

# **DIVREI YOSEF**

דברי יוסף

Volume 22, Issue 21

Candle lighting: 5:15pm

כ"ו שׁבט תשפ"ג February 17th , 2023

# Havdalah: 6:16pm A HEARTFELT NOTE FROM RABBI ZUCKER

On February 23rd, the BPY Family will be getting together for dinner - that is, our annual Dinner Gala to celebrate the magic that is BPY. In truth, we have the opportunity to cheer on our precious students, our outstanding faculty, and our wonderful parents all year long - still, it is appropriate that we get together outside of school all together where we can share a great time, delicious food, fantastic conversation, some divrei Torah, and great company. If we stop for a moment to consider the times that we get together for dinners in the Jewish lifecycle, we may note occasions such as Shabbat, Yom Tov, a wedding, a brit, a pidyon ha-ben, a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, and a siyyum - all of which have one common theme - simchah, a time of joy. Our school dinner shares in that element. We take joy in the absolutely wonderful Family that is BPY. The strength, support, solidarity, and friendship that are the heart and soul of our Family are all a source of joy. The outstanding learning experiences that our students create and partake in are a source of joy. And the unparalleled achievements of our beloved yeshiva are all a source of joy. I cannot wait to share in all of these joyous aspects together with you. I look forward to seeing you - our cherished BPY family - as we celebrate together at this year's dinner, always going me-chayil el chayil, from strength to strength!

## IMPORTANT DATES

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

\*Transportation Forms Due

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 @ 9:15am

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

**GOOGLE MEET** 

#### Mazal Tov / Mabrook

- · Birth of Morah Naava's Son
- Birth of Morah Or's Daughter
- · Yael Cohen's Bat Mitzvah

#### Parnas HaYom: Learning Dedication

• Learning is dedicated by Lois & Rabbi Richard Bieler to commemorate the 30th Yahrzeit of Lois' father, Kalman Ben Meir HaCohen ע"ה, great grandfather of Dov (6), Nadav(2) and Gila (2) Oppenheim.

# TRANSPORTATION FORMS DUE MARCH 1ST

website www.benporatyosef.org

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

### PARASHAT MISHPATIM RABBI ZUCKER HEAD OF SCHOOL

This coming Shabbat, we will have the privilege of reading not only Parashat Mishpatim, but also Parashat Shekalim. The latter reading teaches us about the collection of coins from the members of Bnei Yisrael once a year during the time of the Holy Temple to pay for the communal Korbanot - sacrifices - in the Beit HaMikdash. The announcement about the payment was made at the beginning of Adar, so that the money would be collected that month, before Rosh Chodesh Nissan - the first month of the Jewish calendar because of the fact that it contains the first holiday in it - Pesach.

Parashat Shekalim begins a series of four parshiyot - Shekalim, Zachor, Parah, and HaChodesh. Parashat Zachor, which speaks about Amalek, is read before Purim, as Haman was from the people of Amalek. Parah, which speaks about ritual purity, is read in anticipation of Pesach, since the pilgrimage to the Beit HaMikdash for Pesach requires purity. And HaChodesh, which deals with Pesach itself, is read just before the month of Nissan, in which Pesach occurs.

In looking at this series, we may observe that Shekalim, Parah, and HaChodesh all relate to Pesach. But what is Zachor - which relates to Purim - doing in there? Our Sages explain that in a leap year, that has two months of Adar - Adar 1 and Adar 2, Purim is to be observed specifically in the second Adar, not the first Adar, because Purim must be connected to Pesach - to highlight one redemption with the other redemption. So, in truth, all four Parshiyot do indeed relate to Pesach.

Why do we begin our anticipation of Pesach so many weeks before the actual holiday? I think the reason is that Pesach celebrates the Gilui Shechinah - the revelation of the Divine Presence of HaShem - in His redemption of Bnei Yisrael. And when we experience a Divine Revelation, we cannot just "walk into it;" rather, we have to prepare ourselves appropriately for it.

This is a lesson we live every day at BPY. Our whole lives are really a striving for the experience of our relationship with HaShem - and we cannot just "walk into that;" and so we prepare ourselves, with the beautiful lessons of Torah that we experience and share every day. Shabbat Shalom and Chodesh Tov ahead!



PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING AT

# ANNUAL DINNER חברים כל ישראל

ALL OF ISRAEL ARE UNITED IN FRIENDSHIP



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023 יום חמישי אור לגי באדר תשפ"ג

7:00 PM • EDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB



TO RSVP OR DONATE VISIT WWW.BPYDINNER.ORG OR SCAN THE QR CODE

KINDLY RESPOND BY **FEBRUARY 12, 2023** 

### HONORING



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# THERE ARE NO SMALL MITZVOT

## ARI Z. GREENE, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

This week's Parashah, Parashat Mishpatim, discusses many laws. We learn about how to treat a Jewish servant, how to treat a widow and an orphan, how you're allowed to defend yourself against a thief etc. Mishpatim is the Parashah following Yitro and one of the pinnacle moments for Bnei Yisrael. After the plagues, miracles, and Matan Torah, all of the sudden the drama stops and all we talk about is mundane laws. It's a bit underwhelming, isn't it?

While it may seem comparatively underwhelming, it's needed, and indeed Mishpatim is the necessary next step after Yitro. We were just given the Torah, so what should we do next? We should start learning from it! Just because we aren't getting inspired by the excitement of the miracles of the plagues, the splitting of the sea, and Matan Torah in this Parashah, that doesn't mean we should drop our inspiration to learn all these laws and mitzvot. The past few Parshiot have built up Bnei Yisrael's passion for HaShem, and now Mishpatim is giving them their first chance of exercising that passion and inspiration for HaShem's laws and mitzvot. We can't just go throw ourselves into doing mitzvot if we aren't inspired. For example before you say Tefillah, you're supposed to get yourself into the right mindset so that your Tefillah is proper.

HaShem knows we need inspiration and passion to trigger us to do mitvot. All the more so, HaShem's will is that we do mitvot when we are inspired. BPY inspires, challenges and engages your children on a daily basis. We all look for the big, flashy moments; but educating our children takes place every day, hour after hour building on the basics to reach that big moment. Help continue this daily effort by making a donation to our Annual Dinner to support our Giving Circle.

**EVERY GIFT IS MEANINGFUL** 

**EVERY GIFT STRENGTHENS** 

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**





AND FRIENDS

Honor by Thrity Umrigar

Please Contact Leebie Mallin Leebiemallinegmail.com

## **MEGA** food DRIVE

Jewish Federation's March Mega Food Drive will distribute 25,000 LBS OF FOOD

**FEDERATION FIGHTS HUNGER! MARCH 1 - 31** 

#### REGISTER TO COLLECT FOOD

Blue Bag Challenge • Scavenger Hunt • Set Up A Food Collection Return all collected food to Jewish Federation by the end of March.

#### **DONATE OR SPONSOR TODAY**

Mitzvah Maker • Mitzvah Shaker • Sponsor Donate By Check • Donate Online • jfnnj.org/Donate

#### SHOP ONLINE NOW

Federation's Grocery List • jfnnj.org/Grocery-List Shoprite Gift Card • https://bit.ly/3tWA8KW

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#### JFNNJ.org/FIGHTHUNGER







ara Nadler, Director, Volunteer Center 201.820.3947

FEBRUARY 27 VS HE'ATID, 6:30PM MARCH 1 @ MORIAH, 6:00PM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15 VS WTA, 5:30PM MONDAY, MARCH 20 @ NOAM, 7:00PM MARCH 29 @ SSBS, 5:30PM THURSDAY, APRIL 20 VS RAMAZ, 6:15PM THURSDAY, APRIL 27 VS YAVNEH, 6:15PM



RABBI HAYYIM ANGEL

BEN PORAT YOSEF esday, February 28th

JOIN OUR MONTHLY TANAKH ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM FEATURING

HAFTARAT ZAKHOR: SHEMUEL ALEPH CHAPTER 15

JOIN US ON ZOOM, HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/5413950938

# GIRLS SOCCER SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 26 @ NOAM 2:30 PM
FEBRUARY 28 VS MORIAH 5:15 PM
MARCH 20 VS YAVNEH 5:30 PM
APRIL 20 @ HILLEL 7:00 PM
APRIL 23 @ KUSHNER 10:00 AM
MAY 4 VS SSBS 5:00 PM
MAY 7 VS HE'ATID 5:00 PM
(@BBY BUT WE ARE THE AWAY TEAM)





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# **GAN CHAVERIM PREPARES FOR PURIM!**

In Gan Chaverim, we have been busy getting ready for Purim by transforming our classroom into King Ahashverosh's castle. The children looked at pictures of castles and noticed that many were made of stone and had drawbridges near their entrances. We painted castle walls and created paper chains to attach to a drawbridge. When the children walked into our classroom on Wednesday, it was no longer a kindergarten classroom. We all felt as if we were in a beautiful palace with tables filled with delicious delicacies to eat! Our room was filled with Princesses and Princes eating and drinking to their heart's content.













