

# Shaloh House



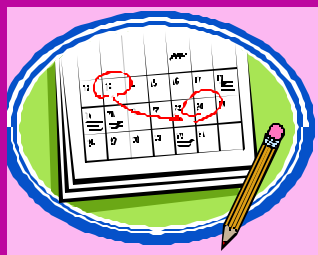
#6

# UPDATE

November 12, 2010 5 Kislev, 5771

The Shaloh House Jewish Day School Newsletter

## Kindergartners At Work And Play



**MAZAL TOV  
RABBI RODKIN  
AND FAMILY!**

**THANKSGIVING  
WEEKEND - NO SCHOOL**

NOV 25—26,  
THURSDAY—FRIDAY

**CHANUKAH**

DECEMBER 2—9

## Parshas Vayeitzei Road Rage

By Ari Shishler

I'm stopped at a red light.

My hands relax on the steering wheel as I watch for the green. Nothing of interest happens as you wait for a light to change. Not usually, that is.

Today is different: I have front row seats for a brief drive-by show.

She's a prudent driver, staying just within the speed limit as she crosses the intersection and turns right. He's madly rushing, stop-starting, revving and braking inches behind her.

She's calm, with both hands firmly on the wheel, and both eyes on the road. His free hand gesticulates wildly out the window, punctuating the expletives pouring from his mouth, as he gears up and steers with his other hand.

He's fuming. She's oblivious.

I'm tickled.

I wish I had a video camera and this guy's address. He obviously doesn't realize how idiotic he looks—ignored by the object of his anger, and observed by dozens of amused rush-hour commuters.

What is it about driving that transforms mild-mannered, nice people into rash road-rage racers?

I know many of these people. In real life, they are courteous, responsible and family oriented. On the road they mutate into monsters. How?



I think it has to do with the feeling of control. Take the wheel and you assume control. You direct and your car obeys.

You choose the route, destination, travel time, speed and driving style. This is your journey.

What you haven't necessarily considered is that you don't control the traffic volumes, the red lights, the drivers next to you or ahead of you. You actually control very little of the journey.

When it doesn't go as expected, you get upset, angry or even aggressive. And all because you thought you were in control.

Interesting insight into life, this road rage is.

Believe you're in control and you're bound to be frustrated. Accept that there will always be variables outside of your control, and that your job is to know how to respond to them, and you will remain calm. And happy.

Judaism centers on the Ten Commandments.

Rule #1: G-d is in control.

Rule #2: If you think for a moment He is not in control, see Rule #1.

From [www.Shaloh.org/Magazine](http://www.Shaloh.org/Magazine)

# A Ladder to Heaven

By Yossy Goldman

So what's the best way to get to heaven? Walk across a busy highway? Perform some amazing act of faith? Save a thousand lives? Well, a pretty good answer may be found in this week's Parshah.

We read the story of Jacob's dream and the famous ladder with its feet on the ground and head in the heavens. "And behold the angels of G-d were ascending and descending on it."

Let me ask you what they might call in Yiddish, a klotz kashe (simplistic question). Do angels need a ladder? Everyone knows angels have wings, not feet. So, if you have wings, why would you need a ladder?

There is a beautiful message here.

In climbing heavenward one does not necessarily need wings. Dispense with the dramatic. Forget about fancy leaps and bounds. There is a ladder, a spiritual route clearly mapped out for us; a route that needs to be traversed step-by-step, one rung at a time. The pathway to Heaven is gradual, methodical and eminently manageable.

Many people are discouraged from even beginning a spiritual journey because they think it needs that huge leap of faith. They cannot see themselves reaching a degree of religious commitment which to them seems otherworldly. And yet, with the gradual step-by-step approach, one finds that the journey can be embarked upon and that the destination aspired to is actually not in outer space.

When I was growing up in Brooklyn, I would pass a very big building on my way to school every morning. It was the King's County Savings Bank. All these years later I still remember the Chinese proverb that was engraved over the large portals at the entrance to the bank. "A journey of a thousand miles begins with but a single step." Now that's not only Chinese wisdom; we Jews agree. And it's not limited to starting a savings plan. It is

a simple yet powerful idea that it need not be "all or nothing."

What do you think is a rabbi's fantasy? A guy walking into my office and saying, "Rabbi, I want to become 'frum' (fully observant), now tell me what I must do"? Is that what I lie awake dreaming of? And if it did happen,

do you think I would throw the book at him and insist he did every single mitzvah from that moment on?

Never! Why not? Because a commitment like that is usually here today and gone tomorrow. Like the popular saying goes, "Easy come, easy go." I'm afraid I haven't had such wonderful experiences with the "instant Jew" types. The correct and most successful method of achieving our Jewish objectives is the slow and steady approach. Gradual, yet consistent. As soon as one has become comfortable with one mitzvah, it is time to start on the next, and so on and so forth. Then, through constant growth, slowly but surely

we become more knowledgeable, committed, fulfilled and happy in our faith.

