

Shaarei Tzion



Volume 21, Issue 7

פרשת תולדות

Week ending November 13, 2015

Candle lighting 4:24

Parsha Points

“The voice is the voice of Yaakov and the hands, the hands of Eisav.” “הקל קול יעקב והידיים ידי עשו.”

The Midrash expounds: “Whenever the voice of Yaakov is heard, the hands of Eisav are powerless.” At first glance, the text would seem to indicate that the “voice of Yaakov” and “the hands of Eisav” will prevail simultaneously, contrary to the interpretation of the Midrash. However, upon closer examination, a deeper meaning emerges. In the verse, **קול**, voice, appears in the abbreviated form, without a “ו”, *vav*. As such, it can also be read as **קל**, meaning unsteady or timid. Consequently, the verse can be interpreted as follows, in accordance with the Midrash: If the voice of Yaakov is **קל**, i.e. not steadfast and halfhearted, then the hands of Eisav will prevail. On the other hand, if the voice of Yaakov is **קול**, in its full form, meaning resolute and vigorous, then the hands of Eisav are indeed powerless.

Vilna Gaon taken from Torah Treasurers

The Week in Review

This past Wednesday, the 29th of *Cheshvan*, was both a somber yet most memorable day in the Boys School. The *yahrtzeit* of Mrs. Adler’s husband, Joel, **יוסף יצחק בן זאב הלוי**, was commemorated. From 4th grade and up, extra learning typified the day, with the boys attuned to the importance and significance of this special *yahrtzeit*. In the 4th grade all of the eighteen **משניות** learned so far this year were reviewed; 26 **משניות** from **מסכת יומא** and **ב”מ** were reviewed in the 5th grade; the entire **פרשת ויקרא** was learned in the 6th grade; boys in the 7th grade divided up and completed **מסכת סוכה** on their own; and in the 8th grade boys completed **מסכתות ראש השנה** and **מכות**, also on their own. A gathering of the 4th-8th grades was convened during the boys’ lunch, with treats provided by Mrs. Adler for the special day. The four **משניות** in **מסכת** whose **ראשי תיבות** spell “**נשמה**”, “soul”, were learned, with the last one done together at this gathering, followed by **קדיש דרבנן**. Brief words extolling some of the wonderful characteristics and positive traits of Mr. Adler were expounded upon, the students being charged with taking these **מדות** as wonderful examples to emulate. **יהי זכרו ברוך**.

The 7th grade boys have recently mastered the subject of positive and negative numbers. This is a very common and useful skill, in particular for businesses. For example, if a business has accrued a number of credits (profits, high volume sales, cash advances, liens etc.), these constitute positive numbers. And conversely, if it experiences losses (costs, low volume sales, fines, etc.) it has incurred negative numbers. Then the accountants need to combine (“crunch”) these numbers to determine the financial standing of the business. With the skills that we have just recently acquired we are now able to do just that.

It was fun to watch the Pre1a girls as they learned about a new **צבע** this week. With paint, they combined two **צבעים** that they already learned about - **אדום** (red) and **כחול** (blue). The girls just couldn’t believe their eyes as they mashed and smushed these two totally different **צבעים** as they made **סגול** (purple) right before their eyes!

To wrap up their study of Rudyard Kipling’s classic story, “Rikki Tikki Tavi,” Mrs. Greene’s 7th graders held a formal debate to determine which characters were more noble - the mongoose or the cobras? The class was divided into teams and prepared to defend their position. A spirited, yet respectful debate ensued. The class ultimately concluded that a good story offers a compelling conflict!

Preschool Jottings

Orange you glad you are in YST? The nursery children learned to recognize the color orange. They made orange collages and used bits and pieces of orange things to make a bright, orange winter jacket! Finally, at the end of the week the children juiced oranges and sat down to an orange juice party!

On Thursday, the kindergarten classes went on a trip to Petco. The classes were learning the letter **Daled** this week and their intention was to observe the many varieties of “**דגים**”. It just so happened that they arrived just in time to watch the dog grooming. That was an added bonus for the children.

Savta Middos, during her visit this week, discussed the middah of **דרך ארץ** and the various ways that the children can display that *middah*.

