



Parsha Points

“*And you shall count for yourselves...*” וספרתם לכם. . .

It is surprising that the Torah makes no mention of the fact that the fiftieth day of the *omer* is the day of *Matan Torah*, the Giving of the Torah. The Torah did not want to associate *Matan Torah* with a specific date, in order that we should feel each day of the year as though we received the Torah on Sinai. Indeed, for a student of the Torah, each day brings new insights into the Torah, just as a baby always finds new taste in its mother's milk. Similarly, *Rosh Hashanah* is not described as *Yom Hadin*, the Day of Judgement, since this might give rise to a serious mistake. A person might decide to violate the Torah all year long with the intention of repenting before the onset of the *Yom Hadin*. However, one must realize that *Hashem* sits in judgement each day, and one must therefore repent each day.

Kli Yakar Taken from Torah Treasurers

The Week in Review

A special מוזל טוב to Rabbi Kramer's 4th graders on the occasion of their פרישת בשלוח of סיון. It was so fitting to learn these פסוקים at this time of year between פסח and שבועות, and no doubt has helped to make these *Yamim Tovim* so much more meaningful. Now that the boys have learned the meaning of אי ישרי, they have included it into their daily *davening*. It is beautiful to hear them *daven* with the proper *trop* and one can tell that they understand what they are *davening*. They have begun פרשת יתרו and are preparing themselves for a proper התורה קבלת.

In addition to all of this, בס"ד they are completing their second מסכת סוכה, משניות סוכה, and we hope they continue to make many more סיומים in the years to come.

Math is such an interesting subject! Not only is it a precise science, but it is also so practical! We worked on Math fluency. Our students are converting from fractions to decimals to percentages 1-2-3. How is this done? Easy! Just divide the numerator (top number) by the denominator (bottom number). This procedure is not arcane, banal math trivia; it is actually so useful!

The 2nd grade girls are all geared up for the upcoming Science Fair. They have become wonderful civil engineers who are learning through hands-on experience about balance and forces. They are looking forward to using their knowledge and creativity to build their own bridges.

Aside from their focus on science, the 2nd graders are learning about responsibility. They are acknowledging their responsibilities as students in the classroom, as well as familiarizing themselves with the responsibilities of community helpers in their families and neighborhood. Please take note of how our 2nd graders have matured through the year and have become so responsible!

In conjunction of their study of the Holocaust, Mrs. Gross' 8th grade class watched "The Wave", which depicts a classroom experiment conducted by a teacher in a high school class, that went a little too far. Afterwards, the girls discussed the lessons of the film: the power of peer pressure and how easy it is to be swept along with the crowd and how we each have responsibility for our own actions. This impressionable film helped them understand how fascism come about in Germany and how important it is to follow our own moral compass.

In ימי ספירה, during כהנה ו' , Morah Margaret and her girls have been delving into the פרקי אבות in חידול חכמה. Basic Jewish concepts, such as taking careful stock of one's actions and measuring the שכר מצוה כנגד הפסדה become real with true-to-life stories of selflessness and chesed. May these lessons be internalized as the girls go through a year of becoming "bat-mitzva", particularly in these weeks of S'fira as we prepare for קבלת התורה.

S.T.E.M. FAIR

(Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)
Calling all parents and grandparents in the girls school! Please share your experience and expertise with our girls at the S.T.E.M. Fair on Wed, June 1st. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Brotsky at mbrotsky@ystnj.org.

Preschool Jottings

The letter *Sh* ushered so many שבת activities into our Kindergarten classrooms. Morah Faigy and Morah Rochel prepared a שבת Fair. Each part of the room had a pre-Shabbos or Shabbos activity that the children were involved in – setting the Shabbos table, cleaning the house for Shabbos, shopping for Shabbos food, bathing the babies, playing quiet games on Shabbos afternoon, etc. Morah Mimi and Morah Irene

prepared chicken soup and kugel with their class and Savta Middos taught them about the special spice called "Shabbos Kodesh!"

Morah Yaffa and Morah Rochel had a *Mezonos* Fair in their classroom. Baking, sorting, collecting, describing, analyzing and discussing *Mezonos* foods and ingredients were the highlights of the fair. Before the fair, the children thought all you do with *Mezonos* foods is eat them. But by the time the day was over, they had learned so much!

This week the focus of our "On The Move" language cards was trucks. We talked about car carrier trucks, cement trucks and many others. The children were amazed by the different details of each truck that help it do its job. We all decided that the truck we like the most is the garbage truck. It was news to every preschooler that the garbage is disposed of in a dump and does not stay in the truck!

FYI

• **Thurs, May 26th is Lag Ba'Omer.** Dismissal for the boys will be 2:00 p.m. from the park and the girls, 3:00 p.m. from the park. Also, **all girls grades 1-8 should wear their uniforms to the park.**

• The PTA is looking for **volunteers** to help with both the boy' and girls' schools' **Lag B'omer barbecues.** If you are available from 10:30-1:30 on Thurs, May 26th or have any questions, please respond to please respond to YSTPTA@ystnj.org or call Rivky Arnow at 732-986-3153.

