



Vayakhel Pikudei: Change and Consistency
Rabbi Shmuel Silber

Numerous *Parshios* are devoted to the creation and fabrication of the *Mishkan* and its utensils. The details contained in these Torah portions are not simply the architectural framework for this sacred space and its vessels; these details contain the roadmap for successful, enriched, and meaningful living.

Betzalel made the ark of acacia wood, two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. And he overlaid it with pure gold from inside and from outside, and he made for it a golden crown all around (Exodus 37:1-2)."

The Talmud (Yerushalmi Shekalim 6:1) explains that the Ark was unique in its construction. It was comprised of three separate boxes. The innermost box was made of gold, the larger one which held it (the inner one) was made of wood, and the largest exterior box (which held the smaller two) was made of gold. This construction was quite unique. There were utensils made of solid gold and others made of wood coated with gold. Why did the *Aron* (Ark) have this unique construction of wood enveloped by gold?

The Baal Shem Tov (1698-1760) explains that the *Aron* was supposed to represent paradigmatic man. Every aspect and detail of the Ark teaches us how to self-actualize and live a meaningful and successful life. The male and female *Cherubim* (angelic figures perched on the lid of the Ark) teach us to be passionate in our relationships with each other and with God. Their upstretched wings teach us that we must aspire to climb higher and accomplish more. The *Luchos* (tablets) resting in the center remind us that the Torah and its values must be the foundation, core, and center of the decisions we make and things we do. The poles that remained inserted even when the *Aron* was at rest teach us that the Torah and its values are transplantable and must follow us and inform the way we live – wherever we may go.

While both wood and gold can be used for construction, their properties are fundamentally different. Gold is inanimate; it is mined from the earth and can be manipulated but cannot grow and cannot change. Wood is alive. The tree takes in nutrients; its branches grow and bear fruit. The tree changes with the seasons and through the years. The *Aron* contains both of these materials to teach another very important lesson. Man must be gold, and he must be wood. He must possess golden principles that he will stand by and stand up for no matter what. I must possess a sense of right and good and be able to maintain them no matter how much external pressure I may face. I must be rigid in my adherence to the tenets of my faith and the principles of my people. I must have gold-like, immutable resolve to uphold the ideas and ideals I hold to be sacred. Yet, I must also learn to be a tree, to be wood-like in my approach to life and others. I must learn the art of change and recognize that just because I have been a certain way until now does not mean I must continue to be that same person going forward. I must learn to adapt to new circumstances. Life doesn't always go the way I planned or hoped. I can be wood, I can grow, I can change, I can adapt. Wood is pliable. I must learn that when dealing with others I cannot always stand my ground, I must learn when to yield for the sake of *shalom* (peace).

Man must be gold on his inside and his outside. I must have the principles, ideas, and ideals that I will live and die for. I must know what I believe and stand ready to defend those beliefs no matter how fierce the opposition may be. But I must possess an inner layer of wood and learn the art of compromise, change, accommodation, and collaboration. The Ark is only fit for service in the Temple if it has these multiple layers. Man can only be successful if he possesses these layers as well.

