

Connections



A Project of the Shluchim Office

PARSHAS EMOR **Connecting Tzeirei Hashluchim around the World!** VOLUME 1
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PARSHAS EMOR



Spring is here, the sun is shining, the grass is green and the flowers are blooming. And we're sure you all know what's coming up soon! You probably know very well! You might even have charts and countdowns to that important day!

You guessed! Ummm, no you didn't! Yes, summer vacation is coming soon, but why would we be counting down to that? What are all of you Junior Shluchim counting every day?

Now that's right. Sefiras Haomer - we are counting the days until Shavuos. Did you know that, as Yidden, the only counting allowed is Sefiras Haomer? That's because Sefiras Haomer is a mitzvah. It is written in the Torah in this week's parsha, Parshas Emor.

Usually, Yidden don't count. Yes, we can count how much to pay at the store for our chicken soup (?!), but we shouldn't count how many days are left until tomorrow. (How many are there, anyhow?) Why not? We need to spend our time doing our best right now.

If, while sitting in class, all we can think about is how long it will take to finish learning, can we really learn well? I don't think so!

That is why we should not spend our time counting until tomorrow (or next week or month...). There's important stuff to do right now!

Sometimes though, the Torah tells us to count. Then the counting is a mitzvah. Sefiras Haomer is a mitzvah from the Torah. During Sefira, we are counting down to Matan Torah. Everything we do is in preparation for Matan Torah. Whenever we do a mitzvah, we think: "This is helping prepare for the big day, when we will get the Torah."

That is good counting; it does not distract us from learning Torah and doing Mitzvos. It reminds us to do more Mitzvos. Sefiras Haomer helps us remember what our jobs are.

So keep on counting.

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15th of the 1st.
 What am I?

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

Last weeks' brain buster: I'm a mix that you can't wear. My middle and last letters are 16. What am I?

Answer: שטטן

Congratulations to **Nechama Esther, Chaya Mushka & Avi Cunin**, from **Pacific Palisades, CA** for solving the brain buster.

With many thanks to our generous sponsors:
Chinuch Yaldei Hashluchim: Mr & Mrs Yochanan & Peri Brook, Mr & Mrs Zalman & Raizy Cousin
Connections: Rabbi & Mrs Mendel & Sara Shemtov, Rabbi & Mrs Kasriel & Chana E. Shemtov



FROM THE DESK OF...
DR. GETZEL

Hey Kids!

Being an inventor is hard work. Would you think that in order to invent something, you would need to be strong and sing and dance? I didn't think so either until I tried it myself. I'm Dr. Getzel, eye doctor and inventor. Yesterday I finally had time to sit down and work on perfecting my newest invention since Yom Tov was over. I still needed to find some missing ingredients in order to complete my lightweight, automatic, digital, multi-featured future-vision COL lens. There I was, sitting on my worn-out, polka-dotted swivel chair in my green-roofed office, looking at my invention and thinking about what I could do to improve it. I sat. And I looked. I looked. And I sat. But, unfortunately, none of the sitting or looking helped me come up with any ideas to improve the lens. I decided that I needed a change in tactic so I stood up and closed my eyes. Then I stood on my head and looked at the lens with one eye open and one eye closed. I still had no luck so I decided to leave my office and take a break.

I jogged down the street with my eyes, nose, ears, and mouth wide open (I had to close my mouth after a bird almost flew in!) looking for something to help me with my problem. Suddenly, I spotted an old lady wearing a big pink bow-tie and carrying two heavy looking shopping bags. A thought popped into my mind: "Everything a person hears and sees is Hashgacha Protis and happens for a reason." I concluded that Hashem made me see this lady because she would help me solve my problem and give me an idea to improve my COL lens.

I ran over to the lady and offered to carry her bags for her. As soon as I picked them up - Umph! I almost fell flat on my face! The bags felt like they were filled with rocks. They were so heavy that they made me lose my balance. Luckily, I activated my anti-trip, slip and fall device and managed to catch myself from falling just in time to hear the old ladies squeaky voice begin to speak. "Thank you so much for carrying my rocks, Zeeskeit," she said smiling. "But be careful with them, my rock collection is very special to me."

