

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Toldos  
November 5, 2021 / 1 Kislev 5782  
Volume 27, Issue 6  
Candlelighting: 5:59 pm

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

## Friday, November 5

7:00am Shacharis

5:59pm Candlelighting  
6:00pm Mincha / Maariv

## Shabbos, November 6

8:45am Shacharis  
*Kiddush is sponsored by Drs. Michael & Brenda Altose on the occasion of her father's yahrzeit*

5:20pm Laws of Shabbos  
5:50pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos / Maariv

## Sunday, November 7

**CLOCKS MOVE  
BACK 1 HOUR**

8:00am Shacharis  
9:15am *Parsha Class*  
(R. Nisenbaum)  
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"  
(R. Stoll)

## Monday, November 8

7:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm *The Seven Prophetesses:  
Chana: The Song of  
Suffering (5/9)*  
(R. Nisenbaum)

## Tuesday, November 9

7:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm *Avos D'Rav Nosson*  
(R. Stoll)

## Wednesday, November 10

7:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm *Nach Still Speaks*  
(R. Stoll)

## Thursday, November 11

7:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm *The 12 Jewish Months*  
(R. Stoll)  
in person, Zoom & audio  
10:15pm *Parsha Class*  
(R. Nisenbaum)

### Mazel Tov

*Dovid & Ariella Haft  
upon the birth of a  
daughter*

## Parsha: Toldos

Of the three forefathers, Isaac is discussed the least in the Torah. His nature seems to have been more reserved and introverted. His contribution to the Jewish nation was his self-sacrifice to G-d and self-discipline rather than in his relationship to his fellow man. This was symbolized by one of Isaac's few activities mentioned in the Torah, his digging and re-digging of wells, implying an internal analysis of his own character, rather than reaching out to others.

Isaac was somewhat removed from his relationship with his children. In the Torah's description of the two sons, Jacob, the younger twin, is portrayed as the more righteous one. His days were spent in the tent, in spiritual pursuit. Esau, on the other hand, is seen as a more hedonistic person, spending his time in the fields and pursuing physical pleasures. This would eventually lead him to turn his back on all that he had seen in his father's house and live a life of wickedness.

Yet, despite their disparate natures, Isaac seemed to value Esau's character and potential for greatness more than he did that of Jacob's. Esau was able to mislead his father by asking him various questions about Jewish Law. Rebecca, however, saw through the facade and recognized the true nature of her sons. She oversaw her sons' interaction to ensure that Jacob not be taken advantage of by Esau's wiliness.

Even as a young man, Esau proved his scorn for the spiritual world by selling his birthright to Jacob in exchange for a pot of beans. Isaac was not aware of this

sale. Many years later, Isaac wanted to give his blessings to Esau. He asked Esau to prepare a good meal for him, to be able to be in the proper frame of mind to offer his blessings.

Rebecca overheard Isaac's plans and realized that Jacob deserved these blessings, not Esau. Even before her sons had been born, she had received the word of G-d that her younger son would more deserving of G-d's blessings. In practice, Esau had forfeited the blessings long before by his behavior and by selling his birthright to Jacob. She encouraged Jacob to disguise himself, covering his arms and neck with goatskins to appear hairier than he really was, and pose as Esau, to receive the blessings from his father. Jacob reluctantly followed his mother's orders.

Rebecca prepared a meal for her husband and gave it to Jacob to serve Isaac.

Isaac, did not recognize Jacob, and blessed him. When Esau discovered that Jacob had deceived Isaac to receive his blessings, he vowed to take revenge. Isaac, however, realized his mistake and agreed that the blessings remain with Jacob.

Jacob was forced to flee from Esau's wrath, and would not return home for another thirty-six years.

### SAVE THE DATE!

**JLC's 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary community  
Shabbos with scholar-in-residence  
Rabbi Daniel Glatstein  
will be December 17-18.  
Honorees will be Dr. & Mrs.  
Michael Harris. Details to follow.**

### Class Connection

**R. Nisenbaum:**  
425-436-6200 #352171

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

### New Book

**R. Nisenbaum's new  
book of essays and  
anecdotes will soon be  
published. If anyone is  
interested in  
sponsorship, please  
contact him.**

## Insights: Toldos

**Yitzchak entreated (Vaye'etar) Hashem opposite his wife because she was barren... (Gen 25:21)**

Rashi points out that the term "vaye'etar" implies not merely prayer, but a fervent, repeated supplication. It was through this type of prayer that Yitzchak was answered and was blessed with children. Rav Mordechai Tzukerman would admonish people who run to various holy sites and graves to pray for salvation, that they should not forget that the main power of prayer is to pour one's heart out before G-d-- and that can be done in any place. The purpose of praying at holy sites is to arouse heartfelt prayers. Rav Tzukerman knew a person who prayed daily for an extended period of time at the Kotel in Jerusalem as he needed G-d's assistance in a certain situation, but the assistance did not come. Rav Tzukerman suggested that the person begin davening in his regular synagogue rather than at the Wall. He explained that the person was putting his hopes and faith in the Wall rather than in G-d, and the assistance would only come as a result of heartfelt prayers, not from being at a special place.

## Did You Know?

A mourner should not eat his own food for the first meal eaten after the burial of the deceased. The meal must be prepared outside of the mourner's home. One's friends or neighbors prepare this meal called the seudas havra'ah, or meal of consolation. It is customary to serve round foods such as bagels and boiled eggs at this meal. There are different opinions whether the mourner may drink from his own beverages. There is no obligation for the mourner to eat the meal, and if he is not hungry, he may skip the meal. The mourner may eat his own food that night.

**Thought for the Week:** *A person must be educated before his errors become a philosophy!* (A Candle By Day)