

אור ראוּבֵן  
OHR REUVEN  
YESHIVA KETANA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Motzei Shabbos

January 17, 2026

**NSHEI TEA**



Monday

January 19, 2026

Legal Holiday

No Transportation

Dismissal N-8 3:00 PM

General Studies Teacher-In-Service

Wednesday

January 28, 2026

Dismissal: Grades N-K: 12:00,

P-8: 12:30

Thursday-Monday

January 29-February 2, 2026

Mid Winter

No session



## IMPORTANT NOTES

Our condolences to Rabbi Rawicki on the passing of his beloved sister, Mrs. Lifsha Bracha ע"ה bas Yitzchak Aryeh ז"ל



# REUVEN REVIEW

YOUR WINDOW INTO THE WORLD OF YESHIVA KETANA OHR REUVEN

Vol. 14 Issue 17

January 16, 2026

4:35 PM

פרשת ארא



Mazel Tov to our Mishna Yomi Siyum Lomdim



Kedusha Warriors trip





Rabbi Kohn's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class celebrates surpassing 1,000 chazaros on their Gemara Chazara chart- now aiming for an incredible new goal of 1,500!  
חזרה עמודים!



Rabbi Kohn's 6<sup>th</sup> grade learning in Ohr Reuven's Bais Medrash for their Gemara Chazara program

Our condolences to Alexander Czertok on the passing of his beloved father, Arie Ben Dovid A" H

PLEASE SHARE WITH US! Email any mazel tov information to [reuvenreview@ohrreuven.com](mailto:reuvenreview@ohrreuven.com).

## MAZEL TOV!

Eliyahu and Moshe Dovid Rothman on their brother's Upsherin!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Rafi Weinraub 6<sup>th</sup>

Moshe Dovid Rothman 4<sup>th</sup>

Eli Wassner 3<sup>rd</sup>

JJ Zlotnick 3<sup>rd</sup>

Tzvi Margaretten 1<sup>st</sup>

Benny Peker Pre-1A



Mordechai Nadoff celebrating his Hanochas Teffilin



Morah Bracha's and Morah Hadassa's 2nd grade math



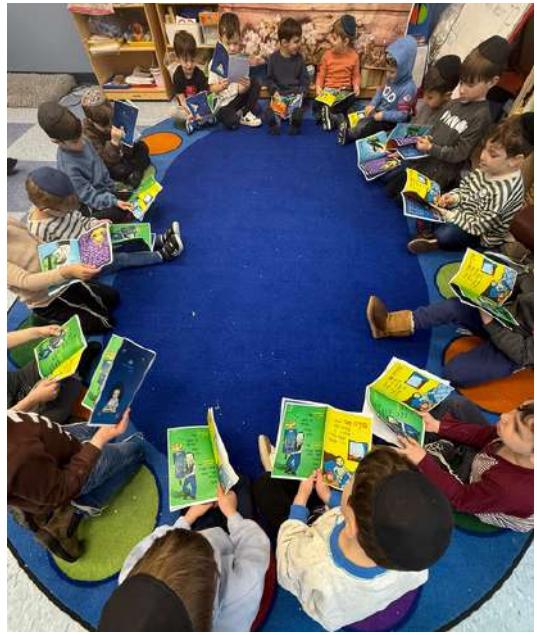
Rabbi Peikes' 8th Grade Siyum on Maseches Beitzah and Hilchos Krias Hatorah



ELA game in 1st grade with Mrs. Radzik



Rabbi Biller's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade learned that unkind words can quickly ruin a happy mood, like a balloon popping when it's hit by something sharp.



Morah Jenny's K1 davening from Siddurim



Morah Bracha's Pre-1A playing the decoding kriah game



Morah Tzippy's Nursery reading time



**We are excited to see you at our upcoming Nshei Tea. As a fun incentive, the boys are able to guess how many gumballs are in a gumball machine. The family with the closest guess submitted at the tea will win the entire machine. (Boys don't forget to give your mother your guess)**

## וארא

### Winning the Losing Streak

וְאֶרְאָ אֶל־אֶבְרָהָם אֶל־יַעֲקֹב וְאֶל־יַעֲקֹב בֶּן־שָׁקַי וְשָׁקַי ה' לֹא נִזְעַטִּי לְהַמִּן:

I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as Kel Shakkai, but I did not make Myself known to them by My name, Hashem.

