



# Shulamith Newsletter

## Parshat Vayigash Paving the Way to Galut

Yosef has revealed himself to his brothers and all has become clear as Hashem's plan for Yaakov and his family's decent to Egypt begins. We know that Yaakov was quite nervous about leaving Eretz Yisrael, so much so that Hashem spoke to him in a dream telling him not to be afraid and that he will be with him in Egypt. Yaakov, as he has proven in the past, is a master planner. Just as he had done before meeting Eisav, Yaakov prepares for the threat that lays ahead...life in Egypt. וְאֶת־יְהוּדָה שָׁלַח לִפְנֵי יוֹסֵף אֶל־יוֹסֵף לְהוֹרֹת לִפְנֵי גִשְׁנֹה וַיְבֹא. (And he sent Yehuda ahead of him to Yosef, to direct him to Goshen, and they came to the land of Goshen). Rashi tells us that Yehuda was sent ahead to set up a place of learning, a yeshiva.

When they arrive in Egypt, the preparations continue, and Yosef and his brothers coordinate their message to Pharaoh. Yosef instructs them to tell Pharaoh that their occupation is raising livestock, and that this will necessitate a large amount of land and will cause Pharaoh to allow them to stay in the land of Goshen. Why Goshen though? The simple reading of the psukim can lead us to believe that they wanted Goshen for its economic advantage of lush pastures for their animals. However, there is a far more strategic reason for choosing Goshen... it was isolated from the rest of Egypt.

Yaakov and Yosef knew the secret of survival... the ghetto. The term ghetto, usually used negatively, describes a place of segregation. The first use of the term was in the early 1500's describing the Venetian Ghetto housing the Jewish residents of Venice. The purpose of the ghetto was to keep Jews locked in their own areas, but in many ways, it was a blessing in disguise. The simple fact of the matter is that for Jews to survive spiritually they need two things, Torah and other Jews. Without Torah we have no direction and without other Jews we have no continuity. Many of our worst tragedies occur when we have the negative outside influences breaking down our "ghetto walls". Throughout the ages we've seen it time and again. The introduction of idolatry, Hellenism, and the Haskala movement, all various movements aimed at pulling us away from Torah adherence.

This parsha never fails to remind me how fortunate we are today to live in a community with so many Torah resources. We have Talmidai Chachamim, shuls, Yeshivas, Mikvaot, kosher restaurants! We are living and thriving on the road paved for us by none other than Yaakov Avinu. For thousands of years we have followed this lead and G-d willing, with the coming of Moshiach soon, our ultimate and final ghetto will be established in Eretz Yisrael.

Shabbat Shalom!  
Natan Mandelbaum

# DATES TO REMEMBER

**December 25-29-Annual Chinese Auction!**

**December 27-"Chazak" Inter-Yeshiva event for Grade 8**

**January 4-Bentching Prize Trip! Grades 5 & 6 to Dave and Busters**

**Welcome back to Sofia-Director of Special Services!**  
**Please feel free to email her at**  
**[schalouh@shulamithofbrooklyn.org](mailto:schalouh@shulamithofbrooklyn.org) with any questions**  
**regarding IEP's and related services!**

**What's for  
lunch?**



<u><b>25th</b></u>	<u><b>26th</b></u>	<u><b>27th</b></u>	<u><b>28th</b></u>
Baked Ziti Plain Pasta Salad Tuna Fruit	Chicken Tenders Rice Salad Egg Salad Fruit	Pancakes Home Fries Sliced Veggies Tuna Fruit	Pizza Fries Israeli Salad Tuna Fruit





## K-8 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



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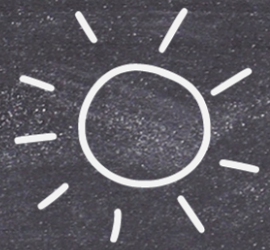
[www.shulamithofbrooklyn.org](http://www.shulamithofbrooklyn.org)

60 West End Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11235

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IT'S BACK....



