

Shaloh House



UPDATE

February 25, 2011 21 Adar I, 5771

The Shaloh House Jewish Day School Newsletter

Poetry Jam 2011

Parents, family, friends, students, scholars, and poets of all ages filled our hall on Wednesday night for Shaloh House's first Poetry Jam.



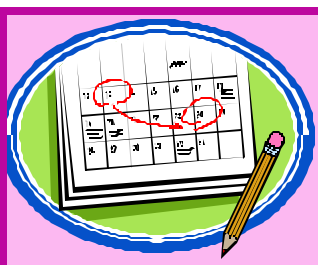
After weeks of work, choosing poems, from famous or soon to be famous poets, practicing, practicing, and then practicing just a bit more. The big night arrived. Students strove not only to memorize their poems, but also to truly know their poems by heart. Recalling not only the words, but also the feeling and excitement, they felt when they first heard or created the poem(s) they chose to share. As the night drew closer and closer, both excitement and nervousness grew, the list of "what-if's" started small, though likely, to the wild and wacky. Adding to the sense of foreboding was adding practices on stage presence and microphone use. With so much to remember, would it ever, could it ever turn out okay?

Nope. Nada. Not at all.

It would be utterly untrue to say the night was okay. Well, at least it would be a massive understatement. The first graders took the stage with eight stanzas, calling back and forth, sharing sage advice about life and learning. The first graders set the bar quite high for the performers to follow. They were even called upon for an encore later in the night.

The second graders took the stage one by one sharing poems they had discovered, ranging from Lewis Carol to Jack Prelutsky. Their choices were filled with humor and wit, and their performances matched. Twinkling eyes, big smiles, and confidence filled the room as surely as their voices filled the hall.

Continued on page 10...



PURIM PRE-SCHOOL CONCERT

FRIDAY, MARCH 11
9 AM

PURIM ELEMENTARY CONCERT

SUNDAY, MARCH 13
10:30 AM

PURIM

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Parshas Vayakhel Let It Be Done

By Elisha Greenbaum

I'm just walking in from my cousin's wedding. (Thanks, simchas by you too). The evening was great, mashke flowed like the proverbial, uninhibited joy all round, and even my kids held off from kvetching for most of the evening.

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, the pre-eminent American Halachic authority, once arrived at a golden wedding celebration. One of the partygoers, who'd clearly had too much to drink, or chutzpah, and probably both, expressed surprise that the rabbi could find room in his demanding schedule to attend such a comparatively minor event. Rejoicing at a wedding is a mitzvah, as is attending at a Bris, Bar Mitzva or other ceremonial occasion. Of what religious significance, however, is a 50th anniversary party?

Rabbi Moshe replied: We celebrate a wedding to signify the potential of that which is to come. In real life the tale is only just beginning. This event, commemorating a shared life full of true yiddishe nachas, with real accomplishments to point to, is the culmination of their wedding and the justification for the happiness and joy of 50 years ago.

I remind myself of this story because I have been thinking this week of the difference between process and results; the potential versus the actualized. The first words of this week's Torah reading tell of the commandment to observe the Shabbat:



Six days work shall be done... and the seventh day shall be holy, total relaxation for G-d. (Exodus 35:1)

You've got to work to live. Paying the mortgage, school fees, and food bills on time demands income. Though G-d, were He to so desire, could provide us with all our needs without exertion, He set up a different system. Thus working during the "six days" is just as much a divinely ordained necessity as resting on the seventh.

The workaholics among us confuse the means with the method. The verse states work shall be done -- the passive voice. Becoming so totally devoted to one's job, such that one's work is one's total preoccupation and obsession, is totally unhealthy and an affront to the system. You may have to work, but let it be done. Keep your aspirations and

focus on your real purpose, exemplified by Shabbat, a day when the cares and worries of the week can take back stage to delighting in one's family and religion.

Achieve this and the Torah guarantees you total relaxation. When all one's cares and aspirations are on money making and business, then, even when resting, the repose is not replete, as one's mind is still whirling with all the worries which rob one of true equanimity. Only the person who can accentuate the result at the expense of the process, who realizes that the successful outcome is the true goal, can truly relax and celebrate, conscious of a job well done and thus, justification for the entire journey.

