

פרשת תזריע-מצורע

April 29, 2017

This Week in Review

If anyone remembers something about last Sunday, it was that we had a day of unbelievable weather. What did the Chevra do about this? We took a trip to the beautiful Brooklyn Botanical Gardens! It was amazing. The timing could not be more perfect, as there were exhibits of illustrious trees in full bloom already! The light breeze, sounds of birds chirping, and the warm sun shining down put everyone in a state of calmness that was extremely needed. Surprisingly enough, the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens is top priority on the "go to" list of major traveling and tourist review sites. We take for granted that we have some of the most amazing attractions practically in our backyard! The Chevra were glad to have a picnic lunch in the gardens to finish off the tranquil day.

We celebrated **Shmuel's** birthday this week. Shmuel's mother was kind enough to send in some cash for us to buy cake and water bottles. Shmuel smiled so brightly that his smile was noticeable from across the room. Everyone sang "Happy Birthday," and we cut up and enjoyed the cake together. Many people gave Brachos to Shmuel that he should continue to live a life of happiness with many more Simchos.

During Supplemental Program, we shot pool at the local billiards hall, as we often do.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Chaim's father, **Rabbi Gans**, Bli Ayin Hara. In addition, we would like to wish an additional mazel tov to the Gans family. Chaim recently had a new nephew!

This week, **Simcha, Gavriel, Tzvi** and **Mechy** all enjoyed celebrating **Shm-**





uel's birthday. **Lipa, Evan** and **Shlomo** had a great time at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. **Yidi** and **Shamshon** enjoyed running some errands throughout the community. **Chaim, Shmuel, Akiva** and **Hudi** did a great job in the Chevra Kitchen where they cooked delicious and healthy meals for the entire Chevra!

Good Shabbos!

Learning with Rabbi Kraus...

Parshas Tazria-Metzora

This week, we have two Parshiyos that are read. In the beginning of the Parsha, we talk about when a mother has a new baby. It's written, "And on the 8th day, he should have a bris milah." There is a story with the Helage **Sfas Emes**, Zecher Tzadik L'vracha. A baker from his town was leaving on a business trip to the city of Warsaw, Poland. The The Sfas Emes told him that when he gets to Warsaw, he should go a special Yid named **Mr. Zimbel** and ask him for a Bracha to be Matzliach in business. Once the Bracha is given, the Sfas Emes guaranteed the baker that he would 100% have success in his business. The baker went to the shul in Warsaw and asked around for Mr. Zimbel; however, no one in the shul knew about such a man. The baker was very bothered that he couldn't find Mr. Zimbel, so he went around from shul to shul but was unsuccessful. After several days of no success, the baker sat down by one of the benches and thought to himself about what he should do. As he was sitting there, a homeless man passed by. The baker noticed that this homeless man was a Yid, so he tried his luck and asked him if he knew anyone named Mr. Zimbel? The homeless man said, "Of course I know him! He is my friend." He described to the baker where to find Mr. Zimbel on the other end of the town. After a long while, the baker found a little shack and knocked on the door. He saw that Mr. Zimbel is a shoe maker and looked like a plain person. He approached Mr. Zimbel and said, "Shalom Aleichem! The Sfas Emes of Ger told me to ask you for a Bracha." The man was quite shocked and surprised. He said, "Why



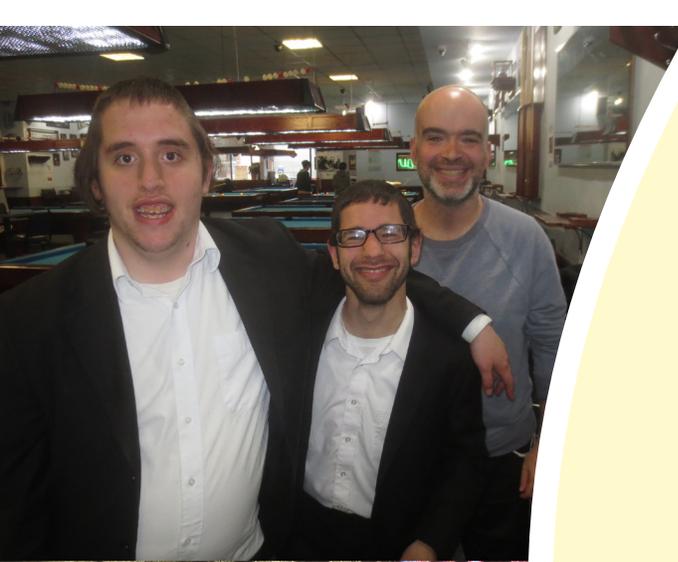
me? How does the Sfas Emes even know about me?" The man assured him that the Sfas Emes did indeed say this. The baker said to Mr. Zimbel, "I will show you how to give a Bracha." Mr. Zimbel repeated the Bracha word for word, and the baker thanked him and left.

Later on, the baker became very wealthy, as predicted. He was very curious how such a plain shoemaker had such a powerful ability. He asked the Sfas Emes to explain. The Sfas Emes explained, "This man was a very poor man, but Hashem blessed him with a baby boy. He knew that he would need to make a Bris Milah with a Seudah afterwards, but the man had no money for the Seudah, so he took his tables, his chairs, and all of his furniture and sold them all in order to buy food for the Seudah of the Bris Milah. In Shamayim, there was a tremendous tumult. The angels asked, "What should be done for this man?" Hashem decided that anyone who asks Mr. Zimbel for a Bracha, their Bracha will be answered. This shows us how great the mitzvah of Bris Milah is.

We also learn about the outcome of speaking Lashon Hara. The Heilaga Goan **Rav Yizchak of Velozhin** was very careful with his wording so as not to say any words of Lashon Hara. There were some people who were telling the Rav about a person in the community who would always lie. The Rav of Velozhin, of course, didn't want to hear about it. He answered, "This man whom you speak of has a tremendous memory. Some people can remember what happened a year ago, and some people can remember what happened ten years ago, but this person can see things that didn't even happen! The lesson is as follows: It's not that the Rav of Velozhin disagreed with those people that this person was a liar. But rather, he wanted to teach them that even if you see something negative that is 100% true, don't turn it into gossip and Lashon Hara. Always try to bring out the good and signal to the person in a positive and nice way that it is wrong to do that particular Aveira. But always remember to stay away from Lashon Hara.

Good Shabbos,

Rabbi Kraus



Our Discussions Around the Table...

As we ate our lunch, we talked about what everyone likes the most about spring!

- **Tzvi** said he likes playing basketball and getting exercise in the park.
- **Chaim** recalled enthusiastically that he was born in the spring! He said "I love when it rains down so we can see the May flowers with all the colors."
- **Shmuel** likes to take relaxing walks in the park.
- **Hudi** enjoys watching the trees grow.
- **Jeffrey** said he likes to play football outside in the spring.
- **Mechy** said, "I like trees and flowers."
- **Shlomo** likes to go apple picking!
- **Lipa** loves going on picnics and having BBQs. He added, "I also like riding my scooter."
- **Yidi** said he likes going to the park and playing sports.
- **Simcha** mentioned he likes a lot about the spring. One example is spending more time outside!
- **Gavriel** said he likes the cool weather.
- **Shamshon** said he likes flowers and that Hashem gives the rain so that the plants can grow!
- **Evan** said he likes to actually plant flowers in soil and see the different color flowers.
- **Akiva** said, "I like to ride a bicycle and do errands!"

A Joke for you! ...

How can you get four suits for a dollar?

Buy a deck of cards.

What has a lot of keys but cannot open any doors?

A piano.