November 3 2023
19th of Cheshvan, 5784

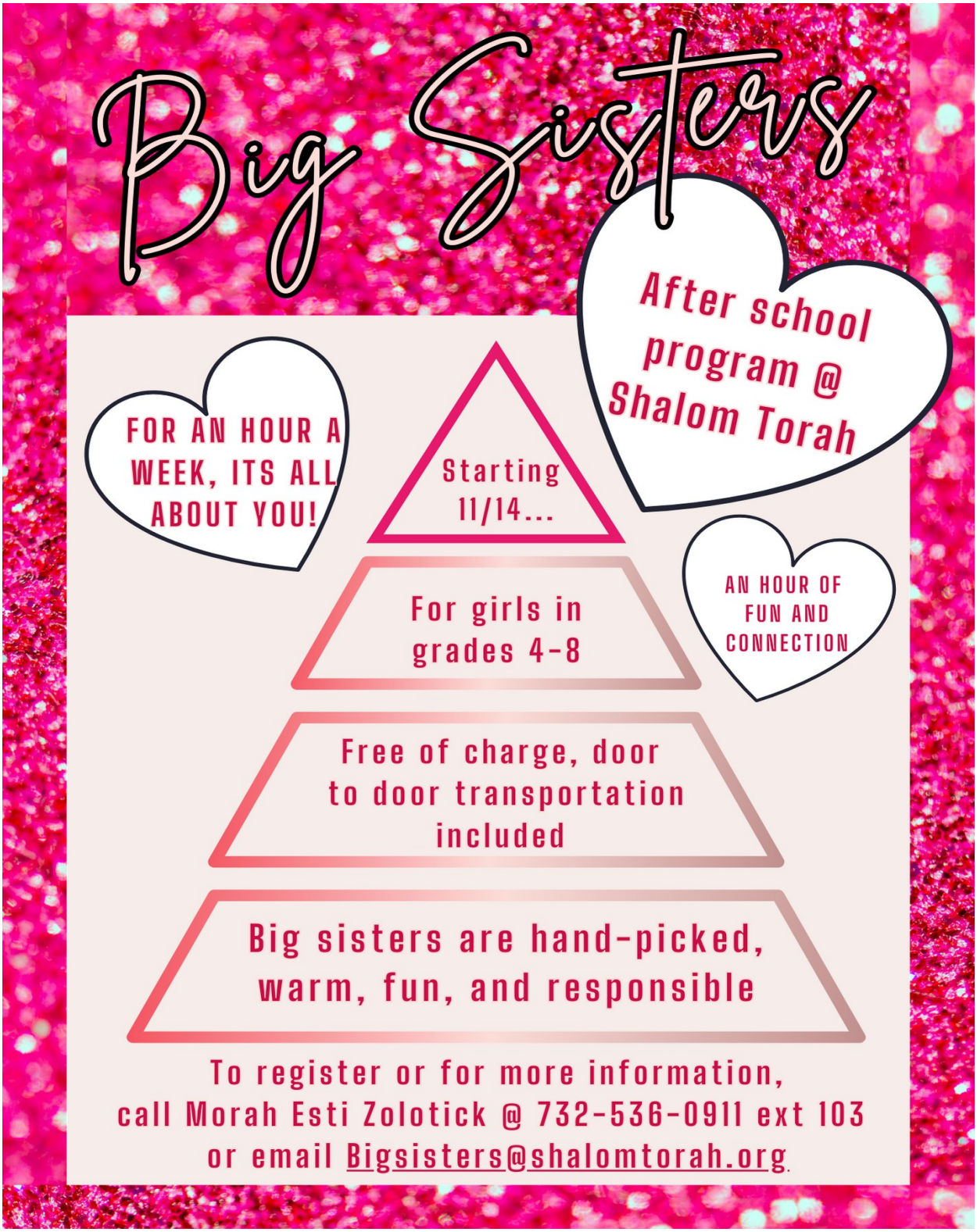
Shalom Torah Academy
OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