היה ביד לי הובילכם בדרך העולה מעלה. במקום לסתך בן לאברהם בשנותו המאה, יכולתי להקים לו משפחה קודם שהיא בן שבעים, ולהניח לזרענו לפרוח ולהיות עם בתנאי אושר והצלחה, על אדמות מולדתו. אולם באופן זה לא היה העם נעשה לעם ה', אותו עם אשר דרכו יתגלה האלקים כ'יה'ה', ... משום כך, חייב עם זה להתחיל מהמקום בו נעצרו שאר העמים. היה עליו להתייחס מעצמו "בגועל נפשו", להיות מוטל ארץה כמעט וגווע מתבוסס בדמו" (ע"נ יחזקאל טז, ה-ו), ולקיים להיות לאומה נפרדת ועצמאית רק בקריאת הבורא, כדי שבעצם קיומו, יכרי לכל העמים: "אני ה!"

I was able to lead you on the path that goes up and up. Instead of giving a son to Abraham in his hundredth year, I could have started a family for him before he was seventy, and let his seed flourish and be a people under conditions of happiness and success, on the land of his homeland. In this way, however, the people would not have become "the people of G-d," the people through whom G-d will be revealed as "G-d"; ... therefore, this nation must begin from the place where the rest of the peoples would stop. It had to despair of itself "in the disgust of his soul," to be laid on the ground almost dying, "based on his blood" (see Ezekiel 16: 6), and to rise to be a separate and independent nation only by the Creator's call, so that by its very existence, it declares to all nations: "I am Hashem!"

- Rav Shamson Raphael Hirsch

Without the wilderness, there is no paradise

- Rich Cohen

The story that unfolds over the opening three parshios of sefer Shemos is one of false starts and dashed hopes. Hashem sends Moshe and Aharon to announce to the people that their redemption has come, only for Pharaoh to turn the screws of their servitude even tighter. Each passing plague comes with the false hope and promise the people will be set free, only for Pharaoh to renege on that promise and maintain the horrid status quo. G-d could have freed His people in an instant and brought them "on eagles' wings" to The Promised Land. Why didn't he?

The standard narrative is that the slow, fitful pace of redemption was meant to instill in the

Egyptians a recognition of G-d and His power. It is true that there is evidence that may have occurred, with scattered historical sources indicating a short-lived shift toward monotheism in ancient Egypt that may have been the result of the Exodus. However, the key phrase here is short-lived. It seems an awful lot of effort and a lot of unnecessary disappointment for the Jewish People just to have the Egyptians, who would soon exit the world stage, adopt monotheism for a brief interlude.

Perhaps the fitful stops and starts, false hopes, and bitter disappointments that marked the exodus from Egypt were not for the benefit of the Egyptians, but for the bnei Yisroel. As Rav

Shamshon Raphael Hirsch so eloquently explains, the entire Egypt experience was the crucible that would forge the Bnei Yisroel into a noble nation that would declare the name of G-d for all the world to hear. Nobility of character, greatness, and the fortitude to fight against the world are not born of comfort, complacency and a life free of disappointment. Quite the contrary, greatness is the product of disappointment, loss, and of learning to push forward beyond shattered hopes and dreams.

A fabulous book excerpt that appeared a number of years ago in The Wall Street Journal is instructive in this regard. New York Times bestselling author, Ben Cohen, penned a memoir of his experiences with his son's pee-wee-league ice hockey team, a team of 11 and 12 year-olds that managed to lose 40 of their first 50 games.

That season was a sharp contrast to his son's 9 and 10-year-old season, where his team never lost more than three straight games as they made a deep run in the state championships. That year, as Mr. Cohen relates, was a season of "happiness, buffoonery, boasting, celebration, and pizza." But, as Mr. Cohen reports about his son, "he improved as a player but did not change much as a person. For that, you need to lose."

Losing, as Cohen explains, taught his son humility, that that for everyone good there is always someone better, for everything big, there is something bigger. Losing also allowed him to reclaim his love of the game for the beauty of the game itself rather than for trophies or ribbons, and it allowed all the kids to learn the game in a way that only losing can teach.

Cohen lays out the argument that in sports and in sports fandom defeat is of far greater value than victory. In losing, one bonds with teammates far more than in winning, learning to express and accept empathy. Losing streaks, in Mr. Cohen's eloquent description, are "a time of testing, a crucible from which the team and its nation of supporters emerges smaller but stronger."