By the time we got to her house, my arms were sore, my back was stiff and I saw stars twinkling in front of my eyes (even though it was in middle of the day). I was so excited to put down the bags that I let go of them right where I was... and dropped them directly onto my big toe (which made my big toe bigger). I started yelling and hopping up and down. "Oy, Sheifalle!" cried the old lady. "That's just what I need after a long day. How did you know that I love watching performances?"

How could I say no to the little old lady? For the next half hour I danced around her living room (which is not an easy thing to do while holding one foot!) and pretended to be Avraham Fried while the little old lady sat on her couch, smiling and clapping.

When I finally got home that night with a hoarse voice and aching bones I had something to add to my lens. The old lady did help me with an idea in the end! I quickly turned on my machines, mixed some chemicals together and - Poof- I created the 70/80 feature. Most glasses help people see perfectly with 20/20 vision. My lens would help people see differently with 70/80 vision. 70/80 vision reminds you that a person could be alive for 70 or 80 years just to be able to do a favor for someone else. With that in mind, you'll always run to help another Yid anytime with anything. So if you ever meet a lady who wants you to carry her rock collection or put on a show for her, use the 70/80 vision and run to help! Bye 'till next week!

Dr. Getzel



Remember to count
ספירת העומר!

פרקי אבות
מנחה after שבת
פרק שני



KIDS SPEAK
WHERE YOUNG SHLUCHIM TALK ABOUT THEIR SHLICHUS

Raizy, 12, Chavi, 10 & Chaya Mushka, 8, Konikov
Satellite Beach, Florida

Hi my name is Raizy Konikov, the second oldest of 7 children KA"H. I am 12 years old, and I live in Satellite Beach, Florida. My sisters Chavi, who is 10 and Chaya Mushka who is 8 and I, would like to share a story with you from our Shlichus. This past year we were getting ready for Yom Kippur and we heard that there was going to be a hurricane. Since it was very short notice we couldn't evacuate and close the Shul for Yom Kippur. We had no choice but to stay. Kol Nidrei night we had a big crowd. The next morning there were a little less, but still a lot until after Yizkor, then we were left with only 11 men. We davened Mincha early because the bridges were closing at 3:00, (Satellite Beach is an island only connected to the mainland by a bridge) and 2 of the 11 men had to leave. We were left with no Minyan for Neila. Our father was determined to find a Minyan. He was thinking of people who stayed for the hurricane, who lived within walking distance and would be willing to come. Our father decided to walk to our Jewish neighbor's house and ask him to come. Our Shul is 1½ miles away from our house. He was drenched when he got to the man's house. The person thought he was looking for refuge, and when my father said we are looking for a minyan he got very upset. His wife convinced him to go to Shul in honor of his father. He came. We were so happy that we had a Minyan.

Hey kids!

Send us a report about your shlichus and we will publish it in our future connections!

E-mail us at connections@shluchim.org

Please include your name, age and location of shlichus.



POCKET CALENDAR

ARE YOU A PARSHA EXPERT?

ה' אייר

שלושים יום לפני החג—שבועות



The Gemara tells us that 30 days before a יום טוב we must already learn the דינים connected to that יום טוב. Even though the Gemara is referring to פסח, we must do the same before סוכות and שבועות.

On ה' אייר, thirty days before שבועות, we must start learning the הלכות of שבועות. We should not only learn the הלכות, but also ideas connected to the יום טוב so that we can celebrate the יום טוב in a better way. Since שבועות is מתן תורתנו we must begin now to prepare to receive the תורה.

In particular, the children of ה' צבאות must begin preparing for מתן תורה. Because their main purpose is to learn תורה and do מצוות.

How should they prepare themselves? By saying "נעשה ונשמע" just as the Jewish people did at הר סיני. They should resolve to learn תורה and do מצוות every day of the year and do so with even greater חיות, joy and happiness than ever before.

If we begin to prepare 30 days before שבועות, and we continue in the days that follow, we can be sure that we will celebrate יומן מתן תורתנו in the most perfect and successful way.

