

Cincinnati Hebrew Day School
Samuel and Rachel Boymel Campus
Newsletter
Friday, 29 Tevet ~ 5770 January 15, 2010

PARSHAS: Va’era

Winter break begins Friday, January 22, returning to school Monday, February 1. School ends regular time on Thursday, January 21.

Picture Retake Day is scheduled for February 3rd. Anyone wanting a retake should send their picture package to the office. All class photos will also be retaken.

Friday Night Candle Lighting 5:19 p.m.

Havdala 6:22 p.m.

Dear Parents and Friends:

קשה ומעבדה רוח מקצר משה אל שמעו ולא ישראל בני אל כן משה וידבר

“So Moses spoke accordingly to the Children of Israel; but they did not heed Moses, because of shortness of breath and hard work.” (Exodus 6:9)

In this week's portion, G-d responded to Moses' complaint (see end of last week's Torah portion) about his G-d-given mission. Rather than improving the Jewish people's lot, Moses asserted that his efforts made things worse. G-d initially chastised Moses for his diminished faith and proceeded to instruct him on what he should say to reassure the Jewish people about their impending redemption from slavery. Though Moses carries out his new assignment, the enslaved Jews were unable to accept the good tidings "because of shortness of breath and hard work."

The author of Yaaros Devash, Rabbi Yonason Eybeschutz, is puzzled by the reason given for the Jewish people's inability to accept Moses' reassurance. Shouldn't their distress and hard work be cause for them to grasp at straws and believe in any chance for redemption? He explains however that the reason they were unable to accept G-d's message of reassurance is because they believed that someone who was not personally enslaved could not properly serve as their representative. Moses, a member of the tribe of Levi – a tribe that was not part of Pharaoh's decree – was therefore unsuited for the position.

Why would Pharaoh leave one tribe free to do as they pleased, while subjecting the rest of the nation to harsh slavery?

The answer offers a profound insight into human psychology. Pharaoh did not subjugate the tribe of Levi, because his astrologers told him that the Jewish savior would come from that tribe. He allowed the Levites to remain free so that they would not feel the pain of the other Jews, and thus feel the urgency to release them from their bondage.

King Solomon said that “The protector of the fig tree shall eat its fruit” (Proverbs 27:18). In this verse, he conveyed that only the one who invests enormous efforts into a fig tree – watching it, weeding it, watering it, and tending to it – will truly reap the reward of eating its fruit. Anyone else who eats the fruit will not share that experience, because he never invested any effort into its development. With this in mind, Pharaoh diabolically kept the tribe of Levi free from enslavement so that they would not come to the Jews' rescue.

So how was Moses indeed able to advocate for the Jewish slaves? Our Sages tell us that while he was still a prince in the royal palace, long before he was asked by G-d to serve as the emissary of the Jews, Moses felt his brothers' pain. When he came out of the palace and saw the Jews toiling under their merciless taskmasters, he would throw off his royal cloak, put his shoulder under the load, and assist his brothers with their burden. This bit of knowledge was unknown to the Jews and was the cause of their lack of confidence in Moses to serve as their representative to Pharaoh.

After World War II, countless refugees wandered around aimlessly in various Displaced Persons camps, their lives shattered by the horror they experienced and from the suffering they endured. There was one man to whom people flocked for solace – a man who was able to give hope to thousands of seemingly

inconsolable people. That man, Rabbi Yekusiel Yehudah Halberstam, the founding Rebbe of the Sanz-Klausenberger chasidic dynasty, had suffered together with his brethren. (His own wife and eleven children were murdered by the Nazis while incarcerated in several concentration camps.) He felt their pain and was able to uplift their spirits. Like Moses, he shouldered the burdens of his people.

While it might not seem obvious, we all play a leadership role – whether as a parent, teacher, community member or sibling. The message we learn from the Jewish people’s underestimation of Moses’ sensitivity should serve as a reminder for us that the key to successful leadership is feeling not only the joy of others, but also sharing in their pain. If we open ourselves up to another’s distress, we will be able to lead them to a better place.

D’var Torah by Rabbi Burnham, printed with permission by Partners in Torah’s Parsha Partner.

