

Connections



A Project of the Shluchim Office

PARSHAS VAYAKHEL
CHOF GIMMEL ADAR 1 5765

Connecting Tzeirei Hashluchim around the World!

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 22



PARSHAS VAYAKHEL

The afternoon school buses were running very late because of the stormy weather, so Yehoshua and Chaim were glad when their teacher offered them a ride home.

"Come on, boys," Rabbi Davidson called. "I go right past your houses, and the quicker you get home in this weather, the better."

"Thank you, Rabbi," said Yehoshua as the boys got in the car. "We really appreciate your offer. Actually, I'm very happy because I wanted to ask you a question."

"Go right ahead, Yehoshua," said Rabbi Davidson.

Yehoshua looked down bashfully. "I didn't ask you in class because I didn't want to announce to everyone what we were doing. You see, Chaim and I have decided to do something extra in honor of *Yud-Alef Nissan*, besides what the school is doing. Every day, we say the *Chitas* together."

Rabbi Davidson was extremely pleased. "I'm very proud of you boys," he beamed. "Now what was your question?"

"Well, while we were studying the *Chumash*, we realized that this *parshah* is repeating everything we read two weeks ago in *Parshas Terumah*. In *Parshas Terumah*, the Torah tells us that *HaShem* commands the Jewish people to build the *Mishkan*, and in *Parshas Vayakhel*, the Torah tells us that the Jews built it, repeating the details again."

Rabbi Davidson explained. "You're right, Yehoshua. But the two *parshiyos* are not really the same. You see, all *mitzvos* contain two steps. First, there is *HaShem's* commandment - the *mitzvah* as it exists in *HaShem's* wisdom. When Moshe *Rabbeinu* was on Har Sinai, *HaShem* taught him about the *Mishkan* and its *keilim*. And *HaShem* told Moshe to build the *Mishkan* "as you were shown on the mountain," meaning that the *Mishkan* should have this same holiness. This is what *Parshas Terumah* teaches us.

"But *HaShem's* commandment from Above is not enough. The most important part of a *mitzvah* is when a Jew actually fulfills it. This is what building the *Mishkan* was all about - making a dwelling place for *HaShem's* holiness here in this world. It is the same with every *mitzvah*. Actually carrying out *HaShem's* will, doing the *mitzvos*, brings down His holiness into this world. This is what *Parshas Vayakhel* tells us about.

From 'Please tell me what the Rebbe Said' (Adapted from Likkutei Sichos, Vol. I, Parshas Pekudei; Vol. XXVII, p. 205)

Chinuch Yaldei Hashluchim

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



My head and tail is אדם's son. My middle is the number of לוחות that ה' gave the בני ישראל. What am I?

Connections Proof-Readers:

Va ad Hashluchim:

- Rabbi A. Lipsey
- Mrs. G. Junik
- Rabbi L. Zirkind

- Rabbi Y. Deren
- Rabbi O. Goldman
- Rabbi Y. Greenberg
- Rabbi B. Levertov
- Rabbi Y. Shemtov

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

Last weeks' brain buster answer: **משה**

Congratulations to Chaya Mushka Kalmanson, 9, from Mason, OH for solving the brain buster.



FROM THE DESK OF... DR. GETZEL

From the Secret Files of Dr. Getzel

Hi there friends from all four corners of the world (How does the world have four corners if it's round?). You have landed right in the middle of a mystery. This morning I woke up, said Modeh Ani, washed negel vasser, memorized a chapter of Tanya, did my sixty-four jumping jacks and one hundred and seven push-ups and looked around my room. That's when I realized that something looked different. I quickly jumped back into bed and closed my eyes, pretending to be asleep. Then slowly, very slowly, I opened one eye a crack. You need to be careful when you're spying and I was being sneaky, very sneaky. I wanted to look like I was asleep so I could spy on my room to make sure it wasn't playing tricks on me. In fact, I was doing such a good job of *pretending* to be asleep that I almost *did* fall back to sleep. Luckily, I caught myself before I fell. I looked again and this time I was sure. It was a teeny-tiny difference; an itsy-bitsy change that happened to my room. I don't think anyone else would have noticed it, but I did because I'm a professional seeing and noticing specialist and it's my job to notice things.

