

Chabad at La Costa Times
Shvat/Adar 5777 – February'17

New JLI Series Kicks Off
“The Dilemma: Modern Conundrums,
Talmudic Debates, Your Solutions

Apply mind-bending, brain-twisting, hair-splitting Talmudic reasoning to solve real-life modern dilemmas—situations that actually happened yet seem impossible to solve. What do you do when your gut tells you one thing, and your brain tells you another? Prepare for a mental expedition to mind-wrestle with situations that force us to choose between two reasonable truths.

Analyze, discuss, and debate Talmudic texts with live interactive polling for an authentic taste of original, dynamic Talmud study. Sign up immediately for this course by responding by calling 760-943-8891 or by send an email to RabbiE@ChabadatLaCosta.com.

MAZEL TOV!
Muka Eilfort is Engaged!

We are excited to announce the engagement of Chaya Mushka (Muka) Eilfort to Rabbi Yosef (Yossi) HaCohen Rodal from Milan, Italy! Rabbi Rodal is the son of Rabbi Shmuel and Mrs. Devorah Rodal, who are Chabad emissaries in Milan. Yossi is the second to youngest of the 17 children in his family, and is the younger brother of Rebbetzin Dini Polichenco of Chabad of Carmel Valley (yes, it's a very small world). Yossi loves people and is also an accomplished musician. We couldn't be any happier!

MAZEL TOV! It's a Boy!
Bris Announcement

We are excited to announce the birth of a healthy baby boy to Jeremy and Rina Rivkin! Steve and Linda Rivkin are the extremely proud and happy grandparents and are thrilled to share this great news with our whole community.

Please note that while we do not formally invite people to a Bris (since it is such a huge Mitzvah, if one would be formally invited he/she would be Halachically obligated to attend), we are informing the entire community of the details of the Bris – so that community members will attend.

The Bris will, please G-d, take place on Wednesday, February 8th at 11:30am at Steve and Linda's home; 23781 Via Compadres, Murrieta,

CA. At the guard house use the name 'Rivkin' to be granted entry. We will also have a carpool from the shul leaving at 10am. If you would like a ride to the event please respond as soon as possible to this message.

Tu Bi'Shvat Seder for Women

Join our Rebbetzins, Nechama and Chaya Eilfort, for a beautiful Tu Bi'Shvat Seder on Sunday, February 12th at 7pm. Not only will numerous exotic fruits be served – in addition to the fruits of Israel – but profound Kabbalistic lessons about the power of our blessings will be explored. Please note that this event is for women only, and reservations are necessary by calling 760-943-8891 or via email to NMOME@SBCGlobal.net. There is a \$10 per person donation to attend.

Hebrew School –
A Place of Learning & Fun!

Give your children the Jewish education that they deserve! Our Sunday Hebrew School offers lots of hands-on activities and positive reinforcement. Students learn Hebrew language skills, Jewish living and observance, Jewish history, and so much more! We include arts & crafts, field trips, and holiday programming to make their experience even more enjoyable. Your child will have fun as he or she gains an appreciation for the 'why's and 'how's of Judaism. ***Our students want to be here!***

Happy Birthday Club

We would like to wish Happy Birthday to all of those celebrating their birthday this month and each subsequent month. For the Month of February we honor Aviva Alter, Alissa French, Kaley French, David Rivkin, James Brown, Tarryn Rivkin, and Linda Rivkin. May G-d bless each and every one of you with a happy, healthy, and successful year!

A Thought from the Rabbi

We are in the midst of the story of the Exodus of our people, the Jewish people, from Egyptian servitude. This part of our collective history is rich in lessons that apply to our lives today. Many people mistakenly

believe that the Torah is filled with ancient wisdom that applied to ancient times. They are actually half right. The Torah is our source of ancient wisdom, and indeed it applied in ancient times, but it also applies now. In fact, one can argue (as I often times do) that it applies now more than in the 'olden days', for people today can sometimes seem less and less in touch with our spiritual selves and less aware of our relationship with the Almighty.

In this Book we see how our people were enslaved by a cruel and oppressive nation. After having invited the Children of Israel, due to the immense blessings they brought with them and in gratitude for Joseph having saved the very nation, to settle in the land of Goshen, Pharaoh turns his erstwhile honored guests into despised and tortured slaves. Ultimately we know that this story had a happy ending, as the Jews were redeemed through a series of miracles, and the transformed nation merited to receive G-d's wisdom, the Torah, on Mount Sinai.

Because of the horrific treatment the Jews received at the hands of their Egyptian hosts we find that in later times, when Jews would take possession of their Promised Land and establish a country of their own, Israel, they were commanded to love the foreigner in their midst. In fact, numerous times the Torah reiterates this important commandment. Why was it necessary to repeat this commandment? It was necessary to repeat because people have a propensity to mistreat those who are weak defenseless, and different, and we Jews, due to our own experiences, must know better.

