

# Connections



A Project of the Shluchim Office

PARSHAS BESHALACH  
YUD ALEF SHEVAT 5765

Connecting Tzeirei Hashluchim around the World!

VOLUME 1  
ISSUE 16



## PARSHAS BESHALACH

Long ago, in the days of the *Maharal*, the children of the city of Prague looked forward eagerly to *Shabbos Parshas Beshalach*. Even the cold European winter could not keep them home on this *Shabbos*.

"Come on," Aaron urged his little brother Eliezer, pulling him gently by the hand. "We don't want to be late." Bundled in their warm sheepskin coats, the two boys hurried down the narrow cobblestone streets of the Jewish quarter of Prague.

"There's Pinchas with his father," Aaron said as he spotted his friend up ahead. "Let's catch up to them and we'll go together."

From every corner children, parents and teachers were making their way to the central *shul* where the great Jewish leader and Rabbi, the *Maharal* of Prague, had instructed them to gather on the roof of the *shul*. There the teachers would tell the children the story of *Krias Yam Suf*, the splitting of the Red Sea.

"Even the birds chirped and fluttered their wings when the Jewish people sang '*Az yashir*,'" the teachers would describe enthusiastically. "And the little children picked the buds off the sea plants and fed them to the chirping birds."

After the story was told, the teachers, following the *Maharal's* instructions, gave the children *kasha* grains which they tossed to the birds and the hens below. "Just like the children fed the birds at *Krias Yam Suf*," the children of Prague called out with delight.

Then a hush swept over the roof of the *shul*. Everyone turned toward the beloved leader of Prague. The *Maharal* himself had joined them, and now he blessed the children and wished their parents much *nachas*. "May you merit to bring your children to *Torah*, *chuppah*, and *ma'asim tovim*," the *Maharal* said.

This was the *minhag* that the *Maharal* encouraged in ancient Prague.

Are you wondering why the *Maharal* insisted that the children follow this *minhag*, and why he himself took the time to participate? The *Maharal* was a brilliant *Talmud Chacham* who taught and wrote very deep explanations of the *Torah*.

This practice on *Shabbos Shirah* taught the people a *Torah* lesson, but the lesson was not about how to keep *mitzvos*. After all, it only recalled a story in the *Midrash*. The story wasn't even about people, but about birds. And the day was *Shabbos*, when a Jew should strive to be involved only in holiness. Still, the *Maharal* gave some of his precious time to the little children. The reason was that he wanted to stress to them how important it is to follow our *minhagim* and to be happy about keeping them.

*(Please tell me what the Rebbe said', adapted from Sikkutei Sichos, Vol. JJ)*

### Chinuch Yaldei Hashluchim

- Rabbi M. Shemtov
- Rivky Lokshin
- Dabrushy Pink
- Aydla Vechter



**If you take away 10 of me,  
you will have something special for Shabbos.  
(If you unscramble me)**

\_\_\_\_\_

### Connections Proof-Readers: Va'ad Hashluchim:

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Rabbi A. Lipsey  | Rabbi Y. Deren     |
| Mrs. G. Junik    | Rabbi O. Goldman   |
| Rabbi L. Zirkind | Rabbi Y. Greenberg |
|                  | Rabbi B. Levertov  |
|                  | Rabbi Y. Shemtov   |

Please send your answers to [connectionseshluchim.org](http://connectionseshluchim.org)

Last weeks' brain buster: Which 3 people's grandfather and great-grandfather was the same person?

Answer: Moshe, Aharon & Miriam.

Congratulations to Mendy Schapiro, from Sydney, Australia, for solving the brain buster.



## FROM THE DESK OF... **DR. GETZEL**

HEY KIDS,

GO OUTSIDE AND LOOK AT A TREE. (IF YOU ARE IN MONTREAL, RUSSIA, OR SWEDEN, AND THE TREES ARE ALL COVERED WITH SNOW, JUST IMAGINE A TREE.) FEEL THE BUMPY BROWN BARK, THE SOFT LEAVES, AND THE STRONG BRANCHES. CAN YOU PEEK UNDER THE GRASS AND FIND THE ROOTS? BECAUSE ALL YOU KIDS COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, YOU WILL FIND MANY SORTS OF TREES WITH DIFFERENT KINDS OF BARKS AND ROOTS. **LOOK** VERY CLOSELY. YOU WILL **SEE** THE BEAUTIFUL WORLD HASHEM CREATED AND HOW WONDERFUL EACH TREE IS. DRAW A PICTURE OF YOUR TREE AND GIVE IT A NAME. ON TES-VOV SHEVAT (TUESDAY), WE CELEBRATE A NEW YEAR FOR TREES AND FOR ALL GROWING THINGS.

