



## Parsha Points

"If you follow My laws..." "אם בחוקתי תלכו..."

The *Midrash* connects this passage to the verse, "I considered my ways and returned my feet to Your testimonies." (Tehillim 119:59) The *Midrash* expounds: King David said, "Master of the Universe, every day I have plans to go various places, but I always end up going to a *shul* or a *beis midrash*." That is what is meant by "I returned my feet to your testimonies." Let us analyze this *Midrash*. "Every day I plan," I am not only contemplating high philosophical concepts but also matters of "everyday," ordinary, mundane affairs. All my activities are preceded with a thought of their purpose and my motivation in doing them. As a result, this forethought extends to my spiritual life and "I end up going to a *shul* or to a *beis midrash*." Likewise, a person must perform all his activities with composure, equanimity and with careful scrutiny of his inner motivations. If his everyday actions are governed by this attitude, then his spiritual life will be guided by the same principles. The result will be that his feet will lead him on the right path, directing him to *shul* or to the *beis midrash*.

Alei Deshe, taken from *Torah Treasurers*

## The Week in Review

בס"ד, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders are doing wonderfully in their *לימודים* and in all of their *חובות*. They are nearing their goal of completing *חומש ויקרא*. They are also in the process of doing a *פרק המניח* and *פרק הכונס*. They are looking forward to ending what has been a most successful year until now, on a beautiful note, בס"ד.

Walking past the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class, one can see the boys studiously completing the curriculum for the year. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders were really challenged as they learned to multiply trinomials by binomials and they accomplished the task efficiently and accurately. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders are moving at a fast pace, as they eagerly practice new concepts such as ratio, proportions, area, perimeter and circumference. They were also introduced to adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing signed integers. This has been an accomplishing year in math for all our grades and the students look forward to learning higher concepts next year.

Mrs. Chait's 5<sup>th</sup> graders are currently engrossed in their final novel study of the year, *Pictures of Hollis Woods*, by Patricia Reilly Giff. While reading the chapters, students are synthesizing the literary skills they have cultivated this year (including predicting, inferring, and analyzing characters and their motivation) and using these skills to write down thought-provoking questions. Fifth graders meet in "book clubs" several times a week to share their questions and discuss answers, then present their most significant ideas to the class. These students should be especially proud of the way they work together and learn from each other to gain deeper insight and understanding of a text. How much they have grown this year!

1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls had a wonderful time by the STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics*) Fair this week. They proudly displayed their projects, explaining confidently how they work scientifically and how they were designed using the engineering design process. Then they went around the fair trying different activities and collecting components for the special building challenge at the end. To top off the special day, the 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> graders had a special Brix for Kids activity where they got to build special STEM-related lego models and the 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders had fascinating presentations from some of our parents and grandparents. Special thank you to Dr. J. Crystal, Dr. Y. Weinstein, Mrs. S. Frankel, Dr. S. Posy, Mrs. S. Golubchik and Dr. F. Adar for generously giving their time to excite our students about S.T.E.M. Thank you, as well, to Mrs. Hoffman and Mrs. Freedman for helping us gather all our supplies and papers needed to make the fair such a success.

On Thursday, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls had their final session of Better Together which was celebrated with a luncheon banquet at the JCC facility. The ambience of warm feelings, camaraderie and mutual respect was abundantly clear to even the most casual onlooker. As part of the program, Mrs. Greene interviewed the girls on video about their "senior" and interviewed the seniors about their "girls." Dina Hava Kotlyar and Shani Teitelbaum wove the snippets of interviews and footage of previous sessions into a moving presentation that captured the admiration and genuine fondness between the participants that has developed over these past months. Dr. Leora Isaacs, contracted by Legacy Heritage Foundation to observe and report on the caliber of the YST Better Together program was so moved by what she saw that she sent Mrs. Brudny the following message: "Yasher koach to you all for your outstanding collaboration and the clearly impactful program you have delivered for the students and seniors. You truly exemplify 'hiddur p'nai zaken' -- honoring our elders, building Jewish community, and

the best kind of Jewish (or any) education -- learning by doing." We are so, so, so proud of the maturity of our girls and the wonderful Kiddush Hashem they created. Very special thanks to both Mrs. Greene and Mrs. Lewis for their indispensable involvement in making this program a resounding success.