From www.Shaloh.org/Magazine

Fringes of Fright

As heard from Betzalel Schif

Freedom of religion was a concept that was foreign to us, citizens of the Soviet Union. As a child, it was ingrained in my bones that my every move was being monitored; with every step that I took in the street I needed to look back to see who was following me, who was keeping track of my activities.

Invariably my shadows were KGB informers, and specifically the Yevesektzia, the notorious Jewish branch of the KGB, whose mission it was to eradicate religion in the Soviet Union, with special emphasis placed on stamping out Judaism.

Families like mine were right in the KGB's crosshairs. They knew that we were members of the "Schneersons," as they dubbed us: Chabad chassidim who worked tirelessly to keep alive the flame of Torah and mitzvot, and its infrastructure, in Communist Russia. The "Schneersons" who built an underground network of Torah schools, synagogues, and mikvahs.

This was my childhood. Despite the risk and the constant vigilance required, we lived a traditional Jewish life. We prayed, studied Torah and all about Judaism, and even had chassidic gatherings, complete with singing and dancing as is Chabad tradition. Needless to say, all of this was done in utmost secrecy.

Public school attendance was mandated by the law, and school life was understandably difficult, presenting many challenges for a boy who wished to follow all Jewish laws and traditions. For example, I would always have to find a place to ritually wash my hands before eating my lunch sandwich.

I had three classmates who were religious. Naturally, we bonded and became close friends. After school we would go to a secret location to learn Torah in a clandestine afternoon school. Sometimes the location of this "school" changed four or five times a week, for fear that the previous location might have been compromised. We took all this in stride; it was "normal" life for us.

One particular event sticks out in my mind. The school

principal came to our class one day together with the school nurse. It was actually quite unusual for them to visit a classroom together. The principal informed us that we would be receiving immunization shots.

Now, while this might seem to be a routine medical procedure, for me it was far from simple . . .



I was wearing tzitzit beneath my shirt. Tzitzit is a four-cornered garment with eight knotted strings dangling from each corner. This garment reminds us of the 613 commandments contained in the Torah, our holy guidebook for life.

If I would now pick up my shirt to receive a shot in my back, the nurse would definitely notice my normally concealed tzitzit. That could mean doom for my family and me.

I'm not talking about a small fine or even some lashes. This could mean that my father, and maybe even me, would sit in a dark and dingy jail cell. My father had already sat in prison before, and my friends' parents too. It was hell on earth. A wave of heat overcame my body. I immediately devised a plan: I would request permission to use the bathroom, and there I would remove my tzitzit.

I requested permission to go to the bathroom. In a sly voice the principal responded, "Sure, you will receive the first shot and after that you can go right to the bathroom." I am not sure why he did not let me go to the bathroom first; perhaps he thought that I was trying to avoid getting the shot. I am certain that he was unaware of my tzitzit.

I tried to hide the fringes by hiking up my tzitzit as high as possible. All went seemingly well. The nurse administered the shot and didn't mention a word about the fringes. I wasn't sure whether she didn't notice them, or whether perhaps she simply ignored them.

The next day during lunch break, the nurse called me in to her room. I was sure that my time had come. She must have noticed them, and now I was in grave trouble. She closed the door behind me and gently asked, "Are those tzitzit or tefillin?" You can imagine my shock!

Continued on page 4...

Toddler Room



This week we spent a lot of time reviewing the colors and shapes that we have already learned!

We started to work on the concepts of 'big' and 'small!' Children now seem to understand these concepts very well! Try to show them pictures of big and small objects and see how well the kids can distinguish them!

Also, despite the weather getting warmer every day, winter is still here! We spend a lot of time talking about the changes that are taking place during the winter!

This week's Parsha is Vayakhel. We chose the part about Shabbos!

Hashem warned the Bnei Yisroel a second time about the importance of Shabbos! Even building the Mishkan must come to a halt for the day of rest! Again we discussed preparing for Shabbos, lighting candles and made a special project about it!



