

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- **Friday-Monday, January 31-February 3:** Post-Midterm Break
- **Tuesday, February 4:** Second Semester Begins 8 AM
- **Thursday, March 13:** Taanis Esther - 3:15 dismissal
- **Friday, March 14:** Purim - No School
- **Wednesday- Thursday, March 19-20:** Simcha Retreat - details TBA

MAZAL TOVS:

- Mazal Tov to Tova Gerchikov, secretary, on the birth of a nephew.

ALL THE HOSTAGES

482

ARE IN OUR HEARTS &
TEFILOS.

PLEASE CONSIDER SAYING PEREK
140 OF TEHILLIM AS A ZECHUS
FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS.

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From the Desk of Rabbi Avraham Shapiro



The first three Parshiyos in Sefer Shemos recount, at length, all the details of the process that lead up to Yetzias Mitzrayim. Toward the end of Parshas Bo, we reach the point in the story when Am Yisrael finally leaves Egypt.

This historic moment, when Bnai Yisrael leaves Egyptian soil, is highlighted in a single Pasuk that stands alone in its own mini Parsha.

ויהי בעצם היום הזה הוציא ד' את בני ישראל מארץ מצרים על צבאתם (שמות יב:ג)

"And it was on that very day HaShem took the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt in organized groups."

The obvious reason for featuring this verse is because it reflects our destiny and our connection to HaShem. There is no doubt that the Exodus from Egypt is a defining moment in our collective consciousness and history.

The essential idea of this verse seems to be the fact that we were taken out of Egypt by HaShem. The last three words "in organized groups" do not seem so important. The Netziv explains why they are indeed very significant.

You might have thought that at the moment of freedom, all the Jewish slaves just ran out of Egypt in a frenzy because now they could be free. It is therefore crucial for us to be told that such was not the case; rather, they went out of Egypt in an orderly fashion.

The Netziv explains further that the words על צבאתם do not just mean in organized groups. More profoundly, it refers to the fact that Am Yisrael left in an orderly way because this reflected the concept that the Jewish people are set up to fulfill a mission.

We were not redeemed from the shackles of slavery because HaShem wanted us to attain personal autonomy. We were taken out of Mitzrayim because our purpose is to live a Torah life and to be an אור לגוים - a light to the nations.

From the very beginning of the Exodus from Egypt, we were set in formation to instill in each one of us the concept that we have the special opportunity to follow the Torah. This means to be an exemplary person who reflects the will of HaShem and who brings the reality of the existence of HaShem to everyone we come in contact with.

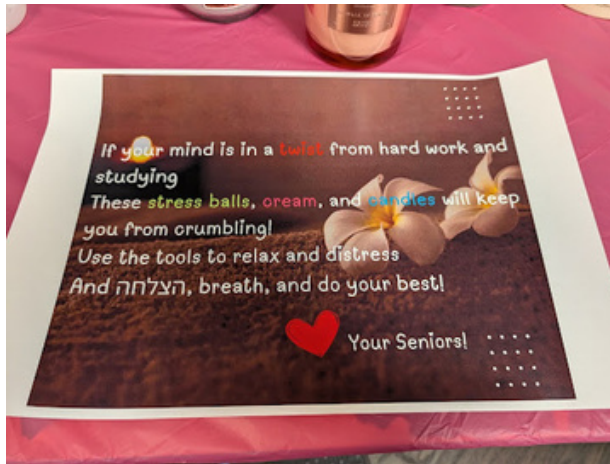
Good Shabbos To All!

Rabbi Avraham Shapiro

This Week at a Glance:

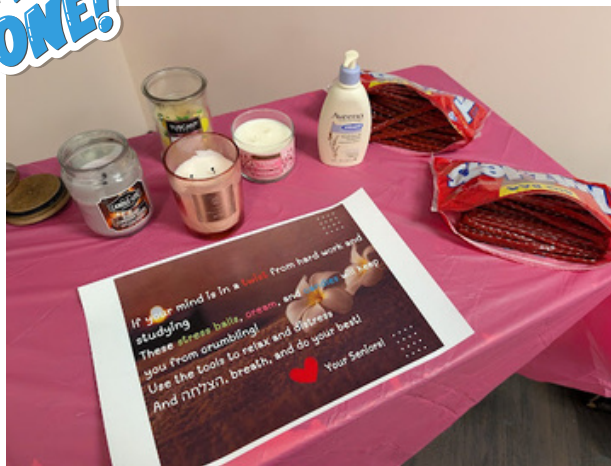
MIDTERM EXAMS @ TEMIMA

A Big Yasher Koach to all students for completing your midterms!! What an accomplishment. Enjoy your well-deserved break! We are looking forward to another semester of learning, growth, and connection!



Seniors greeted 9th-11th grade students with a warm & relaxing station to get everyone in the right mindset on Monday.

WELL DONE!



GOOD SHABBOS!