

Shaarei Tzion



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Week ending March 4, 2016

פרשת ויקהל - פרשת שקלים

Candle lighting 5:35

Parsha Points

“Take from among yourselves an offering to Hashem...” “קחו מאתכם תרומה לה'...”

The word **מאתכם**, from *among yourselves*, denotes an inherent personal initiative, an inner commitment to bring the offering to Hashem. The offering must come “from among and within yourselves.” There are people who will contribute to charity only after they learn that others have donated. They then follow suit, motivated by envy or by a sense of shame. Such giving cannot be characterized as **מאתכם**, as coming “from within yourselves.” Rather, it is prompted by external forces, by the example set by others.

Kli Yakar taken from Torah Treasures

The Week in Review

Glasswing and owl butterflies were among the more unusual varieties observed by the 1st and 2nd grade boys on their recent outing to the World of Wings in Teaneck, New Jersey. The trip provided them with an opportunity to review and share what they learned about the butterfly and its life cycle. The highlight of their visit was the Butterfly Atrium, an enclosed courtyard where a diverse collection of butterflies and moths can flourish in a natural habitat. The boys were offered a close look at these beautiful insects as they alighted on strategically placed bowls of sugar water and plates of cut fruit. In a separate viewing area, rows of cocoons (future moths) and chrysalises (future butterflies) hung suspended from specially designed trays. Once the insects emerge and are ready to fly, they are transferred to the atrium. The visit also included time spent with an extensive reptile collection, a break to run and explore in the play area, and an art project to create a paper butterfly. Thank you, Miss Komet, for arranging and organizing a truly memorable experience! Mrs. Goodman, the art teacher, tied the trip into the curriculum. Various insect stickers were given to the boys and they drew and colored an artistic camouflage habitat for them. They also made beautiful leaves and created adorable inch worms to sit right on them...they look like part of a leaf.

Attached is a newsletter prepared by Rabbi Bhatia for his class.

On the unit “לערוך שלוח”^ד, the girls in **כתה ד** are becoming experts! Not only do they know how to translate all items on a table into **עברית** - but they also know how to set the table perfectly! You might just want to invite them over for Shabbos to set your table!

The pre-1a girls recently completed a science unit on energy. They now know that energy is what “gets things done.” They learned about the chemical energy they get from food that changes into stored energy in their bodies. They also discussed kinetic energy (the energy of motion), solar energy and energy we get from waterfalls and windmills. The girls even talked about ways to save energy. They topped off this lesson by making pinwheels. All they need now is a windy day to watch them spin!

If you walk past Morah Govhari’s classroom you can hear the fifth graders singing Shiras Devora - by heart! The girls studied har, most have already finished being tested on the complete Shira. Knowing these beautiful **פסוקים** by heart not only helped them ace their most recent **בניא** test, but it also gives them a head start of 50 points on the upcoming **כלליות** contest!

7th grade science has had much fun this week exploring the many unique properties of dry ice. This “mini-unit” helped the girls understand the states of matter and phase changes in a very hands-on way, bringing the material to life. We watched balloons blow up, bubbles float, and a flame that seemed to go out on its own! Next week we will begin a unit on elements and the periodic table.

6th grade science has been finishing up their Astronomy unit on the movement of Earth, ending with a discussion about leap years, and has begun to learn about moon phases. Much excitement was generated when we discovered that we were learning about leap years on February 29th, during Adar Aleph! The moon phases were explored by modeling the movement of the moon around Earth, where we were able to clearly see the reason for the phases of the moon. Next week we hope to discuss eclipses and get to work on a scale model of the solar system!

It is no secret that Morah Blumie’s first graders develop deep pleasure in mastering the reading and writing of the Hebrew language. But an episode that took place this week was actually revolutionary! As Morah introduced the Purim story and the characters of Bigsan and Seresh appeared on the scene, the girls began to question whether Seresh’s name should indeed be Teresh. After all, they reasoned, the Megila refers to them as a pair: **בגתן ותרש** - BUT, if you remove the “ו” at the beginning of the word **ותרש**, then the “ת” would be subject to the rules of **דגש קל** and actually be a “ת”,

and the correct transliteration of the name would be Teresh. Well, you can just imagine the debate between the girls, which spread to the Teachers Room and was finally resolved when Mrs. Brudny called the dikduk specialists at Artsroll, who agreed with our 1st grade grammarians! So, let it be proclaimed throughout the halls of YST Girls School that Bigsan’s partner in crime was actually Teresh! As a final “chap”, the first graders pointed out that had the names been mentioned in reverse in the Megilla, we might have been calling Bigsan by the name of Vigsan!