## Preschool Jottings

Wind us up and we will join the Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion Preschoolers who are "on the move". We looked at all different wind-up mechanisms and after turning the knobs, we let them each "do their thing". The giggles and laughter were joyous as the dolphin jumped, the clown made somersaults and the cars turned upside down.

Morah Rochel and Morah Yaffa taught the nursery children the meaning of "exploring". The children each made binoculars and were given magnifying glasses to help them look at the world around them. They observed ladybugs, caterpillars, tulips, dandelions and butterflies.

As the Kindergarten children come close to the end of the *Alef-Bais* and learn the letter "ת", they concentrated on learning about a *ספר תורה*. They pretended to be writing a *ספר תורה* and each of the children had the honor of drawing one letter using a quill. They danced the *ספר תורה* into their classroom.

Special thanks to Rabbi Blumenkrantz for taking the time to teach the preschoolers about *תפילין*. He showed them what the *תפילין* boxes are made of and how every boy, upon becoming a Bar Mitzvah, puts on *תפילין* every day. Thank you again, Rabbi Blumenkrantz for taking the time out of your busy schedule to make the learning of the letter ת even more exciting.

## FYI

- **Boys Division - Please note:** There are no sessions for the boys on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Come join the **YST PTA for Coffee and Connection** on the first day of Shavuot, Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 AM in the YST Pre-school. Lectures by Mrs. C. Brudny and Mrs. C. Loew. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Elisheva Nusbaum at Eli7nusbaum@gmail.com or 732-985-4603 with any questions or to RSVP. Complimentary babysitting available with RSVP only. This event is for women and girls.
- YST Girls 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation will be Tues., June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- YST Boys' 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation will be Mon., June 20<sup>th</sup>
- **Man with a Truck** will be at RPRY on Mon, June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- The final week of Pirchei and Pirchei Beis Medrash will be from 3:15 to 4:15 at the Agudah. Mincha Minyan before Pirchei at 2:50.
- The Shalosh Seudos Siyum on Seder Moed for boys in grades 5-8 will IV<sup>th</sup> take place Shabbos Parshas Naso. To sponsor (either fully or partially), please contact Arya Eisner at pircheiedisonhp@gmail.com or 732-547-4994.
- Bnos Malka this Shabbos 2:15. **UPCOMING SHAVOVS BAKE SALE!!** June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Agudah from 6 pm - 8 pm. Cakes, kugels, salads, soups, desserts! To reserve or to donate please call 732-985-1648.
- Get your summer Crocs, flip-flops and sandals at the Children's ShoeShare! New and near-new water shoes for boys and girls - sizes infant up to big kids' size 3. Just \$1 - \$3 donation per pair. Call Elisheva Blumberg at (347) 416-3693. See the full selection of available shoes at facebook.com/shoesshare.
- The Man with the Truck is back! Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at R.P.R.Y. - 2 Harrison St. from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- **TorahKid Leagues** is back again for its 7<sup>th</sup> exciting season! Sunday morning sports fun for area children (boys 4-12; and girls 5-11) at the Highland Park High School baseball field. There are separate programs for boys (11:00-12:30) and girls (9:30-10:45). **YST children may attend a special play day on June 19**, and Summer ball starts June 26. Competitive play in different sports. For registration information, please contact Rabbi Lasar at TKLsports@aol.com or at (732) 985-1050.
- This week's Chabura for women as a part of the Ahavas Yisrael initiative will be at the home of Leechen Gluck, 183 highland Ave. at 5:15 p.m.. For more information about the Ahavas Yisrael initiative, please visit ayproject.com.
- 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.