<http://www.partnersintorah.org/media/publications/parsha-partner>

School News

EdChoice Registration and Renewal Next week you will be receiving information on EdChoice registration and renewal instructions. Please read this packet carefully and return it to school attention of Mrs. Shapiro as soon as possible. If you know of any child that will be entering Kindergarten in the fall and might be eligible for an EdChoice scholarship please have them call Mrs. Shapiro as soon as possible.

Torah Fair Update- tri-fold boards are available to take home from the office. Please send in \$3.00 with your child to Ms. Burns to cover the cost. Please do not buy your own privately since we would like all the boards to be the same size and color.

The BTMS Annual BINGO night was an incredible success! Thanks to all of the RITSS students and CHDS girls (too many to mention by name) who volunteered precious time and energy and to the following community members, each with his or her own contributions to our success:

Raffi Zuroff, Meira Spitz, Susan Shapiro, Kayla Berger, Rochelle Moskowitz, Heidi Ward, Anne Wise, Cricket Schwartzberg, Rabbi Dovid Bidnick, Feige Rosedale, Karen Lavenda, Atara Robinson, Aviva Minster, Galit Benzaquen, Perle Spitz, Yehudis Klafter, Nofit Haddad, Ahuva & Nosson Goldman, Koby & Rachel Bernstein. We appreciate the generosity of our sponsors: Gail & Steve Arnow, Arna & Bobby Fisher, Yehudis & Nachum Klafter, Kroger Blue Ash, Chaya & Aaron Kibel, Nomi & Rabbi Pinchas Landis, Mayerson JCC, Rochelle & Billy Moskowitz, Beatrice & Steve Rosedale, Faigie & Yitzchok Rosedale, Dr Ronna & Ben Schneider, Tamar & Elliot Smith, Perle & Greg Spitz, Paula & Dr. Michael Weinberg, Dina & Ronnie Wilhelm. Special thanks to Tamar Smith for all the pre-date preparation, event marketing, and overall organizational prowess!

Chumash Mesiba - The community is invited to the Chumash Mesiba for our 1st graders, Sunday, February 14th, 10:00 a.m. at CHDS. Mazel Tov!

What’s New In The Classroom?

This week in Mrs. Motzen’s Beur Tefilah class, the 6th-8th grade girls are exploring the 5th and 6th Brachos of Shemonah Esrei. They have been analyzing the specific wording chosen by the Chachomim as well as writing personal journals on the topics of repentance and forgiveness. The girls especially enjoyed a role-playing activity which demonstrated "getting close to Hashem".

In Rabbi Lifshitz’s class the 6th grade girls learned in Navi about the battle against Amalek and the failure to destroy Agag and the cattle. The lesson learned is that obeying Hashem is greater than rationalizing and bringing Korbanos. The 7th-8th grade girls have designed posters, which can be seen around the school, depicting the Mitzvah of Lo Sa’amod Al Dam Rai’echa - do not stand by idly while your fellow's life is in danger.

In Rabbi Scherer’s Navi class, the 6th and 7th grade boys learned of the crowning of the fist King of Klal Yisroel, Shaul Hamelech. Unfortunately though, there were those who doubted his credentials and

therefore Shaul did not yet assume the role of King. In Gemara shiur, the 7th grade boys have "plowed through" another Blatt covering all aspects of Havdala. Some examples include: what is needed for the flame and what is the correct way to end the bracha of havdala.

This week in Navi with Mrs. Schwartzbaum, the 7th and 8th grade girls completed the seventh perek in Shmuel Beis, when Dovid was denied permission to build the Beis HaMikdash. Hashem comforts him that this will be done through his son, Shlomo. And Dovid, a true leader, accepts that and says a beautiful Tefillah to Hashem.

Mazel Tov to the 8th grade girls! This week in Chumash with Mrs. Schwartzbaum, they had a siyum on Parshas Devarim. The girls came up with very creative games to review and test their knowledge of the parsha. They then moved on to Parshas Ve'Eschanan, when Moshe begged to be let into Eretz Yisrael, but was told that Yehoshua would lead the people instead. In Ivrit with Mrs. Schwartzbaum, the 6th grade girls learned "Motza Otiot"--how the letters are pronounced and how that affects other grammar rules. The 7th grade girls moved on to binyan Nifal, learning the difference between active and passive verbs. The 8th grade girls put together a large dictionary of words with which they are already familiar in order to create sentences using prefixes (ask them what Moshe v'Kaleiv stands for). The 6th and 8th grade girls have completed projects for Yedios Klalios. They are on, and in front of, the bulletin board across from the Teacher's Lounge. Come see them!

