

# Shaarei Tzion



Volume 21, Issue 24

פרשת שמייני - פרשת פרה

Week ending April 1, 2016

Candle lighting 7:05

## Parsha Points

“And the stork. . .” “ ואת החסידה . . . ”

The Gemara remarks on this verse, Rabbi Yehudah says, “The stork, *chassidah*, is identical with the bird named white *dayah*. Why then is it called *chassidah*? Because it does favors (*chessed*) for its friends. Since the stork is such a benevolent bird, why is it considered unclean? The answer can be found in the fact that “it does favors for its friends,” implying “only for its friends, but not for others.” Benevolence must be extended to all creatures, without qualifications or restrictions. Limiting favors to only one’s friends is a manifestation of callousness, a mark of uncleanness.

*Chidushei Harim taken from Torah Treasurers*

## PD Postings:

Kudos to the teachers of YST Boys and Girls Schools who spent a very productive morning of Professional Development under the direction of Mr. Bruce Titen. Mr. Titen, M.A. is a Math Specialist at the NJDOE’s Regional Achievement Center and a parent of two girls in YST. His workshop “Let the Chips Fall Where They May!” focused on the use of readily - available manipulatives, paper cups and double sided chips, to gain a deeper understanding of grade 1 - 8 concepts. YST’s staff was joined by over a dozen teachers from other NY/NJ Yeshivos, amplifying a hearty debate between the wide range of math teachers on the best application of this approach. Yes - it turns out that teachers do like to learn!

## The Week in Review

This week in our fifth grade בית המדרש our budding תלמידי חכמים have, בסדר, finished their 7<sup>th</sup> גמרא of עמוד. They have “*shtei*ged” so much that after the concepts of the new portion of גמרא are taught independently of the text, there are many students who will offer to say the new lines before they have actually read them inside as a class together. There are also architectural and analytical ideas being learned and discussed in חומש in reference to the כלי המשכן. The proof that all this תורה is effecting our boys in a positive manner is in their enthusiasm to help those less fortunate than themselves, as evidenced by their eager collections for Chai Lifeline which, as a class, have totaled over \$2,000,

To correspond with Jj, our letter of the week, the Pre 1A boys have begun writing in journals! Now that the boys have mastered most of their letters and know plenty of sight words, they are ready to reap the many benefits of weekly journal writing. Journaling is an authentic way for emergent writers to gain confidence and independence, express their thoughts, and improve phonemic awareness and sight word recognition. We started off writing a simple sentence using the sentence starter I love. The students were able to choose words with pictures to complete the sentence or come up with their own ideas. They loved illustrating their journal page to accompany their sentence. We are excited to see how their writing progresses throughout the rest of the year.

Yes, the masks and the graggers have been packed up and put away, but the memory of a wonderful month of Adar, leading up to a day of fun and frolic on Shushan Purim, is still fresh in everyone’s minds. Both Morah Moller’s 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and Morah Govhari’s 5<sup>th</sup> graders performed beautifully at the pre-Purim Assembly, while Morah Frankl’s 7<sup>th</sup> graders delighted the participants with their clever Human Memory activity last Friday. The older classes (and the staff members!) were awestruck by David Levitan’s phenomenal Mentalist exhibition (How did he do that???) and the younger students were thoroughly engaged by his funny and fascinating magic tricks. Very special thanks to the YST PTA who sponsored this program for the girls school and made Shushan Purim a joyous day in school.

“Who Am I?” has been the focus of the **בית ישראל** lessons in Morah Margaret’s **בית ישראל**. The girls are discovering that they are made of two parts - physical and spiritual, the **גוף** and the **נשמה**, and the real “me” is my **נשמה**. While one strengthens his or her **גוף** by caring for it, eating, and sleeping properly, one strengthens his or her **נשמה** by making the right choices. These valuable conversations lead up to a wonderful class siyum for 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls, as they turn bat-mitzvah age, and continue to discover their inherent value as **בנות ישראל**.

Do you know the difference between real gold and fool’s gold? Have you ever been in a real mine? Have you ever seen rocks that glow in the dark? Well, Mrs. Welder’s 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls can answer a confident ‘yes!’ to all of these questions after an informative and exciting trip to the Sterling Hill Mining

Museum. The girls were treated to a fascinating tour of the land famous for containing the most kinds of minerals of anywhere in the world and what used to be New Jersey’s largest zinc mine. They watched demonstrations of dangerous work that miners did in the course of the day including drilling through mountains, crushing huge boulders, and blasting through rock in search of precious minerals. Then, the girls received special phosphorus rocks which glowed in a rainbow of colors when held under UV lights. Lastly, and most exciting, the girls used their new-found knowledge of rocks to mine and collect some specimens of their own, which they proudly displayed in special rock collecting boxes to take home. Thank you to Mrs. Brotsky, Morah Yaffie and Morah Shelly for all their help with planning and chaperoning.

## Preschool Jottings

The transformation from Purim mode to Pesach mode happens ever so fast! The décor in the classrooms look different – *Mah Nishtana* pictures, *matzos*, *chometz* free zone signs. The songs quickly have changed from *Mishenichnas Adar Marbim B’simcha* to *Mah Nishtana* tunes. The *mishloach manos* baskets have been replaced with a *ka’arah* and 4 cups of wine. And so, YST preschoolers, who practice being ON THE MOVE . . .do it again!

