

# Shaarei Tzion



Volume 21, Issue 20

פרשת כי תשא

Week ending February 26, 2016

Candle lighting 5:27

## Parsha Points

“When you take a head count of the people of Yisrael...” “כי תשא את ראש בני ישראל...”

In the weekly portion of *Ki Sissa*, the first two segments (*Kohein and Levi*) are uncharacteristically lengthy. In fact, the better part of the entire portion is apportioned to them. This uneven division is in keeping with the statement in the *Gemara (Bava Metzia 59b)* that one should not say “Please hang up this fish for me” to someone whose relative was executed by hanging; any reference to hanging might easily be misconstrued as a hint at “the skeleton in the family closet.” The first two segments of *Ki Sissa* contain the narration of the *chet ha’egel*, the sin of the golden calf. Therefore, we call up a *Kohein* and a *Levi* for the entire reading of this story, because their ancestors, the tribe of *Levi*, did not take part in its nefarious worship and they will not be offended by it.

Rabbi Meir of Ostroutza Taken from *Torah Treasurers*

## The Week in Review

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade boys are moving ahead at a steady pace, and enjoying every minute of it. Every week a new ברכה from שמונה עשרה is added to their repertoire of davening and are, as of present, up to the 7<sup>th</sup> ברכה. They are very excited about having learned how to stand and bow during עשרה עשרה and each boy receives a coveted certificate when he fills up his “*Tefila Geshmak*” card.

In *chumash* the class is using a new workbook entitled “Bright Beginnings”, an innovative and state of the art publication that emphasizes the mastery of *Chumash* vocabulary and language skills. This book is used as a חזרה לך לך פרשת, and it is helping the תלמידים to refine and polish their *Chumash* skills in general. May our boys continue to excel in their learning and be a source of נחת to us all.

As political candidates jet around the country in preparation for Super Tuesday (we’ve been covering the election in-depth) and discuss foreign policy and U.S. involvement around the globe, the Middle School Boys at YST are honing their geography (and computer) skills and getting an in-depth understanding about the places the candidates are visiting and discussing. Our Super Tuesday is scheduled for March 15th, however, as that is the day the boy’s Power Point presentations are due. The 6th grade will be focusing on different regions of the world, preparing a presentation to show their classmates on the history and geography of the countries on which they have chosen to report. The 7th and 8th grade, meanwhile, will be covering all 48 continental states in a similar fashion. Hopefully, all students will gain a much richer appreciation for the diversity that surrounds us and will exhibit good character traits, in contrast to the behavior of our political candidates who have turned to name calling and mudslinging try to gain approval.

What do blood oranges, aloe, mint leaves and a rutabaga have in common? These are some of the items that Morah Moller’s ג’ כתה saw when they went on a trip to the farmer’s market this week. In conjunction with the lower-elementary ברכות be they went to see a large variety of fruits and vegetable and discussed their proper ברכות.

While they were out, they also stopped in TD Bank to see how much they’ve collected for צדקה so far this year in their overflowing *pushka*. Indeed, the pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters added up to over \$130.00 already. A non-Jewish stranger was so intrigued by the concept of the girls collecting for a charity daily, that he pulled out \$10.00 if his own to add to our worthy cause!! Way to go, girls!

Combining creative writing and their study of Little Women, the 8th graders created their own “Pickwick Portfolios” - class newspapers reporting mundane, quotidian events with journalistic flair. Please enjoy three of many entertaining, clever and fictitious (yet familiar!) submissions:

Border Control, by Claire Finnegan (Rina Lewis)  
“A neighbor, Mrs. J. Factor, reported screaming coming from a grey Honda minivan. Police found two children, ages 16 and 14, scratching, punching and hitting each other, while the parents sat perspiring in the front seats. The details yet remain unclear, but an unnamed source reported that the family was on their way to their grandparents, when the older child, Sebastian, began punching his younger sister, Lindsay. The parents, upon questioning, revealed that Sebastian was provoked; his younger sister had been singing off-tune. The children are now in police custody and the parents are under questioning for attempted bribery.”

“News, by Mrs. Finnegan, (Sara E. Twersky)  
The Finnegan family is devastated to report the passing of Mr. Josh Finnegan’s minivan. The car, a 2009 Honda Odyssey, was seven years old and used its last miles while being driven home from the Jersey Shore mall...”

Kudos to the valiant group of 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls who manned a successful “Chatchka Campaign” on

Tuesday evening during Parent-Teacher Conferences. They dutifully wrapped the lovely notes and cute gift items bought by parents during the well-attended conferences, and earned over \$500 toward their graduation trip fund. Stay tuned for details of their next event!

