

### Schedule of Events

December 7 ISEE Test Given at MJHS

December 11 7:00-8:00 Avi Gellman will give a second lecture at the Baron Hirsch entitled "Internal Challenges".

December 14 11:30-1:00 Keshet Connections: Israeli High Tech Takes Over the World.

December 17-19 Semester Exams

December 20 Winter Break Begins

January 25 Facing History and Ourselves presents "Blessed is the Match." It is the first feature documentary about Hannah Senesh, the World War II-era poet and diarist who became a paratrooper, resistance fighter, and modern-day Joan of Arc. It begins at 7 p.m.

February 1 ISEE Test Given at MJHS

### D'var Torah presented by Hannah Chanin

In this week's Torah portion, Vayetzeh, we see two different extremes of human character. On one hand, we see Lavan, who is a greedy, materialistic, and self-centered human being. On the other end of the spectrum, we have Yakov. Yakov was willing to work for what he desired, even after he was tricked, and he never tricked or stole to get what he wanted.

In the beginning of the parsha, Yakov is running away from Bersheva to Haran. Many people know the story of the stone and Yakov's dream so I will only lightly touch on it. Yakov had a dream with a ladder and angels going to heaven. Many people believe that where he was when the dream occurred was in the Temple Mount, or Har ha Bayit. After this incident, he continued on his way to Haran. He stopped at a well and asked about Lavan and his family. Coincidentally, he sees Rachel, Lavan's daughter, coming up with Lavan's sheep. He rejoices upon seeing her, and she tells Lavan that Yakov has arrived.

Upon his arrival, Yakov made a deal with Lavan that he would be his servant for seven years in return for Rachel as his wife. After seven years, he was tricked into

marrying Leah, the first-born. When Yakov realized this, he was upset and confronted Lavan. Lavan made an excuse saying that he must wed the oldest before the youngest. This is obviously a selfish answer, because it is very obvious that all he wanted was the free labor. This instance reveals that Lavan thought nothing of the people around him and only of himself and his own benefits.

Instead of stealing Rachel and running off, or trying to trick Lavan into allowing him to marry Rachel, Yakov agreed to work another seven years. Some may consider it extremely foolish, or naïve to trust Lavan after what he did to hurt Yakov, but Yakov had faith in Lavan that he would keep his promise. After seven more years of work, Yakov did receive Rachel as his wife.

All of this may just seem like a narration of the parsha, but when you look deeper, there is a lesson to be learned. Lavan was a man that was constantly in pursuit of wealth and material goods to make himself feel good. On the other hand, Yakov was a humble working man, who worked just to get what he wanted. Yakov achieved his goals through hard work, but Lavan achieved his through trickery and theft. In the end, it is obvious that Yakov ended up a much wealthier man, both materialistically and spiritually.

In conclusion, next time you are vying after something, do it in the right way. Don't try to trick your parents into getting you the new "hot gadget" or fashion item, be upfront about it and be willing to work hard. In the end, this route will be much more successful, and you will feel much better about yourself.

Shabbat Shalom.

### Open Invitation Anytime!

The Memphis Jewish High School invites you to come for a tour of our school! We have been busy this past month giving tours of the school and hosting prospective students for a day of classes. Dr. Elizabeth Brock McBride, Head of School, remarked, "The students that have visited our school are very impressed with our program and our facility. I think they especially enjoy having a lap top computer for the day when they visit our classes!"

Call 901.767.4818 for a tour or a day of shadowing

### **Avi Gellman gives another Lecture at the Baron Hirsch**

On December 11, Avi Gellman will give another lecture at the Baron Hirsch entitled "Internal Challenges". The second class will focus more on the internal challenges of the Modern Orthodox in the State of Israel. Topics to be covered will include: different approaches to education, both secular and Jewish, the need to develop leadership, the role of governmental politics, the growing number of singles, and future team goals.

### **Technology Class Introduces a New Product**

Rick Ireland, Instructor in Technology, and his classes have designed and implemented a new assignment instrument that will aid our students in keeping track of all tests, homework and projects. The program is individualized for each student in presenting their daily schedule and allowing them to add assignments, due dates and when they are completed. The program will be available to students after the Winter Break.

### **Review for Exams**

Please be aware that we have designated Friday, the 12<sup>th</sup> and Monday-Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> as exam review days. Students will not be given any new material for classes so they can be preparing for their semester exams. Remember that exams count 20% of their semester grades.

### **ISEE Test Site**

We are pleased to announce that MJHS will be host to the ISEE for the dates of December 7 and February 1. Both exams will begin check-in at 9:00 a.m. and the test will begin at 9:30.

The Independent School Entrance Examination (ISEE) is a three-hour admission test for entrance into grades five through twelve required by private schools. MJHS is the only school in the region that will administer the test on Sundays.

Students may register for the ISEE test online at [www.erbtest.com](http://www.erbtest.com). The ISEE may only be taken once within a six-month period, and it must be taken for admission to a school, not as a practice test.

The registration deadline for the February test is January 11<sup>th</sup>. If applicants have any questions, they may call MJHS at 767-4818.

### **Mazal Toy**

To **Avi Gellman** on a successful lecture at the Baron Hirsch last night!

### **Toda-Raba**

- To **Rabbi Adam Grossman** for coming to our Kabbalat Shabbat and speaking with our student body!