Preschool Jottings

Morah Mimi’s class is “moving” along with our language unit – they are on the move! This week, they took a trip to the library to meet a very important community helper – Librarian Fran who works in the Highland Park Public Library. She helps the community at large, but specifically YST Preschool, as she is always sending us books to read and share with the children. They went to Acme Supermarket to meet with the baker, the cashier and other store employees. And they enjoyed the Tuesday pizza lunch at Jerusalem Pizza, in conjunction with learning the letter **פ** this week.

Morah Rochel and Morah Faige sent their class on a **פ** scavenger hunt. They searched for places where they would find items that begin with **פ**. At each place they found a clue that sent them to the next place. Finally, the last clue sent them to the store that makes **פ** - Jerusalem Pizza. And so they boarded the bus and enjoyed lunch at the pizza shop.

The nursery class is learning to identify their own emotions. They can show you an angry face, worried, frustrated, sad, happy, shy and surprised. Reading facial queues is an important social skill for our youngsters and understanding all these emotions will surely help them as they begin to learn the Purim story which is filled with all these feelings. They showed a very happy face and emotion when Mrs. Sarita Kohn came to read the class a book! Thank you to Mrs. Kohn for joining and giving your time to YST Preschool.

FYI

- Wednesday, March 23rd, is Ta’anis Esther. Girls’ grades 6-8 will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m. and boys’ grades 7 & 8 at 2:15 p.m., all other grades both boys and girls will be dismissed at 3:30 p.m.
- In honor of Shushan Purim, Friday, March 25th, there will be a delayed opening of 10:00 am. (Buses run on a one and a half hour delay). Boys division is being dismissed at 1:00 pm
- Bnos Malka this Shabbos at 2:15.
- UPCOMING BNOS/PIRCHEI EVENT. COME WATCH AND ENJOY THE JABALE ACROBATS Tuesday, March 22 - 6:30 -7:45 PM at the YST Boys School. Please make advance reservations by emailing pircheiedisonhp@gmail.com or by calling 732-819-9738. Price for Bnos/Pirchei members: advance reservations \$6.00 at the door \$8.00. For non-Bnos/Pirchei members advance reservations \$13.00 at the door \$15.00.
- 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: costumeagemach@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 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'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 Sunday, March 6; Parsha class on Monday, March 7 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: Monday, March 7 at 7:30 PM at the home of Ellen Smith, 407 North 8th Ave., Edison.
- SemPlus evening shiur for post seminary girls meets on *Sunday evenings*. Please call 732-841-1885 to confirm.
- Women’s beginning Israeli Dancing: Due to the Bikur Cholim Breakfast, class will be held this Sunday, March 6 at 12:00 PM at Etz Ahaim. All women and girls are invited to join us for ruach, fun, and aerobic exercise. Dance costs \$10/per session, (Rutgers students 1/2 price \$5) made out to Daughters of Etz Ahaim. Please RSVP to Rachel at 732-819-9298 or rachel@weintraubworld.net.

Mazel Tov!

- Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Schiffman & family upon Yehuda’s Bar Mitzvah
- Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Slepoy on the birth of a grandson

Kudos!

Dear Mrs Brudny,

I just wanted to let you know how I am most impressed with Mrs. C. Friedman’s ability to give the 8th grade girls such an in depth understanding of today’s complicated politics while creating such a warm and fun learning environment. Batsheva’s overall understanding of current politics is clear and on point. She was most enthralled with Super Tuesday and the rest of the political drama unfolding daily.

Thank you Mrs Friedman!!!!!! - Mrs. Y. Kamelhar

Catch ‘em Being Good!

Dear Principals:

On my way to school I have the privilege of seeing Shaarei Tzion students waiting for the morning bus. Yisroel Meir Gorinstein is one student who is always punctual, first at the bus stop eagerly awaiting the bus and perched at the edge of the curb which seems to be his ideal spot to stand. I finally mentioned to him that it wasn’t safe to stand there and he was *mekabel* it immediately, the next day I was able to praise him on his standing further in on the sidewalk. I now start my mornings with a lovely smile and shy wave from this delightful boy.

- Mrs. S. Hoffman

BULLETIN BOARD

- **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 Chessed 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 Rachel Sabo 917-510-5023 or e-mail 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.