Could it really be?! (dum, da-dum-dum,duuum) I checked my watch, then my one hundred year calendar. That's when I realized that it was exactly three weeks before Purim and my room was getting ready for the big day. There were smiley faces on the windows and clowns hanging from the ceiling. A border of graggers and hamentashen circled the room. There was a big sign hanging from wall to wall that said, "Mishenichnas Adar Marbim B'Simchah!"

My room really put me in the Adar spirit. It reminded me that Purim's around the corner and I have so much to do to prepare. I have to help Mrs. Getzel with the hamentashen (I don't actually help with the baking part, but I help with the tasting part.). I need to make Mishloach Manos to send to my friends. I need to arrange my Purim costume (I bet you'll never guess what I'm dressing up as. I'll be so well disguised that I won't even recognize myself!). I need to write up a mitzvah checklist so that I don't forget to do any of the mitzvos of Purim. And I need to practice my smile in the mirror. I'm going to be mighty busy until Purim. I better get to work!

Bye till next week. Keep Smiling!

Dr. Getzel



שבת מברכים CHECKLIST

This Shabbos is 'שבת מברכים חודש אדר ב'

- תהילים MORNING I MADE SURE TO SAY שבת (REMEMBER TO DO YOUR QUOTA FOR THE WORLD-WIDE TEHILLIM CLUB)
- I WENT TO SHUL AND MADE THE SPECIAL BROCHO FOR THE NEW MONTH OF 'אדר ב'. (THE שחרית CAN BE FOUND IN THE סידור AFTER ברכה FOR שבת)

**Please note:* In honor of 'ראש חודש אדר ב', we will once again be playing a game with all the ילדי השלוחים who are being home schooled. This will take place on Thursday, כ"ט 'אדר א' at 1:30 pm EST. We will send you all the information you need early next week.



NECHAMA ESTHER GUNIN, age 10

PACIFIC PALISADES, CALIFORNIA

One Shabbos I invited my friend Dani to my house who wanted to experience a Shabbos in our home. It was a big privilege for me to teach her about Shabbos, like teaching her not to turn the light on or off on Shabbos etc..

It was also very nice to see how she would react to lighting Shabbos candles. the joy on her face to be able to do a mitzvah and not only that, being able to stay at the rabbi's house. She was also observing how a Chabad family lives, do they behave not good or very very good. So I had to behave extra good to show her that the Rebbe's Shluchim/children are warm and welcoming to all.



**HEY KIDS!
SEND US A REPORT ABOUT YOUR SHLICHUS AND WE WILL IY"Y PUBLISH IT IN OUR FUTURE CONNECTIONS!
E-MAIL US AT CONNECTIONS@SHLUCHIM.ORG
PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, AGE AND LOCATION OF SHLICHUS.**



POCKET CALENDAR

“כ”ז אדר א’

It was Monday, “כ”ז אדר א’.

The Rebbe, like on all other Mondays and Thursdays, traveled to the Ohel of the רבי פריערדיקער רבי. Everything went on as usual. In the last weeks, the Rebbe very much stressed about bringing the גאולה and that everyone should do what they can to bring the גאולה. It was חודש אדר, and we were able to feel the חיות.

Suddenly, the news was heard around the entire world. The Rebbe fell in the Ohel! At first, we didn't fully understand what had happened, but it didn't take long to hear that the Rebbe had a “stroke!”

Children didn't want to believe this. The Rebbe has to be healthy and strong, and we want to continue hearing the פארבריינגען and receiving dollars! What will the חסידים do? The happy days of אדר turned into dark, hard days.

חסידים were certain that any day the Rebbe would become well and continue as before. However, as we have seen, Hashem decided to continue in a different way.

From “ג” תמוז תשנ”ד until “כ”ז אדר א’ תשנ”ב, we were only able to see the Rebbe on the balcony. During special times, we were able to pass by the Rebbe and the Rebbe looked at us with his holy eyes, but we didn't hear חסידות and פארבריינגען's. Now, as חסידים in דור השביעי, we wait with complete אמונה for the day when all the חסידות of the רבי will be מקיים.

