

# Shaarei Tzion



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פרשת תצוה

Week ending February 19, 2016

Candle lighting 5:19

## Parsha Points

“And you shall instruct the people of Yisrael...” “וַיִּצְוֶה אֱלֹהִים אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל...”

The fact that Moshe Rabbeinu's name is not mentioned in this week's portion is attributable to his prayer to Hashem "And now, please forgive their sin, and if not, please blot me out of Your book that You have written." Why, of all portions, was his name eliminated from *Tetzaveh*? It is because the anniversary of Moshe's death, the 7<sup>th</sup> of *Adar*, always occurs during the week in which this portion is read, and death symbolizes departure or elimination. Nevertheless, the name Moshe does appear in *Tetzaveh*, albeit in a concealed form. We must preface this exposition with a brief explanation. Every letter of the *aleph bais* consists of a revealed and a concealed part. For instance, the letter **ב**, *bais*, is written **ב** בית *beit*, the **ב** being the revealed part and the **י**, *yud*, and **ת**, *tuf*, being the concealed part. Now we can understand the exposition. The portion of *Tetzaveh* contains 101 verses. Similarly, the sum total of the concealed parts of the letters **משה**, *Moshe*, is also 101. **מ**, *mem*, is spelled out as **מממ**, **מ** being the concealed part with a numerical value of 40; **ש**, *shin*, is spelled out as **שין**, **ן** being the concealed part with a numerical value of 60; **ה**, *heh*, is spelled out as **ההה**, **ה** being the concealed part with a numerical value of 1. The total is 101, the exact number of verses in the portion of *Tetzaveh*.

*Vilna Gaon Taken from Torah Treasurers*

## The Week in Review

PRE PURIM PREPARATIONS for the POST PESACH *Yedios Klaliyos* Contest are in full swing in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. The boys have been working on the *Shas Yid* Mighty Memories program. It is a picture based mnemonic learning system that trains our *tzadikim* to memorize facts and figures with unexpected speed. The *tzadikim* have been hard at work learning to translate numbers to sounds and sounds into picture words. These picture words are then used as hooks in a mental indexing system. Our *tzadikim* are learning to make speedy associations between facts and hook words. Once an association is made any mention of the indexing hook triggers the recall of the fact associated with it. The results can be very striking indeed. The boys are also learning how to use memory palaces where facts are translated into imagery and then visualized in a familiar location. The bottom line is that our *tzadikim* have been memorizing the main topics in the first 10 *perakim* of *Beraishis*, have begun studying the *Lamed Tes Melachos* and have mastered many of the common prefixes, suffixes, shoroshim and common words in *L'shon Hakodesh*. Keep it up dear *tzadikim*!

If you walk past the 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom you will see the boys hard at work. They are being taken to a whole new level - factoring trinomials using the quadratic formula. Not to be left behind the 7<sup>th</sup> graders are graphing lines using slopes and *y* intercepts. They can even graph inequalities. The class is so involved they wouldn't even notice you standing outside watching them. The sixth graders make addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of signed numbers look easy. They caught on so fast that their teacher couldn't believe they had never done it before. Imagine.....it's only February!

Earlier in the year, if you would've asked the fourth graders to memorize all fifty states and where they belong on the map, they would have claimed it was impossible. But now, more than halfway through the year, the first are well on their way to completing the impossible. The girls started on the west coast back in the fall and are now closing in on the east coast, with the finish line in sight. The girls have been practicing all the time and everywhere. Pass by the fourth grade at recess and you'll hear them jumping rope to the states and capitals song. Pass by their classroom and you'll see the students spread out on the floor completing state puzzles as they challenge themselves to finish all fifty states within a short amount of time. (Record time completing a state puzzle was just over two minutes by Tehila Sirote). The fourth graders are proving to everyone, but most importantly themselves, that one can accomplish anything he wants with some persistence and a positive attitude!