THEN, **LOOK AGAIN** AT THE TREE YOU FOUND, DREW, AND NAMED. WHAT ELSE DO YOU SEE? THIS IS A TRICKY ONE. I'LL TELL YOU. BUT BEFORE I DO, I WANT YOU TO ADD EYES, NOSE, AND MOUTH TO YOUR TREE DRAWING. NOW, WHAT DOES THE PICTURE LOOK LIKE? A TREE-MAN OR MAN-TREE? THIS IS A VERY GOOD PICTURE. TREES AND PEOPLE ARE VERY SIMILAR. BOTH OF US GROW FROM SOMETHING SMALL TO SOMETHING VERY BIG. A NEW BABY IS LIKE A SEED THAT HAS JUST BEEN PLANTED. IF THE SEED GETS A LOT OF SUN, AND WATER (RAIN) IT WILL GROW QUICKLY AND WILL BE A BEAUTIFUL TREE. IF, HOWEVER, THE LITTLE SEED IS NEGLECTED AND DOESN'T GET WATER AND SUN, IT WILL STAY WEAK AND SAD.

YOU JUNIOR SHLUCHIM ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE MINI-TREES, AND ONE DAY YOU WILL BE MAGNIFICENT TALL TREES, SHLUCHIM, GIVING SHADE AND FRUIT TO THE WORLD. BUT IN ORDER TO BECOME THE TALLEST AND STRONGEST TREE ON THE BLOCK, YOU KIDS HAVE TO GIVE YOURSELVES RAIN AND SUN. RAIN COMES FROM LEARNING A LOT OF TORAH AND CHASSIDUS AND THE WARMTH OF THE SUN FROM SURROUNDING YOURSELF WITH ONLY JEWISH TAPES, BOOKS, AND GAMES. THEN YOU WILL ONE DAY BE A REALLY MAGNIFICENT TREE WITH STRONG BRANCHES AND DELICIOUS FRUIT.

DURING THIS WEEK **LOOK** AT THE TREES AGAIN AND AGAIN. THAT'S MY JOB; I'M THE FAMOUS DR. GETZEL WHO TEACHES HOW TO SEE AND HAS AN OFFICE IN IOWA WITH A GREEN ROOF AND WOODEN DOOR. PLEASE SEND ME THE PICTURES OF YOUR TREES, BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE TREES THEY HAVE IN ALASKA, OMAHA, AND OKLAHOMA. ENJOY THE TREES, LOOK AT THEM VERY CLOSELY AND SEE THEIR SECRETS, AND I'LL BE BACK NEXT WEEK.

SEE YA',  
DR. GETZEL



## FROM THE CONNECTIONS INBOX

We got a beautiful e-mail last week from a Shlucha in Hong Kong, China about the first conference call/rally, for Yud-Tes Kislev and we want to share it with you.

### A Yud Tes Kislev Dilemma

Chanie Avtzon, age 8  
Hong Kong, China

*It was the day I heard about the Worldwide Kids Yud Tes Kislev Farbrengen. I was so excited about the Farbrengen because it was the first time that I was going to be part of something like that. Until... I heard that my class was going on a field-trip to go bowling - It was something we had worked towards for a long time. OY VEY!! It was scheduled for the same day and right smack in middle of the Farbrengen.*

*It was a big dilemma for me. I got to school early that day and tried to explain to my teacher about the Farbrengen and how it was scheduled at the same time as our class trip. "Sorry," she said, "the busses have already been arranged so its too late to make any changes."*

*So I had a decision to make. I chose to join the Farbrengen. Boy am I glad that I did. It was really exciting to dial the number and get on the conference call. I had never done that before. (Please remember to press 6, next time) I had a great time and I felt super important to be a shlucha of our Rebbe.*

THANKS FOR THAT BEAUTIFUL ARTICLE CHANIE!  
IF ANY OF YOU YALDEI HASHLUCHIM WORLDWIDE HAVE THOUGHTS ABOUT THE YUD SHEVAT FARBRENGEN OR EVEN A SHORT PARAGRAPH ABOUT YOUR SHLICHUS, PLEASE E-MAIL IT TO US AT [CONNECTIONS@SHLUCHIM.ORG](mailto:CONNECTIONS@SHLUCHIM.ORG) WITH YOUR NAME, DATE AND LOCATION AND WE WILL INCLUDE IT IN A FUTURE EDITION OF "CONNECTIONS".





## POCKET CALENDAR

### י"ג שבט

The יארצייט of Rebbetzin Rivka, the wife of the Rebbe Maharash in the year תרע"ד/1914. She is buried in the town of Lubavitch.



The יארצייט of the רבי פריערדיקער in the year תש"י/1950.