In Mr. Taplit's math class the 6th graders are covering simple interest problems, absolute value, percent change of a number, and finding the new price given % discount or increase. In the 7th grade they are covering compound inequalities and word problems involving inequalities. In the 8th grade they are covering the angles of a triangle, exterior and remote interior angles of a triangle, negative, conditional, inverse and biconditional statements.

Mrs. DeBow's 7th and 8th grade Social Studies class remade uniforms of soldiers from the Revolutionary War. Many of the soldiers in the Revolutionary War were dressed poorly for battle. British soldiers wore bright red uniforms that were easy to see from a distance. American soldiers had very little supplies and wore outfits that were unfit for the cold, winter weather. Check out the 7th and 8th graders' remakes of these soldiers' uniforms on the bulletin board next to room 7.

Mr. Meadows' 8th Grade Algebra students are writing linear equations in the point--slope form and in the slope -intercept form when given two points on the line. They are also learning to write equations for parallel and perpendicular lines. The 7th Grade Pre Algebra students are studying ratios, unit rates, proportions, scale drawings, and probability. The 6th Grade math students are solving equations with fractions and changing units in the customary system of measurement.

This week in Mrs. Polsky's English class, the sixth graders are working on formatting friendly letters. They've learned the components: heading, greeting, body, closing, and signature. They are also studying unit nine in vocabulary. The seventh and eighth graders are coming close to the end of the novel, Where the Red Fern Grows. They have completed study guides that go along with this unit and will take a test on this book as well. They are also studying unit nine this week.

There are always exciting things happening in science! The 5th graders just finished studying the digestive system, respiratory system and circulatory system. Each boy made a travel brochure about traveling through their system. They were all very creative and interesting! They are currently finishing a unit on thermal energy. 6th grade has just finished learning about volcanoes and earthquakes and now have an understanding of what happened in Haiti this past week. After Winter Break, they will begin a new unit on weather! Seventh and Eighth graders are wrapping up their study of chemistry by playing with some great chemicals. After Winter Break, they will be turning our attention to physics starting with a fun unit on light and sound. They have also each completed a newspaper page about a famous Jewish scientist and a historical event that happened during their life. Stop by to see the display!

School Minyan- Once again, CHDS is attempting to have a Mincha minyan for our 6th-8th grade students at 3:50 p.m. Monday through Thursday. In order to make this happen, we need the commitment of several men in the community. If you are interested, and can commit to certain days, please call Rabbi Kernerman, or email him at ykernerman@yahoo.com.

RAFFLE 5770-THIS MOTZEI SHABBOS! *January 16 at 8:30 p.m. @ CHDS Bid on an array of incredible prizes at a silent & live auction. Delicious Melava Malka food catered by Kinneret Café. Adults only, \$5/person.*

**IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO SELL/BUY TICKETS!-
PURCHASES CAN BE MADE AT THE RAFFLE
DINNER UNTIL 9:15 PM.**

**THANK SO MUCH FOR YOUR HARD WORK. WE WILL HAVE A FULL WRAP-UP
AND INDIVIDUAL THANK YOUS IN NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER.**

SHABBOS ACTIVITIES

Pirchei this Shabbos, Parshas Vaaira is for group 2 grades 3-5 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Rabbi Cobi Robinson's next shiur is entitled "The Four Mothers and the Forefathers: The Impact of the Imahos on Jewish History". It is scheduled for Shabbos day, January 16, at the home of Tamar Smith, at 3:30 p.m.

There will be no Bnos for the next few weeks. Bnos will resume on February 6th.

The **WOMEN'S HALACHA CLASS** with Rabbi Cobi Robinson will take place this Sunday (January 17) 8:00 p.m. at the Kollel (2245 Losantiville). Topic: "Electricity on Shabbos".