When my father was in yeshiva, his teacher once asked the following question: "If two people are on a ladder, one at the top and one on the bottom, who is higher?" The class thought it was a pretty dumb question -- until the wise teacher explained that they were not really capable of judging who was higher or lower until they first ascertained in which direction each was headed.

If the fellow on top was going down, but the guy on the bottom was going up, then conceptually, the one on the bottom was actually higher.

And so my friends, it doesn't really matter what your starting point is or where you are at on the ladder of religious life. As long as you are moving in the right direction, as long as you are going up, you will, please G-d, succeed in climbing the heavenly heights.

Wishing you a safe and successful journey.

From [www.Shaloh.org/Magazine](http://www.Shaloh.org/Magazine)





# Toddler Room

This week was rainy and we mostly stayed indoors making a lot of projects, playing, exercising in our Gym and reading books!



We continued to learn about GREEN color and painted cucumbers, onions and balloons!

We have learned many Chanukah songs and had a lot of fun singing them with our music teacher Morah Irina and pretending to be a little dreidels!



This week's Parashat is Vayetzei, from where we have chosen one story - Yaakov's Dream!



We learned about Yaakov's journey to Haran and how he slept on the stones and dreamed about a ladder reaching from the earth to the heavens!  
'And behold Hashem stood above him'.

In this way we understand that Hashem is watching us and available to help in all situations! We now know how important it is to Daven each evening, just as Yaakov did that night!

**We wish you and your family Good Shabbos,  
Mora Anna, Mora Sasha and Morah Valiya**

## Enjoy some K Junior Pictures:



Shaloh House Update #6 (5771)



Light Candles at 4:08 pm

# Preschool Room



In this week's Parshat, Parshat vayetza, we excitedly followed Yaakov on his escape to Charan. Along the road, he walked and walked until dark. He wanted to sleep, but he had no pillow or bed! What do you think he did? Yaakov took twelve stones and put them under his head. While Yaakov was sleeping, the stones argued. Each one wanted to be under the head of the Tzaddik, and miraculously, they turned into one big stone. Morah even demonstrated this to us with plaudough stones! At first, we started with a few stones and when we got to the part about the stones becoming one, Morah mashed the "rocks" into one big pillow for Yaakov.

Yaakov had a beautiful dream. There was a huge ladder reaching the sky, and Malachim (angels) were coming up and down. Hashem told Yaakov that He would protect him. We learned a song about this dream:

(TTTO: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

Yaakov left his parents' home

He walked all day, all alone

Yaakov was sleepy and far from home

He made a pillow from some stones

Then he had a special dream

Hashem promised to look after him



Please ask me about the Parshat Vayetze:

- The Parshat of the week is (Vayetze)
- Yaakov ran away from Esav and wanted to hide. He went to (Yeshiva) and learned a lot of (Torah).
- He learned and learned so much until he was ready to be an (Abba).
- So he went to find a (wife).
- On the way it was getting so (dark) and it was time to go to (sleep), but Yaakov didn't have any (pillow or bed).
- So Yaakov looked all around and found twelve (rocks).
- But all the rocks were (fighting). They all wanted to be under the Tzaddik Yaakov's (head).
- So they had a good idea and they all (smushed into one big rock).
- Yaakov fell asleep and he had a dream of a (big, tall leader) going all the way up to the (sky), with (Malachim going up) and (Malachim going down).
- When he woke up, he went to (tricky Lavan's house).
- Yaakov told Lavan that he wanted Rachel to be his wife. Tricky Lavan said, "You can only marry her if you work for me for (seven years)."
- Yaakov worked for seven years, until he had a (Chatuna).
- But then Yaakov looked and said, "Hey, Lavan, you tricked me! That's (not Rachel, it's Leah)."
- Lavan laughed, "Heh, heh, heh. If you want Rachel, you have to work (for seven more years)."
- After Yaakov's second Chatuna, he had two wives, (Rachel and Leah).
- They had a lot of children. Not one, not two, but (twelve children)!

In alepg-bet we learned about the letter Gimmel. Our Gimmel apple is a Glidah Gimmel. Don't forget to hang it up! In ABC we learned all about the letter B. We go to school in Boston, which starts with a B.

**Shabbat Shalom,  
Morah Ruti, Morah Polina, and Morah Basya**

# Pre K



Wow, we had such a fantastic week! We watched a skit illustrating this weeks parsha, parsha Vayetzei in which Yaakov leaves Beer Sheva and goes to Haran to look for a wife. We packed our bags and marched along the path. Then we went to sleep on a pillow of stones and had a dream just like Yaakov. Of course we said the Shema before we went to sleep.