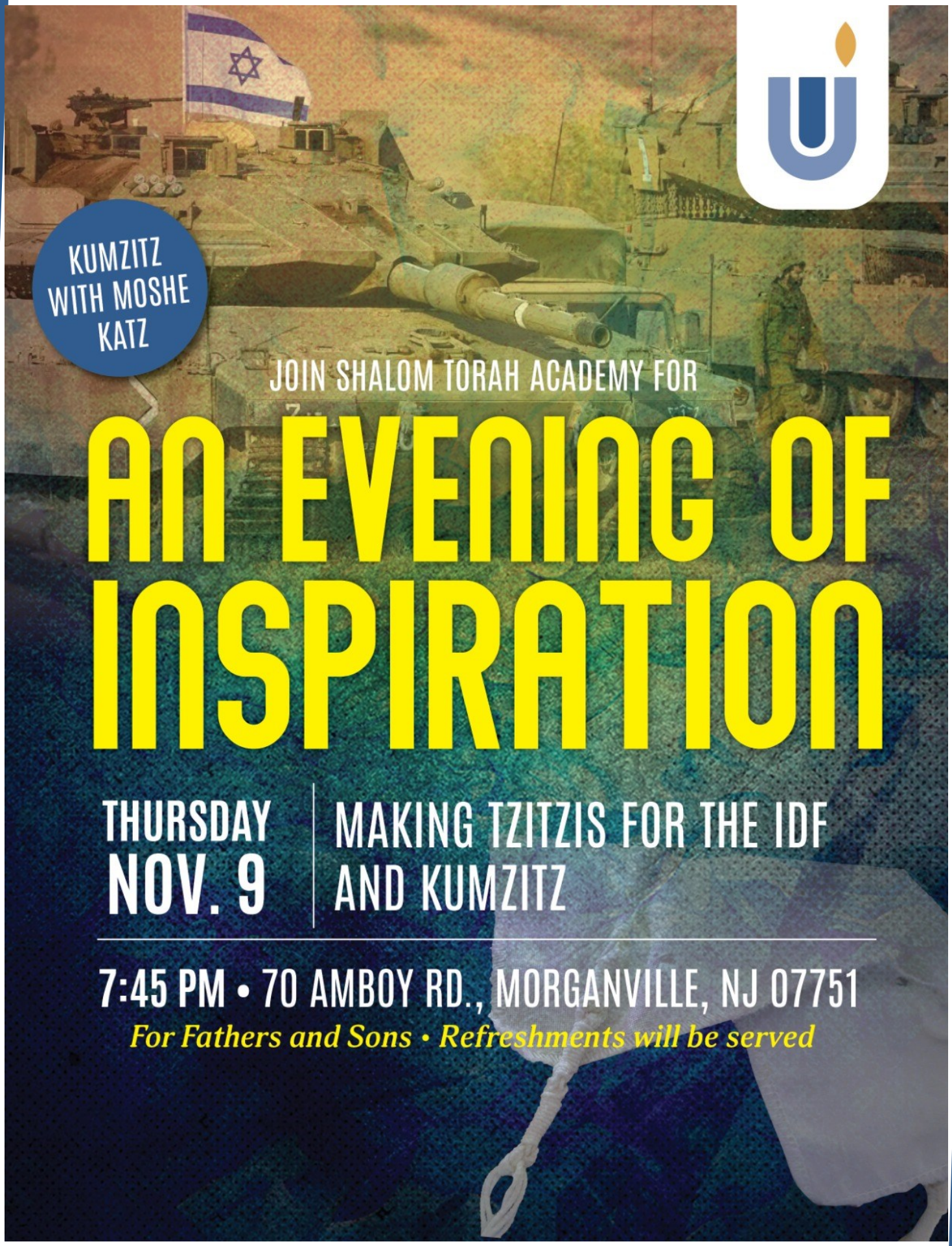
Candle lighting: **5:34 pm** (Morganville)
Havdalah at **6:41 pm**




# Ma Chadash?

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR SHALOM TORAH ACADEMY OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY




KUMZITZ WITH MOSHE KATZ
JOIN SHALOM TORAH ACADEMY FOR
AN EVENING OF INSPIRATION
THURSDAY NOV. 9
MAKING TZITZIS FOR THE IDF AND KUMZITZ
7:45 PM • 70 AMBOY RD., MORGANVILLE, NJ 07751
For Fathers and Sons • Refreshments will be served

# Parsha Lesson

*Rabbi Eli Meir Kramer*

## **Vayera-** *Man's Mission*

*For this year's Parsha Lesson I will be applying the lesson that can be derived from the Dvar Torah to the world as we know it today.*

## Background

This week's parsha starts off with Avraham recovering from the Bris Milah (*circumcision*) which he performed at the end of last week's parsha, Parshas Lech Lecha.