We know Mr. Cohen to be right. Knowing that to be true, if you are G-d and you are trying to forge a great, noble nation what do you hand them, an easy victory or a frustrating losing streak? The answer, though counterintuitive, is obvious.

Moshe and Aharon deliver to the Jewish People loss after disappointing loss, frustration after vexing frustration on the way to their ultimate redemption and victory. But through those losses, they improve as people, they learn what is truly important and what is not, they bond to one another in a way that only losing can do, and they emerge stronger and greater.

The parenting lesson is clear. The goal is not to fill our children's dressers with trophies and their walls with certificates and ribbons. It is to forge them as people, to teach them to navigate life, and to raise them to greatness. A losing streak every once in a while would go a long way to making that happen.

*Good Shabbos,  
Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb  
Principal*



*This weeks program  
is  
not  
yet  
sponsored*

## **THE REST of the פရשיות of this year are still available for sponsorship!**

Please help support this wonderful program.

**Monthly (4 weeks) sponsorship: \$220**  
**One week full sponsorship: \$60**  
**One week partial sponsorship: \$35**

פרשה a  
please contact Rabbi Plotzker.

First	Last
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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 for  
this week in the amount specified for his class.

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

Parent's signature

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**Additional Parsha Points**  
**הברת הtout**

**Quote from the Parsha**

ויאמרו החרטומים אל-פְּרָעָה, אַצְבָּע אַלְקִים הוּא

And the magicians said to it, it is the finger of Hashem.

After replicating on some level the first 2 plagues, the magicians were completely unable to replicate the 3rd plague. They then testified that all that happens, truly has Hashem's 'finger' visible on it.

**Parsha Points**

- 1) After Moses and Aaron came to tell Pharaoh to send the Israelites out for a three day Yom Tov, Pharaoh made them work even harder. Moses told Pharaoh to go again to demand that he let the Israelites go free.
- 2) Pharaoh asked for a sign. As per Hashem's command, Aaron threw down his staff and it turned into a snake. Pharaoh laughed as his magicians also did that. However, when Aaron's snake turned back into a staff, it then swallowed all of their staffs. Even with this, Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go.
- 3) Moses told Pharaoh to meet at the Nile River and warn him all the waters in Egypt will turn into blood. Pharaoh was warned for three weeks, but refused to listen. Hashem told Moses to tell Aaron to stretch out his staff, and all the waters in Egypt turned into blood. Only the Jewish city of Noach had water. As Pharaoh's magicians replicated the 3rd plague by creating colored water, Pharaoh refused to listen to Moses and Aaron.
- 4) After being warned again and refusing to let the Israelites go, the next plague began with a frog (frogs) coming out of the Nile. Soon, swarms of frogs were everywhere in Egypt. Aside from the actual frogs, part of the plague was the deafening noise. The day after Moses agreed to let the Israelites go, the frogs died and now stank. However, Pharaoh changed his mind and did not let the Israelites go.
- 5) The 3rd plague, lice, came without a warning. (Every 3rd stretch of land had no warning.) Moses stretched out his staff and hit the ground. All of the land of Egypt turned into lice. The Egyptian magicians, were unable to copy this plague and admitted that all were from Hashem.
- 6) For the 4th plague, wild animals and flying creatures descended, attacking and killing the Egyptians. Moses, again, agreed to let the Israelites go bring them in the desert, but when the plague was over and the animals left, he changed his mind.
- 7) After more warnings and refusals, the 5th plague came. All farm animals that were left in the field and belonged to a Egyptian, died.
- 8) By now Pharaoh refused to heed 5 times. At this stage, Hashem hardened Pharaoh's heart - it became more difficult for him to do Teshuvah.
- 9) For the 6th plague Moses told Aaron and each take two handfuls of ashes. Aaron then added his into Moses's already full hands (a 3rd). Moses then combined that into one hand (a further 3rd) and threw it up in the air. The ashes went higher and higher (a further 3rd) and spread all over Egypt (a further 3rd). It then descended as Shizzim, boils, all over the Egyptians.
- 10) But Pharaoh again refused. After warnings, the Brrad, hail, which combined fire and ice, began. The Egyptians also died from the deafening thunder that accompanied the Brrad. Yet again, when the Brrad stopped, Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go.