("The Rebbe Speaks to Children" Iyar 6, 5742)

"ויאמר ה' אל משה אמר אל הכהנים בני אהרן ואמרת אליהם..." כ"א:א

QUESTION: Since it says "אמר אל הכהנים" - "Speak to the Kohanim" - why are the words "ואמרת אליהם" - "and tell them" needed?

ANSWER: A חסיד of the אלטער רבי once said that through גאווה he managed not to do עבירות. Whenever his יצר הרע would approach him he would scream, "Do you know who I am? I am an important person, a חסיד of a great Rebbe. And you expect ME to do עבירות?"

Hashem is giving over two messages to the Kohanim, one general and one specific. Firstly, ה' said to משה "אמר אל הכהנים" - "Speak to the Kohanim" - "בני אהרן" - always remember that you are the children of אהרן. As children of such a special man, you must behave yourselves in a way that fits where you come from. Once they know this, then, "ואמרת אליהם" - "tell them the דינים that apply to them."

(Adapted from Vedibarta Bam)



DID YOU KNOW?

"אלה מועדי ה'...בחודש הראשון...פסח לה" (כ"ג:ד-ה)

QUESTION: Why does the list of the ימים טובים start with פסח?

ANSWER: In this weeks פרשה the ימים טובים of the year are listed. If we know the day of the week פסח begins, we can figure out on which day of the week the other ימים טובים of the year will take place.

A way to remember this is the system of *At Bash* (in which "א" interchanges with "ת", "ב" interchanges with "ש", "ג" with "ר", etc.).

Alef-Tav - The day of the week on which the first day ("א") of פסח takes place will also be the day of the week when תשעה באב occurs.

Beis-Shin - The second day ("ב") of פסח will be the day when שבועות falls.

Gimmel-Reish - The third day ("ג") of פסח will be the day when first day of ראש השנה takes place.

Daled-Kuf - The fourth day ("ד") of פסח will be the day of קריאת התורה, which is שמחת תורה, when we finish reading the תורה for that year and start again from the beginning.

Heh-Tzadik - The fifth day ("ה") of פסח is the day of צום, the fast of כיפור.

Vav-Peh - The sixth day ("ו") of פסח is the day on which פורים has taken place a month earlier (in אדר). It is necessary to know what day פורים took place the month before in order to calculate the day of בעומר since ל"ג בעומר and ל"ג בעומר always fall on the same day of the week.

(Adapted from Vedibarta Bam)

פרקי אבות פרק שני

ב"ה

Rabbi Chanina and the Rock

Rabbi Yosai said: All your deeds should be for the sake of Heaven. (Avos 2:12)

Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa watched all the people going up to Yerushalayim, taking with them fine gifts and offerings for the Temple.

How he longed to go with them, and bring some wonderful gift for Hashem. Alas, Rabbi Chanina was very poor. He had nothing he could offer to G-d.

He wandered sadly till he was all alone in a deserted field. Suddenly he saw an interesting stone on the ground. It was very large and beautiful.

"What a splendid idea!" thought Rabbi Chanina. "I will take this stone to the Holy Temple as my gift to Hashem!"

Rabbi Chanina ran home to get his tools. He cut the stone, and polished it till its colors shone beautifully.

At last it was fit to decorate the Bais HaMikdosh.

But how would he ever get it there? He looked for someone to help. He would need five strong men to carry it, and they would have to be paid. What was Rabbi Chanina to do? He barely had five gold coins as his whole life's savings.

Suddenly five men appeared as if out of nowhere. "We will help you carry this stone," they said. "Can you give us each one gold coin?"

That was exactly how much money Rabbi Chanina could afford.

"Yes," he agreed at once. "I will give you that much!"

"You must also help us to carry the stone," the men said.

As the men lifted the stone, Rabbi Chanina placed his hand under it too. It felt miraculously light. Suddenly, he found himself in Yerushalayim, standing right there in the Holy Temple. "Here, I'll pay you," he said to the men, but they had all vanished!

Rabbi Chanina hurried to speak with the Sages who sat in the Temple. They smiled. "Those men must have been angels sent to help you!" they said. So Rabbi Chanina gave the money to poor Torah students instead, and thanked Hashem for helping him.

