



TorahDaySchool  
OF ATLANTA



THE

# SPOTLIGHT

Friday, March 8, 2024

28 Adar I 5784

Parshas Vayakhel - Shabbbas Shekalim

## Thoughts from the Head of School

This week marks the beginning of the 4 special maftirs we read leading up to Pesach: Shekalim, Zecher Amalek, Parah Aduma, and Roshei Chadashim. Each plays a specific role in our preparation for the upcoming season. Shekalim alerts us to donate a half shekel to the beis hamikdash to be used in the communal karbonos beginning in the month of Nissan.



Rabbi Meir Cohen

A couple of questions arise around parshas Shekalim. Firstly, there is no need for the half shekel donation anymore, so why do we still read this? Secondly, the passage chosen is not really related to why we brought the half shekel regularly. The gemorah in Megila (29B) relates a debate between Rav and Shmuel about which passage to use. Rav holds that we read a Torah section related to the mitzvah of the karbon that uses the yearly donations of a half shekel. Shmuel argues that we should read from Ki Sisa because the word "half shekel" is mentioned. Even though that half shekel is in relation to the donations for the mishkan and to count the Jews after the sin of the golden calf, we still pasken like Shmuel. Why?

Rabbi Shlomo Elkabitz may offer an understanding by the way he explains the reason behind a half shekel donation. He says that we are commanded to give half a shekel versus a whole shekel to teach us the importance of achdus among Jews. We might think that we can survive without each other; we can live independent lives. Giving half a shekel shows us that we need each other to live a life of shlemos (wholeness). Without achdus, we are only half a person.

The purpose of this yearly donation is to fund a communal offering. I think Rabbi Elkabitz is saying that in order to be a community, our donations need to come with a mindset of our necessary interconnectedness. Yes, we are all unique, but we are dependent on each other. We see this clearly with chessed and tefilah. But we should not only think of it in times of need. It is true for how we serve Hashem on a regular basis! With a strong connection we can openly collaborate, seek advice, provide guidance, and help each other grow. Everyone is part of that community.

I think that is why we pasken like Shmuel. It is not important to publicize the mitzvah of the communal Karbon - especially now that we don't have a beis hamikdash. It is more important to remind each other of our achdus through the words of "half" a shekel. And there is no better month to remind us of that than when we are close to Purim - a holiday which stresses our interconnectedness through two of the mitzvos: matanas l'evyonim and shaloch manos.

As we hear parshas Shekalim this week, may we notice our interconnectedness and be inspired to strengthen it.

Good Shabbos!

## We Love Our Alums!

And our alums love each other. Throughout day school, high school, seminary, yeshiva, and whatever comes next, many of our alums stay in touch. They see each other at simchas and provide support during challenging times. When we say welcome to the TDSA family, **THIS** is what we mean.



*We love hearing from our alums!* Share with us your news! Just email [Imorris@torahday.org](mailto:Imorris@torahday.org) and share away! Mazel tov Chayala and Yitzy Stroll!



1985 LaVista Road, Atlanta GA 30329 404.982.0800 [torahday.org](http://torahday.org)

## פרנס היום *Day of Learning*

**Monday, March 4, 2024 24 Adar I 5784**

In honor of

Joshua Herschel Winer

Herschel Yehoshua ben Label David

For his brave service in the IDF  
and for his safe return

By his parents, Leonard and Charlene Winer

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024 25 Adar I 5784**

In honor of Dr. Josh Winer

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024 26 Adar I 5784**

In merit of a refuah shleimah for

Pesach Betzalel ben Chaya Batsheva

By Esther and Stephen Lubel and Family

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024 26 Adar I 5784**

In merit of a refuah shleimah for

Pesach Betzalel ben Chaya Batsheva

By TDSA Friends and Family

**Thursday, March 7, 2024 27 Adar 5784**

In merit of a refuah shleimah for

Pesach Betzalel ben Chaya Batsheva

By Barry Yaffe

*TDSA's Day of Learning Program is an opportunity to dedicate a day, a week, or a month of Torah learning and davening at school in memory of, in honor of, or in the merit of the recovery of a loved one.*

*The dedication is sent out to the school's email list, announced to the students daily, and printed in the SPOTLIGHT, TDSA's weekly newsletter.*

*For more information, please contact Marcy Kalnitz at [mkalnitz@torahday.org](mailto:mkalnitz@torahday.org) or 404.982.0800 ext. 101.*



### *4th Graders and Their Owl Pellets*

The 4th graders read *There's an Owl in the Shower* by Jean Craighead George. It's a heartwarming, humorous family story that also provides a wonderful way for students to learn about endangered species, conservation, and environmentalism. As a culminating activity, the students dissected owl pellets. Students found skeletal pieces of animals that the owls eat such as mice, rats, voles, and more.

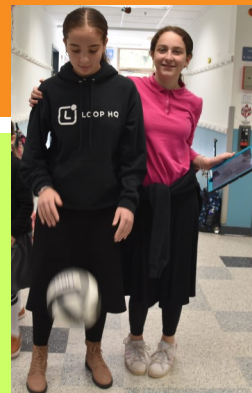
### *First Graders During Library Time*

Using the book, *Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton, as inspiration, the students very happily build their own little houses. The students exhibited a great connection and synergy. Collaborating and helping each other in such a natural and relaxed manner is a true sign of a strong partnership and is evident even among our younger students.



### *Sunday Morning in Keelah K!*

Weren't you making hamentaschen this past Sunday? The kindergarteners certainly were! They were here on the TDSA campus shaping their dough and adding their filling. You can almost hear them singing, "My hat it has 3 corners, 3 corners has my hat!"



### *8th Graders Illustrate Laws of Motion*

The 8th graders have been studying and experimenting with Newton's Laws of Motion. As a culminating activity, they formed into collaborative groups, with each group choosing a law to illustrate and share with their classmates via movie they created. Their movies showed Newton's Laws in everyday life.



The 7th graders' SEL activity included a game of Drama Telephone, which illustrates how we all perceive things differently. The girls also enjoyed a crash course on the zones of regulation.



After reading *The Little Blue Bridge* by B. Maier, **kindergarteners** designed either a suspension, arch or truss bridge. They brought their designs to life using a variety of interesting on-hand materials!



Eloquence describes this scene perfectly. **Second graders** celebrate their siyum on Parshas Vayera with d'verei Torah, written by themselves. They shared insights, questions, and words of Torah.