

# Shaarei Tzion



Volume 21, Issue 5

פרשת וירא

Week ending Oct. 30, 2015

Candle lighting 5:39

## Parsha Points

“*And the men rose up from there and looked out toward Sedom. . .*” “ *. . . וישקפו על פני סדם*”

At first glance, the word *משם*, from *there*, appears superfluous within the context of this passage. However, upon reflection, a deeper meaning of the word emerges. When the angels compared Avraham's intense piety and generous hospitality to the wickedness and depravity of the people of Sedom, their anger and sense of outrage rose to new heights. Accordingly, we can interpret the verse as follows: “And the men rose up *from there*,” from Avraham's house, which was permeated with holiness, purity, righteousness and benevolence. “From there,” from their experiences in Avraham's house, they derived reinforcement for their determination to destroy Sedom. Therefore, *וישקפו על פני סדם*, and they looked out toward Sedom. The term used for “and they looked out” is *וישקפו*, in consonance with the rabbinic rule *כל השקפה לרעה*, that *השקפה* denotes looking out that bodes ill, with ominous overtones. Since they had just come from Avraham's house, their “look” at Sedom showed clearly that it had to be destroyed.

Taken from Kli Chemdah from *Torah Treasures*

## The Week in Review

*YST Invents Hi-tech Solution To Manage 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Record Breaking Production of Torah, Tefilah and Chesed*

With 1<sup>st</sup> graders who burst into coordinated group learning entirely on their own, Rabbi Bhatia found himself hard pressed to keep tabs on the massive outflow of *kedusha*. With necessity being the mother of invention, the barcode *mitzvah* tracking system was born! Each student has 4 barcodes on his desk worth varying amounts of points. As *rebbe* walks around the classroom he uses his handy little wireless barcode scanner to zap the points into his *talmidim's* account! The boys light up when they hear the computer announce their name excitedly with each scan. After every 200 points an invigorating two-second tune plays announcing the fact that the hardworking *tzadik* has won an entire tortilla chip. *Talmidim* are encouraged to eat the chip slowly, savoring each molecule one at a time so that it can last the day or two it takes to collect an additional 200 points. The boys are becoming real whizzes at *shorashim* and both pronoun and verb prefixes.

Let's take a peek into the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. The boys are learning a fascinating unit in social studies and are all becoming explorers. They are going on voyages to explore the New World, being well aware of the dangers ahead of them and plan accordingly. The boys are overwhelmed by curiosity and a sense of adventure as they convince the king of the country to finance the endeavor. They write a persuasive appeal pointing out the benefits the king will get if he sponsors the mission. The boys can hardly sleep at night as they await their trip.

Mrs. Chait's 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls have just completed their first persuasive paragraphs! Through careful planning using a writing web, students analyzed their supporting arguments and determined whether or not their ideas were repetitive. Students also crafted sophisticated topic and concluding sentences to support their main idea. Each writer challenged herself to make revisions that enhanced both the flow and details of the paragraph. These paragraphs are quite convincing; fifth graders are definitely ready to debate!

On Tuesday afternoon, the girls school gathered together for their first Kesser Malka assembly of the year. Spirits were high as the girls “oohed and aahed” over the beautiful Kesser Malka dolls, dressed in YST duds, that will serve as mascots for the coming year's activities. The girls joined enthusiastically in singing the Kesser Malka theme song before Mrs. Werner ran an adorable review game of the Kesser Malka skills that were taught last year. The teachers were gratified to see that the girls clearly remembered certain key words and phrases that underscore the various social skills that are taught in the Kesser Malka weekly lessons; the concepts of self-talk, empathy, compassion, problem-solving skills, and other familiar terms - the first step towards spontaneous responses!

After several prep sessions, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls came through with flying colors in their first encounter with their JCC senior partners in the Better Together inter-generational program! They boarded the buses equipped with name tags, camera, Scrabble games, and butterflies in their stomachs, but came back exhilarated by their ice-breaking session with their new partners in this exciting venture in bridging the generation gap and enhancing the appreciation for the wisdom and life experience that their partners bring to the project. Many thanks to the join efforts of Mrs. Greene and Morah Mindy whose guidance was invaluable in making this first in the series an unqualified success.

## Preschool Jottings

The color yellow brightened the week for the Nursery children. They juiced lemons and made a bright golden sun. The children identified their favorite yellow

items – a box of Cheerios, yellow ducks, yellow stars and yellow balls!

