe's* responsibility leading *Bnei Yisrael* in the desert (*Rashi*). (b) *Moshe* was not upset with rejection of his demand for *Bnei Yisrael's* liberation; he complained that his demands resulted in the beatings of the *shotrim* (*Sforno*).

7. The *Navi* asks rhetorically: (a) did not *Hashem* drown the *Mitzrim* at *Yam Suf*, as the *Mitzrim* drowned *Bnei Yisrael's* babies in the Nile? The answer is yes (*Rashi*). (b) Did *Hashem* destroy *Bnei Yisrael* for their evil deeds, as He destroyed the *Mitzrim* and *Sancherev* for their evil deeds? The answer is no (*Radak*).