

פרשת יתרו

February 10, 2023

This week in review!

This week at the Chevra we had our very own Tu B'Shevat Seder which was hosted by our illustrious **Mr. Mayer Kadoch** all the way from Eretz Yisroel. This was new for some of us, particularly for our newest Chevra member **Nachum A** and for our staff **Avi B**. For the rest of the Chevra it turned out to be just as inspiring as it is every year. Mayer got the festivities started by informing us that the famous Arizal from Tzfas was one of the first Gedolim to introduce the Tu B'Shevat Seder to Klal Yisroel. We had a beautiful array of fruits, cookies and grape juice – everything that was needed to have an amazing Seder! The Seder included the seven different types of species of food from the land of Israel. During the Seder we spoke about many things, such as appreciating the sense of smell and taste as well as sight. We ate the fruits slowly and tried to appreciate the taste of each fruit. As we were looking at the table full of different colors we took a moment to realize and appreciate Hashem's kindness. We asked the guys to try and imagine what the table would look like if all the food at our beautiful Seder was black? It was very hard to imagine something like that which goes to show us how much Chesed we sometimes take for granted. Learning about some of the Kabbalistic meanings of the seven species by which the Land of Israel is praised was very interesting. What we learned was deep but that same time very simple. Just like we throw the peel of an orange away which represents impurity so to we should throw away our bad Middos such as Loshon Hora. Who could have thought such a lesson would come from just eating an orange! When we were up to the part

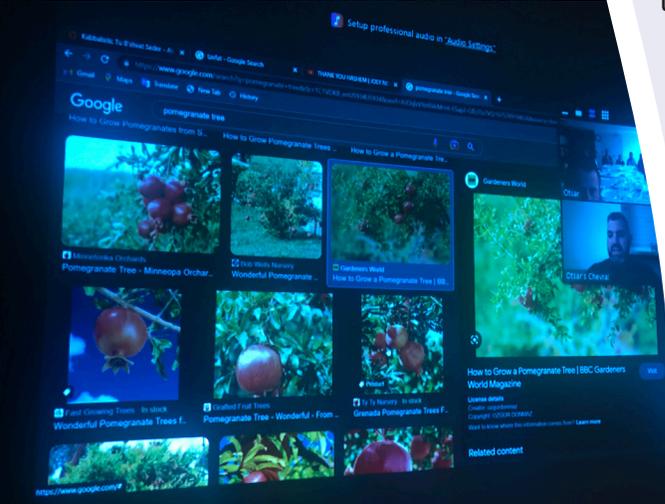




of eating walnuts (which was present because it's a food with a non-edible shell) we came across an interesting analogy. A Gadol once compared the Jewish people to a pile of walnuts. He explained that if one walnut is moved from the middle of a mountain of other walnuts surrounding them, then all of the other walnuts around it will be moved and disturbed in some way. We compared it to the Jewish people that if someone is sad, then it's as if we are all sad and we should try to help another person out during difficult times. Mr. Kadoch also shared with us some interesting pictures of the different types of fruits and pomegranate trees from Eretz Yisroel. We all had an amazing and meaningful Seder. Thank you, Mr. Kadoch, for hosting!

Back at the Otsar kitchen we baked a special fruit cake in honor of Tu B'Shevat. While peeling the fruits for the cake, we discussed how each of the fruits are planted from a small seed and then they grow into something short of miraculous. Once the fruit is ripe, it should always amaze us at just how delicious the fruits actually taste. Shamshon commented by saying that the natural fruits are like Hashem's personal candy for us to all enjoy. The fruit cake came out tasting really delicious!

Last week the Chevra went on a special trip. We went to the Cradle of Aviation in Garden City! At the museum there were many different airplanes that were on display. Just seeing the size of the planes so close was mesmerizing! Many of the planes were from World War Two and the U.S. Navy. There were many fighter jets on display as well. There was even a rocket ship model used in actual space exploration displayed right in front of us for all to see. When the Chevra saw a model of the first airplane that the Wright Brothers first flew way back in 1903, we asked everyone to imagine what it was like when the first airplane was invented. It must have taken many attempts until they were able to fly that plane.



It's amazing how far we have come since then. Not only were the guys able to get close up and even touch many of the planes they were even able to go inside cabins of the planes. We also watched a few video demonstrations to further enhance our understanding of some of the interesting planes that were on display. Everyone enjoyed and had an amazing time!

We had another one of our Chevra members visit Mr. Mayer Kadoch while on a trip in Eretz Yisroel. This time it was **Shlomo Rabinowitz!** Shlomo and his parents, Rabbi and Rebbitzin Rabinowitz were able to see Mr. Kadoch and got to shmooze for a few minutes. At one point Shlomo asked Mr. Kadoch if they can call **Hillel** in front of the entire Chevra. Mr. Kadoch said that they can, but that he doesn't know where the Chevra was at that exact time. It so happens to be that when we called, Hillel picked up in front of the entire Chevra! Hashem gave him just what he wanted! Only in Eretz Yisroel! It is very special that the guys are able to meet up with Mr. Kadoch when they go to Eretz Yisroel, not to mention how excited they are to announce it to the Chevra once they return back to the program.

Happy birthday to **Even Dweck!** Thank you to the Dweck family for sponsoring the delicious ice cream cake. Happy birthday **Even,** Ad Maya V'esrim Shana!

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Mr. Kerper

Thoughts on Parshas Yisro:

After the communists came to power in Russia, they began violently tormenting the country's rabbis. **Rabbi Meir Stelovitz** tried to obtain a permit to leave Russia. He traveled to Moscow to apply for the necessary permit. After great efforts he was successful. On the way home his suitcase was stolen. Now he lost his passport & his exit permit. He visited **Rabbi Boruch Eliezer Luria** & told him of the tragedy. He was afraid for his life, since he was not allowed to



stay in Russia nor leave the country. Rabbi Luria put himself in great danger by going down to the secret police & told them about Rabbi Stelovitz & his stolen suitcase. The secret police began to search for the stolen suitcases & succeeded. They returned the missing suitcase with the passport & permit intact. Rabbi Luria saw that Rabbi Stelovitz was tormented because of his grim situation & therefore did everything possible to help him find peace, even risking his life.

Maintaining peace in a marriage is also of critical importance & warrants every possible effort to ensure harmony.

[Source- Beloved companions- Rabbi Yisroel Pesach Feinhandler- Vol. 1- Feldheim publishers]

Enjoy Menuchas Shabbos.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Gross

A few jokes for you...

Q. What does a watch do if it's hungry?

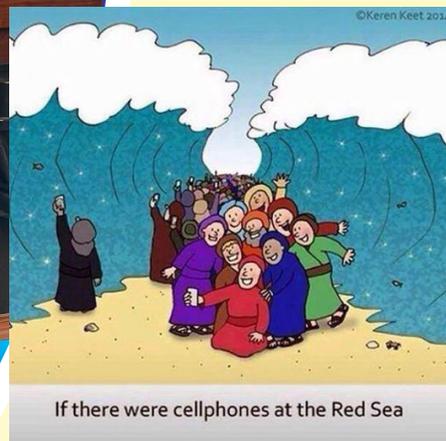
A. It goes back for seconds!

Q. What kind of a bird can write?

A. A PENguin!

Q. What did the policeman say to his stomach?

A. You're under a vest!



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