

## Beit Rabban Parashah Page

**Parashat Vayakhel**  
**Exodus 35:1-38:20**  
**Shabbat Shekalim**

**פרשת ויקהל**  
**שמות לה:א-לח:כ**  
**שבת שקלים**

This week is the first of the special Shabbatot that lead us into Pesach. The additional reading for Shabbat Shekalim (Ex. 30:11-16) describes the money offering that B'nei Yisrael were obliged to bring, half a shekel for each person. This contribution was a means of counting the people as well as a kind of tax to pay for the maintenance of the Mishkan.

Parashat Vayakhel is also about collecting, but in this case, the donations are not required, they were however much a person's heart moved them to contribute. And it is not just money, nor even material goods, but people's skills and talents that were collected. Each person truly gave of themselves (Ex. 35:21).

And everyone who excelled in ability and everyone whose spirit moved him came, bringing their offerings to HaShem for the work of the Tent of Meeting and all of its service and for the holy garments.

וַיָּבֹאוּ, כָּל-אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-נִשְׂאוֹ לְבוֹ;  
וְכָל אֲשֶׁר נָדְבָה רוּחוֹ אֹתוֹ, הֵבִיאוּ  
אֶת-תְּרוּמַת ה' לַמְלָאכָה אֲהֶל  
מוֹעֵד וְלִכְל-עֲבֹדָתוֹ, וְלִבְגָדֵי  
הַקֹּדֶשׁ.

Why do you think the donations of materials and talents to the project of building the Mishkan were voluntary? Imagine if you were in the wilderness, what would you bring? What part of the Mishkan would you like to work on? Why?

Each of us has special skills and talents that make us valuable members of the many communities in our lives: our families, the school community and the much larger community of Clal Yisrael. What are your special skills and talents? How could you use these abilities to help your community?