



Tiferet
ת פ א ר ת



TIFERET UPDATES

This Week in Tiferet

**Chanuka shel
Chesed** – On
Tuesday, Tiferet
went to Melabev, a
local center for the
elderly to add to
the Simcha of the
day. Our choir
performed and
both the Tiferet
students and the
Melabev clients
enjoyed the event
immensely. See
the pictures on the
next page!

**Gathering
Together** – On the
last night of
Chanuka, our
students joined
their Rakazot for a
final chagiga for
each group in their
Rakezet's homes.
A night of Torah
and fun was a
great way to end
the Chanuka
season!

תורת תפארת

Being Alive

Rav Azriel Rosner (arosner@tiferetcenter.com)
Parashat Vayigash

Parashat Vayigash is filled with dramatic encounters – between Yosef and Yehuda, between Yaakov and Yosef and between Paroh and Yosef's brothers. One of the more subtle and less dramatic encounters is between Yaakov and Paroh, when Yosef takes his father to meet the leader of Egypt.

Paroh sees the elderly Yaakov before him and asks: "כמה ימי שני חיך?" "How many were the years of your life?" To this, Yaakov responds:

"ימי שני מגורי שלשים ומאת שנה מעט ורעים היו ימי שני חיי ולא השיגו את ימי שני חיי אבותי בימי מגוריהם."

"The years of my residing are one hundred and thirty years, few and evil were the years of my life, and they did not reach the years of the lives of my forefathers, in the years of their residence." (בראשית פרק מ"ז פסוקים ח' – ט')

When we read these psukim, it sounds as if Yaakov is complaining to Paroh about the difficulty and brevity of his life. This is quite surprising considering what we already know about Yaakov's midot and righteousness. Was he really angry at his lot – and would he have expressed it to Paroh, of all people?

Rav Shimshon Raphael Hirsch focuses on the two different nouns that Yaakov uses to mean "life" in these psukim, *Chayim* and *Megurim*. What is the difference between them and what message can we glean from the difference?

According to Rav Hirsch, Paroh was asking a simple question about Yaakov's age. But Yaakov noted that *Chayim*, real life, is not judged merely according to the years that pass. It is judged by the accomplishments and effort that we put into those years. Thus Yaakov answers, modestly, that although he had resided ("*gar*") in this world for one hundred and thirty years, he did not believe that he had truly *lived* all of those years. In Yaakov's opinion, the content of his life had not reached the content of his forefathers' lives. "This is not a complaint about the shortness of his life, but humility when he looks backwards upon the ethical quality of the life that he had led."

The gemara in Masechet Berachot (18a) writes that tzadikim, even in their deaths, are

MAZAL TOV!

Mazal Tov to Rav Elie and Melanie Mayer on the Bar Mitzva of their son, Yosef! May they continue to see tremendous nachat from him and from their entire family!

Mazal Tov to Esti Rothman (Tiferet 5768) on her engagement to Benjy Lockspeiser! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

Mazal Tov to Michelle Sigman (Tiferet 5768) on her engagement to Ari Glatt! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

Mazal Tov to Jordana Friedman (Tiferet 5769) on her engagement to Sam Klein! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

Mazal Tov to Daniella Schwartz (Tiferet 5770, 1) on her engagement to David Liechtung! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

Mazal Tov to Batsheva Leibtag (Tiferet 5767) on her marriage to Jeffrey Ritholtz! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

Mazal Tov to Michal Gorelick (Tiferet 5768) on her marriage to Sruli Nemet! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