The Rebbe accepted the נשיאות in the year תשי"א/1951 and said the מאמר of באתי לגני.



### י"ג שבט

The יארצייט of Rebbetzin Shterna Sarah, the wife of the Rebbe Rashab, in the year תש"ב/1942.



## DID YOU KNOW?

In the תלמוד and תנ"ך, the אידן are compared to many of the שבטות המינים.

Here's some of them:



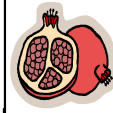
Just like (olive) oil doesn't mix with other liquids and stays separate, the אידן stand out from all the other nations.



Just like every part of the date (palm) tree is useful (we eat its fruit, use its branches as a לולב etc), so too, there are no אידן that are worthless.



Just like grapes can be used for food and drink, אידן have מצוות and תורה.



Even the most 'empty' איד is as full of מצוות as a pomegranate.

(Adapted from L'Chaim Weekly)

## ARE YOU A PARSHA EXPERT?

In this week's פרשה we are told about the great נס of סוף-ים-קריעת. משה רבינו leads the Jewish men in singing praises to ה', and מרים הנביאה leads the women.

The תורה tells us that the joy of the Jewish Women was much greater than that of the men. The תורה also tells us: "And all the women went out...with tambourines and dances."

The גלות in מצרים was much harder for the Jewish women than for their husbands. Of all ס' פרעה's decrees against בני, the hardest was the one that broke every Jewish mother's heart - the decree that every newborn baby boy should be thrown into the Nile River. The pain and suffering of the Jewish Women was much harder than the hardships the men were forced to suffer, and when the ישועה came, the joy they felt was greater as well.

The stories in the תורה teach us lessons which always apply.

In our days, when most Jews, ב"ה, live in a relatively safe and secure environment, the decrees of the פרעה of our generation are רוחניות decrees. These decrees try to turn אידישע נשמות away from תורה. They are things like: fashions and trends in the Goyishe world.

Today, just as in מצרים, the main responsibility is to make sure that Jewish children are kept safe from the negative influences and this is the responsibility of the Jewish mothers. Jewish women, throughout the generations, were given the power to set the right Yiddishe atmosphere in the home and make it a place where their children will flourish and grow up to be good Jews.

In this way Jewish women will see true satisfaction from their children and merit to sing ה'ס praises at the גאולה השלימה, speedily in our days.

Adapted from L'Chaim Weekly



## ט"ו בשבט

Many years ago, when the Jews of Spain were suffering from the Inquisition, a famous doctor by the name of Dr Avitar Ibn Karashkash lived in Madrid. To escape from the Inquisition, he left his important job as a doctor, and moved to a small town. There, he hoped he would be left to live in peace. Dr Avitar had a young son, Avraham. Avraham was delighted with his new life in the small town where his father could spend many hours with him and learn Torah with him. In addition, Dr Avitar carefully instructed Avraham about the special garden he had planted, discussing with Avraham each plant growing there.

One day Dr Avitar called his son into the garden and said, "Today is Tu B'Shevat, the New Year for Trees. On this day it is decided in Shomayim which trees will bear fruit and which trees will dry up. We can plant trees, care for them and hope that they will grow and bear fruit. However, this is not dependent on us."

Avraham would never forget that special Tu B'Shevat when his father let him plant saplings, for the first time. And he would never forget his father's serious words. "Avraham, promise me that you will always try to be a good Jew, to grow upright and faithful to our people."

Avraham planted twelve saplings (baby trees) that day, according to the years of his life. Then, Dr Avitar took Avraham to a part of the garden where no one else was allowed to go; Dr Avitar was experimenting with certain plants there. "Avraham," Dr Avitar said quietly to his son, "Remember what I am telling you. If ever you need to leave our home and I am not with you, come here first. Take out this sapling and you will find something underneath that will have a tremendous influence on you in the future."

A few months later, in the middle of the night, the hoof-beats of a horse were heard near the Karashkash house. There was a sharp knock on the door. "What do you want?" asked Dr Avitar.

"Are you Dr Avitar Ibn Karashkash, the man to whom G-d has given the strength to heal the sick?" asked the stranger.

"That is my name," answered Dr Avitar. "But I am no longer allowed to work in my profession."

"I am Duke Francisco Alba. My dear wife, the Duchess, is very sick and needs an operation urgently. You must come and operate on her or else she'll die. You cannot let her die," begged the Duke.

"Certainly you have access to great doctors in Madrid, Toledo and Barcelona," said Dr Avitar. "Why me? You surely know that I am forbidden to practice my profession. If I do this, I will only endanger my life."

