

BJC Wensa

“WENSA” MEANS “FUN” IN JUDEO-ARABIC!

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VAYECHI

SHABBAT ENDS 5:13PM

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PARSHA OF THE WEEK.

VAYECHI

Jacob lives the final 17 years of his life in Egypt. Before his passing, he asks Joseph to take an oath that he will bury him in the Holy Land. He blesses Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, elevating them to the status of his own sons as progenitors of tribes within the nation of Israel.

The patriarch desires to reveal the end of days to his children, but is prevented from doing so.

Jacob blesses his sons, assigning to each his role as a tribe: Judah will produce leaders, legislators and kings; priests will come from Levi, scholars from Issachar, seafarers from Zebulun, schoolteachers from Simeon, soldiers from Gad, judges from Dan, olive-growers from Asher, and so on. Reuben is rebuked for “confusing his father's marriage bed”; Simeon and Levi, for the massacre of Shechem and the plot against Joseph. Naphtali is granted the swiftness of a deer, Benjamin the ferociousness of a wolf, and Joseph is blessed with beauty and fertility.

A large funeral procession consisting of Jacob's descendants, Pharaoh's ministers, the leading citizens of Egypt and the Egyptian cavalry accompanies Jacob on his final journey to the Holy Land, where he is buried in the Machpelah Cave in Hebron.

Joseph, too, dies in Egypt, at the age of 110. He, too, instructs that his bones be taken out of Egypt and buried in the Holy Land, but this would come to pass only with the Israelites' exodus from Egypt many years later. Before his passing, Joseph conveys to the Children of Israel the testament from which they will draw their hope and faith in the difficult years to come: “G-d will surely remember you, and bring you up out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”



FAMILY DISCUSSION



You have something which is very special. It's yours for life. It will go with you wherever you go. You don't have to pay for it, carry it, guard it, or make room for it. You didn't even have to work to get it.

Do you know what it is? It's your name!

Some people are named after great men or great women. Others are named after relatives who passed away.

Sometimes people are given names which tell us about events in their lives. Adam's name comes from the word *adamah*, earth, because G-d created Adam from the earth. Moses' name comes from the word *moshui*, “pulled in,” because the basket Moses was lying in was pulled in from the Nile River.

Some names tell us about wishes or ideas connected with the person. Rachel's first child was born after many years of waiting, so he was named Joseph, which means “add.” While she was waiting, Rachel had wished and prayed that G-d would bless her with an additional son.

Later, Joseph called his own children by names which tell us what he wished and hoped for. Joseph named his firstborn son Manasseh, from the word *nasho*, “forget.” Joseph did not want his family to forget where they came from or who they were. Wherever Jews may be, they must always remember who they are.

By doing good deeds, we can make the world into a dwelling place for G-d. Wishing to do this, Joseph named his second son Ephraim, which comes from the Hebrew word for fruitful.

This week's Torah portion tells us how Jacob blessed Manasseh and Ephraim. Even though Manasseh was older, Ephraim received the greater blessing. Ephraim represents that a Jew should prosper and be fruitful in the Torah way. That's why he received the greater blessing.

Still, Manasseh is the older brother and comes first. This also teaches us an important lesson. Ephraim can only succeed and be fruitful because Manasseh constantly reminds him who he is and where he comes from.



BJC SISTERHOOD HAPPENING...

We celebrated Rosh Chodesh Tevet on Dec. 3 at the home of Gila Aizer. Thanks to our wonderful sisterhood president Orly Maslavi, who organized a beautiful gathering of our BJC ladies with the presence of our Rabanit Sigal Shalom who enlightened us with her eliquent words. We celebrated Chanukah together with a menorah lighting and shared our personal miracle stories with one another. The special evening was enjoyed by all, thanks to the gracious hospitality of our host Gila Aizer.



An act of kindness... an inspirational story!

**Kindness
Is Contagious.
So Pass It On!**

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door.

Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry so brought him a large glass of milk.

He drank it slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?"

"You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness."

He said, "Then I thank you from my heart."

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strong also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Year's later that young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease.

Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room.

Dressed in his doctor's gown he went in to see her. He recognized her at once. He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day he gave special attention to the case.

After a long struggle, the battle was won. Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge and the bill was sent to her room.

She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She began to read the following words:

"Paid in full with one glass of milk"

Signed, Dr. Howard Kelly.

Author Unknown

Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind. No act of kindness is ever wasted. Smile. Be Kind.

"Joy comes into our lives when we have something to do, someone to love and something to hope for..." *Victor E. Frankel*

Hand print...

**A Child once gives a handmade card to his parents....
On it is his small hand print and inside his photograph and these words...**



"Sometimes you get discouraged because I am so small – when I leave my fingerprints on furniture and walls – But I am growing everyday – And someday these tiny fingerprints will surely fade away.... So here is a final hand print, just so you can recall – Exactly how my fingerprints looked when I was very small".....

