

Congregation Sons of Israel

2715 W Tilghman St
Allentown PA 18104
www.sonsofisrael.net
april2715@gmail.com
Phone: 610-433-6089
Fax: 610-433-6080

Rabbi David Wilensky
rdwilensky@gmail.com

Co-Presidents
Art Hochhauser
ashoch@aol.com
Mike Notis
mrn1@lehigh.edu

VP of Education
Mike Notis
mrn1@lehigh.edu

VP of Membership
Lorrie Scherline
lorscherline@gmail.com

VP of Youth
Rabbi Mordechai Eskovitz
ravtouro@gmail.com

Men's Club Chair
Marcel Guindine
guindine@verizon.net

Sisterhood Chair
Alyssa Komarow
arkomarow@gmail.com

Ritual Committee Chair
Robert Simon
smrobbs@aol.com

House Committee Chairs
Joe Aflalo
calishco@aol.com
Marcel Guindine
guindine@verizon.net

Chesed Committee Chair
Alyssa Komarow
arkomarow@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Join Sons of Israel's
Adult Education Winter Series
with Rabbi Wilensky



**A Behind the Scenes Look
at the Infrastructure
of Allentown's Religious Organizations:**

Tuesday evenings
January 2nd - **The Mikvah**
January 9th - **The Eruv**
January 16th - **The Chevra Kadisha**
at 7:30 p.m. in the SOI Board Room
Refreshments will be served.



Our next Motzi Shabbos Learning and Pizza, with Rabbi Wilensky, will take place on January 13th at 7:00 p.m. Don't miss this fantastic program for the whole family. Please let us know you are coming so we order enough pizza. Sponsorships of \$18, \$36 and \$54 are appreciated for this program.



Reserve on your calendars
Thursday, February 1st, 2018
for
**SOI's Annual Event,
honoring Rabbi David and Dr. Rachel Wilensky**

More details to follow soon.

Regular Classes

Daily: Daf Yomi, Sunday—Friday 7:30 AM
Tuesday & Thursday Mornings:
"...Jews, Judaism and Israel" with Jeanette Eichenwald at JCC 9:30 AM
"...Fanciful World of Midrash" with Rabbi Wilensky at JCC 10:45 AM
Shabbos:
Shabbos Morning Gemara Shiur with Dr. Henry Grossbard 8:00 AM
"Contemporary Halachic Issues from the Parsha", R' Wilensky 12 noon
Daf Yomi 1 hr. before Mincha



קהילת בני ישראל
Congregation Sons of Israel

Parshat Miketz
28 Kislev, 5778
December 16, 2017

Announcements

Our **14th Annual Cholent Contest** with meat kiddush will be held after services. Good luck to our contestants: Carmit Bach, Ori Bach, Bob Levin-Dando, Malca Mond, and Rabbi Wilensky

Mazel Tov to Alan & Abby Wiener on the birth of their great grandson, born to their grandchildren, Aliza & Yair. (Children of Ben & Shafrira) **A special Mazel Tov** to great great grandmothers, Eleanor Fletcher and Shirley Levy.

Mazel Tov to Arnold & Barbara Kritz on the birth of their great grandson, Negev Shira, born to their grandchildren, Ariel and Liza.

Shabbos Schedule

9:00 AM Shacharis
10:30 AM Jr. Congregation
12:00 Noon Contemporary Halachic Issues from the Parsha:
"Chanukah and its Connection to Parshat Miketz"
3:00 PM Daf Yomi
4:00 PM Mincha, Shalosh Se'udos
5:18 PM Shabbat concludes

Minyanim December 17-23

	Sunday 12/17 (Chanukah)	Monday 12/18 Rosh Chodesh (Chanukah)	Tuesday 12/19 Rosh Chodesh (Chanukah)	Wed 12/20 (Chanukah)	Thursday 12/21	Friday 12/22	Shabbos 12/23
AM	8:30 AM	6:30 AM	6:30 AM	6:30 AM	6:45 AM	6:30 AM	9:00 AM
PM	4:15 PM	4:15 PM	4:15 PM	4:15 PM	4:15 PM	4:20 PM	4:05 PM

Miketz: "Joseph, Chanukah and Wisdom"

By Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb

Wisdom is the rarest of all important human qualities. Observers of the contemporary state of affairs often remark that wisdom, which is especially necessary in this day and age, is now particularly lacking.

