

## תרומה Giving In, Getting Out

דבר אל בני ישראל ויקחו לי תרומה מאת כל איש אשר ידבנו לבו תקחו את תרומתי:

Tell the Israelite people to bring Me gifts; you shall accept gifts for Me from every person whose heart so moves him.

**ונבאר** פסוק ויקחו לי תרומה מאת כל איש וגו', דקשה הל"ל ויתנו וכנ"ל. ועוד מאי לי. ועוד מאי לשון תרומה.

We need to explain the *possuk* for it is difficult, for its hould have said “and they will give” (and not “and they will take”)

-Toldos Yaakov Yosef

“The message I want my children to know by doing their chore list is ‘You are Important. I value your help. Your work is good work.’”

– Leah Martin

Leon Kass is the Addie Clark Harding Professor Emeritus in the Committee on Social Thought and in the College at the University of Chicago. He is a world-renown scholar. He is also a Jew with an avid interest in the Bible. Mr. Kass’s perspective is not necessarily one to which we are accustomed, but his fresh look at the Chumash provides for us a new appreciation of the brilliant wisdom contained in the Torah that we may have overlooked, until now.

Professor Kass published a book in 2020 entitled, Reading Exodus, in which he lays out the argument that the book of Exodus, *sefer shmos*, can be seen as a political treatise on nation-building. Kass’s view of the first half of the *sefer*, involving shared struggle, communal suffering, and collective, national redemption as building blocks of nationhood is insightful, but not all that novel. It is Kass’s point of view on the second half of the *sefer*, the building of the *mishkan*, that truly shines.

Kass argues that an integral ingredient in building a nation is shared contribution by the members of that nation. The only way for people to feel invested in a society is for them to invest in that society. They need to feel that they are contributing, not taking, building and not tearing down. The *mishkan*, in Kass’s thesis, becomes a project on a national scale, where each individual can contribute both his property and his talents to make the project come to fruition. This band of former slaves, many with years of experience in the labor of building, but nothing to show for that building for they had applied their talents to build a community in which they were allowed no part would now be able to apply those talents to build the centerpiece of a community they will call their own.

While professor Kass’s read of the *parsha* may be arguable, his premise is certainly accurate. For a society to succeed, the members of that society must contribute and invest in the building of that society. It is true not just for societies, but for families as well.

In the not too distant past, it was taken as a given that children would contribute to the home in the form of meaningful chores. Children might have been expected to wash dishes, prepare supper, do laundry, clean, or any of a number of other important tasks in the household. The combination of growing affluence and modern conveniences have rendered those chores often unnecessary for the sustainment of the home. They have consequently been dropped in many families.

That is a shame, for in truth, children who do chores in a home get far more than they give. Giving children chores is not so much about finishing the tasks as it is about completing the children. Kids who are made to do household chores actively contribute and invest of themselves in their home and family. They become and feel like they are part of something bigger than themselves, something special and important. A child who is put in charge of a significant household responsibility is sent a clear message that his work matters, that he matters. The child who has no responsibility never receives that message.

When Hashem took the *B’nei Yisroel* out of Egypt, He freed them from slavery. That was only the beginning of the journey. He then had to build them up as individuals and as a collective society. The Divine Wisdom recognized that both will be the product of asking the people to apply themselves to building their own national community.

If we want to build up our children, we need to make them apply themselves to building the small community that is their family and their home.

Good Shabbos,  
Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb  
Principal



פרשת תרומה  
שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום



*This week's program שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום is sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. D. Weinraub*

*In honor of  
all the amazing  
Rebbeim, Teachers, and Staff  
at Ohr Reuven!*

**MOST of the פרשיות of this year  
are still available for sponsorship!**  
Please help support this wonderful program.

**Monthly (4 weeks) sponsorship: \$175**  
**One week full sponsorship: \$50**  
**One week partial sponsorship: \$30**

To sponsor a פרשה  
please contact Rabbi Plotzker.  
[bplotzker@ohrreuven.com](mailto:bplotzker@ohrreuven.com)

First

Last

Name of תלמיד (Please Print Clearly)

**!!WEEKLY PRIZES!!**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – 5 פסוקים
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 10 פסוקים
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 15 פסוקים
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 20 פסוקים
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 25 פסוקים
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 30 פסוקים
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – 40 פסוקים
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – 50 פסוקים

My son completed שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום for  
this פרשה in the amount specified for his class.

- Bonus: Did double the grade required amount!**

Parent's signature

\_\_\_\_\_



ב"ד

**Lu. L. L. A. Y.**



# Loving Living Like A Yid



## **TIE THEM ~~RIGHT~~** **LEFT**



The order of putting on shoes on is:

**\$75**  
gift  
certificate

- Put on the right shoe
- Put on the left shoe
- Tie the left shoe
- Tie the right shoe

Shoe  
store  
of your  
choice!

**2 WINNERS!**

**I PUT ON MY SHOES RIGHT  
AND TIED THEM (if applicable) ~~THE RIGHT~~ LEFT WAY.**

**(At least 10 out of 14 days to qualify)**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Grade _____	Grade _____	Grade _____	Grade _____	Grade _____	Grade _____
Talmid's name _____	Talmid's name _____	Talmid's name _____	Talmid's name _____	Talmid's name _____	Talmid's name _____
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Grade _____	Grade _____	Grade _____	Grade _____	Grade _____	Grade _____
Talmid's name _____	Talmid's name _____	Talmid's name _____	Talmid's name _____	Talmid's name _____	Talmid's name _____



Please hand in to the office at the end of both weeks.

