

Shaarei Tzion



Volume 21, Issue 22

פרשת פקודי

Week ending March 11, 2016

Candle lighting 5:43

Parsha Points

“... according to all that Hashem had commanded Moshe, so did they do.” “... ככל אשר צוה ד' את משה בן עמר”

We note that in the Torah portion of *Pikudei*, each segment describing the construction of the *Mishkan*, its holy vessels and garments, concludes with the phrase “as Hashem had commanded Moshe.” What possible reason could the Torah have for continually reiterating this statement? The building of the *Mishkan* was an atonement for *Bnai Yisrael's* worship of the golden calf. This sinful act was rooted in their erroneous perception of the essence of Torah. Instead of serving Hashem according to the dictates of the Torah, they sought to worship Him from the perspective of their own intellect and rationale. When relating the construction of the *Mishkan*, which atoned for this sin, the Torah emphasizes that every minute detail was fashioned “as Hashem had commanded Moshe.” In other words, even though Bezalel understood the esoteric and mystic wisdom concealed in the elements of the *Mishkan*, when executing his holy work, his sole intent was to fulfill Hashem's Will, which transcends all human bounds of logical imperative. It was this total renunciation of self that achieved the atonement for the sin of the golden calf.

Bais Halevi from *Torah Treasures*

The Week in Review

Building a strong vocabulary in *דומש* is, of course, the foundation upon which future success in learning is dependent. In Rabbi Eidelman's third grade, the boys have mastered over 250 words, and are tested regularly on vocabulary. In addition to improving their *דומש* skills, they also use these vocabulary words in *תפילה* as well. The *תלמידים* are able to identify and translate most root words in *אשרי*, *יגדל*, *אשרי* and *שמוע*. We are looking forward to our next milestone of *התחלת משניות ברכות* in the very near future. And no doubt the boys will be excited to find familiar *דומש שרשים* even in *mishnayos*!

We've been having a blast in science lab, as usual, these past few weeks. 1st and 2nd grades are working on animal themes now. Last week the 1st grade made colorful chameleons that transformed themselves with a turn. This week we will be making ladybugs that move across the room. 2nd graders learned about the life cycle of the butterfly and ladybug. They will be creating animal habitats in the next few weeks. (If anyone has shoeboxes to send in – we would appreciate it. Thanks in advance.) The 3rd graders had fun with “states of matter” experiments. They made ooze which felt like both a solid and a liquid. The 4th graders were busy making circuits and electromagnets, while the 5th graders made slime, helping them understand solids and liquids. The 6th graders made fantastic plant and animal cells that were displayed during PT conferences. The 7th graders created their own slime to mimic the topic of sludge on which they are busy working. The 8th graders experimented building triangular forms with paper and observing how strong their structures were. So, as you can see, it's been busy and it's been fun here in science lab where we cover an array of topics from many sciences, including Life, Physical, and Chemical.

Rabbi Sirote came to the girls' school this week to start an exciting project with the 3rd and 4th grades - making our own homemade maple syrup. He took the girls out to the yard where he showed the girls how to tap maple syrup trees and collect the sap. Over the next few weeks we will be boiling down the sap to make our own maple syrup - Yum! Thank you Rabbi Sirote for taking time out to show our girls what we can find in our own backyard!

The *מכות* really came alive in YST this week. As a culmination of the completing this top in their study of *דומש*, Morah Govhari's 5th graders created a Mega-Makkos Carnival. The girls worked hard to prepare activities and posters depicting their detailed knowledge of each *מכה*; there was a “Fish in the *דם*”, Sponge Throw, Pop the *שחיין* Balloon Pop” and many more! Kudos to the 5th graders who were fabulous hostesses to grades Pre1A - 3 as they went from booth to booth.

An extra month of Adar gives the 8th grade girls an extra month to plan their “Mishenichnas” Parade. enough, to the by re- t h e building Monopol board - became Reading t h e class was t h e RR, our t h e Compan Brudny's became, what else?, the JAIL! The troop of white-mustachioed, top-hatted Mr. Monopoly's snaked



through the classrooms, leading the way to the gym for a great session of spirited dancing.

Preschool Jottings

משנכנס אדר מרבנים בשמחה

Purim is unfolding right here in YST Preschool. Knock! Knock! Who's there? There are visitors who knock on the wall around Shushan everyday! Usually, Morah Rochel and Morah Yaffa let the visitors in...but when Haman knocks we are very wary! We have let Esther Hamalka visit, Queen Vashti, Mordechai Hatzaddik and even King Achasveirosh. When they come to visit the children bombard them with all sorts of questions – what are you going to do about Haman's decree? Who is going to save you? Why didn't you go to the party? Achasvirosh – why did you get rid of Vashti?

The kindergarten children are preparing a very special way to retell the story of the *megillah* to friends and family. As they listen to the story very carefully, they try to remember the names of the people and the many details. Then, they draw on their special “*megillah* papers.” They are given special mediums to draw with - sparkly markers, colored pencils and silver and gold paint markers. The illustrations include so much detail and the children work diligently to make the pictures fit to print.

Special thank you to Dr. Sherman who came to visit the preschool and share facts about our eyes with all the children. He spoke about caring for our eyes, glasses and he showed us how so many things become difficult when a person cannot see. It fit right into the unit of community helpers as well as the letter E and ohbhg.