	17/18 FRI/SHABBOS	19 SUNDAY	20 MONDAY	21 TUESDAY	22 WEDNESDAY	23 THURSDAY	24 FRIDAY
WEEK AT A GLANCE 3/17-3/24	SHABBOS NIGHT 6:40p Toameha 6:58p Candle Lighting 7:00p Mincha followed by Kabbolas Shabbos	7:15a Shacharis 7:55a Daf Yomi 9:00a Shacharis 5:50p Plag Mincha 7:10p Mincha/ Maariv	5:45a Chovos Halevavos 5:55a Daf Yomi 6:45a Shacharis 9:00a Shacharis 5:50p Plag Mincha 7:10p Mincha/ Maariv 8:00p Semichas Chaver	5:45a Chovos Halevavos 5:55a Daf Yomi 6:45a Shacharis 9:00a Shacharis 5:50p Plag Mincha 7:10p Mincha/ Maariv 8:00 Pre-Pesach Shiur for Women 8:30p MS Learning	5:45a Chovos Halevavos 5:55a Daf Yomi 6:45a Shacharis 9:00a Shacharis 5:50p Plag Mincha 7:10p Mincha/ Maariv 8:30p 7th & 8th Grade Boys Learning 9:00p Maariv	ROSH CHODESH 5:45a Daf Yomi 6:30a Shacharis 9:00a Shacharis 5:50p Plag Mincha 7:10p Mincha/ Maariv 8:00p Chassidus Chaburah 9:00p Maariv	5:45a Chovos Halevavos 5:55a Daf Yomi 6:45a Shacharis 9:00a Shacharis 6:40p Toameha 7:00p Mincha followed by Kabbolas Shabbos 7:05p Candle Lighting

ROSH CHODESH NISAN: The molad for Chodesh Nisan will be on Wednesday, March 22, 24 minutes and 12 chalakim after 1am. Rosh Chodesh will be on Thursday, March 23 (Yom Chamishi)

MEMBER NEWS

MAZEL TOV

Rabbi Shmuel & Aviva Silber on the engagement of their son, Avraham to Zeesy Frankel, daughter of Rabbi Moshe & Chana Sora Frankel of Lakewood, New Jersey.

Gobbie & Shayna Cohn on the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Tova Nechama, to Zelig Davidson, son of Yaakov and Breindy Davidson. Mazel tov to the grandparents **Jeff & Karen Cohn, Bracha Strimber**, Florence Davidson, & Louis & Helen Kaplan.

Pacy & Lisa Kadin on the birth of a granddaughter born to Nossan & Esti Kadin.

Aron Raskas on the birth of a grandson born to Ari and Dinah Raskas in Dallas, Texas.

BIRTHDAYS

Nina Allen-Goldberg, Ted (Akiva) Andrews, Shlomo Yehuda Artman, Kenneth Creeger, Ezzy (Eliezer Moshe) Fogel, Fayge Friedman, Aaron Mordechai Gordon, Mellisa Hoffman, Yoel David Kelman, Roderick King, Aryeh Langer, Itay Levy, Marc Meisler, Tamar Miller, Yummi Minzer, Jackie Nachman, Barbara Neuman, Sarina Ponczak, Reuven Rakovsky, Moshe Rechthand, Rivka Schwarzbaum, Noam Ziffer

UPCOMING YAHRZEITS

Ina Sue Abramowitz-Green, Sharon Benedek, Louis Berman, Alvin Cohn, Florence Cooperman, Leonard Feldman, Sherwood Goffin, Rae Levin, Ruth Mendelowitz, Brenda Michaels, Sol Pollack, Chaim Meir Rechthand, Leon Rechthand, Moshe Aharon Rechthand, Yerachmiel Rechthand, Theodore Rosenzweig, Faiga Samuel, Gedeon Sisovic, Reverend Irvin (Isaac) Stern, Lynn bas Yosef

SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS

TALMUD TORAH

Steve & Teri Czinn in loving memory of Teri's father, Dr. Harry Kahn z'l, Tzvi Hirsh ben Yosef HaKohen, on his 10th yahrzeit.

Paul & Kathy Pollack in memory of Paul's grandfather, Zechariah ben Zechariah z'l, and grandmother, Dinah bas Pesach z'l, who were niftar in the month of Adar.

WEEK OF LEARNING

Avi & Vivianne Zysman in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Avi's father, Michael Zysman, Michael ben Yechiel z'l.

DAF YOMI

Nathan & Beth Adler in commemoration of the first yahrzeit of Judy Goldman, a'h, Yehudis Esther bas Elozer.

Matt & Diane Marks in memory of Matt's father, Charles Marks, Kalman ben Mordechai z'l.