Yet, at the same time, we are told that there is an age in life when most of us finally do obtain wisdom. Erik Erikson, the famous psychologist and thinker, believes that the course of the lifespan is marked by a series of developmental stages. At each stage of life, we master different developmental tasks. In late middle age, about age sixty, one begins to achieve wisdom. Erikson's book, *Childhood and Society*, devotes an entire chapter to defining wisdom and to detailing the process by which one achieves it, or fails to achieve it.

What is wisdom from a Jewish perspective? And what does wisdom have to do with this week's Chanukah theme?

The search for wisdom is a frequent biblical theme. King Solomon was once assured by the Almighty that

he would be granted the fulfillment of one wish. He wished for wisdom, obtained it, and is therefore termed in our tradition the wisest of all men.

Reading this story of Solomon and other sacred texts leads to the conclusion that there are at least two components to wisdom. There is a knowledge base; mastery of the facts and its data. There is also, however, the essential ability to select from this database those bits of knowledge which apply to the situation at hand.

There is the mastery of material, and there is the ability to advance that material and make it relevant.

One of the early 20th century masterpieces in the field of Jewish ethics is a book by Rabbi Joseph Hurvitz of Novardok, entitled *Madregas Ha'Adam (Man's Stature)*. Torah wisdom is one of Rabbi Joseph's themes. He insists that mastery of the corpus of Jewish law in and of itself does not constitute wisdom. Knowledge in "matters of the world" is also necessary; abstract knowledge must be interrelated with concrete reality.

The symbol of the Chanukah festival is, of course, the *Menorah*. The original *Menorah* in the holy Temple was situated in the southern end of

the inner Temple shrine and consisted of seven branches.

The *Menorah* symbolizes the light of wisdom, and its seven branches, the seven classical areas of wisdom, which include not only knowledge of the divine, but also mathematics and music.

Combining the wisdom symbolized by the *Menorah* with Rabbi Joseph's insights, we begin to appreciate the complexity of the concept of wisdom. It encompasses theoretical and practical knowledge, and it involves the seven major areas of human inquiry.

It is in this week's Torah portion, *Miketz*, we encounter the first man to be known as wise, to be recognized as a fount of wisdom. That man is the biblical Joseph, and it is the Pharaoh of Egypt who calls him wise.

You know the story. The Pharaoh has his dreams, Joseph interprets them and suggests a plan of action. Pharaoh is pleased by the plan and says to his courtiers, "Could we find another like him, a man in whom is the Spirit of G-d?" And he continues and says to Joseph, "Since G-d has made all this known to you, there is none so discerning and wise as you".

The Pharaoh recognizes that wisdom

is not only mastery of facts and the ability to apply them; it is more than familiarity with the seven branches of worldly wisdom, and it is even more than life experience. Besides all that, it is a gift of G-d.

I have had the good fortune of meeting several wise people in my life, and I am sure that most of you have as well. Whenever I have met such people, I have been struck by how their words seemed to come from a higher place. Their insights reflect that they have access to a source beyond my ken.

This was Pharaoh's experience when he heard Joseph's interpretation. He realized that no course of study – no training, no mastery of expertise – was sufficient to account for the good counsel that he was hearing. He knew that the man in front of him was blessed with the Spirit of G-d.

There is no better time than this Shabbat, as we celebrate Shabbat Chanukah and read the story of Joseph, to reflect upon the quality of human wisdom and to fully appreciate this lesson: Whatever else wisdom comprises, it has one indispensable ingredient. It is ultimately the inspiration of the One Above.