

י"ב שבט תשפ"ג
 February 3rd, 2023

Candle lighting: 4:47pm

Havdalah: 5:59pm

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 5- 2nd Grade Messibat Chumash 2B
 9:00am / 2A 11:00am
Feb. 6- Tu BeShevat Program in School
Feb. 9- 5th Grade Mishmar-Pickup at 4:45pm
Feb. 10/11- 8th Grade Shabbaton
Feb. 15- Sharsheret Pink Day, MS Only
Feb. 17- Presidents' Day Assembly, Wear Red, White, and Blue
Feb. 20- Presidents' Day, NO SESSIONS
Feb. 22- Rosh Chodesh Adar and Topsy Turvy Day
Feb. 23- BPY Annual Dinner
March 1- 5th Grade Megillah Reading @ 6:30pm
March 2- Read Across America
March 6- Ta'anit Esther, 2:00pm Dismissal. Aftercare ends at 4:30pm, No After School Programs
March 7- Purim, NO SESSIONS Family Megillah Reading @ 10:00am
March 8- Shushan Purim, Costume and Carnival Day
March 12- Daylight Savings Time
March 14- 4th Grade Heritage Fair @ 6:00pm Pi Day Program
March 17- Begin Late Friday Dismissal- EC 2:05pm/ ES&MS 2:20pm
March 19- Parent Teacher Conferences ZOOM
March 23- Rosh Chodesh Nissan-Wear Blue and White
March 26- BPY Drama Club Performance

Mazal Tov / Mabrook

- Mason Rosenfeld on his Bar Mitzvah
- Morah Shuli on her daughter's wedding
- Morah Yani's being honored at her shul

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

RACHELI GOTHELF

Married to: Michael Gothelf
 Have 4 children: Gili (5), Neta (4), Rona (1), Ari (N)
 BA: in general history and history of the Jewish people
 MA: Business manager specializing in marketing and advertising



Why are you a teacher?

I was passionate about teaching and educating students since my days serving our beautiful country Israel at the IDF as a teacher, and this passion is still with me after 15 years of teaching. Educating the next generation, seeing their enthusiasm and excitement learning and studying especially in such a warm environment as BPY while sharing with the students my love of Israel is amazing.



What are your hobbies?

Reading books and studying, researching our Jewish history and tradition. I believe that our past and history is our guide and way of life in our present and the future. דע מאין באת ולאן אתה הולך.



The tuition assistance process for the 2023/2024 school year is now open. The deadline to apply is February 8, 2023. If you would like more information, please reach out to Shoshi Ryp, Director of Finance, at shoshir@benporatyosef.org or ex 1812.

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 or visit our website www.benporatyosef.org

**PARASHAT BESHALACH
MORAH SARAH BARTGES
MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL**

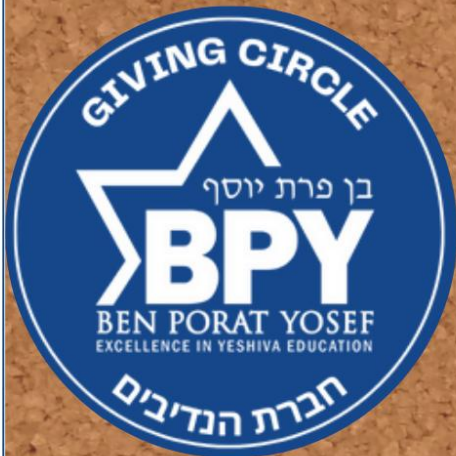
In dedication to my middle school students.....


In parashat BeShalach, we read about the Jews' exodus out of Egypt and the miracle of the splitting of the יַם סוּף. One of the pivotal moments in this week's Torah reading occurs when the Israelites are standing on the banks of the יַם סוּף with the Egyptian army rushing in behind them and a vast sea lying before them. At that moment, the Jews cry out in panic to Moshe, questioning HaShem's ability to lead them to safety. HaShem's response to Moshe upon Moshe's sharing of this hysteria is as follows - "Why do you cry out to Me? Speak to the children of Israel, that they should go forward" (14:15).

