



DIVREI YOSEF

דברי יוסף
Volume 21, Issue 8

Candle lighting : 5:37 PM

Havdalah: 6:36 PM

כ"ג חשוון תשפ"ב

October 29, 2021

243 E. FRISCH COURT, PARAMUS, NJ 07652

IMPORTANT DATES

- Nov 1:** In honor of Election Day - wear red, white, blue
 - Nov 2:** Election Day - No Sessions - Teacher In-Service day
 - Nov 5:** Rosh Chodesh Kislev, wear white and blue
 - Nov 7:** Annual River clean up (12-3 pm @ BPY)
 - Nov 7:** Lantern Walk at dusk with Morah Lauren Kelin (4:15 @ BPY) (up to grade 2 with parents, open to the general community)
 - Nov 11:** Veterans' Day
 - Nov 18:** 3rd Grade Trip (Liberty Science Center)
 - Nov 21:** Parent Teacher Conferences (Via Zoom)
 - Nov 23:** 1st Grade Trip (Society of Illustrators)
- Nov 28** is dedicated in honor of the yahrzeit of Susie Helft's father, Arthur Helft z"l, Avraham Asher Yeshaya

Mazal Tov / Mabrook to.....

Jon and Karina Herrera on the birth of a baby girl!
Lauren and Jon Mechaly on the birth of a baby boy!

FAMILIES CAN DEDICATE A DAY OF LEARNING IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE, IN HONOR OF A SPECIAL OCCASION, OR IN THE MERIT OF A SPEEDY RECOVERY THROUGH OUR PARNAS HAYOM PROGRAM. FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THIS AND OTHER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT DEVELOPMENT AT [GIVING@BENPORATYOSEF.ORG](mailto:giving@benporatyosef.org) OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.BENPORATYOSEF.ORG

PARASHAT CHAYA SARAH BY ALIZA STRASSMAN DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

This week's parsha begins with an interesting contradiction. The parsha is called Chayei Sarah, meaning, the LIFE of Sarah, yet the bookends of the parsha deal with death. We begin with Sarah's burial, and conclude with Avraham's passing.

Rashi comments on the double language in the very first pasuk, which reads, "Sarah's lifetime was 127 years, the years of Sarah's life." He explains that this repetition emphasizes how all of the years in Sarah's life were equally good. However, Rashi's comment here seems perplexing if we think back to the events that occurred over the last three parshiot. First, Sarah went along with Avraham when Hashem commanded him "Lech lecha," not knowing where she was going, and twice she was told to say she was Avraham's sister in order to avoid a sticky situation. Plus, she struggled with infertility and fought against the influence of Hagar and Yishmael... how can we say that all of Sarah's years were equally good?

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks pointed out in an essay on this week's parsha that Avraham and Sarah are supreme examples of having a "Why" in life. While it may appear that Avraham and Sarah's lives were full of hardship, we must also understand they lived their lives with the purpose of serving Hashem and creating a nation and a faith. This power-couple dedicated themselves to establishing a land and a way of life. When experienced through that lens, all of the "hardships" along the way were really steps taken while moving toward that Why.

In every educational experience at BPY, we want our students to have a sense of Why. Just like Avraham and Sarah had a Why to guide their lives and make the hardships seem less like obstacles, having a big-picture goal and feeling a connection to what we learn gives us purpose. When our students have a Why, it instills in them a growth mindset, or a sense of success being achieved through effort. Challenges can become opportunities for growth and mile markers on the way to a connection to, and understanding of, our heritage and the world around us.

Parashah Corner

פינת הפרשה

Questions to ask your children about parashat hashavua on Shabbat

By: Rav Acoca - Any questions or comments please email Rav Acoca

חיי שרה - Chaya Sarah

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the name of this week's Parasha? 2. How long did Sarah live? 3. What did Avraham have to find? 4. Who did Avraham send to find a wife for Yitzchak? 5. Where did Avraham send Eliezer to? 6. What was the sign Eliezer asked Hashem to show him in order to find a wife for Yitzchak? 7. What was the name of Yitzchak's wife? 8. Did Rivkah agree to go with Eliezer? 9. What was Rivkah's father's name? 10. What was Rivkah's brother's name? 11. Family discussion: How do we show kindness to people? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How old was שרה אמנו when she died? 2. What caused שרה death? 3. Where was she buried? 4. Who was buried there? 5. In what city was she buried? 6. From whom did אברהם purchase her burial plot? 7. How much did he pay for it? 8. What job did אברהם give his servant, אליעזר? 9. What did אברהם make אליעזר promise? 10. Where did אליעזר go to find a wife for יצחק? 11. What test did אליעזר make at the well? 12. What did this test prove about רבקה ? |
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Parashah Answers