This story teaches us many interesting lessons.



"As the men lifted the stone, Rabbi Chanina placed his hand under it too."

Nowadays it is in our hands to bring Moshiach. That might seem like an impossibly difficult task. How can we ever do it?

We must take a lesson from Rabbi Chanina. If we really want to do bring Moshiach, we need only try. Even if all we do is 'put our hand to the rock', Hashem will make it possible for us, and before we know it, we will find ourselves in Yerushalayim, together with Moshiach, and all the Jewish people, Now!

credits: Tzivos Hashem



פרשת אמור

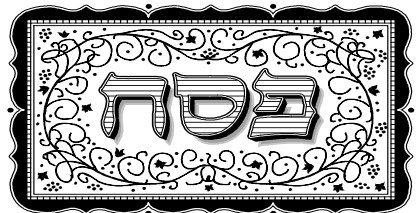


Kids! Fill out the answers to the puzzle below, and fax it to the Shluchim Office at (718) 221-0985 or e-mail it to connections@shluchim.org by Wednesday ט' אייר.

ימים טובים פרשת אמור

Level 1: Ages 5-8

Write the name of the יום טוב next to the detail.



Example: סוכות

We use a לולב

It's the day when we are forgiven

We got the best present of all!

It's the next יום טוב after כיפור

We count for 50 days before this יום טוב

The שופר is blown on this day

The קרבן פסח was brought on this יום טוב

We eat outside our house

It's called the יום טוב of מצות

It's starts on י'

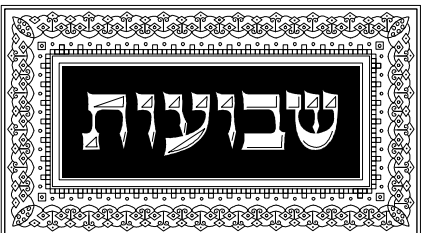
The ביכורים are brought on this day

We are told to take a פרי עץ הדר, an אתרג

We remember how the אידן were taken out of מצרים

Adults don't eat or drink

It's the Head of the Year









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



Winners:

- Pesach:* Miriam Tzivia Brocha Raskin, 5; Melbourne, Australia & Mendel Stiefel, 6; Laval, Quebec
- Parshas Kedoshim:* Mendel Levertov, 8; Santa Fe, New Mexico



פרשת אמורה

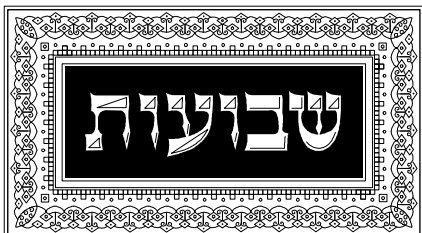


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ימים טובים פרשת אמור

Level 2: Ages 9-12

Write the name of the יום טוב next to the detail. Then, look in a חומש and find the פרק and פסוק where each detail is mentioned. (You can use the חומש to help you if you get stuck, too)



Example:

סוכות

We use the branch of a palm tree פרק ב"ג פסוק מ'

It's called the Day of Atonement פרק פסוק

A קרבן of 2 loaves of bread is brought פרק פסוק

It's on the 15th day of the 7th month פרק פסוק

It's 50 days after the קרבן עומר is brought פרק פסוק

The שופר is blown on this day פרק פסוק

We are told to bring the קרבן עומר פרק פסוק

We are told to live in booths פרק פסוק

It's called the Festival of מצות פרק פסוק

It's on the tenth day of the month פרק פסוק

The ביכורים are brought on this day פרק פסוק

We are told to take a פרי עץ הדר פרק פסוק

It's in the first month, on the 14th day פרק פסוק

We are supposed to be afflicted on this day פרק פסוק

It's in the seventh month, on the first day פרק פסוק

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



Winners:

Pesach: Zevi & Levi Steinmetz, Sarasota, Florida & Chaya Posner, 11; Boston, MA
Parshas Kedoshim: Menucha Kalmanson, 8; Mason, Ohio