It was the third day after his Bris, and Avraham was sitting outside of his tent waiting for guests to come. Avraham's outstanding characteristics were being a baal chesed (*one who does acts of loving kindness*) and being someone who spread the awareness of Hashem throughout the world. Avraham combined both of these qualities with the 'chesed house' that he ran with his wife, Sarah.

Avraham set up his tent in a place where travelers would often pass by. Avraham would welcome them in and give them a sumptuous meal and engage them in conversation about faith in Hashem. In this way Avraham came to be well known and admired as both a kind and generous person as well as a man of faith in Hashem. Avraham's ideas and influence were thus spread around the world and an otherwise pagan and idolatrous world was introduced to the idea of a kind, merciful, monotheistic G-d who had created the world and directs all of the events in it.

Being that this was the third day after his bris, and Avraham was in a lot of pain, Hashem made it extremely hot. This was done so that no one would venture outside, and thereby task Avraham with attending to them. While Avraham was sitting outside of his tent, Hashem came to him, to comfort him.

While Avraham is speaking with Hashem, Avraham notices what looked like three travelers, approaching his tent somewhat apprehensively. These 'travelers' were in fact angels that Hashem sent to visit Avraham in the guise of men since Hashem saw that Avraham was pained at not having any guests that day. Avraham tells Hashem to 'hold on' and runs to take care of these guests.

The Gemara (Shabbos 127a) learns from this incident that it is 'greater to receive guests than it is to receive the Shechina (*divine presence of Hashem).'*

## Question

While this would seem to be a good source for this, how are we to understand this idea? The Ramchal (*R' Moshe Chaim Luzzatto, born in Italy, 1707- died in Israel 1746*) writes at the beginning of the Mesillas Yesharim that man's ultimate goal on this world is to become close to Hashem, to 'bask in the presence of Hashem' and enjoy the 'splendor of His presence (*Shechina*).

If Avraham was now in the presence of the Shechina of Hashem, isn't that the ultimate goal!? Avraham has arrived! How could Avraham then leave Hashem and go to attend to guests?

## Answer

Man's job on this world is to follow the directives of Hashem as conveyed to us through the Torah. Man is not tasked with bringing the 'Shechina' into their life. When Man does his job, when Man follows the commands of Hashem, keeps the Torah faithfully and becomes a righteous person who is now 'holy', (*removed from other worldly concerns and concerns himself with only what Hashem wants him to do*), such a man will then be close to Hashem.

Avraham did not set out at the beginning of his journey of discovering G-d to be close to the Shechina, and Avraham always maintained the proper perspective that man's duty and mission in this world is to follow the directives of Hashem, thus molding himself in the image of G-d. Once man has so developed themselves, then closeness to the Shechina, the Shechina resting on top of his tent (!), is a natural and deserved byproduct of what that Man has become.

As such, even when conversing with G-d in the ultimate manner in which man can be 'close' to Hashem on this world, Avraham still maintains perspective on what his job is– to be a faithful servant of G-d. Hashem wanted him to take leave of Him and go attend to the guests. In fact, as becomes clear later on in the story, these guests were in fact angels, sent by Hashem in order that Avraham should care for them.

How did Avraham know that that is how he should behave? Because Avraham recognized that first and foremost man must be faithful to his duty and mission on this world, and the call of the moment for that mission was to welcome in the guests who were passing by.

## Lesson for our world

I was recently approached by someone who shared with me the following conundrum that a number of people are no doubt grappling with: with the frightening war in Israel, and with all of the talk of the impending arrival of Moshiach (*may it be speedily in our days*) this person was concerned to know- what then? If the purpose of life is to bring Moshiach, what is my purpose post-Moshiach going to be?

Now while I do not know what life will look like, and there are a range of legitimate opinions on the matter, what I do know is that Man's mission on this world will be exactly the same: to follow the directives of the Torah, thereby molding one's self into being G-dlike. This is Man's mission, here and now and forever.

Man was put onto this world and tasked with upholding the Torah, upholding the will and directives of Hashem, to the best of their ability. In so doing, Man becomes more developed, refined, perfected and G-dlike. The reward and state of such a person will be that they will bask in Hashem's presence. But that is not the mission, that is the destination.

## A Highlight from our Judaic Studies Department

Morah Malky Dessler and the 4th Grade Class

With tremendous excitement the fourth-grade students eagerly anticipated the day when they would receive their own Navi. After speaking about our beloved land Israel and creating adorable edible maps of Israel, the students were ready to begin learning.