What do חסידים, and חסידות דוקא the שלוחים do in our times? The Rebbe wrote about the רבי פריערדיקער רבי, that when he passed away, we didn't hear חסידות from him. We, the חסידים should be his hands, feet and mouth. The חסידים must continue spreading חסידות like חסידות the Rebbe constantly did in a גשמיות way. The Rebbe very clearly gave over to the חסידים the זכות and responsibility to do this holy עבודה.

דוקא now, in such times, when Hashem stopped the גשמיות giving over of חסידות, the חסידים must strengthen ourselves in the Rebbe's holy work of המעינות הפצת חסידות until we will be זוכה to “יהיו עיניך רואות את מוריד” - we will once again see our Rebbe with the שלימה הנו! note!



DID YOU KNOW?

“ויקהל משה את כל עדת בני ישראל”

What lesson can each and every איד learn from ויקהל?

Most years the פרשות of ויקהל and פיקודי are read together. ויקהל teaches us about gathering together, about the אחדות of the אידן. פיקודי teaches about counting the אידן and shows us how every person is important on their own and how every person can use their nature and talents to serve ה'.

Even though the fact that the two פרשות are normally together shows us that they are connected, each פרשה has its own lesson that it teaches us. And we see this more in a year like this year, when they are separate.

The message of ויקהל shows the אחדות of the אידן and teaches us אהבת ישראל that we have the מצוה of ואהבת מוכך - to love our friend as our self. We can do this because, as it says in the תנייא, every איד has a נשמה that is part of ה'.

This is so important that the אלטער רבי, when he was putting together the סידור נוסח אר”י, put הרני at the beginning of davening, that we accept upon ourselves to fulfill the מצוה of ואהבת מוכך.

This is the lesson that each and every איד can learn from פרשת ויקהל. When we work hard to have אחדות with all אידן then we will have the זכות of the ultimate אחדות, the gathering of all the אידן together in ארץ ישראל when משיח comes!

(Adapted from 'vedibarta Bam')

ARE YOU A PARSHA EXPERT



This parsha tells about giving presents. Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

There were all sorts of presents given in this week's parsha. As a matter of fact, there was a present given by every Jewish person. Everyone got to take part in giving presents for the mishkan.

Yes, the children did get to join in too. They did not have to stand on the sidelines and watch the adults have all the fun. The children took a very important part in the nedavos hamishkan - gifts for the mishkan.

So? What does this have to do with us, now?

Now we are looking forward to the building of the third Beis Hamikdosh. Very soon we will leave golus and see the Beis Hamikdosh itself. And we have to start preparing for that right away. How?

We can get ready by making each of our homes a place where Hashem is comfortable, where Hashem can dwell. Hashem is comfortable in a place where people act like He wants. That means following Torah and Mitzvos, no fighting, and making sure people can tell that our homes are special. Of course, every person in the house has to join in making sure this happens. That means that children have a very important part in making sure their homes are like a mishkan for Hashem.

This is our preparation for the Beis Hamikdosh. Why wait? I want to see the Beis Hamikdosh right away! How about you?

So, let's get moving! Children, don't wait around for the adults to do something. Start fixing whatever needs to be fixed in your home, and hopefully everyone else will join along. It's up to you!

Stories Of the Rabbeim

THE BAAL SHEM TOV SAVED SHAUL - A PURIM STORY

Purim with the Baal Shem Tov in Mezibuz was extra special.

Each year, the Baal Shem Tov would discuss Haman, the enemy of the Jewish people, and his ancestor, Amalek. "Amalek has the same gematria as 'safek' - doubt. He represents the confusion about Hashem," the Baal Shem Tov would say. "We must totally wipe out Amalek from our Avodas Hashem, and trust in Hashem sincerely and joyfully."

On one particular Purim, the Baal Shem Tov called up a small child, Shaul. Even though Shaul was only five years old, he had a sweet and beautiful voice. The Baal Shem Tov asked him, "Shaul, sing for us. Show us how to serve Hashem with sincerity and joy."