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



...Continued from page 3
She continued, telling me that she was Jewish and how she recalled her grandfather wearing the same sort of garment. She distinctly remembered two Jewish ritual objects mentioned in her home, and she wanted to know which of them I was wearing.

She told me that she was inspired and heart-warmed by

my strength and courage, maintaining my Jewish traditions under such harsh conditions. We discussed what it meant to be a religious Jew in Soviet Russia as well as my personal hardships in school. She told me that from that day on I could come to her room to ritually wash my hands and eat my lunch. And indeed, that was what I did from that day on.

From www.Shaloh.org/Magazine

Preschool Room



This week we continued our studies about the Mishkan and its Keilim. We learned all about the menorah, and we even made a beautiful menorah project that you can hang on your wall.

Please ask me about the Parashat Vayakhel:

- The Parasha of the week is (Vayakhel).
- What was the menorah made of? (gold)
- How many lights did the menorah have? (seven)
- What did the Kohanim use to light the menorah? (pure olive oil)

We already began working on our Shabbat boxes... We can't wait to bring them home next week!

Our new Aleph-Bet apple this week is "Kaf for Kippa". The boys got so excited because they all had a Kippa! We learned other words that begin with a Kaf, like Keter (crown), Kad (pitcher), Kadur (ball), Kovah (hat), Kochav (star) and Kiseh (chair).



In A-B-C, we learned about the letter J. We made a "J for Jellybeans." We did a lot of Jumping this week and enjoyed Jellybeans at our Shabbat party and Jumping rope outside while wearing our Jackets. We also know other J words like Jaguar, Jar and Jeep.

We learned a song for J:

(Sung to: "When Johnny comes marching home")

Let's jump and jump for J today, hurray, hurray!
 Let's jump and jump for J today, hurray, hurray!
 Let's jump for jackets seen here and there,
 Let's jump for jelly seen everywhere.
 Oh, let's jump, jump, jump, jump, jump for J today!

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

Pre K



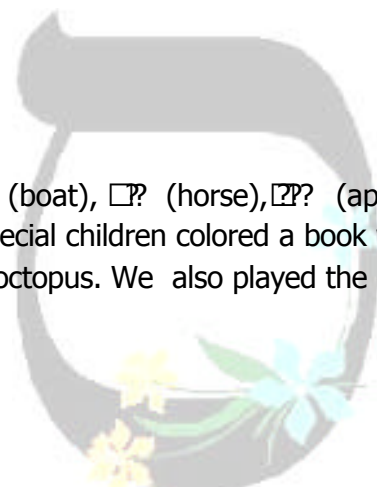
This week's parsha, parashat Vayakhel, tells us about the Mishkan (tabernacle) and the Shabbat. The Jews have to perform 39 different types of work in the Mishkan. These are called "Avot Melachot" (main categories of work), and constitute the basic categories for the kinds of work forbidden on Shabbat.



This week we focused on the way we prepare for Shabbat. We told a story about Shabi the bear, who was a helper before Shabbat, and the children learned from what he was doing. The children then prepared wine, challah and a candle, and they are now ready for Shabbat.

We also continued with the story of the Purim Megillah. We learned about queen Vashti, queen Esther, Mordechai, and Haman, and we enjoyed painting our Esther.

Letters: We learned the Hebrew letter samech-(ש) which stands for ספינה (boat), סוס (horse), סרט (apron), ספר (book), and סידור (Siddur). In English we learned the letter O. Our special children colored a book with words like - ostrich, olive, oz., owl, and we enjoyed sticking stickers on an octopus. We also played the game "who can find the letter".



Can you ask me about the Purim Megillah?

- Was Mordechai glad that the Jews went to Achashverosh's party? (no)
- Why did Hashem punish queen Vashti? (She forced Jewish girls to work on the Shabbat)
- What happened to her? (She got many pimples and a tail)
- Did queen Vashti come to Achashverosh's party? (no)
- Who became the new queen? (Queen Esther)
- Did she wanted to be a queen? (no)
- Was Haman was a good person? (no, an evil person)

Good Shabbos!
From Morah Shira and Morah Marina

Kindergarten Junior



Math

We continue to count up to 30 forward and backward, do what comes before and after each number, and adding numbers up to 10 using objects and using magical number one. The juniors especially enjoy playing number bingo.