Moral

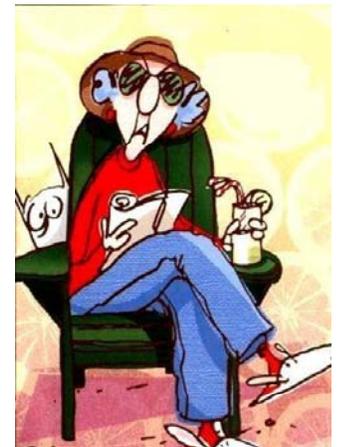
***Don't wait to spend time with kids "when things slow down" or "when u get that big promotion" or "next year when you get more time" ...
If you don't act on life ,
Life has a habit of acting on you....
The greatest gift you can give to a child is the gift of your time...
Reach out , Share, Inspire, Touch Hearts of your friends and family.***

Eating right...

Contributed by: Isaac Amnon

Yesterday I went to the doctor for my yearly physical. My blood pressure was high, my cholesterol was high, I'd gained some weight, and I didn't feel so hot. My doctor said eating right doesn't have to be complicated and it would solve my physical problems. He said just think in colors...

Fill your plate with bright colors... greens, yellows, reds, etc. I went right home and ate an entire bowl of:



And sure enough, I felt better immediately. I never knew eating right could be so easy.

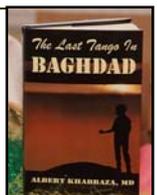
FAMILY SHABBAT DATES:

JAN. 25, 2014 MAY 10, 2014
MAR. 1, 2014 JUNE 14, 2014
APRIL 5, 2014

The Last Tango in Baghdad

by Dr. Albert Khabbaza is available at all online booksellers. For more info visit:

www.khabbaza.com



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The Iraqi Jewish Torah Parchments burial ceremony will be held this Sunday December 15, 2013

As an Iraqi Jewish community we need to show our support and attend the ceremony at the New Montefiore cemetery at 1:00 PM on Sunday 12/15 where the A.A. Society is taking the responsibility to bury the damaged Torah parchments with the honor and respect that is due for such an important sacred object according to our Jewish tradition.

Besides being a sacred part of a Torah, it was historically part of our Iraqi ancestors' worship services. A whole delegation will be accompanying these damaged parchments from Washington to witness the proper burial in the cemetery as well as many Rabbis.

Mr. Maurice Shohet who resides in Washington DC and is the president of WOJI - World Organization of Jews from Iraq, has been involved with the issues dealing with Iraqi Jews, and how to safeguard the religious artifacts salvaged from Saddam Hussein.

An Iraqi delegation consisting of 4 legal advisors and counselors in the ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, the Iraqi National Security Council and the Ministers Council, have arrived from Baghdad to Washington, DC to participate in the burial process of the Torah parchments of the "Iraqi Jewish Archive" that are Psoulim (unfit for use). This religious ceremony is scheduled to take place on Sunday December 15th, at 1:00 p.m. at the New Montefiore Cemetery.

“

Life is like photography. You need the negatives to develop.”

—Unknown

Take care of yourself
and those you love,
today, and everyday!
especially your parents, as they
are the most precious gifts ...

Walk With Me, Daddy

By Helen Bush

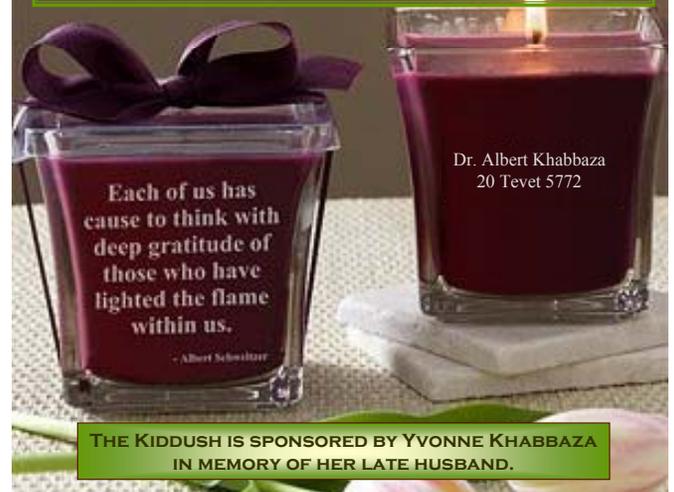
Walk alongside me, Daddy
and hold my little hand
I have so many things to learn
that I don't yet understand

Teach me things to keep me safe
from dangers every day.
Show me how to do my best
at home, at school at play

Every child needs a gentle hand
to guide them as they grow.
So walk alongside me, Daddy.
We have a long way to go.

*Those we love don't go away.
They walk besides us day by day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near.
Still loved, still missed,
and forever dear.*

Please join us at The BJC Shabbat services
for the two year memorial of
Dr. Albert Khabbaza
Saturday, Dec. 21, 2013



THE KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY YVONNE Khabbaza
IN MEMORY OF HER LATE HUSBAND.