

פרשת ויקהל-פקודי
March 24, 2017

This Week in Review

This week, **Simon** and **Frady Steinhaus** treated the entire Chevra to a delicious pizza lunch, including pizza (of course), french fries and falafels. This was to show their appreciation to the Chevra for completing their annual mailing that we did for them a little while back. It was delicious, and everyone was in a bright and festive mood. Simon came by himself to see the guys. Everyone schmoozed with him and thanked him for all the food. We look forward to our next mailing!

We started cooking again in our Chevra kitchen since a few things needed fixing and were finally completed. We all had a blast, and no one missed a beat, as everyone still had all of their skills intact from cutting up vegetables to whipping up some eggs to everything in between. We made delicious tilapia with a bread crumb topping, roasted vegetables with garlic, and an Israeli salad on the side. Everyone was happy with their work, and all enjoyed and shared together.

We went to shoot pool during Supplemental Program which was fun. We have become regulars there, so the owners and other pool players all say hello and even spend some quality time schmoozing with us as they work on their shots. Besides all of our volunteering at [June's Warehouse](#) and [Aishel Shabbos](#), we also took a trip to [Toys R' Us](#) to buy another skill game to add to our ever so organized and growing collection.

This week **Jeffrey, Simcha**, and **Mechy** had a great time making lunch. Since we took a break from it for a short while, they approached the activity with a new





found enthusiasm! **Gavriel, Tzvi** and **Hudi** were happy to take a trip to Toys R' Us where they scoured the aisles seeking out games to buy for the group. **Lipa, Evan, Shlomo, Yidi,** and **Shmuel** all enjoyed our special pizza party sponsored by Dovi's Playhouse!

Good Shabbos!

Learning with Rabbi Kraus...

Parshas Vayak'hel-Pekudei

This week, we have two Parshiyos. In Parshas Vayak'hel, we learn that all the Keilim (vessels) were built for the Mishkan. We learned that everyone brought gold, silver, or whatever their heart desired, without specifying an amount. In Parshas Pekudei, it says, "And these are the accountings of the Mishkan." The Torah brings an exact list of the amount of the precious material that was donated to the Mishkan. **R' Moshe Feinstein, ztz"l,** points out a tremendous lesson from this exact list given. The question is why did Moshe Rabbeinu have to count what Bnei Yisrael gave to the Mishkan?

The answer is as follows: Hashem gives us everything we have in our lives; our health, our success - everything. Hashem did not give this to us to waste but rather for a purpose. Just like there was an exact account of everything in the Mishkan and what they were used for, so too, we must appreciate what we have and use it for good. Are we using our time precious and properly or Chas V'shalom wasting it? Are we using our money for Tzedaka and Chesed or using it for things only for this world?

Parshas Pekudei teaches us pause for a moment, understand our capabilities, realize everything that we have, and make sure we are using them properly.

There is another famous question. Bezalel built all of the Keilim of the



Mishkan, but his name is only mentioned once by the Aron. Why didn't he get the honor of his name being mentioned with all the Keilim? The Torah is very careful with its wording. We now know that later on, in the time of Shlomo Hamelech, Shlomo had to rebuild all of the other vessels besides for the Aron! The only vessel that was left from Bezalel's actual work was the Aron. It is for this reason that his name is only mentioned once.

There once was a poor man that was standing on line to see the Helega Divrei Yoel – the **Satmar Rav**. In front of him was a man who needed help to marry off one of his children. The Satmar Rav took out a nice big chunk of money and gave it to the man to help marry off his child. Now, it was this poor man's turn to see the Rav, and he also cried and said that he needed money to marry off his child. The Rav took out money and gave it to him. The poor man noticed that he received much less money than the other person received. He asked the Rav respectfully, "Can I ask why I got so much less than the person before me since we both have the same problem?" The Rav answered, "I have a few pockets, and in each pocket are different amounts of money from different places and from different donors. Some money, even if it's a smaller amount, has more Bracha than a higher amount of money. Your smaller amount of money has more Bracha in it, and therefore, you will not need a higher amount." What happened afterwards? He was able to make a beautiful wedding for a small price.

This is what Moshe wanted to show Klal Yisrael. He counted everything that they gave in front of them and showed them that everything they gave is very precious and has tremendous Bracha, no matter how big or small, how cheap or expensive.

Good Shabbos,

Rabbi Kraus



Our Discussions Around the Table...

Since we are replacing our floors at the Chevra very soon, we asked everyone what type of floor they would pick if they had the choice...

- **Tzvi** said that he would just put down a plain carpet.
- **Shmuel** said that the Chevra should get a black floor.
- **Hudi** wants a wooden floor similar to the one we are replacing.
- **Jeffrey** came up with a whole new line of flooring. He calls it "Crystal Blaze." He said it's a crystal floor with fire lines through it! Wow.
- **Chaim** would like a light wood tile.
- **Mechy** would be happy with a nice wood floor.
- **Shlomo** said that he would be happy with any type of floor.
- **Lipa** has expensive taste and said that he wants marble flooring with gold and silver in it. He also said he wants to have "see through" flooring!
- **Yidi** said we should get carpet, and he will vacuum!
- **Simcha** mentioned that wood makes the most sense so we can easily sweep it.
- **Gavriel** said he likes wooden floors.
- **Shamshon** said we should have tiles made out of diamonds! Wow, he may have just beat out **Lipa** and **Jeffrey** for the most expensive taste in flooring!
- **Evan** said he would put carpet with gold lines through it!

A Joke for you...

Q: What does a nose pepper do?

A: Gets jalapeno business!

Q: Can I tell you a joke about paper?

A: Nah, never mind, its tearable.