The number of apple language cards that each of the children own is growing. This week we added pictures of a macintosh, golden delicious, red delicious and granny smith to our collection. We studied the pictures to note the differences, but also took a very close look at the real apples! Finally, using green, yellow and red paint, each of the children painted their favorite apple. Their masterpieces are now displayed in the front hallway of the preschool...come take a bite!

הכרת הטוב

I would like to express my extreme gratitude to the rebbeim and entire student body of the boys school who commemorated the first *yahrtzeit* of my husband, **יוסף יצחק בן זאב הלוי**, in a most significant way. Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion proved again that it’s a real close and caring family, not just a collection of people. May we share many **שמחות** for years to come.

Mrs. Adler

FYI

• *Please note important dates:* The first Parent-Teacher conference in the boys’ division is on Tuesday Dec. 1st and in the girls’ division, Wednesday, Dec. 2nd.

• Call the Boys School to schedule your appointments.

• The Girls School is pre-arranging appointments for **Wednesday, December 2nd** with staggered scheduling, in order to alleviate the wait time during conferences. You will receive, by email, a detailed schedule of conference appointments. We apologize beforehand if your appointment time is not at an optimum time for you, but you can feel free to switch appointments with another parent in your daughter’s class. Please notify the girls school office if you are not planning on attending, or if you have independently made a change in the schedule.

• **Pirchei** (Grades 1-5) and **Pirchei Beis Medrash** (Grade 6 and up) will be from 3:15 to 4:15 at the Agudah. There will be a minyan for Mincha before **Pirchei** at 2:50.

• **Bnos Malka** this Shabbos at 2:15. We are building a shul!

• **YST PTA “Women’s Only”** swim continues at the JCC on Oak Tree Road in Edison, from 7:30 - 9:00 pm on Nov. 21, Dec 5 and 19. Cost is \$10 per session, \$8 per second in family. Mothers who chaperone may swim for free. Call Lisa Silvey at 732-993-3720 for more information.

• After the resounding success of the Rebetzin Sima Spetner parenting workshops this past summer, the YST PTA is proud to present “The science of Parenting from a Torah Perspective” by Rebetzin Ruthi Lynn, a renown expert in the field, specially trained and highly recommended by Rebetzin Sima Spetner. All women of the community is invited to join this 11 part series that will begin on Sun. Nov 22nd at 10:00 AM with the first class being a non commitment/trial class. Limited scholarships are available to YST parents. Spots are limited and enrollment will be on a first come first serve basis. For more information and to register please call 732-986-3153 or email srhakimi@hotmail.com Cost: \$225 for 11 sessions. See attached flyer.

• Please support **Nate Goldstein** as he and his parents run in the Las Vegas annual 10K on Nov. 15, 2015 in support of **Chai Lifeline**, a worthy organization from which they have personally benefitted. Tax deductible donations can be made at www.teamlifeline.org/my/61556 or checks to **Chai Lifeline** can be dropped off at the Goldstein house, 40 Harrison Ave. Highland Park. Thank you so much for your support.

• **Yachad Shabbos Buddies:** Looking for teens interested in visiting Yachad members on Shabbos afternoons for some friendship and fun. Call or text **Bracha** at 718.440.0099 if you’re interested!

• The Edison/Highland Park gown **Gemach**, **L’iluy Nishmas R’ Yitzchok Ben Binyomin**, is open for business! The Gemach houses a wide selection of gowns for children, pre-teen, teens and adults. Please note the Gemach is still looking for donation of gowns in very good condition. Tax deduction is given and pick up of the gowns can also be arranged. For more information and/or to schedule an appointment please call **Sara Scott** at 516-526-0941.

• **Rabbi Weiss:** Shiur for men and women on the Parsha, focus on **Emunah** and **Bitachon** – Wed. nights at 9:15 PM at the **Shenkman residence**, 26 Leslie St,

Edison.

• Mrs. Miri Cohen’s Parsha class will meet on Thurs., Nov 19 at 10:00 AM at **Riki Samel’s house**. Please call the hotline to confirm at 206-666-8911.