Shaul sang the song "Shoshanas Yaakov," which is normally sung after leining Megillas Esther on Purim. When Shaul finished singing, the Baal Shem Tov asked Shaul's father to allow the boy to remain with him for Shabbos. "Don't worry, Tatty. I want to stay with the Baal Shem Tov. I will not cry," Shaul reassured his father.

Shabbos passed uneventfully, and at the end of the holy day, the Baal Shem Tov called upon two of his closest Chasidim to go with him to return Shaul to Lemburg.

Along the way, the small group stopped at an inn. Inside, the local peasants were partying, singing rowdy songs and behaving wild. The Baal Shem Tov went into the middle of the room, clapped his hands and called out, "Silence!" Surprised, everyone listened.

"Would you like to hear real singing?" the Baal Shem Tov asked the peasants. And with that, he called Shaul to the center of the room and told Shaul to sing "Shoshanas Yaakov." Despite the strange and unusual surroundings, Shaul sang even more beautifully than he had just a few days earlier in Mezibuz. When he completed the song, there was a look of admiration and awe in the eyes of even the most drunken peasants.

The Baal Shem Tov called over three young children who had been playing in a corner of the inn. "What are your names?" the Baal Shem Tov asked the three lads. They responded in order, "Ivan," "Stephan," and "Anton."

"Do you boys like the way my little friend Shaul sang?" the Baal Shem Tov asked the boys.

Shyly, the boys nodded their heads. "Do you like Shaul?" he asked them. Once again, they nodded their heads. "I want you boys to always remember the song Shaul sang and to always like Shaul and be his friend," the Baal Shem Tov said softly. A third time the boys nodded their heads.

With that, the Baal Shem Tov took Shaul's hand, motioned for his two Chasidim to follow him, and returned to his carriage.

Many years passed. Shaul was now a successful businessman and well-known Talmud Chacham. One year, in early spring, Shaul was traveling back from a business trip. The journey had taken longer than he had expected and he wanted to be home by night in time for Purim. But it was getting late and he still had to travel through a dangerous forest. Shaul pushed his horses harder and filled his mind and heart with joyous thoughts.

Suddenly, his carriage was forced to stop. A robber had jumped out of some trees and grabbed the horses' reins. Then two more thieves appeared and pulled Shaul out of the carriage. Quickly the thieves found Shaul's money. Then they wanted to kill him. Shaul begged them to give him a few moments to say his final tefillos. They sneered at him and said, "Your prayers won't help you, but go ahead and do as you like."

With that Shaul began to say Viduy. As he recited the tefillah, his thoughts wandered through highlights of his life, and he remembered the day over 40 years earlier when he had spent Purim with the Baal Shem Tov.

"Amalek has the same gematria as 'safek' - doubt. He represents the confusion about Hashem," he remembered the Baal Shem Tov saying. "We must totally wipe out Amalek from our Avodas Hashem, and trust in Hashem sincerely and joyfully." With that, Shaul decided to spend his last moments in this world sincerely and joyfully trusting in Hashem. He began to sing the song that he had sung so many years earlier before the Baal Shem Tov and all of his Chasidim, "Shoshanas Yaakov." The song burst forth from him as sweetly as ever. His heart filled with joy and his Neshama soared as he sang.

When Shaul was finished he saw that the three robbers were staring at him in surprise and wonder. He looked at them closely and then said softly, "You must be Ivan, aren't you. And you are Stephan and surely you are Anton," Shaul said, pointing at each one in turn.

The three men looked at Shaul and whispered, "And you are Shaul, whom we promised to always be your friend." The three gave Shaul back his money and accompanied him out of the forest. All the while Shaul told the robbers about the Baal Shem Tov, his wondrous teachings and miraculous ways. There and then, the robbers decided to change and become good people.



Did you do anything extra to be happy in honor of 77k e71n? If you did e-mail me at connections@shluchim.org.



פרשת ויקהל



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 no later than Wednesday, March 9th, כ"ח אדר א'.

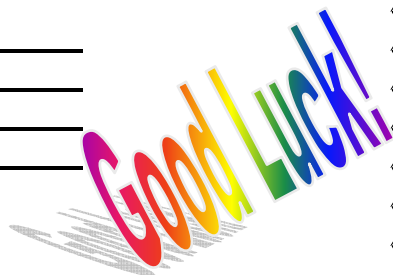
Level 1: Ages 5-8

Find these words from פרשת ויקהל. Remember that you have to look for each word separately.