- Rabbi Yisroel Weiss' shiur for men and women on the Parsha, with a focus on Emunah and Bitachon, meets Wed. evenings at 8:30 PM at the Shenkman's home, 26 Leslie St, Edison
- Mrs. Miri Cohen's Parsha class: Thursdays at 10:00 AM sharp at Riki Samel's house. Please call the hotline to confirm at 908-208-7144.
- Mrs. Leah Drillman's Shimiras Haloshon class: Mon, June 6 at 7:30 PM at the home of Ellen Smith, 407 North 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Edison.
- Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: No classes until after Shavuos.
- Woman's Parsha discussion: Steinsaltz Ambassador, Betzalel Strauss, on essays of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, every Monday for women only at 1:00PM in the Ahavas Achim Beit Medrash
- Women's Beginners Israeli Dance will return to Etz Ahaim next Sun, June 5 at 11:00 a.m. Dance costs \$10/per session, (Rutgers students 1/2 price \$5) made out to Daughters of Etz Ahaim. Please RSVP to Rachel at 732-819-9298 or rachel@weintraubworld.net.

## Mazel Tov!

- Mr. & Mrs. Larry Greenman upon the engagement of their daughter Shuli to Nossion Thaler from Monsey

## Library Additions

The Following books were donated by Mrs. Rivka Adler:

- *Incredible* in honor of Eliyahu Minkowich's Bar Mitzvah
- *Inside Their Homes* in honor of Shalom Dov Ber Goodman's Bar Mitzvah

## The Writer's Corner

**D is for doll!** The 1<sup>st</sup> grade girls started their most exciting writing project. After creating their own personalized dolls and choosing a beautiful outfit to dress her in, the girls began writing the first chapter of their books. Please enjoy chapter one from Bella Goldberg's book.

In the middle of the night all my kids were sleeping and I went to the hospital. Guess why? Because I was going to have a baby!! It was a girl. I said she is so cute! The next day my children and their Bubby came to visit me and my daughter asked if she was a girl or a boy and I said she was a girl!! My son said he wished that it was a boy.

The day after that it was her Kiddush and we had it in the Agudah. When it was over I named her. Her name is Sarah Esther. I picked Sarah because I like it and I picked Esther because she's named after my great-grandmother. I can't wait until she smiles.

## הכרת הטוב...

Dear Mrs. Brudny,

I can't begin to express the *nachas* I had this morning watching Aliza and her friends sing the entire *Birchas Yaakov*. The amount of learning that goes on is incredible. I must commend you and the teachers for imparting the information in away that is fun and hands on. From the animal project to the STEM Fair and beyond, everything is taught in a way that promotes real learning. And as a parent I really enjoy being able to see the fruits of their labor. As I was watching this morning, I couldn't help but think of what my husband and I say to each other whenever one of our children impart something extra "smart" that they learned (and I can't believe I'm saying this to a principal) - "this was tuition well spent"

Thank you Mrs. Brudny and YST - Mrs. R. Moskowitz

## BULLETIN BOARD

- **Sun, Jun 5 - RJJ Yeshiva Annual Dinner 5:30 - reception, 6:30-Dinner** honoring Dr. and Mrs. Ira Krumholtz and Rabbi and Mrs. Tzvi Leifer with the Alumnus/Harbotzas Torah Award. The dinner will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton, Newark Airport. For info or to place an ad or call office at 732-985-6533.
- **Sun, June 12 - Jewish Children's Ice Cream & Cheesecake Torah Rally** at Cong O.E. 415 Raritan Ave.- **4:30 PM - Co-sponsored by Cong. Ohav Emeth and Chabad** - Hear the Ten Commandments, enjoy songs and stories, have an ice cream party, chocolates, banana sundae bar and jugglers. All ages are welcome. For more info call 732-296-1800.
- **Save the Date: Sun, June 19 - 9:30 a.m. - YST Breakfast honoring Rabbi Dovid Adlin and Chaim and Debbie Sabo as Parents of the Year.**
- **Motzai Shabbos, June 25 - 10:15 PM** - Tiferes for women: will meet at the home of Aviva Siegel, 16 Edgemount Rd. The title is "Permission to be Proud!" Speakers: Rabbi Yechiel Spero and Rabbi YY Rubinstein.