# Yedios from the Parsha



Blood Everywhere	דם	ד
Swarms of Frogs	צְפְרִידָע	צ
Lice all over	כְּנִים	כ
Attack of Mixture of Animals	עֲרוֹב	ע
Death of Domestic Animals	דָּבָר	ד
Boils all over	שְׁחִין	ש
Fire & Ice Hailstones	בָּרְד	ב
Swarms of Locusts	אַרְבָּה	א
Complete darkness	חֹשֶׁךְ	ח
Death of First Born	מִבְתָּח בְּכוֹרֹת	ב

פרשת וארה in מכות 7  
פרשת בא in מכות 3

An easy way to remember this is:  
the gematria of וְאַרְא = 7, and בָּא = 3

6	ו	1	א
7	ז	2	ב
8	ח	3	ג
9	ט	4	ד
10	י	5	ה



## Tefillah Talk

### אֲשֶׁרִי (חָלֵק ב')



Dovid Hamelech transitions back and forth as to what the older generation tells over to the younger generation, and what he personally will tell over.

One generation to the next will praise all that You do,	דור לדור ישבח מעשיך
And <b>they</b> will tell over about Your acts of 'strength'.	ונבורתיך יגידו.
About the beauty of Your honored Majesty	הדר כבוד הוודך
And about Your amazing wonders, <b>I</b> will speak.	וזבר נפלאותיך אשיכחה.
And about the might of Your awesome actions <b>they</b> will speak,	יעוזו נוראתייך יאמרו
And about Your greatness, <b>I</b> will tell over.	ונדולתך אספרנה.
<b>They</b> will tell over the memories of Your goodness,	זכר רב טובך יביעו
And they will sing about Your righteousness.	ואזכורתך ירגנו.
(They will say:) ה' is gracious (in reward) and merciful (even to the undeserving)	חנון ורוחם ה'
(He is) slow to anger and does kindness in great amounts.	אָרְךָ אֲפִים וָגָדֶל חֶסֶד.
Hashem is good to all,	טוֹב הִיא לְכָל
And is merciful on all His creations.	וּדְחַמְיוּ עַל כָּל מְשֻׁבָּיו.



בosit



# QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

**ONE RAFFLE TICKET PER QUESTION ANSWERED!**

*Answers should be written on Q.O.D. cards and placed in mailbox outside office.*

## QUESTIONS ALL ABOUT '4'

**All answers are to be in לשון הקודש.**

- 1) List the 4 directions.
- 2) What are the 4 categories of watchmen (שומרים)?
- 3) What are the 4 מיתות of בيت דין?
- 4) What are the names of the 4 תפלוות we say on יום טוב & שבת?
- 5) What special day throughout the year do we have 4 עליות by laining?
- 6) What are the 4 'special' פירושיות we add on and lain as מפטיר once a year?

בס"ד

# שניהם מקרא לאחד תלמוד



פרשת שמות is hinted to in בראשית or a different?  
פרשה

Some answers:

1) We might have started at בראשית and then slipped up.  
חומש new.

ה' reminds us to not give up, rather try again.

2) גלות starts the שמות. We are reminded that by learning תורה we will make it through. גלות

RAFFLE WINNERS

**EITAN SPILMAN  
ARYEH GREENSTEIN**



## N'SHEI REBBI PRIZES

**THE ROSH HAYESHIVA, RABBI RUDINSKY**  
15 MINUTE CHAVRUSA WITH THE ROSH YESHIVA

**RABBI RAWICKI**  
2 FREE BLUE NOTE PRIZES (10 WINNERS)  
FREE PASS TO THE VENDING MACHINE (2 WINNERS)

**RABBI ZIPPER:**  
SLUSH (12 WINNERS)

**MRS. PLOTZKER:**  
LUNCH AND DESSERT PLUS STORY TIME WITH MORAH  
SHANI (ONE WINNER)

**MRS. LEIBOVIC**  
LUNCH WITH MRS. LEIBOVIC FROM HAVA JAVA

**RABBI MYSKI - GRADE 1**  
REBBI'S HELPER FOR THE DAY (5 WINNERS)

**RABBI BILLER - GRADE 2**  
FREE TEST PASS (5 WINNERS)  
WIN A PRIZE FROM THE BOX (5 WINNERS)  
FREE HOMEWORK PASS (5 WINNERS)  
REBBI'S HOMEWORK STAMPER (2 WINNERS)  
CHOOSE SONG OF THE WEEK (1 WINNER)