English

We began working on short vowel O, as in octopus. We practiced reading words with short vowel O as well as words with short vowel A. We played ABC bingo. We also learned how I and A walking by themselves give their own sound. We practiced the TH sound, and the, then, and that. We read many stories this week: "Goldilocks and The Three Bears", "Musicians from Bramen", "Little Red Riding Hood", "Sammy the Seal", and "Who's Afraid of the Dark". We discussed how books have a cover page and a title page and what is on these pages. We each got our own book-our first one- "Nan and Pap". We are very exciting about reading it! We are sending this book home on Friday- please read it with your child.

Aleph Bais

This week we introduced letters shin and sin. Words beginning with shin are shulchan, sheleg, and shaon. Words beginning with sin are saiyar, she and simlah. We are practicing sounding all the alef bais letters and writing all the letters.

Parsha

Parshas Vayakhel:

- Moshe tells Bnei Yisroel about building the mishkan.
- Everyone gives donations and the nissi'im give avnai shoham for kohain gadol's shoulders and 12 stones on choshen.
- All the keilim in mishkan are built.

We each made a project where each object was put in the mishkan.



©2008 Adam Rhine www.HebrewArt.com

Purim

We have been learning all about Purim: the Purim story, the four mitzvahs on Purim, why grownups fast before Purim, and much more.

We have been practicing for the Purim concert and are looking forward to performing!

Good Shabbos!

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

Elementary School NEWS



Hebrew

Lilia Gabelev

1st Grade

We are learning the book "Yesh Lanu Lama" and practicing our grammar and our vocabulary in the work book-right now we are working on unit 19. Also, we are preparing for the Purim play which will be on March 13

2nd Grade

We are working in the book "Yesh Lanu Lama" part1 and part 2; we read the story from the text book and practice our vocabulary and grammar in the workbook –right now we are on unit 25. Also, we are preparing for the Purim play.

3rd and 4th Grades

We learned a new story from "Shaa shel menucha" and studied the new vocabulary, we are planning to have a quiz on the vocabulary next week.

We are practicing for our Purim play – learning the parts and the songs.

5th Grade

We began reviewing previous material and are planning on having a test which will cover the majority of the material learned from the beginning of the year.

We learned a new story from the book "Shaa shel menucha" and we'll have a quiz on Friday, which will test the new vocabulary.

We are practicing for our Purim play – learning the parts and the songs.

Social Studies, History, and Geography

Merlyn Carey

1st Grade

In first grade, we've been studying how the location affects what happens in an area. We've now started looking at when events take place and the affect that has on events. We're learning about timelines and putting events into order. We're also starting to break time into not only the past, present, and future; but are trying to figure out how to sort things the past into categories as well. Our reading in "I Know a Place," had a grandmother showing her granddaughter events from her life. This let us have some practice putting events into the right order. We'll be continuing to work on this skill, and will be making personal timelines as well.

2nd Grade

In second grade, we have been traveling the world, looking at shipping methods, weather patterns, and communities all to better understand where food comes from, and how events in one place can affect people very far away. We've also been looking at the United States to learn more about our country, and some of the benefits and challenges that come from living in such a large country. One example that has affected our spelling lesson this week is that within the country there are many different ways to say many words. We're

working on figuring out why, and what this means to us; other than it makes it hard to know if we are saying certain words correctly.

3rd and 4th Grades

Third and fourth graders are continuing their quest through time and have already reached the dawn of farming and domesticating animals. We've travel through trading, bartering, and the early ideas of money systems. In addition, we've been working on our understanding of how different climates led to different crops spreading to different areas. Also how the new crops and farming lead to communities growing larger and larger, leading to towns and cities. We're also trying our hands at designing a climate for a culture, describing what would be best for our civilization and why.

