



CARPOOL CURRICULUM BY MICHAEL RAILEANU

Parshat Shemot (Ex 1:1 - 6:1)

Ah, *Parshat Shemot* (Ex 1:1 - 6:1). A new beginning; a beginning of something no one back then could possibly have imagined. *Moshe* is born, raised, and begins his hard work with those stiff-necked people, the People of Israel. *Shemot* begins with a listing of all of the people who came down to Egypt with Jacob/*Yisrael*. Why? Why not just jump right into the *Moshe* story? And, then after that long list of names we get a new king over Egypt, without a name. Why do you think that the Torah sometimes lists people by name and sometimes doesn't? Are named people necessarily more important than non-named people? What other reasons might there be? Speaking of names, *Moshe's* parents go unnamed at first. Hmm, what's that all about? Why does *Batya* (Pharaoh's daughter) get to name *Moshe*? Don't you think his mom would have named him during the three months he was with her? Why do you think the Torah does not come right out and tell us his Israelite name? Why must we wait until the Egyptians get to name him?

Moshe grows up in Pharaoh's house and ends up running away (see *The Prince of Egypt*). He lands in *Midian* and marries *Tziporah*, daughter of *Jethro*,

Priest of *Midian*. Wait a minute, shouldn't *Moshe* have married a Jewish girl? The Torah clearly has no problem with *Moshe* marrying this foreigner woman. What lesson can we learn from that? Why do you think *Moshe* didn't get married back in Egypt before running off?

This *parasha* is called *Shemot*, Names, and at one point (3:12 - 14) *Moshe* asks God what God's name is. *Moshe* does not get a very straight answer. "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." And, "*Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh* sent me to you." That roughly translates as "I am that I am." What? What does that mean? What kind of names are those? Why can't God give *Moshe* a simple answer here? Does God have something to hide? Is God protecting *Moshe* from something?

At the end of the *parasha* we learn that (6:1), "He (Pharaoh) will drive them (the Children of Israel) out of his land." Did you know that the Torah tells us at the beginning of the story exactly what was going to happen? What does that do to the story of the plagues? If God already knew how things were going to turn out why put the Egyptians through all of that? Why make the Israelites suffer?

SHAVUAH TOV!

Keep PSJC Clean!

This request comes straight from the Executive Board...with so many people using the beautiful new space at PSJC, we need to be EXTRA careful about how we treat our surroundings. There should be no trash on the floor at the end of the school day. If you see something on the floor (even if it isn't yours) pick it up (and throw it away, if it is trash). There are no maids here, so we are all responsible for one another.

Being a MENSCH here includes being respectful of our space. Don't slam doors or push on the bars too hard. Don't kick the walls. Don't run inside or throw things in the air. Gum stays in your mouth or goes in the trash. Recycle when you can and don't be wasteful. Together we can keep our PSJC home looking lovely!

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- 1/10 HS (K-2)
- 1/11 HS (3-7)
- 1/15 NO HS—MLK weekend
- 1/17 HS (K-2)
- 1/18 HS (3-7)
- 1/20 Kitah Gimel (3rd grade) Shabbat Dinner/ Shaarei Mitzvah-Express Innovation program (pre-B'nai Mitzvah)
- 1/22 HS (3-6)—NO Kitah Zayin (7th grade)

Happy Birthday

The PSJC Hebrew School wishes the following birthdays this week a "Yom Huledet Sameach!"

Hannah G. (Kitah Dalet) 1/10





Park Slope Jewish Center
1320 8th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11215
718.678.1453/www.psjc.org

Elisabeth Albert
Director of Family Education
718.832.5863/principal@psjc.org

Carie Carter
Rabbi
718.768.1285/rabbicarie@psjc.org

Tzedakah Fair: update

By now, students in 5th-7th grade should have chosen which organization they would like to research and represent at this year's Tzedakah Fair on Sunday, January 29th (AND let Elisabeth know what they have chosen). Students may work in pairs. The majority of work on the presentations is to be done outside of school, though there may be some class time devoted to preparations. **The whole community is invited to the Tzedakah Fair! Start saving your Tzedakah!**

PSJC EATS!!!

It is that time of year again...time for the All School Family Shabbat dinner on Friday, **February 3rd!** Consider joining us for a delicious catered meal & a Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service prior to dinner (6:00-6:30 PM) led by Elisabeth (principal), Zoel (Rosh T'fillah K-2) and Rabbi Carie Carter! Flyer/registration form attached here!

Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

Leo Miranda
(Hebrew School alum) 1/14

UPCOMING SHABBAT DINNERS

The weather is cold (most of the time) and the nights begin early, so what better way to spend your time then celebrating Shabbat with your awesome PSJC community? The following are upcoming Shabbat dinner dates. We hope you'll join us!

Friday, January 20th: Kitah Gimel (3rd grade) class dinner at Paulina Dunn's home

Friday, January 20th: Shaarei Mitzvah-Express Innovation (pre-B'nai Mitzvah) dinner/program at PSJC

Friday, February 3rd: All School Shabbat Dinner and Family Service at PSJC
(see attached flyer)

Friday, February 10th: Kitah Vav (6th grade) class dinner at Raffi Nachman's home

SPOTLIGHT ON THE MADRICHIM PROGRAM

One of the special things about the PSJC Hebrew School, is the involvement of our teens in the Madrichim (literally "guides") program. Madrichim are teachers' assistants in K-4th grade classes. Not only do these incredible teenagers provide amazing support for our teachers, the time that they VOLUNTEER sets a beautiful *doogma* (example) for our students. Many of our younger students look forward to the day when they are old enough to be a Madrich or a Madricha. Today's spotlight is on our Kitah Gan (K) Madricha, **Julie Ugoretz:**

Where are you from/where did you grow up: *I was born and raised in Park Slope!*
School: *I'm a Junior at Millennium High School*

Hobbies: *I absolutely love to cook and to bake, along with playing with my four cats and my dog and hanging out with Lucy Snyder, the Kitah Aleph Madricha*

Favorite Jewish Holiday: *My favorite Jewish holiday is Passover, because making kosher for Passover desserts is always a fun challenge.*

Did you go to Hebrew School? Day School? Jewish Camp?: *I've been a PSJC member since birth, and I was a Hebrew School student at PSJC until I got too old, then I returned a year later (that was three years ago) to become a Madricha.*

Favorite thing/topic you've learned in your Jewish education: *Aside from my mom teaching me to make challah from a very young age, my favorite thing I've learned in my entire Jewish education is that there will always be more questions to ask and more things to learn, no matter how hard I try to know everything. Also, learning how to say "I love you" in Hebrew was pretty amazing.*

HONORABLE MENSCH-EN!

The following students were the next set of people to complete the second stage of the Bracha Bee (they recited each of the 10 *brachot* correctly and then RE-recited all ten *brachot*, in a row, from memory!)

Yashar Koach to:

Ellie	Kauffman	(Kitah	Gimel)
Joshua	Lechtzin	(Kitah	Gimel)
Adina	Minkin	(Kitah	Hay)
Julian	Lieber	(Kitah	Vav)
Leora	Singer	(Kitah	Zayin)