We also made star shaped cookies to remind us of Yaakov's dream and of his journey. If you would like to sing a song with your child about Yaakov's journey you can sing the following lyrics to the tune of twinkle twinkle little star.



Yaakov left his parents home  
 He walked all day, all alone  
 Yaakov was sleepy and far from home  
 He made a pillow from some stones  
 Then he had a special dream  
 Hashem promised to look after him

This week the Pre K continues to practice singing the days of the week, the ABC's and the Aleph Bais. We've learned several new words this week for the letter F. You can practice with your child vocab words such as fish, face, foot, fruit, food and fork. We taught the children a new song and we encourage you to sing this song with them.

"Four Little Fish" Swish Swish Swish  
 See four little fish, See four little fish in the sea.  
 Swim up and down, swim all around. Swish, little fish, in the sea.



We also practiced our traditional Chanukah songs and decorated the number six. Take some objects and practice with your child. For example take crayons and ask them how many crayons are you holding. Do this alternating the amount of crayons in your hand. Than ask them about the color of each crayon.

## Good Shabbos!

From Morah Illana and Morah Marina

...Continued from the next page

We've started learning about chanuka. Some people light their menorah with shemen zayis. The menorah has 8 branches and a shamash. We made a very colorful menorah on our bulletin board!

In parshas vayaizay, yaakov was traveling to lavan's house, and davened maariv on har hamoriah, where avraham and Yitzchak davened. We emphasized how it's important to daven to Hash-m each day. yaakov fell asleep and dreamed of angels going up and down a ladder. Then Yaakov went to charan and worked for lavan for 7 years to marry Rachel. Lavan tricked yaakov and he married Leah first and then married Rachel. Yaakov had 11 children in this parsha.

## Good Shabbos!

From Morah Tovah, Morah Esther, Morah Sarah and Morah Lilia

# Kindergarten Junior



We're so excited that so many mitzvah notes are on our tree. We're looking forward to getting so many more mitzvah notes, like snow on tree branches. Thank you for keeping the connection between school and home.

We sing season songs each morning. The leaves are falling off the trees, preparing for winter. We're reviewing that there are seven days in a week and two days we don't go to school. Each day the children have an opportunity to report the weather and temperature and days of the week in English and Hebrew.

We've begun discussing the upcoming Chanukah holiday. We are looking forward to eight days of Chanukah. We've started singing two Chanukah songs: chanuka chag yafe kol kach, and sivivon, sof sof sof. The class has also learnt a secular song from the wizard of oz "Somewhere Over The Rainbow."

Two times a week we have sharing time. Each child has an opportunity to report something they remember from the week or the weekend. Please enforce this at home-ask detailed questions to your child. This helps develop their vocabulary and to share with others.

Reminder: Please take your child's sleeping bags home every Friday to wash. Please bring proper winter clothing to school: scarf, coat, mittens, hat, boots. It's hard to keep track of the mittens. Please buy clips to attach the mittens to your child's coat.

**Math:** Most of the children know numbers 1-10 and can recognize each number. We're practicing writing numbers 1-10, and figuring out which number comes before, in the middle and after, counting forward and backwards and matching numbers to objects. We concentrated on numbers seven and eight this week. The children love doing dot to dot pages-connecting the dots in the order of the numbers 1-10.

**English:** Wow! What big progress we've seen since the beginning of the year! Most of the class can write their names in English. We concentrated on letters M, N, O this week. So far we've covered more than half of the alphabet. We've been reviewing objects starting with letters A-O as well as writing the letters. We're beginning to sound out the letters and match them to pictures. Most of the children can recognize all the letters up to O. some of our friends already know all the alphabet-congratulations. Our progress makes us very happy. We're practicing listening to stories and recalling the stories such as: " How To Get To Sesame Street" and " Caring Cat" taught us how to care for other people and help others if they need help. Example: if someone's crying, you right away go and comfort the person, or call the Morah.

This week we learned all about zayin. zayis, zahav, and zebra begin with a zayin. We're continuing on recognizing the alef bais letters, reviewing the sounds each letter makes, as well as practicing our writing skills. Some of the children have been writing their alef bais letters through lamed. Some of the children have learned already to write their names in Hebrew. The whole class is learning and hopefully soon everyone will know how to write their name in Hebrew. Each child is doing a great job learning and we're so proud of everyone.

Continued on the previous page...

# Kindergarten Senior



## Parshas VaYeitzei

### English

We have two wonderful learning groups for English studies. Group One is continuing work on sounding out the alphabet letters, recognizing lower-case letters and writing them. This week, we read a book with the short-vowel "e" sound called "Get the Pets." Group Two children read a short book with challenging letter-combinations and new vocabulary called "The Spy Club."

