



tidbits

my father, R' Meir Zlotowitz zt'l, made sure his family was up to date on
from the mundane, to the ordinary, to the 'thanks for reminding me!'

January 18th, 2019 • Parshas Beshalach



Tu Bishvat



Tu Bishvat is this Monday, January 21st. Tachanun is not said on Tu Bishvat or during Mincha of the day prior.

Tu Bishvat is the beginning of the new year for trees. In honor of this day, many have the custom to eat fruits, with some specifically eating from the shivas haminim or a shehecheyanu fruit. Many have the custom to eat Esgro products on Tu Bishvat (Kaf Hachaim), and to daven for a beautiful Esgro for next Succos. The Ben Ish Chai even composed a special tefillah for this. Some say that pregnant women should eat Esgro products as a segulah for easy labor.



Next on the Calendar

Shabbos Mevorchim for Rosh Chodesh Adar I is in two weeks, Shabbos Parashas Mishpatim.

Parshah in a Paragraph



BESHALACH: The circuitous route from Egypt • obtaining Yosef's remains • The pillar of cloud by day and fire by night lead Bnei Yisrael • The Mitzrim pursue Bnei Yisrael • Bnei Yisrael cry out • Moshe assures their salvation • A malach and a pillar of clouds stand between them and the Mitzrim • Kriyas Yam Suf • The waters drown Pharaoh and the Mitzrim • Shiras Hayam • Miriam's Shira • Bnei Yisrael cannot find drinking water • Moshe sweetens the bitter waters with a bitter branch • Bnei Yisrael complain about the lack of food • The manna • Leftover manna goes bad • Double portion on Fridays • Some seek manna on Shabbos and find nothing • Prohibition of going out on Shabbos • A portion of the manna is put aside for all generations • The people complain about not having water • Moshe strikes the rock, water pours out • Amalek attacks • Moshe commands Yehoshua to fight back • War with Amalek declared for all generations •

omru ma zos asinu, ki shilachnu es yisrael meavdeinu."

"It was told to the King of Egypt that the people had fled; and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned...and they said what is this that we have done that we have sent away Israel from serving us." (Shemos 14:5)

According to the Seforno, Pharaoh sent spies with the Jews when they left Egypt in order to see what they would do at the end of the 3 days. The spies reported to Pharaoh that the Jews had no intention of coming back. Upon hearing this, Pharaoh regretted freeing the Jews. It seems that Pharaoh was extremely upset that he allowed Bnei Yisrael to leave in the first place, as if there was no reason for him to have let them go. Didn't he remember all of the makkos, and the devastation that it caused for him and his people? Had he forgotten that his own firstborn son was killed during makkas bechoros?

Rav Yaakov Kaminetzky zt"l explains that this pasuk teaches us an important lesson in human nature. When a person's own interests and desires are involved, he will rationalize everything to fit his narrative. This can be seen earlier in the parashah, when Pharaoh decided that because the idol Bal Tzefon survived, it must be an omen that he would prevail. Similarly, at Kriyas Yam Suf, Pharaoh convinced himself that it wasn't Hashem who split the sea, but "an eastern wind". One needs to be careful when having to make an emotionally charged decision, as his desires and intentions may blind him to reality.



Shabbos Shira

This week's parashah, Parashas Beshalach, contains the Shiras HaYam, and is referred to as Shabbos Shirah. During Kerias HaTorah, the Shiras HaYam is read in a special tone. In some congregations, the Shiras HaYam are read aloud verse by verse during Pesukei D'Zimra.

There is a Minhag of putting out food for the birds. Some say the reason for this is that the birds sang Shirah along with Bnei Yisrael. Another commonly known explanation is that the birds consumed the manna which Dasan and Aviram spread on Shabbos in their attempt to embarrass Moshe.

Reminders



The final opportunity for Kiddush Levannah is this Sunday, January 20th 10:14 PM.



For the Shabbos Table

"Vayugad lamelech mitzrayim ki varach ha'am vayahafech levav pharoh.... Vay-

Current Projects



We are excited to announce that we are in the test (beta) mode for the new goDaven site! Please check out beta.godaven.com, and forward comments and questions to ecbirnbaum@klalgovoha.org.

sign up @ klalgovoh.org!