The scene of the three *malachim* coming to Avraham came alive in Morah Mimi's classroom as the children created a dazzling mural. Using several different mediums, they created the guests, the tree, the tent, the food and sun. The children made the suggestions of how to fashion each of the items and when there was a difference of opinions, they voted and the majority won! The children experienced the feeling of walking on sand. And then...Avraham Avinu provided them with water to wash off their feet and make themselves comfortable, as he did *Hachnasas Orchim*!

Learning the letter *Veis* was a chance for the children to notice small differences in things that may look alike at first sight. The children remarked that it was only the small dot in the *Beis* that makes it different than the *Veis*. Morah Rochel and Morah Faige gave the children a variety of exercises and activities to impress on them that small difference.

## FYI

• Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on *Motzai Shabbos*.

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

**Please disregard the notations in the school calendar of G-Conferences on Nov. 11 and B-Conferences on Nov. 25. They were placed in error.**

• **Picture day** in Boys and Girls school this year will be this Thursday, **Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>**. Order forms will be sent out shortly.

• 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. All girls P1a and older are invited! Meet the builders who are building a house/tent this week!

• Do you need a house warming gift, hostess gift, engagement or wedding present? Incredible Creations is a great place to go and it's local - 32 Edgemount Road. Just call Ricki Nat at 732-572-4132 to make an appointment. 10% of the proceeds will go to YS T!

• Rabbi Weiss: Shiur for men and women on the Parsha, focus on Emunah and Bitachon – Wed. nights at 9:15 PM at the Eiserman home, 154 N. 10th Ave.

• Mrs. Miri Cohen's Parsha class will meet on Thurs., Oct 29 at 10:00 AM at Riki Samel's house. Please call the hotline to confirm at 206-666-8911.

• Mrs. Leah Drillman's Shimiras Haloshon class: Mon, Nov 2 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 on Sun, Nov. 1; Parsha class on Mon, Nov. 2 at 8:00 PM at Cong. Ohr Torah.

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

• 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!

• Rabbi & Mrs. Dov Silber & family upon Rena's Bat Mitzvah

• Dr. & Dr. David Joran & family upon Lieba's Bat Mitzvah

• Rabbi and Mrs. Yosef Leib Busel upon the birth of twin daughters.

## Library Additions

• *Arele 3*

donated by Mrs. Rivka Adler in honor of Yoni Wise's Bar Mitzvah

## The Writer's Corner

*The 1<sup>st</sup> grade girls are covering a unit on pets and animals, and beginning to put together their first pieces of creative writing. Enjoy this sampling of their essays!*

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Tim. He had a dog. The dog was messy. Tim was a good owner. He cleaned up after him. Tim was happy every day. One day Tim bought a bone. The dog loved it. Tim is responsible. Another day passed. It was time to go to the Vet. Tim calls the Vet to make sure he was well. The dog did not like the Vet. He started to run away. One day he gets too big to take care of. Tim has no choice but to sell it.

- Chana Rachel Eidelman

A dog can bark. A dog can be fluffy. A dog needs food. A dog can lick you.

A cat can meow. A cat can run. A cat can run away.

- Hindy Birnbaum

Once there was a puppy. He was three years old. He had a sister. He had a brother, but he couldn't find his mother. He looked in the garden. He looked in the basement. He looked in the living room. He looked in the dining room. Finally he found his mother resting in the dog house.

- Chanala Nusbaum

## BULLETIN BOARD

• **Motzai Shabbos, Oct 31 - 7:45pm - RPRY Gamenight** in the RPRY Gym. Kids, grab your parents and come join the fun as we play some great “Gamenight” games. This is in the RPRY Beit Midrash. Games are available for purchase that will be available for Chanukah gifts.

• **Sun, Nov 8 - YACHAD** participants are invited to join a pottery painting session at Make Me Take Me from 1-3 PM. There is a \$10 charge for this event. A simultaneous parent workshop on summer camp planning for your special needs child will be held as well. To RSVP please email middlesexyachad@ou.org or call Bracha at 718.440.0099 Looking forward to seeing you there! In addition, is 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!

• **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, shadchanim will also be available). 7:45PM - Special Tefilla for Singles to Find a Match. 8:00PM - Chaya Eisneberg 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.