In Morah Mindy's Pre1a they have been learning about the *ברכות* we say on food. This week for *שהכל* we did something that was so much fun - we made our own home-made soda with a soda machine! It was a yummy treat!

## Preschool Jottings

YST Preschool thanks every parent who took the time to "post it!" We appreciated your comments, ideas and thoughts. We have chosen from the various ideas and will continue on to our third language unit using the theme "WE ARE ON THE MOVE!" The children decided the new cards should be orange.....so get ready for what is up and coming!! Meanwhile, enjoy the final cards of our health and hygiene unit.

The nursery children mastered a new skill! The children have mastered number recognition and counting up until the number 8. But besides for that accomplishment, they learned how to color -by-number. By carefully following the instructions, they produced beautiful masterpieces!

The children in Morah Rochel and Morah

Faige's class have finished learning all the *Brochos*. For each *brocha*, the children shaped and molded a model magic creation and then attached a magnet. The colorful array of these creations almost look real and edible! Surely they will serve as a reminder of the proper *brocha* to make on each type of food.

*Sauta Middos* is always a welcomed and wonderful guest in the classroom. But especially this week, as the children learned the letter **ס**, her visit was reason to celebrate! She taught the children about *סבלנות*. She actually shared a story with them. She had made some dough and because she had no *סבלנות*, all she had was pancakes! But after practicing *סבלנות*, she let the dough rise and rise, and it actually took a long time and a lot of waiting. The end result was delicious, large, beautiful *challot*!

Kids Corner started a new unit on melting. This week, the children watched crayons melt. They were amazed to see the solid turn into a liquid right before their eyes. Young Investigators took a short trip to learn about preparing their hair for Shabbos. Mrs. Zeilberger demonstrated shampooing, blowing, combing and brushing of hair *L'kavod Shabbosh Kodesh*.

## FYI

- The Girls School is pre-arranging appointments for **Tuesday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>** 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.
- In the event of inclement weather, parents are requested to please call any of the respective schools to hear a message regarding school closings or delays. The message is updated no later than 6:00AM.

- **This is the last week to get in your Six Flags Read to Succeed reading logs!** Final date for submission is **Feb 24, 2016**. NO EXCEPTIONS!

- Bnos Malka this Shabbos at 2:15.
- Bnos Malka will be showing a video this Sunday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm in the preschool classroom. The presentation, "Hello - The first Word in a Friendship", is free for all Bnos Malka members and \$10.00 for non-members. It's never too late to become a member \$40/year, maximum of \$100 per family.
- Pirchei and Pirchei Beis Medrash will be from 3:15 to 4:15 at the Agudah. Mincha Minyan before Pirchei at 2:50.

- Bikur Cholim of Raritan Valley is launching its new website: [bikurcholimrv.com](http://bikurcholimrv.com) Please be sure to use the .COM website and not the old .org website. Please update your bookmarks and web site links to use the new .COM address. The new website provides information regarding Bikur Cholim services, including how to access our local hospitals on Shabbat, how to borrow medical equipment, and how to get prescription medication on Shabbat. We hope you will find it useful. We welcome your feedback!

- **Bikur Cholim** is looking for volunteers for homebound visiting: - Adults and 11th graders and older who might be interested in volunteering to visit homebound people in our community should call Bikur Cholim at 732-572-7181. Tizku l'mitzvot!
- Rabbi Yisroel Weiss' shiur for men and women on the Parsha, is held on Wednesday nights at the Shenkman residence, 26 Leslie St., Edison.

- Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: No class on Sun, Feb. 21; Parsha class on Mon, Feb. 22 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 will resume on Monday, March 7.

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

## Mazel Tov!

• Rabbi & Mrs. Yisroel Hoffman upon the birth of a granddaughter

## Library Additions

• *It's A Kids World After All #9* donated by Mrs. Rivka Adler in honor of Tzvi Birnbaum's Bar Mitzvah.

