

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Chayei Sarah  
November 14, 2025 / 23 Cheshvan 5786  
Volume 31, Issue 5  
Candlelighting: 4:49 pm

Waxman Torah Center · 2195 S. Green Road · University Heights, OH 44121 · (216) 691-3837 · [www.clevelandjlc.com](http://www.clevelandjlc.com)

## Friday, November 14

4:49pm Candlelighting  
4:50pm Mincha  
8:30pm Parsha Shiur  
@ R. Nisenbaum

## Shabbos, November 15

8:45am Shacharis  
*Kiddush is sponsored by  
Gary Shyken in honor of  
receiving Chasan  
Bereishis*  
4:40pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos  
5:56pm Maariv

## Sunday, November 16

9:15am Parsha Class  
(R. Nisenbaum)  
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"  
(R. Stoll)

## Monday, November 17

8:00pm Topics in Mussar -  
Generosity & Stinginess  
(R. Nisenbaum)

## Tuesday, November 18

8:00pm Tanna d'vei Eliyahu  
(R. Stoll)

## Wednesday, November 19

8:00pm Nach Still Speaks -  
MISHLEI (R. Stoll)

## Thursday, November 20

8:00pm Sefer HaChinuch: R. Stoll  
10:15pm Parsha Class  
(R. Nisenbaum)

### Torah Podcast

Listen to Rabbi Nisenbaum's  
"Torah Podcast" at Spotify, Apple  
Podcasts, iHeartRadio, and more,  
or download at  
[www.maverickpodcasting.com](http://www.maverickpodcasting.com)

### Weekday Minyanim

7:00am Shacharis (M-F)  
8:00am Shacharis (Sun)  
10:00pm Maariv (Sun-Th)

### Class Connection

**R. Nisenbaum:**  
425-436-6200 #352171  
"The Torah Podcast" weekly  
at all podcast locations

**R. Stoll:**  
Zoom: 876-619-3551  
Audio: 669-900-9128

## Parsha: Chayei Sarah

Sarah died at 127 years old. Her death proved to be an additional challenge for Abraham. After all he had gone through to prove his allegiance and love for G-d, he now had to maintain faith and dignity in the face of tragedy.

Although G-d had promised the land of Canaan to Abraham, it was not yet his. Abraham had to deal with the Hittites to purchase a burial spot for his wife in the Cave of Machpelah in Hebron. Although the Hittites offered him the cave as a gift, he insisted on buying it. He did not want to remain beholden to them. Later, they sold him the land for an exorbitant sum of money.

Shortly after Sarah's passing, Abraham occupied himself with finding a wife for his son Isaac. This was necessary to set the scene for the next stage in the development of the Jewish people. Abraham would not allow his son to marry the daughters of Canaan, because of the bad character traits that seemed to be prevalent among them, and he was afraid these traits would be passed on to his descendants. Yet, being that Isaac had been sanctified earlier, when G-d had commanded Abraham to bring him as a sacrifice, he was not allowed to leave the Land of Canaan. Like an animal sacrifice, he could not be removed from Jerusalem. Abraham therefore entrusted his servant, Eliezer, to find a wife from his own family in Aram Naharayim.

Eliezer searched for a woman of exemplary character to complement his master's son. He decided on a test to tell if a woman was truly a kindhearted person. He would ask her to draw him some water to drink from the well. If she would draw for him and also offer to water his camels, it would prove she was truly a compassionate person and deserving of marrying Isaac. Eliezer then prayed to G-d that he be successful in fulfilling his mission.

Rebecca fulfilled Eliezer's request and offered to water his camels and find lodging for them to sleep. Eliezer was overjoyed and presented gifts to Rebecca before even asking her father's permission that she return with him. The wonder of finding such a generous and sensitive woman so soon after he had prayed, encouraged his faith that G-d

had answered his prayers.

The Torah says that after Isaac married Rebecca and brought her to his tent, he was comforted from the loss of his mother. The Talmud explains that as long as Sarah had lived, her candles remained lit from one Shabbos to the next. There was also a blessing in her dough, and an aura of holiness hovering over her tent. When Sarah died, these symbols ceased. With Rebecca's appearance they returned once again. Rebecca had proven to be a worthy successor to Sarah.

### JLC Shabbaton

Dec 12-13 at the  
Hilton Garden Inn  
in Mayfield Village.  
Details coming soon!

## Insights: Chayei Sarah

**...Go to my land and my birthplace and take a wife for my son... (Gen 24:4)**

People would often speak to Rav Ahron Leib Shteinman for advice regarding finding the right marriage partner. A family was considering a young woman for their son but were concerned that her family was not to their liking. Rav Shteinman did not feel it was a problem. "Look at our forefathers. Did Rivkah come from a respectable family? It did not bother Avraham!" However, when Rav Shteinman was asked about a young man who was insistent on getting his way and would not compromise, he recommended the man not get married until he improved his character. "Marriage is all about compromise. Without compromise the relationship is doomed," he said.

## Did You Know?

The Amidah is recited silently, moving one's lips but not saying it loud enough for anyone else to hear. One reason for this is to spare the shame of a person who wishes to confess his sins during the prayer and doesn't want anyone else to hear his confession. A similar reason is offered to explain why the person called to the Torah merely recites the blessings but does not actually read from the Torah. The Rabbis were concerned about embarrassing a person who may not be able to read from the Torah, so they decreed that only the Ba'al Korei (Reader) read for everyone called to the Torah. Similarly they ordained that the officiating rabbi recite the blessings at a wedding rather than the groom, to spare the shame of a groom who cannot recite them.

**Thought for the Week:** *In G-d's world, he who earns his keep keeps his earnings.*  
(A Candle By Day)