Another highlight of fourth grade was our introduction to davening Shmonei Esrei. Rabbi Leiter spoke with the students about the beauty of Tefilah, and now we are ready to embark on our journey of understanding the prayer of Shmonei Esrei. After calling the White House and not being able to connect with the president the students realized the special privilege we have that we can open our siddur any time of day and speak to the Kings of all kings. It is these feelings of pride and excitement that will accompany our students as we daven every day.







## A Highlight from our General Department

Morah Basya Greenberger and the 2nd Grade Class

Our second graders are off to a wonderful start! We are excelling in our academic achievements! Our math skills, reading comprehension and fluency and overall scholastic abilities are truly improving.

This week we traveled around the world, exploring the seven continents, and learning all about the four oceans! We learned how a globe is a model of planet earth, and compared and contrasted maps and globes. We took a glimpse in to the lives of children just like us, who live in different continents around the world. It was so interesting to learn about how these children conduct themselves similar to us. Together with partners, our second graders modeled continents out of clay. It was a pleasure to watch as the children worked so nicely together as a cohesive unit. Ask us to sing the song we learnt to help us memorize the seven continents and four oceans! We sang with such enthusiasm and excitement! We're looking forward to a great year!



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|---|---|
| Tuesday, November 7 | Professional Development Day for Staff - **No Sessions for students** |
| Monday, November 13 | Interim Reports Sent Home |
| Wednesday, November 22 | Preschool Thanksgiving Parade & Street Fair |
| Thurs.– Fri., November 23,24 | Thanksgiving Vacation - **No Sessions** |
| Wednesday, November 29 | Parent Teacher Conferences - **Early Dismissal at 2:45p.m.** |
| Fri. - Mon., December 8-11 | Chanukah Vacation - **No Sessions** |
| Wednesday, December 13 | Chanukah Mommy and Me: Early Childhood Classes |




Ava Lipner - November 4

Eitan Mistriel - November 4

Yonatan Dahari - November 6

Gabriella Gorbachincky - November 9

Adi Klugman - November 10

Shira Mistriel - November 10

Ginny B. Persky - November 10




*Mazal Tov to Morah Malky Dessler (4th grade teacher) on her marriage to Yehuda Bergman.*

*Mazel Tov to Morah Malkie Zachai on the marriage of her daughter Yocheved to Shlomo Leizerson*

# Attendance Policy:

**Reporting Student Absences:** *If your child will be absent from school, please email attendance by 10:00 am. Include the reason for the absence.*

**Dismissal Changes:** *To make a change for dismissal, emails must be sent to attendance before 3:00 pm (12:00 pm on Fridays)*

***attendance@shalomtorah.org***

# November School Lunch Menu

| Monday, 11/6 | Tuesday, 11/7 | Wednesday, 11/8 | Thursday, 11/9 | Friday, 11/10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baked Ziti<br>Vegetable Salad | Professional Development Day for Staff<br>**No Sessions for Students** | Fishsticks, Rice, Sliced Vegetables | French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Sliced Vegetables | 1 Pizza Slice |
| **Monday, 11/13** | **Tuesday, 11/14** | **Wednesday, 11/15** | **Thursday, 11/16** | **Friday, 11/17** |
| Penne ala Vodka (contains no alcohol), Sliced Vegetables | Sicilian Pizza<br>Sliced Vegetables | Falafel Sandwich, Israeli Salad, Veg. Soup | Bagel (choice of Egg Salad, Tuna or Cream Cheese), Veg. Soup, Israeli Salad | 1 Pizza Slice |
| **Monday, 11/20** | **Tuesday, 11/21** | **Wednesday, 11/22** | **Thursday, 11/23** | **Friday, 11/24** |
| Mac & Cheese<br>Sliced Veg. | Grilled Cheese Sandwich, French Fries, Sliced Veg. | **Thanksgiving Feast** | **Thanksgiving**<br>**No School** | **Thanksgiving**<br>**No School** |
| **Monday, 11/27** | **Tuesday, 11/28** | **Wednesday, 11/29** | **Thursday, 11/30** | **Friday, 12/1** |
| Rotini in Alfredo Sauce, Vegetables | Sicilian Pizza<br>Sliced Vegetables | Fish Sticks with Rice, Vegetables | Potato Knish, Boiled Egg, Split Pea Soup, Israel Salad | 1 Pizza Slice |