The prompting to move forward is a germane encouragement for those of who are lucky enough to work or live with middle school aged students. During this stage of development, the early adolescent is becoming slowly, or sometimes all too suddenly, aware of his/her individuality and the power that she/he has on influencing the world. At times, the realization of this power can be overpowering and even paralyzing. It is exhausting to suddenly have to be thinking 24/7 about what decisions to make and how those decisions will influence others. As such, it is not uncommon for early adolescents to be lured into just "following the herd", as this requires much less effort and induces less anxiety. In addition, it provides one with the handy "get out of jail free card" - if trouble arises, just blame your words/actions on the fact that you were just following what everyone else was doing.

When the Israelites were standing at the edge of the sea, it took one individual - Nachshon the son of Aminadav - to take the first step in the waters, while everyone else was paralyzed with terror. Nachshon's choice to move forward, demonstrated his trust in HaShem's words that moving forward into the waters was necessary. Although Nachson undoubtedly had fear and trepidation, he knew that a future of freedom could only come to fruition if the Jews were brave enough to take a step towards it, regardless of what the journey resulting from that step would look like. It is my fervent hope that all of the middle school students will experience a moment similar to Nachshon's, a moment where they are standing at a tipping point and make the choice to take a step - one that is guided by faith, bravery, and trust - towards positive change. And so, I urge the students, as they navigate this turbulence and trying time of their lives, to keep their heads up and their eyes open for their Yam Suf moment. And when such an opportunity arises, b"H they will have the courage to take a step forward and not backward, inspiring the rest of us to follow in their footsteps.

UPCOMING EVENTS




BPY
BOOK
CLUB

PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS,
AND FRIENDS

Feb 25th 2023 • 8:00 PM

Honor by Thrity Umrigar

Please Contact Leebie Mallin
Leebiemallin@gmail.com



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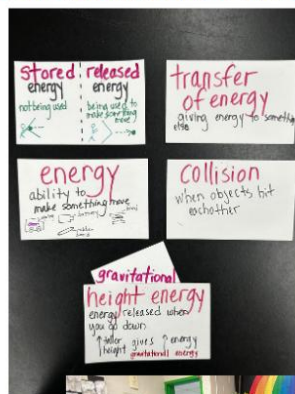
MAMA MIA! MORAH LORI'S KINDERGARDEN TRAVELS TO ITALY

The jet setting kids of Gan Keshet are at it again. This time we fastened our seatbelts and headed for Italy. Our first stop was Pisa. Imagine our surprise when we saw a tower that was leaning! How was this possible? Was it safe to go inside? Why would someone build a building like this? We set out to explore and learn all about this famous tower. We even tried our hand at solving math equations and adding on the corresponding number of blocks to design towers that were structurally sound despite leaning. Our next stop was to a famous culinary school where we learned how to make ricotta cheese and fresh pasta. Wow! they taste so different from the cheeses and pasta we are used to. Then we went to the vineyard, picked grapes and made our own grape juice the old fashioned way. We can't wait to explore more of Italy!



MORAH JEAN SCIENCE

4th Grade Engineering Challenge: Acme Amusement is looking for a new ride: combining bumper cars and roller coasters (who wouldn't love that?!), has 2 passengers that finish the ride in a cup at the end, is safe, and fun! 4th graders have been learning about energy and motion and put their knowledge to the test in design teams building bumper coasters on the wall. They will finish their challenge by explaining the science behind their ride on a team poster next week.



Be a Nachshon

ARI Z. GREENE, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

The פסוק says:

"ויאמר ה' אל־משה מה־תצעק אלי דבר אל־בני־ישראל ויסעו"

"HaShem said to Moshe, why are you crying out to me? Speak to Bnei Yisrael and travel."

What is HaShem's critique of Moshe? Moshe and the entire Bnei Yisrael are stuck between a rock and a hard place. Behind them is an angry mob of Egyptians consisting of the finest soldiers, horses and chariots chasing after them in order to prevent them from leaving Egypt. Before them is a sea without any means of transportation for crossing, also preventing complete escape from Egypt. There, amidst the chaos, is Moshe and Bnei Yisrael in a bit of a predicament. They are supposed to leave Egypt behind, but how? What else can they do at this point besides cry out towards HaShem for help! Does the situation not justify such a response?

Many commentators explain that HaShem was not critiquing that Moshe was davening to Him at such a dire time. Rather, HaShem's critique was regarding the moment in time in which he was davening. HaShem was telling Moshe not to despair so early, there is still room to try before giving up. Take those extra couple of steps into the Yam Suf to the point where you have exerted all of your physical and mental ability. Once you have done all that you can, then you may pray for help. This is how we can understand the פסוק.