Parsha with Paula Weinberg at the Weinberg's at 4:45-5:15 this Shabbos until further notice. Next week from 4:00- 5:00 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

Relief For Earthquake Victims In Haiti- The Jewish Federations of North America is partnering with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) to provide aid and relief to victims of the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on Tuesday. If you are interested in donating funds to help this cause, visit www.jdc.org/donation/donate.aspx and click on the "Haiti Earthquake Relief" option. Additionally, Agudath Israel has also indicated the following charity as a distributor for aid: **American Red Cross National Headquarters**, 2025 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20006, www.Redcross.org.

Box Tops – check the Meijer ad and look at the items that indicate that by buying and 10 items listed in the ad and you will receive an extra 70 bonus box tops. Check it out!

Ladies, it's that time of year again, it's time to join the Mikveh Society for packing the annual Purim baskets! The first round of packing will be on January 17th at 10:00 a.m. in the CZE social hall and then again that night at Marilyn Horwitz's house from 8:00-10:00 p.m. If you have any question please call Rochelle Moskowitz at 531-3705. More packing times to follow. Thanks in advance for your participation!

Chaya's Playgroup The famous Morah Chaya's playgroup is taking reservations for this coming fall!! Filled with a fun and loving atmosphere, with hands on projects, group play, circle and exercise time in a spacious and friendly location! Age: Around 2 yrs old. Contact: 531-7738. Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Call Morah Chaya for more details and to reserve your spot.

Leila Kibel is selling children's shabbos and weekday clothing by catalogue order. All girls' clothing are tznius. To view the catalogue, please contact Leila at 351-0137.

Flute Lessons - If anyone knows beginning flute and would be willing to give my 11 year old son a few lessons (we will pay you), please call or contact me. He would prefer to start off, just getting the fingering and blowing basics with someone in the community, and then we'll decide what to do. Thanks, Miriam Karp 351-8246

Rabbi Eli Glaser, director of Soveya, will be speaking in Cincinnati on Monday evening, February 1, at CZE Synagogue, at 8:00 p.m. The talk is entitled “A Rabbi's Journey from Fat to Fit – Maintaining a 110-pound Weight Loss in the Face of Chulent, Kishka and Kugel”. Men and women are invited. There is no charge.

Updated Cholim List- The updated cholim list for Shevat is attached to this week's newsletter. If you would like to receive the list via e-mail, please e-mail your request to gjstat@juno.com.

THE CANDY CORNER: Beautiful platters and assorted bulk candies. Get all of your candy needs! Wide selection available. To place an order, please call Miriam Ottensoser@ 631-0636. A project of **BTMS**

SARAH'S PLACE UPDATE -- Thank you to all the very generous donors of new and gently used clothing. The Gemach is chock full of tsnusdik ladies', girls' and children's clothes. We also have brand new bed sheets, shoes and coats. Due to the large influx of new items, Sarah's Place will NOT be accepting any more donations at this time. We are now holding our yearly CLEARANCE SALE with the ENTIRE STORE at over 50% off! Our ultra-low prices easily beat out Snooty Fox, Once Upon a Child, and any thrift store you can find. We will not be undersold! Make an appointment today by calling Shifra Motzen 924-0538, Leah Politzer 337-5676, or Ruth Henn 731-3495. All proceeds benefit RITSS High School. If you are interested in working for this very worthy cause please call Shifra Motzen.

Take advantage of the BTMS mishloach manos "early bird" prices before Monday January 18th! Last day to submit all orders is Monday, January 25th. Please help support the mikveh with this important fundraiser. For any questions - call Aviva Minster @ 531-8966

Reminder: Register for "Girls Getting Stronger," *no later than January 21st*. Go to www.venus4her.com or call Elyse at 513-368-9319. Indicate your preference for day. (This is an after school health and fitness program that will be offered at CHDS. 50% of the registration fee will be donated back to the school).

Ride from the airport: Shiraz is looking to be picked up from the airport January 29th at approximately 1:30 returning home.

Mazel Tov to: Rabbi and Mrs. Karp, on the birth of a granddaughter to their children, Rabbi Levi and Devorah Leah Fuss.

On behalf of the staff, Shabbat Shalom – Gut Shabbos,

Rabbi Yuval Kernerman, Principal

Mrs. Susan Shapiro, Director of Curriculum