"I have been everywhere and have approached everyone. No one will perform the dangerous operation. I beg of you, help me," the Duke cried. "I will make sure no one harms you. I will bring a ship to take you and your family to safety if necessary. My wife is suffering. Please, help." The Duke broke out in uncontrollable tears.

"I will do what you ask of me," said Dr Avitar. "But one thing you must promise. If anything happens to me, you must take my son to safety." The Duke agreed straightaway.

Dr Avitar hadn't lost his skill as an expert surgeon. The operation went well and the Duchess's life was saved. But when he returned home, he found the officers of the Inquisition awaiting him.

Avraham broke out in bitter cries as his father was taken away. Soon, though, the Duke's men arrived; they had heard what happened to the faithful doctor and would take Avraham to a safe haven. They also promised him that the Duke would do everything in his power to save his father.

Avraham didn't want to go with the Duke's men, but he had no choice. He asked them to wait a moment until he got his things together. Avraham quickly made his way to the special part of the garden. He carefully dug up the sapling and uncovered a box. Opening the waterproof box he found a pair of tefilin and a note. "These tefilin will give you strength and encourage you in Yiddishkeit so that you will not, Chas VeShalom, fall into despair and dejection. In addition, carefully take the sapling you have uprooted, and plant it in new earth. Guard it and care for it very carefully, and it will be the source of great livelihood for you. For this sapling is from a far-off land. It provides food for the special silkworms that produce the expensive silk material that people have to buy from far-away countries. Remain a good Jew, my dear son, and Hashem will bless you and help. With blessings from your father who loves you - Avitar Ibn Karashkash."

Avraham wiped away his tears and went to join the Duke's men. He wondered if he would ever see his father alive again.

Months later, while Avraham was living on the island of Majorca, he turned thirteen. Precisely at the moment when he first put on his tefilin he saw a small boat coming closer to the port. As it got closer he couldn't believe what he saw. His father was getting out of the boat!

After an emotional meeting, Avraham found out that the Duke had finally been able to save his father from the Inquisition. Dr Avitar explained that he had not come earlier because he had been sick. This sickness was because of the terrible torture he suffered by the Inquisition.

Within a few years, quite a big group of Jews had come to live on that island. And each year, on Tu B'Shevat, they planted saplings according to Avraham's years.

Taken from L'chaim Weekly



Some people eat 15 kinds of fruit on Tu B'Shuat.

How many did you eat and what kinds

Please e-mail me at [connections@shluchim.org](mailto:connections@shluchim.org)



# ט"ו בשבט

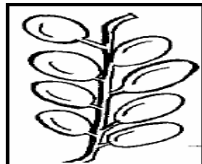


ב"ה

# שבעת המינים

Kids! Fill out the answers to the puzzle below, and fax it to the Shluchim Office at (718) 221-0985 or e-mail it to [connections@shluchim.org](mailto:connections@shluchim.org) no later than Wednesday, January 26th, ט"ז שבט.

Write the name of each of the **שבעת המינים** on the line under its picture.



\_\_\_\_\_

נ	כ	י	ה	ה	ז	ש	ב	ד	מ	ע	צ
פ	מ	ה	ה	ש	ד	ע	ה	א	ר	צ	ז
ג	י	ט	ת	ש	ה	ו	ל	ב	ו	ד	ל
ב	נ	ש	א	ר	נ	ר	מ	ו	נ	א	א
צ	י	ח	ט	ה	א	ה	ש	ר	ר	ת	י
מ	מ	י	ו	נ	ד	ז	ע	ש	י	נ	ל
י	ה	ה	ט	א	א	ל	י	ו	ק	י	נ
ד	ת	ט	ש	ת	ה	צ	מ	ת	ר	א	ו
ש	ע	י	ט	ת	ר	ה	ש	נ	ה	ע	ת
ד	ט	א	ט	א	ח	ר	י	ת	ה	ש	נ
ה	ש	א	ש	ט	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Find all the following words in the list below and the left over letters will make up 3 פסוקים about שבט ט"ו and ארץ ישראל, starting from the top right corner (You won't need all the letters left in the word search. There will be a few left-over on the bottom line).

- ארץ ישראל
- שבעת המינים
- טו בשבט
- ראש
- השנה
- לאילנות
- חטה
- שעורה
- גפן
- תאנה
- רמון
- זית
- דבש

2.	1.
3.	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

We had so many responses from last week's "Test your Knowledge", that we decided to choose 2 winners from each level!  
 Level 1: Leah Greenberg, 7 from El Paso, Texas and Shneur Zalman Kesselman, 7 from London, England.  
 Level 2: Menachem Mendel Danow, 10 from Gothenburg, Sweden and Mendel Andrusier, 9 from Columbus, Ohio

Good Luck!