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chaya Sarah. 2. 127 years. 3. A wife for his son 4. Eliezer his servant. 5. Charan. 6. Yitzchak. 7. Rivkah. 8. Yes she did! 9. him and his camels. 10. Lavan. 11. Betuel. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. She was so startled by the news of יצחק's near death that she died herself. 3. ארם. 4. head. 5. 6. ברוך. 7. יצחק. 8. To find a wife for יצחק. 9. אליעזר. 10. The promised that he would not find a wife for יצחק from the people. 11. ערו. 12. That she should be the wife of יצחק. 13. יצחק. |
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MOMMY & ME

Thank you to Morah Faige and Morah Jessica!
Looking forward to seeing you at our next Chanukah themed Mommy & Me class on **November 16!**



EARLY CHILDHOOD

How did Noach know how to build his Teivah? Hashem told him how! But...what if we had to build a Teivah? How would we know how to build one? Ask a BPY Pre-K friend! They are busy learning all about building, construction and are learning how to create and use blueprints and plans. How cool!



REMINDER! PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR SCRIP ORDER BY THE 1ST OR THE 15TH OF THE MONTH. PLEASE NOTE THAT WE HAVE REVISED OUR VENDOR LIST. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT **RUTH WISEMAN** IN THE BUSINESS OFFICE AT RUTHWISEMAN@BENPORATYOSEF.ORG THANK YOU!



FIRST GRADE WRITING WORKSHOP

The first graders are hard at work reviewing short vowel sounds in word study centers! Activities such as "act it out" (dramatizing words) allow for practice with word meanings and expanding vocabulary, while other activities such as "word sort" (sorting words by vowel sound) provide practice with spelling patterns. Today we introduced a new activity, "letter stretches" which allows for practice with letter size and formation.



RAV KOOK

Rav Abraham Isaac Kook was the first Askenazie chief Rabbi in Israel and was considered to be one of the fathers of Religious Zionism. This past Monday, our BPY ES and MS students celebrated י"ט בכסלו (the 19th of Kislev) which was the day that Harav Kook started his מסע המושבות (Colonial Journey). The students had the opportunity to learn in class all week through stories and games about his dedication to the mission of Zionism in Israel and out of Eretz Yisrael. Our talented Shlichim performed a play about a young Harav Kook and how he organized a group of children to travel to Eretz Yisrael. The students also learned his famous song בן אדם עלה למעלה עלה which is a phrase that each person can shine if you work to your potential. Robyn Badash, our office admin, also shared the story of how her family was very close with Rav Kook and how he gave permission for the family to come to the USA in 1913 with a signed document.



Thank you to our families who sponsored middle school Mishmar
Kestenbaum Family: 10/28

IN SEARCH OF A GOOD BOOK?

At BPY, we inspire our students to be active members of our school community and to bring about change. Last year, Dr. Samantha and her students created an annex to our library on the middle school floor. The book case was filled with titles that students had recommended. The students took advantage of the collection and motivated their classmates to read a variety of series and authors. Over the summer, we expanded our collection. The middle school library now fills four bookshelves. The books include historical fiction, sports, dystopias, mysteries, fantasy and biographies. Many of the titles were chosen based on student suggestions. A special thank you to our middle school volunteer librarians who are helping to organize the collection. Have you read a good book lately? If not, come peruse our growing collection!