Rosh Chodesh Adar brought us our monthly pass-the –present around game and a special treat. As we stay “on the move,” we enjoyed a “moving” morning of a moonwalk bounce. Each one of the children loved bouncing, running, climbing and sliding while enjoying the sunshine and warm weather.

FYI

• **Mishloach Manos forms are due in by Monday.**
• **This week starts daylight savings time - do not forget to move your clock forward one hour!** Classes in boys' school on Sunday will start at 10:00 AM and end at 12:30 PM.

• *Please note:* As of Friday, May 6th 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)

• Wednesday, March 23rd, is Ta'anis Esther. Girls' grades 6-8 will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m. and boys' grades 7 & 8 at 2:15 p.m., all other grades both boys and girls will be dismissed at 3:30 p.m.

• As noted on the lunch calendar, Wednesday, March 23rd, is Ta'anis Esther and **no lunches** will be served because Park Place will be closed.

• In honor of Shushan Purim, Friday, March 25th, there will be a delayed opening of 10:00 am. (Buses run on a one and a half hour delay). Boys division is being dismissed at 1:00 pm

• **Achievement Tests** are coming up 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.

• Bnos Malka this Shabbos at 2:15.

• Remember to make your reservations for the UPCOMING BNOS/PIRCHEI EVENT. COME WATCH AND ENJOY THE JABALE ACROBATS Tuesday, March 22 - 6:30 - 7:45 PM at the YST Boys School. Please make advance reservations by emailing pircheiedisonhp@gmail.com or by calling 732-819-9738. Price for Bnos/Pirchei members: advance reservations \$6.00 at the door \$8.00. For non-Bnos/Pirchei members advance reservations \$13.00 at the door \$15.00.

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

• OE's 9th Annual Purim Costume Gemach will be open this year on Sunday, March 16th (7:30pm-9:30pm) and March 20th (10am-2pm) at Ohav Emeth 415 Raritan Ave. Highland Park. Donate your gently used costumes or pick up a “New to You” costume. Over 600 costumes from infant to adult sizes. Many

accessories as well. Contact us to drop off before Gemach days: costumegemach@yahoo.com. Come check it out, take a costume off the rack or let your creativity inspire you. Suggested \$5 donation per costume borrowed. Cleaning closets?? With every full costume donated, receive voucher to borrow 1 costume.

• Cong. Ohr Torah will hold this year's community Shaimos Collection on Sun, March 27 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The cost is \$20 per large garbage sized bags. Please make all checks out to Cong. Ohr Torah.

(Coordinator/questions) Barry Siegel, siegeldad@optonline.net and there will also be a used Seforim sale at this time, Great Bargains!!! Come find your hard-to-find and/or out-of-print books and stock up your home libraries.

• **Bikur Cholim** is looking for volunteers to visit at the Regency nursing home on DeMott Lane in Somerset. For more info, please call Rahel Baruh at 732-672-4673 or email rbaruh@yahoo.com

Also for the TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: Drivers and coordinators needed. Coordinate rides to and from medical appointments - match requesters with an available driver. Each coordinator serves for two weeks at a time. To volunteer to coordinate or to drive, please call Bikur Cholim hotline at 732-572-7181 or fill out the volunteer form on the website bikurcholimrv.com

• Rabbi Yisroel Weiss' shiur for men and women on the Parsha, with a focus on Emunah and Bitachon, *will be on hold until further notice.*

• Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: Tefillah class on Sunday, March 13 at 10:00 AM at the Agudah; Parsha class on Monday, March 14 at 8:00 PM at Cong. Ohr Torah.

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

• Mrs. Leah Drillman's Shimiras Haloshon class: Monday, March 14 at 7:30 PM at the home of Ellen Smith, 407 North Eighth Ave., Edison.

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

• 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 shleima* 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.

Mazel Tov!

- Mr. Warren & Morah Sheva Fink upon Bracha's engagement of to Arie Saloman from Elizabeth
- Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Chaya Friedman upon the Tzvika's engagement to Aviva Markson from Boston
- Rabbi & Mrs. Herszkowitz upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son Moshe
- Rabbi & Mrs. Berenbaum upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son Moshe Mordechai

BULLETIN BOARD

- **Motzai Shabbos, March 12 - 9:15 PM - Tiferes DVD** for women will be shown at the Siegel house 16 Edgemount Rd. Current teleconference: “Habits of Happiness”. **Speakers:** Rabbi Eli Mansour and Mrs. Miriam Swerdlov.
- **Tues, Mar 15 - 7:00-8:00 PM - Etz Ahaim presents an “interactive lecture”** for women only: “The Purim Story- Clarifying our mission”. The lecture will explore what Esther and Mordechai have to teach us about enhancing our own inner strength, courage and clarifying our unique mission and purpose in life. Through role play, guided visualization and active experiential learning, you will interact directly with our heroes to develop an emotional connection with them. **Presenter, Sheri Degani, MA, LPC, TEP.**

המקום ינחם.

Rabbi Aryeh Erlanger upon the loss of his mother. Rabbi Erlanger is getting shiva at 1808 E. 7th Street in Flatbush. He will be sitting up from shiva on Monday morning.