This approach is a hallmark of Judaism itself. We treat guests of our people, and newcomers to our people (converts) with special kindness and warmth. There is, however, a very

important caveat to this commandment that cannot be emphasized enough. When we welcome strangers into our midst it is NOT unconditional acceptance, no matter what may be heard in the halls of academia or on the six o'clock news. I have found some of the world's biggest hypocrites frequent those 'hallowed halls', who are so discriminatory about who they let in and whose opinions they share.

Indeed, the Torah's approach is supremely logical and safe. It requires the strangers who wish to be amongst us, either as Jews or as righteous gentiles, to agree to respect our laws, customs, and traditions. **In other words, nowhere does the Torah tell us to welcome in a stranger who is hostile to us!** In fact, nowhere does the Torah tell us to welcome in someone who is entirely ignorant of our ways (hoping for the best that when he/she learns about them he will be positively disposed towards us). **Our security is the first consideration of the Torah.** Our first obligation is to secure our own land and people – we NEVER risk our security for those from hostile backgrounds. When those who are hostile cease being hostile and want to join us, then we must love them with our full hearts – just as we must love our fellow Jews.

In these turbulent times **moral clarity as defined by the Torah**, is the order of the day. As Jews, it is our sacred obligation to be a 'light unto the nations.' That means that we must model Jewish ideals in our everyday lives and proactively expose the world to them as well. We do so with a pleasant and loving voice, for the ways of Torah are pleasantness and love. And where we see injustice, we must speak out clearly and strongly, always demanding justice!

February '17 / Shevat-Adar 5777

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Morning Services 8:30am Hebrew School 9:30am-12pm ↓	Morning Services 8am Tanya with Rabbi Elia ↓	JLI "The Dilemma: Modern Conundrums with Your Solutions" 7pm ↓	1 Morning Services 8am Torah Portion Class 7:30pm ↓	2 Morning Services 8am Tanya with Rabbi Elia ↓	3 Morning Services 8am Family Friday Night Light Candles 5:05pm	4 Services 10am Parshat Bo Shabbat Ends 6:02pm
5 Morning Services 8:30am Hebrew School 9:30am-12pm	6 Morning Services 8am Tanya with Rabbi Elia	7 Morning Services 8am JLI "The Dilemma: Modern Conundrums with Your Solutions" 7pm	8 <i>Rivkin Bris Carpool Leaves @ 10am</i> <i>Bris @ 11:30 in Murietta</i> Torah Portion Class 7:30pm	9 Morning Services 8am Tanya with Rabbi Elia	10 Morning Services 8am Light Candles 5:12pm	11 Tu Bi'Shvat Services 10am Parshat BeShalach Shabbat Shirah Shabbat Ends 6:09pm
12 Morning Services 8:30am Tu Bi'Shvat Seder 7pm	13 Morning Services 8am Tanya with Rabbi Elia	14 Morning Services 8am JLI "The Dilemma: Modern Conundrums with Your Solutions" 7pm	15 Morning Services 8am Torah Portion Class 7:30pm	16 Morning Services 8am Tanya with Rabbi Elia	17 Morning Services 8am Light Candles 5:18pm	18 Services 10am Parshat Yitro 10 Commandments Shabbat Ends 6:14pm
19 Morning Services 8:30am Hebrew School 9:30am-12pm	20 Morning Services 8am Tanya with Rabbi Elia	21 Morning Services 8am JLI "The Dilemma: Modern Conundrums with Your Solutions" 7pm	22 Morning Services 8am Torah Portion Class 7:30pm	23 Morning Services 8am Tanya with Rabbi Elia	24 Morning Services 8am Light Candles 5:24pm	25 Services 10am Parshat Mishpatim Shabbat Shekalim Shabbat Ends 6:20pm
26 Rosh Chodesh Adar Morning Services 8:30am Hebrew School 9:30am-12pm	27 Rosh Chodesh Adar Morning Services 8am Tanya with Rabbi Elia	28 Morning Services 8am JLI "The Dilemma: Modern Conundrums with Your Solutions" 7pm	RSVP for our world famous Purim Feast!	This Year's theme is Purim in Mexico!	Hurray & Celebrate (Before they build the Wall!)	Check out what's going on! Log onto <u>ChabadatLaCosta.com</u>

Chabad at La Costa • 1980 La Costa Ave. • Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760-943-8891 • Fax: 760-943-8892 •

E-Mail: Info@ChabadatLaCosta.com

Rabbi & Rebbetzin Yeruchem & Nechama Eilfort • Rabbi & Rebbetzin Elia and Chaya Eilfort •
President Len Hyman

The Back Page

Purim Fast Approach-eth!

Purim time is almost here
Something we anticipate all year
That is because the joy is dear
We hope you will celebrate it here!

On Purim we have many Mitzvot to do
We eat and pray and send food gifts too
Charity we give with an open hand
The happiness is supreme throughout the land!

So keep a careful watch upon the mail
As our Purim plans we do detail
Hashem is with us we cannot fail
As we stay upon the Purim trail!