GEMERA

BPY's own Rav Aviv lead an 8th grade in Gemara class Bava Metzia **בבא מציעא** Perek Alef, and the students just finished the first Daf of **אלו מציעות**. The class has been learning about sugyot **סוגיות** from the Gemara and how it is not only a source of the history, but how it's relevant to our days and how can we apply the morals, rules and values to our daily life.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Ben Porat Yosef is proud to introduce our new Chazzan, Rabbi Royi Gabay! Rabbi Gabay was born in Jerusalem and knew from a young age he had a passion for music. He participated in the music program in his shul every week and was able to teach himself and when he turned 13, he was thrilled to become the Chazzan at his local shul. Rabbi Gabay continued his education at a Rabbinical Yeshiva in the old city and had the honor of not only being the Chazzan, but studying with Rabbi Ovadia Yosef and Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu. After completing Yeshiva, he then had the opportunity to share his talents by singing during the High Holidays in places such as Columbia and Altuna, Greece! In 2007, he moved to New York and split his time teaching in Kollelim in Manhattan, Brooklyn and at the famed Safra Shul in Deal, NJ. We are honored and lucky to have Rabbi Gabay as part of our BPY family! He brings so much passion and RUACH to his classes and Kabbalat Shabbat. The children wholeheartedly look forward to their time with him and he brings out the best in each and every one of our students!



UPCOMING EVENTS

BEN PORAT YOSEF

MAGIC SHOW

AND HAVDALLAH
COME IN PAJAMAS

NOV 13 | BEN PORAT YOSEF
6:30PM - 7:45PM

GRADES 1-2

Email pto@benporatyosef.org for more details.

Adults must show proof of vaccination. Masks required for all adults and children.



DON'T WAIT.

November 2 is Election Day.
You can vote early October 23-31.

Join the community at
THE GREAT BIG VOTE
Sunday, October 31
1 pm - 6 pm | Votee Park Band Shell in Teaneck

FUN FOR ALL AGES | K kosher food trucks ★ Music ★ Photobooth
Balloons ★ Kids games and activities 1-5 pm



Vote next door at the Rodda Center 10 am - 6 pm
All Bergen County voters eligible
Food truck coupon for the first 150 registrants
RSVP at <https://teachcoalition.org/thegreatbigvote>

#TheGreatBigVote Follow us @TheGreatBigVoteNJ

TeachNJ
Act for Jewish Education

As a 501(c)(3), TeachNJ is non-partisan and does not support or endorse any candidate or party.

BERGEN COUNTY CHANUKAH TOY DRIVE

The Annual Chanukah Toy Drive is a unique opportunity to bring the joy of Chanukah to thousands of Jewish children and a terrific way to involve your children in the mitzvah of charity.

What to Donate:
New, unwrapped toys and gifts for children and teens: games, sports equipment, make-up sets, costume jewelry, craft activities, books, dolls, Legos, puzzles, purses, gift cards, scrip, etc. (please remove price tags if possible)

Where to Donate:
SCHOOL LOBBY DROP-OFF BOX

Now Through
November 15, 2021

For a complete list of the 18 receiving organizations, drop-off locations, participating stores and coupons please log on to our website:
www.bctoydrive.com

Like us on Facebook and post pictures of your family participating in this mitzvah:
Bergen County Chanukah Toy Drive



November 13

Elementary School Elections •
NAME OUR DISCOVERY ROOM ANIMALS

ELECTION DAY AT BPY!

• Middle School • STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS •
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD



JOIN US FOR A LANTERN WALK AT DUSK

FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-8

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH
4:15-5:45PM

Create your own lantern
Explore the BPY woods
Full sensory experience

BEN PORAT YOSEF
243 FRISCH COURT, PARAMUS

Open to the community!

RSVP: ADMISSIONS@BENPORATYOSEF.ORG



BEN PORAT YOSEF
EARLY CHILDHOOD

GLOW IN THE DARK P'JAMMING

HAVDALLAH PARTY
COME IN PAJAMAS

NOV 13 | BEN PORAT YOSEF
6:30PM - 7:45PM

* CRAFT PROJECTS * BEDTIME SNACKS TO GO *
* MUSICAL HAVDALLAH * SONGS AND STORIES *

MAGIC SHOW FOR GRADES 1-2
Email pto@benporatyosef.org for more details.

Adults must show proof of vaccination. Masks required for all adults and children.



Advertise and support our school! Contact Ruth Wiseman for details at ruthwiseman@benporatyosef.org



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