SEMICHAS CHAVER ZMAN SPONSOR

Paul & Kathy Pollack

SHABBOS DRASHA

Seth Phillips in honor of the the Schoenfeld and Fine Families for their ongoing Hachnosas Orchim.

Bracha Strimber in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her father, Manual Backman, Mendel ben Yitzchok z'l, on the 25th of Adar.

CHASSIDUS CHABURAH

Yisroel Bluman in memory of Bill Ziv, Zev Shmuel ben Yiisroel z'l. His neshama should have an aliyah.

KIDDUSH

Reuven & Esti Rakovsky

SHALOSH SEUDOS

Yitzy & Melissa Shnidman l'zecher nishmas Yitzy's father, Rav Reuven ben Yehuda Leib z'l.

Adam & Leslie Rosen in commemoration of the 8th yahrzeit of Adam's grandfather, Todros ben Shlomo Zalman z'l, on 26 Adar.

Isaac Samuel for the yahrzeit of Faiga Samuel, Faiga bas Yitzhak Ber z'l.

MISHNAYOS DEDICATION

Yona Lerner, Shmuel Artman, and Moshe Dovid Artman in memory of Daniel Halon z'l.

DONATIONS

Shalom & Aviva Kovacs in memory of William Ziv z'l.

Fran & Sheldon Rosen in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Fran's father, Todros ben Shlomo Zalman z'l.

SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS CONT'D

DONATIONS CONT'D:

Shirley Elbaum to the Torah Fund in honor of the engagement of Rabbi and Mrs. Silber's son Avraham to Zeesy Frankel.

Fay Kaufman to the building fund with loving wishes to Becca & Josh Friedman on their Wedding Anniversary. Much love, Mom.

Selma Woolf in commemoration of the second yahrzeit of Reverend Irvin (Isaac) Stern, Yitzchak Aryeh ben Yisrael Dov z'l.

Pacy & Lisa Kadin in the zechus of a refuah sheleimah for Ken Creeger.

Pacy & Lisa Kadin in memory of Pacy's grandmother, Sora Rivka bas Dov Baer and Esther Fraida z'l.

David & Wendy Heffer in memory of the yahrzeit of Seymour 'Zaidie' Heffer z'l. May his memory be for a blessing.

SOTC UPDATES

MAOS CHITIM:

Pesach is the Yom Tov on which we celebrate our freedom. The greatest manifestation of freedom is the ability to give to and care for another. As we prepare ourselves and our homes for Pesach, we must pause and think about those experiencing financial hardship.

Please contribute to the Shul Maos Chitim campaign, and help us help others enjoy and celebrate the Yom Tov of Pesach. Let us use our freedom in the holiest and most meaningful way possible – let's do what we can to help one another. Contribute online: <https://www.suburbanorthodox.org/form/maos-chitim-5783>

If you would like to contribute by check, please make check payable to SOTC, and please write Maos Chitim in the memo line.

BOOK CLUB

Please Note: Our selection for the Tuesday, April 18, 2023, book club meeting has been changed to: Signal Fires, by Dani Shapiro (fiction),

COAT CLOSET

The coat closets will be cleared out the week before Pesach. Please claim any of your belongings as we will not be storing them going forward. All remaining items will be disposed of.

CAN FOOD PANTRY:

Donate your unopened non-perishable chametz to the CAN Food Pantry to benefit your neighbors in need. Unopened chametz can be left in the designated bin in the lobby.

SUBURBAN ORTHODOX TORAS CHAIM
presents
A PRE-PESACH SHIUR FOR WOMEN
FREEDOM TO SERVE:
Preparing for Pesach
RABBI SHMUEL SILBER

TUESDAY 3.21.23
כ"ח אדר תשפ"ג
8:00PM
SUBURBAN ORTHODOX
7504 SEVEN MILE LANE

Sponsorships are welcomed:
www.suburbanorthodox.org/eve-nt/pesach-shiur-sponsor-5783
For general questions: please email:
office@suburbanorthodox.org