5th Grade

Fifth Graders are chomping through Beowulf, pouring over the middle ages, and are drafting world maps from across time. Our class project is to have five maps that show what was known of the world at different stages of travel and exploration. One challenge we've come across is that depending the culture, the known world changes rather drastically. However, what is exploring without a few obstacles to overcome? We'll figure out how to have reference maps that reflect each time period well, and along the way hone our grasp of how trade and the flow of information changed during the medieval age.

Science

Michael Kahn

The **first grade** has been working on their typing skills using Typing Skills Challenge. They have been practicing the home key finger position with their fingers and learning how to find the proper position without looking at the keyboard.

The **second, third, fourth, and fifth grades** have been brainstorming for their science fair topics on Wikipedia.org.

The **third, fourth, and fifth graders** have started the Stock Market Game. The two teams from each class have been given \$100,120 of play money to use in the stock market game. They are researching various companies' stocks, buying and trading stocks and watching their market values.

School Reminders

The Shaloh House Science Fair (May 4) and The Jewish Day School Regional Science Fair (May 15) are in need of volunteers. There are a wide range of positions and jobs still available. To take part in the regional fair we are asked to supply at least five volunteers. We can also use help setting up, running, and packing up the Scholastic Book Fair on April 6. Please see Merlyn Carey if you have time to help.

The smattering of warmer days is wonderful; however, winter weather is still very much with us. Please make sure that students come with outdoor clothing, as well as, shoes to change into for indoor wear.

????

Mazel Tov

on your
Birthday



**Birthdays this week
15 Adar I—21 Adar I:**



...Continued from the cover

The evening continued with the third and fourth graders sharing poems of their creation or poems they found and fell in love with. Couplets, quatrains, and free verse flowed as poetry once more filled the room. Sharing feelings and moments from their lives or from creatures we may like, or may not like to meet, along the way we went from a touch of Frost to dodging dragons.

The fifth graders, rather than picking between their creations or slightly more famous poems, presented one of each. Reversos, a type of poem which when the lines are read in the reverse order, they create a second related but different poem, were a popular choice. A Taste for Poetry highlighted the different forms of poetry we studied nicely. (Moreover, as it turns out Leah made a point of writing an example of each type of poem mentioned in the poem.) The performances were stunning.

Gone where the "what-ifs" and nervousness, in their place was an evening of poetry with smooth and steady presenters. Behind the scene, our poets were also busy in slightly different roles; Levi took charge of pouring drinks for one and all. Yehuda and Ethan served as photographers for the event. Our students also circled to make sure snacks were offered to all. In addition, and perhaps most importantly of all, they took full control of keeping the show flowing smoothly from one act to the next.

Only one question remains from the night, "Will there be a Poetry Jam next year? Which is easily answered as we thank everyone for all their hard work preparing, performing, and supporting Shaloh House's first annual Poetry Jam!

Please support our advertisers




Gil Regev
Financial Services Professional




New York Life Insurance Company
Licensed Agent

T. 781 398 9817 *The Company You Keep®*

Wigs Blow Dry Wax Makeup
House Calls Available



Magi Zemach
617.208.8845 347.489.1044



Your ad could be here

Mass Capital Mortgage Corp

Yakov Krivoy 617-233-8281
Michael Pipko 508-479-5752

License MB 1190 (MA), MBB 0505720 (Florida)

International Food Store
187 Sutherland Road,
Brighton




The Best Produce in Boston!

Shaloh House would like to thank
International Food Store
for their generosity and top quality fruits and
vegetables that our children enjoy daily.
Please visit the best produce store in Boston

OZ Drain
& Plumbing Repair

Oleg Zlotin
(978) 360-8280



Call me for all your plumbing needs

**For only \$20
Your ad could be here!**

Email ShalohUpdate@gmail.com
Or call 617-787-2200 for details

????

NEXT WEEK AT SHALOH HOUSE

TASTE OF HEAVEN

CHALLAH BAKING & TORAH CLASS
FOR MOTHERS WITH
DAUGHTERS

EVERY THURSDAY FROM 6:00–8:00 PM

DONATION \$5 TO COVER COST OF THE INGREDIENTS