• **Friday, May 27 - Early dismissal** in the elementary school - all grades 1:30 p.m.

• **Memorial Day** - Mon, May 30 - no sessions in the girls & preschool divisions; Sunday schedule in the boys division.

• **Boys Division - Please note:** There are no sessions for the boys on Sunday, June 19th.

• Bnos Malka this Shabbos 2:15. It's that time of year! Bnos **Shavous Bake Sale** will be taking place on **June 9th.** Details to follow.

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

• **PSA:** The Liberty Science Center, located in Jersey City, has issued an alert to *kohanim* that the exhibit "Bodies Revealed" will feature real human forms, organs and skeletons. The exhibit will run from June 18, 2016 to Jan 16, 2017. They are announcing this now to offer complete transparency to the Jewish community. The show will be exhibited in a separate gallery on the 4th floor. Please consult your LOR if you have any questions.

• **TorahKid Leagues** is back again for its 7th exciting season! Sunday morning sports fun for area children at the Highland Park High School baseball field. There are separate programs for boys (11:00-12:30) and girls (9:30-10:45). Competitive play in different sports. **Spring ball starts May 22 (boys 4-6; and girls 5-11); and Summer ball starts June 26 (boys 4-12; and girls 5-11).** For registration information, please contact Rabbi Lasar at TKLsports@aol.com or at (732) 985-1050.

• 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 Wednesday evenings at 8:30 PM at the Shenkman's home, 26 Leslie, corner Leslie and Lexington, across from 92 Leslie.

• Mrs. Miri Cohen's Parsha class will not be meeting this week.

• Mrs. Leah Drillman's Shimiras Haloshon class: Mon, May 23 at 7:30 PM at the home of Gloria Deutsch, 56 Lawrence Ave, Highland Park.

• Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: **Tefillah class on Sunday, May 22 at 11:00 AM at the Regency Jewish Nursing Home, 380 Demott Lane, Somerset, NJ (ask for resident, Janet Rivenson);** Parsha class on Monday, May 23 at 8:00 PM at Cong. Ohr Torah.

• Woman's Parsha discussion: Steinsaltz Ambassador, Betzael Strauss, will be conducting a discussion based on the essays of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, every Monday for women only at 1:00PM in the Ahavas Achim Beit Medrash

• Women's beginners' Israeli Dancing will resume after Lag B'Omer on Sunday, May 29.

CATCH 'EM BEING GOOD!

Dear Mrs. Brudny:

As I headed towards the Philadelphia Zoo with raindrops spattering on the windshield, I felt my heart sink like a ton of lead. What a terrible day to bring 28 ten-year-old girls to the zoo! I imagined the complaining that would no doubt go on; "I'm wet, I'm cold, I want to go home..." But I was in for a wonderful surprise! Not only was there no negativity expressed, but the girls were quite the opposite - cheerful, happy and full of enthusiasm! We had a wonderful time and it was all thanks to my positive and upbeat 4th grade! I am so proud!

- Mrs. Weldler

And so am I!!

CBrudny

Library Additions

• *Ramparts of Gold*

in honor of Leah Silver's 11th Birthday

Mazel Tov!

- Mr. & Mrs. A. Joseph Stern upon the birth of a grandson
- Mr. and Mrs. Alex & Shani Goldsmith on the birth of a boy.
- Rabbi & Mrs. Aryeh Erlanger upon the birth of a daughter
- Mr. & Mrs. Jake Eisner upon the birth of a granddaughter
- Mr. & Mrs. Yoni Gross upon the birth of a grandson
- Rabbi & Mrs. Boruch Goodman upon the birth of a grandson

The Writer's Corner

The 4th grade girls wrote expressive 'mood' poems last week. The following are a few lines taken from their full-of-feeling poems:

- * As I hear the sun setting
I hear the birds singing their lullabies
- Tzippy Mueller
- * The pebble is still screaming...
- Naomi Greene
- * While the bright colors in the sky turn into dark black,
The shiny white stars glow...
- Devorah Fisch
- * I dream and I wonder
if I can touch a star first...
- Atara Berger
- * A storm begins to brew
A volcano nearly splits in half...
- Noa Rabinowitz
- * No feelings are battling inside of myself...
- Tehila Sirote

BULLETIN BOARD

• **Mon, May 23 - 6:30PM - Yeshiva Tiferes Naftoli's 11th Annual Dinner** Honoring Rabbi & Mrs. Asa Minkowich and other esteemed honorees, will take place at the Raddison Hotel in Freehold NJ. To make reservations or to place an ad please call the Yeshiva office at 732.952.8384 or go to ytnccnj.org.

• **Thurs, May 26 - 6:00-8:30PM - Lag Ba'Omer** at the community wide happening coordinated by the **Mekor Chaim/Steinsaltz Ambassadors program**, located at Grove 1 in Donaldson Park. Free admission! Music and entertainment provided by Jeff Wilks! Activities for kids, learning sessions for adults and food and drinks for sale! Contact Rabbi Shmulie Greene for more info and sponsorship opportunities at rabbishmulie@steinsaltz.org or 973-214-8577.

• **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.

• **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.**