• Mrs. Leah Drillman’s **Shimras Haloshon** class: Mon, Nov 16 at 7:30 PM at the home of **Ellen Smith**, 407 North 8th Ave., Edison

• **Rebbitzen Eichenstein’s** classes for women: **Tefillah** class on Sun, Nov. 15 at 10:00 AM at the **Agudah**; No class on Mon, Nov. 16.

• **SemPlus** evening shiur for post seminary girls will meet on Wednesdays. Please call the hotline to confirm at 732-841-1885.

Mazel Tov!

• **Rabbi & Mrs. Eliyahu Akerman & family** upon **Chayala’s Bas Mitzvah**

• **Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Gottlieb & family** upon **Tari’s Bas Mitzvah**

Library Additions

• *Making Hashem Proud*
in honor of **Yakira Lockspeiser’s 7th Birthday**

The Writer’s Corner

One of the traditions of Morah Frankl’s 7th grade class is keeping a daily journal of events, big and small, as they journey together through the school year. The challenge, of course, is writing the entry in Ivrit! Enjoy Racheli Zaslavsky’s poignant musings below.

הפרשה של השבוע הזאת פרשת תולדות... כשאנחנו למדנו היום בפרשה אודות מערת המכפלה, אני זכרתי כשאני הייתי באי והלכתי למערת המכפלה. כמעט כל השנה מערת המכפלה פתוחה לערבים ורק אוהל יעקב ולאח פתוח ליהודים, יש רק כמה ימים שכל המערה פתוחה ליהודים, אחד הימים האלו, (ראש חודש אלול) זכיתי להיות שם וראיתי אוהל של אברהם ושרה. על ידי מערת המכפלה יש גם הקבר של אבנר בן נר, וזכרתי בזה כשלמדנו אודות אבנר בנביא.

אני מקוה שכולנו נוכל להיות במערת המכפלה בקרוב ושמערת המכפלה יהיה כולו פתוחה ליהודים כל יום.

BULLETIN BOARD

• **Motzai Shabbos, Nov. 14 - 7:00 - 8:00 pm** - Cong. Ohav Emeth presents “**Dance with Marla Rottenstreich**” for girls grades 1 - 6 in the OE social hall. Cost is \$5 per girl and drinks will be provided. RSVP: oechildren@gmail.com.

• **Sun, Nov 15** - starts at 5:30 - Etz Ahaim is pleased to present the **Etz Ahaim Keys to Success Speaker Series & Singles Event** at 230 Denison St. In Highland Park. Our guest speaker will be **Chaya Eisenberg, Psy.D.** lecturing on “**Building & Maintaining Relationships Part 1**.” She is a nationally certified school psychologist with training in marital and family systems therapy at the Family Institute in Jerusalem. 5:30PM - Social (meet other singles, play board games, cards, and more, and shachanin will also be available). 7:45PM - Special Teffilla for Singles to Find a Match. 8:00PM - **Chaya Eisenberg Speaks**. 10:15PM - **Maariv**. Food will be available for purchase (food supplier to be announced closer to event). For more information please contact ejw17.

• **Motzai Shabbos, Nov. 21 - 9:00 PM - Tiferes DVD** for women at the home of **Aviva Siegel**, 16 Edgemount Rd. Current weekly teleconferences series: “**Can I deal with this?**” Honest discussion and practical tips” with **Mrs. Rochel Goldbaum**.

• **Motzai Shabbos, Nov 21 - 7:30 PM** - A second viewing of the **13th Annual Yahrzeit Rachel Imeinu Video**: “In Times Such As These: What Can We Do?” will be shown at 292 North 5th Ave, Highland Park. The featured speakers are **Rebbitzen Tzipora Heller & Rebbitzen Tehila Jaeger**. This showing is for women and girls only.

• **Thurs, Nov 26** after **Shacharis** - Cong. **Ahavas Yisroel Thanksgiving Day Yom Iyun** - The featured speaker this year will be **Rabbi Shmuel Maybruch**, a popular maggid shiur at Yeshiva University. The title of **Rabbi Maybruch’s** shiur will be “**Who Says Money Can’t Buy Happiness? Materialism, Torah, and Psychological Research.**” Everyone is invited to join us for this exciting annual event!