The outside of our school is decorated with many pinwheels that move in the wind. We packed a bag of several things and made predictions – will the item fly in the wind or not. We then experimented and looked to see if we had made the correct prediction. The tissue, the feather, the bubbles and the kite flew high in the sky. But the pencil, paper clip, crayon, block did not. . .just as we had predicted. The children are still trying to figure out if the heavy things do not fly, how does an airplane fly in the sky. Any parent who would like to visit the preschool and explain that phenomenon to our students is invited! We also took a trip to the storefront of Trenta Fuel. In the window the owners have many, many solar powered wobbly toys. We listened intently to the owner tell us about her collection. The toys move only when the sun is shining and go to sleep as soon as the sun goes down!

## FYI

• **Achievement Tests are coming up in the girls’ school (April 11 - 15). Please make every effort to avoid having your children miss any of the testing sessions.** Make sure your child has had a good night’s rest and comes equipped with plenty of sharpened pencils and some healthful snack.

• **All Chai Lifeline monies in the boys and girls schools are due this Monday, April 4th.**

• **Please note: As of Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** regular Friday dismissals will begin after the Pesach vacation. **Friday dismissals will be at 3:00 pm.** (1:35 p.m. for girls grades 6-8)

• **Girls After School Program Make-Up Dates:**

Mon: Edible Arts & Gymnastics - April 18

Tues: Fun in the Kitchen & Dance - April 19

• No more YST uniform drop-offs will be accepted until after Pesach.

• Pirchei and Pirchei Beis Medrash will be from 3:15 to 4:15 at the Agudah. Mincha Minyan before Pirchei at 2:50.

• Bnos Malka this Shabbos at 2:15.

• **Annual AY clothing giveaway** - Sun, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 am - 2 pm.. Come get new to you clothing in excellent condition. All clothing is free. Donations are accepted. For more information or if you would like to donate clothing in excellent condition, please contact Ida Scheiner 917-439-6163 (imscheiner@aol.com) or Rivka Jaffe 732-762-0490.

• **Children’s ShoeShare:** Get a new-to-you pair of shoes for the upcoming yom tov! A large collection of beautiful, gently used kids shoes. Up to big kids’ size 3.

**Toy Library:** A free lending library of boards games, train sets, puzzles, building blocks, and electronic toys available to borrow for one month at a time. Contact Elisheva Blumberg at (347) 416-3693 or

elishevablumberg@gmail.com.

• The Edison/Highland Park gown Gemach, L’iluy Nishmas R’ Yitzchok Ben Binyomin, is open for business! Please see attached flyer for more information.

• Rabbi Luban’s pre-Pesach shiur for women - this coming Wednesday, April 6, 8:00 PM, in the Ohr Torah Bais Medrash.

• Rabbi Drucker’s pre-Pesach shiur for women - Tuesday, April 12, 8:15 PM, at the Agudah Bais Medrash on the main floor.

• Rabbi Bassous’ Women’s class: Sundays at 10:00 AM at Etz Ahaim. Class will be based upon the book “100 Brachos, Counting your Blessings 100 Times a Day” by Rabbi Moshe Goldberger

• Rebbitzin Eichenstein’s classes for women: No class on Sun, April 3; Parsha class on Mon, April 4 at 8:00 PM at Cong. Ohr Torah.

• Mrs. Miri Cohen’s Parsha class meets Thursday at 10:00 AM sharp at Riki Samel’s house. Please call the hotline to confirm at 206-666-8911.

• SemPlus evening shiur for post seminary girls meets on Sunday evenings. Please call the hotline to confirm at 732-841-1885.

• Woman’s Parsha discussion: Steinsaltz Ambassador, Betzalel Strauss, will be conducting discussion based on the essays of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, every Monday at 1:00PM in the Ahavas Achim Beit Midrash. All interested women are invited. Contact Cynthia at cynthiaandlloyd@yahoo.com with any questions.

• Please join the *Tehillim* hotline by calling 401-694-1602 at 8:45 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. Follow the prompts and enter access 4625 followed by the pound key. The *Tehillim* is said as *z’chus* for *refuah sheima* for community members, who are ill. Following the *Tehillim*, we will be learning from the *sefer* Growing Each Day. If you would like to volunteer to lead a night of Tele - *Tehillim*, please contact Adina Pruzansky 732-339-0780.

## Notes from the Nurse

With spring upon us I would like to remind everyone that persons under 14 years of age are required to wear a protective helmet when bicycling, roller skating, or skateboarding. Failure to do so may result in parents or legal guardians being summoned and fined.

Spring and summer time are also a period when bike theft is rampant. Let us all be safe and responsible. Let’s wear our helmets and lock our bikes!

## Mazel Tov!

- Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Sleepy upon the birth of a grandson
- Rabbi & Mrs. Chaim Cohen upon the marriage of their daughter, Batya to Menashe Krupka
- Rabbi & Mrs. Chaim Lobel & family upon Perri’s Bas Mitzvah
- Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel Backenroth & family upon Michael’s Bar Mitzvah

## The Writer’s Corner

*The first grade girls are working hard on their ABC dictionaries and it is almost completed. Here are samplings of their writings for you to enjoy!*

### V is for Vehicle

by Chana Rachel Eidelman

V is for vehicle. It runs on gas. It’s anything that drives. It has wheels. Some have no buckles. It rides on a road.

### W is for Wedding

by Emunah Titen

W is for wedding. It is when you get married. There is a Kallah. There is a Chosson. A lot of people are there. You have a flower girl. There is a boy who gives the ring. There is pretty music.

## BULLETIN BOARD

- **Sun, April 10 - 8:15 pm** - Video Presentation for women only, “**Turning Tears into Triumph**”, how Am Yisrael suffered together over the loss of the Sassoon family and BE”H, how we will rebuild together. Cong. Ohav Emeth 415 Raritan Ave. Entry donation is \$18 to benefit The Sassoon 7 Project.