## **5TH GRADE MINI MISHMAR**

5th grade enjoyed their latest Mishmar of the year! We decided to end our mishmar learning with Tzedakah in order to reinforce the idea of giving to others, and because of the connection to the upcoming holiday of Purim and the mitzvah, מתנות לאביונים (Tzedakah for the poor). The students started off their mishmar with praying Minchah in the Bet Midrash. After Tefillah, the students were divided into 8 groups to represent Rambam's 8 levels of the mitzvah of Tzedakah. Each group received one level, discussing it's importance and the different ways in which the mitzvah can be done. A representative of each group then explained their mitzvah to the other students, in Hebrew. The groups then had to order all 8 of the levels of giving, from lowest to highest according to the importance of doing the mitzvah. For example, giving tzedakah before being asked is a greater mitzvah than waiting to be asked. Each student painted his or her own wooden Tzedakah box to continue the mitzvah at home (and to include family too)! We capped off the mishmar with a delicious meal. Yum:)







### 8TH GRADE SHABBATON BY: ANNIE MILLER

This past weekend, the 8th Grade had their simchah- and ruach-filled Shabbaton. Eighth Graders gathered at Congregation Ahavath Torah, participating in both the Asheknazi and Sephardi minyanim over the course of Shabbat, in true BPY fashion, continuing to experience different ways of praying. In addition, the eighth graders had loads of fun singing together with spirit and kavanah. Our amazing BPY faculty helped greatly in enhancing the experience, involving fun as well as meaning this past Shabbat. Teachers along with the 8th Grade Student Council Representatives, provided the students with engaging programs to keep them occupied throughout the day, such as Human Apples to Apples, a game of Pim Pam Pom, and a Q&A with our wonderful Judaic studies faculty. The Shabbaton reminded the 8th Graders to cherish the short amount of time they have left at BPY with their close-knit grade. Many even said they felt closer to their classmates after Shabbat, adding that it was an important and enjoyable bonding experience. There truly is no family like BPY!

















# SHARSHERET PINK DAY

This past Wednesday, we marked Sharsheret Pink Day at BPY. The Middle School students and teachers came to school dressed in pink, in order to show support and raise awareness for those affected by Breast Cancer and Ovarian Cancer. After saying a special chapter of Tehillim in Tefillah, our students learned about the organization of Sharsheret and the amazing work they do in the Jewish Community. During snack break, lunch and recess, our 6th Grade students sold all sorts of pink treats that they had prepared in advance. They devoted their time, energy and resources to take an active role in this special day of chessed. The 6th Graders really did a wonderful job, and came up with incredibly creative ideas for the sale. As a school we raised \$600 to be donated to Sharsheret, Kol HaKavod BPY MS!













# The Magen Abraham Synagogue - al-Milama'l-kabira ("the Great Synagogue")Aden, Yemen

In 1835 Aden, Yemen had a population of 800, including 250 Jews. The British occupation of Aden in 1839 encouraged more immigrants to come. By 1872 the Jewish population increased to 2,000 and by 1916 there were 3,700 Jews. Many of the immigrants came from the Yemen port of Mukka because of the oppressive Imam of Yemen. By the early 20th century, the Jewish Quarter included 4 streets. Everything the Jews needed were on those four streets. There were 10 synagogues in Aden. The Magen Abraham Synagogue was the largest and most magnificent. The floors were made of marble and alabaster and the windows were beautiful stained glass windows. Even the bimah was made of marble. It could seat 1,000 people. On Shabbat, there were no cars on the streets or open stores. Attached to the synagogue was a Beit Midrash, Hebrew printing press, and mikvah. In 1947 there were Arab riots and many of the synagogues were destroyed. After the Six Day War, many of the Jews left Yemen. The Great Synagogue was later destroyed in 1994 during the Yemen Civil War.









## 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. How long did the servant have to work?
- 3. When did the servant go free?
- 4. How did they treat the servants?
- 5. How do you have to treat every person?
- 6. What are the three holidays the Torah speaks about?
- 7. What did Bnai Yisrael do during these holidays at the time of the Bet HaMikdash?
- 8. What do we celebrate on Pesach?
- 9. What do we celebrate on Shavuot?
- 10. What do we celebrate on Sukkot?

#### **Parashah Answers**

desert protected us in the 9. That HaShem lorah 8. The giving of the us out of Egypt 7. That HaShem took Yerushalayim 6. They would go to SUKKOT 5. Pesach, Shavuot and their own families! 4. Like members of 3. On the seventh year 2. Six years T. MIShpatim

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