# ANNUAL CHINESE AUCTION



DECEMBER 25-29



ONLY \$1 A TICKET



Shulamith  
school for girls  
Brooklyn





# Preschool News

Dear Parents,

The girls were eagerly awaiting this week's פרשה , פרשת ויגש , so that they could find out if Yosef would reveal himself to his brothers. We learned that Yehuda had promised his father, Yaakov, that he would bring Binyamin back from מצרים safely. He took his responsibility very seriously. Yehuda begged Yosef to let Binyamin return home. He told Yosef that his father was very old and that he had already lost one son. He added that if anything happens to Binyamin he would have broken his promise to his father and his father would definitely get very ill and even maybe die. From this we learn how the Torah teaches us to be responsible for each other and to carry through on our obligations.

We learned that Yosef saw how sincere and troubled Yehuda was and as Yosef did not want to embarrass his brothers he asked all the Egyptians in the room to leave. Yosef then turned to his brothers and weeping from emotion informed them that "I am Yosef. Is my father alive?" By revealing himself in this manner we again see that Yosef was not a big shot, but a real צדיק. He wasn't angry with his brothers for anything they had done in the past because he knew that it was what Hashem had wanted.

We also learned that Yosef and his brothers hugged and were very happy to be reunited again, but they were worried about how they could tell their father this great news. They didn't want to give him such a shock that it would harm his health. The girls learned that Serach, Asher's daughter who played the harp was given the job to inform her grandfather that Yosef was alive. The girls enjoyed the book "Serach's Song" by Yaffa Leib Gottlieb which describes this event. Finally, we learned that when Yaakov and Yosef saw each other their reuniting signaled the end of the famine.

This week we continued to read more books about צדיקים. We read the book "Reb Yitzchak's Jewels" by Rabbi Nosson Scherman. It tells of how Reb Yitzchak had a beautiful diamond and dropped it in the water so that it wouldn't be used as an idol. Reb. Yitzchak was therefore rewarded with a son after many years of being childless. This child was no other than רש"י.

Your daughter also heard a story about a boy named Yisroel Meir who came from a poor family. He was nonetheless happy and never wanted to cheat anyone. Yisroel Meir had impeccable business ethics and went out of his way to help people. He had learned from his mother how we should not get into groups to talk about others. In fact, we should also not talk about others to even one other person. He wrote a book called the Chofetz Chaim. It talks about how we should not tell on our friends and not talk about people. He saw how a kind word can bring happiness and a mean, nasty remark can make a person sad. The Chofetz Chaim knew that Hashem gave us a mouth for a reason. We need to use it for good. We also read the book "Manny's a Thief" to show us what could happen when we talk about others.

Rav Yisroel Meir didn't want anyone to know he wrote a book, as he was very humble. However, people figured out that it was Rav Yisroel Meir and from then on he was known as the Chofetz Chaim. Whenever we hear his name we immediately think of a צדיק - a humble, caring person, who doesn't talk bad about others.

We continued with our Leo Lionni author study and read his book "The Alphabet Tree". We saw how letters when put together make words and putting the words together make sentences. We made our own alphabet tree and used its letters to form words and sentences.

Wishing you all a wonderful שבוע שלום.