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

1. ויקהל
2. שבת 3. שבתון
4. לא 5. תבערו
6. אש
7. תרומה
8. תכלת
9. ארגמן
10. תולעת 11. שני
12. שש
13. עזים
14. אבני 15. שהם
16. מלאים (אבני)
17. הנשאים
18. כיור
19. בצלאל
20. אהליאב

Name: _____ Age: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ e-mail: _____



Last Week's Winners:
Level I: Yehoshua Zelig Katzman, age 6, Omaha, Nebraska & Chana Piekarski, age 5, Hamden, CT



פרשת ויקהל



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 no later than Wednesday, March 9th, כ"ח אדר א'.

Level 2: Ages 9-12

Fill in the missing vowels to create a summary of פרשת ויקהל.

Th_ P_rsh_ _f V_y_kh_l _p_ns w_th th_ t_p_c _f Sh_bb_s
_nd t_lls _s th_t th_ b__ld_ng _f th_ M_shk_n d__s n_t
s_t _s_d_ th_ Sh_bb_s.

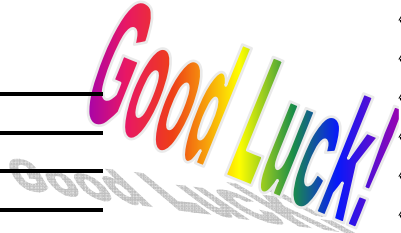
Th_ P_rsh_ th_n t_lls _s b__t th_ b__ld_ng _f th_
M_shk_n, _ts v_ss_ls _s w_ll _s th_ c_ntr_b_t__ns _f th_
Bn__ Y_sr__l. Th_ d_ff_r_nc_ b_tw__n th_ c_nt_nts _f
P_rsh_s T_r_m_h _nd V_y_kh_l_s th_t _n T_r_m_h H_sh_m
_s c_mm_nd_ng _nd d_r_ct_ng wh_t _s t_b_d_n__nd
_n V_y_kh_l w__r_t_ld wh_t th_ Bn__ Y_sr__l D_D.

Th_ P_rsh_ _ls_ t_lls _s th_t th_ J_ws w_r_s__g_r
t_d_n_t, th_t th_y h_d t_b_t_ld t_st_p brngng
_nd m_k_ng th_ngs f_r th_ M_shk_n, s_nc_ th_y h_d
m_r_ th_n w_s n__d_d. Th_ נשיאים, wh_ w_t_d w_th
th__r c_ntr_b_t__ns w_r__nly _bl_ t_ brng Sh_h_m
st_n_s _nd st_n_s f_r th_ Ch_sh_n _nd __ph_d.

B_tz_l_l _s g_v_n cr_d_t f_r th_ m_k_ng _f th__r_n,
Sh_lch_n, M_zb__ch, M_n_r_h, _tc. S_nc_ h_w_s th_
n wh g_v_ h_ms_lf _v_r t_ th_ w_rk m_r_
wh_l_h__rt_dly th_n _ny_n__ls_.

Th_ K_y_r, wh_ch w_s _s_d by th_ K_h_n_m t_w_sh
th__r h_nds _nd f__t w_s m_d_ fr_m th_ m_rr_rs _f
th_ w_m_n. M_sh__t f_rst d_d n_t w_nt t__cc_pt
th_ m_rr_rs s_nc_ th_y _r_s_d f_r v_n_ty. H_sh_m
t_ld M_sh__t __cc_pt th_m s_nc_ "th_y _r_d_
_r_r t_M__" th_n __ll th_ __th_r c_ntr_b_t__ns, b_c_
_s thr__gh th_s m_rr_rs th_ w_m_n r__s_d
m_ny Y_dd_sh_ch_ldr_n _n M_tzr_y_m.

Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ e-mail: _____



Last Week's Winners:

Level 2: Mendy Rapoport, age 10, Vineland, NJ & Menucha Ferris, age 8, Berkeley, CA