## Preschool Jottings

Our Kids Corner children experimented with different mediums to better understand the word “melt.” They observed ice cubes and learned that as the ice melts the water turns back to its original state. They were fascinated as they watched salt pellets melt the ice. After melting chocolate, they were able to use that mixture to dip and to decorate.

Our nursery class is now discovering emotions and facial expressions. This is wonderful preparation for the Purim story, as the *Megillah* relates quite a variety of emotions. They traced faces and are just beginning to learn how to make and recognize happy eyes, eyebrows and lips.

The *Brochos* Booklet that the children in Morah Rochel and Morah Faige’s kindergarten class is just one of the many Reggio projects that have been incorporated into the preschool curriculum. After learning each *brocha*, the children painted a placemat with a food of their choice to depict the *brocha*. All the explanations that the children related are on the mats. Every child is so proud to show off his/her magnificent paintings. The explanation of each painting are attached to the picture.

Morah Mimi’s class continues on their journey of exploring community helpers. They boarded Harvey’s bus to visit Dr. Dena Liebllich, the dentist and Bell Pharmacy to meet a pharmacist. The children enjoyed the experiences of each place, including sitting on the dentist’s chair, asking questions about medications and learning about how medicine is bottled and packaged. Thank you to our hosts.

We are on the move! Our first cards have pictures of birds and the paths they take when they migrate. We learned about the V formation that the birds make when they fly south. Using cupcake holders, each of the children made one bird and placed the bird on our new bulletin board. Special thank you to Mrs. Leah Epshteyn for coming forward and letting us know that “We are on the move!” was her idea! We will continue moving every week – follow along on our preschool journey!

## FYI

• The Boys’ school parent teacher conferences are this Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please call the office to make your appointments.  
• 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.

• Bnos Malka this Shabbos at 2:15.  
• 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 6th (11am to 5 pm), 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](mailto: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.

• 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.

• **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’mitzvo!

• 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: Tefillah class on Sun, Feb. 28 at 10:00 AM at the Agudah; No class Mon, Feb. 29. • 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. Moishe Birnbaum & family upon Tzvi’s Bar Mitzvah
- Mr. & Mrs. Moshe Feuer upon Sara Raizel’s marriage to Nachi Baldinger
- Rabbi Yisroel & Morah Devorah Botnick upon the engagement of their son, Yerachmiel’s to Shavy Bruckstien from Queens
- Rabbi Yissaschar & Morah Gila Moller upon the engagement of their son, Raphael to Nechama Rakowsky from Passaic
- Rabbi Meir & Mrs. Meira Brotsky upon the birth of a granddaughter

## Library Additions

• *Look What Hashem Gave Me!*

In honor of Avigayil Gelfand’s 6<sup>th</sup> birthday

• *Where Are My Shoes?*

In honor of Chana Gelfand’s 8<sup>th</sup> birthday

• *The Story of Reb Moshe*

donated in honor of Dovid Blumberg’s Bar Mitzvah.

## SECURITY UPDATE

The girls school building received a face-lift this week with the installation of 3M Safety and Security Film on the entranceway windows and doors, as well as the classroom windows. The first of its kind, the 3M Ultra Series films are made from clear, tear-resistant film. This film delivers superior protection over standard polyester films in the event of blast and impact events, yet still maintains a high level of optical clarity.

The installation of the safety film completes this year’s round of security updates, which included the installation of a 16 channel camera system and magnetic access control system on the main entrance ways. Funding for these projects was made possible through the school’s Security Fee, private donors and allocation of the newly established NJ Nonpublic School Security Aid funds.

Meanwhile, the boys’ school has received a grant from the Department of Homeland Security. With this grant, the school will be increasing security by adding interior and exterior surveillance cameras, additional exterior lighting, enhanced intercom system, panic buttons and controlled door access. In addition to these physical improvements, the grant provides for training for the staff on how to handle security situations.

Efforts are also underway to submit a Department of Homeland Security for the Preschool as well. Stay tuned for further updates!

## BULLETIN BOARD

- **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 Milgraum - 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. Guests of Honor: Dr. Barry & Susie Wolf; Keter Shem Tov; Doron & Sari Shalmon. Gomlei Chesed Awardees are the Hotline Coordinators: Bonnie Borck, Dawn Botnick, Pearl Dolinger, Toby Eleff, Raizy Krauss, Tammy Nussbaum, Debbie Schneider, and Mina Tiefenbrunn. Guest speaker: Rabbi Eli Mansour. Dairy buffet brunch will be served; Birkat Hamazon at 11:30 AM. Couvert \$50 per person; Complimentary Babysitting.
- **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).
- **Motzai Shabbos, March 12 - 9:15 PM - Tiferes DVD** for women will be shown at the Siegel house 16 Edgemount Rd. Current teleconference: “How Old are You?” Speaker: Mrs. Mindy Blumenfeld.