## CATCH 'EM BEING GOOD!

Dear Mrs. Brotsky:

This past week you hosted our Rutger's Explorer Science Bus. Our grad students were thrilled with the students and I received really good feedback from them. We are looking forward to visiting your school again next year!

- Emmanuel Serrano

## Fostering Flexibility

Continuing with Morah Blumie's lessons on flexibility, read on for this week's submission.

Dear Morahs:

I am so excited to share the following impressive and emotional story with you. The Bergers celebrated this past President's Day at the dentist having our pearly whites cleaned. It should be known that while most of the population enjoys minty-fresh breath, Penny is the ultimate exception. This fun fact has been the source of profound difficulty in her at-home dental hygiene routine as well as at the dentist. But with gratitude to Hashem, Tom's of Maine Silly Strawberry Children's Toothpaste has alleviated this legitimate crisis. Alas, on Monday, I made the egregious error of forgetting Penny's toothpaste at home. Regrettably, the dentist's own stash of strawberry flavored toothpaste had been depleted and I was sure we were in for an unprecedented debacle. With only aboMINTable and some other "undesirable" fruit flavors (which historically has caused Penny to slam her hands over her mouth and shut her eyes with fervor) Penny decided to be *flexible!* She let them clean her teeth with the raspberry flavor! Everyone was so proud and relieved and excited and let out the deep breaths we'd been holding in (but in a different direction as per the minty fresh breath...).

I wanted to share this *נחת* with you, her superb and wonderful teachers, who have helped Penny work on herself to become the flexible young lady she is today... Thank You!

- Penny's Mommy

## BULLETIN BOARD

- **Motzai Shabbos, Feb. 20 - 9:00 PM - Tiferes DVD for women:** "The Performance of Your Life: Inspiration for facing your life's challenges" will be held at the Siegel home 16 Edgemount Rd.. Speakers: Rabbi David Ashear and Mrs. Chani Feldbrand.

- **Sun, Feb 21- 9:30 a.m. - The Highland Park Community Kollel 8th Annual Breakfast** celebrating the Kollel's Decade of Torah, Avodah & Gemilus Chasodim. will **היה** take place at Cong. Ohr Torah 48 Edgemount Rd. The Guest Speaker will be HaRav Lipa Geldwerth Shlit"א, R'M at Yeshiva Torah Temimah & Rav, Congregation Kol Torah.

- **Sun, Feb 21 - 8:00 pm - Mesilas Yesharaim Part 2-** Featuring insights, stories and parables with Rabbi David Gross. The lecture will be held in the YST Preschool basement and is open to men and women.
- **Sun, Feb 28 - 9:30 a.m. - Cong. Ahavas Yisroel Annual Journal Breakfast** - Our website [www.AYEDISON.org](http://www.AYEDISON.org) is ready to receive ads and reservations. This year's honorees are: Mr. and Mrs. Avi Milgram - Guests of Honor; Mr. Chezkia Mark - Service Awardee; and a special tribute to our youth co-directors, Mrs. Rachel Teitelbaum and Mrs. Melissa Titen. Please email [breakfast@ayedison.org](mailto:breakfast@ayedison.org) with any questions.

- **Sun, March 6 - 9:30am - Bikur Cholim of Raritan Valley Annual Event** at the Pines Manor in Edison. The Guest speaker will be Rabbi Eli Mansour, Guests of Honor will be Dr. Barry & Susie Wolf, the Hotline Committee and the Keser Shem Tov Award to Doron & Sari Shalmon. A dairy buffet will be served. Sponsorships & babysitting are available
- **Sun, March 6 - 4:00 pm - Reenas Bais Yaakov Play** for women and girls, "Milah? A Legacy of Loyalty." For tickets and info contact Racheli Sabo 917-510-5023 or e-mail [alegacyofloyalty@gmail.com](mailto:alegacyofloyalty@gmail.com).