Morah Caroline

Morah Ahuva



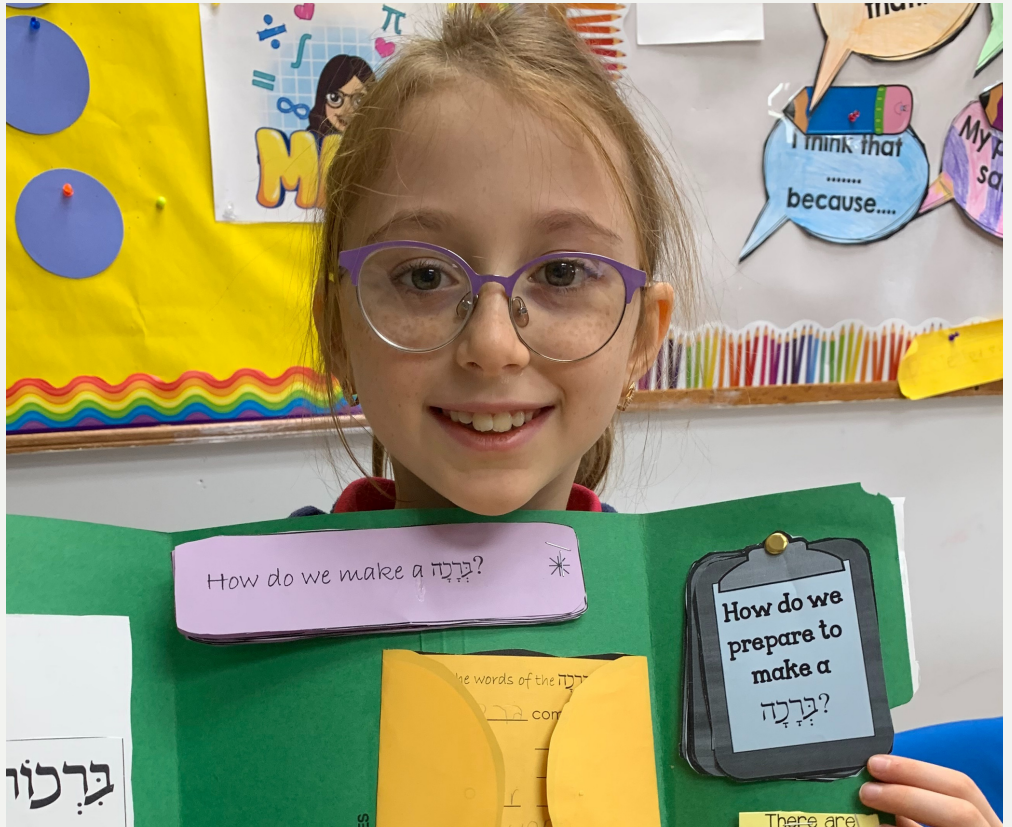
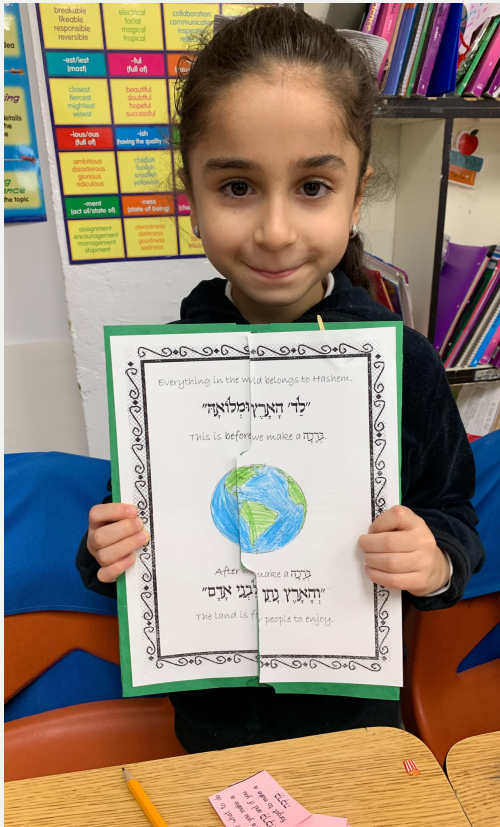
# Preschool Pictures





# Shulamith Snapshots

## Kita Gimmel Hilchot Bracha





# Shulamith Snapshots

Morah Pearl's 4th Grade beginning their learning of Nevi'im!





# Shulamith Snapshots

## GETTING READY FOR PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES



**BOOK SALE**



**"SHOPPING" at our Uniform Gemach!**



**NEW MIDDOT PROGRAM**



**Excited about the CHINESE AUCTION!**



# Shulamith Snapshots

ART WITH MORAH SIGAL





# Shulamith Snapshots

## GYM WITH COACH RUCHIE





# Shulamith Snapshots

## NUTRITION 101





# Shulamith Snapshots

## NUTRITION 101