**RABBI HOROWITZ - GRADE 3**  
FREE MILK SHAKE  
5 FREE REBBI DOLLARS  
FREE HOMEWORK (PASS)  
FREE PRIZE FROM PRIZE STORE  
REBBI'S SCROLLER FOR ONE DAY

**RABBI LOWY - GRADE 4**  
AN OVERNIGHT KUGEL FOR THE CLASS!

**RABBI EISEN - GRADE 5**  
2 MA'AH (3 WINNERS)  
2 EXTRA BINGO SPONS (ONE PERSONAL AND ONE FOR THE CLASS) (2  
WINNERS)  
SODA CAN FROM VENDING MACHINE (2 WINNERS)

**RABBI KOHN - GRADE 6**  
2 GOLD COINS (3 WINNERS)  
SPIN THE WHEEL (3 WINNERS)

**RABBI PRUPAS - GRADE 7**  
GAME OF HORSE WITH REBBI  
HOT COCOA IN CLASS (3 WINNERS)  
NIGHT OFF HOMEWORK (3 WINNERS)  
CHANGE MORNING SONG TO SONG OF BOY'S CHOICE (1 DAY)

**RABBI SCHEINBERG**  
A SPECIAL HOT COCOA (4 WINNERS)

**RABBI PEIKES - GRADE 8**  
A SHABBOS AT REBBI'S HOUDE WITH THREE FRIENDS  
FROM THE CLASS

**RABBI KAHANA - GRADE 8:**  
SLICE OF PIZZA (WINNERS)  
BOWL OF POPCORN (2 WINNERS)

**RABBI PLOTZKER - GRADES 1-8**  
4 MIZMOR L'SODA TOKENS  
4 CANS OF SODA WHEN YOU WANT (4 WINNERS)

TICKET

TICKET

Nshei YKOR

COME ONE. COME ALL!

# NSHEI TEA

An elegant evening of  
community and inspiration,

GUEST SPEAKER  
MRS. SHANI PLOTZKER

Auction • Dairy Refreshments

ADMIT ONE - TICKET \$18

YKOR DINING ROOM

JANUARY 17 AT 7:30 PM

• MOTZEI SHABBOS •



Nshei YKOR

COME ONE. COME ALL!

# GRAND AUCTION

Jan 17 | 7:30 PM | YKOR Dining Room

ADMIT ONE - TICKET \$18

10 TICKETS  
\$150

20 TICKETS  
\$250

Ten wonderful prizes to be won!

PRIZE 1

Chevra  
Discount  
(\$750 off full  
summer or \$400  
off half summer)

Sponsored by  
Rabbi Peikis

\$250 to a  
Rebbe or Morah  
of your choice

Sponsored by  
Yoni & Sarah Senter

PRIZE 6

PRIZE 2

Free Spring  
Season at RJFL

Sponsored by  
S.B. & B. Robinson

1 Hour  
Photoshoot

Sponsored by  
Ahuva Koenig Photography

Dinner for Two  
at Montpellier

Sponsored by Montpellier

PRIZE 7

PRIZE 3

Free Pirchei  
Baseball Season

Sponsored by  
David & Laurie Newman

3 one hour art lessons  
with Miriam Green

Sponsored by Miriam Green

Swaddlebee Blanket

Sponsored by Mordy &  
Chaya Kahana

2 free personalized  
pajamas

Sponsored by Paisley Design

PRIZE 8

PRIZE 4

4 Tickets to  
Nickelodeon  
American Dream

Sponsored by the  
Norowitz family &  
American Dream

6 sessions of  
EM sculpting

Sponsored by Aliza Weinruba

Pedicure at Limage

Sponsored by Ayelet Berman

Free Makeover

Sponsored by Heaven Scent

PRIZE 9

PRIZE 5

Sary Fall  
Sponsored by Sary Wigs

TAL NY  
Gift Package

Sponsored by TAL NY

Challah package  
Sponsored by The Challah Fairy

Meat board  
Sponsored by Bored

\$180 Evergreen  
gift card  
Sponsored by Evergreen

PRIZE 10