"Why are you crying out towards me", at this moment? You still have room to try to exert more effort. **"Speak to Bnei Yisrael and travel"**, take those extra few steps and then ask for my help.

When faced with the Reed Sea in front of them and the Egyptians closing in , Bnai Yisrael were paralyzed with fear. God made a promise but it took a literal leap of faith for Nachshon Ben Aminadav to jump into the water, demonstrating his belief and as soon as he did so the waters parted. We too have many challenges. BPY is dedicated to meeting those challenges. Be a Nachshon. Please consider donating to our Annual Dinner.

Shabbat Shalom!

EVERY GIFT IS MEANINGFUL

EVERY GIFT STRENGTHENS

MOMMY AND ME

This week's Glow in the Dark Mommy & Me with Morah Jessica and Morah Faige was SPARKLING, DAZZLING, and BRILLIANT!!!! Our largest turn out ever, more than 25 moms/caregivers and babies, experienced a morning filled with singing, dancing, and glow in the dark fun. Thank you to everyone who joined us. We loved hosting our future BPY students and their friends. ☐☐



DEBATE TEAM

The BPY Debate team was so excited to participate in the second debate of the year. For this Debate Meet we competed against students from JKHA (Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy), Noam and Moriah. Thank you to JKHA for hosting the debate. Although our students are not yet in college, they were able to analyze the issue with such maturity and sophistication. Everyone did an amazing job addressing the pros and cons of whether the government should fund college for all Americans. In preparation for the meet, the students researched, wrote speeches, practiced presenting and worked on possible questions for their cross examinations. Mazal Tov and Mabrook to Atara Kagedan and Nikki Attar for winning 1st place team! Congratulations to Nikki for also placing 3rd place for individual speakers. We are so proud of the entire BPY team! We look forward to our next debate.



MORAH GINNY'S ART CORNER

In anticipation of Tu BeShvat, students recycled newspaper and other printed materials into collage trees in art class!



THE BEIT RACHEL SYNAGOGUE ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN

This synagogue is located in Astana, which is the capital city of Kazakhstan. Beit Rachel is the largest synagogue in Central Asia. It has become a symbol of tolerance in the region. In 2004, President Nursultan Mazarbayev, officially opened the synagogue. Funds were raised by the Jewish community, but the land was donated by the government. Much of the community is Ashkenazi. Many of the original settlers in Kazakhstan were Russian Army conscripts who came in the 17th century. At the time, there were no synagogues and services were held in private homes. Later, Jews fleeing the Holocaust settled in Kazakhstan (around 8,500). Many of the Jews in Kazakhstan have made Aliyah. Presently, there are around 3,300 Jews in Kazakhstan. In addition to the large synagogue, the building houses a community center, day school, food distribution center, elderly care and a summer camp. The reason for building such a large synagogue is to be a public symbol of how Jews and Muslims can get along well together.



PARASHAH CORNER WITH RAV ACOCA פינת הפרשה

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILDREN ON SHABBAT

Parashah Questions

1. What is the name of this week's Parashah?
2. Who sent Am Israel?
3. What happened after Pharaoh sent them?
4. What did Pharaoh do?
5. Where did Bnei Yisrael come to?
6. What did they do when they got there?
7. What did HaShem tell to Moshe to do?
8. What did HaShem tell Moshe to do after Bnei Yisrael were out of the sea?
9. What did Bnei Yisrael do when they saw the miracle that happened?
10. What was the bread that HaShem gave Bnei Yisrael from the sky?
11. Which nation attacked Bnei Yisrael? Who won the war?

Parashah Answers

1. Beshalach
2. Pharaoh
3. He regretted it
4. He ran after them
5. To Yam Suf
6. They turned to Moshe and were upset with him
7. He told him to lift his stick and split the sea
8. To lift his staff and make the water come down on the Egyptians
9. They sang a song with Moshe
10. Mon
11. Amalek, Bnei Yisrael



PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING AT
BEN PORAT YOSEF'S
ANNUAL DINNER
חברים כל ישראל
ALL OF ISRAEL ARE UNITED IN FRIENDSHIP

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023
יום חמישי אור לג' באדר תשפ"ג
7:00 PM • EDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB



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FEBRUARY 12, 2023

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