We want to remind parents that we offer intensive, one-on-one instruction in both reading and math from 8:15 to 9 a.m., so please bring your children at 8:15 a.m. so they can take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

### Math

In math, the entire class has now been introduced to the concept of "minus." Group One focused on finding numbers missing from a series. They also worked on adding small numbers the sum of which is less than 10. Group Two worked on adding three digits together.

### Hebrew

This week, we learned our third vowel sound, "tzayray," which makes a sound similar to the "long A" in English. We started reading short words using all three vowel sounds we now know. We completed worksheets and activities and played a new board game to enhance our reading skills.

In Hebrew vocabulary, we added a new page to the Hebrew dictionaries we are creating and we focused on new Hebrew words beginning with the Hebrew letter "Zayin." In conversation skills, we worked on mastering short sentences like "Korim Lee...." ("They call me...[name]") and we answered "Tov, todah" ("Good, thank you") when we were asked how we are feeling.



**Judaic Studies**

Parsha Vayeitzei

This week we learned about Yaakov's (Jacob's) dream of a ladder. Yaakov was fleeing from his evil brother Esav, and was headed to the home of another scoundrel, his uncle Lavan. On his way, he passed the site of the future Temple, and stayed the night. That night, he dreamed he saw a ladder extending into heaven and H-shem (G-d) spoke to Yaakov through the medium of his dream. G-d promised Yaakov that no matter how scary things may appear at times, both for Yaakov and for his descendants, the Jewish people, G-d would always be there protecting us – even when it doesn't look like that's the case. H-shem also promised Yaakov that – even though his children would be thrown out of our homeland in four different exiles – we would ultimately return to Israel and that evil will ultimately concede to good.

We made a project of this vision to remind us of its comforting message: H-shem is always with us.



**With wishes for a wonderful Shabbos,  
Morahs Esther, Shulamis Yehudis, Sara and Lilia**

# Elementary School NEWS



## Chumash

**Rabbi Ilan Meyers**

### 1st Grade

In the first grade, students have all graduated to Yellow in the Aleph Champ program and are quickly (yet thoroughly!) progressing forward. As well, students are nearing completion of their ktiva books, after which they will be able to read and write cursive ktav in Hebrew.

### 2nd Grade

In second grade, students are studying about Avram's journey South to Mitzrayim while publicizing the roots of monotheism.

### 3rd and 4th Grades

In third/fourth grade, students study about Eliezer successfully finding a wife for Yitzchak, and are learning a vast array of new shorashim and vocabulary.

### 5th Grade

Finally, the fifth grade has plowed through the entire Chapter 41 in Parshat Miketz (57 verses long!) and looks forward to a siyum (celebration) next week!

## Math, grades 1-5

**Michael Kahn**

### 1st Grade

In math we are learning to add and subtract multiple numbers, ordinal numbers and reviewing the shapes for the first grade.

### 2nd Grade

The second graders are learning how to multiply large numbers by using the distributive property and creating a method to speed this up.

### 3rd and 4th Grades

The third and fourth graders are learning about various shapes, ratios, and adding and subtracting mixed numbers.

### 5th Grade

The fifth graders are learning to subtract mixed numbers and practicing for their Olympiad.

# School Happenings

## Stop and Shop Update

The A+ learning program is up and running at your local Stop and Shop. By logging onto the Stop and Shop website and registering your card- nearly everything you buy will turn into a donation to Shaloh House as well. There is no charge to the cardholder, but a percentage of sales made by members is split between all involved schools.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions about this great fund raising opportunity.

Merlyn Carey

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*Mazel Tov*



*on your  
Birthday*

**Birthdays this week  
22 Cheshvan—5 Kislev:**

Shaloh House Community, Staff and Students  
extend a hearty Mazal Tov  
to Rabbi Dan and Sara Rodkin  
and their entire family  
on the occasion of their daughter  
Shaina Chaya  
becoming Bas Mitzvah.

May they have lots of nachas from Shaina Chaya  
and all the other children!



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# THE GRAND CELEBRATION & CONCERT

(GIRLS 9 + AND WOMEN ONLY)

WILL TAKE PLACE ON

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14 TH AT 1 PM

SHALOH HOUSE AUDITORIUM

29 CHESTNUT HILL AVENUE

BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

PLEASE ALSO JOIN US FOR SHABBAT KIDDISH

IN SHAINA'S HONOR

(EVERYONE IS WELCOME)

NOVEMBER 13TH

SHABBAT PARSHA VAYETZE

SHALOH HOUSE SYNAGOGUE



## **SERVICE TIMES:**

9:30 AM

INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS BEGIN

10:30

MORNING SERVICE GETS SERIOUS  
(GOOD TIME TO SHOW UP)

11:30 AM

FESTIVE KIDDUSH  
IN SHAINA'S HONOR